IMPACT OF BOKO HARAM ACTIVITIES IN THE LAKE CHAD REGION OF AFRICA

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Humanitarian Studies Conference 27-29 August 2018, The Hague, Netherlands
OVERVIEW

• Statement of the paper
• Background
• Research methodology
• Description of practices reviewed
• Analysis of results or practices
• Conclusion/Recommendation
• Bibliography
HIGHLIGHTS

• From its relatively benign beginning as a fragmented so-called religious movement, Boko Haram has metamorphosed into one of the worst terrorist groups in the history of the Sub-Saharan Africa.

• The group’s activities were initially localised and isolated, but eventually escalated to regional and international dimension, with tragic consequences.

• In time, governments around the Lake Chad basin mobilised a regional military action to collectively confront and address the monumental security challenges.

• While some successes have been recorded so far recorded in restoring peace, some daunting challenges remain- perhaps associated with the disproportionate focus on military action.
This presentation mostly used secondary qualitative data and supplemented with quantitative data from Nigeria. An extensive desktop research was carried out, reviewing academic and policy articles and media coverage. The presentation mostly relied on the following reports World Bank North-East Recovery Plan, Presidential Initiative in North-East (PINE), World Bank – Buhari Plan. These reports were extensively reviewed; and the survey interviews carried out by the author(s) in 2018 (on-going).
BOKO HARAM: a profile of terror

• In 2002, Boko Haram was formed as a dissident religious movement in Maiduguri by radical cleric Mohammed Yusuf.

• The group’s name, Boko Haram, derives from its core teaching that western education is forbidden (Adesoji 2010).

• Since 2009, the North Eastern region of Nigeria has been affected by the Boko Haram (BH) conflict and the resulting military operations, impacting the lives of over 15 million people.

• In April 2014, Boko Haram abducted more than 300 school girls from Chibok, about 80 miles from Maiduguri in Northeast Nigeria (Peters 2014).

• The ongoing conflict takes place in a setting characterized by deep poverty, poor social and economic conditions, lack of infrastructure and basic services, poor governance, weak institutions and high income inequality.
BOKO HARAM: HISTORICAL CONTEXT

• Disappearance of the present of governments
• Porous borders “Berlin curse” 1883/4
• Corruption and neglect ‘internal deprivation’.
• Poverty and hate teachings
• Long history of invasions of Bornu kingdom:
  - Usman Dan Fodio (jihad) 1804 – 1808
  - Rabeh invasion 1893-1900
  - Maitasine riots 1980 - 1985

Source: Mahmood and Ani 2018:13
• Climate change: desertification, shrinking of Lake Chad
• Underdevelopment

Between 1963 and 2013, the lake lost 90 percent of its water mass, shrinking from 25,000km$^2$ to 2,500km$^2$.

Source: UNEP in Sow 2017
Boko Haram insurgents displaying their power – pictures 1 and 2. While picture 3 is the kidnapped Chibok school girls. In April 2014, the group abducted 276 schoolgirls from Government Secondary School in Chibok, Borno State. Some were released and some were not yet released. Again in February 2018, Boko Haram militants drove into the Nigerian town of Dapchi and released the majority of the schoolgirls they had abducted with the exception of Leah Sharibu.
THEORETICAL FOUNDATION

Frustration–aggression theory, more commonly known as the frustration–aggression hypothesis, ranks among the most seminal and prolific theories in research on aggression. The original formulation of the frustration–aggression hypothesis by Dollard, Doob, Miller, Mowrer, and Sears (1939) stated that “the occurrence of aggressive behaviour always presupposes the existence of frustration and, contrariwise, that the existence of frustration always leads to some form of aggression” (Bauer and Elson 2017).
GIRL-CHILD SUICIDE BOMBINGS

Boko Haram introduced female “suicide” activities in June 2014 in Gombe state. The UN's children agency said:

“Since January 1, 2017, 83 children have been used by the group to carry out bomb attacks in north-eastern Nigeria - four times higher than it was for the entirety of 2016”.

- 55 of them were girls, most often under the age of 15.
- Twenty-seven were boys, and one was a baby strapped to a girl.

As of February 28, 2018;

- 469 female “suicide bombers” deployed or arrested in 240 incidents killed more than 1,200 people across four countries: Nigeria, Niger, Chad and Cameroon.
- About 3,000 more people have been injured (Pearson 2018).
DISPLACEMENT OF POPULATION

The Boko Haram fighting became intense in 2014, leading to the loss of at least 20,000 lives and the displacement of 3.3 million people internally and across international borders (Kolade et. al 2016).

About 84% of the displaced people have remained within the three conflict-affected states of Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe (BAY). While 8% are scattered through Northern and Central Nigeria, and the remaining 8% are in neighboring countries of Cameroon, Chad and Niger.
According to UN IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix 2018, there are:

- Nigeria: 1,918,508 million IDPs as of June 2018. Of these, 78 per cent are living in Borno.
- Chad: 144,166 as of March 2018
- Cameroon: 238,099 April 2018.
- Niger Republic: xxx
IMPACT ON EDUCATION

• At least 611 teachers killed and a further 19,000 have been forced to flee since 2009.

• Between 2009 and 2015, attacks in northeastern Nigeria over 910 schools destroyed.

• In Borno state alone ‘More than 1,500 schools forced to close’.

• In the early 2016, an estimated 952,029 school-age children had fled the violence. They have little or no access to education, likely blighting their future for years to come (HRW 2016). ‘higher education in northern Nigeria came to be associated with elite privilege and oppression’ (Kolade 2016:3).
FOOD INSECURITY AND POVERTY

In north-eastern states of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa, the overall impact of the conflict on agriculture alone is estimated at about USD 3.7 billion (World Bank and Buhari Plan in FAO 2018).
NIGERIA RESPONSES TO TACKLE BOKO HARAM

Police and Civil Defence
- In 2003 - 2009 Nigeria responded to the insurgents through Police and para-military actions

Civilian JTF
- 2009 - Community policing – traditional rulers and public
- 2014 - Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF)

Military actions
- 2009 after the destructions of Boko Haram base “Markas” in Maiduguri, military withdrew.
- 2010 – Date: Full military actions
CIVILIAN JTF IN BORNO STATE

Night operations with CJTF in Maiduguri 2015

Founder and Commander of CJTF in Maiduguri 2015
TRANSITION FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL ACTIONS

Local
• Nigeria army and police
• Civilian JTF

Regional
• Nigeria & Niger
• Lake Chad Basin – MNJTF (later joined by Cameroon and Chad)

Global
• United Nations
• USA, UK, Germany, Sweden, Finland, Switzerland ETC
• China
• Brazil – military equipment
HUMANITARIAN ACTORS IN THE LAKE CHAD REGION

UN and International Organizations
- UNICEF, FAO, IOM, UNDP
- World Bank, AfDB, IDB

Regional Organizations/countries
- US AID, EU; Norway, Sweden, UK, Switzerland, Germany, Finland etc
- Foreign Embassies in Nigeria

Philanthropies'
- Dangote – Africa’s richest man.
  Godon Brown Safe school initiative
- Gates Foundation, MSF
MEDICINE SANS FRONTIERS – HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Followings towns:
- Maiduguri
- Gwoza
- Pulka
- Damaturu
- Banki
- Rann
- Ngala
- Monguno

Source: Adapted from Medine Sans Frontiers 2018
Source: Adapted from Medicine Sans Frontiers 2018
DANGOTE PHILANTHROPIC EFFORTS

Aliko Dangote with the Irish musician and lead vocalist of rock band U2, Bono visits IDP camps.

Dangote provides food items to IDPS millions of US Dollars.

Dangote on the 18th June 2018, commissioned 200 houses for the IDPs.
DANGOTE IDP HOUSING ESTATE
CHALLENGES

• Insufficient manpower; arm, police and para-military

• International and national neglect of the region

• Chronic internal instability and periodic flare-ups of violent conflict, ranging from ethno-religious conflict to the Boko Haram insurgency, to post-election violence, to the Niger Delta crisis. The military are over-stretched.
PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

• Boko Haram was controlling the greater part of Lake Chad region in 2014 – 2016, but Nigeria has reclaimed most of the lost territories in 2017.

• Through the efforts of the FAO’s and other organizations 1.7 million targeted to receive FAO’s assistance in 2018 in BAY states.

• In March – May 2017 4.7 million people in BAY states faced with severe food shortage, but the number reduced to 2.3 million people in March-May 2018.

• The IDPs has starts returning to their homes in Borno state.
CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATION

• Dialogue with Boko Haram
• Judicious management of resources for the recharging Lake Chad (funded by LCB countries, EU, USAID, UNEP etc).
• Disarmament and de-mobilization of Civilian JTF – avoid another time bomb.
• Present of governments/humanitarian across the region
• Prevention of girl-child suicide mission
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