



# **CONFLICT AND ITS ECONOMIC IMPACT ON DISPLACED PEOPLE IN ABADAM L. G. A, BORNO STATE, NIGERIA**

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## **Abstract**

Violent conflict is a perennial phenomenon that affects a significant number of people in Nigeria. The conflict has proliferated since the inception of civil rule in 1999. Most of these conflicts have become internal between different socio-ethnic and cultural aggregates within a national boundary, bringing with it considerable incidence of destruction on properties and lives, unexpected tragedy that makes people homeless and leaves them in a dilemma. Nigeria is a pluralistic society where individual and group behavior operates by the imperatives of cultural, religious symbols and strategic social institutions. Consequently, these conflicts have considerably weakened the internal coherence of states and the ruling elites thereby weakening the capacity of Nigerian societies to respond adequately to the post-conflict challenges of development and poverty in the recent years across the country. There were insurgencies ranging from 'Boko Haram' in the north-east culminating in attacks and abduction of people as well as counter-terrorism fights, between Fulani herdsmen and farmers are some of the problems facing the northeast in general. Number of reoccurring inter-communal conflicts fueled by the use of ethnic, political, economic, cultural and religious identity has been responsible in recent times for the displacement of thousands of people from their original places of residence and many have faced multiple and protracted displacement and loss of means of livelihood and consequently, the choice of relocating permanently to a perceived safe area becomes an option. This is a case study directed toward the region of Lake Chad. Gone are the days the basin experienced ranging from intra-state border conflict between Nigeria and Chad, the recent Boko Haram insurgency but mention a few. The menace has come along with devastating outcomes yet the conflict lasted for decades and no permanent solution has been strategized to overcome it. This article will track the rudimentary nature of the conflict and seek to provide possible alternative recommendations to stakeholders who may look into it may help in finding a lasting solution.

***Keywords; Conflict, Economic Impact, Displacement***

## **Introduction**

There is no concrete estimated cost of violent conflict that with concrete results: by the way, conflict measurement of economic activity is difficult, conflict analysis of any type can come in multifaceted dimensions. There are numbers of direct and indirect consequences of violence after when the conflict subsided. There is also conflict impact that



generate long lasting effects on developmental infrastructures in countries that experienced war. The aim is to provide policy makers with detail information about the ways to strategize and plan for resources to avert conflict and enhance development. There is no concrete evidence produced on the myriads of this conflict and economic consequences. Therefore, it is imperative to note here how people suffered from calamities of insurgency. The provision of incentives to displaced people have positive impact on the economic life of the affected people.

In sub-Saharan people are directly or indirectly affected by civil war. Recent multi-agency report on the prospects of Africa's identified some measures in overcoming the conflict-poverty trap zones (World Bank, 2000). Displacement have greater impacts on all spheres of our life the survival matrix of all particularly northeastern states like Adamawa, Borno, Gombe and Yobe states. The northeastern states are surrounded with international borders. The region is blessed with both human and economic resources because of the international relation. Nigeria have a porous border in such a way that foreigner can easily pass through could be tantamount to this conflict.

Even before the inception of Boko Haram Insurgency the region faced with economic challenges because of deforestation and other conflict threats. It is globally recognized that internal or external conflicts usually undermine growth and development (Institute for Economics and Peace 2012). Kim and Conceicao also believed that conflict undermine social and institutional capacity, and generates inefficiency (Kim and Conceicao 2010). Conflict ramification make hinderances to investments in securing long-term returns on human and economic development. This low level of economic growth and development can increase the potentiality of conflict if nothing can be done to forestall its escalation. In this way, one can assume that a region or country at large will become trapped in a "conflict-underdevelopment" cycle.

### **Displacement**

Despite the economic implication to trade and other economic activities displacement derived large-scale impact on growth and development, which destabilized economic fabric of a nation. In fact, as a result of conflict many people flee their homes is per greater than the casualties and fatalities in the world today. According to UNHCR statistics, during war 600,000 people leave their country. About 80% of these refugees may return within a short period of time but only few may still have not yet return because of fear and lack of incentives (Mueller et al., 2016). Based on UNHCR report that Countries that neighbor states inflicted by war could host many displaced people on average than war free countries for example, Nigeria's neighboring states like Cameroon Chad and Niger Republic encountered the same problem of hostage.

### **Objective of the Study**

**The object of this simple in the sense that the consequences of insurgency has resulted in making displaced people pessimistically reignited their faith of returning back to the lost glory of ancestral home. To find out the economic impact of displacement**

### **Methodology**



This work is based on mix approaches; qualitative and quantitative analysis to seek for data through content analysis and question was designed to delve much on the acquisition of data while the quantitative analysis was also drawn to interpret secondary data as supplementary information backing. The secondary information is subject to criticism to validate the authenticity of their content.

### **Health, Education, and Human Resource**

A long-term investment in human resource management could be perceived as critical savings in conflict management. The socioeconomic impact of conflict will greatly affect productivity outcomes for generations to come. A study on the effects civil war discovered that children health will deteriorate rapidly to affect its talent and weight (Akresh, Bundervoet Verwimp, 2009). A Similar study on the long term impacts of the 1967–70 Biafra civil war in Nigeria revealed that about 1 to 3 million people lost their lives and many more were subject to poverty (a, Bhalotra, Lene and Osili, 2012). Although the report failed to incorporate other factors like social and political which are the crux of the matter

All spheres of human endeavors suffers during violence and war. For example, study of abducted soldier's child in Uganda shows that the child missed schooling considerably for an average of one year than his peers. (Annan and Blattman, 2010). A study on political violence during the 1980s and 1990s in Peru significantly affect education and health of children (Leon, 2012). This implies that is total failure in wages. This scenario is worldwide phenomenon even in Nigeria 200 girls in Chibok has been abducted by insurgents still many of them are still under captivity with new babies from forced marriage.

### **Most Vulnerable**

Many of the displaced people are prone to vulnerability – particularly those living with disabilities and rape mention but a few faced the menace of conflict. According to data collected from the (ACLED) report violent conflict in Nigeria experienced highest civilian and military casualties lost in Africa. Attacking infrastructures are common attitudes of insurgents tactics. The tactical strategies of nowadays cannot yield positive outcome, if care is not taken even contributing to violations of human rights. The crisis according to UNHCR the vulnerability is high among women in this case men and boys are under that but under-represented in statistics because they are more liable to fall victims of the insurgency and security forces, civilian vigilante groups for lack of proper investigation these atrocities were stage – manage by those in authority. Women and girls have suffered much for more information refer to the below table. Rape cases are too high and a common feature, women and girls who suffered victimization are subject to stigmatization within camps, displaced people remain at danger of sexual abuse, exploitation and Rape.

Many areas remain insecure and volatile particularly the northeast states of Nigeria. people are in threats of renewed attacks because pockets of resistance still persist, repeat displacement and loss of life. The returnees are in a state of distress and trauma which will definitely have psychological effects on them. As result of insurgency many people remain secluded unable to receive assistance and protection. Government and non-governmental organization are



trying their best to penetrate into the die hard areas of Boko Haram in north-east Nigeria but access denied because of unwilling to do so.

### **Rape**

From the moment war and conflict begin, women are being at risk of rape and harassed in various situations and places, such as war zones, in prisons, and during migration. The rape, which causes very serious damage to women's folk, sexual and physical health and psychological trauma often carried out by the military and insurgents. This phenomenon, which is seen clearly in war and conflict throughout the world in general, has been reported by various international organizations. It seems those in authority are adamant there is no serious attempt to prevent this problem. Sexual assault on women and rape is one of the most dangerous forms and paths of violence that accompany wars and conflicts. It uses rape and sexual abuse against women as a method of fighting (Alsaba & Kapilashrami, 2016, 5-17). Regardless of the country or region, the environment and conditions of war and conflict are similar altogether.

From the research thesis of wakil (2019) conducted on the field of study at the shore of Lake Chad Basin revealed that conflict vulnerability among people of the region was particularly high among children, women, girls and the aged.

### **HIV vulnerability**

During the times of conflict, girls are more susceptible to to all forms cruelties created by the social befuddlement of war and conflict. Indeed, the imbalances that heighten girls' sexual vulnerability and their proportionate diseases like HIV/AIDS become even more predisposed during conflict and displacement- breakdown of families ties, social disintegration and ruin of community structures; absolute dependence on men and economic security; lack of awareness to health education. All of these contributed to scope and complexity of the challenges

Mock et al believed that the relationship between conflict and HIV transmission is that in conflict settings adolescent girls experience heightened sexual vulnerability and increased exposure opportunity to HIV Mock et al (2004). They still maintained that vulnerability factors are indicators of poverty, malnutrition, lack of health services and therefore view conflict as a key determinant of HIV vulnerability. All state holders should increase efforts by enhancing knowledge base principles of adolescent girls' distinctive vulnerabilities to HIV/AIDS during times of war in order to inform more effective advocacy and program interventions. To launch campaign on HIV/AIDS in displacement camps about the side effects of the deadly diseases.

### **Poverty and Exposure to Violence**

Economic crises have a great impact on the employment of women especially young women. Therefore, the low participation rates in the female workforce will lead to a huge loss of investment in the education of women as well as to unofficial employment (World Bank, 2010). Because of the damage caused by war, conflict and encirclement to the economy of the society poverty has reached its peak. Women are struggling to meet basic needs such as



shelter and nutrition, and sometimes exposed to sexual assault and abuse while trying to meet the needs of those who are in need of it and their needs

### **Death and Disability**

Forcing women to participate in wars and conflicts led to the violation of women's right to life and cause permanent and temporary disability. Death and disability rates due to the use of women as live bombs, activists, human shields and soldiers in the ongoing conflicts particularly in the northeastern part of Nigeria have increased. Even if women do not participate in any action, they are likely to be injured or lost in attacks against civilians because of the weak nature of their creation. When the state institutions become dysfunctional and rehabilitation programs abolished, the disability situation becomes more serious. Lack of access to rehabilitation programs and lack of a suitable infrastructure for the disabled have caused women affected by war and conflict events to be dependent on the home.

### **Conflict vulnerability among the displaced people**

CAMP	MARRIED WOMEN/UNMARRIED	GIRLS	AGED	DISABLED
TUMUR	30	54	60	30
KUKAWA	10	28	30	48
ABADAM	25	10	40	30
TOTAL	65	51.1	0.72	0.6

Source field research 2019

Number of married and unmarried women that fall prey to insurgency in three camps such as Tumor, Kukawa and Abadam are 36.1 % .Girls of under age from the three camps 51.1%. The old people who are tortured as a result of inability to escape threats are also victimized which constitute 0.72%. Disabled people who because of their conditions and abandoned by their relatives are victimized that is irrespective of gender was 0.6%.

### **Host Communities and Displacement**

According to UNHRCR over 80 percent of the displaced are living in host communities who are themselves living from hand to mouth. The poorest people are sharing the little resources they have with the displaced for many years. Consequently, these communities are becoming exhausted multiplying the numbers of desperate people. According OXFAM (2016) Before the current insurgency Lake Chad Basin faced large number of economic as result of long history of conflict, Climate change and environmental degradation have been touching livelihoods of the lowland settlers such as herders, farmers and fishermen.

Displaced and host communities tend to compete for limited resources over basic services like water, food, lack of enough arable land etc. People in the region faced calamities of various types. To survive they device a means of livelihood. The displaced incentives are very small quantity in most of the centers that are recognized by



government thereby marginalizing those displaced and their relatives which bring more generalized chances of vulnerability

### **Case of Lake Chad Basin Region**

In Lake Chad Basin a nine-year old violence inflicted a lot of misery and suffering for people. The insurgency has increased in recent years. Escalate into Niger, Chad and Cameroon by creating many problems to internal people as well as people beyond international borders. The displaced people of the region remain under bad condition. Lake Chad Basin encountered terrorism labeled as one of the Africa's most popular displaced region in West Africa. The displaced people has tremendously increased in areas like Abadam, Kukawa, Monguno and Marte L.G.As.

The OXFAM reported that most of these people are Nigerians some crossed the international boundaries of neighboring countries. The region was rated seventh largest internally displaced population in the world. Furthermore, the conflict has caused widespread destruction across the region since. This displacement crisis has affected one of the regions that need special attention even before the insurgency and Lake Chad Basin received very little fund to mitigate the insurgency and facing neglecting for years. With such meager or no international aids the displaced communities therefore bear much of the consequences in isolation.

Many of the camps unknown and displacement sites are overcrowded with poor infrastructural facilities and have witnessed deadly diseases such as cholera, HIV and other transmittable diseases. Newly established centers and camps are under the military auspices whose responsibilities is to protect people and their properties but have shift to manage the camps in distributing aid single handedly.

The international communities and affected countries and their neighbors are adamant about the issue at stake in providing humanitarian response because of lack of capacity and reasons best known to them. Government and international donors need to strategies efforts in thinking beyond military and political approaches to stop people from rapidly falling into distress and threats to diseases.

Millions of people are in need of aids and remain unassisted. Host and displaced communities exhausted their resources, for example, like proposed seeds for the next coming season if allowed to cultivate but seeds are exhausted and falling deeper into poverty. The humanitarian response needs to intervene and resuscitate lives before things deteriorate.

Government and international community alike have less serious in tackling the crisis because security approach alone will not end this crisis. The unseen neglect from the parts contributed much to the failure in addressing this conflict. There is the need for collaborative effort among the stake holders to come under the same umbrella to address this issue. Emphasis should also be directed towards this direction in proper solution by digging into the root cause of the crisis.

### **Detention**

Most women who are forced to participate in war and conflict often arrested and imprisoned in inhumane and very bad conditions. At the time of the arrest, there are many problems such as humiliation, appearing before military



courts, mistreatment and exposure to torture. These women experienced a lot of problems after they leave prison such as; psychosocial problems, health problems, and problems occurring from torture and sexual abuse in prison.

## **Theoretical Perspective**

### **Ripple Effect theory**

**This theory suggests that refugees and others uprooted due to whatever reason away from their homes might have internalized the dual hardships of disease and displacement. The causal relationship of the effect strongly affect productivity by outweigh the displacement effect. For example, in Tukur displacement camp when subjecting the theory into action before and after displacement great changes in terms of women contribution to household as one woman response shows that her contribution is greater now than before in the up keeping of the household. The idea here is that the causal effect of displacement does have exogenous effect to family economy. Hence the outcome will have a devastating impact on children and old people. Finding new employment is difficult during and after insurgency. According to US report in 2016 about 42 million displaced worldwide by this incident and other calamities, very little is known on their livelihoods. Economic consequences of displacement has disparities in economic indicators.**

### **Economic Incentives and Conflict Theory**

There are several economic theories that seek to explain economic prepositions on the effect of displacement. However, it is imperative to understand the mechanism through which violence impacts of economy to mitigate losses. There are indirect, longer-term impacts of conflict to economy which a direct and indirect bearing on other countries. Other long-term can be direct bearing on human capital may have have knockdown impact on the economy

The theoretical perspective on group poverty could be seen as a source to the two opposite views of the exponent Collier (2007) and others of the exponent that economic alienation of one group is not directly linked to war. Empirically, Ostby (2008) Empirically, supported the general hypothesis of Esteban and Ray (1999) that conflict is common in societies that are extremely divided in terms of economic interest. The Boko Haram Insurgency can be easily labeled or boiled down to alienation and group polarization according to the exponents of this view like Esteban and Ray. While polarization consider within-group variation of income and intergroup differences between the main income, horizontal equality only emphasized on the later component. As Huber and Mayoral (2014) supported along these lines and in confirmation of Esteban and Ray's mode that intergroup inequality rather than horizontal inequality. The recent Boko Haram upheaval can be equated to this proposition as a group quest to fight for what they considered alienation rather than religious indoctrination.

In this regard Esteban and Ray (2008, 2011) has vividly outlined the findings of this research economic consequences of conflict driven motive which was based purely on the acute horizontal inequality between groups and even intrastate one that now people have started paying the price of insurgency and displacement. Whereby one group stands to prove winner against the loser. some war leader suppress their followers like farmers to turn them into soldiers by not providing them with enough incentives to work in the civilian sector(farming and skilled labor).



Despite autarky of the Nigerian nation, the natural endowment bestowed by God. The citizenry are instigated to involve in conflict for failure to provide the basic necessities of life. These economic perspectives can help prevent conflict because ‘winner takes all’ contention leads to economic decline.

## **Data Presentation and Discussion**

### **Case study**

According to one woman (Ya Kaka 51 years) at Tumor camp connotes that as a result of weak government the military personnel for having certain agreement with the insurgents otherwise they might have follow suit the ranks of the terrorists

*“the military associates the Boko Haram. We don’t understand why, but that is how it is. We suffer from stigmatization, especially the young ones. But if we had connections with them ( Boko Haram ), we would not have fled and suffered here” (Ya Kolo 45 years old woman)*

The UNHCR reported that the IDP camps have very poor utility condition that people are vulnerable to all sort of life experiences. People trust on government in protecting their rights has unfortunately led them to unexpected famine.

*“At first we thought this situation wouldn’t last. That is why we haven’t left the camp, but life in the camp is like prison life. Here we have nothing – not even toilets... people are defecating everywhere” (Alh Kachallah 60 years old man)*

Another man has also been skeptical about the way how government response to situation by improper arrangement to better the conditions by at least providing them incentives for them like creation of market place in a close vicinity instead of travelling long distance of about 40 kilometers from Geskeru camp to attend market at Tumor camp all in Nger Republic.

*“We have been living here for about a decade now. We remain hopeful. In particular, we hope they [the government] will allow the market to take place here again. The government has so far forbidden it on the grounds that it supports Boko Haram” (Bulama Musa gamgara 45 years old)*

One woman disclosed she is not getting enough intervention but lucky enough to carry some quantity of raw food to manage the family but now the condition is precarious indeed exhausting the next year’s seeds if she got the opportunity to plant then.

*“I live here with my family. Every evening we try to pick the seeds to feed the children, but it’s difficult” (Ya Amina 36 years old)*

The host community like the neighboring Niger Republic has done well and still managing with Nigerian refugees in collaboration with international donor agencies like Save the Children, Red Cross and many others by providing food and other logistics in various camps situated at its border. These camps include Tumor, Garin Wanzam, Ngagam, Boso, Kinsha Ndi among others. This was revealed by an elder man (of 60 years, Alh Nur).

*“We come from Damassak in Nigeria. We fled to a village in Niger after Boko Haram attacked our town. The Government of Niger then moved us to this camp on 29 June 2015. Thank God, because generally we get to eat and*





*we have water. I was a farmer before, but we do not have much to do here. The real problem we have is that we do not have money to invest in our livelihoods. It is difficult to buy clothes for the children, shoes or food to supplement what we are given. I live in this hut with my wife and my children” (Baba Yerima Saleh)*

*“Our main problem is a lack of food and clothes for our children. We also have problems accessing health care and treatment. Here, we prepare food for 25 people. At night, the dough is prepared for cassava flour, corn or millet. It depends on what we have in stock as food. It’s our husbands who provide food. We women contribute in making and selling doughnuts. Sometimes, as we spend our money on food to eat, we didn’t have enough to invest in our doughnut business. All our belongings were burned because of a fire, and we lost our home. I was working, selling cakes on the side of the road, and by the time I came back, everything had burned. We then came here to live with the rest of the family. We do not know who triggered the fire, maybe Boko Haram, or maybe someone else” (Ya Amina 45 years old)*

Although women are treated not differently than men, they are imprisoned in extremely harsh and inhuman conditions. Palestinian women are constantly subjected to ill treatment and degradation; Isolation and naked body searches, as well as inadequate medical treatment and deprivation of external visits have been reported in most cases. Some of these women have young kids and convicted on prisons very crowded and inhuman conditions with women convicted of murder, robbery, drug use, prostitution or other crimes (FIDH, 2003). This situation may lead to social isolation and exclusion for women that have faced such conditions after they.

### **Disability and Displacement.**

Project launched by WRC to assess the situation for those living with disabilities among displaced in 2007 revealed that people with disabilities are more vulnerable than any other person in conflict affected areas as a result they may be unable to pass the buck. May be abandoned during displacement or may not be able to resist the terrain of the journey. Disabled are usually not inclusive during data collection exercises and discriminated. During conflict the tendency to become disabled is high among the most vulnerable resulting in permanent impairments or death.

Those with disabilities faced multiple discrimination on the basis of their condition particularly Women with disabilities are more prone to sexual harassment They are deprived of many of their human rights like access to free education. For instance in Dadaab refugee camp, Kenya, Somali children with disabilities were molested, tied up and beaten thrown because of superstition belief or suffered verbal abuse from the community. On the other hand mothers also suffered ridicule for bearing disabled child.

### **Methodology**

The methodological approach is dual mandate both quantitative and qualitative methods were applied to gather data with the view of analyzing by using simple percentages where applicable. Work is based on content analysis. It is largely a result of analysis of secondary source materials such as books, journals, magazines and newspapers etc.



## **Conclusion**

In this crisis there are millions of people that suffered the consequences of displacement such communities usually exhausted their little resources fall into poverty. This situation is worsening by the day to the the extent that quick humanitarian intervention is need to avert this situation before it goes out of hand.

Military and political agendas manipulation has greatly affected the scenario but the governments and the international community seemingly are sluggish in their approaches to the crisis. Security tactic and rudimentary plans have to be change. The internally displaced people are ridiculed in many ways such as inequality, marginalization and underdevelopment that in turn have resultant effect on psychological trauma. To pursue dilemma needs a careful understanding of plan from those working with specialized agencies. Much emphasis should be directed towards understanding the underlying the drivers of the conflict.

## **Recommendations.**

Based on the close observation analysis of the trend of the insurgency in the region of Lake Chad region the paper tend to recommend the following observation to enhance better governance to ameliorate the suffering of people with a forgotten history.

As the saying goes prevention is better than cure. To understand and proper lasting solution to the problem should be a key priority to tackle insurgency because in place where peace reign the development and growth is higher therefore scale and duration of economic repercussions will be reduced dramatically.

A key opportunity to attract foreign investment is by restoring peace by introducing policies that de-escalate conflict. When refugees status also change to returnees help support investment and economic regeneration

When a country encountered insurgency it might have bad reputation in the world to avert this challenge government must pave ways to restore the lost glory this can be achieved by introducing inclusive political institutions that promote economic generation strategies to attract investors. This could be achieved by eliminating inequality between social groups that tend to further escalate violence

The economic consequences of war last longer than the conflict itself in most cases. To prevent violent conflict disrupts, there is the need to enhance economic activity through different channels. Policymakers need to work together in order to improve economy of the country.

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### **Biography**

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### **Biography**

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