

DOI: 10.21847/1728-9343.2020.2(166).201729

**CHINYERE N. ALIMBA,**

*Centre for Peace and Security Studies,  
Modibbo Adama University of Technology (Yola, Adamawa State, Nigeria)  
e-mail: chivopl@yaho.com, ORCID 0000-0001-5366-2559*

**MAMMAN S. MALGWI,**

*Government Secondary School (Hawul, Borno State, Nigeria)  
e-mail: malgwiyimka@gmail.com*

## **INFLUENCE OF BOKO HARAM TERRORIST GROUP'S ATTACKS ON THE LIVELIHOODS OF THE RURAL DWELLERS IN NIGERIA: A HISTORICAL STROKE AND EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS**

The article reveals certain historical, socio-economic and demographic aspects of the attacks of Boko Haram terrorist group on the livelihoods of the rural population in Nigeria. The authors used a multidisciplinary approach and conducted a comprehensive analysis of the attacks on livelihoods by Boko Haram in Nigeria in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The unique statistics collected through questionnaire survey and key informant interview revealed the causes of Boko Haram and its devastating attacks on livelihood occupations of the rural population in the context of Hawul Local Government Area, Borno State, Nigeria. The use of mean, standard deviation and percentage in the analysis of the questionnaire survey together with the KII reveal a thorough analysis of the complexities surrounding the attacks on livelihoods. This allowed the authors to trace the trends of the attacks in terms of its nature, dimension and scale as conducted by Boko Haram. This allowed for the understanding of the impact of the attacks on the livelihood patterns of the local population in the local context.

**Key word:** Livelihoods; Boko Haram; Rural Dwellers; Borno State.

### **Introduction**

The history of livelihood attack dates back to the beginning of human existence. Accounts on human communities have featured ugly stories of livelihood drives and attacks. For instance, there are ancient written records which document the intergroup contentions and attacks on livelihoods that characterised the activities of pastoral nomads and sedentary (Kuznar and Sedlmeyer, 2005). Also, Simon (1981) reported that such contentions and destruction of livelihood ventures are well documented in ancient Mesopotamians. Thus, livelihood attack is not a new phenomenon. However, what characterised its recent development in terms of its dimension, scale and dynamic nature of the attacks on livelihoods is what is new. This new development is due to the obvious connection between recent attacks on livelihoods and striving wave of terrorism around the world. In localities where terrorist attacks are recorded, the livelihoods of people, especially rural dweller, have often suffered devastating consequences. Terrorists in the recent times seem to specifically target the livelihoods of people, thereby rendering them miserable, poor and unemployed. After the terrorist attacks of September 11 in the U.S, Robert C. Bonner, Commissioner of the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection at the Department of Homeland Security remarked that: "we must protect American lives, but we must also protect American livelihoods- our economy. That's why we have twin goals: (1) increasing security; and (2) facilitating legitimate trade and travel" (Mirza and Verdier, 2006). This statement brings to mind the significant roles of livelihoods in the survival of people and generally on the economy of a country. The significance of livelihood to the survival of

people and nations is further emphasised by the American National Strategy for Combating Terrorism, which stipulate that "a government has no higher obligation than to protect the lives and livelihoods of its citizen" in preventing attacks by terrorist networks.

Livelihoods have to do with the jobs or sources of income of the people. Terrorists often attack livelihood sources in order to violently suppress government authorities in regions where attacks are launched. This is with a view to compelling government and people to bow to the terrorists' demands. Thus, targeting people's means of livelihood have become a strategy for terrorists worldwide. Schafer (2002) considered this kind of strategy as 'anti-development' strategy, and it is a serious issue that will make people to lose faith in their governments. When this happens, the legitimacy of government will be eroded, creating a pathway for agitations by the people. This will further increase the insecurity paradigm in such community, region or country.

In most parts of the world, the major livelihood venture that has come under heavy attacks by terrorists is farming and the events surrounding it. Records in most parts of the world show that most people (up to about 75% or more) inhabiting rural areas make their living through farming. Such rural dwellers make immense contributions to the development of their societies in that they provide food for the increasing population; supply raw materials for the growing industrial sector, and generate foreign exchange earnings for their countries. Rural dwellers are considered as the backbone of African economy because they engage in agricultural activities as their means of survival. The agricultural sector, therefore, accounts for about 20% of

Africa's GDM (ECA, 2007) of its labour force and 20% of the total merchandise export. This implies that agriculture represents a great part of the Africa's share in world trade. African countries represent 50% of the top 20 countries, in term of the share of Agriculture total exported merchandise in the World (ECA, 2007). According to Carney (1998), rural dwellers contribute significantly to the gross domestic products, especially in the developing nation of the sub-Saharan Africa. However, over the years, their contributions have been dropping because of the dynamics of man-made and environmental conditions. For instance, in Nigeria, before the discovery of oil, rural dwellers, through farming made significant contributions to the economy by producing cash crops like cocoa, groundnut, kola nut, rubber and the likes, for domestic uses and export. This is the general development around the world. Agriculture was fundamentally the mainstay of the economies of most countries, especially in Africa. Thus, rural dwellers are important component of the larger society, at least from the stand point of the nature of their contributions to rural employment, sufficiency in food and fiber production, and export earning priority. Furthermore, in Nigeria, close to 70% of the population live in rural areas and the people are directly involved in the use of land resources. However, they are facing several problems, which have adversely impacted on their productivity. Some of these problems are infrastructure deficiencies, environmental challenges, marketing problems, technological constraints, institutional challenges and problem of sustainable rural development programme. Apart from these challenges, a major devastating problem facing rural dwellers in the recent times is the reckless attacks of armed bandits or terrorists on their livelihood ventures. Attacks by the Boko Haram insurgents have recorded the most devastating effect on rural dwellers in the recent times, particularly in the north-eastern region of Nigeria.

Boko Haram insurgency emerged as a serious threat because it constituted the highest contributor to humanitarian crises in the form of human casualties, internally displaced persons, refugee debacles, food insecurity and destruction of livelihoods in Nigeria. It is a recurring decimal in the north east region where several degrees of attacks ranging from kidnapping, shooting, booming, killing, burning and destruction of properties and livelihoods have been conducted by the Islamic sect. According to Mohammed (2014), Boko Haram attacks have been unprecedented, being a different type of conflict from all previous internal security challenges. It is a direct threat to lives, livelihoods and property in north-eastern parts of Nigeria. Boko Haram attacks have had devastating consequences on the people and their livelihoods, especially in Borno State. This is because the attacks often involve the invasion of communities, sporadic shooting of people, bombing of their markets, burning of houses and destruction of storehouses where harvested produce are kept. The attacks have adversely affected farming and its auxiliaries, especially in Borno State. Also, this malady has resulted in the displacement of the populace in the rural areas, whose means of survival depends largely on agriculture activities such farming, fishing and rearing of livestock, which has further dysfunctionally implicated agricultural productivity. Onuoha (2014) posited that Boko Haram attacks have worsen food insecurity caused by the destruction of livelihoods and social support systems, bombing of infrastructures, displacement of farmers and pillaging of livestock and foodstuff. Based on this malaise, farmers are no longer able to cultivate their lands or harvest their products for fear of being attacked by Boko Haram. Also the cattle herders and households have lost substan-

tial number of their livestock to Boko Haram, thereby compounding the problems of food insecurity and living standard in the country. Based on the foregoing therefore, it is imperative to empirically affirm the state and conditions of rural dweller in relations to the attacks of Boko Haram on their livelihoods in Borno State, Nigeria.

#### **Statement and Contextualisation of Questions**

Boko Haram insurgency is Nigeria's most violent and lethal conflict since the end of the (1967-70) Civil War (Mohammed, 2018). This is based on the nature and degree of havoc wrought on both human and material resources in the country. Boko haram has caused the death of over 100,000 people, created large pool of internally displaced persons of over 2 million and destroying properties and livelihoods so difficult to precisely capture their worth in the country. The Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN, 2015) revealed that Boko Haram insurgency have affected 14.8million people, displaced 2.3 million persons, 80% of whom are women, children and youths. It is imperative to note that 61.5% of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) had been displaced since 2014, and progressively increased as the theatre of conflict also enlarged (Johnson, 2016). The real problem is that most of the people displaced were based on rural communities, which implicates critical threat to food security. This is much more obvious in Borno State, which is the epicenter of Boko Haram insurgency and the adjoining states that have also seriously suffered from its attacks such as Adamawa and Yobe States. In these states, the livelihood ventures of majority of the people are basically in the rural areas, and the phenomenon of Boko Haram has, to large extent, paralysed these ventures especially farming. For instance, it was reported that livelihoods for majority of the households in the Borno state is traditionally based on agriculture (crops, livestock, fisheries and the like), and that prior to the insurgency, majority of the households indicated that their most preferred livelihood was crop production (Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), 2016). The report further indicated that the impact of Boko Haram insurgency on agriculture is estimated at US\$ 3.7 billion, resulting from livestock losses, destruction of irrigation and farming facilities and collapse of extension services, coupled with reduced production due to access limitations (FAO, 2016). The fear of being attacked also contributed to the large scale movement of people from their localities, which have prevented many of them, especially farmers, from working on their fields, resulting in low harvests, loss of productive assets and extremely reducing them to pauper. The rapid assessment report on livelihoods in northeast, conducted by National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) (2016) revealed that the situation in these areas (Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States) is disastrous, as returnees find their homes and farms destroyed or vandalized by the insurgent. Efforts to rebuild livelihoods are constrained by lack of resources, productive assets and agricultural inputs. Also, for security reasons, planting of tall crops (such as sorghum, millet and maize) is discouraged and restricted. Farmlands that are far from residences remain fallow due to insecurity (NEMA and UNOCHA, 2016). Therefore, in Borno State, the livelihoods of the rural people have been seriously implicated by Boko Haram attacks and the fear associated with their patterns of operations. Considering this development, Hawul Local Government Area of Borno State was used as a reference point to interrogate the impact of Boko Haram attacks on the livelihoods of the people. Thus to achieve the specific objectives of this study, the under listed research question were developed to guide the discourse.

- i. What is the nature of livelihoods engaged by rural people in Hawul Local Government Area of Borno State?
- ii. What are the causes of Boko Haram insurgency as perceived by rural dwellers in the locality considered for the study?
- iii. What is the nature of attacks employed by Boko Haram on the livelihoods of people?
- iv. What are the perceived levels of severities of Boko Haram attacks on the livelihood ventures of the people?
- v. What are the consequences of Boko Haram attacks on the livelihoods of rural dwellers?

#### Conceptual Description of Livelihood

Livelihood is considered as what people engage in as means of making a living or ensuring that they survive. Thus, it is a description of the engagement potential of people on something considered to be sufficient for meeting their needs. FAO (2006) described livelihood as the sum of ways in which households obtain the things necessary for life, both in good years and in bad. These necessary things include food, water, shelter, clothing and health care (with education often included too). Pertinent activities which include crop and livestock production, fishing, hunting, gathering, bartering, and other endeavours and income generating activities (including off-farm work) (FAO, 2006) are also parts of livelihood engagement. Thus, livelihoods vary significantly from one place to another and from one household to another, even from rural to urban areas and across societies. The variation in the livelihood patterns of people was made clearer in the often cited definition of livelihood by Chambers and Conway (1991). They described livelihood as comprising the capabilities, assets (stores, resources, claims and access) and activities required for a means of living. Similarly, The Department for International Development (DfID) (1999) defined livelihood as the mean by which households obtain and maintain access to their sources necessary to ensure their immediate and long-term survival. The later definition reflects critical characteristics of livelihoods, which are having the potential to meet immediate and long-term needs of the households for survival. This is what is called sustainable livelihood.

According to Chambers and Conway (1991), a livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stress and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for the next generation; and which contributes to the net benefits of other livelihoods at the local and global levels and in the short and long terms. The major limitations to sustainable livelihoods are man-made and natural disaster forces. Violent conflict initiated by man often adversely impact on livelihood by cutting short or preventing it from making household reach. Young *et al* (2002) posited that livelihood consists of the ways people access and mobilises resources for their survival and longer-term well-being and hence reduces the vulnerability created by the conflict. This assertion by Young *et al* shows some linkage between livelihoods and violent conflict. Livelihoods are linked to conflict in the sense that they cause it and their resolutions have explanation in livelihood paradigm. Young and Osman (2006) observed that conflict and people's livelihoods are inextricably linked, and that livelihoods are integral to the causes of conflict and the impact it has had, and therefore will be central to any lasting solutions to the conflict. Therefore, any livelihood which is considered as an asset with its full value is economically relevant is likely to be a catalyst for violent conflict. This expression equally shows how fundamental livelihoods are to social, economic and political development of a country.

#### Historical Antecedent of Boko Haram Insurgency and Its Causes

Boko Haram is an insurgent group operating in the north eastern part of Nigeria. Its activities have been extended into the different part of the country and even into the neighbouring countries of Niger, Chad and Cameroon. Its formation is attributed to Mohammed Yusuf, who equally was the foundational leader of the group, and the recognised date for its formation was 2002. The sect was established in Maiduguri, the capital of Borno State, Nigeria. According to Alimba (2018), the official name of the Islamic sect (Boko Haram) is "*Jamaatu Ahlis Sunnah Liddawa' ata' wal-Jihad*" which can be interpreted as "people committed to the Prophet's teaching and Jihad". The name Boko Haram was fabricated by the public because of the difficulty associated with pronouncing the real name, due to its lengthy nature. Therefore, the public, through the activities of the press, shortened the name to Boko Haram based on the drive and activities of the militant sect in the country (Alimba, 2018). However, Boko Haram is a combination of Hausa and Arabic words. "Boko" is an Hausa word which means "Western education" and "Haram" is an Arabic word which can be translated as "forbidden". A blend of the two words reflects the fact that Boko Haram means "western education is forbidden". The sect believes that western education is bad, and this motivated their drive targeted towards establishing a pure Islamic state that will be controlled by Sharia law, purportedly to bring an end to the problems of westernization or modernisation.

However, it is imperative to stress that the causes of Boko Haram are numerous and diverse. Some scholars have identified religious issues, social, economic and political factors as the major drivers of the sect. For instance, Kwaja (2011) argued that religious dimensions of the conflict have been misconstrued as the primary driver of violence. He stated further that rather than religion, disenfranchisement and inequality are the root causes of the insurgency. Also, Mustapha (2012) posited that Boko Haram is "the symptom of failure of the nation building and democratic politics in Nigeria. It is the misguided cry of a disgruntled youth crushed by the socio-economic system on the one hand and then repressed by the state on the other". These observations are correct to the extent that the explanation of the factors precipitating Boko Haram insurgency are centred on governance, religion, social and economic conditions prevalent in the country. According to Kukah (2012), religion is used to mobilise against modernity, which ultimately results in social anomalies. He stated further that the persistence of corruption, collapse of public morality, injustice and so on which could only be attributed to governance process fueled the manifestation of Boko Haram insurgency. Similarly, Olatunji (2013) observed that when poverty and ignorance are garbed with religious, ethnic and other partisan sentiments, then violence and senseless destruction of lives and properties such as Boko Haram insurgency erupt and persist. Poverty and ignorance were the main issues that made Mohammed Yusuf's radical ideology to gain currency among the youth. By extension, corruption, unemployment, poverty and illiteracy are some of the potent causes of Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria. Another factor considered as a serious driver of Boko Haram insurgency by scholars is bad governance. According to Osita-Njokwu and Chikere (2015), the absence of good governance therefore suggests that the social and political environments are infested with administrative injustice, human rights abuse, inequality and corruption. These ideas point to the fact that governance process is at the heart of most of the violent conflicts that occur in a society. Therefore, these social vices are capable

of throwing citizens off balance into criminal activities which they would not have been involved in it. In Nigeria, those who govern (politicians) have over the years fueled the collapse of public morality and injustice (Kukah, 2012). In societies where public morality and justice system have collapsed, all sort of social maladies will take over the front line of events, such as the experiences of Boko Haram, herder militancy and nationalist agitations in Nigeria.

#### **Dimensions of Livelihoods Attacks by Boko Haram Insurgency**

The devastating attacks of Boko Haram on human and material resources which became obvious in 2009, started with the police personnel, government installations and formations, and later it was extended to international agencies, health centers, schools, social relaxation centres and so on. The patterns of counterterrorism employed by the government and its military agencies provoked the sudden change in the tactics and methods of Boko Haram. In many occasions, rural dwellers and their livelihoods have suffered grave losses, consequent upon the indiscriminate attacks conducted on innocent citizens, to the point where rural dwellers and their livelihoods have become viable targets of attacks reflected the dramatic transformation in the operational milieu of Boko Haram. Therefore, following the death of Mohammed Yusuf, Abubakar Shekau took over the leadership of Boko Haram; and from that point, the threats of Boko Haram became more pronounced. The sect has since then been rather bloody, engaging in indiscriminate killing of people and destruction of livelihoods. The attacks are usually heavy and sporadic to the extent that people are killed; farm lands as well as storage facilities where harvested crops were kept are destroyed. Different approaches were employed by Boko Haram to carry out their sinister acts on people and livelihoods. For instance, Usman (2019) observed that Boko Haram sect adopted different methods ranging from armed robbery, kidnapping and cattle rustling, which threatened households by creating fear in communities. He stated further that they engaged in looting of grain stores, attacked villages using guns and explosives, all these led to the destruction of life and property in communities. The attacks and raiding patterns of Boko Haram seriously implicated farming activities, such as crop and animal farming, which are the major livelihood occupations of rural dwellers in the northeast, Nigeria. Commenting on this, Usman (2019) noted that the insecurity created by Boko Haram in the north east has led to loss of lives and property: children and women abducted, farms destroyed, farm output stolen, markets closed, accessed roads closed, and shops have remained closed, banks are frequently looted, curfew are enforced on cities, town and villages in all the affected states, movement of goods and people were restricted, especially in communities where their presence are registered. It is common knowledge that agriculture is the mainstay of the economy of the northeast and the adjoining areas as over 80% of the population earn their livelihoods from it (Mohammed, 2018). According to Mohammed (2018):

*the prolonged and inability of farmers to cultivate for several years, loss of livestock to insurgents and lack of access to fisheries resources of the Lake Chad had devastating impact on agriculture. Many people had either been killed or displaced leaving several arable land fallow. This has led to food insecurity that we are witnessing now in the affected areas. There is an increased demand for food without corresponding increase in supply leading to high prices and lower purchasing power. As a result of the insecurity, access to markets has shrunk (p. 114)*

These devastating acts of Boko Haram have totally paralysed farming activities and inflicted pains on the farm families. It has significantly resulted in the killing of farmers and their family members, prevented access to farm lands, led to rustling of livestock, destruction of farm produce, curtailing access to market and banks, destroying houses and properties of farmers and compelling farmers into becoming internally displaced persons. The levels of casualties experienced by farmers, the farm families and their livelihoods have further jeopardised the crisis of food insecurity, which is currently staring at the country. As at 2015, the recovering and peacebuilding assessment report showed that the estimated damage to the agricultural sector was at US 3.7 billion Dollar, while that of the housing sector stood at US 1.2 billion Dollar and of the 788 reportedly damaged facilities, 45% including 21 hospitals were completely destroyed by Boko Haram (FGN, II, 2015). The educational system suffered a greater blow from the attacks of Boko Haram as schools were singled out for attacks. Thus, schools were destroyed and teachers, nonteaching staff and students were killed and so many schools were closed for fear of being attacked, paralysing the educational system, especially in the most affected states in Nigeria. For instance, Mohammed et al (2016) captured the destruction wrought by Boko Haram on the educational system thus:

*By 2013, no schooling of any sort was taking place in 22 out of 27 local government areas of Borno State, out of fear of Boko Haram. In 2014, no functional school existed in 7 out of 21 local government areas of Adamawa State and 2 educational zones out of 3 in Yobe State. In fact, in Yobe State, all the schools were relocated to the state capital, Damaturu. In Adamawa State, Boko Haram attacks led to the destruction of 115 schools in 8 local government areas thereby forcing 285,632 students and 8,150 teachers to stop attending schools (p. 7).*

In 2009, about 600 teachers were killed in Nigeria, and by 2015 the Boko Haram violence has led to the closure of more than 2,000 schools in Nigeria, Chad, Niger and Cameroon, and hundreds of others have been attacked, looted or burned by Boko Haram (UNICEF, 2015). Equally, it is essential to note that on school attacks, Boko Haram reached its climax "when on the 14th April 2014, about 279 secondary school girls were abducted at Chibok in Borno State. Also, recently, on the 19th February 2018, over 110 female students were abducted by Boko Haram at Government Girls Technical College, Dapchi in Yobe State" (Alimba, 2018). The core issue at stake based on the foregoing analysis are the fact that farmers have abandoned their farmlands and parents have refused to send their children to schools for fear of being attacked. This situation has contributed greatly to food insecurity and increase in the numbers of out of school children in Nigeria.

#### **Research Methodology**

This study is a descriptive survey research. According to Nwankwo (1984), descriptive survey research is a systematic description of the facts, qualities, or characteristics of a given population, event or area of interest as factually and accurately as possible to answer the questions asked by the problem under investigation. The choice of this design is informed by the purpose of the study, which is to describe the state of affairs of Boko Haram insurgency in connection with the attacks on the livelihoods of the rural people. The site for the study was Hawul Local Government Area, located at the southern axis of Borno State, Nigeria. The local government, consisting of 12 wards with its headquarter in Azare, has a land mass of 2,098 km<sup>2</sup>. The local government is under Biu Emirate. The livelihoods of

the people of Hawul locality include farming, teaching, trading, hunting, crafting, fishing and cattle rearing. It is one of the local government areas that were seriously attacked by Boko Haram insurgents. Schools, health centres and churches were destroyed during some of the attacks. At a point, one of the management staff of the local government was kidnapped by Boko Haram. Therefore, the local government was highly attacked by Boko Haram at different times, which really affected the livelihoods of the people. The study employed primary sources as means of data generation. Purposive sampling technique was used to select 200 respondents engaged in different livelihoods in the locality. The use of the technique was guided by availability, experience and nature of livelihood activities engaged by an individual. Also, key informant interview was conducted for 15 individuals in the locality.

Therefore, a self-structured questionnaire as well as key informant guide were used to gather data for the study. The questionnaire was entitled "Livelihoods Attack questionnaire" (LAQ) and it was divided into four sections (A-D). Section A elicited information on the backgrounds of the respondents, while section B raised issues concerning the livelihoods of the people and the causes of Boko Haram insurgency. Section C was centred on the nature of attacks conducted by Boko Haram on livelihoods of the people and section D addressed the issues of the severity of the attacks and its consequences. The questionnaire was based on a 4-point Likert-rating scale of strongly agree (SA), agree (A), disagree (D) and strongly disagree (SD) for the respondents to make choice as it relates to them. The test-re-test method was used to determine the reliability of the questionnaire and Perason Product Moment Correlation Coefficient was used to calculate the reliability of the instrument, which was 0.94, indicating that the instrument was of a high reliability index. The questionnaire was directly administered to the rural dweller. Out of 235 pieces of questionnaire administered to the local people, a total of 200 were retrieved, indicating that 85% of rural dwellers responded to the questionnaire. Data gathered was analysed through the use of percentage, frequency counts and standard deviation. The cut-off point for decision making was fixed at a weighted mean of 3.00. Therefore, any item that has a weighted mean of 3.00 and above were considered as agreed or considered as a strong factor, while those items that have a weighted mean below 3.00 were considered as disagreed or weak factors. The qualitative data gathered through the key informant interview (KII) were content analysed.

#### Data Analysis and Results

The tables presented below and the explanations that follow represent data analysis and results of the study.

**Table 2: Causes of Boko Haram Insurgency as Perceived by Rural Dwellers**

S/N	Item	$\bar{x}$	SD	Remark
1	Boko Haram was caused by bad governance.	3.23	0.75	Agree
2	Boko Haram was born out of high level of poverty	2.49	0.92	Disagree
3	Unemployment is a major cause of Boko Haram insurgency	3.15	0.72	Agree
4	High rate of illiteracy resulted into Boko Haram insurgency.	3.07	0.76	Agree
5	Religious extremism contributed to the emergence of Boko Haram insurgency.	3.40	0.98	Agree
6	Boko Haram Insurgency is caused by foreign Influence in the country.	2.95	1.01	Disagree

Table 2 showed the responses of rural dwellers on the causes of Boko Haram insurgency in Borno State, Nigeria. Out of the six item statements presented, four showed agreement while two were disagreed. The major issues

#### Research question 1

*What is the nature of livelihoods engaged by rural people in Hawul Local Government Area of Borno State?*

**Table 1: Nature of livelihoods of the Respondents**

S/NO	Item	F	%
1	Teaching	33	17
2	Hunting	27	13.5
3	Commercial Farming	30	15
4	Business	32	16
5	Cattle Raring	37	18.5
6	Fishing	41	20
<b>Total</b>		<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 1 showed the nature of livelihoods of the people in Hawul Local Government Area of Borno State. The respondents that were engaged in teaching constituted 17%, while those respondents involved in hunting were 13.5%; 15% of the respondents were engaged in commercial farming and 16% represented those respondents involved in small scale businesses. Respondents whose occupations were cattle rearing constituted 18.5%, whereas those engaged in fishing constituted 20% of the respondents. Thus, fishing is the major livelihood engaged by the people in the locality. However, it is clear that majority 67% of members of the locality were involved in farming, distributed across crop farming (15%), animal farming (38.5%) and hunting (13.5%). It is noteworthy that those respondents involved in teaching and business still take up farming as part time jobs. Thus, majority of the respondents were engaged in farming related livelihood ventures in the locality. This analysis reveals the bigger picture of the livelihood engagements of the people in Borno State. These findings are in agreement with Balami, Mustapha and Goodwill (2018) and FAO (2016). Balami, Mustapha and Goodwill (2018) posited that before the insurgency more than 75% of the population lives in the rural areas of Borno state. Also, FAO (2016) reported that an estimated 80-90 percent of the population of the rural dwellers depends on agriculture, fisheries and livestock for their livelihoods and food security in the north east, Nigeria. This clearly foregrounds that farming is the major occupation of rural people in the locality and Borno State as a whole. Therefore, the emergence of Boko Haram and its attacks on communities have caused so many people to lose their livelihoods in the state.

#### Research question 2

*What are the causes of Boko Haram insurgency as perceived by rural dwellers in the locality considered for the study?*

indicated by the respondents that are responsible for the emergence of Boko Haram were religious extremism ( $\bar{x}$ =3.40); bad governance ( $\bar{x}$ =3.23); unemployment ( $\bar{x}$ =3.15) and high rate of illiteracy ( $\bar{x}$ =3.07). Of all these

factors, religious extremism was underscored by the respondents as the major trigger of Boko Haram insurgency in Borno State. This idea is a popular narrative in the literature concerning the drivers of Boko Haram insurgency. The link between religion and terrorism was long exposed by Rapoport (1984) in his seminal paper entitled "Fear and Trembling: terrorism in three religious traditions". In his analysis, he revealed the use of terror in three religious traditions: Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism. Thus, the issue of religious extremism as a fundamental factor that triggers terrorism is a long time observation. In the case of Boko Haram, it has been argued that religious extremism/fundamentalism plays vital role in what they do and how they do it. According to Akinola (2015), the group holds extreme religious ideology, which they use as the basis to commit their heinous crimes.

Thus, the cause and attacks of Boko Haram can rightly be explained within the frontier of Islamic fundamentalism. For example, the aim of the group is to adopt Sharia law and create an Islamic state in the North and Nigeria as a whole. According to Mohammed (2014), Boko Haram is

caused as a result of religious fundamentalism as well as poverty, manifesting in absolute and relative terms coupled with a large unemployed youth population. Religious extremism, poverty and unemployment are considered as obvious factors in the discourse of drivers of Boko Haram insurgency. There are other social and political factors that intertwined with religious extremism to push Boko Haram insurgency to the surface. According to Olofinbiyi and Steyn (2018), the evolution of Boko Haram terrorism was nothing but a response to socio-economic phlebotomy, political and moral putrescence as well as dehumanization born from a combination of decades of mismanagement and pervasive corruption by Nigerian leaders. Thus, bad governance, high illiteracy level and unemployment are equally fundamental issues that are constant in discourses concerning the evolution and eventual growth of Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria.

### Research Question 3

*What is nature of attacks employed by Boko Haram on the livelihoods of people?*

**Table 3: Nature of attacks of Boko Haram on the Livelihoods of the People**

S/N	Item	$\bar{x}$	SD	Remark
1	Boko Haram employed force to break into shops	3.24	0.66	Agree
2	Boko Haram used sophisticated weapons to kill people/destroy business activities	3.20	0.72	Agree
3	Farms/grains were burnt down in communities by Boko Haram	3.50	0.92	Agree
4	Invasion/capturing of communities to gain total control for maximum exploitation was used by Boko Haram	3.02	0.83	Agree

Table 3 revealed the nature of attacks carried out by Boko Haram on the livelihoods of the people. The respondents agreed that Boko Haram used different approaches or tactics in attacking the people and their livelihoods. The results obtained showed that Boko Haram insurgents' used force to break into shops ( $\bar{x}=3.24$ ). Meanwhile, the mean ( $\bar{x}=3.20$ ) was recorded for those respondents who agreed that Boko Haram used sophisticated weapons to kill people/destroy business activities in their locality. Also, the mean ( $\bar{x}=3.50$ ) was for those respondents that indicated that there farms/grains were burnt down by the Boko Haram insurgents. The insurgent group equally employed the tactics of invasion/capturing of communities in order to gain total control for maximum exploitation. It is clear that all the respondents agreed that the methods indicated above were used by Boko Haram in their locality. The respondents also indicated that the tactics usually employed by Boko Haram was burning of farms/grains. Boko Haram easily set fire on the livelihoods and properties of people attacked. The key informant interview conducted in respect of this issue showed that:

Boko Haram used different methods of attacks, however, direct shooting at people, shops and store houses were common. What they normally do is when they get to place, they will shoot to scare people, abduct young girls and boys for recruitment to sustain their havocs, and burn down houses and whatever they considered useful to the people.

These findings are in line with the observation of Mohammed (2014) that after 2009 police confrontation and suppression of Boko Haram, "it went underground, rebuilt, and resurfaced in October 2010 with a remarkable prison break at Bauchi and has since changed its tactics to targeted assassinations, drive-by shooting, suicide bombing, and massive deployment of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), vehicle-borne IEDs, and, lately kidnapping and hostage taking". This is a testimony to the fact that Boko Haram changed its tactics at a point to involve the use of violence on people and their properties. Therefore at a point, the sect conducted attacks indiscriminately without giving consideration to whom and what are involved as the target. One of the farmer interviewed pointed out that:

Boko Haram terrorists are unnecessarily satanic in their methods of operation. When they finished shooting, killing and scaring people away, they will steal their foodstuff, loot shops and set fire on the remaining things or what they cannot carry along with them.

The patterns of attacks conducted by Boko Haram on rural dwellers are meant to completely render them incapacitated, because their livelihoods are totally destroyed. This terrible way of treating people is geared towards making them to leave their places of abode for a total takeover by the set.

### Research Question 4

*What are the perceived levels of severities of Boko Haram attacks on livelihood ventures?*

**Table 4: Degree of the Level of Attacks by Boko Haram on livelihoods**

S/N	Item	$\bar{x}$	SD	Remark
1	Livelihoods were highly severely attacked by Boko Haram	3.24	0.65	Agree
2	Livelihood were mildly attacked by Boko Haram in the area of study	2.23	0.72	Disagree
3	Livelihoods were moderately attacked by Boko Haram in the locality.	2.82	0.92	Disagree
4	Livelihoods were not attacked by Boko Haram in the locality.	2.82	0.83	Disagree

Table 4 revealed the levels of severities of the attacks conducted by Boko Haram on the livelihoods of the people at Hawul Local Government Area of Borno State, Nigeria. The respondents agreed to the fact that their livelihoods were severely attacked ( $\bar{x}=3.24$ ) by Boko Haram in their locality. The statements that livelihoods were mildly attacked ( $\bar{x}=2.23$ ); moderately attacked ( $\bar{x}=2.82$ ) and were not attacked ( $\bar{x}=2.82$ ) were completely rejected by the respondents, indicating that they totally disagreed with the statements. This is a reflection that the levels of the attacks vary from community to community. However, the respondents generally agreed that the attacks on livelihoods were massive, heavy and highly destructive in nature in the locality studied and by extension in most of the localities attacked in Borno State, Nigeria. The key informant interview conducted revealed that

*All the communities attacked without military presence where totally decimated. After stealing to their satisfaction, the next line of action of Boko Haram was to destroy anything they think can be useful to the people. The reason*

*for this act of wickedness is unknown to us, but it is also important to indicate that the livelihoods of the people and their properties were totally destroyed by Boko Haram in this locality.*

These findings are consistent with the observation made by the World Bank that homes were destroyed as several villages were burnt down and livelihoods destroyed, and due to the inability of farmers to cultivate their lands and recurrent stealing of livestock. This has led to increase in poverty rate in the northeast from 47.3 per cent in 2011, to 50.4 percent in 2013 (World Bank, 2015). Aslo, Usman (2019) posited that lives and property are lost, children and women abducted, farms destroyed, farm output stolen, implying that Boko Haram attacks on livelihoods were severe and highly devastating in nature.

#### Research Question 5

*What are the consequences of Boko Haram attacks on the livelihoods of rural dwellers?*

**Table 5: Consequences of Boko Haram Attacks on Livelihoods**

S/N	Items	$\bar{x}$	SD	Remark
1	Boko Haram attacks resulted in high cost of transportation which directly affected the livelihoods activities of rural dwellers.	3.16	0.69	Agree
2	Security challenges created as a result of Boko Haram attacks have led to low productivity in livelihoods activities	3.22	0.6	Agree
3	Getting loan to finance livelihood activities was made difficult by the attacks of Boko Haram on banks	3.20	0.63	Agree
4	Increased poor communication as a result of Boko Haram attacks on network facilities has negatively affected livelihoods in the locality.	3.20	0.79	Agree
5	Mass movement of rural dweller as a result of the fear of being attacked by Boko Haram adversely affected the livelihoods of people	3.00	0.77	Agree

Table 5 showed the consequences of Boko Haram attacks on the livelihoods of rural dwellers in Borno state. All the item statements raised in favour of the research question were considered agreed by the respondents. However, the major consequences indicated by the respondents on the livelihoods of the people were security challenges ( $\bar{x}=3.22$ ); which have led to low productivity in livelihoods activities. Getting loan to finance livelihood activities was made difficult by the attacks of Boko Haram on banks ( $\bar{x}=3.20$ ) and increased poor communication as a result of Boko Haram attacks on network facilities has negatively affected livelihoods in the locality ( $\bar{x}=3.20$ ). The key informant interview conducted on this issue revealed that:

The devastating attacks of Boko Haram had serious implications on livelihood ventures as well as their communities. The attacks on livelihoods have affected the income of the people, loan has become difficult to access in the bank due to the risk involved in utilizing it for fear of being attacked. Apart from this, access to farm lands is difficult and almost impossible because of presence of Boko Haram in those areas. In fact, you cannot even plant the type of crops you want for security reasons. Thus, livelihoods have been adversely affected in all ramifications as a result of Boko Haram attacks in our locality.

The Federal Government peacebuilding report supports these findings, revealing that the prolonged violent attacks, particularly in the states of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa, have had devastating consequences on agriculture in the region (FGN, 2016: 57). The report further showed that farm and store buildings on subsistence and other farms were destroyed, as were irrigation facilities, agriculture machinery and equipment, and agriculture inputs. A lot of people fled these affected areas or were killed,

leaving their farmlands fallow. There is reduced availability and mobility of labour due to threats of attacks on farmers on their way to the field. As access to fertilisers, herbicides and improved seeds reduced. The cost of the damage to agriculture was estimated at US\$ 3,728.72 million (FGN, 2016: 57).

#### Conclusion

The history of livelihood attacks is as old as that of humanity. The dimension and scale of the attacks in the past were not as devastating as they have been in the recent times. This is a clear indication of the fact that livelihood ventures are often singled out for attacks in this era of global terrorism. In Nigeria, apart from the killing of innocent citizens, Boko Haram insurgency has gravely impacted people's livelihoods ventures in the northeast Nigeria. Since 2009, Boko Haram has wrought devastating havoc on the security personnel, institutional facilities, public and private properties and their activities have heightened serious fears among the Nigerian populace, especially in Borno state. The trend has led to loss of lives and property, business ventures and shops remained closed, farmers have abandoned their farmlands, in some cases harvests and storage stores were burnt down. This development motivated the need to venture into understanding the conditions of the livelihoods of the people at the rural setting as a result of the attacks of Boko Haram. As established in this study, Boko Haram attacks have had far reaching effects not only on the livelihoods of the rural dwellers, but also generally on the economy of the country. In view of these findings, the following recommendations were considered imperative:

i. The government should ensure that adequate security is provided to encourage farmers, farm workers and

business owners to go back to their livelihood ventures in order to make them more productive. By providing security the fear of being attacked by Boko Haram will naturally vanish away paving way for the people to fully resume their livelihood exploration and production.

ii. Government should ensure that farm and business inputs like fertilizer, agrochemicals, machineries, improved seeds and seedlings are provided for the people, if not free, but at affordable prices to help boost their livelihood activities.

iii. Local vigilante groups should be provided at rural settings to augment the existing level of security for maximum protection of the properties and livelihoods of the local people.

iv. The local traditional chiefs should work with the security agencies so that proactive partnership can be established to improve the level of intelligence gathering and information dissemination to security agencies in order to guarantee adequate protections of the local people for improved livelihood activities.

v. The government should provide incentives in the form of money to help those whose livelihoods were destroyed by Boko Haram to bounce back to business.

#### REFERENCES

- Akinola, O. (2015). Boko Haram Insurgency in Nigeria: Between Islamic Fundamentalism, Politics, and Poverty. *Journal of African Security*, 8(1): 1-27. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/19392206-2015.998539>.
- Alimba, C. N. (2018). Security and security measures for schools operating in domains prone to insurgency in Nigeria. *International Journal of Public Administration and Management Research*, 4(3): 36-48.
- Balami, H. D., Mustapha, A. B. and Godwill, H. A. (2018). Stimulating Employment and Livelihood opportunities in Local Government Areas of Borno State, Nigeria. *Sajred: Journal of Resources & Economic Development*, 1(1): 1-16.
- Carney, D. (1998). *Implementing the sustainable rural livelihoods approach*. Paper presented to the DfID Natural Resource Advisers' Conference. London: Department for International Development.
- Chambers, R., Conway, G. R. (1991). *Sustainable Rural Livelihoods: Practical Concepts for the 21st Century*. Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex: Brighton.
- DfID, U. K. "Sustainable Livelihoods Guidance Sheets". *UK DFID Department for International Development*. London. Retrieved from [www.Livelihoods.Org/-Info/Info\\_guidancesheets.html](http://www.Livelihoods.Org/-Info/Info_guidancesheets.html) (Accessed 5 January, 2020).
- Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) (2007). "Africa Review Report on Agriculture and Rural Development", Fifth Meeting of the Africa Committee on Sustainable Development, Addis Ababa 22-25 October.
- FAO (2016). The FAO Hunger Map 2015. Retrieved from <http://www.fao.org/hunger/en/> (Accessed 10 August, 2019).
- FAO. (2006). Small-scale fisheries: assessing their contribution to rural livelihoods in developing countries. FAO Fisheries Circular. No. 1008. Rome, 46p.
- Federal Government of Nigeria (2016). North-East Nigeria: Recovery and Peace Building Assessment. Volume II Component Report, Abuja, Nigeria.
- Johnson, D. F. (2016). The Unspoken Humanitarian Crisis: Nigeria. *Canadian Research Institute on Humanitarian Crisis and Aid*. Canada.
- Kukah, M. H. (2012). Nigeria: Country as an Emerging Democracy. The Dilemma and the Promises. *Daily Trust*, September 9.
- Kuznar, L. A., Sedlmeyer, R. (2005). Collective Violence in Darfur: An Agent-Based Model of Pastoral Nomad / Sedentary Peasant Interaction. *Mathematical Anthropology and Cultural Theory: An International Journal*, 1(4): 1-22.
- Kwaja, Chris (2011). Nigeria's Pernicious Drivers of Ethno-religious Conflict. *Africa Security Brief*, No. 14, July, The Africa Center for Strategic Studies, Fort McNair, Washington, DC.
- Mirza, Daniel and Verdier, Thierry (2006). Are Lives a Substitute to Livelihoods? Terrorism, Security and Us Bilateral Imports. *SSRN*. University of Nottingham Research Paper No. 2006/39. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.948215>.
- Mohammed, K. (2014). The Message and Methods of Boko Haram. In Perouse de Montclos, M. (ed.), *Boko Haram: Islam, politics, security and the state in Nigeria*. African Studies Centre, Leiden.
- Mohammed, K. (2018). Boko Haram Insurgency in Nigeria: An Impact Assessment. *Journal of the Nigerian Army Resource Centre*, Abuja, 1(1): 111-119.
- Mohammed, K., Alimba, C. N; Momodu, A. J. and Ika, G. M. (2016). *Boko Haram Insurgency and School Attacks in Northeastern, Nigeria*. Research Study Commissioned by UNICEF, Nigeria.
- Mustapha, A. R. (2012). Boko Haram: Killing in God's Name. *Mail & Guardian*, April 5.
- Nwankwo, J. I. (2004). *Mastering Research in Education and Social Sciences*. Ibadan: Bisi Books(Nig) Ltd.
- Olatunji, S. (2013). Poverty fueling Boko Haram Insurgency. Clinton. Retrieved from <http://www.punch.cown/business/business-economy/Nigerians-unemployment-rate-rise-to-23-9-npc> (Accessed on October, 2019).
- Olofinbiyi, S. A. and Steyn, J. (2018). The Boko Haram Terrorism: Causes Still Misunderstood. *Journal of Social Sciences*, 14: 129. 144. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3844/jssp.2018.129.144>.
- Onuoha, F. C. (2014). *Why Do Youth Join Boko Haram?* United States Pace Institute. Washington, DC.
- Osita-Njoku, A. and Chikere, P. (2015). Rural-urban Migration and the Underdevelopment in selected Rural Communities in Imo State, Nigeria. *British Journal of Education, Society and Behavioural Science*, 10(1): 1-10. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.9734/bjesbs/2015/15420>.
- Rapoport, D. C. (1984). Fear and Trembling: Terrorism in three religious traditions. *American Political Science Review*, 78(3): 658-677. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2307/1961835>.
- Schafer, J. (2002). *Supporting Livelihoods in Situations of Chronic Conflict and Political Instability: Overview of Conceptual Issues*. Working Paper 183, Overseas Development Institute, London.
- Simon, R. (1981). Symbiosis of Nomads and Sedentaries on the Character of the Middle Eastern Civilization. *Acta Orientalia Academiae Scientiarum Hungary*, 35: 229-242.
- UNICEF (2015). More than half of Borno schools closed over Boko Haram. Retrieved from <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/09/orno-schools-closed-boko-haram-170929045051-929.html> (Accessed 5 January, 2020).
- Usman, A. (2019). Effects of Boko Haram on Farm Output in Biu Local Government Area, Borno State, Nigeria. *International Journal of Research and Innovation in Social Science (IJRISS)*, 3(11): 6-11.
- World Bank (2015): North-East Nigeria. Recovery and Peace Building Assessment, Synthesis Report, Volume 1.
- Young, H. and Osman, A. (2006). "Challenges to Peace and Recovery in Darfur". *A Situation Analysis of the On Going Conflict and Its Continuing Impact on Livelihoods*. Medford, MA: Feinstein International Famine Center.
- Young, H., Akililu, Y., Were, G., Catley, A., Leyland, T., Borrel, A., Roberts, A. R., Webb, P., Holland, D., Johnnecheck, W. (2002). 'Nutrition and Livelihoods in Situations of Conflict and Other Crises: Reducing Vulnerability and Risk', Paper for Presentation at the UN Administrative Committee on Coordination/ Sub-Committee on Nutrition (ACC/SCN) 29th Session One-Day Symposium on Nutrition in the Context of Crisis and Conflict, 33 p. (mimeo).



**Жиньер Н. Алімба,**

*Центр досліджень миру та безпеки,*

*Університет Технології Модіббо Адама Йола (Нігерія)*

*e-mail: chivoplс@yahoo.com, ORCID 0000-0001-5366-2559*

**Мамман С. Мальві,**

*Урядова середня школа (Ховул, штат Борно, Нігерія)*

*e-mail: malgwiyimka@gmail.com*

**ВПЛИВ АТАК ТЕРОРИСТИЧНОГО УГРУПУВАННЯ «БОКО ХАРАМ»  
НА ДЖЕРЕЛА ІСНУВАННЯ СІЛЬСЬКИХ ЖИТЕЛІВ У НІГЕРІЇ:  
ІСТОРИЧНИЙ ШТРИХ І ЕМПІРИЧНИЙ АНАЛІЗ**

У статті розкрито деякі історичні, соціально-економічні та демографічні аспекти впливу терористичного угруповання "Боко Харам" на господарство і населення Нігерії. Авторами було використано міждисциплінарний підхід та здійснено комплексний аналіз релігійно-конфесійної ситуації у Нігерії в останні роки першого двадцятиліття XXI ст. У статті використані унікальні статистичні дані, які були зібрані шляхом проведення опитувань, що дало можливість розкрити причинно-наслідкові зв'язки конфлікту і суспільну думку населення Нігерії у контексті проведеного дослідження на прикладі району місцевого управління Ховул. Порівняльний аналіз отриманих відсоткових даних опитування разом з глибоким аналізом комплексу зарубіжних і нігерійських джерел та історіографії дозволили авторам простежити тенденції перебігу релігійного конфлікту в Нігерії, спричиненого "Боко Харам", а також окреслити його вплив економічне життя місцевого населення та з'ясувати значення цього конфлікту в світовому та місцевому контекстах.

*Ключові слова: засоби до існування; Боко Харам; сільські жителі; штат Борно.*

---

© Chinyere N. Alimba, Mamman S. Malgwi

Надійшла до редакції: 02.03.2020

Прийнята до друку: 27.03.2020