

Impact of Boko Haram Insurgency on Residential Accommodation Provisioning In Borno State, North Eastern Nigeria

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Abstract: *Housing is one of the most important parts of the environment and has a great impact on individual' productivity. In Borno State, North Eastern Nigeria, Boko Haram insurgency has adversely affected all this entire important sector, raising residential accommodation deficit to monumental proportion. The objective of this study is to determine the number of residential housing units that are required to address the accommodation challenge of the displaced persons in Borno State, Nigeria. Data for this study were historical documents from National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). Secondary data were retrieved from existing literature and Borno State government publications. Data analysis was done by descriptive statistics with the use of tables, percentages and mean. The outcome shows that Boko Haram insurgency has increased housing deficits in the state by 43% with no hope of residential accommodation in sight for over six hundred thousand internally displaced persons in various IDP camps in the state. The paper concludes that housing deficit may not reduce until solution is proffered to insurgency. The paper recommends urgent re-construction works in areas where relative peace is attained and provision of housing aid to the affected persons to alleviate housing crisis of the displaced in the state.*

Keywords: *Impact, Boko Haram, Insurgency, Residential accommodation, Borno-State*
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I. Introduction

Residential housing is one of the most important components of the environment and has a weighty impact on the welfare and productivity of individual (Afuye, 2011). The performance of the sector is one of the indexes for measuring the well being of the people and the nation. In most developed and developing economies of the world, the sector is seen as an important sector for stimulating economic growth. This assertion is supported by the bubble burst in America housing sector in 2006 that led to the global economic crisis and recession (Feldstein, 2009). Problems are observed in housing sector globally in varying intensity such as slum development within urban settlement, and inadequate housing provision commonly referred to as housing deficits (Jimoh&Umaru, 2008). Global Homeless Statistics (2017) observed that in Australia and Cambodia parts of Asia, it is estimated that 105,000 and 108,000 people are homeless respectively. In Europe, England has 112,070 while France 141,500. Africa countries recorded highest numbers of homeless people. South Africa has 2.5 million housing deficits; Nairobi the capital of Kenya has 250, 000, in Nigeria, it is estimated that 24.4 million people are homeless with housing deficits of about 17million housing units (Moshood, 2016). Survey by Obadiah (2007) indicates that over 60% of Nigeria populations are required to be housed. Factors responsible for this trend in Nigeria include poverty, lack of mortgage financing, rapid urbanization, and the most rated factor is insurgency in the North East (Obadiah, 2007; Goiton, 2014). The number of internally displaced persons due to insurgency is outrageous. People were not just displaced; their houses were burnt in most of the local government areas under the control of the insurgents (IOM, Report round xiii, 2016). The areas mostly affected by the violence are the North Eastern States where over 2million people were recorded to have been displaced, this number comprises of 316,331 households (IOM, Report round xix, 2017). The mainly affected state in this region is Borno-State, which recorded over 1million displaced persons out of the five states ravaged by theinsurgency (IOM Report round xix, 2017). Insurgency therefore has compounded the housing problem. Nigeria had recorded series of violence in most parts of the country in time past, but the most sustained and violent is the Boko Haram insurgency. The residential accommodation is always at the receiving end of any insurgency, because the rate at which houses are destroyed in any crisis is a pointer to this assertion. Alongside the Boko Haram attack is the issue of farmers and herdsmen clashes, which always results into burning of houses and displacement of people. Alubo(2006) chronicled some of these attacks, and the resulted devastation.

The destruction caused by this insurgent group was enormous that the intelcenter (2014) ranked Nigeria as the second most dangerous country in the world after Iraq. The global country threat index (CTI) is 3,313 and Nigeria scored 458. Boko Haram has caused destruction of both public and private properties worth billions of Naira (Goiton,2014). It is expedient therefore that attempt is made at determining the impact of insurgency on residential housing provisioning for the displaced in Borno State, as one of the most affected states in the country.

1.1 Objectives

The study has the following objectives:

1. To determine the intensity of insurgency in Borno State, Nigeria between year 2013-2018.
2. To determine the number of housing units required to address the residential accommodation need of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Borno State, Nigeria.

II. Literature Review

2.1 Boko Haram Insurgency: Historical Background

Insurgency is an attempt to take control of a country by force (Hornby, 2010). This insurgency comes by way of gun and suicide attack to vulnerable targets (International crisis group, 2014). Suicide attack used to be a tale by the moon light in about three decades ago in Nigeria. Its occurrence in other countries of the world used to be told or heard in the news. However, the formation of an Islamic religious group called Boko Haram in Borno-State, Nigeria in the early 1990s signaled the commencement of what would claim thousands of lives and destroy billions of naira worth of properties (Goiton, 2014). Boko Haram means ‘Western Education forbidden’ (Banjo, 2017). This religious set believes in the full implementation of Islamic law commonly referred to as sharia. It was set up in Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria, hence the reference to Maiduguri as the headquarters of the Islamic group (Banjo, 2017). The first leader of the group was Yusuf Mohammed, who also was the youth leader of the mosque where Boko Haram was inaugurated. In an effort to introduce sharia as a judicial law by the group in the state, its leader formed an alliance with some politicians with a view to implementing sharia law in case of electoral victory (International Crisis Group, 2014).

However, the agreement was not honoured after electoral victory by the politicians involved. Yusuf Mohammed mobilised his supporters to demonstrate against the breach of agreement which led to his arrest and subsequent extra judicial killing by police authority. A new leader emerged called Shekau who adopted radical and violent approach at meeting the demands of the group (Goiton, 2014). This group metamorphosed into insurgents that attack villages, government establishment and even hoist their flags in twenty two out of twenty seven local government areas of Borno-State, Nigeria (NEMA, 2015). Aside the destruction of lives, the second most rated casualty is public and private properties. This extremist group operates in all the states in North Eastern region comprising of Borno, Yobe, Adamawa, Taraba and Bauchi States (IOM Round XIII, 2016). Over 2million persons were displaced in this region, comprising of 316,331 households. The most affected state in this region is Borno State which recorded over 1million displaced persons out of the five states affected (IOM Round XX Report, 2017). The number displaced in Borno State account for over 77% of the persons displaced in the North Eastern States, other states share the remaining 23%.

The terror unleashed by this group makes it to be rated as the second most dreaded terrorist group in the world (Baobab, 2014). In an effort to advance its terrorist activities, the group formed an alliance with islamic state (ISIS) of Iraq thereby calling itself the Islamic State of West Africa. It was observed that Boko Haram is able to wage serious war against Nigeria State because of some factors that exist in the country that favours insurgency. These factors include poverty, politically weak federal government, weak local policing, presence of rural based areas with rough inaccessible terrain, foreign financial aid to terrorist and logistic support (Fearson&Laitin, 2001). These factors were also identified by Omilusi (2016) who observed that the inability of Nigeria state to curtail the breeding of foreign extremist group and their connection with domestic religious group worsens the incidence of extremism and violence in the country. From the perspective of this study, the identified factors are so glaring in Nigeria to the extent that governors are agitating for the amendment of the constitution to pave way for the establishment of state police for effective policing at the grass root. Moreover, decentralization of the country into autonomous federating units which will make the states more vibrant and be strong enough to address the issue of poverty and proper policing of rural communities is being canvassed (Ojomoyela, 2018). Other factors identified by Fearson and Laitin (2001) that seriously affects counter insurgency efforts of the Federal Government of Nigeria are badly financed military, corruption where money meant for arms purchase were diverted to private purses, youth unemployment which assist insurgents in recruiting idle hands into their fold, infrastructural decay and insufficient information about the activities of Boko Haram. These factors were also echoed by Ojomoyela (2018) arguing that unless they are addressed, there may not be solution in sight to insurgency in Nigeria.

2.2 Residential Accommodation

Decent and affordable residential accommodation is an essential ingredient that determines the health and wealth of a nation. Most nations of the world are under pressure to meet this need. This housing problem is compounded in developing nations by poverty, with millions of people living in slums in cities (UN-Habitat, 2005). Home ownership rate in Nigeria is put at not more than 25% of the total population (Obadiah, 2007). This implies that in a country of over 170 million people, only about 42.5 million lives in houses of their own. The situation of the under housed population is pathetic due to the prevalent economic situation that led the country into recession and the activities of Boko Haram insurgency. The Boko Haram controlled areas are more affected, where Orekan (2014) noted that property values had dropped due to mass movement of people from conflict prone zone to relatively peaceful area.

The residential accommodation problem became pronounced that the professional bodies in Nigeria called on government intervention to ameliorate the suffering of the people. The nature of houses in the northern part of the country is influenced by religion, culture and the financial strength of the citizens. Sanusi (2017) averred that Northern Nigeria is poorer than other parts of the country; this is reflected in low quality housing being occupied by rural dwellers. In rural parts of Borno State that were affected by insurgency, the common residential houses are constructed with mud, composite wall made of timber and mud, covered with either iron roofing sheets or thatched roof with or without ceiling. However, culturally adaptable housing designs are prominent in the state with few having essential facilities required for comfortable living. The activities of Boko Haram insurgents hiked the fear that Borno State might be on the verge of residential accommodation collapse if urgent steps are not taking.

III. Study Area

Borno State is one of the States in North Eastern Nigeria created on 3rd February, 1976. It has its capital in Maiduguri. The major tribe is the Kanuris while main languages of the people are Hausa and Fulani. It covers an area of 57,799 km² with a population of 4,171,104 (NPC, 2006). It is located in Latitude 12.500° and Longitude 12.900°. It share borders with Niger Republic in the North, Chad in the North East, and Cameroon in the East, Adamawa State in the South, Gombe State in the West and Yobe State in the North West. It has 27 Local Government areas. The major occupation of the people is farming. The state is considered for the study because it is the state most affected by Boko Haram insurgency and major contributor to housing deficit in Nigeria (NEMA, 2017).

3.1 Methodology

The study adopts quantitative research approach with focus on document analysis. Literature was reviewed and data were extracted from historical documents of National Emergency Management Agency, the body saddled with the responsibility of managing disaster in Nigeria, Government and Newspaper publications. Data were logically arranged to reflect the objectives of the study. Intensity of insurgency was determined by the year that recorded highest number of displaced persons from years 2013 to 2018. Another determinant factor is the number of Local Government areas that were accessible in each of the years under consideration. The residential accommodation need of the displaced was based on household size of seven persons per family. Household in the context of this study is an arrangement made by persons for providing themselves with essential things of life such as food and shelter. This number was adopted based on the recommendation of NEMA field officers. The sample size of the returnees was taken by NEMA in collaboration with IOM officials, the states of their houses were observed. This was compared with Borno State government assessment of houses damaged. The judgment of the author was presented in the analysis. Data analysis was done by the use of Tables, percentiles and presented descriptively.

IV. Data Analysis and Discussion

4.1 Intensity of Boko Haram Insurgency

Table 1: Intensity of Insurgency between 2013-2018 in Borno State, Nigeria

Year of Displacement	No of Displaced Per Year	No of Returnees	Cumulative No of IDPs Per Year	No of Cumulative Household size of IDPs	No of LGAs Accessible	Percentage No of IDPs per Year
2013	55,094	None	55,094	7,142	24	2.94
2014	847,600	None	902,694	128,956	5	45.23
2015	522,151	None	1,424,845	203,549	7	27.87
2016	36,535	None	1,461,380	208,768	15	1.95
2017	412,452	547,387	1,326,445	188,639	23	22.01
2018	NC	884,250	442,195	63,171	27	-

Source: IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix, Round viii, xix, xx, Adebowale, NEMA 2015, Emiedafe, 2015, and Ojomoyela, 2018, Nigeria Army

NC: Not confirmed

Table 1 is the reflection of intensity of insurgency in Borno-State, Nigeria. The table indicates that the highest numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs) occur in 2014 with 45.5% of the total displacement occurring that year. In numerical term, 847,600 persons were displaced while cumulative number of the IDPs rose to 902,694. Moreover, number of accessible Local Government Areas (LGAs) that year was five out of twenty seven. In 2017, number of returnees was more than those that were displaced by 134,935 which indicates an improved security situation. Report had it that those that were accredited at various IDP camps in year 2017 were not as a result of new attacks, but were brought back from Cameroon and Chad. Moreover, returnees majorly farmers couldn't continue with their means of livelihood because of destruction of their farm by the insurgents, while others had their houses burnt hence, decided to return to IDP camps. In 2018, the remaining LGAs that were under the control of Boko Haram were liberated in June. These LGAs are: Ngoshe, Marte, Guzamala, and Abadam. This provoked fresh humanitarian crises with new displacement camps emerging, the number displaced could not be ascertained at the time of writing this report. However, the numbers of returnees increase to 884,250, majorly in areas that had been liberated in the past. It will suffice to conclude that Boko Haram Insurgency came to a peak in 2014 while 2018 experience highest reduction in their activities, though 442,195 of the displaced persons are still in the displacement camps scattered all over the state.

4.2 Table 3: Residential Accommodation Condition of Returnees in Borno State

State of Residential accommodation	No of respondents	Percentage
Not damaged	117,041	57
Partly damaged	42,377	22
Burnt	32,287	16
Temporary accommodation	10,092	5
Total	201,797	100

Source: IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix; Round viii, xix, xx; NEMA, 2015; IDMC, 2013; Nigeria Army, 2018; Adebowale, 2018

Table 3 is the residential condition of returnees in Borno State. The analysis indicates that 57% of the buildings of the returnees were not damaged, 22% was partly damaged, 16% was burnt while those that reside in temporary accommodation were 5%. The survey could not ascertain whether they had no residential accommodation before they were displaced. It will suffice to infer that 43% of the IDPs are in dire need of residential accommodation. This translates to 612,683 persons, equivalent to the household size of 87,526 at a conservative estimate of seven persons per household are required to be housed. The housing units required to be constructed to provide residential accommodation for the internally displaced persons in Borno State, Nigeria is 87,526.

V. Conclusion

This study on impact of Boko Haram Insurgency on residential accommodation provisioning in Borno State was conducted. The outcome indicates that activities of the insurgents reached the peak in 2014 when 45.5% of the total displacement occurred and only five Local Government Areas out of twenty seven were accessible to the Nigerian authority. Moreover, 43% percent of the IDPs are in need of residential accommodation because their houses were either damaged or burnt, this translates into 612,683 persons with 87,526 housing units required. This has in no small measure aggravated the housing situation in Borno State where close to 75% of the residents are either in rented apartment or sharing accommodation with relatives. The paper advocates urgent intervention of the Nigeria authority and the international community to address the housing challenge being faced by the citizens of the state, most especially in the areas where the insurgents have been subdued.

VI. Recommendation

The paper makes the following recommendations:

- i. Housing aid should be given to citizens of Boko Haram affected LGAs with a view to building culturally adaptable houses of their choice.
- ii. Urgent reconstruction or renovation works in liberated areas to alleviate the housing crises being experienced by the displaced in Borno State, Nigeria.
- iii. Urgent restoration of peace to Boko Haram affected areas.

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