



Peace-Building In Post Conflict Environments: North-East Nigeria And The Chad Basin In Focus

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ABSTRACT

The end of crisis or violence in ravaged environments is not an assurance of the return to an enduring peaceful and secure atmosphere. Ceasefire, peace accords, amnesty, silent and open interventions and disarmament do not signify improvement in safety and peace either. The political and economic motives of stakeholders in the violence portray an array of real and perceived sources of threats. Therefore, social engineering approach as a populous alternative approach leave one noticeable gap in the reconstruction and rehabilitation programmes, especially the stereotypic assumption that all parties can be treated with same remedy. Thus, this research examines the involvement of individuals or groups as a basis for determining the suitable and specific remedies or compensation. Data for this research was collected from primary and secondary sources, through oral interviews, questionnaires, archival materials, published and unpublished materials. The Descriptive method was used to analyse data and present findings. The major Finding is that interventions are stereotypic in nature, giving no room for peculiar treatment capable of soothing or calming strained nerves individually. It is recommended that stakeholders' motives be determined, separated and respected in all decision-making processes.

Keywords: Conflict, Rehabilitation, Peace-Building, National Development.

INTRODUCTION

The spectre of insurgency and terrorism in north east Nigeria is in violation of the rights of persons to life as enshrined in Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UNDHR, 1948); Article 4 of the African Charter on Human and People Rights (OAU, 1981), and Section 33 of the Constitution of The Federal Republic of Nigeria ((FRN, 1999). Among the ostensible factors responsible for the rise of the menacing crisis resulting in the loss of life and property are poverty and the failure of leadership. Towards regional cooperation and development between Nigeria and her immediate neighbours to the north, the Lake Chad Basin Commission was established in the year 1964, to identify natural resources that could be harnessed for the development of the region including the Lake Chad itself (Agoro, 1966).

Cooperation efforts did not yield adequate results, allegedly due to noticeable gap from the failure of governance, dwindling resources and absence of reliable institutional framework for the realisation of the noble dream of creating an enduring peace and security. The trending loss due largely to the

empowerment and development cycle cost is associated with developing and sustaining different levels of rehabilitation for both the people and environment in the focal states and countries. Further challenges resulted from the responsibility for security which is shared between the federal, state and local governments; posing a challenge of coordination, definition of roles and the political will to address the problems that serve as root causes of insurgency. This menace which heightened in 2009 as a reaction to the extra judicial killing of the Boko Haram leader Mohammed Yusuf, assumed an international terrorist dimension through contacts with international terror groups (Ewetan & Urhie, 2014). The challenges which should not detain us are numerous; at the centre of the insecurity crisis in the country was the weak financial architecture and poor resource base to prosecute the war on and support the victims of the insurgency and how to build a sustainable development in the post conflict period in the north-east within the Lake Chad region.

The documented strategies for counter insurgency are numerous, ranging from hard to soft approach. The hard approach is the military approach while the soft approach is the non-military option such as dialogue, vocational training, and youth de-radicalisation, promotion of religious and cultural awareness amongst others. The attention of the member countries of Lake Chad Basin Commission seems to focus more on the military approach while they neglect the soft approach. Although, forceful and non-coercive interventions during the violent phases of conflicts occupy most headlines, the crucial subsequent work of demobilizing ex-combatants, (re)building civil society institutions, creating conditions for economic and social development, or establishing political institutions to resolve and manage societal conflicts has become the mainstay of a large array of development and humanitarian non-governmental interventionists, international institutions and national bodies.

Nigeria operates a federal system of government and security is on the concurrent legislative list. In this regard, the responsibility for security is shared among the three levels of government in the country. The exclusive functions of the local government (LG) are set forth in the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999 as amended). Among other functions, LG has responsibility for the security, maintenance and safety of lives and properties.

For development to take place, there must be peace, which is a benchmark to sustainable development. For instance, investors will not be attracted to a crisis-ridden region for establishment of projects; they will rather keep away and render the environment redundant and underdeveloped. This paper will not only attempt to produce a blue print for reconstruction, rehabilitation and reconciliation, but will also showcase de-radicalisation of the affected individuals and granting them the necessary weapon (peace) and empower or improve their value chain for development devoid of the stereotype of earlier works. Each group or set of individuals deserve their own respective attention to enable us reach the roots of each question and proffer more suitable intervention mechanisms. Building schools for the communities may not allay the fears as much as increasing participation in governance by an individual that joined the group because he felt deprived or cheated by the government.

In the same vein, economic, social and cultural circumstances are inextricably tied to programme designs and likely outcomes. The political process is paramount in the programme of adaptation of various interest groups and combatants to the process. Transitions from conflict are among life's most perilous journeys. Once societies have verged into violence and neighbours are preying on each other, trust is destroyed and confidence to build a community is undermined. Approaches sometimes do not match realities on ground. Soldiers and diplomats are sent in place of needed focused action plans, humanitarian offer of live-saving aids is given when genuine rebuilding process should start. Viable government presence is required for restoration of security and services to create a favourable climate for economic progress.

The Problem

Insurgency in north east Nigeria which started as a sectarian crisis has assumed a pervasive terrorist dimension under the accolade 'Boko Haram,' and defied all military (coercive) and non-military (dialogue) efforts at attenuating the hydra-headed evil and the spectre it leaves with the society. The results of these efforts - where they exist - are inconsistent with the quantum of resources committed and such successes achieved are provisional. In line with studies in other conflict areas, it is worthy of reference that Brinkerhoff (2007) asserted, some estimates put at 50%, the value of conflicts that

reoccur in a space of not more than 5 years. Above assumption would attest to the fact that victories won through the barrel of the gun, are most times pyrrhic.

There are some challenges to the control of conflict environments, among them, is the inadequacy of regular statistics on the costs of providing and sustaining security services. There are also, challenges associated with the cost of rehabilitation of the victims of terrorism and the sustainability of the post conflict period. Numerous persons might have suffered psychological trauma as a result of insurgency related issues. The truth however is that efficient and effective delivery of rehabilitation and reconstruction of the affected areas require investment in the soft components of counter-insurgency strategies, which comes with financial implications for either the providers or the beneficiaries.

Questions

Certain issues elicit suitable answers, towards putting this study in proper perspective:

- How have the Federal Government of Nigeria and the subnational governments, as leading stakeholders, addressed the problem of post conflict concerns in northeast Nigeria following the attenuation of Boko Haram insurgency activities?
- What novel approaches aside de-radicalization, bridge building, vocational training, formal education and other forms of capacity development, how can the involvement of victims and other participants help to foster specific and enduring peace, security and national development to forestall a recurrence of insurgency?
- What are the prospects and challenges of inclusive intervention strategies, especially regarding its ability to assuage the concerns of victims and actors in insurgency environments in northeast Nigeria?

Objectives

This study aims at examining the prospects of an enduring peace in northeast Nigeria, especially the Lake Chad region through specific, inclusive measures like educational and vocational training, capacity development, improved investment prospects and sustainability. Other objectives of this study are:

- to examine what measures the Federal Government, the respective subnational governments and other intervention agencies adopted towards peace-building and peace enforcement, reconciliation, reconstruction and rehabilitation of affected areas;
- To identify peculiar incentives for the involvement of each participant and the extent of persecution suffered by each victim towards identifying intervention gaps arising from stereotypes.
- To examine the prospects of a participatory or contributory needs-assessment as alternative to the delivered or stereotypic interventions on affected groups and communities, and to deepen the values and stake of citizens through enhancing their consciousness, rights and participation in social governance.

Significance

This research simply focuses on stakeholders' adoption of inclusivity, as a means of achieving enduring peace in conflict and post conflict environments. Post conflict interventions are often stereotypic in nature, with all stakeholders applying common measures. This is despite studies' suggestion that it is necessary for stakeholders to focus or quest into the underlying factors that instigated insurgency while applying remedies for insurgency as noted by Baregu (in Adebajo & Scanlon, 2006). Earlier researches have also opined that poverty associated with conflicts, leave behind human insecurity and will continue to generate other forms of poverty, including restricted choice, partial control, health deprivation, inadequate access to information, susceptibility, lack of adequate ease, elevated apprehension and little anticipation of transformation (Adebajo and Scanlon 2006).

It has generally been recommended that empowerment programmes have to be embarked upon to help reconcile, reconstruct, rehabilitate and rebuild the areas destroyed by insurgency and related activities. However, the genuineness of reconciliation and rebuilding is determined by the respective objectives of parties to the violence; within this approach, stereotypes that neglect variations in impulses of actors, the degree and dimension of injuries on victims are inadequate. This research presents a transformative overview of contemporary practice of intervention which rests upon the assumption that a sophisticated social engineering can be used to accelerate the process of peace-building.

The missing link noted in this research is the fact that earlier programmes and researches have been conducted with critical reflection on the assumptions and bias that peace, security and development

are intertwined and realisable solely through human security. However, they leave a gap in identifying the peculiarity of cases towards specificities in required intervention through the establishment of perennial institutional framework for intervention to fill the institutional and finance gaps. This study therefore adopted historical methodology in the presentation and interpretation of the phenomenal post conflict peacebuilding processes.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

The basic means and method adopted for collection of data for processing, analysis and dissemination constitutes the method of research. Materials for this research were gathered mostly from secondary sources. The desired area of focus for this research was Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States, and the adjoining Lake Chad territories of Cameroun, Niger and Chad; however, for want of resources, the work focused mainly on Borno State. The target groups for interview were the Internally Displaced Persons, traditional rulers, children of school age (both male and female), market women, farmers, artisans and stakeholders like military formations, in the affected areas. The offices of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) and sister security agencies were designated sources of vital information; the North East Development Commission (NEDC), National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMA), National Orientation Agency (NOA) and other critical international organisations were also targeted. The inadequacy of funds limited the team to two Internally Displaced Persons' camps and faith-based organisations where reliable data was obtained.

Secondary sources relied upon for this work included the views of scholars or researchers, obtained through administration of questionnaires, internet materials obtained directly from the Nigerian Government website (www.gov.ng), relevant *google* pages. Newspapers, magazines, books and mostly, academic journals, formed other secondary sources relied upon for this research. This work adopted descriptive method in analysing the 'how' of data collected from the stated sources. The process of data collection and analysis was not without few difficulties owing to the prevailing security challenges in Nigeria, especially the northeast region. The north east environment was so hostile that persons presumably refused to make themselves available, or to divulge certain information for purpose of fear.

Others have a mindset or predilection, which could have affected their views, however, the research was tasked with sifting with objectivity of information so obtained. It was necessary to adopt the convenience sampling method in the collection of data in view of the researchers' inability to access all sectors and participants in the communities. Problems encountered in the course of this research as noted, included financial constraints, apprehensions, administrative bottle-necks, distance, insecurity, language and other cultural differences. However, the level of their constraints upon findings were negligible since IDP camps and secondary sources provided a pool of information required.

Concepts and Theory

Conflict

It appears the definition of the concept of conflict is inexhaustive; it can be viewed from the perspective of its causal factors, its manifestation, and from its character. Thus, no single definition which wholly covers all three viewpoints so highlighted. Rakhim, (2010 cited in Ada, & Abdullahi, 2022) defines conflict, as a cooperative process demonstrated in mismatch, disagreement or dissension amongst common entities. Conflict has also been defined by Nicholson & Michael, (1992 cited in Ada & Abdullahi, 2022) as an action which takes place when conscious beings (individual or groups) wish to carry out mutually unpredictable acts relating to their desires, needs and obligations. They further argued that it is an increase in intensity of divergence, which is its common precondition and is characterised by the existence of conflict behaviour in which the beings are actively trying to damage one another. Juneja (2019, cited in Ada & Abdullahi, 2022), sees it as a clash between individuals arising out of a difference in thought process, attitudes, understanding, interests, requirements and even sometimes perceptions.

Conflict can thus, be seen as the situation of divergence, tension, disharmony or contention among members of groups or between groups. It may emanate from difference in beliefs or the

activities of individuals and groups which may generate protest from others. The famous Conflict Theory developed by Karl Marx explains how the society or state lives in endless conflict arising from competition for limited resources. Among the major tenets of this theory is that: power and dominance prevail over consensus and conformity; that owners of wealth and power do everything to maintain their means through taking advantage of the poor and weak. In this light, state institutions are seen as apparatus for the sustenance of inequality. Worthy of mention also is class and inequality, characteristic of human society resulting in poverty, discrimination and violence, conflict, revolution and war as a range of social problems associated with the character of society (Adams, Barnier & Schmitt, 2022). The import of this theory in spite of its shortcomings, is that conflicts degenerate, not only leading to war situation, but also leading to conciliation, without the usual pretence of the absence of conflict. The theory further signifies the possibility of a relapse in peace, and therefore presupposes taking early warning arrangements. The distinguishing context of this research, and the import of the theory, is its attempt at establishing or deepening knowledge of the interconnectedness between conflict, enduring peace, national security and development. There is not only a situation of threat to the peace, but a breach of the peace and acts of insurgency and terrorism which have caused colossal loss of human lives and property. Impliedly, not only situations of escalated conflicts require intervention, pre and post violent conflict periods require intervention in order to ensure peace and development. While these terrorist acts have threatened the unity of Nigeria 'to the marrows', the war scenarios created by the Boko Haram insurgency in north-east Nigeria left behind the loss of lives and properties which require an intervention that takes the pre and post insurgency situation into consideration, especially with reference to actors or victims' involvement.

Peacebuilding

Peace itself can be regarded as an environment of tranquillity, absence of threats and acts of violence and the tendencies thereto. Most post-conflict situations leave a charged atmosphere, tension, fear and apprehensions over physical survival, often worse than the pre-crises period. Crises reoccur, and with more intensity in the absence of a resolution of the elements that brew conflicts. Security refers to the guarantee of safety from violence and the absence of threat of violence. Another concept of security that is evolving in recent studies is human security and other guarantees like food security. National security refers to the guarantee of the safety and survival of the nation, the recognition and respect for its sovereignty and the performance of those duties as the welfare of its citizens.

Peacebuilding connotes efforts geared towards addressing the root causes of conflicts, by preventive and mitigating tendencies to violence through a just and inclusive environment (Abubakar, 2021). Peacebuilding was adopted by the United Nations (1992) as world mechanism for peace during the period postdating the Cold War. The concept refers to the link between peace, security and development (Ojendal, Bachmann, Stern, & Leonardsson, 2021). As was rightly noted, following the relapse in post conflict environments in Cambodia, Mozambique, Somalia, Bosnia and Colombia, a reinvention of strategy become necessary (Ojendal, 'et al' 2021).

Non-military approach to peace-building refers to the creation of peace without the conventional kinetic means, or the wielding of weapons to suppress the insurgents (in our context). This is also referred to as the soft approach where warring parties are brought to reasonable settlement through the distillation of the factors that brew crises and determining the peculiarities in the motives of respective actors. Military options are effective most times, but conversely inefficient, as either the crises returns not long after or the cost outweighs the gains.

Violence leaves behind a great quantum of destruction of lives and properties, thus, for proper intervention in rehabilitation, reconstruction and rebuilding, it is germane to determine specific degrees of abuse suffered by respective victims. This will ensure suitable remedy for cases, rather than applying a common intervention for all, which in most cases do not take care of such peculiarities and fail to achieve their aim(s). The centripetal and centrifugal factors that determine how communities verge into and survive the trauma of insurgency can only come to bear with the investigation of the causes and effects embarked upon by this type of research. This research will help identify finance gaps in post conflict strategies and opportunity for leveraging of resources at different

stages of post-conflict peace maintenance and rehabilitation. The concept addresses not only the root causes of insurgency, but provides a blueprint for efficient post-conflict intervention that ensures perennial peace and development.

National Development

National development is the overall improvement in the standard of lives of the citizens in terms of gross domestic products, the structural growth and advancement of the nation's economy and critical sectors to meet standard requirements. It refers to the common focus of the nation or the unity of purpose in achieving specific goals and objectives.

National Development otherwise can be seen within the context of National Security also viewed as overall holistic advancement in the wellbeing of citizens and the society at large. Ake, (1972); Amucheazi, (1980); and Ogai, (2003) cited in Ebeh, (2015) severally gave national development a multi-dimensional interpretation, either as the liberty or constructive and gradual modification of man constitutionally, 'economically, psychologically and socially or as development from the levels of poverty, unemployment, equitable distribution of income, inflation, savings and investment, access to health, education water, electricity and other basic necessities (Akinola, 2019). Others have seen national development as the level of life sustenance, self-esteem and freedoms. It can also be seen as the application of nascent schemes and techniques to the factors and production processes and the smooth interaction of basic societal elements (Ewetan, & Urhie, 2014).

Literature Review

The plethora of literature on Boko Haram and other forms of insurgency in north east Nigeria have advanced various responsible factors, among them is Ottoh's (2015) argument that the motivations of war include poverty, deteriorating social services, decay infrastructure, educational backwardness, unemployment, dwindling production base of the northern economy, and the guerrilla pattern of warfare, which renders it asymmetric and invincible (Triquier, 1964 cited in Ottoh, 2015). Similarly, Collier, (2000) in his Structural Conflict Theory, described the problem of insurgency as a belief built into the particular way societies are structured and organized. He further suggests that they are a function of social problems, political and economic exclusion, injustice, poverty, diseases, exploitation inequity. Furthermore, Goldstein, (1998) argued that power and its tendencies are at the roots of problems that affect human society, though certain things can be achieved only through cooperation and compromise. Other views are that apart from poverty and disease, economic disparities and globalization are relatively the most important threats to the African region (Adebajo & Scanlon, 2006).

Various strategies have been advanced for fighting violent extremism especially the Boko Haram insurgency in north east Nigeria. Abdusalam Abubakar (2016) has argued that economic recovery is the best strategy in the fight against terrorism. Rebuilding social institutions, economic infrastructure and livelihood of citizens (both displaced and settled) are benchmarks for the judgement of the success of the war against terrorism. It is apt that when the people are empowered, they become immune to vulnerability and recruitment for narrow courses. This view is however limited by the fact that measurement of success against terrorism is incomplete without other parameters like the democratization of political processes, political inclusion and popular participation. This work argues that complementary measures for prevention and suppression of violent extremism, including possible timeline for measuring the success of the war against terror must be taken into consideration. Emelonye, & Buergenthal (2011) in their work titled 'Nigeria: Peace Building through Integration and Citizenship' opined that Nigeria is characterized by ethnic nationalism from periods predating Nigeria's own independence. The ethnic coloration extended down to the political parties, which were predominantly ethnic in structure and support, as far back as the pre-independence election of 1959. Nigeria's north east became a centre of conflict since 2009, and therefore a hotspot for aid organisations due to increasing humanitarian needs in form of poverty, hunger, shelter, healthcare and rebuilding livelihoods involving huge sums of funds. In spite of the presence of over two hundred and fifty governmental and non-governmental organisations within the north eastern region, and the multisectoral dimension of their representation, aids appear inadequate (some of these organisations were challenged by the Nigerian government, over their motives and status, for example, UNICEF was temporarily suspended in December, 2018 (Uzuegbunam, 2013). Prominent among the agencies on ground in north east were those representing the international organisations and agencies, the

federal government, state governments and local governments, chiefly, the North East Development Commission (NEDC) established in 2017. These organisations reflect various sectors such as health, education, technology, agriculture and other key sectors in the society (Uzuegbunam, 2013).

Leading among various views is Okunade & Ogunnubi's (2020) position that the coordination of intervention agencies, beginning from the Nigerian government (federal, state and local government), and international governmental and non-governmental agencies is incoherent, owing largely to the failure of the Nigerian government to properly coordinate and regulate their activities.

Failure of post conflict peacebuilding was further blamed on corruption among governmental agencies and the failure of the federal government to regulate the activities of all interventionists. Such corrupt tendencies extended to the appointment of unqualified persons into positions of responsibility. Among notable suggestions by Okunade & Ogunnubi (2020), is the need for evolving a common approach to the peacebuilding process. This research views the adoption of one common approach as suitable for all problems in the post conflict environment in north east Nigeria as misplaced. As earlier noted, the motives of all victims, actors and interested parties in the conflict differ, thus aggregating the intervention approach amounts to applying one remedy to every problem that after all, is varied.

Highlight of Reactions to Insurgency Activities

Beside the military operations to end insurgency in the north east, the Nigerian government declared a state of emergency in the three most affected states, (Borno, Adamawa and Yobe) in May, 2013. In view of the requirement for a multinational approach to address the Boko Haram insurgency, the Lake Chad countries and Benin Republic established the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) in 2012, reactivated in 2014 and authorised by the African Union in the early part of 2015 (Albert, 2017). As part of measures to curb the rising insurgency and the associated loss of lives and property, then President Goodluck Jonathan granted amnesty to repentant terrorists; it was however, rejected by these terrorists. During the reign of President Muhammadu Buhari, the offer of amnesty was accepted, and it yielded in the surrender of thousands of repentant terrorists (The Guardian, 2018; Adamu, 2019 in Ewang, 2023).

The dwindling strength and intensity of terrorist activities however, generated the challenge of humanitarian aid to affected or displaced persons, including the battle for restoration of peace in north east Nigeria. Local and international intervention agencies thronged the region, to offer immediate aid, to alleviate the groanings of internally displaced persons drafted into formal and informal camps. It is noteworthy that the most affected of the three states was Borno, with a displaced population towering above one million; thus, humanitarian activities were generally resident in Borno. Among the partners involved in humanitarian services are governmental and non-governmental organisations, including multinational government bodies like the World Bank, UNICEF, World Food Programme, Food and Agriculture Organisation, United Nations High Commission for Refugees and the United Nations itself (Ada, & Abdullahi, 2022).

Other intervention efforts included the Nigeria's Policy Framework and National Action Plan for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, launched as a measure towards peace and rehabilitation of the north east. The Chad Basin Governors Forum comprising of Governors of the Lake Chad region held mid-July, 2019 as an opportunity for states to strengthen plans for stabilisation. The Forum further launched a regional stabilisation facility (Olojo, 2019, in Ewang, 2023); these yielded remarkable results, however, it did not signify the end of insurgency and the associated loss of lives and property.

Brief Subnational Intervention Account

Post conflict environments present mounds of challenges, however the concerted efforts of the Federal Government and Borno State Government under His Excellency Prof Umara Zulum demands proper focus. The North East Development Commission (NEDC) was established by the Federal Government in 1917, as a structural mechanism with a view to instituting an enduring peace and progress through the reconstruction, reconciliation and rehabilitation programmes. The North East Development Commission unveiled a ten-year development plan, spanning over 2020-

2030, to facilitate growth through lifting the region out of poverty. The budget estimate for the project was put at Eighty billion Dollars, equivalent to #31.05 Trillion (Leadership, 2022).

The North East Stabilisation and Development Master Plan adopted the Human Development Peacebuilding initiative with the aim of mobilising stakeholders like partners and investors to mobilise funds for investment in the greatly endowed region. The 2020-2030 master plan is phased along four stop gaps: 2020-2021, being Recovery and Stabilisation phase; 2022-2023 for Renewal; 2024-2025 for Expansion and 2026-2030 for Sustainable Growth. This 10-year master plan or project is designed to rest upon the columns of a 'peaceful society; advancement in Agriculture; healthy citizens; educated populace; flourishing trade; productive entrepreneurs; purposeful infrastructure; industrialisation; memorable experience; protected environment and connected region' (Leadership, 2021).

In fulfilment of its Special Presidential Intervention, the NEDC handed over to the Borno State Government, one thousand units of 2-bedroom bungalow as alternative accommodation to the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Bornu on 2nd September, 2021. The projects located in Ngwom village added to the 200 units handed over by the United Nations Development Project (UNDP) earlier 2018. Vocational and technical training centres were also established across the state by the NEDC, along with auditorium for training in the field of Violent Extremism and in peacebuilding (Haruna, 2021).

In fact, apart from the Federal Government's coordinated leadership in the post conflict environment, collaborative intervention continued between subnational governments and the international partners. For example, the Borno State Government and the United Nations jointly held a high-level donor appointment on North East Nigeria in June, 2021 in order to highlight priority areas including development and humanitarian affairs (United States Mission in Nigeria, 2021). The need to scale up the programme of food sufficiency, good nutrition, protection and provision for affected persons with desperate needs was emphasised. In collaboration with the UNDP and the World Bank, the Borno State Government made a Twenty-Five Year Development Plan, towards consolidation of security, entrenching the rule of law, granting access to basic amenities, developing critical infrastructure and building social cohesion (ng.usembassy.gov).

Challenges and Prospects of Peacebuilding

In examining the challenges associated with peacebuilding, beginning with the immediate humanitarian challenges during the early period of the conflict and displacement, some victims or IDPs would nearly equate the magnitude of challenges with lifelessness. While the challenges posed to IDPs are enormous, the challenges to humanitarian agencies were very significant. At the IDP camps, risks increased due to immediate needs for the basic of existence especially the need to fetch water and sometimes firewood, which exposed them to further insurgent attack. At some point, the camps became clustered and reduced to slum with very poor sanitary conditions; inadequate spaces for families; stuffing male and females together; lack of access to good health attention; lack of access to basic education; the loss of human dignity and pride.

Besides these internal challenges, the activities of government which affected the displaced persons or victims of insurgency include the amnesty granted to terrorists while their victims, along with rehabilitation measures while their victims still wallow in poverty and pain of colossal loss of loved ones and property. Most challenging to the IDPs was the abrupt closure of the camps, without adequate information to the occupants. The suspense generated due to lack of adequate information according to one of the IDPs, Aisha (whether real name or simulated, I wouldn't know) a victim interviewed at Gubio camp in April, 2022, increased their suffering (Ewang, 2023). Interventions tended more towards alleviating the immediate suffering, leaving addressing the root causes of the conflict which is to present more of permanent solutions to government, which they perceive as inconsistent in policy formulation and implementation (Olojo, 2019 in Ewang, 2023).

Pecuniary interventions sometimes up to One Hundred thousand Naira from government and other organisations could hardly bridge the gap of inequality that widened along with deteriorating poverty and related problems. Data on households was below standard, because of some households stayed in informal camps, while others, though in formal camps were not captured during the census of IDP households. Climate change, ecological problems though existed prior to the

commencement of insurgency (even deemed responsible for the surge in conflicts) affected the returnees, who had no other means of livelihood beside farming in view of the cessation of government and donor interventions. Reports of the insurgent attacks and killing of returnees, for example, the killing of about fifty people at Rann in May, 2022 (Ewang, 2023).

The eruption of social vices, such as drug abuse and thuggery informed government decision to prematurely close the camps in order to avoid deterioration, however the policy was criticised over failure to chart the course of justice rather than close the camps. At the initial stage, suspicion of the Non-Governmental Organisations led to the delay in government approval of visas and permits to enable NGOs operate in north east Nigeria culminating in delay of aids to IDPs. Restrictions affected importation of humanitarian items, high cost of visas, registration of NGOs, access to rural areas due to insurgent attacks and the availability of land mines.

Despite these challenges, given a sustained intervention as embarked upon by the Governor of Borno State, others states will have a practical guide as blue print for emulation and the north east Nigeria will become an envy of all. However, most importantly, people must be given a say in how they are governed.

CONCLUSION

This research identified the peculiarity of motives, the extent and degree of involvement, and infractions suffered by victims of insurgency, and interrogated the suitability of remedies as perceived by the victims, to serve as a bridge in intervention gap, and a blue print for further interventions. An analysis of the impact of insurgency on humans and environment supported with evidences such relevant information and data was shared, especially the lack of involvement of the displaced persons in planning and access to information, resulting in unrealistic negotiations/discussion with communities, civil society and local authorities. The processes of undertaking adequate and affordable rehabilitation parameters rely on information, useful for developing and promoting agreements, which clearly define roles and responsibilities between communities and local authorities/government for on-going support, operation and maintenance.

Durable Peace, Security and National Development can be achieved through an inclusive approach that offers suitable remedies for actors and victims of insurgency and increase the stake of communities in decisions that affect their lives. The interventions premised upon this research initiative will distil available resources, empower the people and remove the elements that prompt people into violence.

RECOMMENDATION

Available resources like the Lake Chad need to be properly identified and harnessed to boost investment prospects, re-engineer the economy of the region and Nigeria in general; empower the people through access to education; improve self-realisation or awareness and encourage popular participation in decision making. Interventions must be geared towards identifying the motives of actors in the war and addressing the specific needs of victims rather than a one solves-all solution.

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