



EFFECT OF BOKO HARAM / ISWAP CONFLICT ON HUMAN AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN MANDARAGIRAU DISTRICT, BIU LOCAL GOVERNMENT, BORNO STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Research has shown that, Human Resources with a good infrastructural base is critical for the existence, growth and development of economic activities which in turn trigger economic growth in a society. In Africa and Nigeria in particular, human developments are faced with so many challenges. While infrastructural development is too difficult and few that were developed, faced challenges of maintenance. In some cases, they are destroyed or vandalized by both human and natural phenomenon. To this end, this paper seek to investigate the effects of Boko Haram and ISWAP joint activities on Human and infrastructural development in Mandaragirau District, Biu Local Government area, Borno State Nigeria. The study utilized both primary and secondary sources of data. Descriptive statistics was used in analyzing the data collected. The study showed that, Boko Haram and ISWAP fighters were seen passing through the area for a long period since they started their offensive in late 2000 in the north eastern Nigeria. Their presence and movement posed no significant threat to the wellbeing of the residents in the area up to 2016. But during 2018 – 2021 which served as the peak period of their offensive in the area. They threatened both human and infrastructure in the area, causing heavy damage and loss of both lives and properties. Consequently, displacing thousands of people from their homes and farms which was a major means of their livelihood.

Keywords: Human Capital, Infrastructure. Boko Haram, ISWAP, Development

JEL Classification: D74, E51, F52, F64, H56

1.0 Introduction

Violent conflicts across the world brutally affects rural communities' development and often emanates from, competition for natural resources such as water and land or political issues. Others include poverty, high level illiteracy, unemployment, lack of opportunity for better future, fuel resentment and other extremism which provide recruitment grounds for extremism across the world with a devastating effect on human and infrastructural development. These cause destruction of lives and properties of residents in the area.

These in one way or the other, decrease the income earned and closure of learning and training facility needed to enhance the development of people living in the area and causing damages to infrastructural facilities made to enhance the condition of living of the residents. It also pushes some families into poverty, unemployment and raising illiteracy rate in the society.

Violent conflict like the Boko haram and Islamic State of West African Province (ISWAP) activities posed a challenge to working life of individuals and their economic activities which directly or indirectly exposed them to displacement, or when one is trapped in the crossfire between the insurgents and the military forces fighting them.

Consequently, limits economic activities which enhanced human and material development in the society. These violent conflict lead to the destruction of public and private properties, people are killed or injured, transportation restricted, production of goods and services halted, effective communication disrupted, market activities shrink, created income shucks, all as a result of higher costs of transactions imposed on society.

In respond, people in the conflict zone try to adapt a new survival strategy to cope with the new horrible environment by changing their ways of life in middle of conflict. Population leaving in crises area dominated by violence like the Boko haram and ISWAP activities most a times dedicates most of their efforts on avoiding being a victim and working hard to increase their chances of surviving. These, in one way or the other, decrease the income earned and restriction of consumption as a result of destruction, damage or closure of learning and training facility needed to enhance the development of people living in the area, and causing damages to physical infrastructural facilities made to enhance the condition of living of the residents. It also damage or destroy health care facility in the area. Boko haram and ISWAP activities in the area became pronounced in 2017 which include Kidnapping, Looting, Killing, burning and abduction. Their victims include Men, Women, Children and even the handicaps. They also burnt down Shops, School building, Residential buildings, Health facilities, Places of worship and killing of people. Since then, they have been freely operating day and night. These beside many more crime committed by these terror groups on daily basis. They are rapidly expanding in all direction posing serious threat on economic, infrastructural, social and political development in the local government. Boko Haram and ISWAP control large area in southern Borno and particularly Mandaragirau District of Biu local government area during the period under review, and are extending their reach to neighboring areas.

The period 2019 – 2022, witness a relative peace in some part of Borno state, where members of Boko haram and ISWAP fighters were seen actively engaged in surrendering themselves and laying down their arms in order to embrace peace negotiation with the Government. Where most of them were taken to rehabilitation centers to acquire training in preparing them to go back and to be reintegrated into the society. The conflict in Mandaragirau area assumed a new dimension and reach its peak during 2019 – 2022 where excessive activities of the two joint terror organizations were practically felt by the residents. These appeared in form of high level of abductions and kidnappings, looting of farm output, cattle rustling, extortion of both money and material resources from the residents, burning and destruction of public infrastructures and social amenities, halting all economic and social activities in the area, which were used in the development of human and material resources in the area.

Although different studies have been generally carried out by researcher on the effect of violent conflict on human and infrastructural development like Conti and Giaccaria (2009), Rogerson (2015), Mohammed (2016), Pallis, and Vaggelas, (2019), Chapple and Zuk (2020), Muzzall et al (2021). There has not been much research on the Effects of ISWAP and Boko Haram conflict on infrastructural and human development in Mandaragirau District. These studies also failed to documents problems faces by residents in this area.

This study therefore, addresses the above topic in the context of Mandaragirau District, Biu local Government, Borno State, Nigeria.

2.0 Literature Review

Conflict activities in an area, often leads to force migration, refugee flows, and the destruction of societies' infrastructure. It also create a development gap between those region that have experienced armed conflict and those that have not. Where social, political and economic institutions are permanently damaged or destroyed. Sukanya (2014) pointed out that, weak capacity in governance, and subcontracted sources of legitimacy, are likely to undermine the ability to develop independent structures and functions in a conflict zone there by worsening the development efforts of the people.

Nafziger and Auvinen (2003) observed that, some of the world's poorest countries are driven by armed conflict, such as Liberia, Sierra Leone, Haiti and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Collier and Hoeffler have calculated that 'the cost of a civil war in a typical developing country is at least US\$64.2 billion, including the value of the lost output as well as the value of the lost life and health'. Kett and Rowsom (2007) observed that, the impact of violent conflict on health is evident. In countries affected by conflict, health systems are destroyed and take years to regenerate. Displaced populations suffer high rates of mortality, particularly in the early stages of displacement; communicable diseases and psychological distress. It also pushes some families into poverty, inequality, unemployment and raising illiteracy rate in the society.

Natalie (2016), opined that Boko Haram has, in the past three years, vandalized public infrastructure like telecommunication masts that had hitherto cut off various parts of Borno State from the rest of the world. Their most recent attack on public infrastructure was the bombing of an ultra-modern drilling rig procured by Borno State at the cost of over N300 million at the site where it was mobilized to drill water for rural dwellers of the northern part of Borno State.

Conflict is a major impediment of any community's development. It also brings about devastating effects on Education, Health, transportation, economic activities, and the general welfare of the people residents in the area. This features categorically impedes economic growth and development. Kett and Rowsom (2007), argued that violent conflict had influenced on the ability of states to function effectively, where they become trapped in what seems like an endless cycle of poverty, conflict and under-development, all these in turn increases vulnerability and impedes economic growth and development in an area. Debraj et al (2017) examine the links between economic development and social conflict. It was reported that economic development was broadly affected by conflicts.

3. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- a. Does ISWAP and Boko Haram conflict affect the socio-economic development in Mandaragirau District?
- b. Was there availability of infrastructural facility in Mandaragirau District?
- c. Was there adequate Human Development facility in Mandaragirau Area?

3.0 Methodology

Mandaragirau became a district on the 2nd May 2003, which comprised of Debiro, Diwambula, Diwakitsa, Diwakamda, Garkidatawul, Gargwigwi, Kurmwabulu, Liya, Mandaragirau, Ngilu, Nguma, Pelasagam, Sura, Tarfa and Yang. And is situated in north eastern part of Biu Local Government Area of Borno State. Mandaragirau as a Chiefdom existed since 1740, (Davies, 1954). The town is Located 30 kilometers from Biu town along Maiduguri road. In the last Eight (8) years, there was a security challenges bedeviling

mandaragirau area by ISWAP and Boko haram activities. The severity of these security challenges in the area differs significantly from time to time.

Mandaragirau District was purposively selected, due to severe activities of the terrorists group in the area during 2019 – 2022 (peak period). The researchers used multi stage random sampling technique. Human and infrastructural development facilities in Mandaragirau District were fully utilised, and were actively enhancing the growth and general development of people in the area before the peak period (2019 – 2022) of the terror groups in the area. The Adult household heads resident in the district served as the population of this study. Where the Adult (above the age of 18 year) residents in Mandaragirau area served as the respondents for this research and they were selected using simple random technique. The researchers used Questionnaires as the instrument in collecting data for this study. The Questionnaires were administered to 250 Adults in all the villages in Mandaragirau District. These 250 Adult formed the sample for the study. Data collected for this study was analysed using a descriptive statistics.

4.0 Data Presentation, Analysis and Discussion of Findings

Table 1 Socio-economic Characteristics of respondents

Socioeconomic	Frequency	Percentage
Age of the respondent		
18-65	225	91.8
Above 65	20	8.1
Sex of the respondent		
Male	185	75.5
Female	60	24.5
Level of education		
Primary education	62	25.5
Secondary education	45	18.4
Tertiary education	37	15.1
Islamic education	46	18.8
No education background	55	22.5
How long have you been in Mandaragirau area?		
1-10 years	33	13.5
11-20 years	135	55.1
20-30 years	41	16.7
Above 31 years	36	14.7
What is the average number of attacks on infrastructural facility per month in the area?		
1-2	55	22.4
3-4	86	35.1
4-6	30	12.2
Above 6	25	10.2
Did the Conflict affect your day to day affairs?		
Yes	213	87.0
No	32	13.0
Average income loss to conflict in naira		
<100000.00	29	11.8

100001.00 -200000.00	71	29.0
200001.00 – 300000.00	85	35.0
300001.00 – 400000.00	34	13.9
Above 400001.00	26	10.6

Table 2: Effect of Boko Haram/ISWAP Activities on Social Infrastructure in Mandaragirau Area

Infrastructural Facility	Before the Peak period of ISWAP and Boko haram activities		During the peak period of ISWAP and Boko haram activities	
	Available/in use	Not available	Available/in use	Not available
Good Road Network	83.2	16.8	10.1	89.9
Health Care Centers	91.7	8.3	4.2	95.8
Schools	98.1	1.9	3.4	96.6
Steady Power Supply	65.9	34.1	12.1	87.9
Availability of Water Supply	89.4	10.6	20.1	79.9
Availability of Telecommunication services	72.8	27.2	10.5	89.5

Table 3 Effect of Boko haram/ISWAP Activities on Human Development Facilities in Mandaragirau Area

Human development Facility	Before the Peak period of ISWAP and Boko haram activities		During the peak period of ISWAP and Boko haram activities	
	Available/in use	Not available	Available/in use	Not available
Training Centers	91.4	8.6	8.2	91.8
Tools for Training	77.2	22.8	16.2	83.8
Availability of Professional Experts For Training	75.7	24.3	5.3	94.7
Easy Access To Market	96.5	3.5	1.7	98.3
Availability of Raw Materials	77.8	22.2	4.3	95.7
Prompt Response From Security Forces in Case the Need Arise	65.7	34.3	3.9	96.1

4.1 Socio-economic Characteristics of the Respondents.

Total number of 250 questionnaires were administered to adult respondents where 245 questionnaire were filled and returned. Therefore, these form the basis of data analysis and interpretation for this study.

Table 1 showed the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents where age group of 18-64years, represented 91.8% and above 65years represented 8.1% respectively.

Sex distribution of the respondents showed that 75.5% are males while 24.5% represented females. Level of education of the respondents showed that, 62 respondents represented 25.5% had primary education. Secondary education represented 18.4%. Tertiary education represented 15.1%. Islamic education represented 18.8%. While respondents with no educational background represented 22.5%.

This section showed how long the respondents have stayed in Mandaragirau area? Respondents who stayed in Mandaragirau area from 1-10 years represented 13.5%. Those who stayed for the period between 11-20 years represented 55.1%. The respondents who stayed in the area from 20-30 years represented 16.7%. While those who stayed above 31 years represented 14.7%.

This part of the table showed respondents' experience on Average number of insurgent attacks per month on infrastructural facility in Mandaragirau area during the peak period of Boko haram conflict. The result showed that, 22.4% of respondents recorded 1-2 attacks per month. 33.1% recorded an average attack of 3-4 per month in the area. Respondents who recorded their experiences as 4-6 average attacks per month represented 12.2%. While those who recorded their responses as the average attacks above 6 represented 10.2%.

This section on table one, showed how the Boko haram/ISWAP conflict affect their day to day affairs. Respondents 213 representing 87.0% recorded YES that these conflict had significantly affected their day to day activities. While 32 respondents representing 13.0% responded these conflict had no significant effect on their day to day affairs.

The last section of the socio-economic features of the respondents showed average income lost by household to the conflicts in naira during the peak period of ISWAP/Boko haram Conflict in Mandaragirau area. Respondents who lost an average income of less than 100,000.00 naira to the conflict were 29 respondents representing 11.8%. Those who lost between 100,001.00 – 200,000.00 naira per annum were 71 respondents, representing 29.0%. Respondents who lost an average income of 200,001.00 – 300,000.00 naira per annum were 85 representing 35.0%. Respondents who lost an average income of 300,001.00 – 400,000.00 were 34 representing 13.9%. Whereas respondents who lost an average income of above 400,001.00 naira in these conflict in Mandaragirau area were 26 in number representing 10.6%

4.2 Effect of Boko Haram/ISWAP activities on infrastructure in Mandaragirau area.

Table 2 showed how the joint activities of ISWAP and Boko haram in mandaragirau area affected the infrastructural facilities made to enhanced human development in the study area. The two period covered by the research were off peak period and the peak period marked as (before the peak period and during the peak period of their joint activities in the study area).

Road networks in the area before the peak period were in good shapes, safe, and accessible by users. Respondents were freely using it 24 hours a day and recorded a response of 83.2% to that effect. While during the peak period of the ISWAP and Boko haram activities in the

area 89.9% of the road network in the area were bad, not safe for transportation, and most of the time not accessible by commuters.

Health care facilities and centers in mandaragirau area were 91.7% available, and people are having adequate access to their services before the peak period of the conflict. As against only 4.2% respondents responded that they had access to health care services in the area. This was partly because ISWAP and Boko haram fighters target Health care facilities in order to loot, and burn down these facilities in the area making it difficult for people to access health care services in the area during the peak period of the conflict.

Schools in Mandaragirau district were 98.1% available and were in used, as against what was obtained during the peak period of the conflict with only 3.4% responded that schools were available. While 96.6% responded that schools were not available (closed down) during the peak period due to high rate of burning, looting of school properties, kidnapping, killing of both teachers and students which ultimately led to the total closure of schools in the area, and halting all academic activities in Mandaragirau area

Respondents recorded their responses on stable power supply where 65.9% responded that they were enjoying a steady and stable power supply in the area. As against only 12.1% of the respondents had access to power supply during the peak period of the conflict.

Access to water supply for domestic and other uses were available in the area with 89.4% of the respondents agree to that effect. While only 20.1% of them responded that access to water supply in the area was highly restricted during the peak period of the ISWAP/Boko haram crises in the area.

Telecommunication services were available and adequately put in used by the respondents where 72.8% responded that to have been using telecommunication services in the area. As against only 10.5% of them using these services during the peak period. This was due to rampant destruction of telecommunication towers in the area. Telecommunication facilities like generators, solar panels, providing source of power to these towers were burned down and some taken away by the Boko haram/ISWAP fighters.

Training centers in the area were 91.4% available and people were fully utilizing the services before the peak period, as against only 8.2% were available during the peak period which witness excessive and violent activities of these terror groups in the area leading to massive close down and relocation of training centers to safer areas.

Tools for training in the area according the respondents, 77.2% recorded tools were available and adequately put in use before the peak period. While only 16.2% were available during the peak period of the conflict in Mandaragirau area.

Professional experts in Mandaragirau area were available and impacting skills to beneficiaries in the study area, with 75.5% of the respondents responding to that effect before the peak period of the ISWAP/Boko haram activities. While only 5.3% of the respondents responded that they felt the presence of professional experts during the peak period of the conflict signifying that the professional experts deserted the area for the fear of being attacked, killed or kidnapped by the ISWAP/Boko haram fighters operating in the area.

Market is one of the important factors that influence standard of living and means of livelihood, because both producers and consumers need market in one way or the other to buy or sell products which directly or indirectly, determined consumer's satisfaction and producer's income and profits. In this section of the table, 96.5% of the respondents recorded

that markets in the study area were available, and accessible for all buyers and sellers to engage in businesses before the peak period of Boko haram/ISWAP crises. While only 1.7% of them recorded their responses as having access to market. This was due to total closure of market by the state government and the security forces operating in the area for the fear that ISWAP/Boko haram fighters do patronised these markets. The responses on the market directly affected the availability of raw materials in the area, as can be seen on the table 77.8% of the respondents responded that they had access to raw materials for their product throughout the season. As against during the peak period of only 4.3% responded to that effect.

The last section on table 2 seek to record responses on prompt and quick intervention from security outfit of the Joint Task Forces (JTF) in case of emergency threat from Boko haram/ISWAP fighters on the residents in the area. These indicated that, before the peak period of the security crisis in Mandaragirau area, there was a quick security responses to repel any security challenge in the area by the security forces with 72.5% of the respondents. As against only 10.5% of the respondents recorded that security forces came to their rescue during the period of attacks from ISWAP/Boko haram fighters in the area.

5.0 Conclusion

Mandaragirau District in Biu Local Government Area, of Borno State, Nigeria is one of the district in Borno state which suffered a heavy security challenges from the joint activities of Boko haram and ISWAP fighters during the period 2019-2022 period. These led to destruction of lives and properties, destruction of social amenities which directly affected the means of livelihood of the residents.

To this end, now that peace is gradually returning to the area. There is urgent need for the Government both state and the federal level, in conjunction with relevant development partners like the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to channel resources to the area, in order to embark on massive reconstruction, rehabilitation and resettlement in the area.

The joint security forces should also intensify their effort in neutralizing the ISWAP and Boko haram fighter threatening peace in the area.

The North East Development Commission should also mobilize human and material resources to the area in order to reconstruct damaged facilities like health care facilities, schools, roads, telecommunication services, electricity supply to the area, for the people to restore their economic activities

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