



CONSEQUENCE OF INSURGENCY ON THE LIVELIHOOD OF MICHIKA, ADAMAWA STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Insurgency has become a pervasive threat to global peace and security, with devastating consequences on the livelihoods of affected communities. This study examines the consequences of insurgency on the livelihoods of households in Michika, Adamawa State, Nigeria. Using a mixed-methods approach, the study reveals that the insurgency has had a devastating impact on agricultural productivity, income generation, and food security among households in Michika. A total of 300 households were sampled using stratified random sampling technique. The study also explores the coping mechanisms adopted by households to mitigate the effects of insurgency on their livelihoods. The findings of the study highlight the need for urgent intervention to address the humanitarian crisis in Michika, including the provision of food aid, farm inputs, and support for affected businesses. The study recommends the implementation of policies and programs to reintegrate internally displaced persons into their lost socioeconomic activities, as well as the establishment of community policing and intelligent sharing initiatives to prevent future security breaches.

Keywords: Agricultural productivity, Coping Mechanism, Food security, Income generation, Insurgency, Livelihood

INTRODUCTION

Insurgency has become a pervasive threat to global peace and security, with devastating consequences on the livelihoods of affected communities (Iykekepolo, 2018). In Nigeria, the Boko Haram insurgency has ravaged the northeastern region, including Adamawa State, leaving a trail of destruction and displacement in its wake (Oxfam, 2020). Michika, a local government area in Adamawa State, has been particularly affected, with widespread destruction of infrastructure, displacement of communities, and disruption of livelihoods (IRIN, 2019).

Globally Terrorism has become a severe reality among societies today. Its manifestation includes kidnapping, banditry, hijacking of aero-plane, suicide attack, self-suicide bombing witnessed by the world for a long time now. A quick view is the elimination of world trade center which created a horror across the globe (Enders, 2002 & Lake, 2000). Several attempts have further been exhibited to reduce the inflict of terrorism on human race (Luechinger, 2003).

Nigeria's growing manifestation of the insurgents' activities has destabilized socioeconomic activities, increased crime rate and destruction of lives and property. This can be attested to by the mass movement of people living in the Northern part of the country most especially Maiduguri, Borno State. The situation has made it impossible for the citizens in that part of Nigeria to carry on their legitimate businesses thereby scaring foreign investors out of the country and students have been forced to flee their schools. Also, the gravity of the crisis has made some government to vow never to allow Nigerian students from their state to go to the Northern part of Nigeria for anything (UNHCR, 2014).

Amongst the deteriorating security situation in the country, Nigeria is also confronted with frightening developmental challenges which pose serious threat to socioeconomic development. These developmental challenges include endemic rural and urban poverty, high rate of unemployment and debilitating youth unemployment, low industrial output, unstable and deteriorating exchange rate, high inflation rate, inadequate physical and social infrastructure, very large

domestic debt, and rising stock of external debt (Ewetan, 2013)

According to the National Bureau of Statistics 2013, Nigeria's unemployment rate increased to 23.9 percent in 2011 compared with 21.1 per cent in 2010 and 19.7 per cent in 2009. The country has a youth population of 80 million, representing about 60 per cent of the total population with a growth rate of 2.6 per cent per year, with a national demography which suggests that the youth population remains vibrant with an average annual applicant to the labour force at 1.8 million between 2006 and 2011.

It is against this backdrop that the researcher seeks to examine the pertinent issue of National insecurity, a crisis of the Nigerian state, and its implication for Nigeria's socio-economic development. This paper seeks to investigate the consequences of insurgency on the livelihoods of Michika, Adamawa State, Nigeria. Specifically, it seeks to examine the impact of insurgency on agricultural productivity, income generation, and food security among households in Michika. The study will also explore the coping mechanisms adopted by households to mitigate the effects of insurgency on their livelihoods.

Terrorism refers to the systematic use of threat of violence to communicate to political message rather than defeat an opponent, military force. Thus, the targets of terrorism are symbolic and the victims of terrorism represent a wider audience. To achieve a maximum shock effective, terrorist violence is usually dramatic and provocative.

Typically, small number of extremists who otherwise lack the capacity to challenge those in power resort to terrorism. A defining characteristic of terrorism is that its users expect rewards that are of proportionate to both the resources they possess and the risk they assume. Terrorism remains a strategy that is not restricted to any particular ideology (Smelter and Beltes, 2001).

The theories guiding this work are: Systems theory and Relative deprivation theory. The system analysis of the political system popularized by David Easton is adopted as a theoretical approach underpinning the study. The system theory is an analogy that shows a collection of interrelated

parts which forms some whole. The idea is that if all the parts are working effectively the overall objectives can be achieved. A system can be open or closed. Nigeria is an open system. A key feature of open systems is their interdependence on the environment which may be relatively stable or relative uncertain at a particular point in time. This feature is of considerable importance to political and economic system which needs to adapt to the changing environment if they are to flourish. Nigeria needs the Northern economy to achieve her economic objectives. The focus of the approach is on the analysis of factors and forces that engender stability and instability in the political system strengthens its relevance to explaining the deep linkage between the dysfunctionality in governance and the challenges of poverty, inequality and insecurity in Nigeria. The political system within the Estonian framework is an input and out-put mechanism which deals with political decisions and activities and performs integrative and adaptive functions relevant to the transformation of the society (Johari, 2011). Moreover, the mix of the environment, citizens' demand and support (inputs), and the policy output from the system are core factors that affect the structures and processes involve in the authoritative allocation of values and are thus fundamental to the stability and survival of the political system (Johari, 2011).

The insurgency has had a debilitating impact on the economy of Adamawa State, particularly in Michika. Studies have shown that the insurgency has led to a significant decline in agricultural productivity, resulting in food insecurity and economic hardship for households (Ajakaiye *et al.*, 2018). The destruction of infrastructure, including roads and markets, has also disrupted trade and commerce, exacerbating the economic crisis (Iyekekpolo, 2018).

The insurgency has also had a profound impact on the social fabric of Michika. Studies have shown that the insurgency has led to increased displacement, with many households forced to flee their homes and seek refuge in other areas (IRIN, 2019). This displacement has resulted in the disruption of social networks and community structures, exacerbating the psychological trauma experienced by households (Oxfam, 2020).

The insurgency has also had a devastating impact on the humanitarian situation in Michika. Studies have shown that the insurgency has led to increased food insecurity, with many households struggling to access basic necessities like food and water (Ajakaiye *et al.*, 2018). The destruction of healthcare infrastructure has also resulted in increased mortality rates, particularly among vulnerable populations like children and women (Iyekekpolo, 2018).

Despite the devastating consequences of the insurgency, households in Michika have adopted various coping mechanisms to mitigate its impact. Studies have shown that households have adopted strategies like diversification of income sources, reduction of consumption, and reliance on social networks to cope with the economic and social consequences of the insurgency (Ajakaiye *et al.*, 2018).

The insurgency in Michika, Adamawa State, Nigeria, has had a devastating impact on the livelihoods of households. The economic, social, and humanitarian consequences of the insurgency have been severe, with households adopting various coping mechanisms to mitigate its impact. This study aims to contribute to the existing literature by examining the consequences of insurgency on the livelihoods of Michika, with a focus on agricultural productivity, income generation, and food security.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study employed a mixed-methods research design, combining both quantitative and qualitative approaches to gather and analyze data. The population of this study comprises households in Michika Local Government Area. A sample size of 300 households was selected using a stratified random sampling technique. A structured questionnaire was administered to the selected households to gather quantitative data on their livelihoods, including agricultural productivity, income generation, and food security. FGDs was conducted with community leaders, farmers, and other stakeholders to gather qualitative data on the consequences of insurgency on livelihoods. Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) was conducted with local government officials, security personnel, and humanitarian aid workers to gather data on the humanitarian response to the insurgency.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1: Occupation of Respondents

Occupation	Frequency	Percent
Farming	65	43.3
Trading	40	26.7
Civil servant	30	20
Artisan	15	10
Total	150	100.0

Source: Authors Field Work, 2025

Table 1, indicated that respondents in the study area engaged in different types of occupation such as farming which accounted for 43.3%, trading 26.7%, civil servant 20% and artisan with 10% of the respondents sampled. The livelihoods

of people living in the Michika district in Adamawa state have undergone significant changes due to Insurgency, insecurity, displacement and the subsequent loss of access to an agrarian-based livelihood system (Stiteset *al.*, 2006).

Table 2: Monthly Income Status of Respondent before Insurgency

Income level (In Naira)	Frequency	Percent
0-18,000	18	12
18,000-36,000	40	26.7
36,000-54,000	28	18.7
54,000-72,000	20	13.3
72,000-90,000	25	16.7
90,000-108,000	9	6
Above 108,000	10	6.6
Total	150	100.0

Source: Author's Field Survey, 2025

The income level of people is a function of the quality of livelihood of individuals. Table 2 revealed that about 12% of the respondents' incomes were between ₦0-18, 000, 26.7%

earns ₦18, 000-36,000, followed by ₦36, 000-54,000 only per month which accounted for 18.7% of the sampled population.

Table 3: Impact of Insurgency on Household Ability to Maintain Livelihood

Response	Displaced (%)	Host (%)
Lost Job	70(20.1)	72(17.4)
Lost Business	54(15.5)	71(17.1)
Lost Key Asset	53(15.0)	69(16.7)
Fewer families	62(18.0)	67(16.2)
Additional Household Members	57(16.4)	64(15.5)
Income reduced	52(15.0)	71(17.1)
Others		

Source: Author's Field work, 2025

Table 3 revealed that 20.1% of the displaced household members and 17.4% of the host families lost their jobs during the insurgency period, 15.5% of the displaced and 17.1% of host families lost their business. Also, 15.0% of the displaced members of family and 16.7% of the host families lost their key assets. From the study carried out 15.0% of the displaced families and 17.1% of the host families experienced reduction in their income. The implication implies that the activity of the insurgency has greatly affected the livelihood of the member families in the study area. The livelihoods of people living in the Michika district in Adamawa have undergone significant changes due to armed conflict, insecurity, displacement and the subsequent loss of access to an agrarian-based livelihood system (Stiteset *al.*, 2006). The majority of households depend on Aid workers' food rations for survival. Incomes, economic activity, access to land and natural resources have been greatly reduced. Direct effects of insurgency on the household includes changes in household composition due to killings, injuries and recruitment of fighters by either the government or the insurgents, changes in the household economic status due to the direct destruction

of assets and effects caused by forced displacement and migration.

Indirect effects include changes in households' surrounding institutions and environments such as changes in social networks, changes in access to or destruction of exchange and employment markets and changes in local and national political institutions.

Strategies to cope with the Impact of Insurgency on the Family's Income

Figure 1, revealed that 34 % of the respondents said they have to sell asset to cope with the impact of the insurgents on the family income, while 12% agreed that they borrow money for them to be able to cater for their family and 16.0% said they had to reduce their family consumption, also, 0.9% said that they have to get more family member working for them to cope with the impact of the insurgency while 29.0% of the respondents from both the displaced and host family members saying they had to split family members among other households for them to be able to cushion the effect of the insurgency.

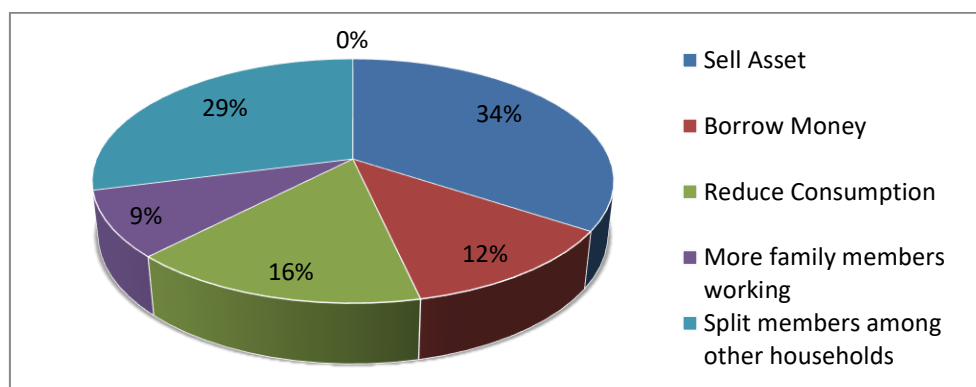


Figure 1: Strategies to cope with the Impact of Insurgency on the Family's Income

Source: Author's Field work, 2025

The livelihoods of people living in the Michika district in Adamawa state have undergone significant changes due to Insurgency, insecurity, displacement and the subsequent loss of access to an agrarian-based livelihood system.

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system (Stiteset *al.*, 2006). The majority of households depend on Aid workers' food rations for survival. Incomes, economic activity, access to land and natural resources have been greatly reduced.

Core findings revealed that residents have been surviving via self-help through property sales, donor agencies and Aid groups, alms and street begging while a few proportion of the residents have been dependent on petty trading and sales, monthly salary and family dependent-allowances have become a vital vacuum upon which residents rely on.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the insurgency in Michika, Adamawa State, Nigeria, has had a devastating impact on the livelihoods of households, resulting in significant declines in agricultural productivity, income generation, and food security. The study's findings highlight the need for urgent intervention to address the humanitarian crisis in Michika, including the provision of food aid, farm inputs, and support for affected businesses.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The study recommends the implementation of policies and programs to reintegrate internally displaced persons into their lost socioeconomic activities, as well as the establishment of community policing and intelligent sharing initiatives to prevent future security breaches. Ultimately, addressing the root causes of insurgency and promoting sustainable livelihoods are crucial to restoring peace and stability in Michika and other affected communities.

Government and humanitarian agencies prioritize the provision of food aid, farm inputs, and support for affected businesses to households in Michika. Various levels of government embark on policies formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation with internally displaced persons being the focus with a view to reintegrating them into their lost socioeconomic activities while Policies and programs aimed at reintegrating internally displaced persons into their lost socioeconomic activities should be implemented.

Also, Microfinance programs for affected businesses and skills development programs for the displaced persons will go a long way in reintegrating them back into their lost businesses and means of livelihood. In addition, the establishment of community policing and intelligent sharing initiatives is also crucial in preventing future security breaches and promoting sustainable livelihoods in the region. However, this study can further be researched into in the nearest future by looking into areas such as comparative study on the impact of insurgency across different Nigerian states; the role of technology in mitigating security risks and effects of counterterrorism policies on economic recovery with a view to having more insight into the consequence of insurgency of livelihood distortions.

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