

Irregular Migration and National Security in Nigeria: A Critical Analysis

Imaan Suleiman-Ibrahim and Onah Otumala Peter

Directorate of Linkages and Collaboration, Nigerian Defence Academy Kaduna

Corresponding Author's Email:

onahpeter40@gmail.com

Received: 05-07-23

Accepted: 06-08-23

Published: 17-08-23

Abstract

The issue of Irregular migration by the predominantly youth population of Nigeria has been a source of apprehension to the scholarly world and country's leadership in recent years. Several issues in the analyses of migration have constituted major discourse on the domestic security in Nigeria and the entire Sub-Saharan Africa. They encapsulate the absence of visionary and strategic leadership, the inability to create gainful employment, facilitating environment for the actualization of innovative business ideas to thrive, the picture of attractive green pastures in other parts of the world particularly the countries of the Northern hemisphere. These forces has driven youths out of the country in droves and in search of greener pastures in Europe, exploring irregular routes and resulting in mass deaths, trauma and large scale deportations. It had led to criminality and insecurity of all forms within the country since the beginning of the twenty-first century. This research made use of secondary sources and primary documents in arriving at the findings. This work examines the causes of Irregular migration in Nigeria; the challenges of migration and *impact of irregular migrations on Nigeria's Security. The findings of this work show strong nexus between irregular migrations and internal insecurity in Nigeria.* The findings of this paper further underscores the consequences of irregular migration on the general security situation in the country and attempted the ways forward. It therefore recommends good leadership, capacity building of state institutions and provision of stable economy with sustainable employment generations among others best solutions irregular migration in Nigeria.

Keywords: Migration, Security, irregular migration, porous borders

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Migration is as old as human civilization; human beings have always moved from one location to the other in search of better opportunities. Migration is an innate tendency for all living things. While many cases of migration are voluntary, some such as movement on account of wars, conflicts, natural disasters and economic hardship are involuntary (Goyin, *et al.*, 2019).

Generally, migration and human trafficking have reached crisis proportions in fragile and conflict-affected within the ECOWAS states. In Nigeria, the combination of lack of Effective and Strategic leadership, ongoing, low-intensity conflict, a large youth population, and limited economic opportunities has led to high levels of irregular migrants seeking to make the precarious journey to Europe. There is little evidence on how individuals

weigh the risks and benefits of migration, and how the combination of myriad of factors influences decisions to migrate. (<https://dailytrust.com/1-3m-nigerians-facing-irregular-migration-challenges-iom/>)

Nigeria continues to experience high internal and external migration due to the huge size of its population, economic challenges, and porous borders. The combination of an enduring low-intensity civil war, routine violence and physical insecurity, unfulfilled economic potential, and a huge young population with frustrated ambitions has led to enormous outflows from several Nigerian states, mostly states in the south-south, southeast and in recent times the entire country.

Nigerian youth who migrate most often take an extremely perilous route to Europe, traveling across the Saharan desert to the Mediterranean Sea. Death, injury, harm, capture and other forms dangers are common along this route. (<https://dailytrust.com/1-3m-nigerians-facing-irregular-migration-challenges-iom/>)

Furthermore, individuals living in states which experience high levels of physical insecurity, including electoral violence, localized communal clashes, violent crime, and youth confrontations in everyday life are more likely to emigrate out of Nigeria. On the other hand, the quest for easy wealth acquisition is clearly a critical factor for consideration. For example Edo State and states of the southeast of Nigeria that are spearheading irregular migrations out of Nigeria to Europe are not within the range poverty ridden states in the country. Therefore this paper subscribes to the view of pull factor over and above push forces for irregular migration in Nigeria. Indeed, every part of Nigeria is heavily endowed in material resources and potentials to accommodate the growth in population of the country. (<https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2019/12/27/nantip-cbaac-advocate-on-dangers-of-illegal-migration>)

The most important underlining factor for irregular migrate on in Nigeria is the leadership deficit and poverty of innovations to execute sustainable development, employment generation and infrastructural growth to enhance vibrant economic activities in the country (Haruna Shuiabu, 2021).

This point equally underscore the endemic corruption and misappropriations of public resources amongst the political elites and leadership class in the country.

Several efforts were introduced by the State and non-Government agencies since the beginning of the twenty-first century. These include the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NANTIP) Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation WOTCLEF among others. In all cases the establishment of the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) in 2004 as a coordinating body is significant to this paper. The agency has undertaken measures through rigorous policy framework to ameliorate the challenges of internal migrants and emigration.

However, these challenges are on the rise given the concomitant effect of migration and the threats to national security. There is strong nexus between irregular migration and security challenges facing Nigeria at all fronts since the beginning of the twenty-first century. These connections include the proliferation of small arms and light weapons across the border, the introduction of explosive devices into the Nigerian territory, trans-border crimes, smuggling of illicit goods, drug trafficking and abuse, cattle rustling, terrorist activities and banditry, illegal mining of mineral resources, farmer-herder conflict, kidnapping for ransom among others could be traceable to irregular migrants of different backgrounds Timothy Tor (2022). Indeed, most of the immigrants from the neighbouring countries of Nigeria, due to uniformity of language, religion, culture and history always claim Nigerian citizenship status through collection of the National Identity cards (NIN) to perpetuate crimes against the state during elections, population census, and undermining the peace and security of country. This has contributed immensely to weakening the implementation of government policies and the capacities of the state, thereby making the country more ungovernable. Thus, this work is to examine the link between irregular migration and national security and explore how to effectively address those challenges that is associated the threats of migration in relation to Nigeria's national security.

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Conceptual discourse

i. Irregular migration

The movement of persons that takes place outside the laws, regulations, or international agreements governing the entry into or exit from the state or country of origin, transit or destination is referred to as irregular migration (International Organization on Migration, 2022). The irregularity in migration does not refer to the individuals but to their migratory status at a certain point in time. Changes in national laws and policies can turn regular migration into irregular migration, and vice-versa. The status of migrants can change during their journey and stay in the country of transit/destination, which makes it difficult to have a comprehensive understanding of migration laws and the profiles of migrants. Despite the control dealings, irregular immigrants still cross international boundaries generally through unapproved routes/entry ports. The rising trends in irregular migration are noted worldwide, specifically in under-developed to developing countries. A huge number of migrants within and outside Africa are irregular migrants (NBS, 2020)

ii. Security

Security refers to lack of threat; its opposite is called insecurity which is what has remained an issue in Nigeria daily discourse. Security refers to the situation that exists as a result of the establishment of measures for the protection of persons, information and property against hostile persons, influences and actions (Adeola and Oluyemi, 2012). It is the existence of conditions within which people in a society can go about their normal daily activities without any threat to their lives or properties. It embraces all measures designed to protect and safeguard the citizenry and the resources of individuals, groups, business and the nation against sabotage or violent occurrences (Dambazau, 2007).

iii. National Security

National security refers to the requirement needed to maintain the survival of the State through the use of economic power, diplomacy, power protection and political power (Goyin et al., 2019). In order for a nation to possess national security, it needs to have economic security, energy security and environmental security. it is important to mention

here that security threats have to do with not only conventional foes like other nation states but also have to do with non-state actors such as violent non-state actors, narcotic cartels, nongovernmental organizations and multilateral corporations; the activities like natural and man-made disaster and some unwholesome activities posing adverse effect on the environmental sustainability. Following the above definitions, this study viewed national security as the protection of the national interest /value of a State and upholding what the State believes to be valuable to it and its people

3.0 RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Factors Responsible for Migration in Nigeria

There are various factors that fueled migration from one home state or country to another which are not limited to the following. In the case of Nigeria in particular, most of these reasons actually account for irregular migrations.

Political environment: Matthew (2018) cited that political instability can cause migration because of cultural diversity, hatred which could be as a result of people from certain cultural group or identity being marginalized. This lead to a state where by some members of the state are persecuted and harassed for disagreeing with the views of the government of the day thereby living with fear of the unknown in their own state, thereby forcing them to migrate to safer countries due to lack of political liberties and civil rights.

General economic situation: If the political environment is hostile, then the economic situation is likely to be poor. Mbah, Chijioke and Nebechi (2018) in their submissions believes that the situation in Nigeria points out that because the Nigerian economy is now in the 'intensive care unit' which most of its businesses has collapsed, it has led to decline in almost every area of the economy which has given rise to increase in household income demand due to inflation and increase in the rate of unemployment. Chinguwo and Belwit (2012) points out that this will lead to combination of difficult life for both the working class and their families which will lead to underemployment and unemployment, giving rise to all forms of adventures looking for means of survival.

Work-forces: Bolarinwa (2012), state that the rising incidences of educated unemployment and underemployment have caused significant social policy concerns in Nigeria in recent times. Alemu (2015) added that, the majority of the unemployed are youth which are more of females that live in the rural areas with some form of education, adding that this individual comes from relatively poor background and relatively poor states. In 2010, the number of unemployment in Nigeria was more than national average in 21 states out of the 36 states. Alemu (2015) further reveals that the high level of drop out and sack of workers in the contemporary Nigeria is a clear manifestation even at the production and organizational sectors as shown in their GDP growth.

Labour force involvement: One of the causes of migration is the level of participation with the labour market. The ratio of men to women at the corporate working-class level shows that majority of Nigerians live in the rural areas (77%) while only 23% are in the urban centres. Okoro (1991) notes that a part from traditional humanist professions like nursing, teaching, catering and law, the percentage of women who venture into professions like engineering, architecture is low compared to men. Even in the civil services commissions employment in Nigeria, the level of women employment to that of the men is low (Umar and Karofi 2007).

Unemployment challenge and lack of job creation: The Bureau of Labour Statistics sees unemployment from two classifications. Firstly, as a person or individuals who do not have a job, have actively being looking for work in the past four weeks, and are currently available for work. The second view or class are those who are/were temporarily laid off and were waiting to be called back to that job or another. The International Labour Organization (ILO) sees unemployment as those who are currently not working but are willing and able to work for pay, currently available to work, and have actively searched for work (as retrieved on 17/9/2018). According to sunnewsonline.com (June 2018) unemployment across a few countries between the third and fourth quarters of 2017 to February 2018 for instance revealed that, Spain has the highest number of unemployment with 35.50% followed by Nigeria 33.10%. The number of women within the labour force (aged 15-64) who were willing, able and actively seeking for job but are still

unemployed was 21.2% while that of men was 16.5% thereby making the number of unemployed and underemployed put together increased from 37.2% in the previous quarter to 40% in the third quarter. The youth unemployment rate under the third quarter increased to 33.10% and represents the highest ever in the country (The Sun June, 2018).

Poverty and hunger: Herbert and Ibanga (2012), poverty is a recurring problem which it is believe to be multifaceted, multi-dimension which is deeply rooted in illiteracy, food insecurity, disease, environmental degradation, conflict, human right abuses, bad governance and corruption given rise to poverty of ideas, poverty of thought, poverty of leadership, food and water security, moral poverty, technological insufficiency, etc. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) as cited by Herbert and Ibanga (2012) reveals that the Nigerian population are living below 70.2% while its share of the poorest 20 percent in national income or consumption at 4.4 percent.

Due to the political environment and general economic situations in the country individual takes the risk of survival with the mind-set that it is better to dead trying than to seat at home waiting. This will no doubt lead to the illegal migration which many under take in order to make earns in life by not carrying arms but believed that they can make it only if the cross the sea.

3.2 The Impact of Migration on Nigeria's National Security

Irregular migrations have serious consequences on Nigeria's security, particularly the North West region. These consequences could broadly divide into social, economic, political, and security challenges.

Security Challenge: Nigeria's internal security has been threatened by cross-border crime such as trafficking in arms, persons, drugs, arms banditry, vehicle theft, smuggling, touting and illegal or silent migration (that is unnoticed or undocumented movement across the borders), illegal lumbering, bunkering of petroleum products and of course the trans-human activities of cattle rearers/rustlers who move their herds across national borders regardless of any regulations. Others are terrorism, insurgency, expatriate's hostage taking, expatriate quota abuse, violation of immigration laws, document fraud and financial crimes (Afolayan, 2009).

The north-western part of Nigeria experiences an increase in the crime rate that may be perpetuated by the illegal immigrants. According to Ebert (2014) illegal/undocumented migrants pose security threats to the northern Nigerian states, mostly due to porous borders. Anuforo (2006) affirmed that where there are security threats investors will be discouraged to invest in that nation state because it is assumed not to be safe for business especially terrorism threats. Majority of the illegal/undocumented immigrants in Nigeria are from the West African neighboring States and are mostly not the desired immigrants because of the low or no skill status they possess which cannot improve Nigeria's productivity to its maximum (Muhammad, 2016).

The availability of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) is one of the major security challenges currently facing Nigeria, Africa and the world at large. The illegal movement and trafficking of SALW has become a trigger point that fuels the genesis of insecurity in Kano State that lead to criminal activities like communal conflict, political instability, kidnapping, armed robbery, electoral violence and thurgery among others that has contributed immensely to the level of insecurity in Kano State (Yahaya, Liman & Adadu, 2018, Elaigwu VA, 2003).

Social menace and criminality: Socially, the influx of illegal migrants into a nation state poses security threats to the nation state in question (Musa, 2011). Also, deportees are more likely to constitute great social and environmental risk not only to themselves but also to the already Nigerian (image) society on the receiving states (Nduneche, 2016). Most of the undocumented immigrants are unemployed or unemployable, as well without means of livelihood; this means they have no good houses to live in. For example, in Kano state majority of undocumented immigrants live under the bridges, flyovers or uncompleted buildings, while some of them have built shanks in recreational places. They live in unhygienic, poor conditions and polluted environment. The inappropriate housing facility without basic amenities can spread diseases to other persons (Chhangani, 1983). The security implications here is that such kind people can

become public charge and they can be recruited easily by the insurgents or other criminals.

As reported by Dahiru (2017) reasonable number of migrants from Niger Republic, Mali and Chad have taken to begging in virtually all parts of the nation state as they have little or no skill to be employed. Also due to their inability to secure a good residential accommodation, these large numbers of illegal/undocumented migrants reside in slums and shanty residential areas. More so, the impact on the influx of undocumented immigrants in Nigeria can be an additional pressure on the social amenities provided by the nation state to her citizens. The nation state, who is still suffering from lack of proper economic planning herself may find it as a burden and can also render the government efforts ineffective (Okeoghene, 2017).

Economic Effects: Economically, illegal migrants have both positive and negative impacts on the two (2) countries (sending and receiving states). Illegal immigrants reduce the number of unemployment in the state of origin while increasing the rate in the receiving state known as the host nation state. Though it is true that illegal migrants (immigrants) take up jobs that the citizens reject but, in the process, jobs belonging to the citizens are also taken by these migrants. The uncontrollable influx of illegal/undocumented migration can cause destabilization in a nation-state (Rezouni, 2010).

The influx of illegal immigrants also triggers unemployment in the receiving state, they also create a high rate of inflation in the nation state's essential commodities due to their hiding underground leading to undocumented statistics as their needs cannot be budgeted for due to the incorrect calculated figure as such there can be scarcity of essential food items or have inflationary effect as undocumented migrant cannot transfer money legally through commercial banks, so they indulge in smuggling, trafficking of currency, while some of them patronize the black market where various countries' currencies are sold as commodities.

Illegal immigrants over stress the state economy by increasing financial burden on government. According to Joshua and Makama (2018) illegal immigrants often add to what the Government of the host community or nation could cater for, thereby

increasing the financial burden of the Government, particularly, to very vital sectors as education and health. They further stated that immigrants take jobs which would otherwise be taken by local people; in particular places and circumstances, there can be competition and conflict as deprivation of native citizens and lack of employment opportunities. Moreover, illegal migration lead population growth, whereby resulting to an overwhelming increase in the population of the host country and bring about negative economic and social development of the country.

Political Effects: Babatunde (2009) noted that in the Northern part of Nigeria, illegal aliens are often recruited to vote by unethical political parties taking advantage of the weak Nigerian borders from Niger and Chad. Often undocumented immigrants are used by unethical politicians as machineries to carry out crimes, posing threats of insecurity in the nation state. According to Okeoghene (2017), 40 Beninioses were found with the Nigeria's Permanent Voter's Card (PVC) during the 2015 General Elections. This place a question on how these Beninioses entered the nation state unnoticed and undocumented. Illegal immigrants could get their names enlisted in the voting list illegally, thereby claiming themselves as citizens of the nation and creating a vote bank for the political parties. The unemployed illegal immigrants could equally be used by some politicians to create political violence as witnessed in some parts of northern Nigeria especially Kano state even during recent concluded 2019 general election.

According to Muhammad (2016), elections and electoral activities could easily be jeopardised in Nigeria by Nigerian citizens and nationals of neighbouring nations and vice versa, in view of the border proximities and its poor management. Non-Nigerians could and do take advantage of the vast and complex borders, marital affinity and other commercial attractions to visit Nigeria, get registered and cast their votes during elections. Some of such alien do or could be claiming dual citizenship, while that might not be the actual case. Unscrupulous politicians could or do recruit and use such categories of people to undermine credible elections in the nation. Genuine Nigerians could as well engage in electoral malpractices or disrupt

elections and cross over to any of the neighbouring nations unhindered.

The influx of undocumented migrants from the African Western neighboring countries into Nigeria strains nation states relations because of their conflicting interests. While the receiving state wants to get rid of the illegal unskilled migrants who by any means poses undesired result on the nation state, the sending states practically is interested in their prolonged residence in the receiving states as they are a burden to their state of origin. In this same vein Nigerian illegal/undocumented Migrants to the developed countries affect her bilateral relations. Majority of Nigerians can testify to the unwelcome and hostile attention given to them by foreign migration agencies and security officials (Anofi, 2009). The imprisonment and deportation of Nigerians in various developed countries for various reasons but not limited to immigration offences such as fraud, incomplete travel documents or overstaying in the nation state in question to mention a few has a negative effect on the Nigerian image (Nduneche, 2016). Due to the various experience of Nigerian illegal/undocumented migration activities, Nigerians are exposed to various inhuman treatments at respective embassies and high commissions in an attempt to leave the nation state for their various destinations.

3.3 The Challenges of Migration and its Effect on National Security in Nigeria

There are many efforts made to secure Nigeria border, these factors appear to pose a problem or challenge to effective border security on migration and national security in Nigeria.

Nature of the Borders: Studies have shown that there is high rate of porous borders in Nigeria and it has been assumed to be the major challenge to effective border security. This can be as a result of the vastness of Nigerian border (Menner, 2014; Gbemre, 2016). It has been indicated that Nigerian has 147 irregular and 84 regular routes as movement were done through irregular routes. (Maro, cited in Akinyemi, 2013; Menner, 2014) Adams (2012) viewed that there is existence of 1475 official border sites and estimate of 2000 un-official border sites across Nigeria borders. Musa (2015) identified that there are presence of 250 footprints from Damaturu/Maiduguri axis that link the Cameroon,

Chad and Niger that are not known to Nigerian Security Agencies.

The porosity of Nigeria's border can be seen or indicated in the use of dried tree, oil drum, tyres etc to demarcate national borders which makes the borders highly disorganized (Gbemre, 2016). The existence of large number of illegal routes have made it easy for all sort of transnational crimes like movement or smuggling of illegal goods, trafficking of persons, theft and terrorist and other violent activities etc.

Corruption: The issue of corruption is another problem to effective border security in Nigeria. It has been discovered that most security agencies are often compromised to allow illegal flow of goods and people (Akinyemi, 2013; Nte, 2011; Gibemre, 2016). According to Onuoha (2013) corruption is endemic and systemic in Nigeria, cross border arms trafficking is sometimes facilitated by security agents. In May for instance, senior custom personnel were arrested for allegedly assisting Boko Haram insurgents to smuggle trucks loaded with huge cache of arms and ammunitions into Nigeria. Gbemre (2016) noted that some checkpoints are not meant to check passport but to extort money from people. Hahonou (2016) indicated that recent anthropological research shows that regular traders, transporters and passengers that moves along West African states usually provide various kinds of informal payment to state agents in order to escape taxation of goods and certain procedures. Report also maintained that along the Niger-Benin-Nigeria border, there is no positive relation between a higher number of checkpoints and an increased level of control because security agents create fake offices and checkpoints to increase the number of opportunities for taking bribes and racketing citizens (Hahonou, 2016).

Facilities & Logistics: The problem of adequate facilities and other logistics serve as a problem to effective border security in Nigeria. There have been reported cases of low operational facilities like: poor border barrack or substandard office; lack of or insufficient communication or technological gadgets or facilities; inadequate patrol vehicles etc (Akpomera & Omoyibo, 2013; Akinyemi, 2014; Danfulani, 2014; Bearzotti, Geranio, Keresztes & Mullerova, 2015). Lamptey (2015) stated that "the

work of border security officials is hampered by logistic and poor government remuneration, creating avenues for corruptions." There is no how effective border security can be achieved without adequate facilities and logistics.

Abuse of ECOWAS Protocol: The establishment of ECOWAS protocol on free movement of persons and goods among states is meant to ensure free movement of persons or citizens of member states in order to achieve development in the region. The abuse of this protocol has contributed much infiltration of illegal goods and persons. According to Temisan, (2015) "this protocol on free movement has however become a subject of abuse particularly by criminal and terrorists that engage on smuggling of arms, ammunitions and other items into Nigeria." In addition, Akinyemi (2013) stated that the protocol allows the movement of criminals across the border and also engages in cross border activities under the pretext of this protocol. It is important to note that border has become a safe passage for people without identities as ECOWAS protocol on free movement has been abused to mean an entry without valid document Opanike and Aduloju (2015) added that the challenges of the protocol have not helped the security landscape of the sub-region. Even though ECOWAS prides itself as the first region in Africa with the free movement initiative, the protocol is poorly implemented constituting more security concern than boosting regional trade and economic development... ECOWAS does not have instituted mechanism for checking the entry of illegal immigration, people who carry out nefarious activities have exploited the opportunity to their advantage laundering money, trafficking in human, drugs, illegal arm etc. Therefore, the poor mechanism of ECOWAS for checking illegal immigrants has led a serious border insecurity in Nigeria and other West African regions (Temison, 2015; Opanike & Aduloju, 2015).

Problem of globalization: Despite the positive effect of globalization, it still poses a threat to effective border security in Nigeria. Through the advancement of information and communication technology and transformation of international relations caused by globalization has increased the challenges of African states to manage their borders (Okumu, 2011). Studies has pointed out that there is a relationship between globalization and trans-

border (economic) crimes because the logic of time and space have been become speed up and condensed which deterritorialize boundaries and undermines sovereignty leading to increasing speed and sophistication of criminal activities and networks (Garuba, 2010). The present globalization serves as a problem to Nigerian border security because it has aided criminal to engage on illegal business without necessarily crossing the border. This is done through the cyberspace with the use of information and communication technology. The use of ICT has also enhanced terrorist activities in Nigeria and other trans-border crimes (Nosiri, 2016; Nwanyi & Orji, 2015).

Problem of Manpower: Issue of personnel is also a great challenge towards securing Nigerian borders. The presence of inadequate manpower / security personnel has made it difficult for security operatives to effectively maim the borders. Evidence has shown the availability of security personnel is not enough for management of both regular/official and irregular/unofficial route in Nigeria (Bodunde, Ola & Afolabi, 2014; Dafulani, 2014; Gbemre, 2016). This contributed to high rate of smuggling or infiltration of illegal goods and persons.

Conflict/ inadequate Co-operations among Security Agencies: Adam (2012) viewed that “the lack of or absence of integrated security efforts also provides criminal smuggling and other illicit networks.” The poor co-operation and co-ordination between security agents within Nigeria and other neighbouring countries have undermined border security in Nigeria. (Idowu, 2014; Babtunde, 2009; Temisan, 2015; Menner, 2014). Temisan (2015) noted that there is poor co-operation between the security agencies (mainly the NCS and NIS) in joint patrol arrangement at the borders. Even though the multinational Joint Task Force has been improving its efforts to ensure security mainly at the borders, there has been problem of collaboration, co-ordination and co-operation between security agencies of other countries (Menner, 2014). In addition, the conflict or poor cooperation and coordination can be as a result of suspicion, problem of information and intelligence sharing, disagreement on standard to follow, adhoc

operations of some joint patrol among other challenges. (Babatunde, 2009; Idowu, 2014).

4.0 CONCLUSION

Nigeria requires strategic and proactive leadership with the right knowledge, skills and Vision for y nationalistic considerations devoid personal aggrandizement.

The following measures and undertakings can stem or effectively manage irregular economic migrant exodus from Nigeria.

There is need to create a common migration policy by African governments through the African Union on the migration crisis. There should be more collaboration between the African Union; European Union; International Organization of Migration and United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees to create a common policy for dealing with migration. H. Shuaibu (2021).

There is an urgent need to create various vocational training and employment opportunities for young people within the country. There should be a serious and deliberate policy of Rehabilitation of returning migrants who have gone through the harrowing ordeal of trying to cross the Sahara and Mediterranean only to be held in detention centres and mistreated. The activities of the various agencies spearheading and coordinating the migrants and refugees must be enhanced to deliver quality result.

The time to embrace and invest more in non-conventional sectors like skills acquisition, talent hunt, sports and sporting academies. Finally, the government through her various agencies must stimulate a reorientation and chat new agenda by young Nigerians, to take control and be responsible for their fatherland. To pretend that these problems of irregular migration does not exist or affect Nigeria ‘s security would amount to a great destruction of our destiny and future plague the country will only lead to an increase in irregular migration, and a rise in resistance movements such as those we have witnessed in the End-sar. The paper examines the irregular migration and security challenges in Nigeria in the twenty-first century.

References

- Haruna Shuiabu, "Strategic Leadership Deficit and Irregular Migration" in Maryam Hamza et.al (eds.) *Perspectives in Leadership and Security in Nigeria Volume 2* Kaduna Pyla-Mak, 2021, 249-2264
- Adebakin, M.A. & Raimi, L. (2012). National Security Challenges and Sustainable Economic Development: Evidence from Nigeria. *Journal of Studies in Social Studies*, 1(1), 11-29.
- Adeola, G. L., & Oluyemi, F. (2012). The Political and Security Implications of Cross Border Migration between Nigeria and Her Francophone Neighbours. *International Journal of Social Science Tomorrow*, 1(3), 1-9
- Afolayan, A. (2009). Migration in Nigeria: Country Profile 2009. International Organization for Migration (IOM). Geneva: IOM Publications.
- Adepoju, A. (2005), Migration in West Africa, A Paper prepared for the Policy Analysis and Research Programme of the Global Commission on International Migration, Geneva.
- Adeola, G. L. and Ogirai, J. C. (2010) "the Political and Security Implications of Migration in West Africa: Shaping Foreign Policy• Direction in the Sub-Region" presented at the 2nd Learned Conference, College of Business and Social Sciences, Crawford University, Faith City, Igbesa, Ogun State, Nigeria. From 25th - 27th March,
- Amnesty International. 2014. "The Human Cost of Fortress Europe: Human Rights Violations against Migrants and Refugees at Europe's London: Amnesty International report, July.
- Amnesty International. 2015. "Libya is Full of Cruelty': Stories of Abduction, Sexual Violence and Abuse from Migrants and Refugees." London: Amnesty International report, May
- Basaran, Tugba. 2015. "The Saved and the Drowned: Governing Indifference in the Name of Security." *Security Dialogue* 46 (3): 205–220.
- Elaigwu VA, 2003, The Military and Management of civil Crisis in Nigeria 1969-1993, Kaduna, NDA PRESS 2003.
- Idowu, Johnson. (2014). "Inter-Security Agencies Conflict at Nigeria's Borders: a Challenge to Nigeria's National Security". *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, Vol. 4, No. 7; (May 2014).
- Adebakin, M.A. & Raimi, L. (2012). National Security Challenges and Sustainable Economic Development: Evidence from Nigeria. *Journal of Studies in Social Studies*, 1(1), 11-29.
- Adeola, G. L., & Oluyemi, F. (2012). The Political and Security Implications of Cross Border Migration between Nigeria and Her Francophone Neighbours. *International Journal of Social Science Tomorrow*, 1(3), 1-9.
- Alkasim, I. (2018). *Impact of Pendular Migration on Family Welfare in Katsina State, Nigeria*. Unpublished Materials, Department of Adults Education and Community Services, Bayero University, Kano
- Ani, K.J. (2010). National Security in Nigeria: Issues and Challenges for Human Capital Development. Unpublished Paper Presented at the Annual Lit Conference, Organized by The Lit Organization: Ladies of the Ivory Tower held at Enugu State University of Science and Technology, Enugu from 11th -15th October, 2010.
- Baldwin-Edwards, M. (2008). Towards a Theory of Illegal Migration: historical and structural components. *Third World Quarterly*, 29(7), 1449–1459
- Guild, E. (2010) Criminalization of migration in Europe: Human rights implications (Issue paper). Strasbourg, France: Council of Europe, Commissioner for Human Rights
- Hein de Haas (2007) Irregular Migration from West Africa to the Maghreb and the European Union An Overview of Recent Trend: International Organization for Migration Geneva
- Hobsbawm, E. J. (2012). *Nations and nationalism since 1780: Programme, myth, reality*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Hollifield, J. F. (2004). The Emerging Migration State. *International Migration Review*, 38(3), 885–912
- Igbuzor, O. (2011) Peace and Security Education: A critical Factor for Sustainable, Peace and National Development. *International Journal of Peace and Development Studies*, 2 (1):61-69.
- TF Tor (2022) "Effects of Conflicts between Pastoralists and farmers on Productivity and workforce in Benue State in Okpeh OO, PI

Ukase and BJ Audu (eds) *Military Leadership,
Service and National Development:festschrift*

in Honour of Major General Shuaibu Ibrahim.
Kaduna, Pyla-Mak,.