

# Effects of Boko Haram Insurgency on Poverty Level in Yobe State

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## Abstract

This study examines the effects of Boko Haram insurgency on poverty level in Yobe State. The work finds out the extent by which Boko Haram insurgency affected poverty level in Yobe State. Some extant literature related to the topic were analyzed and the descriptive method was adopted as the research design of the study. Reports, journals, research documents, newspapers, textbooks etc. were used as sources of data. The data generated were analyzed through the use of qualitative methods of analysis to summarize the findings. The Human Needs Theory was adopted as the framework of analysis in this study. The study found that there was a significant rise in poverty level in Yobe State during the period under study. It also established that although Boko Haram insurgency is the major cause of rise in poverty level in the State, government counter insurgency policy, armed banditry, lack of economic participation among women contributed significantly. The study concludes that despite the surge in poverty level, Yobe State still remain blessed with abundant minerals resources and huge potentials for agriculture and industrial development. It recommends that local content should be exploited through revolutions in agriculture and establishment of relevant and related industries to generate employment and eradicate poverty in the State and in the North-East region.

**Keywords:** Terrorism; Insurgency; Poverty, Boko Haram, Unemployment  
Introduction

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## 1.0 Introduction

The greatest challenge confronting nations in the 21st century is insecurity. The nature and character of the current security challenges requires a multilateral solution (Guterres, 2022). Insecurity has now become so multidimensional and multifaceted entangling both advanced and less developed countries. What differs among countries in relation to insecurity is the way it is managed. While some countries are able to minimize the threat of insecurity, others have mismanaged it to a point that it has grown to become a global monster capable of consuming humanity. The world today is so interconnected, interdependent and interrelated

to a point that happenings in one part of the world have always produced consequences for other parts of the world. Therefore, nations must come together to address the menace of insecurity (Guterres, 2022). The failure of previous regimes in Nigeria to proffer lasting solutions issues of inequality, poverty and unemployment resulted in anger, agitations and violent crimes by individuals and groups. As a result, violent crime, terrorism, ethno-religious conflicts, assassination, kidnapping, bombing among others, have become a common place in the country. The consequences of these

problems have often been dangerous; they include the loss of innocent lives, destruction of property and disruption of economic activities. Albinus (2012) captured the situation when he opines that the increase in criminal activities in Nigeria during the previous few years were propelled by lack of social security which has negatively affected socioeconomic development of the country (Albinus, 2012).

Nigerian security challenges since independence have continued to grow in complexity and sophistication. These challenges have assumed worrisome dimensions forcing the political leaders, economic elites and the general populace to lament on their loss properties, loved ones, businesses, fear and trauma they faced daily across many parts of the country. The spate of dangerous criminal activities and violence like ethno-religious conflicts, assassination, ritual killings, carjacking, suicide bombings, and armed banditry among others have become the characteristics of life in Nigeria (David and Urim, 2013). Boko Haram insurgency pushed the country to the top of the world insecurity list during the peak of its activities. In 2016, Global Terrorism Index (GTI) reported that Nigeria is one of the five countries with the biggest impacts from terrorist activities. Others include Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan and Syria. These five (5) countries witnessed seventy-two per cent lives lost to terrorism in 2015. Nigeria is the third in ranking of world's most dangerous country and Boko Haram occupied the position of second most dangerous terrorist group in the world surpassed only by ISIL (GTI, 2016). To minimize the threats of insecurity bedeviling the country, the government has deployed many strategies from force, negotiation, amnesty to diplomacy but the problem continued to rise monstrosly.

Boko Haram activities have adversely affected the socio-economic well-being of people of Yobe State. It has heightened humanitarian crisis in form of internal displacement, refugee problem, poverty, unemployment, hunger and the spread of deadly diseases in the state. This state hitherto had some of the worst human indexes in the country. A place where 71.5% of the people lived in absolute poverty; more than half of them are malnourished; about 85% are illiterate; and 60% are unemployed (Ali et al., 2018). Communities like Potiskum, Damaturu, Gujba, BuniYadi, Mamudo, Geidam, Kanamma, Gulani, Dapchi and many others have

suffered large scale destructions from Boko Haram attacks. Series of terror attacks by the insurgents on banks, schools, markets, commercial, religious and residential places have left many communities in the state in a situation of perpetual fear and crippling economic activities across the state. A state considered to be one of the poorest according to both national and international statistics (Yobe State Bureau of Statistics, 2019).

More pathetic is that, insurgency which seems to be the brainchild of poverty has produced a result capable of escalating the poverty situation in the state. This paper is divided into introduction, statement of problem, conceptual analysis, literature review, theoretical framework, discussion of findings, conclusion and recommendations.

### 1.1 Statement of the Problem

Insurgency in the North-Eastern States has thrown the country at large and the geopolitical zone in particular into a situation similar or worse than the Hobbesian state of nature. Statistics and development indicators before insurgency show that the North-Eastern States of Nigeria are among the most backward in all aspects of human and material development in the country. The states have some of the worst development indicators in Nigeria and in Africa: 71.5% of the people live in absolute poverty; more than half of them are malnourished; about 85% are illiterate; and 60% are unemployed (Ali et al., 2018). Similarly, activities of the insurgents have disrupted socio-economic activities, increased crime, displaced people and destroyed lives and property of citizens. This situation has made it difficult for many citizens in the state to carry out their legitimate economic activities like farming, livestock production, trading among other. The gravity of the crisis has caused a decline in productivity and escalation in the prices of commodities and heightened cost of living for the people.

In the light of above, this research examines the effects of Boko Haram insurgency on poverty level in Yobe State.

### 1.2 Conceptual Clarifications

**Insurgency** refers to a violent rebellion against a constituted authority perpetuated by a sub-state group which is dissatisfied with the existing political, economic and other arrangements in the polity. The insurgents employed the use of violence,

cruelty, destructive attitude on innocent lives and destroy property in attempt to achieve their objectives. It is an unlawful revolt against the government of any State perpetrated by certain individuals or groups who wants to change the existing status quo. It is a confrontation between the political elite and the masses whereby the masses deliberately mobilize resources and employ violence to undermine and resist the enforcement of law or running of government or revolting against it or of taking part in insurrection. It is a violation of criminal law and the international treaty obligations of a nation when it targets the defenseless citizens, their property resulting into injuries, destruction of properties and humanitarian crisis. When it discourages investment and when it constitutes domestic and international crimes such as treasonable felony, terrorism, murder, crimes against humanity and genocide (Powell and Abraham, 2006:118-127). Insurgent wants to ensure that government does not function and it is easier to achieve insurgents' goal than to govern because it is easier to destroy than to build.

**Terrorism** is a term which is mostly used to describe life-threatening actions perpetrated by politically motivated self-appointed sub-state group. It defines the use of systematic violence to gain their premeditated political goals. It involves the use of violence to force government to act in a way favoured by the terrorist. It is an illegal act of violence by groups with political aims intended to strike fear or induce sympathy to an ideological cause which may not necessarily result in seizure of political power. Terrorism takes the form of violence such as suicide bombing, assassination, hostage taking or kidnapping, threats or actual use of nuclear, chemical or biological weapon among others. It is used to inflict severe suffering on victims who in most cases are not directly responsible for the political problems the terrorist claim to fight. There are some people who are direct targets of violent behaviours and those who are psychologically impacted by these acts. Political terrorism is the threat or use of violence by individuals or groups against or for the existing authority. It aimed to intimidate, harass or create fear in the majority and force them to act in a particular way (Gadzama, 2012). It results in mass murder, physical injuries, psychological trauma, and wanton destruction of properties, internal

displacement, refugee debacle and humanitarian crisis.

**Poverty**; the technical and philosophical problems associated with the concept of poverty make its definition difficult. It is paramount to note that any definition must take cognizance of the fact that poverty is a relative concept that varies in different historical and geographical contexts (Hellandendu and Madaki, 2003). Scholars have recognized three types of poverty; absolute poverty, relative poverty and material poverty. Absolute poverty connotes the inability to provide for physical subsistence to the extent of being incapable of protecting human dignity. These include lack of food, clothing, shelter, health services and basic education (Gordon, 1965). Relative poverty is the inability of certain section of the society to meet their basic needs. It is a situation whereby income cannot meet basic essentials of life such as clothing, good health, transport cost, house rent, and school fees among others. Material poverty on the other hand, suggests lack of ownership of physical assets such as land, livestock and savings among others (Pocione, 1995).

However, in whatsoever poverty is defined, it will not escape being a situation of lack in the needs of the people. According McNamara, poverty is a condition of life that is so degrading as to insult human dignity which is depicted by poor nutrition, inadequate shelter and low health standard (World Bank, 1975). Similarly, Sen (1983) sees poverty as lack of basic opportunities of material wellbeing and the failure to attain a certain minimum capability. These definitions perceived poverty as insufficiency, deprivation or lack of opportunities that makes individuals unable to optimize their life potentials. Furthermore, in the words of Ajakaiye and Adeyeye (2000), poverty maybe chronic or transient; it is chronic when it is characterized with persistent or permanent socio-economic deprivations. These include lack productive resources, skill for gainful employment and endemic socio-cultural factors like gender. Transient poverty is temporal and it is linked with natural or man-made desasters, this type of poverty is reversible but, may graduate into structural poverty if it persists (Ajakaiye and Adeyeye, 2000).

**Boko Haram:** Boko Haram is a term that literally translates “Western education is evil” in Hausa language. The name is associated to a terror group in the north of Nigeria that has engaged in bombings, kidnappings, and assassination in the Nigeria (Aliyu & Bambale, 2014).

**Unemployment:** this is situation whereby individuals who are willing and able to work but have no jobs. It described a condition in which people that are available for and seeking work, are unable to secure employment. Adebayo (1999) sees unemployment a situation where the people wish to work but could not find any. Unemployment has different forms and causes. They are seasonal unemployment, frictional unemployment, cyclical unemployment and structural employment. Cyclical unemployment results from depression in the economic cycle which causes loss of jobs. Frictional unemployment is the period it takes for job seeker to meet the requirement to be employed in the labour market. Structural unemployment occurs when a person fails to get a job because skill doesn’t match available jobs. Seasonal unemployment refers to job loss due to changes in the season.

## 2.0 Literature Review

### Insurgency and Poverty Level in Yobe State

Yobe State has some of the worst indicators of poverty in Nigeria. The state has the highest number of maternal mortalities, unemployment rate, malnutrition, illiteracy and second in terms of poverty incidence rate (NBS, 2012). It is clear that the scourge of poverty in Yobe State despite several acclaimed efforts through various programmes to eradicate poverty by the state and federal governments has reached its climax. In 2010 the rate of poverty rose to 76% in the North-East zone of Nigeria where Yobe State belongs. The 45years life expectancy in Yobe State is below the national average which stands at 51.6 years. In respect to adult literacy rate, while the national index is 64.2, Yobe State has the lowest with only 24.3%. The same thing in terms of education index, while the national index is 0.712, it is 0.308 in Yobe State which is the least in the country. Generally, on human development index value, for the country stood at 0.513, while Yobe State is the least with 0.292 (Ali et al., 2018). The above results which have been further aggravated by the activities of the insurgents pose a serious challenge to the

government of Yobe State as the situation could be described as shameful and worrisome.

The consequences of the activities of the insurgents on the socioeconomic and political structure of Yobe State is over-whelming and devastating. Business activities have been adversely affected by Boko Haram insurgency. Security men made some shops their base, thereby forcing the businesses owners to either relocate or abandon such shops completely. Small night businesses like Tea and indomie joints, suya spots, among others, were hampered by the security situation. Local government workers in the state were forced to go to the state capital for their monthly salaries as bullion vans conveying monies to banks in the local councils were regularly attacked by the terrorists (Dauda, 2014).

Sahara Reporters, (2015), posit that the fear of Boko Haram discouraged farmer from doing their farming business even when the climatic condition is very favourably tempting and could have led to a bountiful harvest (Sahara Reporters, 2015). The insurgents blew up some bridges and roads linking villages where major famers dwell in Yobe State making land transportation risky and difficult. Animal husbandry is a common farming business in the state especially with nomadic cattle rearers who have to move from one place to another to feed the cattle, this is also hampered. Other farm animals need to be fed to grow well for business and most of the animals’ food are obtained from farm products. Insecurity has led to drastic reduction in agricultural output and increase in prices in other parts of the country (Sahara reporters, 2015, Kathleen, 2014). Similarly, fishermen and their products in Yobe State were also affected both the activities of the terrorists and those of government counter terrorism forces leading to fall in supply and a hike in price of fish across the country (Dabugat, 2013).

Businesses were either forced close down, retrench workers or cut down their hours of operation. Commercial banks have been forced to review their operational hours to begin from 9.00am to 12.00 noon to safeguard their business premises forcing trader to keep the monies from daily sales in shops (Mohammed, 2012:2). The result was a rising cases of shop breakings and burglaries in the affected areas. The insurgents blew up some bridges and roads linking villages where major famers dwell in the State making land transportation risky and difficult. Animal husbandry is a common farming

business in the state especially with nomadic cattle rearers who have to move from one place to another to feed the cattle, this is also hampered. Other farm animals need to be fed to grow well for business and most of the animals' food are obtained from farm products. Insecurity has led to drastic reduction in agricultural output and increase in prices in other parts of the country. Similarly, fishermen and their products in Yobe State were also affected both the activities of the terrorists and those of government counter terrorism forces leading to fall in supply and a hike in price of fish across the country.

Supporting these findings, a study by Lawal, (2020), submits that BH activities have forced over 50% of the farmers in some of the most productive communities in the state to completely abandoned large hectares of farmlands in places like Geidam, Buni Yadi, Gujba, and Tarmuwa to resort to begging and assistance from Humanitarian agencies for survival. Between 2008 and 2019 annual food crop production in the state has dropped from 5,160 tons to 2,075 tons, while the weekly supply of domestic animal to southern part of the country has reduced from 149,000 in 2008 to 45,000 animals in 2019. Cattle buyers have been reduced by more than 80% as most have lost their capitals to either closure of cattle markets for many years or armed banditry resulting from BH insurgency. In one of those attacks which took place on the 4th March, 2012 in Potiskum cattle market over half a billion-naira cash was lost in a single attack many lives and properties were lost in the process. Telecommunication small-scale businesses and banking facilities were destroyed, operations for most businesses were reduced to 3hours at most for relatively peaceful areas in the state (lawal, 2020).

Sani (2019), opines that the activities of Boko Haram insurgents constitute a very serious shock which defines the present and future levels of poverty in Yobe State. He said these activities have disrupted businesses, destroyed lives and assets of many households and crippled economic activities across the State. He concludes that any attempt to alleviate present poverty level alone without taking account of future poverty result from the same shock, will not produce a desired result (Sani, 2019).

In another study, Sani, Nasiru, Ba'aba and Kolo (2018), using a well-structured questionnaire looked at the Incidence (head count ratio), Depth (poverty gap), and Severity of Poverty in some

selected communities of Yobe State. The study employs a multi-stage random sampling techniques to selects 25 respondents from each of the randomly selected four wards of Geidam local government area namely; Asheikiri, Hausari, Kalgeri/Jororo, and Gumsa. A total of one hundred (100) respondents/households' heads was selected for the study. Descriptive statistics of the respondents, and the Foster, Greer and Thorbecke (FGT) index analysis were used to analyze the Incidence, Depth and Severity of poverty in the study area. The study discovered from the FGT index that the incidence of poverty stands at 70.24%, while both probit and logit regression models revealed that the age of household heads and farm size are negatively and highly significant at 1% levels of significance. This means that as these variables increase, so also the households' poverty situation decreases, leading to a down drift of poverty level in the study area. Variables like Gender, Marital Status, Household size; Educational Status, Dwelling type, and Occupational status of the household head are also determinants of poverty in the study area but are insignificant in both models (Sani, Nasiru, Ba'aba and Kolo, 2018).

Furthermore, education which is considered a panacea for national and economic development across the world has been dealt a serious blow. Apart from the paltry budgetary allocation by the government, the Boko Haram insurgency has been an obstacle to Nigeria's educational development (Awortu, 2015:218). They have serially attacked, killed and kidnapped hundreds of students and destroyed educational facilities in affected states. Overtime, a lot of schools have shut down and many parents have withdrawn their children from schools. The education of innocent youths was equally disrupted under tumultuous situation migration created by Boko Haram activities. Similarly, in area of personnel, many teachers have lost their lives to insurgency. It has claimed the lives of about 611 and displaced over 19,000 teachers across the affected states. This however, did not mean well for Nigeria's economy because the attack added to low school attendance and high dropout rates in a country struggling with educational setbacks. Certainly, this has affected and may continue affecting adversely the present and future development of this country (Joshua and Chidozie, 2014:359).

From the forgoing reviews, we can deduce that although a lot have been written on Boko Haram insurgency and different aspects of poverty in Yobe State, very few have dwelled on the connect between the activities of the insurgents and poverty level in the State.

### 3.0 Theoretical Framework

This study adopts the Human Needs Theory. Human needs theory was popularized in the works of Maslow (1973), Burton (1997) and associates. According to this theory, the main cause of conflict lies in the desire of people to satisfy their needs at individuals or at group bases. The theory is premised on the assumption for human beings to live and attain well-being certain basic need must be met. That when the means to satisfy such need is unavailability violence or conflict results. Scholars like Burton (1997); Nathan (2003); Sandbrook (1982) and Gurr (1970), opine that poverty as a result of lack of human needs lead to reactions that result in conflict.

Burton (1979) cited in Adedayo (2011) demonstrated the subversion of human needs as forces that produce aggressions when the individuals strive to satisfy their basic needs. Gurr (1970) and Neef (1991) on relative deprivation theories believes that “when needs are not sufficiently satisfied, economic and political problems will continue to grow”. Best (2009:53) posits that, “the absence of economic opportunities and political stability leads to fear, crime, violence, refugees, political marginalization and insecurity”. Adedayo (2011) further asserts that, the political and economic imbalances within the society would lead to the fear of survival, Xenophobia, crime, violence, refugees, human displacement, political marginalization, insecurity etc. Implied from these submissions is the fact that one of the primary causes of protracted or intractable conflict and insecurity is people’s unyielding drive to meet their unmet needs on the individual, group and societal level.

The overriding importance of this theory is that it understands that needs, particularly basic needs (such as food, water, shelter and health) unlike interest cannot be traded, suppressed, or bargained for; thus, any attempt to do this, leads to conflict. According to Aristotle cited in Sabine and Thorson (1973), social strife and revolutions are not brought out by the conspiratorial or malignant natures of

man, rather revolutions are derived from poverty and distributive injustice. Therefore, when the poor are in the majority and have no prospect of ameliorating their condition, they are bound to be restless and seek restitution through violence. No government can hold stability and peace when it is created on a sea of poverty (Okanya, 1996).

The theory further explains that domestically, the politicization of religious traditions and the radicalization of religious communities are especially likely to cause economic decay, social disintegration or state collapse. Hopeless people below the poverty line; people who are marginalized or physical threatened turn to their religion in search for an alternative political order that satisfies their need for welfares, recognition, and security (Hasenclever and Rittberger, 2005). In present time, there are many violent uprisings around the world, some transformed into full terrorist organizations like the Boko Haram. The theory shows the significance of socio-economic factors in explaining insecurity and religious insurgency like Boko Haram.

### 4.0 Methodology

This paper adopts descriptive and analytical research designs. Bruns & Grove (2009), defines a descriptive research design as that method which provides a clear picture of a situation in a way that enables a researcher to make informed assessment of current practice. Thus, this design allows the researcher to report, describe, summarize and examine nature and issues around insurgency as they relate to poverty level in Yobe State. Analytical design is a method that enables a researcher to critically evaluate facts on the subject of study (Oni, Oni, Ibietan & Deinde Adedeji, 2020). Hence, only data from secondary source such as journal articles, newspapers, books and government publications were considered and carefully reviewed to determine their relevance and timelines to the study.

### 5.0 Discussion of Findings

Some selected poverty indicators in Nigeria have portrayed the worsening situation of poverty scourge in the country. The use of both poverty measures of \$ 1.00/day and \$ 2.00/day stood at 70% and 91% respectively, which means both have not favored the poverty profile of Nigeria. While the poverty gap for the two measures stood at 35% each. In respect to access to improved sanitation and

water sources, it is only 59% of Nigerians that have quality water supply and 62% to better sanitation which means that 81,587,111.6 people cannot access to quality water supply and 85,735,608.8 of Nigerians have no access to improved sanitation and the life expectancy for both sexes' stands at 52 years. Despite the complexity in definition and measurement of poverty, it was revealed that the rate of poverty increases from (54.4%) in 2004 to 69% in 2010 and 71.5 % in 2011 (NBS, 2012). With Boko Haram insurgency, particularly the way it has been mismanaged, the poverty situation in the country has worsened to 80.9% in the Northwest and 76.8% in the Northeast (NBS, 2017).

The consequences of the activities of the insurgents on the socioeconomic and political structure of Yobe State is over-whelming and devastating. Business activities have been adversely affected by Boko Haram insurgency. Security men made some shops their base, thereby forcing the businesses owners to either relocate or abandon such shops completely. Small night businesses like Tea and indomie joints, suya spots, among others, were hampered by the security situation. Local government workers in the state were forced to go to the state capital for their monthly salaries as bullion vans conveying monies to banks in the local councils were regularly attacked by the terrorists (Dauda, 2014).

The study finds that farming activities were discouraged leading to drastic fall in output and skyrocketing of prices. Business capitals were loss to closure of businesses and attacks and looting of valuable by the insurgents. The insurgents blew up some bridges and roads linking villages where major famers dwell in the State making land transportation risky and difficult. Animal husbandry is a common farming business in the state especially with nomadic cattle rearers who have to move from one place to another to feed the cattle, this is also hampered. Other farm animals need to be fed to grow well for business and most of the animals' food are obtained from farm products. Insecurity has led to drastic reduction in agricultural output and increase in prices in other parts of the country. Similarly, fishermen and their products in Yobe State were also affected both the activities of the terrorists and those of government counter terrorism forces leading to fall in supply and a hike in price of fish across the country. Farmers were forced to

either beg to survive or depend on assistance from donor agencies.

Furthermore, findings also indicate a rise in poverty level as businesses were either forced close down, retrench workers or cut down their hours of operation. Commercial banks have been forced to review their operational hours to begin from 9.00am to 12.00 noon to safeguard their business premises forcing trader to keep the monies from daily sales in shops. The result was a rising cases of armed robbery, shop breakings and burglaries in the affected areas. These activities of Boko Haram insurgents constitute a very serious shock which defines the present and future levels of poverty in Yobe State.

Similarly, the study found that the attacks by Boko Haram which target schools has further hampered educational development of the state. Overtime, a lot of schools have shut down and many parents have withdrawn their children from schools. The education of innocent youths was equally disrupted under tumultuous situation migration created by Boko Haram activities. Similarly, in area of personnel, many teachers have lost their lives to insurgency. It has claimed the lives of about 611 and displaced over 19,000 teachers across the affected states. This however, did not mean well for Nigeria's economy because the attack added to low school attendance and high dropout rates in a country struggling with educational setbacks. Certainly, this has affected and may continue affecting adversely the present and future development of this country (Joshua and Chidozie, 2014:359).

In the final analysis, we have seen that insurgency in Yobe State germinated from poverty, illiteracy, corruption, and inequality. The end product is rise in poverty level in the state. This is what Ka'oje (2003) called catch22 situation when he maintained that it is an illusion to feel that a nation can have security in a climate of unemployment, retrenchment, poverty and squalor, law and order cannot eradicate conflict. He said development is central to national security and sustainable development depends on economically enabling environment for investment. To him, this is the basic source of security problems in Nigeria. Nigeria is unsecured because it is underdeveloped and will remain underdeveloped as long as she lacks national security (Ka'oje, 2003:167-177). Poverty should be adequately addressed to discourage

people from formation of well-organized violent groups to confront law enforcement agencies.

punishment and reunion so that they are forced to take responsibility for their actions i.e. giving birth to children without the intention to cater for them.

## 6.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

In conclusion, this study found that Poverty level rise due to loss of lives and property, loss of business capitals, collapse Agri-based businesses, migration of people, closure of businesses, destruction of educational, communication and banking facilities, and reduction of investment in most sectors of the economy in the state and the murder of some prominent business moguls. Some businesses like foodstuffs and provisions trades boomed as a result of Boko Haram insurgency and the activities of NGOs helping the affected persons to cope and return to normal way of life. Government policies such as ban of some businesses and restriction of movement and operation hours of some businesses contributed significantly in the rise in poverty level in Yobe State. Armed robbery gangs capitalized on security situations to perpetuate their activities of attacking banks, filling stations, big stores and individuals where they loot valuable. Businesses like grains, fish and livestock businesses were hijacked by some security men and isolated neglected communities were identified and assisted by humanitarian aid givers.

Based on the findings of this study, the paper recommends that security should be primary to governance, investment in human capital such as, education, health, improved water sources, nutrition and sanitation be encouraged. There is need for strong institutional discipline, transparent governance and the respect for the rule of law so as to curtail corruption and to maximize opportunities. Democratic governance and human rights be promoted in order to eliminate discrimination, secure social justice and promote the well-being of the people. Effort should be geared towards overhauling the power sector in order to encourage setting of more relevant industries and boost other small-scale activities. Women especially those in rural areas should be empowered in terms of access to quality health care services, education and employment. The provision of relief materials to help meet the immediate needs of isolated rural settlements and internally displaced persons in Yobe State by both governmental and nongovernmental humanitarian agencies should be intensified. Wondering and begging children should be arrested and interrogated to identify their parents for



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