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# Socio-economic consequences of population displacement due to insurgency: a case study of Mubi north local government Adamawa state, Nigeria

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## ABSTRACT

The insurgency has made a very serious socio-economic negative impacts on displaced people. Displacement of people has a number of fairly obvious economic and social implication for Nigeria. The main aim of this study is to assess the socio-economic consequences of population displacement as a result of insurgency in Mubi-North Local Government of Adamawa state Nigeria. To examine the effects of population displacement, to identify and compare the previous and current economic and social conditions of the people in the study area and to suggest policy measures to mitigate the suffering of the affected people in the study area. The materials that were used in carrying out the research work were questionnaire, magazines, newspapers, institutional reports, journals, dictionaries, maps, unpublished undergraduate theses/dissertations, national level document, numerous internet sources and a laptop computer. Structured questionnaire were the tools used to elicit information. Population displacement poses a serious socio-economic consequences on the lives and property of the population as a result of insurgency. The measures recommended in tackling population displacement includes: all conflicts causing factors should be eliminated. Government should set up a committee to mitigate the suffering of the people in the affected area.

## KEYWORDS

socio-economic; displacement; population; insurgency; consequences

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## INTRODUCTION

Several conflicting relations in the past in which many people were killed and many still rendered refugees and internally displaced persons in Nigeria were informed by the social complexities of the people in the country, defined by ethnic and cultural identities principally such as ethnicity and religion (Lenshie, 2014). The worsening of social security conditions of the people was adduced for such crisis at that time (Ibeanu, 2015). Contemporary worsening social security conditions reflect the future, which Ibeanu (2015:50) pointed to the responsible factor in the radicalization of the people along ethnic and religious fault lines as the reason for population displacement in Nigeria.

Forced displacement has been on the increase worldwide. In Nigeria, particularly since the implementation of the Sharia law in most parts of the Northern Nigeria, considerable violence, rendering many killed and homeless, degenerated into the coming into being the Boko Haram Islamists. Boko Haram Islamists has produced different effects on different people and the social, political and economic affairs of the country. The insurgency carried by the sect in the Northeast account for over 90 percent of the IDPs, with less than 10 percent caused by natural disasters in Nigeria. This situation stemmed from the insurgency carried by the Boko Haram sect that led to the rising number of deaths of innocent citizens, security officials and insurgents in the States of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe (Ibeanu, 2015) and rendering others refugees in foreign countries of Cameroun, Chad, and Niger republics. The social conditions of the IDPs in the various parts of the country, particularly in the Northeast Nigeria have been alarming, running from insecurity to insecurity, which presents a situation of double jeopardy. The security challenges faced by the IDPs in the various camps and out of camps include, among others psychological trauma of loss families, friends and properties, and the challenge associated with the responsibility to protect themselves in their various camps, and, above all, the challenge of humanitarian response in line with the Kampala Convention in the region

The misery of displaced persons has in recent years become a formidable problem of global significance and implications (Ladan, 2012). The causal factors of internally displacement of persons in Nigeria has been linked to many unfortunate developments over unfounded arguments on religious beliefs, under-development, poverty, unequal distribution of wealth, ethnic tensions, unemployment, political and economic subjugation of minorities, absence of democratic procedures, intolerance, and many other factors. The grave consequence of this has impacted nearly every facet of national development including investments in real estate. Globally, investors are faced with the task of making business decisions that would not only enhance their business growth but also contribute towards the economy of any nation where they have investment stakes. A recent report by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) benchmark shows that about \$1.4 trillion investment capital circulates globally, indicating that capital in the global economy is volatile with a lot of indices considered by investors before they decide to invest in one country or the other. One of such indices is security (Adekoya, 2012). The investment climate in Nigeria is bedeviled with insecurity. The activities of ethnic militia in Nigeria have gradually turned daytime into darkness; where violence, all form of crime, assassination, conflicts and other criminal offenses are on the increase (Oronsaye and Igbafe, 2012) thereby making the investment environment appalling.

The Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC) accounted that in 1982, only 1.2 million people were IDPs in 11 countries; however, by 1995, there were 20 to 25 million in more than 40 countries, almost twice as many as refugees. At the end of 2008, there were 26 million people worldwide who had been internally displaced by conflict, general violence or violations of human rights. This figure rose to 27.1 million at the end of 2009 and 27.5 million at the end of 2010. (IDMC, 2008, 2009, 2010). The estimated figure at the end of 2012 was 28.8 million indicating that additional 6.5 million people were newly displaced, nearly twice as many as the 3.5 million during 2011 (IDMC, 2013). IDPs suffer emotional problems which are characterized by memory of fearful events and nightmare (Durosaro and Ajiboye, 2011).

The insurgency has made a very serious socio-economic negative impacts on displaced people. As we know displaced people have to face many difficulties at the place of destination. Survey showed that poorer displaced persons maintain their livelihood in a variety of ways mostly unskilled and menial jobs. Typical activities such as manual work in factories (brick factory, iron factory and flour mill), sales of firewood, work in hotels and cattle rearing using small loans, small trading such as vegetable stalls and stone breaking and sieving and lorry loading.

Internal displacement has adversely affected the education of children, many of the children of the displaced, family remain in their homes. Moreover psychological, pressure and excessive work load. The children have to bear because of the absence of their parents also affects their education, because the family head is displaced and they have to bear the burden.

This research aimed at assessing the socio-economic consequences of population displacement due to armed conflict in Mubi North Local Government Area of Adamawa state.

## **MATERIAL AND METHODS**

Mubi North is one of the twenty-one local Government Area of Adamawa State. Mubi north lies between latitude 9°26'1" and latitude 10°10'1" N and between longitude 13°01'00" and 13°44'01" E (ministry of land and survey Yola, Adamawa state). The entire town and its environs bordered with Maiha local government area on the south, Hong Local Government on the west, Michika Local Government on the north and Cameroon republic to the east (Adebayo, 2004). Mubi north local government area has an estimated population of one hundred and fifty-one thousand, five hundred and fifteen (151,515) people and the area of about 321.8 square kilometres (2006). Mubi local government area is made of four districts namely: Mubi which is the administrative centre (seat) of the local government area, mayo-bani, Ba'a and mijilu. It is made up of eleven wards which include: Yelwa, Sabon Gari, Kolere, Lokuwa, Vimtim, Digil, Bahuli, Muchalla, Mujilu, Betso, and Mayo-Bani.

There are a lot of economic activities in Mubi North. About half of the inhabitants of the town does go out for one form of business activity ranges from retailing to wholesaling. The remaining population are students and civil servants. Farming is another major economic activity in this place. Some people especially, for those who can neither read nor write use farming as their main stay for annual income.

There is only one modern industry in Mubi North. However, it is not functioning and that is Mubi Burnt Bricks. There are agro allied processing small-scale industries. Traditional industries like, black smiting, woodcarving e.t.c are also practised.

Livestock management is predominately extensive, while intensive is at low level. Poultry production is engaged intensively in Mubi North Region (Gadiga and Daya 2000). Transportation is another important sector contributing to economic activities in this area. A good number of people engage themselves in this sector. there is high level of communication in Mubi North in both modern and traditional methods. Mubi north is accessible in transportation (foot-path, portable road) and communication to its environs and the world at large.

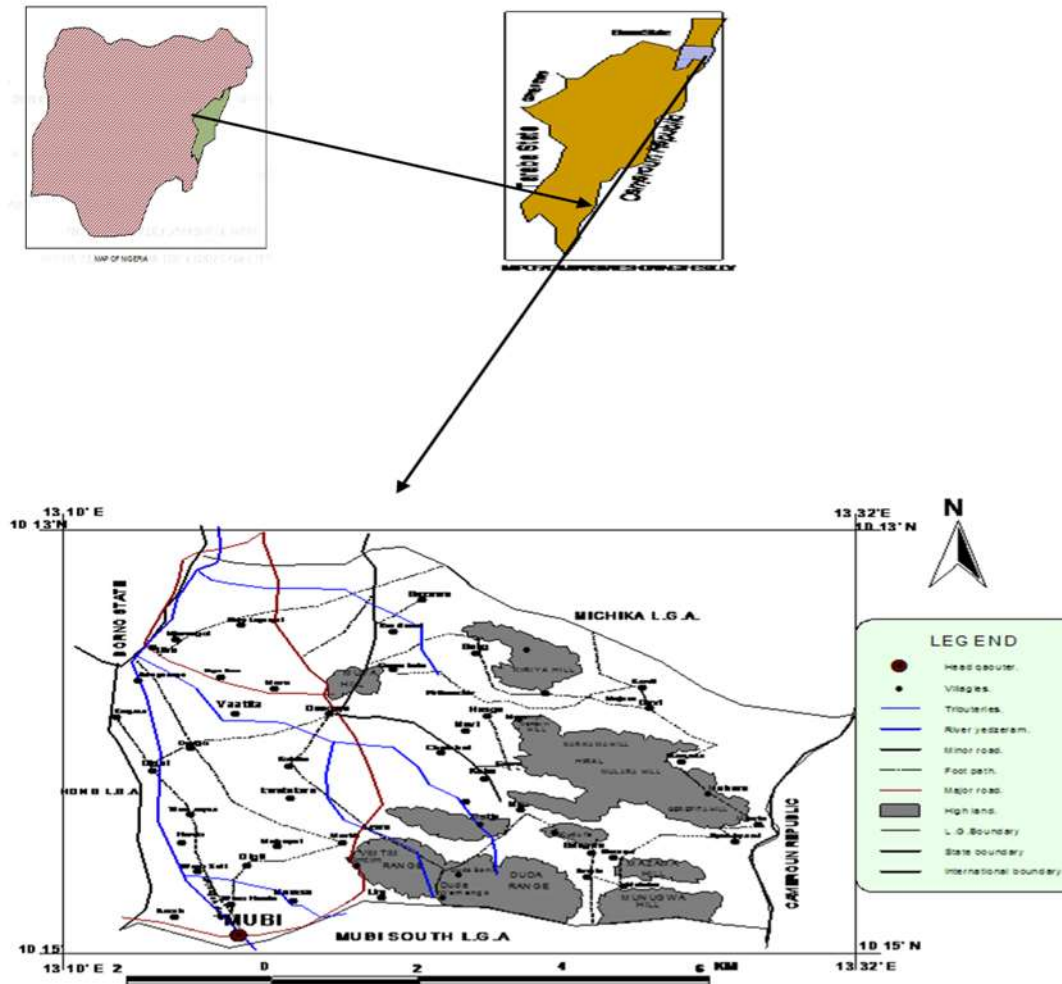


FIGURE 1: The Study Area

The study employs both primary and secondary sources. The study was carried out in the four (4) districts of the study area from which seven (7) wards out of the eleven (11) wards in the study area was selected, namely: Yelwa, Kolere, Digil, Lokuwa, Bahuli, Mayo-bani, and Mijilu. A random sampling technique was used, and structured questionnaire was used to collect appropriate information from 150 respondents in all the areas with the aids of random sampling of occupants in those selected areas. Multi-stage sampling techniques was used in the categorized into the high, medium, and low-density residential areas for selection. The classes constituting the stage for sampling of the wards were done on the ratio of 3:2:1 in the High-Density Residential Areas (HDRA), Medium Density Residential Areas (MDRA), and Low-Density Residential Areas (LDRA) respectively. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software was used to analyze the data extracted from the questionnaire. With SPSS, descriptive statistical tools were employed to analyze the information collected from the questionnaire. The results were analyzed and presented using the simple statistical technique of the mean percentage and tables.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

## Characteristics of the Respondents

**TABLE 1:** Age distribution

AGE GROUP	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
18-28	33	22.0
29-39	36	24.0
40-50	48	32.0
51-61	27	18.0
62 and above	6	4.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field work, 2018

**Table 1** shows the age group of the respondents 40-50 constitutes the highest with 32% while the age groups of 62 and above were the lowest with 4% that is to say the active age group, which normally range from 18-61, had the highest percentage of the respondents.

**TABLE 2:** Gender Distribution

SEX	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
Male	69	46.0
Female	81	54.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field work, 2018

**Table 2** shows the frequency distribution of the respondents by gender. From the data collected findings shows that the female population is more, compared to that of male in the sample area. Female respondents had much greater proportion with 54% (81) than that of the male with 46% (69).

**TABLE 3:** Marital Status

MARITAL STATUS	FREQUENCY STATUS	PERCENTAGE (%)
Single	54	36.0
Married	87	58.0
Divorced	3	2.0
Widow	6	4.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field work, 2018

According to the work carried out on **Table 3**, married respondents are high in population with 58% composition which represents (87), 36% of them are single account for (54). 2% percent are divorced which represents (3) and 4% are windows account for (6). In most cases, low level of education, tradition and religious believers made the respondents married early. This indicates that the population has high proportion of married women.

**TABLE 4:** Educational Status

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
Non-Educated	12	8
Primary Certificate	27	18
Post primary Certificate	81	54
Tertiary	30	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field work, 2018

**Table 4** shows that 54% have the highest of the respondents that have the post-primary certificate, 20% having tertiary education, 18% having primary certificate, while the remaining 8% are uneducated.

**TABLE 5:** Occupational Distribution

OCCUPATION	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Farming	30	20.0
Trading	39	26.0
Civil servants	21	14.0
Students	51	34.0
Others	9	6.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field work, 2018

As shown in the **Table 5** above, most of the respondents were students accounted to 34%, 26% were engaged in trading, 20% were engaged in farming and 6% engage in other commercial activities

**TABLE 6:** Earnings from Business Monthly

EARNINGS FROM BUSINESS	BUSINESS EARNINGS BEFORE		BUSINESS EARNINGS AFTER	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
1,000-20,000	60	40	27	18
21,000-40,000	38	25.3	33	22
41,000-60,000	30	20	50	33.3
61,000 and above	22	14.7	40	26.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field work, 2018

The distribution of the respondents by income range shows that 60% earned within 1,000 to 20,000 Naira monthly, 30% of the respondent earns between 41,000 to 60,000 Naira monthly, while 22% of the respondents earned 61,000 and above. These are the earnings before displacement. The monthly income of the respondents shows that 18% earned within 1,000 to 20,000 Naira range, 22% earned 21,000 to 40, 0000, 33.3% of the respondents earned 41,000 to 60,000 monthly, while 26.7 % earns between 61,000 and above. These are their monthly earnings after displacement.

**TABLE 7:** Supports from Government Agencies

ITEMS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
Food stuffs	2	1.3
Money	2	1.3
Clothes	2	1.3
Nil	148	98.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field work, 2018

According to **Table 7**, shows that highest percentage of the sampled respondents did not get support from the government which is 98.7%, while 1.3% got support in term of food stuff, clothes, and money.

**TABLE 8:** Are you having a case of missing person in your family?

OPTION	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGES (%)
Yes	120	80
No	30	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: field work, 2018

The **Table 8** above shows that 80% of the respondents are having case of missing persons while the remaining 20% of the respondents are having no case of missing persons.

**TABLE 9:** Are you facing challenges after the displacement?

OPTION	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGES (%)
Yes	150	100
No	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: field work, 2018

According to **Table 9**, 100% of the respondents are facing challenges after the displacement.

**TABLE 10:** What was your cause of displacement?

ITEMS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
Armed conflict	140	93.3
Human rights violation	0	0
Situation of generalized violence	10	6.7
Natural or man-made disaster	0	0.
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field work, 2018

The **Table 10** above indicates that 93.3% of the respondents were displaced as a result of armed conflict, 10% were displaced due to situation of generalized violence.

**TABLE 11:** Is there any depression on you and on your other family members?

OPTION	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGES (%)
Yes	141	94
No	9	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: field work, 2018

The above table shows that 94% of the respondents revealed that they have encountered one form of depression or the other. While 9% of the respondents admitted no any form of depression on themselves or their family members.

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

From the 150 questionnaire copies administered in the study area, it has revealed that there was increase in their business earnings after the displacement as compared to their earnings before the displacement, these is due to the increase in population in the study area after the displacement.

A great percentage of the respondents revealed that they are faced with a lot of challenges after the displacement, such as cases of missing and death of family members, destruction of property, psychological trauma, and also inadequate support from the government. The study further revealed that population displacement in the study area was as a result of insurgency which poses a serious problems to the lives and property of the population. It has been established that population displacement has affected the socio-economic activities and livelihood of the people, and were faced with challenges such as psychological trauma from the experiences encountered during the period of displacement. The research further revealed cases of missing family members in the study area.

It may take a long time for anyone to recuperate from the trauma one had undergone while leaving the home and for children it may have an adverse impact throughout their lives and seriously affect their growth.

### CONCLUSION

Based on the above findings, it can be concluded that population displacement due to insurgency poses a serious socio-economic consequences on the lives and property of the population as a result of armed conflict in the study area.



**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the result of the analysis, and observation made on population displacement, the following recommendations are hereby made.

- (i) Conflicts of any kind are destructive and although they sometimes act as agent of change they should be managed to minimal level. Therefore, all conflicts causing factors should be eliminated in the world.
- (ii) Returning is the best solution because it enables displaced persons to rebuild their lives in their homes, where they feel the most comfortable and where they lived for generation.
- (iii) Returning home protects displaced communities from potentials violence and discrimination that they could encounter if they are resettled.
- (iv) Power resettlement committees need to be established by all affected government to ensure speedy resettlement of displaced population. The committee should also be concerned with the disposal of properties, protection of right of the people and as well as the provision of land, amenities like school, hospital and so on.
- (v) Resettlement is the solution because it is the only way for displaced people to feel secured, enabling individuals to begin a new chapter in their lives from the sufferings they endured.
- (vi) Since most conflicts today lasts for extended and indeterminate periods of time, efforts and resources must focus on increasing opportunities for successful resettlement.
- (vii) Finally, it is recommended that further research should be conducted on the study.

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