

Boko-Haram Insurgence: Implications on Women and Children in the North-east, Nigeria

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Abstract

This study examines Boko-Haram insurgence and implications on women and children in the North-east, Nigeria. Since the last few years, the Northeast has witnessed intensification of tension resulting from activities of insurgent groups. The consequential loss of lives in the insurgency has increased on daily basis. Apart from the colossal loss of lives, frustration of the inhabitants including women and children who have been displaced. The study adopted secondary source of data collection. The findings of the study show that women and children have experienced their fair share of effects of the insurgency ravaging the north-eastern part of the country. Some have been abducted, forcefully recruited, and internally displaced; many have been killed, while others have sought refuge in neighboring countries. The study concluded that issues of Boko Haram in North-east Nigeria have been caused by governance failure which is indexed by the inability of government to provide the basic needs of its citizens which include job creation, health care services, education, maintenance of the rule of law and non the least security. Based on the findings, the study recommends that national security should be treated with all sense of commitments by all and sundry and to encourage all hands to support the fight against the insurgent activities of Boko Haram.

Keywords: Boko-Haram, Children, Insurgence, Nigeria, North-east and Women.

Introduction

Insurgency is growing and fast spreading all over the world. This is partly due to the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and the spread of radical conflicts of interest on general forms that include politics, economy, religions and ideologies. This is made worst by government's lack of political will to perform its constitutional duty of protecting lives and properties. These insurgent groups have metamorphosed into violent terrorist groups, with local and international implications. This is typical of the Boko Haram insurgency in North Eastern Nigeria. Boko Haram is an Islamic militant group based in North-Eastern Nigeria, which calls for the use of violence to ensure a return to the true practice of Islam with the ultimate goal of establishing an Islamic State. Fundamentally, this group views that western education/civilization is sinful, sacrilegious or ungodly and should be forbidden. The group thus calls for an outright rejection of western education,

culture and modern science. It advocates the propagation of strict adherence to Islamic tenets in its purest form.

The activities of these insurgents have various implications on women and children, as this vulnerable group of persons tend to suffer most from crisis of any kind (Musa, 2011). Women and children under the age of 18 years, especially girls have been negatively impacted by the crisis in the form of lack of access to basic needs, sexual and gender based violence, sexual exploitation, abuse and abduction (Musa, 2011) Their level of vulnerability is on the increase as most of them are widowed or single due to the high rate of men-killing in the course of the conflict and the detention of some men by the military for investigation purposes. Women now bear the responsibility of feeding their families (Musa, 2011).

Children and women category are more prone to all types of negligence and exploitation in warring and conflict environment. Undoubtedly, war provides an avenue for all sorts of exploitation when it (Laden, 2012). This is more so with regards to the North-east where continuing conflict has led to destruction of most aspect of life and has greatly affected all segments of society, disrupting health and educational service provision which form the backbone of life in many states of the North-east happens (Allanana, 2013). Although, women play important role in the society, they still occupy the lowest echelon in the society's ladder of social strata, and this is more true in the Northeast. Their situation has been made worse by the conflict ravaging the area whose epicenter lies in Borno and Yobe States (Musa, 2011). In these two states, the lives of women have been battered and bruised in several areas that include:

- i. Forced participation in acts of violence and armed conflicts such as suicide bombing
- ii. Poverty, malnutrition and deteriorating health situation
- iii. Displacement of women during war
- iv. Kidnapping, separation from the rest of the family and homelessness, trafficking of women, sexual exploitation, and rape (Baker *et al*, 1999)

Children, during and after the events of war and conflict, remain open to all kinds of abuse and neglect especially, sexual abuse, trafficking, and abduction. Children living in war environment and internally displaced camps and refugee camps remain at the risk of neglect and abuse as victims as well as being used as shields (Makama, 2013). This is so especially those who were kidnapped as a result of their religion. They suffer sexual and physical abuse in captivity. Currently, there are no any sanctions of international agreements and organizations for protecting children who are in war environment, from being exposed to neglect and abuse in the war environment. It is an important issue that attracts attention. This is due to the fact that existing laws are not operating sufficiently in practice; this means that children are neglected in war zones (Snoubar & Duman, 2015).

Northern Nigeria is patriarchal in nature which is a major feature of a traditional society, where men dominate and control everything, by taking care of the wives and children at all cost. It is a structure of a set of family members with a material base which enables men to control women. Women are therefore subjugated to domestic responsibilities and continually kept at home as house-help, sometimes they are denied even to obtain proper education, neglected (Allanana, 2013; Makama, 2013). This is understood to mean that women in the far northern region are being taken care of by their husbands. It is the responsibility of the husband to provide all the necessities needed by the family. Considering this major duty of the husband in the family, today Boko Haram group has killed many men in the northern part of the nation and put the lives of women and children in jeopardy. Because those in position to cater for the lives of the family members are no longer alive as a result of the activities of the Boko Haram. Those women that lost their spouse are turned to widows and the children, orphans.

Method

The method of data collection used in this study is the secondary source which is also known as documentation. Due to the spontaneous nature of the issue under investigation, data were gathered from magazines, journals, newspapers, textbooks, internet materials which are relevant to the study.

Conceptual Clarification

Insurgency

According to Inchi (1996), insurgency is a violence organized by an individual or group of individuals to fight or oppose the implementation of law or running of government or react against established authority of the state. In a related development Ladan (2012), describe insurgency from three perspectives: firstly, to establish an attack on an unprotected member of the public resulting into wounds or injuries, loss of lives and properties as well as the involuntary internal displacement of persons or group of persons from their living environment. Secondly, to energies the native and external enterprises from the country.

A study by Badiora (2017) observed that insurgency usually has two main features namely; crime and the violation of human rights in the society. Insurgency is seen as a crime because it is a pattern of internal disorder that poses serious threat to the society in general and to the constituted authority of the land in particular. It can cause authority to act in such a way that the public interest and fundamental human rights are violated. Government can declare a state of public order for the appropriate authorities, which can ultimately lead to circumstances that loom the life of the public and lure the government in power to announce a State of emergency to check the activities of insurgents, but yet seriously afflicting the rights of the law-abiding citizens. It is observed that the activities of this sect of individuals have affected the lives of many married women that lost their husbands as a result of the activities of the insurgent group. This has turned many women to destitute, widows, and children to orphans. It is noted that the affected children later dropped from

schools because their fathers were no more, no one else is there to take care of their school fees and other educational responsibilities.

Women

Although the status of women may differ from one country to another, their social position has remained dramatically low due to various forms of discrimination perpetrated against them. Increasingly in many third world countries women have become principal victims of the combined effects of political, economic and social crises, and this is increasingly undermining their rights of survival. Going by relevant social indicators related to women reproductive functions and materials roles; Nigerian women still face a high risk of death in pregnancy with maternal death rates 100 times higher than rates obtainable in industrialized countries or even in other African countries (Hodges, 2001). In the same vein, the highest prevalence rates of sexually transmitted and birth related diseases is recorded among women. The highest infection rates of the HIV/AIDS scourge are believed to be among women, especially those of child-bearing age, while *Vesico Virginal Fistulae (VVF)*, a child-birth related disability resulting from early marriage and young teenage pregnancy has become quite common in the Northern parts of the country. All these are in addition to other hazards posed by endemic disease which continually challenge the health status of the citizenry.

Similarly, while many Nigerian lack opportunities to attain their highest potentials, the situation of women is peculiar. Common barriers to the advancement and development of their potentials include low and declining literacy rates, which UNICEF put at 51% in 2009, with regional differences as low as 31% in some northern states, (cited in Obanya, 2003), and diminished access to resources, as well as family-related and other benefits. These are the results of barriers raised against access to opportunities as well as gender-based practices rooted in the family, and extending to the work-place. In Africa especially, women have borne the brunt of the failure of government economic programmes.

Children

The interest of children in most third world societies similarly tends to receive little or no attention. Common challenges confronting the Nigerian child are numerous. Nigeria is believed to rank among the worst in Sub-Saharan Africa on vital child quality-of-life indicators. For instance, Infant Mortality Rates (IMR) which indicates the status of children in respect to health, sanitation, food supply, and health of parents was put at 80 in 2015, which was far above the maximum of 50 prescribed for any society meeting basic human needs. Yet Nigeria made less progress in the reduction of mortality rates among children under the age of five, as almost one out of every five children died before that age (Hodges, 2001)

For many years, Nigeria maintained very low vaccine coverage rates said to be worse than the average ratios for Sub-Saharan Africa. Recently however, official figures announced, indicating the problems are currently put as high as 94%. Even if this is real, the high prevalence rates of contagious and water borne disease, the HIV/AIDS coupled with Malaria, frequent outbreaks of epidemic as well as nutritional deficiencies and poor health facilities will persistently threaten the sustainability of these gains.

Similarly, stimulation for the long term development of children continues to be impaired by diminished access to quality education either as a result of family impoverishments, low coping capacity or a declining educational systems. In some states the problem is compounded by declining primary school enrolment with a national average of about 42.9% (UBE); implicitly, the average Nigerian child is faced with an uncertain future as he or she grows into adulthood. Other malaises impinging particularly on the rights of the Nigerian child include various forms of child abuse, such as child labour, child trafficking, sexual exploitation and early marriage; in regard to these, the girl child is most vulnerable. This is so because of the low social values attached on her person, she does not have full and equal access to education, while the persistence of harmful traditional practices, discriminatory nutritional practices, coupled with overburdening domestic duties saddled upon her at an early age continually stunt her capacity for development. Altogether, these challenges cast a threatening shadow over the future of the Nigerian child.

Boko Haram Insurgency in the North-east Nigeria.

Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati Wal-Jihad, popularly known by its Hausa name Boko Haram, is a violent jihadist terrorist organization or group which has its base in the North-eastern part of Nigeria. It is an Islamist movement which is strongly against man-made laws. Founded in 2001 by Mohammed Yusuf, the group is a Jihadist group that seeks to establish Sharia law in the country. The group is also known for attacking Christians and bombing churches. The group whose name in the Hausa language, "Boko Haram", literally means "Western education is sinful", is divided into three factions. In 2011, Boko Haram was responsible for the death of at least 450 people in Nigeria. (Eme *et al*, 2012). It was also reported that they had been responsible for the death of over 620 in the first 6 months of 2012 (Eme *et al*, 2012). In the first few years of its operations, 10,000 people are reported to have died. The group later became known internationally following sectarian terrorist acts in Nigeria in July 2009, which claimed over 1,000 lives (Mailafia, 2013). They do not have a clear structure or evident chain of command. Moreover, it is still not clear whether Boko Haram has links to terror outfits outside Nigeria and its fighters have frequently clashed with Nigeria's central government. A US commander stated that Boko Haram is likely linked to AQIM (al-Qaeda in Islamic Maghreb) (Cook, 2011).

The group adopted an official name known to be "*Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad*" which translates to "The Group of Al-Sunna for Preaching and Jihad" in English. In Maiduguri town, where the group was founded, the residents referred to it as Boko Haram. The term "Boko Haram" was derived from the Hausa word "Boko" which stands

for "Western Education" and the Arabic word "Haram" figuratively meaning "sin" (literally, "forbidden"). The name, loosely translated from Hausa, means "western education is forbidden". Boko Haram earned its name as a result of its very strong opposition to anything Western, which it sees as corrupting Muslims. Boko Haram was founded as an indigenous Salafist group, turning itself into a Salafist Jihadist group in 2009. It postulates that interaction with the Western World is a sin and also gives support to the opposition to the Muslim establishment and the Nigerian government. Publicly, the group proclaim its ideology despite the fact that its former leader and founder Muhammad Yusuf was himself a very educated man who lived a lavish life and drove around in a Mercedes Benz.

Boko Haram members do not interact with the local Muslim population and have also carried out terrorist attacks in the previous years on anyone who criticizes its actions, including Muslim clerics. In the wake of the 2009 crackdown on its members and its subsequent re-emergence, the growing frequency and geographical range of attacks attributed to Boko Haram have led some political and religious leaders in the north to the conclusion that the group has now expanded beyond its original religious composition to include not only Islamic militants, but criminal elements and dissatisfied politicians as well (Bartolotta, 2011). According to Borno State Governor Kashim Shetima "Boko Haram has become a franchise that anyone can buy into. It's something like a Bermuda Triangle".

Boko Haram has abducted at least 500 women and girls from northern Nigerian since 2009 and has perpetrated numerous human rights abuses against them in captivity. The April 14, 2014 abduction of 276 girls from a secondary school in Chibok, a rural town in Borno State, focused a much-needed spotlight on this increasing scourge.

While much has been written about Boko Haram and the horrific threat it poses, very little is known about the abuses endured by women and girls in captivity. Such victims are obviously hard to find. This study attempt to document the effect of insurgent activities on women and children, highlighting the harrowing experiences of some of the abducted women and girls.

From June through August 2014, Human Rights Watch interviewed 30 women who were abducted by Boko Haram between April 2013 and April 2014, and 16 others who witnessed the abductions. The victims, including 12 students of the Chibok School who escaped from Boko Haram custody after they were abducted, provided further details of the abuses they endured. The women and girls described how they were abducted from their homes and villages while working on the farms, fetching water, or attending school. The victims were held in eight different Boko Haram camps that they believed to be in the 518Km² Sambisa Forest Reserve and around the Gwoza hills for periods ranging from two days to three months. They saw scores of other women and children, but were unable to ascertain if some, or all, had also been abducted or if they were family members of the insurgents. The women and children ranged from infancy to 65 years old. The Gwoza hills, which form a

natural barrier between Nigeria and Cameroon, overlook Sambisa forest to the North and runs from Pulka town, 80 miles South east of Maiduguri, Borno State into Cameroon's far North region.

The women and girls told Human Rights Watch that for refusing to convert to Islam, they and many others they saw in the camps were subjected to physical and psychological abuse; forced labor; forced participation in military operations, including carrying ammunition or luring men into ambush; forced marriage to their captors; and sexual abuse, including rape. In addition, they were made to cook, clean, and perform other household chores. Others served as porters, carrying the loot stolen by the insurgents from villages and towns they had attacked. While some of the women and girls seemed to have been taken arbitrarily, the majority appeared to have been targeted for abduction because they were students, Christians, or both.

Impact of Boko-Haram insurgency on Women and Children in North-east Nigeria

Widows and orphans are sets of people that lost their relations like husband or parents as a result of the Boko Haram activities. In a related development a study by Shehu (2018), disclosed that Boko Haram insurgency has led to a huge number of orphaned children and widows. It is observed that 60% of all the people in the IDPs that were established because of Boko Haram insurgency are women and children. Similarly, 60% of all the children in those camps are orphans and such children are encountering a lot of problems which include but not limited to socio-psychological, medical, economic and ecological.

Boko-Haram Insurgency and Health Status of Women and Children in the North-east, Nigeria

Boko Haram insurgency in the Northeast Nigeria had been the basic causes of ill health and increase in the number of deaths among children and women in the region. Since the collapse of facilities and health centers and the difficulty of delivering service and health care to the population, especially of women and children led to the aggravation and worsening health condition in the Northeast. In times of war and conflicts, woman faces many problems and health risks that negatively affect the mental and physical wellbeing and health of her child pregnancy child birth and post-natal stage and in the various stages of life. The armed conflicts and wars cause displacement of families and locals from places of conflict to neighboring countries as refugees or displaced persons to other places believe to be safer. During the displacement period, women and children faced many risks which include psychological and physical trauma, harmful to their health, including direct injuries leading to disabilities resulting from repeated attacks, shooting and maiming as well as physical and sexual abuse. Sometimes, flee trip can be accompanied by the risk of death. In addition to the long walk distance and lack of food, water and lack of access to care along with malnutrition and disease. The resulting lack of hygiene leads to deterioration of the general health situations of women and children. War is the main reason for the difficulty of delivering health services especially to women and children, pregnancy, pre-

natal and childbirth women are in dire need of medical follow-up, medical examination, awareness of health and health care such as immunization for the prevention of diseases. The loss of basic needs leads to abortion, low birth weight and loss of the ability to generate milk to breastfeed her child, the spread of disease and increase number of deaths (Gasseer *et al*, 2004).

During displacement or after access to refugee camps or places believed to be safer, many women and children, especially girls are vulnerable to assaults and sexual exploitation by rival groups or by working in some women peacekeeping missions have sex exchange for food or aids (<http://www.mefacts.com>). Attacks and unwanted sexual activities leave the psychological and social effects (shock, confusion, depression, anxiety and isolation) on women as well as to the child who has witnessed cases of rape and sexual violence for any member of his family, also from health side leads to the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, unwanted pregnancy (Gasseer *et al*, 2004).

It has to be known that children who are living in war and conflict environment experience both psycho-social and serious health problems as a result of being witness to acts of violence. Some of these problems are listed as; disability as a result of serious injury, the loss of children's lives during surgical operation as a result of not being able to provide the drugs to injured children or prevention from accessing the drugs by the children and the lack of medical supplies. These children, who are living in unusual situations of war, experience Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) especially when the safe places such as schools, mosques, churches that they took refuge are attacked and transformed into dangerous places. Also, some of the health problems experienced include injury, disability, illness from lack of food and beverages, which occur frequently for children living in war and conflict environment” (Snoubar & Duman, 2015).

Boko-Haram Insurgence and Psychological Status of Women and Children in the North-East, Nigeria

War and conflict situations need to be addressed as crises situations as a result of devastation caused by it in the psychosocial and environmental conditions. In these violent environments, people especially women and children are confronted with a sense of loss that extends from material goods and loved ones (Snoubar & Duman, 2015). Children and young people are highly vulnerable to the effects of war, for multiple reasons. For instance, children are in many ways dependent on adults for their survival needs, such as food and water, and child-parent separation is a real danger during situations of armed conflict. Children and young people are still developing physically and psychologically. Implications of war and conflict, such as trauma and physical injury, can thus have a very long-term effect on their development and growth into adulthood (Dupuy & Peters, 2010).

In war and conflict situation children have psychological reactions as a natural response to shock which include; nightmares, difficulty with sleep, physical symptoms (headaches,

stomach aches, bed wetting), withdrawal, elective mutism, difficulty concentrating, exaggerated fears/worries and hyper vigilance. With support from family and friends, most children will overcome most of these distressing reactions through the "natural" healing process of time. However, the more adversities children experience, the more likely it is that they will have difficulty overcoming these distressing reactions. A small percentage of children are likely to remain in difficulty in the longer term and may need more focused help”.

But the continuation of the war and lack of safe environment and the continuous exposure to violence both direct and indirectly prevent full recovery of these psychological symptoms in children. In times of crisis, the family which is the main supporter of the child is disorganized that leads to disappearance of psychosocial support services. In many cases women also are living in a state of tiredness and psychological fatigue which the child suffers as a primary source for it. In addition, exposure to trauma associated with the separation from family and children is one of the things that lead to psychological problems among women in the Northeast; others are arrest, displacement and rape, beside the loss of family members.

Boko-Haram Insurgence and Children’s Education in the North-East, Nigeria

The insurgent activities in the Northeast have exacerbated the problem of education as a result of the destruction of educational institutions targeted by artillery fire. In many countries, this led to depriving millions of children and young people of their right to education (Snoubar & Hawal, 2015). In addition, to the severe shortage of schools and educational facilities, depriving many children of their right to education had generally increased violence among children in school, which led to a lot of psychological and social problems for children. The increase in violence in schools can be traced back to indirect violence via television or exposure to violence through attacks of armed militias on schools and educational facilities. This is accompanied by lack of concentration and straying of the child or the tendency for hooliganism and aggression (Snoubar, 2010). Thus, the effects of war and armed conflict on women and children on educational status in many Middle Eastern countries include;

- i. Increased school dropout.
- ii. Dropout due to forced migration.
- iii. Situation of aggression and violence among children in schools.
- iv. Using students to participate in the speed of direct aggression and dropping out of school because of disability or imprisonment
- v. Demolition of educational facilities by parties to the conflict or used as a place of safety for families during conflict led to decrease in schools.
- vi. Non-availability of awareness centers and educational programmes for women increase maternal death.

The activities of the insurgent group are not limited to security agents, but, the students in the various school who were been attacked. However, attack on one school or nearby villages put fear in the mind of students and the people living in the environment, that any schools or villages in the area might be attacked. A study by Ugwumba (2015), disclosed that Boko Haram's repeated attacks on several schools across the Northeastern region of the country has had insuperable obstacle to education for a large number of children'. He added that the psychosocial impact will definitely affect children's ability to study, and the places where these activities continue may lead to their (pupils/students) withdrawal from school. Even if the school remains open, most of the children cannot be allowed to attend school because of the fear of future occurrence.

Boko-Haram Insurgence and Social Status of Women and Children in the North-east, Nigeria

The continuity of conflicts in many countries of the North-east had played an adverse effect to the individual, the community and society as a whole. Among the negative effects of war is subjecting children and women to a challenging role in the family, such as hard labour for low wages as in Palastine drug abuse among youth, rising cases of school violence, compulsory recourse of family to destitution. The ongoing wars and conflicts in the Northeast had a negative impact on cultural value, as it has led to deterioration in culture and traditions in the society.

In a study of children who were arrested after participating in the ongoing conflicts found that they feel that society perceives them as heroes and freedom fighters because they have experienced and survived detention (Baker & Kevorkian, 1999).

Boko-Haram Insurgency and the Rights of Women and Children

From the fore-going it could be seen that the traumatization of society in any form correlatively results in the accentuation of the hardship faced by women and the children they care for. As Jeong (2000) has observed, while men and women are both victims of all forms of aggression including Human Rights abuses and poverty, some particular types of aggression do afflict women and children more than men. She pointed out that many sources of oppression do prohibit the realization of freedom for the former, and violence against women represents a form of social control that limits their ability in every aspects of life. Particularly, conflict and emergency situations such as wars, civil disturbances, ethnic fighting and insurrections which results in loss of lives, injury, loss of income, home and family support tends to disadvantage women and children the most (Vickers, 2000).

Direct violence against women and other vulnerable categories has been a major concern in many parts of the world. For instance, in consideration of the travails of women during organized conflict and emergencies, the United Nations Economic and Social Council had recommended to the General Assembly in 1974, the enforcement of the obligations on all states involved in armed conflicts and military operations in foreign and colonized

territories to spare women and children from the ravages of war (Jeong, 2000). Accordingly, measures such as persecution, torture, degrading treatment including all forms of repression, cruel and inhuman treatment imprisonment, shooting, mass arrest, collective punishment, destruction of dwellings and forceful evictions typically committed by belligerents in the course of military operations were to be regarded as criminal offence (cited in Vickers, 1993). Notwithstanding the ratification of these principles by member nations, women and children have continued to be the overwhelming victims of war crimes. For instance, 80% of the world's refugees are women and children. Even though they might be innocent bystanders, they may be physically assaulted, killed or injured and since they are often defenceless against invasion, they suffer all kinds of abuses including forced to serve armed militias as prostitute and comfort girls. This was the case during World War II, where teenage and young women were sexually assaulted in the war fronts (Vickers, 1993, Ho-Won Jeong, 2000). In the same vein, the rape and forced impregnation of thousands of mostly Muslim women in Bosnia Herzegovina by Serbian nationalists has been noted. In Nigeria, the violation of women's rights in time of war and conflicts have become very common and with no consequences to belligerents and perpetrators. One of the worst incidences of sexual exploitation of women in Nigeria in recent times was the systematic rape of defenceless women in Oddi (Delta State) by belligerent soldiers sent to quell youth's insurgence in the area. In Northern Nigeria, where the highest numbers of ethno religious conflicts have been recorded, assaults on pregnant women is becoming a weapon for ethnic-cleansing during ethnic and religious fighting; thus ripping open pregnant women during violent clashes is not uncommon. Also as a means of achieving ethnic cleansing, male children are often not spared the cruelty and inhuman treatment often mated on adult males.

Conclusion

The study has examined the activities of insurgency in Northeastern Nigeria and its impact on women and children. The study findings revealed that the Northeast region is bedeviled by incessant unrest by terrorist activities, constant fear, human environmental threat, bombing, kidnapping, sexual harassment, rape and killing. The study findings also reveal that most of these conflicts are caused by the inability of the government to provide adequate human security. Where human security is neglected poverty, frustration, marginalization, abuse of human rights, constant social unrest, among others will become the order of the day. The study also shows that Boko-Haram insurgency has directly affected women and children in the Northeast adversely. Such effect includes early child marriage, sexual harassment, early child marriage, trafficking among others.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made;

- i. Government should give maximum attention in developing human security which covers personal, environmental, economic, political, community, health and food security.
- ii. Non-governmental organization (NGOs), stakeholders should synergize and support the government in the fight against insurgency in the northeast Nigeria using their technical expertise in order to safeguard the lives of victims of insurgency i.e. women and children
- iii. National security should be treated with all sense of commitment by all and sundry
- iv. The abduction of Chibok girls by insurgents leaves much to be desired as the federal government should further intensify higher commitment in mobilizing more of the armed forces to the northeast region and provide adequate security in all the region
- v. There is a need for special rehabilitation and trauma centers in the affected states, especially for women and children who have had terrible knowledge during the insurgency period.

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