

## **ILLEGAL MIGRATION AND CROSS BORDER GOVERNANCE IN AFRICA: THE NIGERIA-CHAD EXPERIENCE**

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### **Abstract**

Migration and cross border governance have been the subject of debate in virtually all countries in the world today and especially in Africa which resultant from the porosity of border specifically Nigeria-Chad border. This has caused a serious threat of security, economic retrogression, social and political backwardness as well as refugees influx. The objective of the research was however, to investigate factors responsible for migration in Africa taken into cognizance Nigeria-Chad situation. A qualitative method using content analysis was used for this study. It adopts multi-related theories thus, structural theory, functionalist theory and neo-functional theory was used for proper discussion. Findings revealed that absence or lack of clear demarcated boundary between Nigeria and Chad is the major cause of illegal migration. The research recommends that both Nigeria and Chad should collaborate to improving the porosity of border through bilateral agreement, joint-border surveillance, and regional integration mechanism towards curbing illegal migration.

**Keywords:** *Migration, Border Governance, security, Africa*

### **Introduction**

Migration is a highly diverse and complex phenomenon that transcends societies, cultures and races. It is a phenomenon that has continued to impact and contribute to the transformation of the entire facets of various countries changing the racial, ethnic, linguistic and socio-cultural composition of their population (Adeola and Ogirai: 2010 Marshall, 2000). It is a dynamic process which affects every dimension of social existence. Studies have indicated that 97 percent of the world population in 2000 is not international migrants (UNDESA 2005) yet, their communities and ways of life are changed by migration (Castles et al 2009).

In the sub-Saharan Africa, it is a process which predates colonization and assumed greater impetus after the countries have traversed colonialism and became sovereign independent states. The countries were confronted with problems of integration, economic growth and underdevelopment, the people were also in haste of adjusting to the new realities brought about by self-government. Naturally, this was a reaction to the interactions with other civilizations that resulted from long-term colonization; as a result, the new objectives were remarkable and the drive for modernity was intense. In an era of rapid globalization, human migration has reached unprecedented levels and is a defining feature of our times. Throughout its history, Africa has experienced migratory movements, both voluntary and forced, which have contributed to its contemporary demographic landscape. Cross-border migration in Africa is an

important livelihood and coping strategy during times of ecological and economic downturn, and is key to understanding, as well as forecasting, the onset and evolution of humanitarian disasters (James, 2024).

Over the last decades, deteriorating political, socio-economic and environmental conditions, as well as armed conflict, insecurity, environmental degradation and poverty, have been significant root causes of mass migration and forced displacement in Africa. The globalization process has also facilitated the movement of people across the various regions of Africa, and to other regions outside the continent, as the number of migrants continues to increase. Due to these trends, migration is a major issue in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, and poses social, economic and political challenges for policy makers engaged in the management of migration for the betterment of the continent (ECOWAS, 2017).

In the context of the global refugee crisis, trans-Saharan and trans-Mediterranean (irregular) migration from Africa to Europe has recently received huge public and political attention, particularly within Europe. Calls for reducing and containing irregular migrant flows and addressing the “root causes” of forced migration dominate the European policy discourse. However, migration within the African continent is much more prevalent than migration from Africa to Europe or other parts of the world. About two-thirds of African international migrants are living in another African country. The types of mobility thereby range from seasonal labour migration to forced displacement with varying geographic extensions (UNDP, 2010).

Against this background, the African Union has defined norms and strategic guidelines regulating migration and forced displacement and regional organizations such as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in the Horn of Africa and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) are involved in migration governance. Regional organizations and migration platforms are gradually becoming acknowledged political players, also reflecting a general trend of regionalization and pluralization in international and migration policies. Their actual involvement in global policy processes, such as the currently negotiated Global Compacts for Migration and on Refugees, as well as in EU-Africa migration initiatives remains nonetheless limited. While increasingly recognized, up to present, regional migration regimes outside Europe remain little understood regarding their main drivers, features and impact.

The paper set the ground for enhancing this understanding by introducing a framework of analysis for regional migration governance. The framework incorporates elements of various approaches to international organizations of which regional organizations (ROs) form a subset. In this context, both institutional characteristics such as organizational identity and history and the interests of (powerful) member states and external actors will be considered key explanatory factors for migration-related strategy formulation and implementation. The framework introduced is intended as a general scheme for the analysis of regional migration governance around the globe – not only specifically in Africa. However, in this paper, migration governance in the two African sub-regions, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) at the Horn of Africa is used to illustrate the diversity of historical pathways, migration realities and challenges as well as institutional settings. Whereas the IGAD sub region is characterized by

high levels of forced displacement, the ECOWAS countries have a long tradition of circular and seasonal labour migration, not least mirrored in a relatively established and internally driven migration policy agenda.

In light of the challenges posed by migration and its ramifications (socio-economic, political etc.), the OAU Council of Ministers adopted Decision CM/Dec 614 (LXXIV) during the 74<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session in Lusaka, Zambia in July 2001, which called for the development of a Migration Policy Framework, and mandated the following:

1. To develop a strategic framework for migration policy in Africa that could contribute to addressing the challenges posed by migration and to ensure the integration of migration and related issues into the national and regional agenda for security, stability, development and cooperation.
2. To work towards the free movement of people and to strengthen intra -regional and inter-regional cooperation in matters concerning migration, on the basis of the established processes of migration at the regional and sub-regional levels.

### **Literature Review**

Since migration is influenced by a wide range of factors, it can be viewed from several angles. However, it is important to note that the study attempted to examine the different perspectives on responsible migration that have been extensively documented in the literature (Sada, 1984; Adepaju, 1990). Nonetheless, efforts have been made to identify the primary drivers of international migration in Africa. Push and pull factors have been used to classify these causes and the factors that contribute to them. The motivation to migrate is fueled by the unfavorable conditions at home.

These conditions which vary in magnitude from one place to another include, unemployment, loss of jobs, famine, pestilence, lack of professional opportunities to prevalent high mortality levels. Pull factors are strong positive attributes that people perceive to be present at their destinations. These include employment opportunities, career opportunities, improved socioeconomic conditions, and access to healthcare facilities. Effective transportation and telecommunications systems have made it possible for people in the diaspora to communicate with their home countries, facilitating these travels. Migrants have been encouraged to travel great distances in quest of better socioeconomic opportunities due to the availability of communication and transportation.

Therefore, having a sizable, successful, and capable diaspora is turning into a great asset for any nation. Additionally, 40.50 percent of migrants to major cities and beyond reported "the search for employment" due to cyclical migrations, where migrants regularly return home with investments, venture capital, and technological transfers.

The absence of basic social services and the unreliability of those that do exist are next to it. Water supply, electricity, good roads, hospitals, dispensaries, etc. are examples of such facilities. About 20–30% of the moves are accounted for by this. Conflicts between communities, environmental degradation, and agricultural failure are all included in the third category of outmigration. For instance, in the region of Chad, violent crimes have been the main cause of people's need to live in safety. Approximately 10.15 percent of migration falls under this category, which verifies the earlier findings concerning the reasons for outmigration.

According to the analysis, 35.4% relocated to pursue better possibilities in life, 30.3% for economic/business reasons, and 19.2% for educational advancement. This pattern is common throughout Africa.

### **Effects of Illegal International Migration Activities on the Nigerian-Chad**

Illegal International Migration can affect the following areas of a nation state resulting to but not limited to; economic and security threat, negative social impacted health risk. This effect of International Migration affects both the sending states and the receiving states. Socio-Economic Development and Security threat, Illegal migrants, pose threats to the economy of the receiving nation state. Economically, illegal migrants have both positive and negative impacts on the two (2) countries (sending and receiving states). Illegal immigrants reduce the amount 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 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. International Migration activities (emigration and immigration) have brought about insecurity in various nation states this alone has affected international relations and shaped foreign policies of these nation-states on diplomatic and security matters (Adeola and Fayomi, 2012:1, 6). One experience relating to the security issue that made countries alert is the 9/11 attack, (Rezouni, 2010) this has created a sense of consciousness on border national security in nation state. A nation state's border is very important to her survival. This is one of the main reasons why there is migration agency presence in every nation-state border not just to prevent smuggling but to prevent illegal entry of migrants through the nation state's gate for security reasons as well as for development of the nation state (Akinyemi, 2013).

International Migration has become a principal pattern for international economic relations as it links individuals, generates interactions and melts down artificially imposed barriers due to the status of a globalized world (Rezouni, 2010). However, movement must be regulated in other not to bring dangers and make the nation state in question at a disadvantage. This means Nigeria and Chad must take cognizance of movement in and out of the nation states. Illegal migrants pose security threats (Ebert, 2014) to the receiving states, mostly due to porous borders. Where there is security threats investors will be discouraged to invest in that nation state because it is assumed not to be safe for business and lives most especially popularly terrorism threats (Anuforo, 2006). These have corroborated the research assumption that says: "borders between sovereign states are essential mechanism for cross-border interactions depending on the nature they were constituted.

### **Factor Responsible for Cross Border Migration in Africa**

International migration which is also referred to as Cross-border migration is what the emphasis of this sub-heading is on. It is the migration or movement of people across a national boundary. This movement is usually to a different administrative jurisdiction of a different country. A cross-border migrant is a person who moves to a different country. Cross border migrants can be further grouped into three. They are: Refugees, Illegal migrants, and Legal migrants. Refugees are people who for fear of persecution flee their country of nationality to seek refuge in another country. Cartagena Declaration 1984 states that refugees include persons who flee their country "because their lives, security or freedom have been threatened by generalized violence, foreign aggression, internal conflicts, massive violations of human rights or other circumstances which have seriously disturbed public order." Illegal migrants are those migrants without legal stay in their host country, while Legal migrants are those with legal stay in their host country.

However, many cross-border migrants are without legal permission to stay in their host country. This makes their integration in the host's community very challenging. Moreover, before people migrate, they compare the desirability of their place based on its social, economic, political or environmental condition, to the value of living in another location. They also consider the advantages and disadvantages of staying versus moving, as well as factors such as distance, travel costs, travel time, modes of transportation, terrain, and cultural barriers (National Geographic Society, 2005). Birhan (2011) explained that in most cases, destination areas of migrants give opportunity to enjoy a better living condition. This is because provision of services such as electricity, piped water and public amenities makes destination areas attractive to migrants.

However, this is not the case with Nigeria and Chad border communities. Rural border communities are villages close to the boundary between two countries or states. Chad and Nigerian rural border communities like many other rural communities lack infrastructural facilities like roads, portable water, electricity, good communication network, education and health facilities among others. Many of the border communities in Africa specifically the rural border communities of Nigeria and Chad are characterized by neglect. The quality of life, access to opportunities and economic development is also very low in this area. People in the border communities are faced with challenges such as poverty, diseases, unemployment and violence (Will, 2010). Constanze (2014) attributed the low level of development and neglect in the border region to border conflicts and war. He explained that these are the major reasons government or individuals are unwilling to invest in them. In spite of the condition of these border communities, people from neighboring countries still migrate and settle in the area especially the rural border communities and this is really becoming popular. The reason for this can be linked to the fact that 'opportunities nearby are usually considered more attractive than equal or slightly better opportunities farther away, thus enabling migrants to settle in locations closer to their point of origin. Also, people are more likely to settle in a nearer place about which they have more knowledge than in a farther place about which they know and understand little. This is because as distance from a given location increase, understanding of that location decreases (National Geographic Society, 2005).

In line with the above, another reason migrants move towards the rural border communities especially in West Africa is to access farming opportunities because the area is characterized by extensive farm lands especially Nigeria. Also, most of the rural border indigenes in most cases use the cross-border migrants as farm labor in order to sustain farming activities and ensure food security in the country. There is therefore a need for these migrants to be well settled and integrated into the host communities. Migrants' integration according to Jimenez (2011) is a process where immigrants and their host communities mutually adapt to one another. It is an everyday interaction between the migrants and the host communities. It is also a function of migrants and host communities' characteristics which is based on the migrants' resources (e.g. skills, finance) and opportunities available in the host communities (Jiménez, 2011).

Also, migrants are integrated into their host communities through their migration facilitators and networks. Adepoju (1998) explained that cross border migration is facilitated by cultural affinity especially where the immigrants have the same custom and speak the same language with the host communities a very good example is the Shuwa Arab and the Kanuri ethnic affinity in The Chad and Nigeria respectively. Also, Chan (2009) opined that migration process involves networks which include relatives, neighbors, friends, formal and informal recruitment agents with migration experience. All these factors aid integration of the migrants in the host communities.

Migrants' integration in rural border communities of Nigeria and Chad has planning potentials given the low level of development in the area. It is on this note that this research attempts an examination of migrants' integration in rural border communities of Nigeria-Chad and its implications for planning. This is with a view to harnessing their positive impacts in the rural border development of the States.

### **Impact of Migration on Nigeria and Chad**

Migration's effects on development have attracted a lot of attention lately. Important findings regarding the influence of remittances on local, community, national, and international development processes have been noted.

Locally, remittances have become a significant part of household subsistence strategy. They have helped to improve household earnings and make previously unavailable services more accessible. At the community level, remittances have had a multiplier effect on the local economy by creating jobs and establishing new rural infrastructure and services that people desperately need. At the national level, remittances bring vital foreign cash and contribute significantly to the country's GDP. Furthermore, foreign migrants' investments in agriculture and solid minerals, among other things, can provide cash and jobs for the country.

At the international level, the observed increase in the volume of remittances has been noted as a significant element of modern (international) migration. The development impact has garnered so much interest and attention that available data suggest it is currently outpacing the level of Official Development Assistance (ODA) and possibly Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) (The Hague, 2008). Remittances can help to redistribute resources from industrialized and wealthy countries to relatively impoverished developing countries. Remittances and money transfers help reduce poverty and inequality between countries (Chimbowu, 2003).

Migration has a massive aggregate influence in the form of remittances, commodities, and services supplied, affecting both sending and receiving countries, regions, states, local government areas, and municipalities. Unfortunately, few people made use of these benefits for the betterment of their communities.

The literature on migrant remittances has unequivocally demonstrated how these remittances can boost Nigeria's economy. When highly skilled people emigrate overseas to pursue lucrative careers, such as doctors, engineers, nurses, academicians, businessmen, etc., remittances are usually substantial and focused on achieving specific goals and objectives. The phrase "diaspora" describes these former immigrants and their children. "Any people or ethnic population that leave their traditional ethnic homelands, being dispersed throughout other parts of the world" is how the International Organization for Migration defines diasporas (Glossary on Migration, 2004).

In both the non-economic and economic domains, all categories of migrants maintain strong ties to their hometowns. Over the course of their migration career, people may travel home occasionally, send money and consumer goods to friends and family, and even organize and support those who are willing to migrate. (Gugler and Flanagan 1978; Imoagene, 1968; Adepoju, 1990; Bilsborrow, 1986). Adepoju (1984) and Makinwa-Adebusoye (1981) assert that remittances are a well-established practice in Nigeria.

For migrants, insufficient or nonexistent remittances are viewed as failures. Sada (1984), Adepoju (1984), and Makinwa-Adebusoye (1981) state that most migrants send sizable portions of their earnings home to fund a variety of initiatives that improve and preserve the standard of living for household members. These include covering construction costs, starting a business or trade, transporting other potential migrants, and paying for children's education and laborers on the family farm. An analysis of their financial remittances revealed that about 21% of the 64.1% of diasporas in Ikaland, Delta State, sent more than \$US10,000 (N500,000). The remittances were utilized as follows: 75.8% for family projects, 15.2% for community projects, and many more. However, the incapacity to channel such remittances in an organized way for the sole purpose of creating long-lasting policies by recording the pattern, frequency, and likely volume is a significant setback for the nation. For example, the World Bank (2005) estimated that remittances to Africa totaled \$14 billion, with the biggest recipients being Egypt, Morocco, and Nigeria. It also confirmed that the proceeds are mostly used for current consumption.

The volume of such remittances is greatly determined by a number of factors, namely, the size of themigrants, the proportion of their income remitted, their length of stay, and the institutionalframework for making remittances. If the number of migrants is sizeable, individual s can unite intoan organization or union, and constitute a formidable force that can be utilized f or development in their home country.

### **Theoretical framework**

To explain the implications of illegal migrations and cross border governance in Africa, the paper employed two relevant theories: The Structuralist and Functionalist theories.

#### **The Structuralist theory**

The Structural approach manages a state's boundaries with "one rule for all" policies, while the Functionalist approach employs integrative trans-border mechanisms to manage everyday

trans-boundary realities of the borderland communities (Stoddard, 2002:45). In other words, the Structuralist treatment of boundaries is a “state-centric approach” whose exclusive preoccupation is with the maintenance of the sanctity of the integrity of the state while other considerations are relegated to the background (Olujimi, 2010:40). For the Structuralist, international boundaries are barriers and filters, separating foreigners from nationals. This contradicts the views of the state elite to the study of international boundaries. The state (government) and state elite regards boundaries as an immutable feature of the state from which the character and essence of the state derive; it marks the extent of its territorial jurisdiction, beyond which are foreigners whose access into the state must be controlled and within which are citizens who must be protected and provided for (van Creveld, 1999).

The Structural approach regards the international boundaries of the state as the juridical extent of state territory and sovereignty. While the Functionalist perspective is centred on issues of “low politik”, the Structuralist approach focuses on the “high politik” of the realist school of international relations. Central to the Structuralist approach in the study of international boundaries are the twin concepts of “territoriality and sovereignty”. The Structural approach reifies the doctrine of territorial integrity, which refers to a preoccupation of the state with the issues of self-preservation and accumulation of power aimed at maintaining territorial and political continuity (Losch, 1954:200). The approach is hinged on three core hypotheses:

1. Nation states are homogeneous coercive entities where all subgroups accept their respective national goals and objectives;
2. Formulating policies affecting the survival of the state is the exclusive preserve of national leaders with the basic assumption that interests of the various sections are aggregated as the interests of the state;
3. The singular function of every international boundary is the maintenance of the territorial integrity of the state it encloses. The responsibilities of national leaders include the preservation of territorial integrity by protecting the people and its land from external encroachment (Stoddard, 2002:42).

The Structuralist framework (particularly, the works of Boggs, 1940; Kristof, 1959; Prescott, 1965 and 1970) is employed mostly in finding solutions to boundary related issues of national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Another important criticism of this approach is its assumption that state and society, or state and nation are necessarily synonymous or coterminous and therefore, the application of “one-rule-for-all” approach of the state. This assumption informs the aggregation of the interests of the people by the political elite as the interests of the states. In other words, the interest of the state in policing (and maintaining) the boundary is equated with the interests of the people (Olujimi, 2010:43). However, this attitude is constantly queried as the same people cross the same boundary for sundry reasons and circumvents state policies in spite of the strictures imposed by the state. This dichotomy in perception between the state or government on one hand, and the people or groups (communities) on the other and subsequent policy by the state have contributed in no small measures to the failure of the Structuralist approach in transforming the barrier challenge of boundaries (which are often conflict prone) to cooperative and integrative advantages.

Another challenge for this approach is that, it fails to take into cognizance the contrasting perspectives between the state (and government) and the society (people); thereby highlighting the implications of such situations for both the state and the people as well as for inter-state relations.

### **The Functionalist Theory**

The Functionalist theory to the study of boundaries developed as a reaction to the failure of the Structuralist school in the study of boundaries. It takes off on the premise that certain research endeavours could not be effective if restricted to formal institutions, but they must spread to include informal groups and organizations. Functionalism involves the employment of sociological and anthropological techniques and conceptual frameworks in the understanding of certain political phenomena which traditional political science techniques alone would not be able to adequately address. It provides tools for the analysis of informal, non-institutional politically relevant activities; it reduces value orientation to an insignificant degree; it is concerned principally with what happens, and not such ethical judgment as what ought to happen (Jones, 1967:10).

The Functionalist theory contrary to the Structuralist views boundaries as points of “differential converters” to ameliorate socio-economic and political differences between people and institutions across international boundaries. It is based on “the doctrine of mutual necessity or symbiotic reciprocity, which promotes cooperation and integration” (Stoddard, 2002:45). It acknowledges and employs informal functions and affinities between people straddling a bi-national boundary. This becomes important when the people across the boundary are of the same stock that the delimitation of the boundary had partitioned in the first instance. Asiwaju (1984) refers to such groups as vivisected, that is, de-linked parts of the same body which would always seek reunification, or at least, some form of re-linking. The perspective promotes permeable boundaries, which allow unfettered mutual cross-boundary interchanges. In other words, the Functionalist approach views boundaries from the perspective of the people whose interests are secondary or ignored in the statist approach.

The Functionalist theory is a dynamic view of contemporary boundaries based on land-use and ownership customs. At the primitive stage of the development of human social organizations, primeval societies were essentially nomadic. They frequently moved about in tribal bands in search of fruits and game as well as land to be used in the simplest form of tillage. Life was essentially insecure, “nasty, brutish and short”. Travels and communications were hazardous and hampered by natural obstacles and wild beasts (Cukwurah, 1967:10-11).

In their continuous search for fertile land, they came into contact with other groups from whom they must have been separated by natural barriers. Competition and conflicts necessarily ensued over access to land and other resources. Subsequently, some forms of crude limits of territories were worked out, usually in the form of frontier zones insulating neighboring groups from each other. In these buffer zones, a whole range of interactions including annexation (of the frontier) went on without necessarily violating each other’s designated ancestral lands or territoriality (Stoddard, 2002). When modern state boundaries (with precise locations and as the absolute limits of state territoriality) were imposed in the New World, Africa and much of the Third World, frontier zones disappeared but indigenous borderland peoples continue to use them in

surmounting the disruptive impact of boundaries as well as exploiting them for economic gains through trans-border arbitrage among others.

The Functionalists view frontier networks as continuous trans-boundary linkages, the so called “cultural borderland (CB)”; a permanent non-state system for coordinating activities of contiguous cultural areas separated by colonial boundaries (Olujimi, 2010:46). Since boundaries in Africa are colonial impositions with little or no regard for pre-existing boundary situations, local trans-boundary cooperation usually subsists in spite of the structurally-induced strictures imposed by states. Momoh (1989) identifies the maximum interaction frontier zone as one of three frontier interaction zones, which is one where two cultures overlap or where one culture area had been partitioned by international boundary but continues as though the boundary was non-existent. Thus, long after the determination of the boundary, trans-boundary interactions continue even though they may not be sanctioned by the states (Stoddard, 2002:60).

There are three fundamental postulations of the Functionalists on boundaries (Stoddard, 2002:62), namely:

1. A contemporary nation-state is made up of a sundry array of interest groups and social classes as well as a complex mosaic of ethnic, racial and religious categories.
2. Trans-boundary interfaces involving cultural, economic, political and ideological influences preserve important channels of communication between local populations straddling international boundary. These local informal networks allow local authorities to coordinate common regional goals while reducing bi-national tensions between the states.
3. Whenever centrist structural policies for the borderland are ineffective, local functional practices are employed in attempts to find solutions to current border problems. Regional and local jurisdictions, more familiar with chronic boundary irritations are more appropriate to support functional policies which reflect realistic solutions to boundary problems.

These functional assumptions about the nature of boundary are important in the understanding of the primacy attained by functionalism over structuralism in boundary studies in recent years. While the Structuralists believe that the nation-state is coterminous with the society and as such, collective policies are made on such bases which have had grave repercussions for the borderland communities and regional integration; the Functionalists on the contrary, see the modern state as being comprised of a mosaic of interests and social groups. State decision makers must necessarily factor in these multifarious interests and aspirations in the decision-making process about boundaries and borderland people.

To the Structuralists, the singular function of the boundary is “territorial maintenance with its attendant separation and exclusion tendencies”. Indeed, to this school of thought, any amount of “boundary leakage” is a measure of the state’s ineffectiveness in asserting its territoriality. This perception of boundary by the state fosters rival territoriality and competition between neighboring states (Nigeria and Chad) that should rather be involved in cooperative and symbiotic relationships (Olujimi, 2010:47).

However, the Functionalists advocate permeable boundary to cater for the realities of everyday interactions with the boundary by people who live along and are directly affected by the boundaries. The livelihood of these people are tied to the boundaries as they are largely left to their own devices by the state whose policies toward the border are largely characterized by neglect, as these regions are considered peripheral zones. The Functionalist approach to boundaries and borderlands is based on community oriented and bottom-up approach in understanding boundaries and borderland communities. The Structuralist approach with its one rule-for-all approach has proved to be inadequate in understanding and handling the dynamics of everyday reality of the borderland communities as well as their interactions with the boundary.

The Functionalist approach, with its focus on historical, social and cultural linkages and affinities of the people as well as its view of frontier networks as continuous trans-boundary linkages have proved to be very useful in the contemporary globalized system as well as inter-state relations. As many inter-state boundaries in Africa are colonial creations with little or no regard for pre-existing boundary situations, local trans-boundary cooperation usually subsists in spite of the structurally-induced strictures imposed by states.

The bridge-building characteristics of functionalism is also significant in terms of cooperative inter-state relations between geographically contiguous states hosting fractions of the same ethnic group or communal settings partitioned by an international boundary, ultimately fostering sub-regional integration. However, as boundaries remain central to the essence of the state and inter-state relations remain a preserve of the central authorities of the state, the Functionalist fails to explain the strategic reasons for communal crises along border frontiers that cut across neighboring communities along international boundaries. In other words, they did not address the issues of identity settlement, identity belonging and the claim of ownership over geographical spaces along border communities.

### **Conclusion**

The paper demonstrates that illegal migration across the Nigeria-Chad border is mostly the result of long-standing structural factors in the Lake Chad Basin, such as poverty, unemployment, environmental degradation, and chronic insecurity. According to structuralists, systemic disparities and underdevelopment patterns drive border people to engage in irregular migration as a survival strategy rather than as a purposeful violation of state rules.

From a functionalist perspective, the continuance of illicit migration indicates serious flaws in cross-border governance institutions. Weak institutional coordination, insufficient border management capacity, and ineffective implementation of bilateral and regional migration frameworks have hampered Nigerian and Chadian governments' abilities to regulate movement. As a result, informal and illegal migratory networks have arisen to fill roles that established government mechanisms have failed to deliver.

Finally, the Nigeria-Chad experience illustrates that coercive or security-driven measures alone would not successfully address illegal migration. Sustainable solutions necessitate structural socioeconomic reforms as well as functional improvements in cross-border governance, such as increased institutional collaboration, the formation of border towns, and policy harmonization

on migration. Illegal migration in the region can only be effectively handled if structural causes and governance failings are addressed together.

### **Recommendations**

Based on this the research recommends that:

1. Effective border management is essential to a good national migration system. Developments around the world, especially the advent of globalization, have resulted in an increased pace of movement across international boundaries, thus exerting increased pressure on existing border control mechanisms. The problems of “mixed flows” and “irregular flows” of persons across national borders have raised new challenges that require strengthening of the capacity of border management personnel to analyze the evolving dynamics of international migration and to distinguish between persons who have legitimate and those with non-legitimate reasons for entry and stay;
2. The draft national policy on migration should be implemented. At this point in time, all necessary protocols should have been addressed in implementing the national migration policy;
3. The National Commission for Refugees, which is responsible for coordinating the different activities, should be aware of its diverse functions. Therefore, its roles and responsibilities should be clearly indicated, understood and agreed upon;

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