

# **An Assessment of Humanitarian Crisis Created by Boko Haram Insurgency in Yobe State, Nigeria**

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**Received: August 29, 2022**

**Accepted: November 10, 2022**

**ABSTRACT:** The study aimed at assessing the humanitarian crisis created as a result of the activities of Boko Haram Insurgency in Yobe State, Nigeria. However, a critical analysis of the sect revealed illiteracy and poverty as the major causal factors. The study adopted an exploratory type of research and a secondary method of data collection. Data were sourced from secondary sources from the areas affected by the menace of Boko Haram insurgency. Findings from the affected Local Government Areas in Yobe State indicates that there is inadequate humanitarian response to people affected by the violence perpetrated by the Boko Haram insurgents, lack of accurate data on the needs of the displaced people in Yobe State and absence of accurate and reliable data misled any response to humanitarian crisis in the State because it may not reach the targeted population. The study recommended that government and security personnel should have interagency collaboration with the NGOs and address the major causal factors of the insurgency by introducing people-centered alleviation programs and free education.

**Keywords:** Boko Haram, Insurgency, Humanitarian crisis, Yobe State

## **Introduction:**

Insecurity is the primary cause of the humanitarian crisis in Nigeria. Insecurity in the form of violent extremist movements that seek the overthrow of governments started as ethnically homogeneous movements in Nigeria. They have developed over time toward increasingly ambitious political objectives and have become actively involved in neighboring states (Stephen & Rorisang, 2016). Since Nigeria's independence from Britain in 1960, various types of insurgency have existed; the 1967–1970 civil war, militant ethnic militias like the Oodua People's Congress (OPC), the Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB), and the twelve-day

revolution headed by Adaka Boro in 1964 (Emmanueller, 2018). The widespread socioeconomic hardship and religious insecurity among some communities in the North were factors in the development of Boko Haram, whose actions caused severe humanitarian disasters in North East Nigeria (Fwatshak & Larab, 2004; Ikelegbe, 2010).

Nigeria's position on the Global Terrorism Index degraded over time, moving from 16th out of 158 nations in 2008 to 6th (tied with Somalia) and from 6th out of 138 countries in 2019 to 3rd, while Afghanistan and Iraq were ranked first and second, respectively. According to United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Fact Sheet (2015 as cited in Tarnoff, 2015), 24.4 million people are living in states that are frequently attacked by Boko Haram, 1.4 million people have been internally displaced, 168,000 Nigerian refugees in the neighboring countries, an estimated 4.6 million people are food insecure, and 1.5 million malnourished children. The challenge posed by Boko Haram in Nigeria, according to Alozieuwa (2012 as cited in Anyadike, 2013), is not only about the brutality of either its terror campaigns or the sect's declared mission to impose Islamic law on the nation but also about the uncertainty surrounding the precise cause(s) of the violence.

The heavy toll of the humanitarian crises in the form of an increase in internally displaced people (IDPs), refugee influx, food shortages, the spread of dangerous diseases, and gender- and sexual-based violence has therefore been the most destructive repercussions of these insurgencies around the world (Hughes, 2012, as cited in Emmanuel, 2015). According to Bintube (2015), the Boko Haram insurgency seriously threatens national security and socioeconomic life in contemporary Nigeria. Its violent acts, including willful destruction of lives and property, suicide bombings, assassinations, and the palpable fear and suspicion they instil in the population, weaken social structures and threaten the social well-being of Nigerians.

The rise in youth radicalization and violent militant Islamist organizations since the founding of Boko Haram has been in northeastern Nigeria. President Goodluck Jonathan declared a state of emergency in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe States in May 2013 in response to bombings across the northeast. President Muhammadu Buhari promised to end the insurgency and address the humanitarian and economic catastrophe caused by the Boko Haram terrorists during his inaugural speech on May 29, 2015. The President instructed the Heads of the Military to move their headquarters to Maiduguri, Borno State, which is the State most negatively impacted by the insurgents' actions, to complete the difficult mission. Some of the primary elements for Boko Haram's fertilization and expansion might be traced to the region's perilous socioeconomic suffering

caused by poor climate conditions for farming and livestock rearing, as well as government negligence at all levels (Rizzo, 2015, cited in Kamta et al. 2020).

### **Objective of the study:**

The research aim and objective is to assess the impact of Boko Haram insurgency on the humanitarian crisis in Yobe state.

### **Problem statement:**

More than 2.5 million people have fled Nigeria to neighboring countries due to the actions of the deadly Islamist group Boko Haram since the war began there in 2009 (Nwaoga, 2017). Domestically, the militants' violent attacks on villages have made Nigeria the nation in sub-Saharan Africa with the highest number of internally displaced people (IDPs) (Humanitarian Response Plan, 2019). According to the Displacement Tracking Matrix (2017 as cited in Nwaoga, 2017), children under 5 make up 28% of IDPs, with women and children making up 79% of the population.

The IDPs in North-Eastern Nigeria are in urgent need of life-saving assistance, such as food and nutrition, healthcare, shelter, non-food items, potable water, and improved sanitation and hygiene conditions, according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA, cited by Abdullhi, et al., 2018). Violence has also significantly impacted the IDPs' ability to receive an education. However, another protection issue that IDPs face is child and gender-based violence (CGBV), among others. Another worrying problem that worsens the situation of these displaced individuals is the possibility of IDPs returning to their communities (UNOCHA, 2018).

More than one million one hundred and sixteen thousand five Hundred and thirty six (1,116,536) IDPs were registered in twelve Local Government Areas of Yobe State, including Fika, Potiskum, Nangare, Fune, Jakusko, Bade, Nguru, Damaturu Tarmuwa Karasuwa, Bursari, and Machina, according to statistics from the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), as of the end of November 2019. Similar to this, 8,278 or 8,278 homes, schools, and places of worship were destroyed (Pulse Nigeria, 2016 as cited in Alkali & Yaya, 2019). Most IDPs reside in improvised camps that lack basic amenities, including comfort, sufficient shelter, and drinkable water. Where healthcare facilities exist, they are under equipped with insufficient skilled staff and medication, and not all IDPs have access to them. However, IDP camps in several LGA are

susceptible to security risks and poor living conditions, particularly in Gujaba and Gulani, which have been repeatedly targeted by militants (Alkali & Yaya, 2019).

The Nigerian government has formed a committee to draft a National Policy on IDPs to aid in identity card registration and issuance, internal displacement avoidance or reduction, and responsibility distribution among government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and civil society organizations. The National Policy for Internally Displaced Persons was written and presented to the government in 2011, but it hasn't been implemented as of 2021. There are few studies conducted to address the effects of the Boko Haram insurgency on the humanitarian crisis in Yobe state. Therefore, the study would attempt to assess the aftermath of Boko Haram's humanitarian problems and socioeconomic changes.

### **Methodology:**

The study adopted an exploratory type of research and a secondary method of data collection. Data were sourced from secondary sources from the areas affected by the menace of Boko Haram insurgency and the humanitarian exigency created herewith. The rationale behind the adoption of the above design and methods is to utilize the data collected from the affected areas in Yobe State and analyze it differently from its original purpose of collection.

### **Conceptual clarification-the concept of insurgency:**

According to Moore (2007), an insurgency is a violent action taken by an individual or group of individuals to reject or resist the application of the law, the operation of the government, to rebel against the established authority of a state, or to engage in insurrection. He also suggests that insurgency may be characterized as a criminal act and a violation of human rights. It is a crime against public order because it is a pattern of internal unrest and tension that presents serious issues for the relevant authorities concerning public safety and public order, which could eventually result in circumstances that threaten the survival of a country and tempt the government to declare a state of emergency. Internal unrest includes situations of violent conflict, which can take many different forms, ranging from the emergence of an act of rebellion to a conflict between more or less organized organizations and the official authorities in power.

### **The meaning of Boko Haram:**

The phrase "western education is immoral" is what Boko Haram, an Arabicized Hausa term, simply means. It is used by the Jama'atul Ahul Sunnah Lidda'awati wal Jihad group, which claims

to be dedicated to the Hadith of the Prophet Muhammad's teachings and Islamic jihad (Adenrele, 2012). According to some academics, the Maitatsine riots of the 1980s and the ensuing religious and ethnic tensions in the late 1990s were the root causes of Boko Haram (Johnson, 2011, as cited in Adenrele, 2012). The group's name also suggests that receiving a "Western" or "non-Islamic" education is wrong. This roughly translates from the Hausa language of the region to "Western education is prohibited".

### **Background of the study area:**

Yobe State is a state situated in the Northeastern part of Nigeria; it was created and carved out of Borno State in August 1991 by the Babangida administration, covering an area of 45,502 km<sup>2</sup> (17,568 sq mi) with Damaturu as its capital. The 2011 estimate by the National Population Commission (NPC) shows that Yobe State has a population figure of 2,757,000, and it consists of seventeen (17) Local Government Areas (LGA's) zoned into zone A, B & C.

The ethnic composition of the Yobe state is diverse, brought about by long-existing links with various people in different ethnic groups. However, the Kanuri, Shuwa, Hausa, Bodaway, Bade and Takari are the main ethnic groups settled in the area, with Kanuri, Fulani and Hausa dominating the area (Aliyu, 2015). Furthermore, Yobe state has diverse economic potential. For example, it is believed that the largest cattle market in the Northern part of the country is located in Potiskum; potassium and gum Arabic are found in commercial quantities in the northern part of the state, and cotton, groundnut, and beans are also produced in the state (Isa, 2015). In addition, mineral resources such as kaolin, quartz, gypsum, and other chemicals are found in substantial deposits in most parts of the state.

Finally, peasant farmers make up a substantial portion of the state's population, although a sizable portion also engages in active livestock production, trading, and fishing. As the town's population develops and expands, so do the requirements and demands for a living, which has resulted in the creation of specific factories and numerous other forms of commerce to satisfy the population's needs and desires.

### **Internal displacement:**

The massive internal population displacements that have resulted from the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria is one of its aftermath effects (Gwadabe et al., 2018). Internal displacement occurs when individuals or groups are forcibly uprooted from their homes and relocated somewhere within their country due to a human-induced or natural crisis (Gwadabe et al., 2018). The Internal

Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC) estimates that between 2009, when Boko Haram began to use violence, and 2016, about 2.5 million individuals were compelled to leave their homes for safety and became internally displaced. While many others are spread out over numerous host communities, some are in the camps. According to the 2017 report "IDMC » Nigeria IDP Figures Analysis," there was an accelerated rise in the number of IDPs from roughly 5,000 in 2009 to about 2.5 million (2.5M) in 2016. Internal displacement occurs when individuals or groups are forced to leave and remain away from their homes while remaining inside the borders of their own countries (Alobo & Obaji, 2016).

### **Humanitarian intervention: post-cold perspective:**

Humanitarian crises threaten the health, safety, security, or well-being of a community or other substantial group of people, often over a vast geographical area (Humanitarian Coalition, 2013, para 2, cited in Okoli et al., 2014). It falls under the following classes: 1. Natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, storms, and volcanic eruptions. Second, common artificial disasters include wars, train and airplane crashes, fires, and accidents in the manufacturing and processing industries. Thirdly, complex emergencies occur when a large portion of the population suddenly loses access to essential services like water, food, shelter, safety, or healthcare due to external events or forces like war or terrorism (Humanitarian Coalition, 2013, Para 3 as cited in Okoli et al, 2014).

Humanitarianism was expanded to include the need to preserve human rights rather than being defined as a sympathetic reaction to human suffering. In addition, the concept of human rights was expanded to include the rights to freedom of expression and assembly and the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. If these rights are violated, the international community is responsible for stepping in and ensuring they are respected and protected (American Foreign Relation Report, 2022).

Article 2(1) of the United Nations Charter states that the notion of sovereignty is one of the Charter's guiding principles and that this ideal has been a constant in international law and politics. However, with the fall of the Soviet Union, the sovereignty doctrine was rethought to reflect the new global interest in upholding human rights, including ideas like nonintervention, nonuse of force, and noninterference. As a result, the international community faced the difficult choice of undermining the ideals contained in the Charter by intervening in nations where serious human rights violations were taking place as the number of intrastate conflicts increased following the fall of the Soviet Union (Bricmon, 2006).

Similarly, after the Soviet Union's fall, hope grew that the international community might better address humanitarian crises. The post-Cold War era saw a dramatic increase in humanitarian interventions due to the growing awareness of the need to safeguard human rights, drawing both support and criticism from the global community (Chomsky, 2008). It has been argued that wealthy countries have utilized this rising intervention trend as a strategic instrument to increase their influence and control over weaker states, especially those in the third world. When humanitarian concerns are invoked to justify violating principles of sovereignty and participating in the affairs of other states, the intentions of the intervening state may be called into doubt. Most humanitarian aid from western powers comes in the form of military actions. In Nigeria, however, there has not been a single military action in the name of humanitarian intervention other than the supply of food, shelter, healthcare, and education since the start of the insurgency (Boko Haram).

After the end of the cold war, the Western powers engaged in an unparalleled expansion of exploitative interventions in the name of humanitarian aid. Several historians have regarded these interventions as imperialistic (Orford, 2003). For proponents of postcolonial theory, the primary goal of the postcolonial movement was to provide a new lens through which to examine the relationships between Westerners and people and governments in other parts of the world. The theory provides a comprehensive illustration of the results of colonialism on the colonized states and argues that these results continue to shape the world today, as contemporary cultures are still influenced by and subject to the power structures that were established during colonialism. The theory further contends that Europe and North America dominated the three non-western continents even after conquered governments achieved national sovereignty (Asia, Latin America and Africa) as almost 90% of the world's land area was controlled by Europeans or European-derived nations.

On the other hand, humanitarian interventionists have attempted to strengthen the West's status as a global leader at times. Others claim that the end of the Cold War has allowed international institutions to grow, free of superpower competition and that this is why Western states favor multilateral action. They needed to have a sense of global community. Therefore, the imperialist objectives for this new norm of intervention will continue to pose severe issues for the future evolution of the debate over humanitarian operations. A more compassionate future necessitates a paradigm shift away from the significance of sovereignty and national interest and toward an approach in which human rights should be the primary motivation for involvement.

### **Humanitarian crisis created by Boko Haram insurgency:**

The continued increase in the spread of the nefarious activities of the Boko Haram group in the Northeast since 2009 has created adverse humanitarian consequences in the region (Emmanuela, 2015). Livelihood in most of the affected communities of Yobe, Borno and Adamawa states; Buni-Yadi, Buni-Gari, Goniri, Gujba, Kawuri, Baga, Konduga, Bama, Malari, Dalori, Pulka, Giwa, Chibok, Gwoza, Kalabalge, Ngamboru, Dikwa, Marte, Mubi to mention but a few, have been economically, socially, and politically stagnant and nasty.

Furthermore, the Northeast region has had severe humanitarian needs over the past ten years (2011–2021). Millions of individuals have been forced to seek humanitarian aid due to the situation (WHO, 2018). The most affected states in the region include Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe, while Bauchi, Gombe, and Taraba were comparatively calm. According to UNHCR estimates, 5.8 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance since September 2018, and 1.8 million people have been internally displaced. Furthermore, over 60% of the internally displaced people (IDPs) lived in host communities, placing further strain on these communities' already overburdened resources, and over 80% of them were located in Borno State, the crisis' epicenter (UNHCR, 2018, cited in Kamta et al., 2020).

The educational sector has suffered since Boko Haram extremists started their indiscriminate attacks. The primary and most frequent effects of Boko Haram on the educational sector are the group's regular destruction of school buildings and the killing of teachers and schoolchildren. This has resulted in a low enrollment rate, particularly at the impacted areas' primary and senior secondary schools.

The attacks occurred when Nigeria adopted Western education widely and created schools in every corner of the nation. One of the pillars of Nigerian human and capital growth has been identified as the educational system, which is currently under threat by Islamist rebels (Patrick & Felix, 2013). These groups have targeted schools in the north with numerous attacks and threats; in some attacks, teachers were killed or injured, and buildings were destroyed (Patrick & Felix, 2013).

According to the Demographic Health Study Education Data survey (2011) as cited in (Mohammed, 2014) report, 4 percent of children in the federal capital territory and 72% of children in Borno state have never attended school. The survey showed that, on average, 28 of every 120 kids in Zamfara are enrolled in school. Out of every 120 children, just 29 in Borno, 34 in Sokoto, and 42 in Yobe are enrolled, whereas 113 out of every 120 students in Plateau State are enrolled (DHS Education Data Survey Report, 2011). For instance, on July 6, 2016, before dawn, shooters opened fire on a government-run boarding school with 1,200 pupils in Mamudo Village, Potiskum

LGA, Yobe State, killing at least 42 people, the majority of whom were kids (Amadu, 2016). Others suffered gunshot wounds, while some had large chunks of their bodies burned and blown off. A teacher, a few members of staff, and kids made up most of those slain (Amadu, 2016). In Borno and Yobe states, 57 percent of schools were shuttered in late September 2017 because of concern for Boko Haram attacks, according to the United Nations (2017).

Additionally, according to estimates from the UN released in 2017, the war between security forces and Boko Haram damaged 1,500 schools between January 2014 and December 2016, resulting in at least 1,280 teacher and student deaths (GCPEA, 2018). Compared to the 2009–2013 period covered in *Education under Attack 2014*, these numbers showed more frequent and systematic incidents of attacks on schools from 2013 to 2015, coinciding with increased activity by Boko Haram (GCPEA, 2018). 314 schoolchildren were killed between January 2012 and December 2014, according to education officials in the northeast of the country (GCPEA, 2018). As of October 2015, Boko Haram had killed more than 600 teachers, according to the Nigerian Union of Teachers. According to similar research by Amnesty International (2013), up to 50 schools in Borno state alone were attacked, burned, or damaged in 2013, resulting in the deaths of 70 teachers and 126 students in Borno and Yobe States in 2013 alone. In addition, 209 schools have been destroyed by Boko Haram raids, with the damage costing an estimated \$15.6 million (YSMEAR, 2017).

Some academics believe that Boko Haram is a terrorist organisation that opposes education because of the group's popular name, which means "Western education is forbidden," and the frequency of its assaults or attacks on educational facilities, targets particularly western-oriented schools (Mukhtar et al., 2015). This is paradoxical because some members of Boko Haram and its breakaway groups attended college, such as Aminu Sadiq Ogwuche, a Nigerian Army deserter born in Britain and suspected of being responsible for the Nyanya, Abuja, explosions in 2014. In Nigeria, acts of violence against students, teachers, union members, schools, and government officials are rising. Nevertheless, the Boko Haram crisis in Nigeria made school attack incidents more concerning.

The group's ruthless attacks on students, scholars, professors, and educational facilities also show how they loathe western administrative and political systems and want to destroy modern education (Mukhtar et al., 2015). Additionally, the purposeful threats made by Boko Haram against students, academics, teachers, and educational buildings prevent all northern Nigerians from getting high-quality education.

## **The role of government and non-governmental organizations in the management of humanitarian crisis created by Boko Haram insurgency:**

The African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, also known as the Kampala convention of 2009, was adopted by the special summit of the Union held in Kampala, Uganda, on October 22, 2009, and served as the basis for the Nigerian government's policy and approaches to the humanitarian crisis brought on by the Boko Haram insurgency.

The federal and state governments have established cells in Maiduguri and sub-cells in Yola, Damaturu, to handle the humanitarian difficulties in the North East. These offices were built up in these states to handle the surge of IDPs and those taking sanctuary in the neighboring nations. This was done to establish a safe passage for locals who had escaped Boko Haram occupations to walk into safety and to give humanitarian workers access to the IDPs' urgently needed help.

NEMA has been supplying food to the IDPs in the camps to supplement the efforts of the affected state governments and address humanitarian issues, particularly food security and nutrition (Ekson, 2016). NEMA and the states of Borno and Yobe signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to ensure a constant supply of these food and non-food items (NFIs). Along with deploying a medical team and equipment to the North East to facilitate the provision of Medicare to the IDPs, the Agency also provided medications to significant hospitals in the zones and working resources for IDPs with expertise in particular skills (Ekson, 2016).

Similarly, the Yobe state schoolchildren impacted by Boko Haram have access to the Educational Support Programme (EDSP) through the Nigerian Foundation for the Support of Victims of Terrorism. According to the Executive Secretary of the Victims Support Fund, the EDSP focuses on school-aged children affected by violence and terrorism in the state. With the certainty of their future, VSF's mission in Nigeria is to restore the dignity and well-being of Boko Haram victims of terrorism and conflict. At the same time, our goal is to support and transform those affected by terrorism and insurgency in the nation through developing relationships and mobilizing sustainable funding.

The VSF has started its Educational Support Programme in Yobe state as part of its ongoing efforts to carry out its mandate to provide aid to insurgency victims and foster an atmosphere that will foster rapid healing and lasting peace and development. According to him, the first phase of the VSF project will benefit 21,291 kids and will provide them with textbooks, exercise books, writing

supplies, school bags, and sandals, among other things. According to him, a breakdown of the Educational Support Programme (EDSP) beneficiaries shows that Borno state received 10,000 students and teachers, while Adamawa and Yobe received 7, 000, 3, 000, and 1, 291 students and instructors, respectively. The VSF has started its Educational Support Programme in Yobe State as part of its ongoing efforts to carry out its mandate to provide aid to insurgency victims and foster an atmosphere that will bring rapid healing and lasting peace and development.

The Inter-Sector Working Group and the Humanitarian Country Team had active participation from the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) (ISWG). The HCT convenes once a month under the direction of the UN Resident Coordinator to provide strategic leadership, establish policy, and engage with the Federal Government. The ISWG encourages sectoral coordination and responsiveness. Along with the child protection sub-sector, UNICEF leads the education, WASH, and nutrition sectors. In addition, since April 29, 2015, UNICEF has assisted Yobe State's State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) with inter-sector coordination.

### **Results and discussion of findings:**

Findings from the affected local government areas in Yobe State indicate an inadequate humanitarian response to people affected by the violence perpetrated by the Boko Haram insurgents. Attempts by state and local governments to resettle the IDPs and enable them to restart everyday life have been unsuccessful because the policy framework did not enable them to be economically independent. This is consistent with Kurtzer's (2020) conclusions, according to which there is not enough local and international political pressure on the Nigerian government to respond more thoroughly to the humanitarian requirements. Conflicting interests between states and within UN organizations have pushed humanitarian imperatives aside in favor of development and economic concerns on a global scale.

The findings further revealed a lack of accurate data on the needs of the displaced people in Yobe State. This absence of accurate and reliable data misled any response to the humanitarian crisis in the state because it may not reach the targeted population. The results revealed that in Yobe State alone, there are about 306,899 IDPs in need of shelter, while both State and Federal governments have concentrated on providing food items. This is similar to IOM's statement from 2020, which claimed that 309,887 IDPs are at risk of exposure to hazardous elements because there are not enough shelter options available. In addition, 68,090 returnees are also residing in severely damaged shelters. Another 1,156,509 internally displaced persons (IDPs) living in camps and host

communities lack basic housing and NFI (Non-Food Items) supplies, and 277,530 returnees are housed in partially destroyed homes. This illustrates how poorly the impacted areas of Yobe State received aid.

Similarly, the finding showed that affected areas in Yobe State had received less attention than Borno State because outsiders consider the state less affected by the insurgency. Even in the Humanitarian Response Plan of Nigeria (2020), the affected areas in Yobe State were classified as having low humanitarian needs, which is contrary to the reality on the ground. According to the Humanitarian Response Plan (2020), out of the 5.9 million people targeted for assistance in 2020, 1.8 million, or 31%, are internally displaced persons (IDPs) residing in both formal and unofficial camps as well as host communities. The remaining 4.1 million individuals, or 69%, live in host communities and are responsible for caring for IDPs and returnees. Women and girls in these populations face particular protection concerns, such as increased exposure to the dangers of rape, kidnapping, and use as "sex slaves," among other things. In addition to the lack of access to essential basic services, humanitarian partners identified poor living conditions due to substandard shelter, congestion in formal and informal camps, and lack of access to education services as factors contributing to the deteriorating living standards of the IDPs, returnees, and host communities in this category.

Additionally, the findings revealed that many obstacles hindered humanitarian aid from reaching the people in dire need in Yobe State. These obstacles could be a lack of government cooperation or the military, who refused to give the needed support and cover for the aid workers whom the Boko Haram insurgents target in the areas. This created a triangular obstacle to addressing the humanitarian crisis in Yobe State. This is supported by the results of Stoddard, Harvey, Czwaro, and Breckenridge (2020), which revealed that since the current humanitarian response in 2016, access for aid workers to the conflict-affected regions of northeastern Nigeria has been severely restricted. Humanitarian aid is entirely unavailable for an estimated 1.2 million Nigerians who live outside the government-controlled regions in those states, and several million more face varying degrees of difficulty accessing it. Northeast Nigeria has become one of the most challenging working environments for aid organizations due to a combination of insecurity, the actions of contending parties, and the lack of robust and coordinated advocacy by foreign diplomatic and humanitarian actors. This is also supported by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) (2020), which claims that 1.2 million Nigerians live in inaccessible areas of the northeast controlled by armed groups. There is insufficient data available on the status of civilians residing in these areas, but all indications point to an escalating humanitarian crisis.

## **Conclusion:**

The Boko Haram insurgency has produced a grave humanitarian crisis that domestic and foreign governments, aid agencies, non-governmental organizations, and civil society organizations are trying to manage and address. Yobe State, like Borno and Adamawa, is one of the most afflicted states in the Northeast, yet the response to the needs of victims of insurgent attacks is poor. This has left the majority of the victims and displaced persons in a perilous situation and situation worse than the Boko Haram attacks because they are subjected to a slew of problems ranging from hunger, destitution, sickness, and sexual abuse because they are left to fend for themselves at the mercy of nature. The social and economic lives of those affected have been overlooked in the humanitarian response, which is critical in reviving communities recovering from violent conflicts. It is important to invest in the social and economic well-being of people after a war so they can get back on their feet. So, people would no longer have to depend on the government or nonprofits for help.

## **Recommendations:**

- i. Government and security personnel should have interagency collaboration with the NGOs in the areas in need of humanitarian assistance to enable them reach the affected people.
- ii. Aid agencies and NGOs should stop relying on second hand information in developing their response plan to the affected people in the Northeast.
- iii. Accurate data should be collected from the victims and IDPs to enable the government and other agencies to capture the real victims.

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