# Poverty and the Challenges of Security in the North-Eastern Region of Nigeria: A Case Study of Boko Haram Insurgency (2009-2017)

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Abstract:- Poverty has become an endemic in our society based on certain factors that are human creation. Nigeria has been caught-up in this web due to the nature and character of the state. This paper ex-rayed the relationship between poverty and the emergence of Boko Haram insurgents in the North-East region of Nigeria. Secondary data were used for this paper and the theoretical overview is anchored on relative deprivation and frustration-aggression theories. The paper argues that there are varied factors that gave room to Boko-Haram insurgency. However, poverty is the most prevailing causes of Boko Haram insurgency. The paper reveals that Boko Haram insurgency in the North-East of Nigeria has crippled the economic activities of the region thereby increasing the rate of poverty in Nigeria. It also shows that Boko Haram insurgency is the greatest cause of displacement in the north east. It further shows that Boko Haram activities have not only challenged the security of the Nigerian state but also threatened its unity and economic development. The paper concludes that if these economic and political conditions that led to violent extremism remained unresolved, there will be continued insecurity in Nigeria especially in the North-East region. The paper therefore recommends that Federal Government should sincerely and practically embark on job creation for the unemployed youths, particularly in the troubled region.

*Key Words:* Boko Haram, Insurgency, Insecurity, Displacement, Poverty, Nigerian economy

#### I. INTRODUCTION

Nigeria has been bedeviled with the activities of Boko Haram insurgency for almost a decade. Over the past nine years, Boko Haram has gained a reputation as a particularly brutal terrorist group, forcefully pressing its objectives via a wave of killings, bombings, and abductions across Nigeria (Hart, 2016). The continued bombings, killings, kidnappings and the destruction of property by Boko Haram have become of great concern to the Nigerian government and the international community (Awojobi, 2014). Boko Haram at the beginning of its violent attacks targeted mainly security forces and politicians; however, the group later on expanded its attacks to include civilian spaces such as schools, churches and markets. The group also engages in high-profile kidnappings and carried out one of their largest kidnapping – they kidnap around 270 school girls in a secondary school in Chibok on 14thApril, 2014 (Yahaya, 2015). As Agbiboa (2013) rightly observed, Boko Haram activities in mid 1990s, had little or no national and

international attention paid to it until 2009 when it advanced an anti-government uprising in five states in northern Nigeria.

Though past administrations including the current government have embarked on counter-insurgency operations to tackle the menace, the sect has gained international recognition, spread its operational base, enlarge membership in terms of number, and improve in its weaponry and operational strategies. The Nigerian nation has continued to experience an upsurge of violent conflicts, which have taken terror dimensions, resulting in the killing of many people, large-scale internal population displacement, refugee production, wanton destruction of property, capital flight and so on (Adesote, 2017). These destructions have direct or indirect impact on the national and sustainable economic development, as individuals and the government spends millions to rebuild the destroyed structures. The economic conditions of Nigeria most especially poverty, unemployment and literacy level have increased over time. Hence, the rise of terrorist group such as Boko Haram has been linked to the poor economic conditions of Nigeria that has persisted over the years.

Thus paper seeks to find out the relationship of poverty and Boko Haram insurgence. The paper is broadly divided into seven sections;- i) Introduction, ii) Historical background/emergency of Boko Haram, iii) Overview of the causative factors of Boko Haram insurgency, iv) Examines the nexus between poverty and Boko Haram insurgency, v) Reviews the socio-economic effect of Boko Haram insurgency, vi) Outlines some measures to curb Boko Haram insurgency and Conclusion

#### II. THE EMERGENCE OF BOKO HARAM

The roots of Boko Haram can be traced to 2002 in the city of Maiduguri, where the group was officially founded by the cleric Mohammed Yusuf with sole aim of establishing sharia government in Bornu State (Dauda, 2014; Yakubu, Aiguobarueghian & Orobator, 2016; Hart, 2016). The Boko Haram was founded by Muhammad Yusuf in 2002 in Maiduguri with the vision of establishing Islamic law (Sharia) under governorship of Ali Modu Sheriff. He built mosque and Islamic schools whereby parents from Nigeria and other neighbouring countries fetched their children especially poor parents, and soon the centre transformed from Islamic school to a jihadists recruiting centre. Now, membership of the group comprises mainly the unemployed, illiterates, and people of poor background who have joined Boko Haram in order to benefit from the initial welfare, food and shelter provided by the group (Shehu, 2015; Abubakar, 2015). Thus, the group membership is largely drawn from disillusioned youths, unemployed graduates, and former *almajiris* in northern Nigeria (Dauda, 2014; Shola, 2015; Yahaya, 2015).

Boko Haram emerged as a dreaded Islamic Sect known as "Jama'atul Ahlil Sunnah Lidda'awati Wal Jihad" meaning that a group of people who committed themselves to the propagation of Jihad and teachings of Prophet Muhammad. Boko Haram means "Western education is forbidden" meaning that anything that comes from the West is not allowed and is sinful according to the propagation of its members (Dauda, 2014; Shehu, 2015; Hart, 2016).The group holds that democracy conflicts with Islamic injunctions; Western education as anti-Islamic and rejection of working under any government institutions (Murtada, 2013). What happened to be firstly revolt against the governmental security forces turned into the full-scale regional insurgency at the end of 2009, following the crackdown on Boko Haram members and killing of its leader Yusuf in the custody (Eke, 2015).

Since 2009 when Boko Haram initially started its insurgency and the aftermath of the killing of Mohammed Yusuf the leader of the sect, the activities of the sect have continued unabated despite the effort of the government to curtail the heinous crime of the sect. Formally, most of the operations of the sect were concentrated in the North-East of Nigeria ( Awojobi, 2014). At present Boko Haram activities have spiltover to other countries such as Chad, Niger and Cameroon. Boko Haram's recent pledge of allegiance to Islamic State is a cause for severe concern, not just for the Nigerian Government, but also for the wider region (Hart, 2016).

#### III. THE CAUSATIVE FACTORS FOR THE EMERGENCE OF BOKO HARAM INSURGENCY

Several factors have been linked to the emergence of Boko Haram; these include; bad governance, failed state institutions, corruption of the Nigerian political class, poverty, illiteracy, widespread unemployment, religious extremism, wrong religious education and indoctrination.

Although, several arguments conceived low level of education and illiteracy as determinant factors that contributed to the rise of insurgency in the North East region. These cannot completely be doubted because illiteracy among the youths in the region was used in deceiving them to fight for reasons many of them do not even know. It has been alleged that the *Almajirai* itinerant students of Koranic schools are Boko Haram foot-soldiers because they are beggars, have no access to modern education and are easy to indoctrinate to carry out suicide attacks. Such an argument assumes that there is a causal connection between poverty or illiteracy and participation in terrorism, but studies show that this is not always the case (Krueger and Malečková, 2003; Dauda, 2014).

However, it is important to note that there are connections among these factors that led the emergence of Boko Haram. Notwithstanding, illiteracy, widespread poverty, unemployment and economic deprivation seem to be major causative factors. As observed by Roberts (2016) the interaction between these factors; poverty, economic deprivation and widespread unemployment produced the breeding ground for violent extremism that gave rise to Boko Haram. But then, insurgency exacerbated low levels of education and literacy in Nigeria's North East region (Baba, 2016).In same vein, Onuoha, (2014) and Awojobi (2014) posit that a lot of factors have been attributed to the cause of Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria such as socioeconomic, political and religious factors. However, the high-rate of poverty in Nigeria has made the youths enlist in the ranks of Boko Haram foot soldiers which have elongated the conflict since 2009. Also, Boko haram is a religious phenomenon that was caused and sustained by poverty with other related socioeconomic and political contradictions of a failing state institutions. Roberts (2016) asserted that different motivating factors and grievances led to the emergency of Boko Haram.

### Theoretical Perspectives on the Emergence of Boko Haram

There are various theories in explaining the issues of Boko Haram insurgency in Africa region especially in Nigeria. The study adopts relative deprivation and frustration-aggression theories as our theoretical framework of analysis. Academic debates continue on the correlation between poverty and insecurity. Some scholars have argued that most of the conflicts in developing countries are caused by the prevalence of poverty. There is causality from high poverty rate to conflict Kanbur (2007 cited in Awojobi 2014).

Ted Gurr deprivation theory subscribed to this assumption. The theory explains why the youths are always taking to violence (Awojobi 2014). Relative deprivation argues that; "aggression is always a consequence of frustration and frustration always lead to aggression" (Leeds 1978 cited in Awojobi, 2014). The poor are led to violence owing to their relative deprivation and needs" (Odumosu 1999 cited in Awojobi 2014). Frustration, lack of income, unemployment has prompted the youths in the northern Nigeria to become foot soldiers of Boko Haram (Awojobi 2014). Insecurity, terrorism, conflicts and violence are caused by the high poverty rate in most societies (Gurr 1970 and Burton 1997 cited in Awojobi 2014).

As with the emergence of almost all militant groups throughout history, there are strong economic factors which have played a key role in creating the conditions for Boko Haram to emerge and thrive. It can be viewed as an uprising not just located within religion and geography, but also within the wider context of poverty and economic underdevelopment. (Hart, 2016). In trying to identify the causes of violent extremism in the North-East of Nigeria, Chiroma (2017) asserted that violent extremism in Nigeria is largely as a result of the people's frustration with corruption and the underlying social malaise of poverty and unemployment. One can infer from Chiroma's postulation that the extremists are idle due to high level of unemployment in the North East and can easily be persuaded to becoming the devils workshop of violent extremism to the inhabitants of the region.

The extent of relative poverty and inequality in the north has made many scholars argue that socio-economic deprivation is the main factor behind violent extremism in Northern Nigeria (Okonkwo, 2017). One can be persuaded from the above submissions that violent extremist activities in North East Nigeria are based on the economic crises that have ravaged the region for years (Okonkwo, 2017). In support of this opinion, Agbiboa (2014) identified some socio-economic factors that breed violent extremism such as illiteracy, chronic poverty, corruption, abuse by the security forces and longstanding impunity for the perpetrators of human right violations.

#### IV. THE NEXUS BETWEEN POVERTY AND BOKO HARAM INSURGENCY

Scholars have been debating the nexus between poverty and crime for thousands of years, most of whom opined the mutually reinforcing relationship between the two menaces. As opined by Cheri (2014), whenever people become aware that few individuals own most of the resource while most of the people wallow in absolute penury, it usually ignites a blame game which has always been the case in Nigeria. Thus, rising penury forces the poor to feel alienated, deprived and cheated which lead to social and economic revolts.

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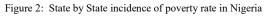
Poverty has led to frustration and anger amongst the poor and the marginalized cultural and religious groups in the country. Poverty among the unemployed youths in the North fuelled by corrupt Northern leaders has been identified as cause of the Boko Haram violence. Most of the recruits used by the sect as members and suicide bombers are drawn from the former Almajiris (poor street children, from poor Muslim parentage, who had been denied formal Western education but had been exploited while growing up by rich Islamic clerics who use them as street beggars to ask for alms on the streets of Northern Nigeria. The Boko haram sect usually offers food, shelter, security and alternative succour to these homeless children and youths to get their support (Casimir, Nwaoga & Ogbozor, 2014). In the same vein, Fawole (2015) cited in Okonkwo (2017) asserted that poverty and deprivation in the North East and indeed other parts of Nigeria is seen as a direct consequence of bad governance, corruption, poverty and violence. The nature of politics is mainly characterized by crony-affiliation and money with little or no consideration given to merit and motivation, thereby making elected officials unaccountable to citizens. The activities of violent extremism cannot be separated from the crises affecting the North East Nigeria. It has resulted into instability in the political and socio-economic growth of the region ranging from destruction of means of livelihood and basic infrastructure to kidnapping and increase in the number of displaced persons

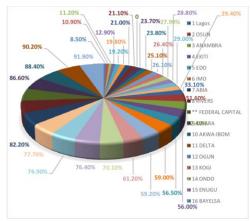
Apparently, the high rates of poverty, unemployment and political corruption have been blamed on the elongation of the conflict. Most of the foot soldiers of Boko Haram are youths that are frustrated because they lack employment, income and they have been disdained by politicians after being used by these politicians for their elections victory. Thus, youths especially in the North were enlisted into Boko Haram because of the prevalence of poverty in the region (Onuoha, 2014; Awojobi, 2014).

Figure 1: Shows the poverty rate in the Six Geo-political zone, Nigeria

Zone	Food Poor	Absolute Poor	Relative Poor	Dollar Per Day
North Central	38.6	59.5	67.5	59.7
North East	51.5	69.0	76.3	69.1
North West	51.8	70.0	77.7	70.4
South East	41.0	58.7	67.0	59.2
South-South	35.5	55.9	63.8	56.1
South west	25.4	49.8	59.1	50.1

Source: Idahosa (2015)

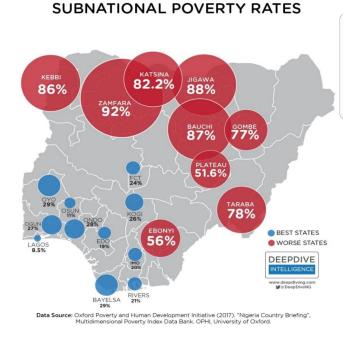




Sources: The Global Multidimensional Poverty Index by the U.N 2017

Across a broad spectrum of North versus South, the north had (and still has) the highest incidence of poverty in the country. This position highlights continuing difference between north and south divide in terms of poverty incidence. The World Bank (2014: 14) study shows that the south and north-central regions showed progress in poverty reduction between 2010 and 2013, while the north-west witnessed little change and the north-east experienced increase in the poverty rate along with a general decline in living standards.

Figure 3: Subnational Poverty Rate in Nigeria



While the North has had the most opportunities in Governance since Nigeria gained independence in 1960, the region still remains the poorest in the country. The map above, courtesy of the "Oxford Poverty and Human development initiative" which shows the subnational poverty rate in the country clearly indicates the North still lagging behind other states in development. According to the report, Zamfara state is the poorest in the country with 92% of its people living the poverty line, followed by Jigawa, Bauchi and Kebbi who have 88%, 87% and 86% respectively. The states with the least poor in the country are Lagos (8.5%), Osun (11%), Edo (19%) and Imo (20%). However, higher rate of poverty in the northern part of Nigeria is discernible. It was due to insecurity and instability in the Northern Nigeria especially at the North-East caused by insurgency which affected the implementation of the poverty reduction programmes in the zone thereby increasing the poverty level and hunger in the region. People are displaced from their source of livelihood in many parts of the North Eastern states in Nigeria where human security has been in its lowest helm thereby encouraging poverty and hunger (Wilson-Osigwe and Akiyode, 2016).

#### V. SOCIO-ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF BOKO HARAM INSURGENCY

The activities of Boko Haram have effects on the economy and the people (Awojobi, 2014). The activities of Boko Haram have negatively affected the socio-economic and political development of Nigeria especially in the North-Eastern region in so many ways.

Firstly, it has led to the loss of lives and properties. Thousands of people have been killed, properties of private individuals, government institutions, churches, mosques, etc, have been bombed and destroyed by Boko Haram. Secondly, the incessant attacks by Boko Haram have led to closure of public schools in the zone. This has affected the education of young people and some of them have been abducted and forcefully conscripted into foot-soldiers and suicide bombers.

Thirdly, Boko Haram activities have led to forced displacement in the North Eastern Region of Nigeria. In fact, forced displacement in the North East is majorly caused by the Boko Haram insurgency. It caused the highest wave of displacement (refugees and IDPs) in the country (much more than the 1967-1970 civil war). According to a survey carried out by World Bank and UNHCR, (2016) seven major causes of forced displacement can be distinguished in the Lake Chad Region; the Boko Haram conflict is the most significant push factor among them, accounting for about 70 percent of the total displaced population in the four countries. There are 3.5 million forcibly displaced people in Cameroon, Chad, Nigeria, and Niger, including 2.5 million people who have been forcibly displaced by Boko Haram. Forced displacement in the North East is majorly caused by the Boko Haram insurgency. Ninety-two percent of people forcibly displaced by the Boko Haram conflict are internally displaced. Of the 2.5 million people forcibly displaced by the Boko Haram conflict, 1.9 million are displaced within Nigeria, making it 1 of 10 countries with highest population of IDPs in the world (World Bank and UNHCR, 2016).

Fourthly, Boko Haram activities have also affected government budget. The reconstruction of destroyed government infrastructure and other facilities, the general administration of the internally displaced persons camps affect government budget, as billions of naira are spent. Also, the cost of fighting Boko Haram has gulped a large chunk of the country's budget. It triggered the highest rise in Nigeria's defence spending. For 2015, it went up to about 6 billion dollars, which shows how serious an issue Boko Haram is for the country. For example, 1 billion Dollars was recently approved by President Buhari to purchase military wares and fighter jets in order to fight Boko Haram (Yakubu, Aiguobarueghian & Orobator, 2016)..

Moreover, Boko Haram activities have undermined the economic development of the North East region (Yakubu, Aiguobarueghian & Orobator, 2016). Besides the killings of human potentials and bombing of infrastructure, Boko Haram terrorist activities have hampered business intercourse in the Northeast. Foreign investments have drastically dwindled, if not completely collapsed. Foreign companies and investors are no longer attracted to the North-eastern region (Yakubu, Aiguobarueghian & Orobator, 2016). From the foregoing, Boko Haram insurgency is unarguably one of the critical security challenges facing Nigeria today. Evidently, Boko Haram activities have really hampered the corporate existence of Nigeria and dwindled her economic prosperity. Boko Haram insurgency have brought untold hard times to individuals, families, groups, foreigners, state and federal governments, and to the Nigerian economy in general (Yakubu, Aiguobarueghian and Orobator, 2016). In fact the devastating menace of Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria cannot be quantified. Different figures of casualties of this insurgent group have been bandied. While the actual figure of casualties may not be known, the undisputable fact is that this group has engaged in several violent acts including but not limited to kidnapping, suicide bombings, jail breaks and the like (Durotoye, 2015). Some of these attacks are highlighted below:

Timeline of some Boko Haram Attacks in Nigeria 2009-2017

DATE	LOCATION	OUTCOMES
July 26–29, 2009	Northern Nigeria	1,000 people were killed in clashes between Boko Haram militants and Nigerian soldiers throughout northern Nigeria, beginning the Boko Haram Islamist Insurgency in Nigeria.
September 7: 2010	Bauchi	Bauchi prison break, 5 people were killed and 721 inmates freed from prison in by Boko Haram gunmen
December 31: 2010	Abuja	Boko Haram carried out a bomb attack outside a barracks in Abuja killed four civilians.
May 29:2011	Abuja and Bauchi	15 people were killed in Abuja and Bauchi after bombs exploded in several towns in northern Nigeria during Goodluck Jonathan's swearing in as the new president.
June 16: 2011	Abuja	Abuja police headquarters bombing, at least two people, the perpetrator and a traffic policeman, were killed in a failed bombing of Abuja's police headquarters. It was Nigeria's first instance of a suicide bombing.
August 26: 2011	Abuja	21 people were killed in a bombing attack on a United Nations compound in Abuja.
November 4: 2011	Damaturu	Damaturu attacks, between 100 to 150 people were killed in a series of coordinated assaults in northern Nigeria
December 22–23: 2011	Maiduguri and Damaturu	68 people, of whom are 50 militants, at least 7 soldiers, and 11 civilians, were killed in clashes between Boko Haram militants and Nigerian soldiers
January 20: 2012	Kano	183 people, of whom at least 150 were civilians and 32 police officers, were killed by Boko Haram gunmen
April 8: 2012	Kaduna	38 people were killed following a bombing at a church.
June 17: 2012	Kaduna	19 people were killed following bomb attacks against three churches.
August 7: 2012	Kogi State	Deeper Life Church shooting, 19 people were killed when Boko Haram gunmen raided a church.
December 25: 2012	Maiduguri and Potiskum	27 Christians were killed by Boko Haram militants.
February 8: 2013		Attack on polio vaccinators killed 9 women
March 18: 2013	Kano	65 people were killed in a car bombing

April 16: 2013	Baga in Borno State.	187 people were killed in by Boko Haram
June 9: 2013	Damaturu	13 students and teachers were killed by Boko Haram
July 6: 2013	Yobe State	More than 42 were killed by Boko Haram gunmen in a school.
August 12: 2013	Maiduguri	56 people were killed by Boko Haram in a mosque.
September 12:	Maiduguri	Ambush by Boko Haram left 40 soldiers dead
September 29: 2013	Yobe State	Gujba college massacre, more than 50 students were killed by Boko Haram gunmen.
October 10: 2013	Damboa	An attack at Damboa left at least 20 killed (15 suspected militants and 5 civilians).
October 29: 2013	Damaturu	Boko Haram raided Damaturu. At least 128 people were killed (95 militants, 23 soldiers 8 policemen, and 2 civilians).
January 14: 2014	Maiduguri, Borno State	30 people were killed in a bombing by Boko Haram.
January 31: 2014	Chakawa	11 Christians killed in Chakawa by Boko Haram.
February	Konduga,	121 Christian villagers killed by Boko
14: 2014 February	Borno State Izghe,	Haram 106 killed in the village of Izghe, Borno
15: 2014	Borno State	State by Boko Haram gunmen.
February 15: 2014	Gwosa	90 Christians and 9 Nigerian soldiers killed by Boko Haram
February 25: 2014	Yobe State.	Boko Haram attacked Federal Governmen College, 59 students were killed in the massacre
April 14: 2014	Abuja.	Over 88 people killed in a twin bombing attack in Abuja.
April 15: 2014	Chibok, Borno State	276 Chibok school girls were kidnapped by Boko Haram.
May 1: 2014	Abuja	.19 killed in Abuja by a car bomb.
May 5: 2014	Gamboru and Ngala in Borno State	Over 300 people killed in the twin towns o by Gamboru and Ngala by Boko Haram
May 20: 2014	Jos	At least 118 villagers killed by car bombs
May 27: 2014	Buni Yadi, Yobe State	49 security personnel and 9 civilians killed during a Boko Haram attack on a military base
May 30: 2014	Gwoza, Borno State	The third emir of Gwoza, Idrissa Timta assassinated during a Boko Haram ambush
June 1: 2014	Mubi, Adamawa State	At least 40 people killed by a bomb
June 2: 2014	Gwoza, Borno State	Gwoza massacre, at least 200, mostly Christians killed in several villages by Boko Haram.
June 20–23: 2014	Borno State	70 people killed and 91 women and children kidnapped by Boko Haram
June 23–25: 2014	Middle Belt of Nigeria.	Around 171 people killed in a series o attacks Boko Haram
June 28: 2014	Bauchi.	11 people killed in a bomb attack by Boko Haram.
July 18: 2014	Damboa,	At least 18 killed by a Boko Haram attack in Damboa, leaving the town almost destroyed
July 22: 2014	Chibok.	51 people killed by Boko Haram
September 19: 2014	Mainok, Borno State.	Around 30 people killed by Boko Haran militants at a busy market.
October 31: 2014	Gombe.	. At least 4 people killed, 32 injured and 12 vehicles destroyed by an explosion at a bus station.

November 2: 2014Kogi StateKogi prison break, 99 inmates were freed by Boko Haram rebels.November 3-10: 2014Yobe StateA double suicide bombing killed 15 Shiites on the 3rd and 46 students on the 10th.November 25:2014DamasakOver 45 people killed by two suicide bombers.November 27: 2014DamasakAround 50 people killed by two female suicide bombers who detonated explosions at a crowded market place.December 6: 2014Minna.270 prisoners freed from a prison by Boko HaramDecember 6: 2014Kano.At least 4 people killed and 7 injured by female suicide bombers near a market.December 10: 2014Gajiganna, Boron State.30 people killed and houses destroyed by Boko Haram militants.December 12: 2014State.bomb.December 12: 2014State.bomb.December 12: 2014Kano.85 civilians, 94 militants, and 2 Cameroonia soldiers killed following a faitel Boko Haram militants.December 28:-29: 74 North 2015Baga, Boron StateBoko Haram militants raze the entire town of Baga in north-east Nigeria. Bodies lay strewn on Baga's streets with as many as 2,000 people having been killed. Boko Haram militants overrun several towns in north-east Nigeria and captured the military base in Baga.January 10: 2015Maiduguri MaiduguriA female suicide bombers kill themselves and three others from villages in north- cameroon.January 11: 2015Potiskum Maiduguri, Borno StateBoko Haram militants kidnag 80 people and intry market in Maiduguri, leading in the east a 2			
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February 22, 2015.	Potiskum, Borno State.	A suicide bomber kills five and wounds dozens outside a market in Potiskum
February	Potiskum	Two suicide bombers kill at least 27 people
24, 2015.	and <u>Kano</u>	at bus stations in Potiskum and Kano
February 26, 2015.	Biu and Jos	At least 35 people are killed in two attacks targeting the cities of Biu and Jos
February	Damaturu,	Two female suicide bombers kill up to
28, 2015. March 7,	Borno State Maiduguri,	four civilians near Damaturu Five suicide bomb blasts leave 54 dead and
2015	Borno State	143 wounded in <u>Maiduguri</u>
March 28,	Dukku in	Gunmen kill at least 15 voters including an
2015	Gombe State	opposition house of assembly candidate for Dukku in Gombe.
	Kwafaja	Boko Haram militants dressed as preachers
April 5, 2015	Village in	killed at least 24 citizens of Kwafaja Village in <u>Borno State</u> , with some reports claiming
2013	Borno State	that up to 50 were killed
April 9,	Dile in	Members of Boko Haram entered the village
2015	Borno State	of Dile in <u>Borno State</u> , killing 20 As the military led efforts to evacuate the
April 21,	Dese Deme	town of Baga in northern Nigeria, militants
2015	Baga, Borno State	planted mines and fired rockets at military
		vehicles, killing eight soldiers and one civilian
June 22,		Maiduguri Mosque Bombing - 30 killed at
2015	Maiduguri	crowded mosque by 2 young female suicide
		bombers. Mosque Massacres — Boko Haram
		militants attacked multiple mosques
		between July 1 and 2. Forty-eight men and boys were killed on the 1st at one mosque in
July 1–2, 2015	<u>Kukawa</u>	<u>Kukawa</u> . Seventeen were wounded in the
2015		attack. Ninety-seven others, mostly men,
		were killed in numerous mosques on the 2nd, with a number of women and young
		girls killed in their homes
July 5,	Potiskum,	A suicide bomber attacks a church in the <u>Potiskum</u> area of <u>Nigeria's Yobe State</u> ,
2015.	Yobe State	killing five.
July 6,	Jos,	Two bomb attacks on the central Nigerian
2015.	Pleateau State	city of <u>Jos</u> have left at least 44 people dead.
	Yola,	A blast in the northeastern Nigerian city of
November 17, 2015.	Pleateau	Yola on Tuesday night tore through a marketplace, killing 32 people and
17, 2015.	State	wounding 80 others
1 27	N. 1	Weekend rampage with a total death toll of
January 27- 28, 2016	Maiduguri, Borno State.	at least 65 people and twice that number injured. Affected areas were various villages
		in Dalori and outskirts of Maiduguri.
January 29,	Gombi,	A 12-year-old blew himself up in the Gombis' market. The blast killed at least 11
2016.	<u></u>	people.
1 20	N. 1	At least 86 people were killed and hundreds
January 30, 2016.	Maiduguri, Borno State.	others injured in an attack by <u>Boko Haram</u> militants on Dalori Village some 4
		kilometers from Maiduguri, Nigeria
		Two female suicide bombers sneaked into
February 9,	Dilmu	an internally displaced persons (IDP) camp and detonated themselves in the middle of it
2016.	Dikwa,	in the northeast Nigerian town of Dikwa.
		The blasts killed 60 people and wounded another 78.
February 12, 2016.	Kachifa	Boko Haram attacked a village near Kachifa, killing eight people
February	Yakshari	of Boko Haram attacked Yakshari, killing
13, 2016.	I anshari	22 people
March 16,	Maiduguri,	Three female suicide bombers killed 22 people and injured 18 in Umarari Village,
2016.	Borno State.	on the outskirts of <u>Maiduguri</u> , Borno State.
		on the outskirts of Maiduguri, Borno State.

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April 5, 2016.	Izige	In an attack in Izige, <u>Nigeria</u> , Boko Haram killed three soldiers and two vigilante members, but were subsequently forced to retreat by the military.
April 24, 2016.	Alau village in <u>Borno</u> <u>State</u>	<u>Boko Haram</u> have been reported to have killed a total of 30 people during a raid in Alau village in <u>Borno State</u>
May 12, 2016.	Maiduguri, Borno State	A suicide bomber who was stopped from entering a government compound killed at least six people, including two police officers.
May 29, 2016.	<u>Biu</u> ,	In <u>Biu</u> , <u>Nigeria</u> a tricycle taxi triggered an old IED, killing 4 civilians and one soldier who died of his injuries. Two were wounded.
June 4, 2016.	Bosso	At least 32 people were killed and 67 injured after hundreds of members of Boko Haram attacked the city of <u>Bosso</u> and area in Niger.
June 17, 2016.	<u>Kuda,</u> Nigeria	At least 24 people were killed and at least 10 injured after Boko Haram militants attacked a funeral in Kuda.
June 20, 2016.	<u>Wumbi,</u> <u>Nigeria</u>	At least 2 people were killed after several Boko Haram militants attacked <u>Wumbi</u> in Nigeria
July 12, 2016.	Borno State.	A Boko Haram attack in Borno State was repelled by the Nigerian Army resulting in the deaths of 25 militants. Two soldiers were killed during the attack.
August 20, 2016.	Kuruburu	Boko Haram killed 7 people with machine guns, before abducting dozens more, in the village of Kuruburu
August 21, 2016.	Kuburvwa, Mora, Borno State	A Boko Haram attack on a village called Kuburvwa (between Chibok and Damboa, Borno State was reported to have left at least 11 people dead. Also, 3 people were killed and another 24 were injured when a suicide bombing attack a market in the city of Mora.
September 25, 2016.	Miyanti and Dareljamal Town, Kaduna	Four soldiers and civilian JTF members died in Borno towns of Miyanti and Dareljamal in Kaduna State after an ambush on the army by Boko Haram insurgents.
September 26, 2016.	Borno State.	The Nigerian Army lost 1 officer and 3 soldiers to a landmine and ambush by the Boko Haram.
October 12, 2016.	Maiduguri, Borno State	18 people have been reported dead in an explosion which occurred in Maiduguri, Borno State.
October 29, 2016.	Maiduguri, Borno State.	2 suicide bombers killed at least eight people on Saturday in the northeastern Nigerian city of Maiduguri Nine civilians were killed when a car bomb
November 1, 2016.	<u>Gubio</u>	Anne civilians were killed when a car bomb exploded near a military checkpoint in Northern Nigeria in <u>Gubio</u> . 4 people have died and 6 others injured after
November 1, 2016.	Maiduguri, Borno State. Umulari	2 suicide bombers exploded improvised explosive in Maiduguri device. Two persons were killed today in an early
November 11, 2016. November	area of Maiduguri Maiduguri,	morning bomb blast in the Umulari area of Maiduguri. At least two persons were killed in a suicide
23, 2016.	Borno State.	bomb attack in Maiduguri.
December 9, 2016.	Madagali	Madagali suicide bombings: Officials say 2 explosions in Madagali a town Nigeria have killed 57 and injured 177.
December 11, 2016	Maiduguri.	3 people were killed in two suicide bombing attacks in Maiduguri.
December 13, 2016	Kamuya village, Borno State.	Boko Haram militants attacked a military base in Borno state village of Kamuya leaving scores dead.

January 7, 2017.	Buni Yadi, Yobe State.	Boko Haram attacked a Nigerian army base in Buni Yadi of Yobe state, killing at least five soldiers. Fifteen Boko Haram militants were also killed after the army launched retaliatory strikes
January 10, 2017.	Kalari area, Borno State.	Two female bombers had killed three persons, alongside themselves, when they went to the residences in the Kalari area, after disguising as visitors.
January 13, 2017.	Kangarwa village, Borno State.	Three Nigerian soldiers were killed and 27 others injured as troops fought off an attack on their position by Boko Haram militants in Kangarwa village, Borno state. Ten Boko Haram militants were also killed in the attack. Another four suicide bombers killed at least nine people Madagali town, including themselves.
January 16, 2017.	Maiduguri	Two teenage suicide bombers exploded at Nigeria's University of Maiduguri, killing 3 people, including a professor.
January 23, 2017.	Dzaku village, Borno State.	Boko Haram invaded a village, killed eight people and abducted an unspecified number of women and children in Borno State.
January 25, 2017.	Maiduguri	A suicide bomb attack Borno state killed three and wounded two others. <u>Boko Haram</u> killed four people in multiple suicide bombing attacks in Maiduguri.
January 29, 2017.	Maiduguri	Boko Haram attacked a convoy of motorists along a recently secured highway, in Borno state, Nigeria killing at least seven people and injuring many others.
January 30, 2017	Maiduguri	Fifteen people were killed by Boko Haram militants in Maiduguri, Nigeria.
January 31, 2017.	Maiduguri	A suicide bomber stormed the Dalori quarters mosque, in Maiduguri, Nigeria during the morning prayers, killing one of their members.
February 10, 2017.	Ajiri village, Borno state	Seven soldiers were killed and 19 injured in Boko Haram ambush in Ajiri village of Dikwa Local Government Area, Borno state.
February 11, 2017.	Mussa Village, Borno state.	Boko Haram invaded Mussa Village of Askira-Uba LGA, Borno state, burning dozens of residential houses with a man suspected to have been trapped in the attack.
February 13, 2017.	Mifa community, Borno State.	Boko Haram invaded Mifa community in Chibok Local Government Area of Borno State, killing an Islamic scholar and breaking the hands of a boy.
February 16, 2017.	Maiduguri	An attack by three suicide bombers near Muna Garage, a bus station in Maiduguri, left two civilians dead.
March 13, 2017.	Online	Three Nigerian men were executed by Boko Haram militants. The three men were accused of being Nigerian military spies.
March 15, 2017.	Magumeri, Borno State.	Boko Haram terrorists attacked Magumeri in Borno state, killing seven people.
March 16, 2017.	Magumeri, Borno State.	Four soldiers died in another attack on Magumeri after an estimated 300 Boko Haram fighters targeted the military and a local police station.
March 30, 2017.	Pulka and outside the village of Dumba.	In two separate attacks, Boko Haram successfully abducted 22 girls and women from the village of Pulka and outside the village of Dumba. The abducted victims in Dumba were four women from the family of a herdsman who had refused to pay protection money to the terrorist group.
March 31, 2017.	Kaye near Gumisiri village,	Three people were killed by Boko Haram in an attack on Kaye near Gumisiri village in Damboa Local Government Area of Borno,

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	Borno State.	where terrorists burnt down the village and kidnapped dozens of people, including three women.
April 5, 2017.	Maiduguri	Boko Haram fighters killed seven men in a farming community outside Maiduguri, and stole an estimated 360 head of livestock.
April 12, 2017	Maiduguri.	A soldier was killed during a suicide and gun attack on a military checkpoint on the outskirts of Maiduguri.
May 4, 2017.	Maiduguri.	An attack by two female suicide bombers on Mandarari ward in Konduga LGA in Borno resulted in the death of five people.
May 13, 2017.	Maiduguri.	In another attack on University of Maiduguri, two suicide bombers detonated their vests when they were confronted, killing themselves and one security guard
May 15, 2017.	Amarwa village, Borno State.	9 Boko Haram terrorists killed 11 farmers in Amarwa, a village in Konduga LGA, 16 kilometers away from Maiduguri.
May 16, 2017.	Shuwari Buri village, close to Maiduguri.	Three female suicide bombers attacked a herding community in Shuwari Buri village, killing two people and injuring seven others.
May 18, 2017.	Maiduguri.	Three suicide bombers detonated explosives inside university of Maiduguri killing themselves and a soldier.
May 18, 2017.	Villages in Mussa, Borno State.	7 people were killed and more than 40 injured from gunshots in separate attacks by Boko haram militant group rampaging within recently liberated Borno communities.
June 8, 2017.	Maiduguri	At least fourteen persons were killed and 24 were injured as Boko Haram suicide bombers staged multiple attacks targeting mosques where Muslim worshippers were praying.
June 9, 2017.	Fadama Rake village, Adamawa State.	Two teenagers were killed, all boys, and three others injured when a bomb concealed in a polythene bag exploded.
June 10, 2017.	Hambagba village, near Gwoza, Borno State.	Ten members of the Nigerian jihadist group raided the village of Hambagba, near Gwoza, on the Cameroon border, kidnapping six people and killing four others.
June 14, 2017.	Komdi and Tuyan villages, near Chibok, Borno State.	Boko Haram raided the villages of Komdi and Tuyan, near Chibok, kidnapping six people and killing ten others.
June 18, 2017.	Kofa village, Borno State.	12 people were killed and 11 others were wounded in attacks by five women suicide bombers who detonated explosives in separate attacks on Kofa, a village that's only 8 kilometers from Maiduguri.
June 20, 2017.	Maiduguri- Biu highway	After an ambush attack by militants on a police convoy on the Maiduguri-Biu highway, three people were killed while 16 women were reportedly kidnapped. Boko Haram later released a video, claiming some of the kidnapped women were police officers
June 26, 2017.	Maiduguri.	Suicide bombers killed nine people and wounded 13 others in multiple blasts in northeast Nigeria's Maiduguri.
July 11, 2017.	Moloi, Judumeri and Polo-	12 JTF members and seven civilians were killed in separate attacks on Moloi, Judumeri and Polo-Sabongari areas of

	Sabongari	Maiduguri.
	areas of	-
	Maiduguri.	
July 17, 2017.	Maiduguri	Three Boko Haram female suicide bombers killed 8 people and injured 15 in the city of Maiduguri, in Borno State.
July 23, 2017.	Maiduguri	Seven people died when suicide bombers attacked two Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camps in Maiduguri
July 25, 2017.	Magumeri area of Borno State.	In what was Boko Haram's bloodiest attack in 2017, at least 69 people, including soldiers and civilians, died after an ambush of an oil exploration team working for the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation.
July 28, 2017.	Dikwa, Borno State.	At least eight people were killed and 14 others injured in a suicide bomb attack on an IDP camp in Dikwa LGA, Borno.
August 1, 2017.	Mildu village, Adamawa State.	After an attack on Mildu village in Madagali Local Government Area of Adamawa state, Boko Haram terrorists killed 7 people and injured 10 others.
August 4, 2017.	Maiduguri, Borno State	Three suicide bombers detonated explosives at the Simari area of Maiduguri, the Borno state capital, killing themselves and wounding two members of the civilian joint task force. Also, a suicide bomb attack at the Molai General Hospital, Maiduguri led to the death of three people including a hospital assistant
August 7, 2017.	Lake Chad	At least 31 fishermen were killed by Boko Haram jihadists in two separate attacks on islands in Lake Chad in northeastern Nigeria.
August 9, 2017.	Ghumbili community, Adamawa State.	At least one person was confirmed dead from an attack by Boko Haram Islamists in Ghumbili community in the Madagali Local Government Area of Adamawa.
August 11, 2017.	Jere LGA of Borno State.	Two tractor operators were killed by Boko Haram terrorists in Jere LGA of Borno while they were working on a farm.
August 12, 2017.	Wanori- Amarwa community, Borno State.	At least four people were killed in an attack at Wanori-Amarwa community of Konduga LGA of Borno
August 15, 2017.	Maiduguri.	A woman suicide bomber blew herself up and killed 27 others at a market in the village of Konduga near Maiduguri.
August 20, 2017.	Damaturu- Biu road in Yobe state	Two persons were confirmed dead while three others seriously injured following ar ambush by suspected Boko Haram terrorists along Damaturu, Biu road.
August 23, 2017.	Maiduguri	Four people died and eight others were injured when two terrorists attacked Maiduguri.
September 3, 2017.	IDP camp in Borno State.	Boko Haram insurgents attacked an IDF camp in Borno State, killing eleven people and injuring three persons while also kidnapped four before fleeing.
September 5, 2017.	Borno State.	Boko Haram members killed four farmers in a drive-by shooting in Borno state ir Nigeria's volatile northeast.
September 8, 2017.	Maiduguri	Two female suicide bombers died in Maiduguri while eight other commuters close to the explosions received various degrees of injuries.
September 18, 2017.	Mashimari village in Borno State.	At least 15 people were killed and 43 others injured in a suicide attack on Mashimar village in Borno state.
September 26, 2017.	Maiduguri	A female suicide bomber killed five people when she blew herself up in a mosque in

		northeast Nigeria. Three other worshippers
		were injured in the attack.
October 22, 2017.	Maiduguri	A suicide bomber kills 13 people and injures five others in the northeast Nigerian city of Maiduguri. According to the police, 13 more civilians were injured in separate attacks.
October 30, 2017.	Maiduguri	Five civilians were killed and several other were Boko Haram terrorist blew himself up in a mosque in Maiduguri, Nigeria.
November 1, 2017.	Zamga village	Six people were killed and two wounded by a Boko Haram suicide attack on a mosque in the village of Zamga
November 15, 2017.	Maiduguri	At least ten people have been killed and dozens injured in a suicide attack in a popular market in Maiduguri.
November 20, 2017.	Borno State.	At least six farmers were beheaded in Borno State, Nigeria by Boko Haram terrorists
December 2, 2017	Borno State.	Fifteen persons were killed and 53 others injured in twin suicide bomb attacks in a market in Borno State.
December 13, 2017	Damboa, Nigeria	Five people were killed by Boko Haram militants in Damboa, Nigeria.
December 28, 2017.	Borno State	A suicide bombing caused by a <u>Boko Haram</u> militant in Borno State killed at least six people and injured 13 others.
December 30, 2017.	Borno State	Boko Haram fighters opened fire on a group of loggers in a remote village in northeast Nigeria, killing 25 people. The gunmen also burned three vehicles laden with firewood heading to Maiduguri.

Source: Authors' compilation

#### VI. MEASURE TO CURB BOKO HARAM INSURGENCY

The emergence of Boko Haram can be seen as a product of the prevailing economic conditions within the Nigerian state. Several empirical studies have led credence to this direction (Cheri, 2014; Abubakar, 2015; Khan and Cheri, 2016). Boko Haram emerged in the North East region of Nigeria because the group was able to exploit the frustration of their people and the economic conditions in which they live and translate it to an enviable force to terrorize the state. Therefore, with matter of urgency, the Nigerian government should embark on a program that will improve the well being of its citizens and alleviate poverty and unemployment which provides the basis for such groups to exploit. This will raise the opportunity cost for participating in terrorist activities (Abubakar, 2015). Evidently, Boko Haram crisis is an outcome of a cumulative effect of poverty, unemployment and a series of minor violent events that predate its emergence. Hence, addressing the crisis requires special attention on its major causes including unemployment and poverty (Khan and Cheri, 2016). The Federal Government should tackle the problems of deprivation, neglect and poverty in the area with all serious mindedness in the quest to totally eradicate the perennial case of youth restiveness in the region (Efeturi, 2016).

Therefore a multi-faceted long-term strategy is needed, one which also addresses the ideological, environmental, and economic causes of the insurgency (Hart, 2016). Furthermore, in order to get out from Boko Haram menace, the following measures as identified by Okonkwo (2017) should be adopted:

- 1. Poverty Reduction programme and Job creation As a matter of urgency, the Federal Government should seriously tackle the problems of deprivation, neglect and poverty in the region. The Federal, State and Local governments should sincerely and practically embark on job creation for the unemployed youths, particularly in the North-East region.
- Establishment of schools in order to curb high illiteracy level in the region, the Federal Government should establishment more school and give free access to basic education to the people in the region. Also the Almajiri School Programme should be improve upon and sustained by the government
- Rebuilding and reconstructing destroyed facilities the Federal, State and Local governments should carry out massive reconstruction of destroyed properties and infrastructural facilities in the zone
- 4. Rehabilitation and integration of displaced persons the Federal, State and Local governments should rehabilitated and reunite all the displaced persons to their various home with some incentive to start their lives over again.
- 5. Building Skills Acquisition Centres The Federal Government should set up skills acquisition centres at strategic areas in the region to provide training in vocation and enhance the financial capacities of the people.
- Tighten border security The Federal Government should collaborate with neigbouring countries in order to enhance border security and address border crimes like smuggling of small arms and light weapons.
- 7. Education, Agriculture, Health, Unemployment and other political and socio-economic issues that serve as sources of grievances by different classes of the people must be adequately addressed by the government.

#### VII. CONCLUDING REMARKS

Obviously, Book Haram insurgency is one of the major security threats to Nigerian state today. In spite of its religious undertones it has economic motivations. The sect has shown its disdain with the state of affairs in Nigeria and believed the implementation of sharia will curb the menace of corruption that has fostered poverty and underdevelopment in Nigeria. The obscurity surrounding Boko Haram main objective point to a clear conclusion, the desire to Islamize Nigeria and change the status quo given their dissatisfaction with the state of affairs (David, 2013). The continuous activities of Boko Haram insurgency constitute a serious threat to the development of Nigeria. Aside the socioeconomic implications, the human cost is of great concern to everybody in Nigeria. Thousand of people have been displaced due to the persisted attacks from the dreaded Boko Haram (Awojobi, 2014). Having examined the connectedness of poverty and the emergence of Boko Haram insurgency, this paper argues that if the political and economic conditions that led to violent extremism remained unresolved, there will be continued insecurity in Nigeria especially in the North East region. It is high time the Nigerian governments (the Federal, State and Local Governments) attended to the humanitarian and statebuilding measures that scholars have long maintained are necessary to address the underlying causes of extremist sentiment in the North East region of Nigeria. They should urgently address the issues of abject poverty, mass illiteracy, unemployment, corruption, economic inequality, social injustice, political marginalization and alienation among the youths in the region.

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