Assessing Community Response in The Stabilization Process of Insurgence Affected Post-Conflict Societies (A Study of Damaturu Local Government Area Yobe State, Nigeria 2010 - 2024)

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Abstract
Human history and society has characteristically being associated with conflicts and wars, society have often sought for ways to resolve conflicts and to cope with the after-mart of conflicts and wars, central to this is the people who were affected by the wars and conflicts, otherwise referred to as war survivals, it is important to know that conflicts or crises often take place in an environment or community, this environment or community plays key important role in the resolution of conflicts and copping with the after-mart (post-conflict) challenges and as well ensuring that society does not go back or retard back to crises or conflict but progresses and return to normalcy. This research work assesses the response of people in the Boko-Haram insurgent affected society, especially their preparedness in sustaining peace, preventing retard back to crises and copping with the challenges brought about by conflicts and war. Survey method is employed in collection and gathering of data from the field through the instrumentality of questionnaire and interview from respondents in the research area and will be analyze using simple percentage, tables and explanation, it is the belief of the researcher that for sustainable peace and stability to be achieve in insurgent affected post conflict societies the people (community) must be involve in all the program, policies and efforts, from the initiation to implementation, their inputs and participation is not only important and necessary but sine-qua-noon to the achievement of a peaceful virile and prosperous society where peace and stability can once again flourish and growth and development achieved.

Key words*. Assessing, Community, Response, Stabilization, Process, Insurgent, Boko-Haram. Affected.*

Introduction

Throughout the course of human history men have been very adept at making war than keeping the peace. There is probably no year in any era when a war of some kind has not erupted somewhere. But if mankind is to survive, it is not only appropriate but essential to search for effective methods of making peace, Community and the individual that make up the society have very important role to play in virtually all issues pertaining the life, survival and existence of the society, be it social, political, religious or economic. This is because without the cooperation and participation of members of the community it may be impossible to address the varied problems

and challenges confronting the society and by implication the individual who makes up the society. Assessing community response and efforts in the stabilization process of Boko-Haram insurgent affected society is an attempt at examining the role and contributions of the individuals and the community as a whole in fast tracking the healing process and stabilizing the affected communities in the insurgence affected areas, this is with the intent of understanding which roles are expected of the people in their domine in facilitating the return to peace and harmony and enhancing growth and development in the area.

Community stabilization approach can play a catalytic, foundational role in transitioning away from humanitarian crises and laying the ground for attaining durable solutions, even when circumstances are not yet conducive to such. While coercive approaches to restore stability remain an important component in the community to address humanitarian crises or conflict, as a non-coercive approach, community stabilization is increasingly recognized as important complement to security-related interventions. As such, community stabilization is one approach to operationalizing the HDPN, by providing a critical bridge between dependence on humanitarian aid and embarking on development pathways

Over the past couple of years, there has been a lot of discussion focused on preparation and planning for reconstruction and stability operations after conflict. Many organizations, including the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), are focused on improving operations in post-conflict settings. However, USAID has also argued that the international community should use existing tools to do a better job of reducing the potential for conflict, which USAID now defines to include a wide range of unhealthy trends like terrorism, extremism and insurgency.

Statement of Research Problem.

The impacts of violence crises, whether human-induced, environmental, or a combination of the two, can be diverse, complex and catastrophic on the lives of affected populations, dislocating people from their homes, livelihoods and communities. They include the physical, visible impacts such as damage to housing and public infrastructure, injury and death. They also include the less visible impacts or factors that might, in some instances, have led to the displacement in the first place, such as inter- or intra-communal tensions over scarce resources; marginalization of different social ethnic or religious groups; insecurity; exploitation, including of displaced persons; and criminal or rent-seeking power structures. Transitioning out of the immediate, emergency phase of displacement crises, while positive, in most cases reveals deeper, more complex and lasting impacts on the stability of affected areas. Although the character and severity of these impacts on stability can differ significantly between respective countries and contexts,1 and are influenced by pre-existing levels of instability, displacement crises can weaken or eradicate the social, physical, political, cultural, economic, judicial and security structures and systems required for societies and communities to function. If left unaddressed, multidimensional instability can result in the emergence or re-emergence of violence, humanitarian crises and displacement. Community stabilization is primarily focused on preventing this from occurring and laying the foundations for longer-term recovery

In practice, improving stability in crisis contexts requires a broad range of interventions from diverse actors, including communities, civil society, governments and international organizations. On one hand, drivers of instability, such as the incursions or activities of violent groups, often require coercive approaches such as enforcing basic security by undertaking military/peacekeeping operations or actions by border management authorities to prevent transnational threats from spreading across borders and causing further harm and displacement across the international community, coercive approaches to restore stability remain an important component within a range of supports to States affected by humanitarian crises or conflict. However, numerous examples highlight where this has either been ineffective, or in some cases has exacerbated instability. In eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, for example, where more than 3 million people have been displaced by conflict, years of military interventions against armed groups to restore stability have had limited success On the other hand, addressing the drivers of instability can be achieved through non-coercive approaches by establishing mechanisms and initiating processes of positive change that will address destabilizing factors at local levels, such as unresolved grievances, tensions over resources, economic and political marginalization, ineffective and unequitable service delivery, or lack of inclusive livelihood opportunities.

In displacement crises, depending on the circumstances, both coercive and non-coercive approaches to restore stability can play a necessary role in preventing recurrent crises and establishing foundations for recovery. There is a growing recognition of the importance of non-coercive approaches per se, as well as of the complementarity they can have with more security related interventions This paper focuses on an approach entitled community stabilization as part of the latter, non-coercive modalities, intended to establish mechanisms and systems, or to change attitudes and behaviour, and provide resources to address different dimensions and drivers of instability. The approach serves the dual purpose of mitigating the likelihood of (re)emergent crises and further displacement, supporting early recovery and laying foundations conducive to long-term development, as well as building resilience at community levels towards destabilizing influences in future.

1.3 Aim and Objectives

The general Aim of this study is to examine the strategies employed by communities and people in ensuring the return of peace to their area and as well assess the copping strategies employed in the unveiling challenges brought about by the insurgence and to prevent or forestall society from retarding to war

1. To identify the key strategies and methods adopted by communities in ensuring the return of peace and harmony in their different localities.
2. To assess if the strategies and methods employed in ensuring the return to peace and harmonious coexistence are working or not.
3. To examine and address challenges confronting affected communities that have resettled back to their communities in the local government area.

1.4 Research Questions

1. What are the strategies and methods employed and enhancing the return of people to their communities?
2. How effective are this methods and strategies in enhancing peaceful and harmonious resettlement in their various communities?
3. How do we address the challenges affecting resettling communities' in Damaturu local government area of Yobe state?

Literature Review

It is obvious that Boko Haram terrorist group has committed several atrocities in Nigeria. Boko Haram activities have forced the intending educators, farmers, businesses, administrators as well as so many children into despair throughout the northern part of the country. Many of children not willing to go back to school, farmers scare to go to farms that a far, businessmen bankrupt, and admonitors failing most especially residents of Damaturu LGA.

Inarguably, a reasonable number of previous studies on insurgency and terrorism in Yobe state since the Islamic group became violent. Though, most of these studies have attempted to trace the root cause of Boko Haram Islamic sect insurgency in North-East Nigeria by attaching externality and internality factors to its origin. Not much have been done on the challenges those communities were facing in the aftermath of the insurgency.

Ahmed et. al. (2020) examines the implications of domestic insurgency on socio-economic development in Yobe state, Nigeria. The data used in the research was on the level and dimensions of insurgency in Yobe state. The data reveals an increase over time, which constitutes serious threat to lives and properties, hinders businesses and agricultural activities, attendant evidences of massive displacement of people, wanton destruction of infrastructures, and disruption to social endeavors among many have stifled and retarded socio-economic development in the state.

To study the post-conflict, Abdullahi et. al (2019) in their study explores the effect and post conflict peace-building in the Northeastern part of Nigeria with particular reference to Yobe state after the devastating effect of the Boko Haram insurgence. It was noted that the insurgence engulfed and damaged almost all aspect of the community's life thus includes; destruction of homes schools, hospitals, business premises, police stations, military formations, government offices and other emergency services in various parts of the state. Boko Haram devastations had affected the entire population of Yobe state in every aspect of living ranging from social, economic to political aspects. The study adopted qualitative and critical content analysis through analysis of data on violence inflicted by Boko Haram in Northeastern Nigeria.

Babagana (2018) made a study to Assess Socioeconomic Problems Facing Returnees Displaced by Boko Haram Insurgency in Damaturu Local Government Area of Yobe State, Nigeria. The research studied socioeconomic problems with links to Boko Haram insurgency facing residents after their return to the once deserted towns. A lot of social problems such as lack of potable drinking water, lack of power supply, increased fear, epileptic healthcare delivery as well increase in crime rate were found to be facing the communities while economic problems associated with the insurgency among the communities included loss of business places, loss of sources of income,

reduced business activities all of which cumulatively led to increased poverty affecting many families.

Effect of conflict on the development of society.

The effect of conflict on development could be explained from many fronts. However, (Faluyi et al., 2019) (2014),(Dauda, 2014) and (Abdulkarim et al., 2018) are few among scholars that have through their works shown the various ways in which conflict have affected the people. On the agricultural sector, larger percentage of the population in LDCs are involved in farming such as animal rearing. Conflicting parties destroyed large hectares of farmland. Also, millions of livestock have been adversely affected. The fishing industry was also affected as over a million fishermen immigrated to safer places within the country or neighboring countries.

(Dan-Azumi, 2018) explores the connection between socio-economic development and insecurity in Nigeria, with significance to the link between economic decline (characterized by high rates of unemployment, low wages and income, corruption and injustice) and the proliferation of conflict particularly in the north-east. The study shows a relationship between insecurity challenges in the northeast and rates of poverty and unemployment in the zone. According to,(Dan-Azumi, 2018) the study shows that despite increased spending by the government, the number of attacks and resulting casualties continued to rise between 2009 and 2017. it is argued that for proposed long term solutions to the insecurity situation in Nigeria to be effective, they must be predicated on the rule of law, protective of personal and political freedoms and equality, accountable and transparent and more importantly, in service of the common good of the citizen It can therefore be argued that the low success recorded in term of development and achieving the objectives and goals of MDGs in Nigeria and especially in the North-East region can be attributed to conflicts especially the Boko Haran insurgence and terrorist activities which led to destruction of life and properties, displacement of people and retarded development.

Damaturu Local Government Area (Wards)

S/N	Wards in Damaturu LGA	Population
1	BINDIGARI/PAWARI	Not Available
2	DAMAKASU	N/A

| 3 | DAMATURU CENTRAL | N/A |
4	GAMBIR/MADURI	N/A
5	KALALLAWA/GABA I	N/A
6	KUKARETA/ WARSALA	N/A
7	MAISANDARI/WAZI RI IBRAHIM ESTATE	N/A
8	MURFA KALAM	N/A
9	NAYINAWA	N/A
10	NJIWAJI/GWANGE	N/A
11	SASAWA/KABARU	N/A
TOTAL	Damaturu Local Government	87,706

Gender; Male   48,361   Female 39,345
(Source: 2006. Nigeria National Population Commission)
NB: N/A = Not Available on Google search as at December 2024.

Map of Damaturu Local Government area Yobe state Nigeria
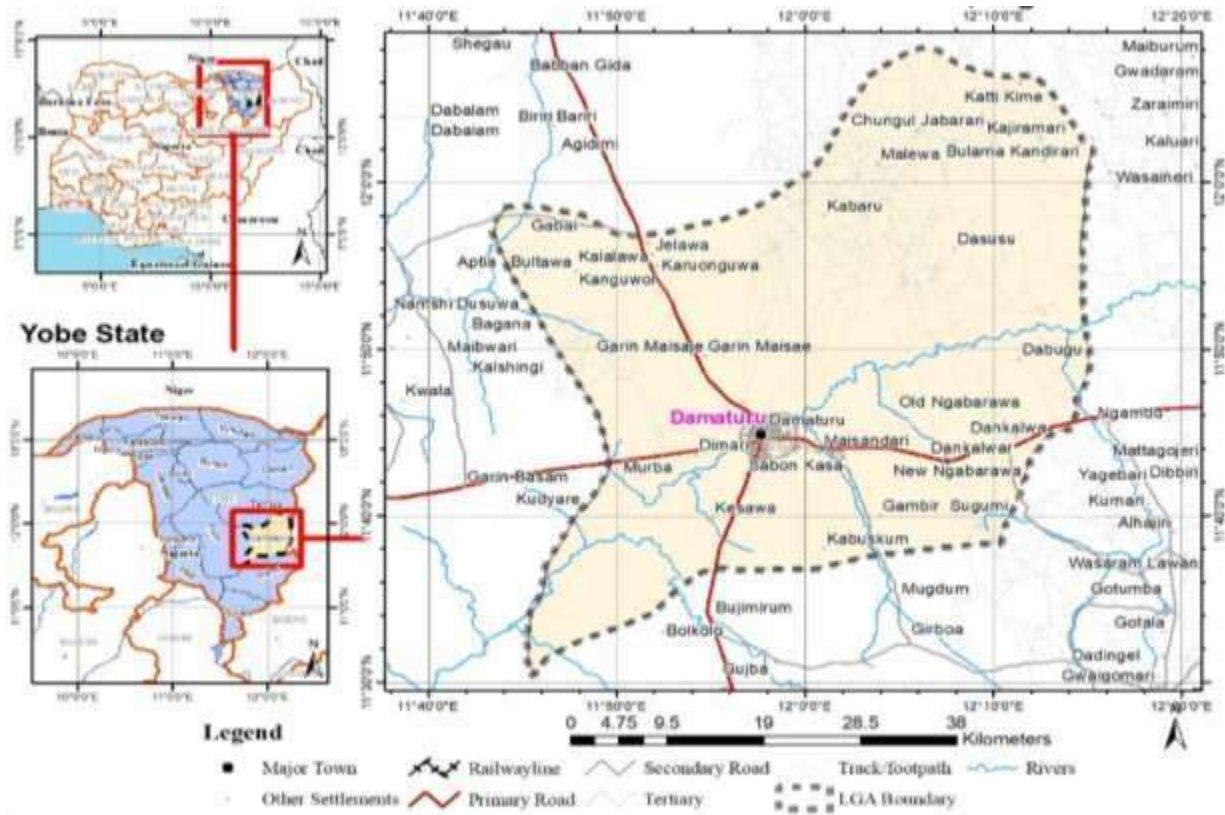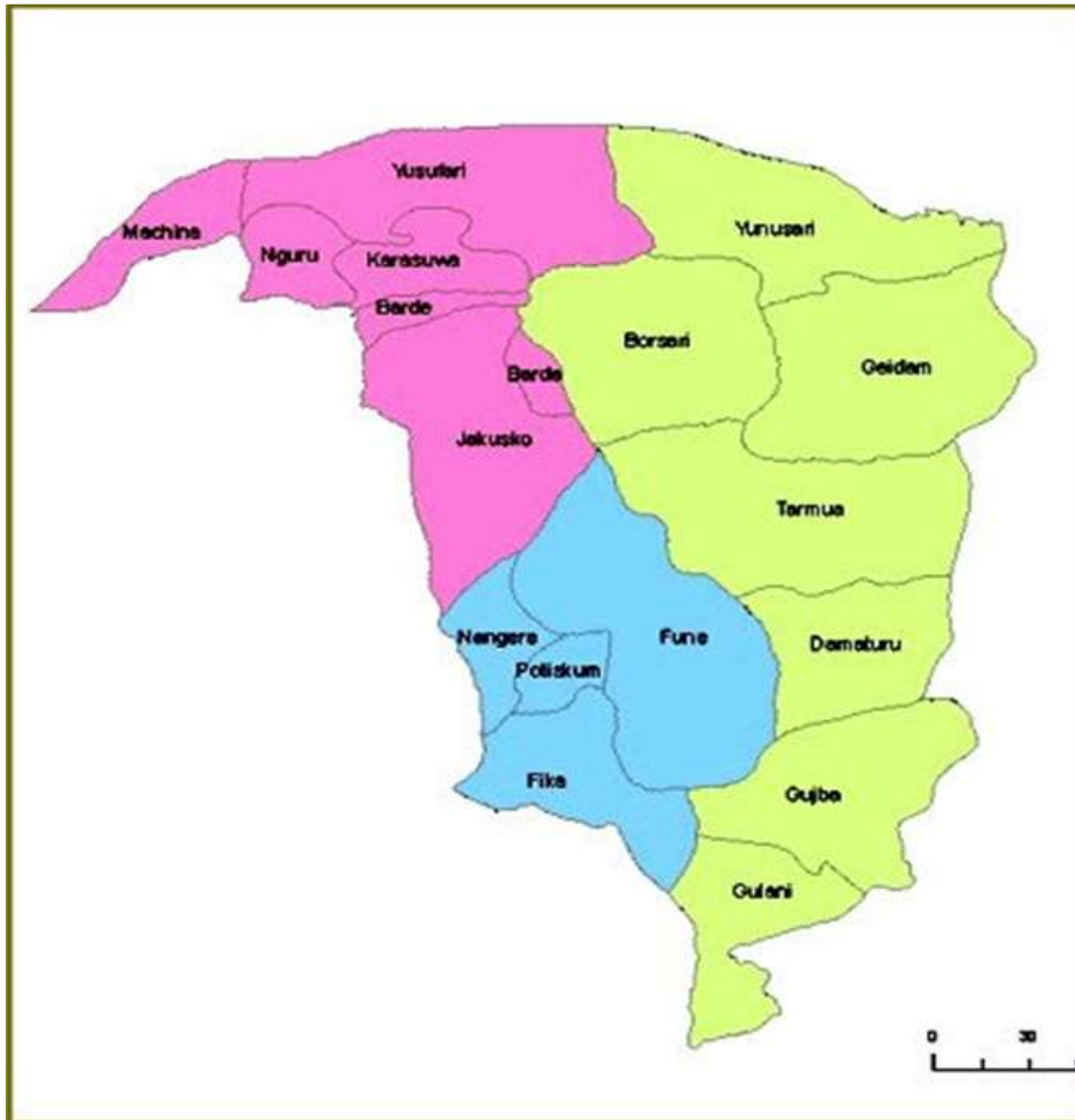
Map of Yobe State showing the Seventeen Local Government Areas

(Source: Google Maps**)**

Research Approach

This research work employ Questionnaire (structured) and interview to gain a better knowledge of the response of communities to the efforts at stabilizing the affected areas as well as, their view about what they think and suggest that government should do. The target population in this study is the population of Damaturu Local Government which, according to the National Population Commission 2006 census report is, 87,706 made up of eleven wards and of which a sample size of 110 respondents will be taken through survey (administration of questionnaire) using Cochran

sample size determination formula. However, this will form the bases of analysis. The content and design of the questionnaire will be critically re-evaluate to ensure effectiveness in its use for gathering the necessary data. By so doing, it will ease the rigor of handling data for data processing and analysis. The questionnaire is administered purposely.

Methods of Data Collection

Data and information are collected on the biography and socio-economic status of respondents in order to gain insight about the age of respondents which is necessary because it enables us to have good grip of their experience on the issues of study, it is expected that for respondents to be able to provide required information about response of community to stabilization and process in Boko-Haram Insurgence affected areas in Damaturu Local Government area.

Instrument of Data Collection:

Data will be collected using survey methods, which is premised on the use of questionnaire, Structured and open ended as well as interview in order to have firsthand information and where possible Focused Group Discussion (FGD) is used to elicit information from respondents,

Methods of Data Analysis:

Data collected through questionnaire and interview will be analyze through the use of pie charts, histogram, bar charts, table and explanations, the research will to some extend be exploratory on the activities of people (communities in the affected areas.

Dissemination of Results:

The result of this research work will be disseminated through several ways but not- ably, through publication of the research outcome in reputable journals, periodicals and making copies available to the government at all levels Federal, State and Local government and more importantly to agencies and institution in the affected areas copies will also be made available to libraries around the area of concern.

Findings of the research:

Information available through reviewed literature and data collected through field survey (Questionnaire and interview), shows that little can be seen or said about the preparedness and response of communities in the effort towards stabilization in post-conflict societies, this is borne out of the fact that there is still fair of insecurity of life and property which engrave the minds of people resulting from the traumatized experience of the Boko-Haram insurgence and terrorist activities, It would have been expected that people will willingly want to go back to their original home and abode after the crises but the experience of the few that have returned to their villages have left much to be desired as many have again been exposed to attacks, killings and wanton destruction of properties and further displacement. The research works carried out by Umar Abdulkarim. et'al in their research work**, IDP Camps Closure in Yobe State: Government Preparation and Willingness of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP's) to Return to Origin,** The review examines the issue of internally displaced persons camp closure in Yobe State Nort-Eastern Nigeria, where Boko Haram insurgency led to the formation of the IDP's camps. The camps were established in order to give protection to the displaced persons and give room for assistance and health services to reach them. However, since the camp is a temporary settlement pending the time situation will normalize to facilitate their return, with improvement of security situation in the areas, the IDPs were required to return to their origin, based on government assessment of the security situation and the willingness of the people to return to their origin.

Government decision should also be in collaboration with willingness of the people which should be predicated on security report presented by the security agencies. There is no doubt that this phase has been achieved to a greater extend, many IDPs have returned to their original abode willingly or unwillingly and in fact ill prepared or put in other words not prepared, this work set out to find out their response and challenges in the stabilization process, It should be noted that stabilization is not a one and for all process or stage it is a continuous process entailing many issues, policies and program by government the people themselves (community) Non-Governmental Organizations, individuals and groups.

One hundred and ten (110) questionnaires were administered to respondents in the eleven wards of the local government that is ten questionnaire to respondents in each ward to elicit information on their preparedness and response on the issue of their stability and desire for a lasting peace in their communities, where harmonious living and coexistence as well as growth and development can once again be achieved and sustained. One hundred and two (102) questionnaires were filled and returned, which is 93% (percent) of the total questionnaires of 110 administered on the respondents, therefore analyses is based on the 102 questionnaires returned, The questionnaire is structured in three segments, the first centered on the biographical data of respondents which has to do with ages of respondents , gender, marital status, educational qualifications or level, years of experience and knowledge about the subject matter under discussion, the age range is between 18 years and sixty years and above, Gender, about sixty-eight of the respondents are male which constitutes 67 %   while female are 34 and therefore constitute 33%. Marital status: a significant number of the respondents are married while few are single and few divorced or widowed, On the educational qualification and experience of the respondents, majority are of school certificate holders, few had their first degree while a handful has no western education qualification they are however lettered in Arabic and Islamic education. And others.

The second segment focused on eliciting information about the issues of prepare- redness and response of respondents in stabilizing their society through their personal and collective efforts as a community that have been ravaged by war conflicts and crises and gradually returning to peace. Questions asked includes among others, Are people prepared and ready to stay permanently in their original abode, 78 respondents which represent 76% of the sampled population opined that they are prepared to stay permanently in their homes while 24 respondents are not willing or ready to stay. What are the basic things required to make people remain in their original place of habitation. Majority of about 92 respondents which is 90% listed water, electricity and health-care facilities as what is required to enable people stay in rural areas, Is the security of life and property guaranteed in the local areas, Majority of the respondent are of the belief that security of life and properties is not guaranteed. This constitute 80%. Does government provide enough security personnel, strong and agile enough to protect the local communities against attack at any point in time, There is also the belief that the security personnel is inadequate to provide the much needed protection for the people 96 respondents which is 94% falls into this category, What effort are the people making or have put in place to guaranty the safety of their lives and property in their place of residence in their rural areas, The people opined they are relying heavily on self-defense and the civilian joint task force (CJTF). Are there adequate provision of basic needs and necessities of life that will make people to stay in the rural areas, Apart from the Military and other security

personnel provided by government is there any effort made by the community to safe guard themselves when the need arises, Is there any collaboration between the community and Military or Security Personnel in the protection of the community and the people. There is collaboration between local Vigilantes and the military Are people now free to engage in their economic activities such as cultivation of crops, farming, rearing of animals. Petty trading, hunting, fishing and other economic activities within the locality. To some extent although with fear and skeptics in their hearts and mind. Do people envisage re-occurrence of crises in this part of the country any time soon? Majority say no while few express possibility. Do you belief this is the beginning of a lasting peace and stability in the area. These questions among others were raised in the questionnaire administered and their feedback analyzed and explained, given an in-depth of the role, effort and response of the people (Community) to the stabilization process.

The third and final segment of the questionnaire focused on recommendation of what the communities want the government and security agents and personnel to do in order to achieve lasting and enduring peace in the area, this include re-settlement and rehabilitation programs to be continued, improve security surveillances in the rural areas,, timely response to distress call, support services such as humanitarian aids, health care services, water, good roads and hospitals among others.

Conclusion

This research work haven assessed the preparedness and response of community to efforts and program of government, institutions and agencies in the process of ensuring stability peaceful resettlement and returning society to its hitherto status of peace, harmony and tranquility, we have come to the understanding that in so far that the people like the idea of returning to their original abode and to continue with their livelihood activities, such as farming, rearing of animals, fishing, hunting and petty trading among others they are however skeptical about security of their life and properties, haven been beaten once, twice shire. It is however important to note that people and communities are eager to settle down back in their respectively locality but certain things remain worrisome and disturbing with regards to their safety, basic needs of live such as water, and their houses that have been destroyed by the insurgents, although government is making efforts at rebuilding and reconstructing some destroyed settlements and villages but what is on ground is far below expectation to accommodate the returnees and their families. Therefore, the response of communities in the stabilization process cannot be adjudged without putting into consideration their physic, previous experiences, trauma. And expectations from government and other supportive agencies such as Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs) and how to cope with the challenges of a post-conflict society, as well the fear of unknown and unforeseen circumstances that may arise, bearing in mind that the insurgents are still hibernating and have not yet been totally weeded off, the fear of reprisal attacks night-mare and sleepless nights resonates in the mind and heart of the people and the community at large. Finally much is still expected and needed to be done in term of security of life and property and support services as well as creating the required enabling environment conducive for habitation.

Recommendations

Although many community cannot be said to be prepared and in fact responsive to the efforts put in place by government and other institutions in enhancing stability and making sure life return to

normalcy in the hitherto insurgent affected areas in Damaturu Local Government Area of Yobe State, Not withstanding, communities have organized themselves into Vigilantes groups, providing security for their people, there exist, Hunters groups, Volunteer groups, and in some areas Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) among others, others have also engaged themselves in rehabilitation works, rural road reconstruction, water ways dredging, and local market maintenance and resettlement efforts. Nonetheless, we wish to recommend and suggest the following as a way towards further enhancing speedy and effective resettlement and stabilizing the affected communities.

1. Government should pay more attention to surveillance and provision of adequate security personnel in the resettled areas which are still prone to insurgent attacks and some security challenge,

2. Even though the communities have organized themselves in to self-defense groups like Vigilantes, Hunters and civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) this groups need proper monitoring and supervision as well as support and training in the acts of self-defense and protection of their communities

3. It is also observed that this group may likely metamorphoses to another criminal group if they are not adequately and efficiently coordinated and redeploy to meaningful works after the war or crises has come to an end.

4. As observed and noted from research findings, some of the insurgents are still very much around the corner hibernating and ready to cause alarm and problem at ant slightest opportunity, therefore efforts must still be intensified to ride them of the society completely, so that peace can return permanently to the region.

5. Community members must unite in the fight against insurgents, they must see themselves as brothers and sisters fighting for the same course which is protection of their lives and their properties, it is only when they see themselves as such that they can defeat the known and unknown enemies of the community.

6. Information gathering, and timely reporting of issues and problems can to a great extend curtail and where necessary prevent and repeal attacks of insurgents by security forces or the community members themselves.

7. Community members must see security as everyone's problem and not the concern of few or individuals within the community, together they can unite and fight their enemies but if they are divided they can easily be penetrated and dislodge by enemies.

8. Government must intensify efforts at making the rural areas conducive and habitable through the provision of basic needs of life such as water, electricity, health care facilities, roads, education (schools) among others.

9. Economic support. Majority of the displaced persons have lost grip of the means of livelihood and will therefore need assistance and support from government in order to be able to get back on their feet and continue with life, government must as a matter of urgency and necessity give helping hands to the people in the communities.

10. Traditional rulers the custodians of values and cultures as well as heads and leaders of the local community must wake up and live up to expectation in the discharge of their duties and responsibilities as peace makers, conflict resolvers and adjudicators in the various communities.

11. Government on the other hand must empower traditional rulers to be more involved in local issues regarding administration social justice and grass root mobilization and development.

12. Community Policing is very vital in ensuring adherence to rules and regulations and as well apprehending law breakers and sanctioning them appropriately to serve as deterrent to others who might wish to endure in criminal activities.

Finally, it must be borne in mind that security is every body's responsibility and not only of government, law enforcement agencies, groups or individuals, therefore, everyone hands must be on desk to report, give information and assist in ensuring that lives and properties are safe secured an guaranty for peaceful and harmonious society. Growth and development can only be achieved in a peaceful society, this is why it is often said that PEACE is SINE-QUA-NOON to growth and development anywhere in the world Nigeria is no exemption.

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