

## International Migration and National Security in Nigeria, 2011-2020

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### **Abstract**

*The study examined the effects of international migration and national security in Nigeria, 2011-2020. Historical background of migration can be traced as far back as the existence of man, most especially when man desired to go in search of food during various famine seasons. Virtually all individuals and nation states have one or two traces of migration history mostly influenced by two factors these are the “Pull” and “Push” factors. Nevertheless, as societies continue to advance, migration is triggered by various factors such as the search for greener pasture, migration emanating from internal insecurity, among others, which adverse impact on national security in Nigeria and Africa at large. National security is essential for internal protection against any potential threat to national security and sovereignty of a nation-state. The study adopted Rational Choice Decision Making Theory as its theoretical construct. The study adopted a triangulation method of data-gathering techniques. The population of the study was a total of 400 questions were randomly distributed among staffers and sexes in International Organization for Migration (IOM), Nigeria Correctional Service (NCS), Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), and Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM), Nigerian Navy (NN), and General public. The analysis of primary data produced through a questionnaire was tested with descriptive statistical methods. The content analysis was used in the interpretation of secondary data. The study unraveled that the causes of international migration differ from individual to individual and from community to community, which include famine, drought, low agricultural productivity, and unemployment. The study recommends amongst others that the Nigeria government should articulate and develop more sustainable socio-economic cum security policies to prevent labour and refuge migrants.*

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**Keywords:** economic, international migration, national security, political

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## Introduction

Since the beginning of creation, humans have always involved themselves in movement activities. This has been a major feature in the history of Africa and the entire globe generally (Akanji, 2012). This indicates that historical background of migration can be traced as far back as the existence of man, most especially when man desired to go in search of food during various famine seasons. Okeoghene (2017) opines that virtually all individuals and nation states have one or two traces of migration history (Internal and international) mostly influenced by two factors these are the “Pull” and “Push” factors. It is said to be internal or international. Internal migration explains the movement of individuals within same geographical territory which in this case can be from rural to urban or from Lagos to Abuja. International Migration has to do with the crossing of borders or international boundaries such as Cameroon to Nigeria described as South-South Migration, Nigeria to United States of America described also as South-North Migration. For International Migration (Emigration and Immigration) to take place, the sending state, the receiving state and the migrant is involved in the migration process. Aliome (2019) opines that migration and national security are generally regarded as complex phenomena with many perspectives. In fact, the multidimensionality of the concepts requires special approach and development of measures to secure them. Yahaya (2019) maintains that migration cannot be inevitable from the history of the story of man, families, villages and nation-state.

According to the report of the International Organisation for Migration, IOM (2017), the global estimate of international migrants as at 2015 was 244 million, suggesting that about 3.3 percent of the world’s population moved across international borders. In spite of the high global estimate of international migrants, more than 740 million people are internal migrants, which are far more than their counterparts who are involved in cross-border movements (IOM, 2017). This implies that global estimate of internal migrants are about three times higher than the international migrants. The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, UN DESAPD (2017) reports that the number of Nigerians abroad has increased from 988.6 thousand in 1990 to over 1.2 million in 2017. According to the report of NPC on those who move internally in Nigeria, a large proportion of its population (23.0%) were migrants, while 2 percent were return migrants (NPC, 2012). This suggests that a large proportion of Nigerians move either internally or externally. More so, the movements are usually influenced by the desire for improved standard of living and forced displacements. Nigeria Population Commission (2012) further reveals that six out of every ten persons were internal migrants (60%) who resided in urban centres, and that the concentration of migrants in the urban centres implied enormous consequences on the security in the urban centres, as well as the rural areas.

Migration is a complex demographic dynamic that encompasses social and economic aspects that affect human daily lives such that migrants become progressively adapted to the globalised world (IOM, 2017). It serves as a means of exchange of goods and ideas including geopolitics thereby providing opportunities for countries and societies to derive substantial benefits from one another (Isiugo-Abanihe, 2016). These benefits, on the other hand, promote both social and economic integration among countries or societies who engage in the exchange.

Furthermore, it is understood that the voluntary movements of people from one geographical entity to the other improve lives and well-being of people both at the origin and destination while offering opportunities for improved standard of living. However, some movements are stemmed from forced displacements such as internally displaced persons (IDPs) or refugees due to conflicts, environmental hazards, persecution and lack of security (IOM, 2017). For example, between January and December 2018, about 541,000 persons were forcefully displaced due to conflicts and violence, while 613,000 persons were displaced by disasters in the country (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, IDMC, 2019). From the foregoing, it could be said that while most voluntary movements imply positive consequences on socioeconomic development of the societies, forceful displacements may not due to the incidences that have led to the involuntary movements compared to their counterparts who moved voluntarily.

However, IOM (2017) claims that migration has created some forms of problematic or challenges to the political, economic, social, security survival of many societies, states and nations despite its enormous benefits. It is a means of economic survival, a means of political struggle, as well as a major threat to national and international security. Migration and insecurity are two inextricably woven issues that have remained a major threat in the ECOWAS region. While migration may lead to insecurity and vice versa, migration and insecurity remain prevalent in Nigeria and this has dire consequences for security and stability of the country. He stresses that in West Africa, climate change and environmental factors, food crisis, refugee flows, poverty and unemployment, and terrorism are major causes and resultants of migration. Stressing further, the scholar notes that agriculture is the major source of livelihood and source of food and this makes the region largely vulnerable to environmental influences, climate and food insecurity in Nigeria. He claims that between 1992 and 2003, 35% of food emergencies were caused by conflict and economic problems emanating from migration.

International Migration can be of great benefits to a nation state through agreements and partnerships with others (states) in the international system. The International Organization Migration (2014) observes that developing countries engage more in International Migration than the developed countries. It notes that about 1 billion migrants are around the world presently not residing in their nation state of origin. The International Federal Red Cross and Red Crescent (2012) affirms that these migrants around the globe can make up a 6th nation state after the order of China, Indian, United States of America (USA), Indonesia

Nosiri and Ohazurike (2016) further stress that the extent to which states protect their territory against any internal crime and potential aggressors or threat depends on the level of their ability or capability to achieve adequate national security. National security is very essential for internal protection against any potential threat to national security and sovereignty of a nation-state. Spencer (2007) viewed that “the border is the first line of defence against terrorism and last line of a nation’s territorial integrity.” In contemporary nation-states, well-defined borders are not only a crucial aspect of statehood, but also a crucial component of the definition of statehood, but their consolidation has been identified as essential to building stable security while unbound borders have been perceived as revenue for instability and conflict. The classification of whether a state is a weak, strong and failed state depends on the level of its capability to protect its citizens and

international borders (Okumu, 2011). Against this backdrop, the study interrogates the impact of international migration on national security in Nigeria from 2011 to 2021.

### **Conceptual Issues**

#### **Pre-Colonial Migration:**

International migration in Nigeria predates its colonization. Kwaire (2000) opines that the movement of people whom were either involved are victims of slave raiding and slave trading, inter-ethnic conflicts and warfare. It has also been observed that trans-border migration came about as a result of religious pilgrimages in place like the Arabian Peninsula where trading and nomadic herding of livestock was in existing in the empires and kingdoms. There also existed some spatial movements of people in and outside empires/kingdoms in Africa and in Nigeria in specific. This has been attributed to lack of well-defined boundaries in the empires /kingdoms. Alkali (1985) and Armstrong (1955) maintained that though there is lack of documentation of human movement and migration during the pre-colonial era, the migration flow during the period remained dynamic and diverse. Justifying further that there was migration during this era, places like Sokoto Caliphate was essentially populated by migrants of Gobirwa, Nufawa, Bussawa, Tuaregs, Adrawa and Zebama ethnic groups, these migrants were predominantly Hausa-Fulani.

Emigration from north-eastern Nigeria stems from the 19th century before the partitioning of Africa when most of the groups in Nigeria's neighbouring francophone countries migrated from and were part of the old Borno empire (Mahdi, 1989). Migration as observed in the north central Nigeria started as early as 500BC, when the quest for territory was the reason movement as people moved to secure land of theirs and to establish identity (Armstrong, 1955). Considering the Idoma nation of the present Benue state Nigeria, they were said to have migrated from Kwararafa Kingdom of north-eastern part of Nigeria between 1533 and 1745.

Currently, these people are found in three regions of Benue, Nasarawa and northern part of Ogoja of Cross River State. The main cultural feature of this people is (agrarian), this they acquired during their migration (Erim, 1981). Buttressing further, the Tiv people of Benue State, based on ethnographic and historical studies were said to be Bantu stock (Erim, 1981). It is recorded that they migrated from Congo basin, moving across many countries (trans-border) migration. They continue this type of movement even over internal locations in the country which prompted Lord Lugard, the first Governor General of Nigeria to assert that "the people of Benue river valley moves continuously along the valley in search of farmlands" (Armstrong, 1955). Also, people within the zone migrated to highlands like the Jos Plateau, Adamawa and Mambila highlands as these areas are been regarded as safe haven to avoid the Islamic Jihad of Othman Danfodio and his cohorts who moved from northwestern Nigeria to convert people to Islam (Mahdi, 1989).

Going southward, due to colonization of southwest by the Oyo empire builders, this led to some movements which resulted to the founding of settlements and business activities. The manifestation is seen in the extent of the stretching of the Oyo Empire as far west as the Ashanti and Dahomey areas (Akinjogbin, 1980). These movements accounted for much presence of the Yoruba immigrants of old Oyo Empire in the neighbouring Francophone and Anglophone countries of West Africa like the today's republic of Benin, Togo, Cote d'voire and Liberia. With the advent of many settlements in Yoruba land, signified an evidence of internal migration during

the period. For instance, Ibadan was said to be founded by people from Egba and Ife, Ijebu, Ijesa, Ekiti, Igbomina, Akoko and also by non-Yoruba group which was led by Lagelu around 16th century. It was also gathered that the Fulani jihadists were likewise key to the migration of some Oyo people to Ibadan war camp whenever they raided their villages (Dahiru, 2017).

Again it is observed that there existed some other categories of migrants during the pre-colonial era which include traders and herders that were prominent in the trans-saharan trade. For example, it was reported that traders of Hausa origin engaged in a long distant trading to the present day countries of Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali and Cameroon (Akinjogbin, 1980). Worthy of note also, was the activities of the Fulani nomads in the era that often moves from one geographical location to another with their cattles in search for pasture in an area now regarded as Nigeria.

**Colonial and Post-Independence Migration:** With the advent of the British in the 19th century marked a turning point and added another angle to both internal and international migration in Nigeria. As a result of colonial administration, it led to delineation of boundaries, considerably stable government, modern means of transport, monetized economy, amongst others. This persisted during the period and shortly after the country gained independence. The political economy of the country was such that it provided a framework for large scale migration; the need for large labour force for mines, plantations and public administration. Labour was recruited through persuasion and coercion (Adepoju, 1996).

Studies reveal that migrant labourers were found in different parts of the country, especially in regional headquarters, administrative and market centres like Zaria, Enugu, Kano, Ibadan, Lagos, Sokoto, Kaduna, among others in search for trade and gainful employment (Ikweyatum, 2006). As regards international migration, Abba (1993) maintained that within the period 1914 and 1922, there were incidences of migration of foreigners into Kano and its environs. Adegbola (1972) claims that because of better wage pay between 1900 and January 1902, an approximated number of 6,500 labourers left Lagos to work on Sekondi-Tarkwa rail line and in Gold Coast. Other pointer to international migration in Nigeria, Prothero (1957) indicated that approximately 250, 000 immigrants entered the north western region of Nigeria 1931 and 1952 coming from the French territory from the north and west; a situation that was suggested to have been so since 1903. Lawan, (2004) submits that over 70,000 Nigerians living in Sudan were mostly Hausa and Borno. Mahdi, (1989) argued that the 1948 census of Ghana revealed that about 46,800 Nigerians lived in Ghana, this figure later increased to 100,000 in the year 1959 doubling the population of 1948. It is also recorded according to Prothero (1957) that 257, 000 migrants left the north-western region during the 1952-1953 census for the Gold Coast, Dahomey and Togo, out of which 28,000 people were mostly from “Arewacin Sakwato” meaning northern Sokoto in Hausa language. Adegbola, (1972) and Mabogunje, (1972) recorded that the people of Osun Division particularly Saki were believed to be migrated to Ghana, Upper Volta, Dahomey, Mali, Togo and Niger including other West African countries.

This increase extent of migration was linked to economic development initiative and vigorous Pan-African movement adopted by Ghana immediately after its independence. It further resulted to expulsion of between 500 thousand to one million foreigners from Ghana, with Yoruba migrants inclusive. Asiwaju (1984) opined that most of the movements into and outside Nigeria can best be described as a movement within a relatively homogenous West African States. This is because



these boundaries that splitted people of common culture and ethnic groupings into different countries were more perceived by the people across the borders as artificial; thus most of the people were tagged as international migrants who originated just across the borders of Chad, Niger, Benin and Cameroon considered as within the same sociocultural domain rather than between two distinct nations. The most coherent international migration was said to be the one between Nigeria and her colonial masters where the emerging elites moved there for studies and in some few instance, administrative matters.

Migration in the-post independence era, towards the 20th century, which is the period marking the post-independence regime experience an increased labour migration from different segments of Nigeria; ranging from administrative and economic nerves of the country to various quotas as ever witnessed before. This affected the course of migration as result of changing political economy of Nigeria, in the form of civil war, reconstruction, the development of natural resources and establishment of main administrative centres affected migration decision-making of people (Adejumo, Godwin & Olumuyiwa, 2008).

Employment opportunities during this era was predominantly viewed outside the primary productive venture of agriculture but jobs were created in area such as Tin mines of Jos Plateau, the Enugu coal mines and also the coastal industrial/port cities of Lagos, Port Harcourt and Calabar. Also, after the induction and ratification of protocol on free movement of Goods, Capital and People in 1980, this led to immigration of ECOWAS citizens in to Nigeria (Afolayan, 1988). Moreover, with the introduction of Structural Adjustment Program (SAP) in the late 80s, changes the Nigeria government policy on provision of full employment to its citizenry as the policy sought to cut expenditure on critical services like health, education and housing (Afolayan, 1998).

This has actually created a large number of women traders that moved between Lagos and Abidjan and in a few riverine West African countries. The immigrant stock of 2005, revealed estimated total number of 971,450 persons. This is about 0.7 percent of the total population of Nigeria (UNDP, Development Prospect Group, 2006). Unlike the situation for emigration, the source countries mostly were Benin, Ghana, Mali, Togo, Niger, Chad, Liberia, Cameroon, Mauritania and Egypt (Afolayan, 1991).

Another dimension to this is the forced migration. It has been also revealed that migration is caused by man-made disaster such as (wars, government policies, ethnic clashes, religious conflicts, political instability, terrorism and natural disasters such as famine, drought, flood and earthquakes). This phenomenon has displaced people to the extent that Nigeria in the year 2003 camped 10,000 refugees, 6,000 coming from Liberia, about 3,000 from Chad and 1,000 from other African countries (UNCHR, 2005).

### **National Security**

The national security of any nation can be considered in a wider context. Without equivocation, nations give priority to the security of their territorial integrity, their resources and all their citizens. Therefore, this gives the impression that national security is the protection of a nation-state's independence and sovereignty against internal and external threats (Ogele, 2022). Empirically, every country has many interests to defend. The national interest is a result of values, ethos, good

governance, and the preservation of socioeconomic wellbeing of the entire citizenry. As stated above, national security is the protection and maintenance of a sovereign state or nation's national interest. Harold Brown [US Secretary of Defense from 1977 to 1981] defined national security as the ability to safeguard the nation's physical integrity and territory; maintain its economic relationship with the rest of the world on reasonable terms; preserve its nature, institutions and governance against externs and to control its borders (Abolurin, 2011, Adedoyin, 2013). National security is a concept that is not universally accepted. Nevertheless, there are two competing schools of thought- the traditional security paradigm and the contemporary standpoint. Whereas the traditional security paradigm views security from the military angle based on military response and threat management, the contemporary perspective looks at national security in terms of modern security threats such as hunger, poverty, unemployment, and environmental disaster, among others. Given the above, a nation is secure when it does not only when is threatened by war to preserve its legitimate interest but also when the citizens from free from human security challenges. Maniruzzaman (1982) suggests that a country's political independence and territorial integrity are the values that matter. McNamara (former secretary of state) also maintained that any society that aims to achieve adequate military security while facing a severe shortage of food, should population growth, low level of output, low income per inhabitant, low technological development, among others.

### **Theoretical Framework**

The study adopted Rational Choice Decision Making Theory as it theoretical underpinning. This theory was pioneered by Sociologist George Hamas in 1961 provided basic framework for the explanation of Migration and National Security. This theory was grounded in assumptions drawn from behavioural psychology and emphasizes the huge role economics play in human behaviour. According to this theory people are often motivated by money and the possibility of making a profit, calculating the likely costs and benefits of any action before deciding what to do. This theory becomes essential in the elucidation of this work because Migration is induced by socio-economic, cultural and demographic factor which in turn determines the state of National Security. Besides, the work perceived uncontrolled and illegal Migration as a serious security threat to sustainable socioeconomic development of Nigeria and that is why government should articulate and formulate policies capable of manning its borders and by so doing the government has maximize the benefits of economic, internal and public safety and minimize the cost of threat associated with the irrational practices of migrants.

Undoubtedly, the government has the cognitive ability and resources to articulate and develop more sustainable socio-economic policies to curtail the illicit inflows of people to our Country considering the economic implications of their actions on our national Security. In fact, issues of Migration and National Security have drawn much attention in the scientific research and practice and the objectivity of the theory we adopted in the course of our illumination cannot be overemphasized. Therefore, since the voluntary migrants are motivated by their personal wants and goals and are driven by personal desires, the government should come up with alternative courses of actions that could deter the inducing factors to migration such as good road, good health centre and other social amenities. The study was based on the method of abstraction and comparism; data were collected through secondary sources and analysed through expository mechanism. Coincidentally, this study will help the Nigeria government to adopt policy that will

curtail the inflows of scrupulous elements into our Country and boast our National security and social coherence thereby filling the vacuum created by our porous border. It will also help in the reduction of proliferation of arms or dangerous weapons in circulation and strengthen the confidence of the general public on the government ability to protect lives and properties of the citizenry. Furthermore, this study will bridge the existing gap between the past and present literature on the migration and national security thereby adding to the pool of knowledge already existing in the area under study. Findings made available by this study will serve as reference materials to scholars who may carry out similar study in future. It will also open a new frontier for debate on migration and national security.

### Methodology

The study adopted a triangulation method of data-gathering techniques. The primary data are generated through the distribution of a questionnaire to our respondents and oral interview. The study revealed that out of a total number of 400 questionnaires that was distributed, the researcher was able to retrieve 350 questionnaires from the respondents while 300 questionnaires were properly filled which forms the basis of our analysis. Open and close-ended structured questionnaire technique was employed to obtain the needed information. 20 respondents were interviewed to complement the questionnaire. The secondary data were obtained from published and unpublished intellectual properties, the publications of the International Journals and Google. A simple percentage was used to analyse the data generated from the distribution of the questionnaires.

### Data Presentation and Analysis

The data presentation and analysis the results collected from questionnaires are presented through simple percentage used in analysing the demographic information

### Bio data of respondents

The frequency and percentage distribution of the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents is presented in this section. These include age, marital status, level of education, and occupation amongst others.

**Table 4.1: Frequency and Percentage distribution of Respondents by Age**

Age	Frequency	Percentage
18-20yrs	24	8.0
21-24yrs	14	4.7
25-29yrs	40	13.3
30-34yrs	52	17.3
35-39yrs	61	20.3
40-44yrs	51	17.0
45-49yrs	58	19.3
Total	300	100

**Source:** Fieldwork, 2022

The result presented in Table 1 above shows frequency and percentage distribution of respondents by age. The table revealed that 18-20yrs, 21-24yrs, 25-29yrs, 30-34yrs, 35-39yrs, 40-44yrs and 45-49yrs have frequencies of 24, 14, 40, 52, 61, 51 and 68 respectively. This indicates that majority



of the respondents are within the age bracket of 35-39 and 45-49 years representing 20.3% and 19.3% of the population of this study respectively.

**Table 4.2: Frequency and Percentage distribution of Respondents by Marital Status**

Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage
Single	110	36.7
Married	140	46.7
Separated	17	5.7
Divorced	12	4.0
Widowed	21	7.0
Total	300	100

**Source:** Fieldwork, 2022

The result in table 2 above shows the frequency distribution of marital status of respondents. The table shows that single/unmarried are 110 representing 36.7%, 140 Married respondents represent 46.7%, 17 respondents are separated which represent 5.7%, 12 respondents are divorced representing 4.0% with 21 widows which represent 7.0%. The implication of this is that 140, representing 46.7%, of the total respondents are married. Also 110, representing 36.7%, of the respondents are single/unmarried.

**Table 4.3: Frequency and Percentage distribution of Respondents by Level of Education**

Education	Frequency	Percentage
No formal education	3	1.0
Primary Education	7	2.3
Secondary Education	120	40.0
OND/NCE	109	36.3
B Sc.	50	16.7
Higher Degree	10	3.3
Others	1	.03
Total	300	100.0

**Source:** Fieldwork, 2023

The result in Table 4 above shows that the highest number (120) of the respondents, representing 40.0%, is those with secondary school education. This figure is followed by those with OND/NCE with 109, representing 36.3% of the respondents. This indicates that most of the respondents are aware or understand the concept of international migration and national security in Nigeria.

## Data Analysis

**Table 4.4: Response rates for nexus between international migration and national security**

Questions	SD	D	A	SA	Min	Max	Mea n	Std.
International migration undermines sovereignty and supremacy in national security	65	18	99	118	1.00	5.00	4.00	0.608
International migration enhances trade relationship and free movement across borders in national security	7	45	16	232	1.00	5.00	3.92	0.662
International migration leads to overpopulation and city congestion in national security	22	34	219	25	1.00	5.00	2.97	0.569
International migration engenders security breach, unrest and increases crime rate in national security	40	6	24	230	1.00	5.00	4.02	0.665
International migration increases manpower and breeds unhealthy competition in job opportunities in national security	53	14	110	123	1.00	5.00	3.67	0.761

### Source: Field Survey Data, 2023

In table 4.4, the first questionnaire item presented is “international migration undermines sovereignty and supremacy in national security” for this question, 65 respondents strongly disagreed, 18 respondents disagreed, 99 respondents agreed and 118 respondents strongly agreed. This revealed that international migration undermines sovereignty and supremacy in national security as it is evident that 72% (217 out of 300) respondents strongly disagreed. This implies that international migration undermines sovereignty and supremacy in national security.

For the second item “international migration enhances trade relationship and free movement across borders in national security” 7 respondents strongly disagreed, 45 respondents disagreed, 16 respondents agreed and 232 strongly agreed, revealing that most respondents disagreed that international migration enhances trade relationship and free movement across borders in national security. This is evident as 83% of respondents disagreed. This implies that international migration enhances trade relationship and free movement across borders in national security.

For the third question “international migration leads to overpopulation and city congestion in national security” 22 respondents strongly disagreed, 34 respondents agreed, 219 agreed and 25 strongly agreed. On this note, majority of the respondents making 81% disagreed that international

migration leads to overpopulation and city congestion in national security. This indicates that international migration leads to overpopulation and city congestion in national security.

For the fourth item, “international migration engenders security breach, unrest and increases crime rate in national security” 40 respondents strongly disagreed, 6 respondents disagreed, 24 agreed and 230 strongly agreed. This is to show that international migration engenders security breach, unrest and increases crime rate in national security.

The fifth and last item “international migration increases manpower and breeds unhealthy competition in job opportunities in national security” saw 53 respondents strongly disagreed, 14 disagreed, 110 agreed and 123 strongly agreed. This indicates that international migration increases manpower and breeds unhealthy competition in job opportunities in national security with 233 respondents out of 300 strongly agree on this.

**Table 4.5: Response rates for causes of international migration in national security**

Questions	SD	D	A	SA	Min	Max	Mea n	Std.
Porous borders and corruption were factors responsible for international migration in national security	55	28	118	99	1.00	5.00	4.00	0.862
Conflict and inadequate co-operation among security agencies were identified as one of the causes of successes of international migration in national security	17	35	200	48	1.00	5.00	3.92	0.570
Poverty and population mobility were reasons for international migration in national security	34	22	198	46	1.00	5.00	2.97	0.671
Lapses and abuse of ECOWAS protocol is one of the reasons for international migration in national security	30	16	54	200	1.00	5.00	4.02	0.599
International migration increases due to problem of globalization and manpower problems in national security	27	40	120	113	1.00	5.00	3.67	0.786

**Source: Field Survey Data, 2022**

In table 4.5, the first questionnaire item presented is “porous borders and corruption were factors responsible for international migration in national security” for this question, 55 respondents

strongly disagreed, 28 respondents disagreed, 118 respondents agreed and 99 respondents strongly agreed as it is evident that 72% (217 out of 300) respondents strongly disagreed. This implies that Porous borders and corruption were factors responsible for international migration in national security.

For the second item “conflict and inadequate co-operation among security agencies were identified as one of the causes of successes of international migration in national security” 17 respondents strongly disagreed, 35 respondents disagreed, 200 respondents agreed and 48 strongly agreed, revealing that most respondents disagreed. This is evident as 83% of respondents disagreed. This implies that conflict and inadequate co-operation among security agencies were identified as one of the causes of successes of international migration in national security.

For the third question “poverty and population mobility were reasons for international migration in national security” 34 respondents strongly disagreed, 22 respondents agreed, 198 agreed and 46 strongly agreed. On this note, majority of the respondents making 81% disagreed that poverty and population mobility were reasons for international migration in national security. This indicates that poverty and population mobility were reasons for international migration in national security.

For the fourth item, “lapses and abuse of ECOWAS protocol is one of the reasons for international migration in national security” 30 respondents strongly disagreed, 16 respondents disagreed, 54 agreed and 200 strongly agreed. This is to show that lapses and abuse of ECOWAS protocol is one of the reasons for international migration in national security.

The fifth and last item “international migration increases due to problem of globalization and manpower problems in national security” saw 27 respondents strongly disagreed, 40 disagreed, 120 agreed and 113 strongly agreed. This indicates that international migration increases due to problem of globalization and manpower problems in national security with 233 respondents out of 300 strongly agree on this.

**Table 4.6: Response rates for effect of international migration on national security**

Questions	SD	D	A	SA	Min	Max	Mea n	Std.
International migration leads to infiltration of terrorist and rise in criminal gangs in national security	65	18	99	118	1.00	5.00	4.00	0.673
International migration has a produced a serious in economic development in national security	7	45	16	232	1.00	5.00	3.92	0.844
Political instability and unhealthy political environment were effects of international migration on national security	22	34	219	25	1.00	5.00	2.97	0.956

Health-related diseases, smuggling of illicit business and trafficking in international migration negatively affect national security	40	6	24	230	1.00	5.00	4.02	0.789
International migration threatens Nigeria's sovereignty and undermines its existence in national security	53	14	110	123	1.00	5.00	3.67	0.587

### Source: Field Survey Data, 2022

In table 4.6, the first questionnaire item presented is “international migration leads to infiltration of terrorist and rise in criminal gangs in national security” for this question, 65 respondents strongly disagreed, 18 respondents disagreed, 99 respondents agreed and 118 respondents strongly agreed. This revealed that international migration leads to infiltration of terrorist and rise in criminal gangs in national security as it is evident that 72% (217 out of 300) respondents strongly disagreed. This implies that international migration leads to infiltration of terrorist and rise in criminal gangs in national security.

For the second item “international migration has a produced a serious in economic development in national security” 7 respondents strongly disagreed, 45 respondents disagreed, 16 respondents agreed and 232 strongly agreed, revealing that most respondents disagreed that international migration has a produced a serious in economic development in national security. This is evident as 83% of respondents disagreed. This implies that international migration has a produced a serious in economic development in national security.

For the third question “political instability and unhealthy political environment were effects of international migration on national security” 22 respondents strongly disagreed, 34 respondents agreed, 219 agreed and 25 strongly agreed. On this note, majority of the respondents making 81% disagreed that political instability and unhealthy political environment were effects of international migration on national security. This indicates that political instability and unhealthy political environment were effects of international migration on national security.

For the fourth item, “health-related diseases, smuggling of illicit business and trafficking in international migration negatively affect national security” 40 respondents strongly disagreed, 6 respondents disagreed, 24 agreed and 230 strongly agreed. This is to show that health-related diseases, smuggling of illicit business and trafficking in international migration negatively affect national security.

The fifth and last item “international migration threatens Nigeria's sovereignty and undermines its existence in national security” saw 53 respondents strongly disagreed, 14 disagreed, 110 agreed and 123 strongly agreed. This indicates that international migration threatens Nigeria's sovereignty and undermines its existence in national security with 233 respondents out of 300 strongly agree on this.



In table 4.7, the first questionnaire item presented is “community engagement would help to monitor international migration in national security” for this question, 55 respondents strongly disagreed, 28 respondents disagreed, 118 respondents agreed and 99 respondents strongly agreed as it is evident that 72% (217 out of 300) respondents strongly disagreed. This implies that community engagement would help to monitor international migration in national security.

For the second item “the government should strengthen co-operation among security agencies in international migration to enhance national security” 17 respondents strongly disagreed, 35 respondents disagreed, 200 respondents agreed and 48 strongly agreed, revealing that most respondents disagreed. This is evident as 83% of respondents disagreed. This implies that the government should strengthen co-operation among security agencies in international migration to enhance national security.

For the third question “issues of corruption at the border among security agents should be addressed in international migration in national security” 34 respondents strongly disagreed, 22 respondents agreed, 198 agreed and 46 strongly agreed. On this note, majority of the respondents making 81% disagreed. This indicates that issues of corruption at the border among security agents should be addressed in international migration in national security.

For the fourth item, “the use of Information & Computer Technology (ICT) drones to monitor border transactions in international migration would foster national security” 30 respondents strongly disagreed, 16 respondents disagreed, 54 agreed and 200 strongly agreed. This is to show that the use of Information & Computer Technology (ICT) drones to monitor border transactions in international migration would foster national security.

The fifth and last item “proper documentation and biometric and digital measures to track migrants in international migration would mitigate issues that border on national security” saw 27 respondents strongly disagreed, 40 disagreed, 120 agreed and 113 strongly agreed. This indicates that proper documentation and biometric and digital measures to track migrants in international migration would mitigate issues that border on national security.

## **Discussion of Findings**

### **Nexus between international migration and national security:**

Muhammad (2021) opined that a critical consideration of every foreign policy is the national interest of the state. The scholar has equated national interest with national security. He stressed that:

The primary concern of any state is the national security of its people. Any state that failed in this area appears to have failed in everything. The components that made up national interest include security interests, economic interests and ideological interests. Security and economic interest supersede the list in national interest. The absence of security matters in national policy spell doom for any nation (p.32).

From the above contribution, security interest is a component of national interest. The empirical indicators of security interests include; protecting national borders, ensuring the safety of citizens from harm by foreign enemies, protecting allies, protecting areas of military importance such as military supply routes, allies that host military bases, protecting bases and sources of national power preventing foreign intrusions into your national territorial regions, maintaining military power and capacity to project power where and as needed to protect national sovereignty and security interests, and maintaining knowledge regarding potential threats to national security. The above fact was however corroborated by an interviewee who observed that:

The failure of the Nigerian state to guarantee the domestic security of her people occasioned by the spiralling activities of these militia and terrorist groups through migration has undermines the sovereignty and supremacy of the state. The state must abrogate the notion of the state possessing monopoly of the use of force which has equally reduced the value of the state. Strong economies are able to also maintain a strong military that can address internal rebellion and external threats (T. Nwokocha, personal communication, June 15, 2022).

Aliome (2019) for instance noted that it has been argued that American decision makers generally understand national security to be a military concept, but Japanese leaders perceive national security in economic terms. He opined that the combination of both the military concept and economic concern is plausible as the capacity of a country militarily and economically is imperative in her efforts at curbing the activities of these militia groups have frustrated legitimate state institutions in the provision of domestic security.

#### **Effect of international migration on national security:**

Igbuzor (2011) opined that the role of border remains a very critical factor in finding solutions to Nigeria national security challenges. He noted that the border protects the country from dangerous and unforeseeable elements. He stressed that Nigeria's borders have become very porous due to years of neglect by Nigeria government. He further revealed that such neglect has led to the serious national security challenges today like Boko Haram insurgency, armed bandit, Herdsmen, illegal bunkering, drug pushing, and weapon trafficking to name but a few which degenerated into the worrisome large scale destruction of lives, properties and economy of the country.

Regrettably, Okeoghene (2017) asserted that the Nigeria national security challenges have become very problematic and cumbersome because of unhindered influx of criminals and arms through the country's porous borders. An interviewee corroborated the fact and responded that:

If a country cannot regulate and control its borderline, there is every tendency that outsiders will infiltrate and unleash mayhem on the citizens of the country and that is exactly what Nigeria is undergoing currently in the hands of Boko Haram insurgency and Fulani Herdsmen. Nigeria undoubtedly has witnessed numerous gruesome attacks on police stations, army barracks, schools, churches, mosques, markets, social gatherings and farms from the hands of the deadly monsters called Boko Haram and Fulani Herdsmen and their attack has continued with

impunity while Nigeria government seems helpless (M. Elera, personal communication, April 24, 2022).

Still on the above response, Adeola & Oluyemi (2012) in United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) noted that the mindless attacks which were illustrated above have led to the death of many security agents and kidnap of countless innocent young girls and boys for sex slavery and forceful conscription, firearm and drug trafficking. They revealed that these are made possible by the Nigeria's porous border. They further stated that it is estimated that during the dry season, there are more than 10,000 unmanned routes through which trans-border criminal's troop in and out of Nigeria at will.

Fayomi (2013) reported that guns were openly displayed for sale in border areas along Niger and Chad Republics "just like basket of tomatoes". The scholar revealed that in a workshop, Rtd Colonel Hameed Ali who presented the report said "guns are still finding their way into the country in large quantities and that AK-47 gun with 20 rounds of ammunitions goes for N10,000 on Nigeria's borders". With this, it is difficult to have a secured environment. He stressed that this prompted the Federal Government in 2003 to officially close the border from 9th to 15<sup>th</sup> of August of the same year following the intolerable incidents of trans-border crimes on the Nigeria's Western border. He concluded that such action was a temporary response which has no bearing to the solution of our porous border in as much as our security personnel in the Nigeria's borders remain inadequate. According to West (2011, p.46),

Trans-border crimes could be attributed to several factors including abject poverty, unemployment and lack of governmental presence at the border areas which create a veritable ground for unscrupulous elements to unleash havoc on their target audience. Meanwhile, the complaints of border communities centre on lack of basic socio-economic infrastructure like access roads, schools, clinics, water facilities etc which have not been provided by the government at all levels.

As noted by Fayomi (2013), the porous nature of Nigeria's borders was responsible for the infiltration of the extremists. He revealed that:

Nigeria has international land borders of about 4,470 kilometres (2,513 miles) with Chad, Cameroon, Benin and Niger and the Coastline of 774 kilometres (480 miles) which are largely unmanned. The former Comptroller General of the Service, Mr Martin Kule Abeshi said at the 2016 Comptroller General Annual Conference and Stakeholders Interactive Forum on April 7 in Lafia that, out of the 1,500 identified land border crossing into Nigeria only 114 covering about 4,000 square kilometres had approved control posts manned by immigration officials and other security agencies (p.23).

Stressing further, the author noted that there are over 1,400 illegal routes, which are not manned. He averred that this has grave security implications for the country and its national immigrations with approximately 23,000 staff strength which was grossly inadequate for the task of policing Nigeria's vast borders. Ani (2010) opined that Nigeria is located in a largely unstable region with

volatile socio-political situations in countries like Ivory Coast, Chad, Mali and Cameroon. Easy infiltration of terrorists from Libya and other North African countries and poverty ravaging large sections of the countries' populations make Nigeria susceptible to terrorist pressures. He claimed that in North-Eastern part of the country's border which has the highest concentration of border communities can be listed as the most backward due to most difficult terrain, lowest literacy, and highest poverty rate. He concluded that the combinations of these factors explain why Nigeria record highest number of border related crimes.

Muhammad (2021) claimed that irregular migrations have serious effects or consequences on Nigeria's security. He stressed that the problems with irregular migration can be divided into dangers faced by irregular migrants and problems faced by the host or receiving communities. He noted that these effects could broadly be divided into social, economic, political, and security challenges.

### **Social Effects:**

Philemon, Manasseh & Godiya (2019) observed and thus revealed that:

Socially, the influx of illegal/undocumented migrants into a nation state poses security threats to the nation state in question. Also deportees are more likely to constitute great social and environmental risk not only to themselves but also to the already Nigerian (image) society on the receiving states (p.35).

The scholars opined that most of the undocumented immigrants are unemployed or unemployable, as well without means of livelihood; this means they have no good houses to live in. They noted that most states with majority of undocumented immigrants live under the bridges, flyovers or uncompleted buildings, while some of them have built shacks in recreational places. They stressed that they live in unhygienic, poor conditions and polluted environment. They pointed out that inappropriate housing facility without basic amenities can spread diseases to other persons. They averred that the security implications here is that such kind people can become public charge and they can be recruited easily by the insurgents or other criminals.

### **Economic Effects:**

The scholars revealed that illegal migrants have both positive and negative impacts on the two (2) countries (sending and receiving states). Illegal immigrants reduce the number of unemployment in the state of origin while increasing the rate in the receiving state known as the host nation state. Muhammad (2021) opined that it is true that illegal migrants (immigrants) take up jobs that the citizens reject but in the process, jobs belonging to the citizens are also taken by these migrants. He exposed the uncontrollable influx of illegal/undocumented migration can cause destabilization in a nation-state. Philemon, Manasseh & Godiya (2019) stressed that:

The influx of illegal immigrants also triggers unemployment in the receiving state, they also create a high rate of inflation in the nation state's essential commodities due to their hiding underground leading to undocumented statistics as their needs cannot be budgeted for due to the incorrect calculated figure as such there can be scarcity of essential food

items or have inflationary effect as undocumented migrant cannot transfer money legally through commercial banks, so they indulge in smuggling, trafficking of currency, while some of them patronize the black market where various countries' currencies are sold as commodities. Illegal immigrants over stress the state economy by increasing financial burden on government (p.33).

According to Nosiri & Ohazurike (2016) illegal immigrants often add to what the Government of the host community or nation could cater for, thereby increasing the financial burden of the Government, particularly, to very vital sectors as education and health. They further stated that immigrants take jobs which would otherwise be taken by local people; in particular places and circumstances, there can be competition and conflict as deprivation of native citizens and lack of employment opportunities. Moreover, illegal migration lead population growth, whereby resulting to an overwhelming increase in the population of the host country and bring about negative economic and social development of the country.

### **Political Effects:**

According to Aliome (2019), illegal aliens are often recruited to vote by unethical political parties taking advantage of the weak Nigerian borders from Niger and Chad. Often undocumented immigrants are used by unethical politicians as machineries to carry out crimes, posing threats of insecurity in the nation state. According to Okeoghene (2017):

40 Beninese were found with the Nigeria's Permanent Voter's Card (PVC) during the 2015 General Elections. This place a question on how these Beninese entered the nation state unnoticed. Illegal immigrants could get their names enlisted in the voting list illegally, thereby claiming themselves as citizens of the nation and creating a vote bank for the political parties (p.35).

The author noted that the unemployed illegal immigrants could equally be used by some politicians to create political violence as witnessed in some parts of Nigeria especially Kano state even during the recently concluded 2019 general election. According to Muhammad (2021), elections and electoral activities could easily be jeopardised in Nigeria by Nigerian citizens and nationals of neighbouring nations and vice versa, in view of the border proximities and its poor management. Non-Nigerians could and do take advantage of the vast and complex borders, marital affinity and other commercial attractions to visit Nigeria, get registered and cast their votes during elections. Some of such alien do or could be claiming dual citizenship, while that might not be the actual case. Unscrupulous politicians could or do recruit and use such categories of people to undermine credible elections in the nation. Genuine Nigerians could as well engaged in electoral malpractices or disrupt elections and cross over to any of the neighbouring nations unhindered.

The influx of undocumented migrants from the African Western neighbouring countries into Nigeria strains nation states relations because of their conflicting interests. While the receiving state wants to get rid of the illegal unskilled migrants who by any means poses undesired result on the nation state, the sending states practically is interested in their prolonged residence in the receiving states as they are a burden to their state of origin. In this same vein Nigerian



illegal/undocumented Migrants to the developed countries affect her bilateral relations. Majority of Nigerians can testify to the unwelcome and hostile attention given to them by foreign migration agencies and security officials (Aliome, 2019). The imprisonment and deportation of Nigerians in various developed countries for various reasons but not limited to immigration offences such as fraud, incomplete travel documents or overstaying in the nation state in question to mention a few has a negative effect on the Nigerian image (Muhammad, 2021). Due to the various experience of Nigerian illegal/undocumented migration activities, Nigerians are exposed to various inhuman treatments at respective embassies and high commissions in an attempt to leave the nation state for their various destinations.

On the whole, national security is threatened as a result of the numerous migration challenges. Essentially, security is primarily a pre-occupation of an individual state to protect its sovereignty, territorial integrity, citizens and their values. It is on this basis that Nigeria will have to gear up and take pre-emptive measures to manage migration in a way to enhance its national security.

#### **Strategies for managing international migration in national security:**

Muhammad (2021) asserted that many questions loom in this discourse. He queried that:

First, how do we manage migration in the face of national and regional insecurity without impeding ECOWAS efforts at integration? Second, cognizant of the protocol on free movement of persons and goods in ECOWAS integration process, what do we manage – persons, goods or services? This underpins the fact that, in some cases, goods that crisscross our borders have a measure of being lethal and capable of posing insecurities. Therefore, the question now remains, what do we do to address this problem? A more traditional approach to managing security in many of our borders would be to set up security checks and/or enhance security at the borders of member states, by bringing in more border patrols, police and even soldiers (p.42).

In that stead, many people and goods will be subjected to stringent and uncompromising scrutiny. On the contrary, individual nations may also decide to close its borders against other citizens and immigrants of Member States, because of the fears that they may be a harbinger of threat and insecurity (Ani, 2010). Adopting this conventional method, which have always been the case with many nations, have also often caused diplomatic brawl amongst them. And for regions where there is offing and a shift towards integration, there are probability that integration as a process for instance in ECOWAS will be truncated, and aside that, it will also constitute a breach of the ECOWAS protocol on free movement of goods and services (Igbuzor, 2011).

Fayomi (2013) reported that an assessment of both the push and pull factors that engendered migration portrays that managing migration in a way that will not hamper the ongoing integration process in ECOWAS and at the same time safeguard security of the nation and the region, will have to go beyond the conventional and state-centric approach to security as put forward by realist theorists and states that toe this line. He maintained that does not mean doing away with mainstream traditional approach to security. He further claimed that many other complexities that

undermine or give rise to national and regional insecurities will have to be taken into consideration, i.e. complexities that are all encompassing, that will have to involve the legitimate concerns of ordinary people who sought security in their daily lives. He proffered that there is a need to readjust to the new realities of insecurities in the 21st century. As new threats are becoming increasingly clear, there is also need to find means of mounting concerted, collective responses to global problems and conflicts, as such, human security, conceived of as the linking of security to development should be paramount. In that vein therefore, managing migrations in an era of national and regional insecurities must begin within national governments.

Philemon, Manasseh & Godiya (2019) revealed that good governance, economic growth and development should be the priority of governments of member states. He stressed that:

Good governance, as described here, is a system of administration that is democratic, efficient and geared towards the enhancement of economic growth and development. As records have shown, Africa is known to be one of the most fragile continents in the globe. The twenty-first century has seen many African states (especially in West Africa) in conflicts and chaos. Some states within the region are failing, while others have failed and some others are categorized as fragile or weak states. This categorization is predicated on the fact that leadership and governance problems are the foremost push factors that have necessitated economic downturn, conflicts and subsequent migration. Many governments in West Africa are no longer positioned for social provisioning (p.48)

The scholars above claimed that the economic despair in many of the Member States actually triggers their citizens to migrate in search of greener pasture, and, on the other hand, causing insecurity in many of the host countries. Muhammad (2021) noted that in addition to the effective border patrols and beefing up security, the surest way to manage migration without breaching the Free Movement Protocol, is to ensure an enduring good governance, sustainable economic growth and development, as well as controlled migration within the framework of Articles 3 and 27 of the ECOWAS Treaty both of which provide for free flow of persons, goods and services, by calling on the Member States to ensure graduation removal of all obstacles to free movement of persons, services and capital. .

Given the above, migration can be a major threat even if it is considered at the individual level, not to mention when it is considered in its group or collective sense. Countries from which migrants are leaving suffer from loss of brain drain and manpower needs, especially when the migrants are highly skilled. In the receiving states, the settlement of migrants also creates the fear of job loss to them. In fact, the truth is that migration has created special fears in the receiving states that an uncontrolled inflow of migrants has the potential to destabilise the cultural settings of the homeland, as well as threaten national security.

## **Conclusion**

Nigeria's porous border is the underlying factor that precipitates infiltrations of terrorists, bandits and contraband goods across Nigeria- borders. Nigeria has international land borders of about 4,470 kilometres-2,513 miles and a coastline of 774 kilometres-480 miles which are largely unmanned by security officials. Migration processes are an important factor of socioeconomic, cultural and demographic development and largely determines the state of national security at all levels. This is why uncontrolled migration represents security threat to sustainable socio-economic development of Nigeria. Coincidentally, the synergy between international migration and national security is often viewed through economic, internal and public safety lens and this informs the reason, we adopted rational choice or decision making theory and theory of transnationalism as our theoretical frameworks in the course of our elucidations. Notwithstanding, the basic elements of national security cannot be diverged or distanced from the prism of socio-economic paradigm which encompasses job, water, good environment and food security otherwise a national security policy would be of no use to unemployed and hungry citizens that constitute majority of the country's populations. Therefore, national security goes beyond military might, defence and law enforcement to include far reaching issues as highlighted above. The significant impact of international migration on national security is such that Nigeria as a sovereign nation-state should take cognizance of the fact that globalization or openness without control encourages border crimes: smuggling, child and women trafficking, small and light weapons trafficking and trafficking of narcotics across the border. And at the same time the victims suffer physical assault and threat of violence of self and family, psychological issues, constant rape and harassment by security officials. In sum, international migration and national security remains an integral part of economic activities, movement of goods and services, regional cooperation and territorial integrity and every approach to its proper management should not be swept under the carpet.

## **Recommendations**

1. Nigeria government should articulate and develop more sustainable socio-economic cum security policies to prevent labour and refuge migrants. They should adopt environmental peculiaristic- surveillance paradigm to combat the incursion of migrants by improving on her border security personnel, equipping them with sophisticated hardware and weapons, work on her legal framework for punishing corrupt border personnel and intensify border patrol.
2. Government should adopt policies that will transform border areas from deplorable conditions and put in place effective and efficient machinery that would speed up developmental process since the underlying causes of international border crimes have links to economic disparity, overpopulation, globalization, manpower problems, corruption, absence of social amenities, poverty, among others. This would deter youths from being exploited by subversive criminals. Similarly, the government should harness and harmonize the historical, cultural and economic ties among border people to foster cooperation.
3. There should be inter-border cooperation with the neighbouring government to checkmate the movement of criminals and contraband goods. In other words, government should facilitate collaboration among border area administrative personnel for effective border policing. Training

and development of security personnel should be progressive to keep them abreast of modern trend of tracking criminals in the borderlines.

4. The government should embark on aggressive investment in modern military technology which will not only enhance the standard of the security of the border but will curtail the incursion of criminal elements into the country. The border communities that know those who belong to them and infiltrators should ensure proper policing of the national boundaries and provide vital information to the security authorities that would help to control the infiltration of dangerous elements. They should equally seek for assistance from developed countries like United States of America and China to install electronic surveillance around the country's borders. This will definitely aid Nigeria in policing its borders to prevent the dangerous cross border infiltration that are blighting our national security and economy.

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