

## The Social and Economic Reconstruction in Conflict-Damaged Communities: A Panacea for Restoration of Sustainable Livelihood in Borno State, Nigeria

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### ABSTRACT

This study assess the Social and Economic impacts of the policy of Reconstruction of conflict-damaged communities in Borno States. Both primary and secondary data were used, survey research design was adopted while 296 respondents were selected from three purposively selected local government areas of Borno state as sample of the study and questionnaire were distributed to selected household heads. Using simple random sampling techniques, Validity and reliability test were conducted and the variables have r values of 0.62 which is found to be reliable. The data collected were analyzed using frequency, percentage, chart and chi-square. The study revealed a large number 57.4% of respondents, with majority 126(42.6%) fall within the age range of 30-39 and (54.7%) were married with 47.3% has Informal education, predominantly 72.0% farmers. The study also revealed that 74.7% responded that reconstruction and rehabilitation improves livelihoods in Borno state, 69.6% agree that livelihood in Borno state depend largely on the policy, while 63.5% said that efficient and effective implementation of the policy is only done by the government, 82.8% indicated that income difference invariably hinders livelihood recovery in Borno state, 82.6% said that Economic reconstruction is the top most priority of Borno state. 61.8% agree that policy provides more social services to the affected populations and 78.0% agree that ethno religious and right based approaches promote sustainable livelihood. The study recorded a significant relationship with probability is less than  $\alpha=0.05$  between Reconstruction policy, Economic and Social factors, with livelihood recovery in Borno state. It was recommended that Pre-conflict planning can improve post-conflict recovery. Ideally, institutional arrangements, financing mechanisms, sector policies and strategies are discussed, defined and agreed through pre-crisis planning for post-crisis recovery and Government should intensify working towards improving the economy in the North, especially in the North East region. The presence of the Lake Chad and vast number of arable lands should be capitalized to boost Agricultural activities; this would create more employment for youths and reduce unemployment menace in the region.

**KEYWORDS:** Reconstruction, Economic, Social, Conflict, Livelihood & Recovery

### I. INTRODUCTION

Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Sustainable Recovery refer to measures that help restore the livelihoods, assets and production levels of emergency affected communities. These measures rebuild essential infrastructure, institutions and services and restore the means of production destroyed or made non-operational by a disaster. Meaningful reconstruction must also respond to the socio-economic, cultural, and political realities of the affected communities. Despite Nigeria's status as the economic giant of Africa, social and economic indicators in Nigeria are very low, and those in its North-East region are generally the poorest. The country ranks 152 of 187 in the Human Development Index (HDI), which is well below the average for sub-Saharan Africa. Nationally, 46 percent of the population is below the poverty line while in the North-East, the figure is 70 percent, which increased between 2012 and 2013. Access to education is also very low; 52 percent of children are out of school in the region. Even considering those who attend school, 72 percent are unable to read after completion of grade 6. In Borno, with the lowest literacy rates of any state in the country, only 35 percent of female and 46 percent of male adolescents are literate. The most recent data sets report that in April 2016, there were about 2.2 million IDPs still in camps and private homes in Borno, Yobe, Adamawa, and Gombe States as a consequence of a conflict. (Displacement Tracking Matrix Round IX, (DTM) report April 2016).

The largest proportion of these IDPs is located in Borno State (1.52 million). Economic infrastructure in the North-East is limited, and the industrial base of Northern Nigeria, which was mostly located outside the North-East region in Kano and Kaduna, has largely collapsed in recent decades. Rural livelihoods in agriculture, pastoralism and fisheries, have been badly eroded, exacerbated by limited government support, poor management and limited access to new technology and inputs. The natural environment in North-East Nigeria is fragile, especially in the area immediately surrounding Lake Chad. This fragility undermines food security and drives environmental out-migration. Climate and weather variability play a part in this environmental degradation, exacerbated by man-made stressors such as irrigation and dam construction. For herders and pastoralists, the scarcity of surface water has added to the difficulties of watering animals, causing them to encroach on agricultural resources. Meanwhile, agriculture has expanded into areas previously used for grazing, rendering remaining herding sites increasingly exposed to overgrazing. In addition, the reduction in the size of Lake Chad, and associated water-flow reduction have had considerable negative impacts on small-scale fishing throughout the Basin. Overall, the diverse and interdependent livelihood systems that make up the productive sector in the Lake Chad Basin are faced with increasingly inadequate supplies of water and are under strain.

There is acute food insecurity among IDPs and host communities. An estimated 2 million people have been forcibly displaced by the conflict, 1.8 million of whom are displaced within Nigeria, making it the country with the third largest IDPs population in the world. The RPBA further indicates that the economic impact of the crisis is substantial, reaching nearly US\$ 9 billion. Returning the region to normalcy is one of the highest priorities of the Nigerian Government. Achieving this will require bringing an end to the war, effectively handling the humanitarian crisis and implementation of an effective rehabilitation and resettlement programme. The key focus of this study is therefore to explore the socio-economic impacts of the reconstruction policy on the target communities as regards to their livelihoods recovery. The study specifically looks at infrastructural reconstruction particularly, housings, public buildings, food security, water and sanitation, health care and psycho-social and economic rehabilitation of the affected communities of Borno state.

## **II. STATEMENT OF PROBLEM AND JUSTIFICATION OF THE RESEARCH**

Borno state has suffered a lot of devastating impacts arising from attacks of the Boko Haram insurgents. The cumulative effect of the conflict has worsened the general socio economic and governance situation in the state. Major economic and social infrastructure such as the transport, communication systems, health care, education, banking structures in the state have either been destroyed or seriously damaged. As a result of the destruction, economic activities have been disrupted, social interaction restricted and social exclusion increased thus reducing opportunities for positive engagement. In order to restore peace and livelihoods to the state, the Nigerian Government has evolved pragmatic efforts at rebuilding, reconstructing and rehabilitating the region although there have been earlier several humanitarian interventions. The interventions include those from the Federal Government of Nigeria, various United Nations agencies, international and local non-governmental organisations. The study is of immense significant to humanity in general and in particular to those dreadfully devastated by the insurgent attacks, because the research has direct bearing on them. It serves as a source of information as to how the policy affects their livelihoods both socially and economically. It is against this backdrop that this paper will assess the reconstruction policy from the angle of social and economic premises for livelihood restoration in Borno state.

### **Objectives of the study**

- To examine post-conflict reconstruction in Nigeria within the national context in general and Borno state specifically, in order to understand the social and economic scenario in which reconstruction takes place.
- To focus on Reconstruction in the selected case study in order to gain insight into the factors that influence and shape livelihoods of the affected communities.

## **III. LITERATURE REVIEW**

The post-conflict reconstruction literature is overwhelmingly focused on the security and political dimensions of peace-building operations. Most research is confined to the disciplines of history, political science, and public policy (Coyne 2007). As another analyst Del Castillo 2008 put it as:

The majority of studies dealing with reconstruction address economic issues ‘only tangentially, or as an afterthought, and with little economic rigor, specificity, or comprehensiveness’ (del Castillo 2008).

Post-conflict reconstruction entails interrelated tasks of economic, political, and social reconstruction Ball, 1997; Kumar, 1997 in Del Castillo 2008 emphasized that

Economic reconstruction tasks include rebuilding damaged infrastructure, including homes, roads and bridges, health centers, and schools; currency stabilization and monetary reform; demining; agricultural reestablishment; job creation; and means of addressing poverty, which war amplifies. Social reconstruction tasks include rebuilding civil society; resettling displaced peoples; revitalizing the community; establishing awareness of and support for basic human rights; and creating social trust across the lines of conflict. In all of these tasks, a high priority is the establishment of social justice, transforming patterns of exclusion, inequity, and oppression that fuel tensions and fighting (Del Castillo 2008).

The NEDC among other things, is to receive and manage funds from allocation of the Federal Account and international donors for the settlement, rehabilitation and reconstruction of roads, houses and business premises of victims of insurgency as well as tackling menace of poverty, illiteracy level, ecological problems and any other related environmental or developmental challenges in the North-East states (the NEDC act, 2019). In line with the policy of the FGN stated above, Fischer, mentioned that Post-conflict reconstruction usually aims at the consolidation of peace and security and the attainment of sustainable socio-economic development in a war-shattered country. The term 'post-conflict' does not signify the obliteration of the root causes of the outbreak conflict in the first place. Nor does it imply a complete cessation of hostilities that often recur.... It frequently denotes merely an abatement of hostilities, or a 'window of opportunity' for peace in a conflict that can again escalate if mismanaged (2004, 2-3).

Hence in his contribution to issues of reconstruction, Fukuyama argues

Reconstruction requires rapid, massive outside intervention to stabilize conflicts, rebuild infrastructure, and deal with humanitarian issues. The local government, he explains, is, by definition, unable to provide these functions itself, and...is often completely bypassed as foreign ... aid agencies, and NGOs flood into the country (Fukuyama 2006: 7).

This is the story of Nigeria's North-East region, for since 2011, the International and local NGO have flooded the theater of the insurgency in the North- East doing *God knows* assistance that has yet hit the nail on the head, for what we see as lack of direction and coordination from the Federal authority.

In addition to the above stated definitions and descriptions of post-conflict reconstruction, the Robin (2013), also described post conflict reconstruction as:

The rebuilding of the socioeconomic framework of society" and the "reconstruction of the enabling conditions for a functioning peacetime society [to include] the framework of governance and rule of law." It is noted that post-conflict reconstruction is a process of rebuilding war-affected communities and 'includes the process of rebuilding the political, security, social and economic dimensions of a society emerging from conflict. It also includes addressing the root causes of the conflict and promoting social and economic justice as well as putting in place political structures of governance and the rule of law in order to consolidate peace building, reconciliation and development.' This entails delivering social and economic development, providing governance and the rule of law including justice and reconciliation and longer-term development assistance (Robin, 2005: 29)

In order to justify the above statement,

The targeted actions should, however, include mass renovation of homes destroyed by the insurgents and some through counter-insurgency collateral damages, thus, the plan *ceteris paribus* aimed to "Build sustainable economic communities per state, fast-track repair, reconstruction and completion of critical federal roads, rehabilitation of state roads, connecting rural roads to agricultural clusters the water, sanitation and hygiene initiative". The economic dimension of post-conflict reconstruction usually involves tasks such as the distribution of relief assistance, restoration of physical infrastructure and facilities, the reestablishment of social services, creation of appropriate conditions for the public and private sector development, and implementation of essential structural reforms for microeconomic stability and sustainable growth

#### IV. METHODOLOGY

**Study Area:** The study was conducted in Borno state, which lies in the extreme north-east corner of Nigeria between latitude 10° 30' and 13° 50' north and longitude 11.00° and 13° 45' east. It occupies an area of 69, 435sq km sharing border with three states- Adamawa to the south, Gombe to the south west and Yobe to the west as well as three countries, namely, Republics of Niger, Chad and Cameroon to the north, north-east and east respectively. The economy of the state is anchored on natural resources. Primary production processes such as agricultural production, animal grazing, mineral excavation and fishing are the mainstay of the economy. Majority of the people are peasant farmers, herdsman and fishermen.

**Sampling Procedure:** Multi-stage sampling technique was used for this research. First purpose sampling of all the affected LGAs in the state was done. The second stage involved a random sampling of three LGAs namely Bama, Dambo'a and Kaga. The second stage involved a proportion sampling of 150 from Bama, 100 from Dambo'a and 50 from Kaga making a total of 300 respondents for this study. Primary data were collected through the means of well-structured questionnaire with help of trained enumerators. The paper used quantitative analysis.

**Analytical Technique:** The analytical tools that were used for this research work include descriptive statistics, and chi-square analysis

**Descriptive Statistics:** The data on socio-economic characteristics of the respondents were analyzed using percentage and frequency distribution and analyzed data was summarized in two tables.

**Chi-square Analysis :** The chi-square analysis was to test the socio-economic impact of policy of reconstruction and rehabilitation on the affected communities.

The  $\chi^2$  distribution is given as

$$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(f_o - f_e)^2}{f_e}$$

Where:

$\chi^2$  = chi-square

Fo= observed frequency

Fe= expected frequency

$\Sigma$ = summation sign

#### V. RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

Means of livelihood before and after the conflict and coping strategies adopted by the respondents were summarized using frequency and Percentage to ascertain their status, the results are presented in Table 1

Means of livelihood before the conflict		Frequency	Percentage
	Hired labor	65	22.0
	Livestock purchase	87	29.4
	Farming	213	72.0
	Trading	123	41.6
	Others	2	0.7
	Total	296	100.0
Challenges to livelihood activities after conflict		Frequency	Percentage
	Limited access to financial services	96	32.4
	Insecurity	87	29.4
	Restricted movement of goods and people	23	7.8

	Restriction on market places	16	5.4
	Limited access to agricultural inputs	12	4.1
	Poor access to land	14	4.7
	Limited access to infrastructure	48	16.2
	Total	296	100.0
<b>Coping strategy</b>		<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
	Barrow money to buy essential items	26	8.8
	Migrate to other location to secure income	48	16.2
	Identify new livelihood opportunities	201	67.9
	Engage in begging	21	7.1
	Total	296	100.0

Source: field survey, 2020

Table .1 above presents the responses on means of livelihood of respondents before the insurgency. The result revealed that 213 representing 72% indicated that they engaged in farming as a means of livelihood, 123(41.6%) are for trading, hired labor 65(22.0%), livestock production 87(29.4%) and 2(0.7%) others. The implication of this results is that the concentration of the recovery programme are centered toward farmers and rural dweller because there are clear indication that if the programme target population that didn't comprised majority farmers and rural population a lot is still needed to be done in the recovery phase. Understanding the main constraints to livelihood activities in Borno state urban areas is one of the key prerequisite conditions for the development of appropriate livelihood intervention. The result on challenges of livelihood shows limited access to financial services was one of the main constraints to livelihood activities in the study area as indicated by 25.3 per cent of the respondents. Insecurity was identified by 29.4 per cent of the respondents as another challenge to livelihood activities. Also, identified as constraints is restriction of movement of goods and people (7.8%), restriction on market places and economic activities (5.4%), limited access to agricultural inputs and extension services (4.1%), poor access to land (4.7%).limited rainfall (2.7), limited access to infrastructure (13.5), and restriction for farmers (7.1) For the purpose of intervention, these constraints were classified into social capital constraints (Insecurity, restriction on farmers, restricted movement of goods and people, restriction on market places and economic activity), financial capital (limited access to financial services), natural capital (poor access to land) and physical capital assets (limited access to infrastructure) and human capital (limited skills and knowledge). In designing relevant livelihood recovery intervention, it is crucial to tackle these assets related challenges simultaneously. The social capital constraints which borders on insecurity can be tackled through the creation of secured livelihood zones. The concept of secured livelihood zones implies the creation of a zone of livelihood activity for farming and trading activities in and around secured locations in a given local government area. This is important in addressing the security challenges bedeviling farming and other economic activities.

With regards to coping strategies been practice by the communities, 201 representing 67% of the respondents identify new livelihood opportunities as their coping strategy, 16.2% are migrating to other locations in secure of income, 8.8% indicated that they barrow money to buy essential items and the least is 7.1% opted for engaging in begging as their coping strategy. This result revealed that most of the respondents have relocated from their communities and abandon their ancestral lands in pursued of income opportunity to feed their family, only few among them are due to one reasons or the other stay behind and beg to survive.

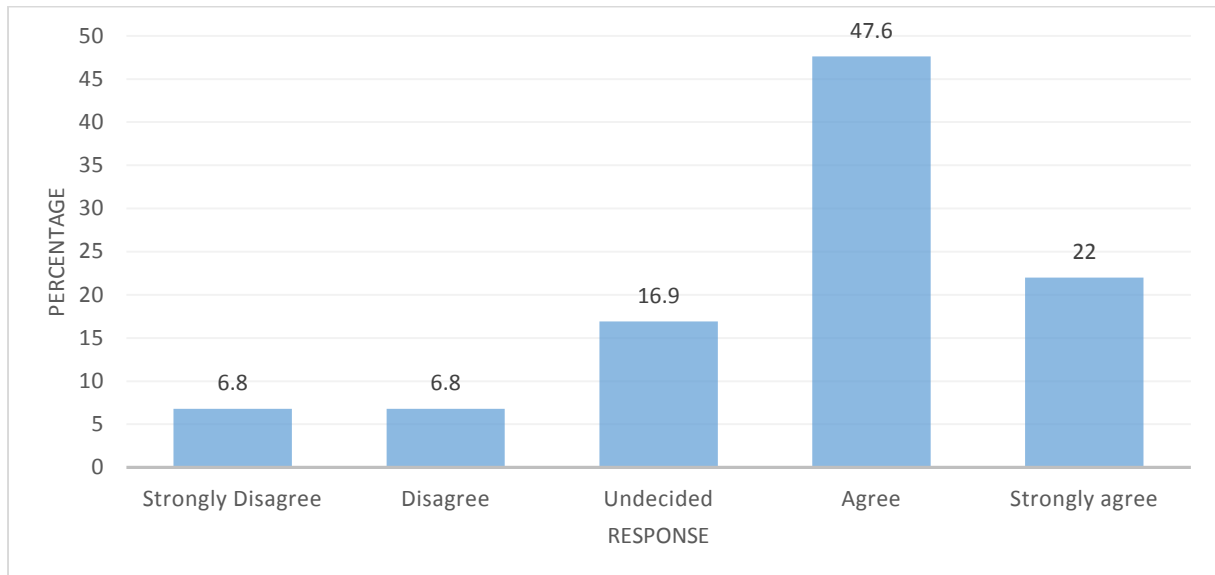


Figure1 above shows that (47.6%) and (22.0%) of the respondent respectively agreed and strongly agreed that livelihood in Borno state depend largely on the policy of reconstruction and rehabilitation, while where (16.9%) undecided,(6.8%) of the respondents each disagreed and strongly disagree respectively. This may as a result of destruction and restriction of movement for business and farming activities in far distance from the capital city of Borno State, this has course majority of the affected population to depend solely on government and non-governmental organization to provide food and shelter

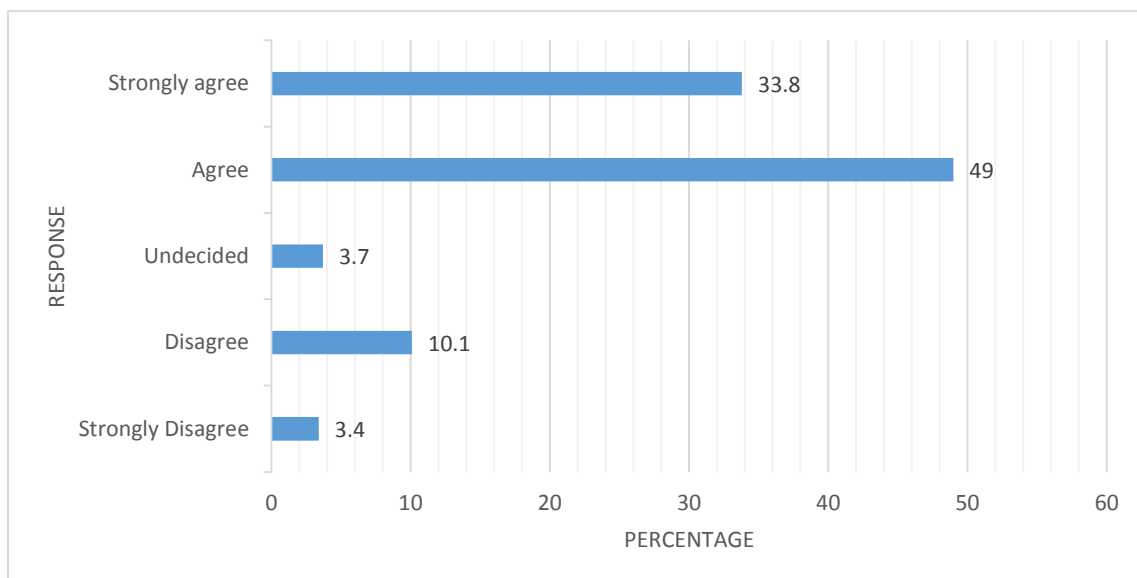


Figure 2: Economic impact and livelihood recovery in Borno state

Figure 2 sought the responses of respondents which indicates that (49.0%) agreed that Income difference invariably hinders livelihood recovery in Borno state (33.8%) strongly agree with the statement while (3.7%) were undecided, some of the respondents (10.1%) and (3.4%) disagree and strongly disagree respectively with the statement. This results revealed that income inequality among the affected population has negative effects on their livelihood recovery.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage	DF	$\chi^2$	Sig.
Strongly Disagree	22	7.4	4	110.385	0.000*
Disagree	63	21.3			
Undecided	15	5.1			
Agree	86	29.1			
Strongly agree	110	37.2			
Total	296	100.0			

Note: \* Significant at 1% level

Table 2 above shows the result on how social reconstruction impact livelihood recovery of the respondent. When compared between the strongly agree and strongly disagree we find out that the increase in the supports of the statements is more than the decrease in the support, this was possible because of social factors. This result gives a clear indication that a very high majority of the respondents are in agreement with the statement that “there is relationship between Social factor and livelihood recovery in Borno state”. Statistically the above statement is significant at 95% Confidence level for all the categories, proving the premise of the statement. Computed Chi-square values for all the categories are greater than Critical Chi-square values for 4 degree of freedom and probability is less than alpha =0.05 and is in the Null hypothesis rejection zone to the extreme right of the distribution curve. The researcher thus deduces that all categories agree with this statement, there by proving the statement, “relationship exists between Social reconstruction and livelihood recovery in Borno state”.

Table 3. Effect of Rehabilitation and Reconstruction policy on livelihoods and recovery of Borno

Responses	Frequency	Percentage	DF	$\chi^2$	Sig.
Strongly Disagree	12	4.1	4	154.7	0.000*
Disagree	28	9.5			
Undecided	35	11.8			
Agree	118	39.9			
Strongly agree	103	34.8			
<b>Total</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>100</b>			

Note: \* Significant at 1% level

The percentage of over 74% for all the positive categories gives a clear indication that a very high majority of all the respondents are in agreement with the statement that “Rehabilitation and Reconstruction policy have significant effect on the livelihoods and recovery of Borno state”. Statistically the above statement is significant at 99% Confidence level for all the categories, proving the premise of the statement. Computed Chi-square values for all the categories are greater than Critical Chi-square values for 4 degree of freedom and probability is less than alpha =0.05 and is in the Null hypothesis rejection zone to the extreme right of the distribution curve. The researcher thus deduces that all categories agree with this statement, there by proving the statement, high percentage of the affected population have benefited from rehabilitation and reconstruction policy on the livelihoods and recovery, but there is still scope for increasing the number of affected population to benefit from the programme.

## VI. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It can be concluded that that majority respondent are male with western and Islamic education, the study concludes that there is significant relationship between economic, social reconstruction and livelihood recovery in Borno



state. This can be justified from the presented results in which a highest number of respondents agree and strongly agree with the statement that reconstruction and rehabilitation impact positively on their livelihood recovery.

The following recommendations were made based on the findings of the study:

1. It was recommended that Pre-conflict planning can improve post-conflict recovery.
2. Ideally, institutional arrangements, financing mechanisms, sector policies and strategies are discussed, defined and agreed through pre-crisis planning for post-crisis recovery and Government should intensify working towards improving the economy in the North, especially in the North East region.
3. The presence of the Lake Chad and vast number of arable lands should be capitalized to boost Agricultural activities; this would create more employment for youths and reduce unemployment menace in the region

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