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A CASE STUDY OF VIOLENT CONFLICT AND ITS IMPACT ON FOOD AVAILABILITY IN BORNO STATE, NIGERIA

CHINONYEREM SARAH IKEMEFUNA
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

A Case Study of Violent Conflict and Its Impact on Food Availability in Borno State, Nigeria.

Ikemefuna Chinonyerem Sarah.

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sarahfranklin6870@gmail.com

Noragric Department of International Environment and Development Studies

The Faculty of Landscape and Society

P.O. Box 5003 N-1432 Ås

Norway

Tel.: +47 67 23 00 00

Internet: <https://www.nmbu.no/fakultet/landsam/institutt/noragric>

Declaration

I, Chinonyerem Sarah Ikemefuna, declare that this thesis is a result of my research investigations and findings. Sources of information other than my own have been acknowledged and a reference list has been appended. This work has not been previously submitted to any other university for the award of any type of academic degree.

Signature:

Date:

Acknowledgments

I would like to express my greatest gratitude to God Almighty. Also, to my supervisor for taking the role as my supervisor in this work. And to my family and friends, you have supported me without question throughout, you have guided me and stood by my side when things became too difficult to bear, and you have kept me sane throughout this process.

Abstract

A major reason for hunger in developing countries is conflict. The paper addresses the link between food availability and conflict. Nigeria is currently experiencing violent conflict; the last decade has seen a rise in violence caused by Boko Haram in the Northeast region which has negatively affected food availability and left millions of people food insecure. The concept of conflict and unavailability of food is very much linked to each other., Violent conflict in the world today is mostly made up of intrastate conflict, with terrorist organizations and rebel organizations, be it political or religious which are posing serious security challenges to peace. Agricultural production is the main sector of Nigeria's economy. Most of the population are employed in the agricultural sector in the country. Agricultural production has been cut short by conflict. As a result of shortened agricultural productivity and high food prices, food insecurity is evident in the region. There are currently ongoing interventions from International and Non-governmental Organizations in addressing the issue. The results show that conflict is a major driver of food unavailability in the region and has negatively impacted the population. Also, for the second sustainable development goal to be effectively achieved organizations must create long-term programs in addressing food insecurity, while implementing short-term programs to meet the immediate needs of the people affected.

Table of Contents

Contents	Page
Declaration.....	4
Acknowledgements.....	5
Abstract.....	6
Chapter One.....	9
Introduction.....	9
1.1 Background.....	9
1.2 Research Questions.....	12
1.3 Organization of the Study.....	13
Chapter Two.....	14
Literature Review.....	14
2.1 Introduction.....	14
2.2 Food Security.....	14
2.3 Violent Conflict.....	15
2.4 Violent Conflict and Food Security.....	17
2.5 Humanitarian Assistance.....	22
2.6 Analytical Framework.....	23
2.6.1 Food Security in Protracted Crises.....	24
Chapter Three.....	26
Methodology.....	26
3.1 Introduction.....	26
3.2 Research Design.....	26
3.3 Study Area.....	27
3.4 Scope.....	28
3.5 Study Limitations.....	28
3.6 Reliability and Validity.....	29

Chapter Four:	30
Understanding Violent Conflict in Borno State.....	30
4.1 Introduction	30
4.2 Causes of Violent Conflicts in Borno State	32
4.2.1 Religious and Ethnic Causes	33
4.2.2 Political and Economic Causes.....	33
4.3 Impacts of Violent Conflict on Food Availability in Borno State	35
4.4 Impacts on Agricultural Production	36
4.5 Impacts on Local Markets	38
4.6 Need for Humanitarian Assistance?.....	39
4.7 Challenges of Humanitarian Assistance.....	40
4.8 Role of Organizations and How They Contribute to Long Term Food Security, And Development	41
Chapter Five.....	47
Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations	47
5.1 Summary of Findings	47
5.2 Conclusion.....	48
5.3 Recommendations	49
References.....	53

Chapter One

Introduction

1.1 Background

A major reason for hunger and reduced food production in developing countries is violent conflict (Cohen et al,1999). According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Hunger is defined as “An uncomfortable or painful physical sensation caused by insufficient consumption of dietary energy. It becomes chronic when the person does not consume a sufficient number of calories (dietary energy) regularly to lead a normal, active, and healthy life” (FAO, 2022). Since 1996 the United Nations has worked to achieve zero hunger in the world. The United Nations sustainable development goals which consist of 17 goals as a worldwide call to action by all states were adopted in 2015. The 2nd sustainable development goal call for zero hunger in the world by 2030, Zero hunger is going to be achieved through promoting sustainable agriculture and achieving food for all (United Nations, 2021). In the world today enough food is produced to feed every person, however, millions of people are still hungry (United Nations, 2021). About 690 million people of the world’s population suffer from hunger (Reid, 2020). Hunger statistics released by united nations agencies FAO, UNICEF, world health organization, and WFP, state that the number of hungry people in the world today keeps on increasing (Reid, 2020). “It is estimated that between 720 and 811 million people in the world faced hunger in 2020. Considering the middle of the projected range (768 million), 118 million more people were facing hunger in 2020 than in 2019 or as many as 161 million, considering the upper bound of the range” (FAO, 2021).

“Violent conflict involves at least two parties using physical force to resolve competing claims or interests. While a violent conflict may involve only non-state actors, often, the term is used as a synonym for war which involves at least one government” (Frere et al, 2015). Conflict drives a country into a channel of economic underperformance and poverty (Collier 1999). In response to the increase of hunger in the world the United Nations security council adopted a resolution 2417 (Protection of civilians) “which links armed conflict, conflict-induced food insecurity, and the threat of famine and calls on all parties to spare infrastructure needed for food production and distribution. The intentional use of starvation of civilians as a method of warfare is a war crime” (United Nations, 2018). Continued conflict remains a driver of hunger. The 2021 global report on food crises stated that in 2020 almost 100 million people Facing serious hunger dwell in areas seriously affected by conflict and the number keeps increasing

(GRC, 2021). Also, the World Food Programme results from 2020 show that the 2nd SDG will not be met by 2030, viewing the reports from the last few years the statistics for hungry people in the world have increased to 60 million between 2014 and 2019, this is because of protracted violent conflict in areas affected (FAO,2021). There was a time when the world was hopeful and eager to establish transformative systems to achieve zero hunger by 2030, however recent reports have proven that to be impossible. Conflict and other major drivers of food insecurity are slowing down the progress of achieving zero hunger where injustices are evident.

The underlying causes of food insecurity vary ranging from conflict, climatic conditions, and poor agricultural sector, Africa shows higher levels of food insecurity than other parts of the world (FAO, 2020). The number of hungry people continues to increase affected by conflict and other various injustices of food systems. “Hunger on the continent has worsened substantially since 2013, the report states, and most of this deterioration occurred between 2019 and 2020. The situation is expected to have deteriorated further this year, with no easing of hunger’s main drivers” states the report on food security and nutrition in Africa (FAO, 2021). The rate at which hunger is increasing is alarming., Even with the United Nations SDGs and states efforts to achieve zero hunger goals we still see evident results of increasing hunger crises. In 2019, 234 million sub-Saharan Africans were seriously undernourished, more than in any other region. In the whole of Africa, 250 million people are experiencing hunger crises, which is nearly 20% of the population (Reid, 2021). The recurring conflict has made it difficult for many people in the conflict-affected region to keep up with their livelihood. Though the global number of hungry people in the world has declined 31% since the 2000s, however, the situation in Africa has worsened over the past 4 years (Reid, 2021). The problem of conflict has created an environment in which people most especially vulnerable people are at risk of violence and food insecurity. Violent armed conflict is evident in Africa with hunger crises increasing in the region a total of 20 million people are at risk of starvation as a result of a conflict (SOS Children’s Village). Conflict-affected areas are currently suffering from the consequences of armed conflict because conflict and fragility adversely affect the lives of the population. Rates of extreme poverty can increase as individuals are displaced, livelihoods are destroyed, and economic development is weakened (OECD, 2011). State’s fragility and weakened development along with violent conflict pose significant risks to global and regional security (OECD, 2011).

Nigeria is an interesting case study, the most populated country in the sub-Saharan region has the highest number of people that are food insecure. With a population of over 200

million, it has become a nation with one of the highest numbers of people living in extreme poverty (Roy and Divayanshi, 2019). Nigeria is a federal republic in West Africa that gained independence from Britain in 1960. With more than 200 million people, it is the most populated country in Africa with a rapidly growing population (World poverty clock, 2019). The post-independence period has involved many crises and ethnic tensions which have led to instability and economic shock across the region (Falola and Heaton, 2008). After years of military rule, Nigeria became a democratic government and had its first democratic election in 1999. The crisis has since then rocked the nation because of government mismanagement of resources and office, Nigeria today is experiencing slow economic growth and high levels of insecurity. In 2017 Nigeria was one of the countries struck by the four famines due to environmental degradation in combination with vulnerability because of the Boko Haram conflict which led to severe food insecurity (MAN,2020). Nigeria remains affected by conflict with weak institutions. There has not been enough investment in the agricultural sector resulting in low levels of food production (CSIS,2019). With a large developing economy and huge potential to increase its food production across the nation, several factors have made adequate availability of food not achievable.

Nigeria is currently experiencing violent conflict; the last decade has seen a rise in violence caused by Boko Haram in the Northeast region which has negatively affected food availability and left millions of people food insecure. The Boko Haram group was established in Borno state, North-eastern Nigeria in 2002. It is an Islamic sectarian movement that has subsequently carried out attacks and violence in the region since 2009. The group's intent was to purify Islam in Nigeria and uproot corruption and injustices in the country. After the death of their leader, the group members swore to avenge his death which left civilians, law enforcement officers, and members of the group dead. Now in its 13th year, the crisis in the northeast region remains very severe and violent. Since the start of the conflict in 2009 more than 27,000 people have been killed in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe states (Kabhuda,2018). Northeast is one of the geopolitical zones existing in Nigeria consisting of the following states: Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, and Yobe. The zone occupies slightly less than one-third of Nigeria's total area and has an estimated population of 13.5% of the country's population (Olawale, 2017). Maiduguri the capital of Borno state and the acting center of the Boko haram crisis, the violent group has carried out a series of bloody raids and suicide bombings in the state. Thousands of people have been abducted and killed men, women, and children. Today over 1,630,284 individuals are internally displaced in Borno state (DTM, 2021).

Borno state is referred to as the home of peace although we have seen the opposite of that in the last eleven years. The state has twenty-seven local government areas and shares borders with the Niger Republic to the north, Cameroon to the east, and Chad to the northeast. Borno state is one of the most affected states in the northeast by the Boko haram violent conflict. The region has seen various insurgence and violence perpetrated by Boko haram groups across the state. Eleven years into the crisis in Borno state and there is no evidence of decline. Borno state is in the grip of a conflict-driven humanitarian crisis and civilians are ultimately affected. The region has by far been the most affected by extreme attacks by Boko Haram in Nigeria between 2011 and 2021 (Varrella, 2021). The conflict has displaced people across the state and into neighboring countries and the population remains dependent on humanitarian aid to survive.

The crisis has had a disastrous impact on the region which has led to several impacts on agricultural production thereby affecting the availability of food in the state. The Boko Haram crisis has brought disruptions in the region, especially on food systems. The crisis has most importantly affected economic activities such as trading and farming. Falode (2016) indicated that the impact of violent conflict has ultimately impacted economic activities by affecting the ability of the population to access food due to the unavailability of food.

Although the main objective of Boko Haram in the region is not directly aimed at crippling food systems, the availability of food has been affected through violent exchange by the group in farmlands and local or rural markets and thus affecting local farmers. A population who lives in conflict-affected regions is likely to be food insecure as a direct consequence of conflict. Boko Haram in Borno state has affected agricultural production through the destruction of agricultural resources and infrastructure thus affecting food markets and consequently driving up the prices of food. As a result of the recurring and ongoing conflict, Nigeria today ranks one of the highest countries on the global terrorism index and is in dire need of humanitarian aid (Statista Research Department, 2021).

It is to examine the direct effect of violent conflicts on food availability in Borno State and examine the factors that contribute to violent conflict.

1.2 Research Questions

What impact does the violent conflict have on food availability in Borno state?

- i. What are the causes of violent conflict in Borno state?

- ii. Should tackling hunger be more than humanitarian assistance in the affected region?
Long-term resilient programs needed?

1.3 Organization of the Study

Chapter one of the study begins with a brief background for the study which also includes the statement of problem and research questions for the study. The chapter two provides insights on previous literature that has been conducted by other researchers and academicians on the study. It outlines a theoretical framework, explaining the concepts of food security, food availability, violent conflict. Also, it addresses the relationship between food availability and violent conflict.

The third chapter outlines the methodology of the study. Here research method and data collection procedure were explained in relation to the study's objective. It further describes the study area of Borno state in northeast Nigeria in greater detail and provides limitations to the method, scope, and analysis of the study. Lastly, this chapter comments on the distinctiveness of the study in terms of its reliability and validity.

The chapter four discusses the situation in Borno state based on the background chapter and provides findings in relation to this. It introduces the case, explores the root causes of conflicts, and investigates impacts on livelihoods and food security. Thereafter, it discusses how the crisis is affecting the humanitarian situation and the needs associated with this. Lastly, it analyses and investigates the interventions of international organisations and NGOs and explores how these can contribute to long-term food security, stability, and development. The chapter five summarises and concludes on the study. It therefore makes recommendations based on the findings of the study.

Chapter Two

Literature Review

2.1 Introduction

This chapter reviews past literature based on the topic. This chapter, therefore, undertakes an empirical review and analytical framework based on the topic. Thus, the topics reviewed include Food Security, Humanitarian Assistance, and violent conflicts.

2.2 Food Security

The problem of food insecurity has become relevant in our world today. In a world of plenty with high capability to produce enough food why do we still have people of different populations still food insecure suffering and dying from hunger and malnourishment? The reasons vary; thus, researchers have studied the field of food insecurity, and more studies are being conducted on the issue of food insecurity. The detailed literature review explores the impacts of violent conflict on food security. For years, the research on this problem has increased, exploring food insecurity qualitatively and quantitatively with the main aim to discuss the topic in broader terms and recommend policies.

The term food security is not a new phenomenon. Over the years, the definition of food security has evolved getting the attention of the international community. The widely accepted definition of the term food security was developed at the world food summit 1996, states that “Food security exists when all people at all times have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs, and food preferences for an active and healthy life” (WFP, 2009, FAO,1996). Clapp 2021, argues that it is time to revise the conceptual understanding of food security to include the broader dynamics that affect hunger and malnutrition. Clapp 2021, Further incorporates 2 additional dimensions to the definition of food security which is agency and sustainability. She further argues that the addition of agency and sustainability into food security definitions and frameworks ensures that everyone in the world is food secure long term. (Clapp, 2021). The definition of food security consists of four pillars which are the main components of food security: food availability, economic and physical access, stability, and utilization, agency, and sustainability.

Around the early 1970s, the term food security originally focused on ensuring the availability of food and stability in the price of food, which was because of the intense instability of agricultural commodity prices and instability in the currency and protein markets during that period (Berry et al, 2015). The events of hunger, food crises, and famine needed a definition

of food security that viewed the serious needs of vulnerable people and people affected (Shaw 2007). The term food security was defined at the world food conference in 1974 as “the availability at all times of adequate world food supplies of basic foodstuff to sustain a steady expansion of food consumption and to offset fluctuations in production and prices” (United Nations, 1975). The definition of food security in this context during that period showed concern about an unfolding global food crisis that saw hunger increase as food prices also increased in the markets (Clapp, 2021). The way hunger was understood during that period was a decline in the availability of food within countries which was a key cause of hunger and that instability in the prices of food resulting from uneven availability made the crises worse (Clapp, 2021). The definition focused on the need for increased production. As a result, a better understanding of the crises led to a focus on the availability of food to a broader approach and definition. Thus, from the 1970s period, the definition of food security has slowly evolved to include all dimensions and provide a suitable framework for addressing hunger. More recently it has been argued that agency and sustainability be added as dimensions to encompass the long-term time dimension by Clapp, 2021.

Mung'ong'o (2002), explained food security from the perspective of the population of Shinyanga a rural region in Tanzania. The people of Shinyanga defined a food secure household as one with enough maize, bulrush millet, or sorghum in store to last throughout the year, or one with enough money, livestock, or other assets to be able to purchase food. The causes of food insecurity in the region were a land shortage, lack of water, drought, poor cultivation, decreasing soil productivity, lack of farm credit, destructive birds, lack of reliable markets for crops and livestock, and misuse of available food. When these conditions exist, the people become food insecure. Food insecurity, therefore, occurs when people do not have access to sufficient food and when people are unable to meet target consumption levels (Salih,1994).

2.3 Violent Conflict

Just like the concept of food security, the concept of conflict is not a new phenomenon. Historically violent conflict has always been studied and deliberated upon from the lens of international relations. “Violent conflict involves two or more parties using physical force to resolve competing claims or interests” (Frere and Wilen, 2015). Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) defines armed conflict “as a contested incompatibility that concerns

government or territory or both, where the use of force between two parties results in at least 25 battle-related deaths in a year. With the government of the state involved in the conflict” (Demmers, 2017, Pettersson and Wallensteen 2015). Emphasis is placed on violent conflict in this study because it is prolonged and deadly and it poses serious challenges and impacts to those affected. The concept consists of violent acts ranging from war between states, revolutions, ethnic and religious conflict, insurgencies, civil wars, and genocides (Demmers, 2017). According to Harbom and Wallensteen (2010) incident of violent conflict within states was on the rise from the 1960s to the 1990s. Violent conflicts have prevailed in local territories and have also become more complex and protracted, involving more non-state groups and regional and international actors (World Bank & United Nations, 2018). Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) 2018, stated that the type, extremity, and level of conflict have evolved over the years and have shifted from wars fought directly among countries to intrastate conflict. Recent research on violent conflict has always focused on the reasons behind conflict and argues that conflict has taken on different forms from non-state armed groups, terrorists, gangs, and religious and ethnic groups. While there are several types of violent conflict by these different actors, all various types of conflict involve the use of force, causes displacement of people, affect those within the region, and also affect the population across the border.

Conflict uses force when a group(s) go beyond trying to achieve their goals peacefully and try to control the damage and defeat the opposing group's ability to pursue their interests. According to Davies (1973), the presence of frustration of substantive or implemental needs security, knowledge, and power is an important condition for a non-violent conflict to turn into a violent conflict “Violence as a response is produced when certain innate needs or demands are deeply frustrated” (Davies, 1973). In conflict, the utilization of force, physical damage, and human casualties are the features of a violent conflict. Berghof's Handbook for Conflict Transformation, (Smith 2005), assessed trends and causes of violent conflicts, he makes use of the phrase armed conflict when discussing violent disputes and he explained it as “open, armed clashes between two or more centrally organized parties, with continuity between the clashes, in disputes about power over government and territory.” (Smith, 2005). Social organizations or structures can have a strong role to play in the rise of conflict because these institutions can intervene, control or filter social behaviors. institutions can vary from a set of bodies that have written rules and objectives, to socially recognized and supported rules (Scott,1998). Looking at it from a theoretical point of view, different political forms of governance control the possibility of the rise of conflict and its degree of intensity (Obserchall,1973). Doorn, 1996,

argues that an extreme degree of functional autonomy leads to less conflict because a functional autonomy can survive and manage disputes, however, a low functional economy, characteristic of a weak government leaves the rise of conflict as the only way out of a dispute. Matlossa 1998, states that heightened political liberalization putting too much demand on institutions causes conflict. Lasswell, 1996 states that systems become unstable and are inclined to conflict when control is separated from authority. For control to be successful it must have utmost legitimacy. If legitimacy rests with the authority, then separating control from the system will result in conflict as the legitimacy of disputes is recognized as non-legitimate.

Understanding the method of conflict resolution underlines the concept, formation, and structure of conflict. Conflict resolution is how conflict is settled. The conflict resolution methods also emphasize that strategies could be adopted to find an exit from conflicts destroying effects and the methods should aim toward achieving the objectives for all parties involved. Burton 1990, views conflict because of unsatisfied human wants. He offers a historical and theoretical perspective of approaches to conflict resolution. He highlights a problem-solving approach to resolving conflict and the need for conflict prevention. He argues that conflict can be understood and managed more effectively if there was an agreed theory in which to understand approaches to conflict. He adopts the human needs theory which he claimed can be used to understand approaches to conflict. He examines the human dimension of conflict by discussing human needs theory. He explains conflict resolution as a form of decision making and presents models of traditional decision making and describes trends toward a problem-solving method to decision making. He further examines historical changes in government decision-making and its implications for practices in resolving conflict. He further examines the characteristics and process of the problem-solving approach and the role of third parties. Consequently, conflict resolution intends to transform conflict from violent to non-violent. Galtung, 1976, examines the main phases of resolving conflict: peace-making, peace keeping, and peace building. He explains peace-making as the first step, peace keeping as progress in making peace that must be maintained, and peace building as the last step which shows cooperation between both parties involved.

2.4 Violent Conflict and Food Security

Adelaja and George (2019), show the effects of conflict using the Boko Haram insurgency as a case study in their study “Armed Conflict and Food Insecurity: Evidence from Boko Haram Attacks”. Their objective was to study the effects of the Boko Haram insurgency on food

security conditions in Nigerian households and to examine whether a household's exposure to conflict significantly affects its food consumption. The research used the Singh, Squire, and Strauss (1986) model that derives a household's food consumption demand based on a constrained utility maximization problem, and it was used to explain how a rural household's exposure to conflict can affect its food security condition. The study found that household's exposure to the Boko Haram conflict negatively affects food security conditions in north-eastern, Nigeria. The conflict in the region has made households rely on less preferred foods, limit the variety of food eaten and limit the portion of food eaten. The study also showed that as a result of the conflict in the region food insecurity is evident through reduced production of food and reduced income. The Boko Haram insurgency has significantly disrupted the inputs markets, storage, sales of harvested crops, and transportation. Fish farmers in Yobe state reported having had their supply trucks reduced from forty to seven since the start of the Boko Haram Conflict. Also, the results show the effects of the conflict on prices. In 2017, corn prices increased in Adamawa by 31 percent compared to the year 2016. And in Borno state prices of corn were up by 25 percent. Also, the prices of millet were up by 20 percent in Borno and Yobe states. Results show negative effects of conflict on agricultural production, specific crops, and on the labor market.

Jelilov, Ayinde, Tetick, Celik, and Olali (2018) posited that the level of violent conflicts in Nigeria has led to the collapse of socio-economic activities in Borno State and has reduced agricultural production in Borno state. The authors further noted that due to violent conflict, large hectares of farmland have been destroyed, markets have been burnt down, emigration of people from the affected area meant no cultivation of farmland, animal rearing as well as fishing has been abandoned, and the imposition of curfew for days meant the restriction of business activities and the closing of international frontiers within the region limited cross border trade.

María Alejandra Arias et al (2013), In their study "Agricultural Production amidst Conflict: The Effects of Shocks, Uncertainty, and Governance of Non-State Armed Actors" examined the effect of conflict on the agricultural production of small-scale farmers in Colombia. The paper explored two channels through which households respond to conflict which affects agricultural production. The authors adopted a household survey representative of four Colombian micro-regions. The researchers adopted the use of a household survey which was applied to 4,800 households in four small communities in Colombia. The survey gathered data on the economic conditions of households, the incidence of violent shocks, and the presence

of non-state armed groups in the regions. They explored the direct and indirect impacts of conflict based on the years of the presence of nonstate armed actors. The results showed that the presence of non-state armed actors leads to high production costs and lower investments. The results also show that agricultural mechanisms adopted by households are associated with violent shocks and the presence of non-state actors. Households living in areas affected by conflict are highly affected, their agricultural production and revenue seem to decrease, and they must make decisions to adapt to the impact of conflict on agricultural production.

Agwu (2020) in his study “The Boko Haram conflict and food insecurity: Does resilience capacity matter?” examined the question of whether resilience capacity is a key factor in the mitigation of household’s risks of food insecurity in the presence of shocks. The study employed three main indicators of food security; the coping strategy index (CSI), the share of food expenditure per capita (Food ratio), and the food consumption score (FCS) (Agwu, 2020). The study showed that exposure to the Boko Haram conflict causes the households to be food insecure. The effects of conflict are evident and negative on all four dimensions of food security including the availability of food. The results showed that resilience programs are essential, and it protects households during conflict shocks. Resilience should therefore be an important consideration during post disasters interventions.

A report by Africa Growth Initiative (AGI) (2014) shows the impact of conflict and political instability on agricultural investments in Mali and Nigeria focusing on the incidence of conflict caused by Boko Haram and Ansaru in Nigeria. The study adopted 4 value chains and concentrated on 4 study participants who were all local farmers that had been exposed to the violent conflict since it started. The results showed the impacts of violent conflict on agriculture in the region. It is evident that there is a decrease in crop production in crops like rice, millet, maize, and cowpea. Also, in fish farming levels of fish harvesting decreased. For animal production, the inability to access the markets led to an increase in the prices of livestock. Also, there is a reduction in the availability of labor to work on farmlands. As a result of attacks on farmers and laborers on farmlands, lack of labor led to inadequate timed weeding and harvesting, which affected crop production. Another way in which violent conflict affected the population is the abandonment of the agricultural sector. Investments in the agricultural sector dropped for areas most affected by Boko Haram's violent conflict.

Ezeokana (2021) in her study “Food Security and Conflict: Evidence from the Boko Haram Insurgency in Nigeria examined the impact of the Boko Haram insurgency on food security in

Nigeria. Data from a general household survey to determine levels of food insecurity was conducted by the National Bureau of Statistics. Focusing on the food accessibility dimension of food security, the author adopted the per capita food expenditure method in the 2012 and 2015 post-planting seasons as a proxy for food security, the author determined the incidence, depth, and severity of food insecurity using a food security index; then, estimate the food security status of households using a probit model. Data collected from the armed conflict location and event data program showed that the activities of Boko Haram affected the levels of food security in the region in regards to the number of days households did not have enough to eat, the results showed that households in Boko Haram affected areas have a higher probability of being food insecure.

Kah (2017), in his study, examined “Conflict and Food insecurity in Nigeria and Cameroon”. because of the Boko Haram conflict. The study used a qualitative approach drawing data from the World Bank, United Nations, assessment reports, and other literature. In his study, he noted that the Nigerian conflict with Boko Haram has existed since 2009 and as Nigeria and its neighboring countries have tried to contain the conflict in the region, a bigger challenge has been created or further compounded. as food insecurity has now gone beyond the national borders. The study showed how Boko Haram has affected Nigeria and its neighboring country? Cameroon with high levels of displaced people, destruction of livelihoods, and disruption of food availability, supply, and access. The results showed that the violent conflict has caused restrictions at the borders leading to difficulty in the supply of food from importation. Markets have been completely closed and custom duties have dwindled. His article assessed the situation and showed that the level of food insecurity in Nigeria and Cameroon is now high as a result of the conflict as farming systems are being destroyed, food crops are being destructed, killing of livestock, and displaced farmers are. The countries Nigeria, Cameroon, and Chad depend on northern Nigeria for food from imports are being affected making the problem of food insecurity worse and increasing reliance on international aid. The study to a great extent examined the direct impact of conflict on food security in Nigeria and Cameroon. However, the study did not concern the Borno state, nor did he examine the factors that contributed to violent conflict and measures that could be implemented to curb the conflict in the region. This research intends to fill this gap in subsequent chapters.

Studies on the impact of Boko Haram activities and other various forms of violent conflict in Nigeria are concentrated on the effect of violent conflict on food security basically due to the

inability of household individuals to meet all of the requirements of the term “food security”. According to Awodola and Oboshi (2015), “The Impacts of the activities of Boko Haram on food security in Maiduguri” the capital of Borno state is examined. The study adopted data from field work for the period 2012-2013 from 222 respondents, and the results showed that foreign business individuals abandoned their businesses. Likewise, also showed that all businesses and markets in the region have failed. The agricultural sector of the economy has been affected by the prices of farm produce increasing.

In a study by Mohammed and Ahmed (2015) “The Impact of Boko Insurgency in Borno State” was examined using both primary and secondary data with a total of 300 respondents. The study showed that the annual grain flow between Borno state and other states involved in the trade was 294,940 tonnes. However, because of violent conflict flow of grain decreased to 94,500 tonnes in 2014. Also, all routes used to provide food became unavailable.

Examining the impact of conflict on food security on a global scale, studies have examined the effects of terrorism and armed conflict on the agricultural and economic development of several countries, particularly in developing countries. Weezel (2018), in his study “Food Security and Armed Conflict: A Cross Country Analysis”, examines the link between food security and violent conflict and the level of global food security across countries to determine the impact of armed conflict on food security at the macro level. The study adopts the use of panel data from FAO food balance sheets and armed conflict data from the Uppsala Conflict Program. The study shows data from 160 countries in Africa, Asia, Central America, and South America for 50 years and uses dietary energy supply as an indicator of food security. The study shows that violent armed conflict has potentially contributed to food insecurity at the local level, affecting levels of food production and agricultural markets negatively. The result of the study shows that conflict is a cause of lower food security levels. The data analyzed shows that there is progress in the levels of food supply across the world, however, conflict-affected countries are likely to experience slow to no progress in levels of food supply. The results show a link between food security and armed conflict and the impact of conflict on food security depends on the intensity of the conflict.

Dago (2021) in his study “Armed Conflict and food insecurity” shows that armed conflict remains the primary driver of food insecurity. Armed conflict has extreme effects on food consumption, health, and all four aspects of food security. Armed conflict weakens food security by destroying crops, agricultural infrastructure, and assets, and disrupts the food

supply chain and local markets. When shocks like armed conflict occur in a region it leads to economic and physical disruptions of the food supply operations thus resulting in food shortage, food losses, and high prices of food in rural areas which also affects urban areas.

Singh (2012) examines the effects of terrorism and armed conflict on the agricultural and economic development of Punjabi farmers during the violence. The conflict was caused out of demand for a Sikh-dominated Punjabi-speaking independent state, to be called Khalistan. The government of India declined this request and as a result, the conflict which ensued was an attack against the government. The study adopted the use of a microlevel farmer expenditure survey between 1981-1993 to determine the amount of money spent by farmers on hired labor and its relationship to the violent conflict. The results showed that violent conflict immediately affected farmers spending on permanent labor hiring. The presence of conflict-related attacks in the region has been shown to reduce long-term fixed investments in agriculture.

According to Guerrero-Serdan (2009), the violent conflict that started in Iraq in 2003 is seen to have serious effects on the nutritional status of children. As a result of the violence, his study shows that children born in conflict-affected regions are shorter than children born in areas without violence.

2.5 Humanitarian Assistance

In need of humanitarian assistance, Action against Hunger, (2015) examined research on food assistance for nutritional impact and identified the use of cash transfer programs and the impacts of cash transfer programs on acute malnutrition and general food-based distribution as interventions in humanitarian crises. The study states the aim of general food distribution is to meet the immediate food needs of the population.

Pringle and Hunt (2015) examined humanitarian action as aid provided by volunteers in contexts of disasters, government incompetence, abuse, or neglect, and typically during armed conflict. He further explains humanitarian action as the active provision of aid designed to save lives, alleviate suffering, and restore and promote human dignity in the wake of disasters and during large-scale emergencies. He states that humanitarian action has inherent limits, and that humanitarianism occurs where the political has failed or is in crisis. He further discusses humanitarian action roles and limitations. Humanitarian assistance is useful to victims affected by disasters and plays a key role in the development of a country if it is meticulously organized and responds to the real and immediate needs of the people. According to Smock 1996, assessed Humanitarian assistance in Africa, the study shows humanitarian assistance

provided in previous by nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in Africa has saved hundreds of thousands of lives. Dodd et al, (2021) examined Humanitarian food security interventions during the covid-19 pandemic in low- and middle-income countries. Widespread food insecurity has occurred as a global humanitarian crisis during the corona virus disease. The study assessed the responses of international non-governmental organizations and the United Nations agencies in addressing food security needs among different populations. The study aimed to identify and describe food security interventions implemented by organizations during the pandemic. Results show that agencies have developed interventions to directly respond to food security needs. These interventions include distribution of food aid, providing cash transfers, implementing nutrition, feeding programs, and supporting local food production. Additionally, INGOs and UN agencies focused on providing immediate humanitarian assistance however, these organizations also implemented programs that focused on tackling long-term food security. These programs include supporting local food production and the food supply chain.

The results of the studies reviewed show that: Violent conflict has an impact on food availability both on a global level and national level by destroying crops, agricultural infrastructure, and assets, and disrupting the food supply chain and local markets. It also showed that violent conflict involves the use of force, causes displacement of people, affects those within the region, and affects the population across the border. The causes of violent conflict can be because of a low functional economy, and the need to fulfill wants, desires, and goals among people leaving the rise of conflict as the only way out of dispute. Also, there is a need for humanitarian assistance to meet the immediate needs of people affected by violent conflict while long-term programs are implemented to address issues of food security.

2.6 Analytical Framework

This section determines a framework of food availability and conflict. The framework explains the link between food availability and conflict, provides background for the different observed measures and indicators of food availability and conflict and establishes a case study and analysis that follows.

2.6.1 Food Security in Protracted Crises

The analytical framework adopts FAO food security data, conflict data, indicators of fragility, and governance to describe links in indicators of regions facing challenges of food insecurity and conflict. To clearly understand how issues of conflict-related to the unavailability of food, this framework is established on the analysis done by FAO on protracted crises which shows a strong link between food insecurity and conflict-driven crises (FAO, 2015).

Important findings of the framework include countries affected by the protracted crisis; food insecurity is felt more by the population in rural areas where violent conflict takes place (FAO,2016). Circumstances surrounding protracted crises have been considered as complex situations characterized by “recurrent natural disasters and/ or conflict, longevity of food crisis, breakdown of livelihoods and insufficient institutional capacity to react to the crisis” (FAO,2016).

The CFS framework for action for food security and nutrition in a protracted crisis “*represents the first global consensus on how to mitigate the threat to food security and nutrition during the protracted crisis*” (CFS, 2015). The framework identifies that resilience can strengthen the capacity to absorb shocks caused by conflict. As a result of the level of food insecurity during the conflict, the focus should be placed on populations exposed more to risks and most affected. The objective of this framework is to improve the situation of food insecurity in regions affected by violent conflict by building resilience and addressing root causes; the framework examines the main causes. As violent conflict becomes more serious and affects more vulnerable people, the effects of violent conflict on food security are felt at the individual and household level and are evident in the levels of food production and food prices. According to CFS which makes efforts to eliminate hunger globally, regionally, and nationally, protracted crisis circumstances call for urgent attention, and the right responses for this situation differ from those required in short-term crises or non-crisis situations (CFS, 2015). With the level of ongoing crisis which causes continued and lengthened food insecurity there is a need for urgent focus on the regions affected. “Countries in protracted crisis are environments in which a significant proportion of the population is acutely vulnerable to death, disease, and disruption of livelihoods over a prolonged period (FAO,2015). These crises are often as a result of natural disasters or conflicts. But in this case study, it is as a result of the conflict. Protracted crises threaten food security in many ways thereby affecting all dimensions of food security. The CFS framework contains 11 principles that identify the need for immediate attention and

humanitarian efforts. The framework addresses the short-term and long-term food security needs of populations living in protracted crises which is prolonged causing disruption of livelihoods and threatening food security. Violent conflict can have long-lasting impacts on food availability, particularly in developing countries with most of the population highly dependent on agriculture as their main source of livelihood which makes them vulnerable to violent conflict. The CFS framework can be adopted by actors whose objective is working towards zero hunger by improving food security in protracted crises.

When crises in protracted situations persist achieving food security becomes a concerning challenge. Interventions and humanitarian aid are limited by danger and impacts. Characteristics of protracted crises in addition to the loss of human lives and high levels of displacement are food insecurity and hunger. Furthermore, root causes are usually not accounted for and addressed and that is the reason why food insecurity persists. The intervention of humanitarian organizations is often not enough in responding to these situations as their work falls on short-term aid. Aid is very much needed however there is an urgent need for longer-term interventions if we want to achieve a world of no hunger. This framework thus focuses on violent conflict from a food security perspective based on evidence from the Borno state.

Chapter Three

Methodology

3.1 Introduction

Here research method and data collection procedure are explained. It focuses on the methods that are used to review violent conflict and its impact on food availability in Borno State, Nigeria. The chapter describes the study area, Borno State in North-Eastern Nigeria in detail and provides the data collection procedure, research design, scope, and data analysis of the study. It also provides the distinctiveness of the study in terms of reliability and validity of the research instruments.

3.2 Research Design

The data used in this study will emanate from qualitative methods of data collection. Analysis of secondary data is the analysis of data collected by another researcher. This leads to some points that must be addressed throughout the study. Bryman (2012) points to authenticity, whether the evidence is genuine. Credibility: is the evidence-free from error, representativeness, whether the evidence provides “typical” findings, and the meaning of the evidence. This brings into question if the data collected can be understood or if it can be interpreted differently. Literature studies are the main method of data collection for this research, literature studies have made available background information about the violent conflict in Nigeria to understand the subject and previous research on the case study. Collecting and analyzing non-numerical data and use of documents from archives of the Nigerian government and the Food and Agriculture Organisation reports investigating the case of Borno state and the impacts of violent conflict on food availability. The design will be used to explain the research findings without manipulating the research variables to get the data from existing literature and reports on the impact of violent conflict on food availability in Borno State, Nigeria.

The information needed to assess food insecurity in Nigeria will be obtained from electronic databases such as published journal articles on related topics. Various repositories, libraries databases, and the internet, public statistics by international institutions and organizations associated with fighting hunger and food insecurity in the region such as the United Nations Programme, World Bank, World food program, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the

United Nations, Human Rights Watch, the government databases, research results, reports, documents including polls which offers a large sum of research data. Hence, the research will be based on a reassessment of existing claims and reports thereby establishing internal validity. The views, experiences, and beliefs of the authors of this literature and reports were observed and used to collect qualitative data for the study. The objective is to assess the case of food insecurity in the region likewise contributing to the academic literature on food insecurity. The study is organized following the concepts of violent conflict and its impact on food availability. How violent conflict impacts levels of food production and food resources in Borno state. This case study then gathers information from the concepts to determine if the analytical framework is relevant to the main subject.

3.3 Study Area

Borno State is a state in the North-East zone of Nigeria, bordered by Yobe toward the west, Gombe toward the southwest, and Adamawa toward the south while its eastern boundary shapes part of the public line with Cameroon, its northern border forms part of the public line with Niger, and its North-Eastern border is shared with Chad, being the main Nigerian state to border three foreign nations. It takes its name from the noteworthy emirate of Borno, with the emirate's old capital of Maiduguri filling in as the capital city of Borno State (Pulse, 2021). The state was formed in 1976 when the previous North-Eastern State was separated. It initially incorporated the region that is presently Yobe State, which turned into an independent state in 1991. Borno is the second largest state among the 36 states of Nigeria, just behind Niger State. Despite its size, the state is the 11th most populated state in Nigeria, with an estimated populace of around 5.86 million in 2016 (Olugbode, 2014).

Borno state is an agriculturally based state. The State economy depended vigorously on animals and crop farming preceding the Boko Haram rebellion while the state capital Maiduguri is a significant provincial trade and administration center (NCA, 2021). Be that as it may, following quite a while of the insurrection that has affected the state's development and driving agriculture (both crop and livestock farming), the Human Development Index of the state has dropped significantly, due to the revolt (Tayo, 2021). The contention with Boko Haram in Nigeria has affected the Borno populace without provision of food, water, and well-being. An expected 800,000 individuals need humanitarian aid across Borno State (Tayo, 2021).

Borno state is the focal point of the Boko Haram insurgency, with many conflict-related occurrences announced consistently, while in Yobe and Adamawa States a small bunch of episodes happens. The direct violent conflict against regular citizens, including the utilization of explosive devices (often conducted by ladies and youngsters), is seen in Borno State consistently (UNICEF, 2016). The vast majority of dislodged individuals come from Borno, and the state additionally has almost 8 out of 10 (78%) among internally displaced persons. Further displacements are expected to occur as military activities and threats proceed.

3.4 Scope

The research in its entirety seeks to examine the impact of violent conflict on food availability. This study is based on qualitative data collection focusing on Borno State, Maiduguri located in North-eastern Nigeria between 2011-2020 which covers the period of insurgency and violent conflicts in Borno State. Specifically, the study intends to examine certain variables such as the direct impacts of violent conflict on food availability, the efforts that have been made to ensure food availability in Borno State, and the challenges affecting these efforts. These issues will be examined from the view of previous literature and reports of the Borno State Government, the Nigerian Government, International Organizations, and NGOs.

3.5 Study Limitations

It is evident how research based on secondary sources of data (Desk study) will limit the results and findings of the research. Due to limited access to data the study adopts secondary sources, the data collected and analyzed is based on research and literature conducted by other researchers, therefore the research participants and methods used cannot be controlled. The study is not based on field research and the researcher cannot relate to or understand the situation directly from the people affected point of view or organizations involved experiences, if the study was based on field research, the interpretation of data will be different from collecting to analyzing and discussing to that of data gathered off secondary sources. The study does not aim to provide a comprehensive overview of all areas in Borno state in the impact of violent conflict on food security because there is a lack of accessible data for all areas of Borno state, Rather it provides an understanding of the situation of the crisis and how it has affected the population, therefore the researcher makes general assumptions with the available data relating to all of the areas in Borno state. (Bryman 2012) states limitation of secondary collection of data gathering data for research from other literature or other researchers' findings reduces the quality and credibility of research, which is a limitation to research because readers

cannot know of what standards the data is that is collected. However, this cannot be said for every data collection source, reports, articles, and assessments will be based on findings and interpretation from sources that can be relied on.

Also, secondary sources have claimed to always be biased in one way or the other. This is connected to the most suitable data available which have been written by researchers who have examined a study and have drawn their own conclusions about the study as it fits them. However, this can be avoided by collecting data from independent assessments. It is hoped that the learning from this study will be relevant for other frameworks keen to promote the UN sustainable development goals in achieving food security for all. More importantly, the study will still recommend important areas for future research.

3.6 Reliability and Validity

The methods utilized for the study were considered reliable and valid as the literature that will be utilized for the study has been published by competent authors and authentic organizations for the reports and archives. This is to make sure that only relevant and reliable literature and reports needed for the study, were reviewed and observed. The sources were selected as they have reports that are unbiased and have reported on conditions in the region. No influence of the researcher on the data collection process makes the study unbiased and strengthens the reliability of the study. The data and information collected from the sources are verified by the public, hence the result of the study is reliable and valid. The study contributes to other studies on food security and violent conflict which will also help explain various cases globally.

Chapter Four:

Understanding Violent Conflict in Borno State

4.1 Introduction

Conflict is a struggle, between individuals or groups over values or claims to status, power, and resources in which the objectives of the conflicting groups are to pronounce their claims over those of others (Goodhand, 2001). Francis, (2006), explains conflicts as an ‘intrinsic and inevitable part of human existence’. Therefore, Conflict is the pursuit of incompatible interests and goals by different groups. It has become common knowledge in studies and research that most conflicts and protracted crises today do not occur between sovereign states, rather they occur internally within states or regions (Goodhand, 2001). “Intrastate conflict is defined as violence between or among one or more advantaged or disadvantaged minority or majority groups, and one or more of these groups and the political/juridical state, to gain either a greater share of limited resources or control or autonomy or both over the territorial state. Violence may take on ethnonationalist, indigenist, or religious dynamics” (Morales, 1998). Intrastate conflict describes long-lasting violence that takes place between armed groups representing the state, and one or more non-state groups. This type of violence is usually restricted within the borders of the single state involved however it can also affect neighboring states. The root causes of intra-state conflict are associated with domestic factors which give rise to violence within a state. Intra-state violent conflict is viewed as a threat to international peace and security being that it is violent, and it affects neighboring states and the livelihoods of the population. Intra-state conflict is often considered as a result of outbursts of ethnic hatred, and political discontent and its consequences which results in protest, instability, violence, and revolution (Jackson R, 2001). Intrastate conflicts are based on the structures of weak and failing state governments (Jackson R, 2001), and weak and failing states have now become a challenge for the international system (Fukuyama, 2004). It is evident that conflict is an essential part of social and political change to take place in a society.

Theoretical literature explaining intrastate conflict, revolution, instability, and Marxist theory of class struggles have stated the effects of oppression and exploitation of an economic class which causes revolt/ conflict. Social changes take place as an of the struggle between different classes, capitalism exploits and oppress the lower class which will lead to a revolution from the lower class (Morales, 1998). Karl Marx understood and explained how the society operated in relation to revolt/conflict in capitalists’ system of government between the capitalists who

owned and controlled means of production and the proletariat who rendered labor and services. Karl Marx stated that capitalism will unavoidably lead to proletariats revolting against the system leading to the destruction of the capitalist system. The exploitation of the capitalist system is what allows the upper class to control all politically, economically, and socially.

Liberals have stated that conflict will take place as a result of individuals/groups' political and economic deprivations and injustices in the system. According to Waltraud Queiser Morales "The global spread of democratization, and the consequent changes in ethos, values, and socio-political structures, may be instrumental in the spread of ethnic and nationalistic violence and radical and rapid shifts in the structure of minority-majority relations, especially under conditions of actual or perceived scarcity and deprivation, may encourage intrastate conflict and political instability" (Dobkowski and Wallimann, 1998). Gurr (1970) explains a relative deprivation theory and states "the effect of other discrepancies between value expectations and value capabilities, The intensity, and scope of Relative Deprivation strongly determine the potential for collective violence". When the expectations of the people in a state are not met it can encourage conflict and violence. Based on this, the security and stability in Borno state are due to the people being deprived by a weak and failing state, they seek to bring about changes in the social, economic, and political system of Nigeria through violent means. This is the reason that has encouraged conflict and security instability in the region. Individuals or a group of people may feel deprived if they perceive that they have been denied their legitimate rights, thereby leading to a sense of discontent among affected individuals (Walker and Smith, 2012). One can argue that the development of Boko Haram is a result of deprivation and frustration which turned into violence given the inability to meet up with the desires of the people.

Religious/ethnic intrastate violent conflict in Nigeria is an issue that has been ongoing for years in the country. Boko Haram was initially known as Ahl al-Sunna li al Da'wa wa al-Jihad, (Murtada,2013). The group has carried out several violent attacks since the early 2000s, however, became increasingly violent in 2010. Boko Haram is an Islamist jihadist terrorist organization that is based in Northeast Nigeria. The group was created in 2002 by Mohammed Yusuf in Borno state, Maiduguri. Its objective is to overthrow the Nigerian government and impose Islamic laws by establishing a sharia government (Walker, 2012). Mohammed Yusuf created a religious institution and school that brought Muslims from across other states, with his aim of imposing Islamic laws and creating a Sharia government the religious institution and school became a recruiting for jihadis. Mohammed Yusuf attracted followers from around and nearby condemning the police and the Nigerian government (Johnson, 2011). Their current

political and religious leader Abubakar Shekau heads the council of elders called Shura and took control after Mohammed Yusuf who was the previous leader was killed by the Nigerian police in 2009 (Amnesty International, 2015). With the new leader, Boko Haram attacks and violence became well known. Boko Haram insurgency has been a leading challenge facing Nigeria in recent years. The group has carried out several attacks that have led to the loss of lives, properties, and livelihoods (Ajayi, 2011).

All through 2010, the Boko Haram group grew its territory and influence in the region. The group constantly targeted civilians. In 2012 the group established relations with other African Islamic groups and was able to expand to neighboring countries of Cameroon and Chad. The group started getting recognized internationally as a violent group that could pose serious challenges to international peace and security. In 2013, the group had taken over several local governments. The government declared a state of emergency in Borno. In 2014 and 2015 the attacks by Boko Haram were more serious and frequent and also more violent, the attacks led to 8,000 fatalities in 2014 and almost 9,000 in 2015. The violent group had enough resources to expand successfully, they occupied and controlled local governments mostly in the rural areas of the region where agriculture is the main source of income and livelihood of the communities (Adelaja and George, 2019). The group became one of the deadliest terror groups in the world (GTI, 2017). The long-lasting threats and security challenges in Borno state and other regions are developing from continuous attacks on the population, public and government institutions, infrastructures, kidnapping, and destruction of properties. As of 2019, it is estimated that of a population of 13 million people, 13 million are affected and 7.9 million are in dire need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 2019). According to the United Nations Development Program, a report released in 2020 stated that *“conflict has directly resulted in the deaths of 35,000 people in the states of Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe because of battle or one-sided violence since 2009”* (UNDP, 2020). Although this is not directly stating for the Borno States alone but rather for the most affected states of Boko Haram violent conflict attacks.

4.2 Causes of Violent Conflicts in Borno State

The factors which are responsible for violent conflict in Borno state, Nigeria varies. These factors include:

4.2.1 Religious and Ethnic Causes

Historically, Nigeria has experienced recurring ethnoreligious clashes. It is now a commonly known knowledge that religious and ethnic tension causes violent conflict in Borno state and other areas of north-eastern Nigeria also affecting neighboring countries (Pichette, 2015). Studies/courses have found positive links between religious and ethnic tensions in causing conflict because religion plays a role in some of the conflict zones of the world and creates an increasing share of violent conflicts in the world today. For many individuals and groups, religious beliefs give the moral ammunition to justify and carry out violence (Appleby, 2000). Religion played an important role in Boko Haram's carrying out its activities in Borno state (Gassebner, 2017). This suggests that conflict zones experiencing religious tensions can become a breeding ground for violent groups to operate. Boko Haram is buried and deeply rooted in Islamic beliefs and principles which they use to justify their acts (Sergie and Johnson, 2020). The group aims to promote sharia law and create an Islamic state in the northern part of Nigeria. Following its objective, it has waged attacks on any group or western belief that they think is against Islam. This has created the common knowledge that violent conflict in the region is a result of religious beliefs. The United States of Americas institute in previous literature carried out across northern states in Nigeria identified religious ignorance as a leading factor influencing the success of Boko Haram in recruiting young men into its group (Daily Independent, 2014).

The increasing outbreak of extreme jihadist fundamental groups around the world also contributed to the Boko Haram insurgency in Borno state. The pathways led by terrorist groups like Al-Qaeda, Al-Shabaab, Taliban, Islamic State of Iraq, and Syria (ISIS) among others have encouraged in existing the course of the group in Borno state, Nigeria. They turned to Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb terrorist group, who showed their support mainly with financial aid. This activity has made the violent group pose threats to the international community at large and international peace and security. They are key players in the world's deadliest crises, making efforts to find a solution very complicating.

4.2.2 Political and Economic Causes

Since gaining independence in 1960, Nigeria has spent long periods under military rule with a series of security, political and economic crises which has left the country facing instability. Intrastate conflicts are based on the structures of weak and failing state governments (Jackson

R, 2001). Corruption, weak political institutions, political instability, weak government, and a high level of the disorder can foster the incidence of violent conflict. Democratic countries are prone to violent conflict attacks which can be traced to economic and political factors. Inequity, economic deprivation, and economic inequality are factors that have led to the causes of conflict (Osemwegie, 2012). With the level of corruption and political instability that is hooked in the country, it will take an act of revolution to change the system (Odunfa, 2010). The absence of good governance brought about increased terror in Borno state, and poor governance and high levels of corruption have pushed religious and ethnic tensions. The factors that drive Boko Haram attacks possess political factors, the reasons for the violent attacks are directed toward the uneven distribution of wealth, power, and inequality (Oviasogie, 2013). Boko Haram was established as a revolt against poor governance and corruption in the country which the group tried to fix by imposing sharia and Islamic laws. Good governance as expressed by the World Bank states that “Good governance is epitomized by predictable, open, and enlightened policy making, a bureaucracy imbued with a professional ethos acting in furtherance of the public good, the rule of law, transparent processes and a strong civil society participating in public affairs. Poor governance on the other hand is characterized by arbitrary policy-making, unaccountable bureaucracies, unenforced or unjust legal systems, the abuse of executive power, a civil society unengaged in public life, and widespread corruption” (World Bank, 1994, Manzetti, 2010). This entails the efforts to build a strong and enabling environment. Most importantly good governance requires all of the characteristics as stated by the World Bank, which is an attack on corruption from its roots. The presence of bad governance, therefore, suggests that the socio-political environment consists of administrative injustice, human rights abuse, inequality, and high levels of corruption. Therefore, the joining of terror groups is a response to the unjust socio-political environment.

Poverty and unemployment have been identified as common causes of violent conflict (Goodhand, 2001). Poor countries are at a greater risk of falling into no-exit cycles of violent conflict (Goodhand, 2001). People who are economically deprived are more likely to resort to internal or regional violence as a way of expressing injustices and hardships. Poor economic conditions in Borno state such as lack of employment opportunities and the population living below the poverty line have created conditions for people to join conflict groups. Nigeria is Africa’s biggest economy, however, over 60% of its population lives below the poverty line. According to the recent World Bank report which gathered the latest evidence on the factors and drivers of poverty in Nigeria, as many as 4 in 10 Nigerians live below the national poverty

line (World Bank, 2022). Many that are affected are mostly in the northern region of Nigeria, they also lack education, access to safe drinking water, and improved sanitation. The report states that jobs are scarce in the country, and most households/individuals are engaged in small-scale agriculture, just 17% of Nigerian workers hold the wage jobs where they earn above the poverty line (World Bank, 2022). This serves as a motivation to join violent groups because the people are unemployed and see terrorism as a job or as a revolt against social and political change.

In conclusion, the violent conflict in Borno state started with a group of Islamic devotees around the region with messages on imposing Islam and sharia law and purity in the region as something they wanted and needed. It also started as a result of frustration and feeling of deprivation. Boko Haram was initially established as a revolt against the weak government, poor education system, poor governance, and corruption. The outbreak of Boko Haram in the region marked the start of a recurring pattern of violent attacks, bloody riots, and bombings. The aftermath of these attacks left people displaced, farms/livelihoods of people destroyed, children orphaned and people dead. What started as a revolt against the northern government and its institutions, gradually transformed into political, religious, and socio-economic attacks as not only police stations, army barracks, and government establishments were targeted but also banks, businesses, individuals, Christians, and Christian institutions, since 2011, churches have been attacked and over 200 people have been killed in attacks on churches (Amnesty international, 2012). The group has claimed responsibility for the attacks and has stated that it aims to target Christians and drive them out of its region (Amnesty International, 2012). Muslims and mosques also became targets of Boko Haram violence. Borno state is one of the most affected and home bases of the Boko Haram group. The region is seen as of strategic importance to Islam because it controls a direct trade route to the middle east through Chad and is considered the cradle of Islamic education in Nigeria. As a result, the violent group carries out most attacks in Borno with these attacks having direct impacts on the state and the population

4.3 Impacts of Violent Conflict on Food Availability in Borno State

The unavailability of food is a major issue across Borno state today and has particularly affected populations in the rural areas and vulnerable communities (Sanusi et al, 2016). A disturbing challenge of violent conflict is its impact on important food systems: Farms, crops,

grazing fields, irrigation systems, fisheries, and food processing storage are regularly targeted (FAO, 2021).

Food availability plays a key role in food security, over the years increase in population is more than the supply of adequate food thus resulting in food shortage and unavailability (World Food Summit, 2003). The availability of a sufficient amount of food of good quality is supplied through domestic production or imports, including food aid (FAO, 2006). For farmers availability of food solely depends on what they can harvest be it on land or sea, for the population it depends on storage and transport. Food availability is important in achieving food security, it focuses on easy access to sufficient quality and quantity of food. The determining factors of food unavailability vary on low levels of food production, lack of food supply, weak market system, and infrastructures.

Boko Haram's violent conflict has seriously shortened the activities of the population over many years. Poor and displaced individuals/household populations are highly dependent on food aid from humanitarian assistance to meet basic food requirements. In those areas, the impacts of violent conflict have led to the displacement of people from their land, which has increased food unavailability through the collapse of local markets and reduced agricultural production. Limited agricultural produce and the high cost of food have left many individuals or households in Borno are highly dependent on humanitarian assistance.

4.4 Impacts on Agricultural Production

Violent conflict will reduce agricultural productivity and output by affecting and limiting labor supply, reducing access to land, and weakening several social and economic support systems (Blattman and Miguel, 2010). Agricultural production in Nigeria is an important sector of the country's economy, usually carried out by most rural farmers to make available sufficient food to supply and export (Towobola et al, 2014). In the country, the agriculture sector makes up almost 40% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (National Bureau of Statistics, 2013). However, the attacks by violent groups have destroyed agricultural productivity in the region. food availability and household/individual food consumption are strained as a result of the effects of attacks from conflict. The reduction of agricultural production has led to a decline in food availability and caused a shortage of food in markets and households. The effects of violent conflict have interrupted agricultural production and led to the displacement of people, therefore leaving fertile lands abandoned and uncultivated. Borno state being the center of trade activities has now become the center of the Boko Haram Crisis where farmlands have been

converted to battlefields and farmers are now forced to flee to camps where they have to depend on aid for survival (United Nations, 2019).

Food security is influenced by the size of farmland cultivated by households/individuals (Helen, 2005). The production of food can increase greatly through the expansion of areas under cultivation. In a study carried out in Borno state (Madu, 2019), the conflict has greatly affected the size of farms. Farm size refers to the land area used for crop production. The results showed that the average farm size of farmers before the insurgency was 2-3 hectares, while the size of the farm after the insurgency reduced to 1.48. This shows that the farm sizes of farmers in the region have reduced to 23.3% because of attacks from the violent conflict. This effect has affected agricultural output and the production of food which has reduced greatly. Borno state used to be the center of commercial activities and agricultural produce in the north supplying agricultural products to other states in Nigeria and its neighboring countries from the 27 local government areas of Borno state. However, the agricultural sector which ensures the availability of food in the region has been the most affected sector of the economy of Borno state. The escalation of the violent conflict in the region has caused farmers to run away and abandon their farms for fear of attacks. Many farmers state no one can move around for fear of attacks, and most farmers in the rural areas have fled their homes (Muhammed, 2015). The violent group also targets attacks on government storage facilities, fertilizer factories, transport systems, and farms (Adelaja and George, 2019). Farmers affected are no longer able to produce sufficient and quality food to meet the demands of other parts of Nigeria and neighboring countries that rely on agricultural produce from the region. Farmers are now more concerned about their safety rather than going out to produce food. Farmers and laborers who are young have now moved to less affected areas of the country or neighboring countries. As a result, there is less to no labor in the agricultural sector (Awodola, and Oboshi, 2015). The under cultivation of farms or the inability to harvest crops that have been planted makes the situation of decreased production worse in the region. Off-season agricultural produce, which is the production of food outside their normal cropping cycle as supply, is low. A study that interviewed farmers in Borno state claimed huge drops in their average production of cowpeas, rice, maize, millet, cereal, and sorghum (Kimenyi et al, 2014). The unavailability of food has also affected the number of times the people affected in Borno eat daily. The daily patterns of food consumption have reduced, people stated they consumed more food in the day before the conflict-affected them but now the food they consume has reduced, suggesting food shortages (Madu,2019).

A lot of households/ individuals practiced livestock production in Borno state. Livestock was primarily described as a source of income. Households whose livelihood is crop production/livestock farming has been greatly affected by the violent attacks directed at them. A report showed the average number of livestock among farmers before the attacks were 32.98 after the attack it decreased to 10.43 (Madu, 2019). This shows a large amount that was lost among farmers as a result of attacks on communities. In 2016, it was reported that about 200,000 cattle, sheep, and goats were taken away by Boko Haram (International crisis group, 2017). Cattle rearers who usually take out their cattle for grazing have abandoned their business to save their lives because an unforeseen attack can occur at any time. This has led to a reduction in milk and meat production.

4.5 Impacts on Local Markets

Historically violent conflict has been an important factor behind high food prices and severe food insecurity referencing back to the Nigerian civil war 1967-1970. Food prices are naturally unstable because there is little elasticity in demand for food, and little changes in supply can have large effects on prices. (Brinkman & Hendrix, 2011). Links to roads have been destroyed on purpose by the violent conflict. This has had an impact on neighboring countries with an increase in food costs and transport costs (UNDP, 2017). Famine early warning signs reports state that the price of food is usually high and that it is expected to continue (FEWS NET, 2021). High prices are due to the substantially below-average harvest, decreased production, low market supplies, and high transaction costs (FEWS NET, 2020). Boko Haram has made it a pattern to typically target marketplaces and Borno state has been particularly exposed to the attacks (UNDP, 2019). The violent conflict has led to a high increase in prices for key agricultural crop exports to other states in Nigeria and neighboring countries. High prices of food are as a result of decreased agricultural production and an increase in transportation costs. e. The Nigerian government has kept its borders closed with Cameroon Chad and Niger. This has crippled the agricultural export market in the region and has led to a reduction in trade, thus increasing food shortages and hunger. Respondents in Madu's (2019) study stated that the Boko Haram violent conflict has resulted in increased food prices as a result of decreased farming activities and shortages of food available as the demand for food is higher than the supply.

Thus, continued violent conflict continues to impact farming activities, availability of food, daily consumption of nutritional food, and cost of food. The population that entirely depends on agriculture is currently finding it difficult to adapt/cope with the situation.

Should tackling hunger be more than food assistance and humanitarian assistance in the affected region? Long-term resilient programs needed?

4.6 Need for Humanitarian Assistance?

“Humanitarian aid is a set of short-term program methodologies and an operational objective to meet the urgent needs of people as opposed to building systems that will over a long course of time, meet those same needs that are development, resilience” (Dubois, 2018). Humanitarian aid aims to provide sufficient, safe, and nutritious food in anticipation of, during, and in the aftermath of a humanitarian crisis, when food is not available or enough to prevent hunger. Humanitarian aid includes ensuring, access to nutritious food. Humanitarian aid is described as the immediate assistance provided to save lives and alleviate suffering in periods of emergencies/crises. Assistance provided by humanitarian aid is expected to be for the short term while long-term solutions are sought after. Aid is viewed as being provided based on protection principles that back up the rights stated in the humanitarian charter as the right to life, the right to humanitarian aid, and the right to protection and security (Sphere Association, 2018). Humanitarian needs in Nigeria continue to intensify with conflicts in the northeast affecting about 12.8 million people, with 2.3 million displaced (UNICEF, 2022). 80 percent of internally displaced people (IDPs) are in Borno state, 60 percent in host communities, while more than 1 million are in inaccessible areas where services and assistance do not reach them (UNICEF, 2022). As a result of the continued attack and impact of violent conflict on the people of Borno by insurgent groups the population of the state remains unproductive and dependent on humanitarian aid for survival, there is a need for humanitarian aid and food supply in the region (Nigeria Humanitarian Response strategy, 2019). Over 5.1 million people are experiencing worsening food insecurity and over 1.1 million children are acutely malnourished at a scale not seen since 2018 (UNICEF, 2022). Without sustained, efficient humanitarian assistance in Borno state, the population will struggle to feed themselves during this period. According to a report by OCHA, 2021 the violent conflict stemming from the

insurgency of the Boko Haram group in the region continues as intensely as ever. The United Nations stated that humanitarian need in Borno state/North-eastern, Nigeria continues to be large scale heightened by the deterioration food security situation, as a result of the problems farmers face in growing and selling their agricultural produce. An estimated 8.4 million people are in dire need of humanitarian assistance out of 8.4 million people, an estimated 3.2 million are not getting enough food to eat thus resulting in hunger (United Nations, 2022). The attacks have caused displacement across the region, reduced agricultural production, disrupted food systems, and caused a crisis of humanitarian aid. The humanitarian crisis in the region has been predicted to still persist and affect millions of people causing displacement and hunger. (OCHA,2021). No early end to the conflict is foreseen (OCHA, 2021). Borno state has 81% of internally displaced people of whom slightly more than half of 54% stay in IDP camps (OCHA, 2021). People displaced have sought refuge in neighboring countries of Cameroon, Chad, and Niger. Humanitarian aid has been established in the region to save lives and alleviate suffering from hunger in the ongoing and aftermath of conflict. According to the international labor organization Humanitarian aid actively addresses the effect of conflicts such as hunger, internally displaced people, the collapse of institutions and deprivation of people's means of livelihood, and hindrance to access basic services (ILO, 2004). By addressing the effects of violent conflict humanitarian aid ensures relief to people suffering from the impacts of conflict, humanitarian aid also contributes to rehabilitation, resettlement, and reconstruction of affected people. Dislocation of people, loss of properties, and livelihoods hinder access of more than 1.4 million people to basic services (UNICEF,2016). Humanitarian aid has enabled provision to affected people and communities in areas of food, shelter, and health. Humanitarian aid has gone beyond just providing for people, people affected by the conflict now depend on aid for their basic needs and everyday life. The humanitarian community, the United Nations and non-governmental organizations, and other international organizations have joined efforts to address the rapidly deteriorating food insecurity situation in Borno state.

Therefore, there is a rapid need for humanitarian assistance to tackle immediate food needs, while organizations and the government create a framework and implementation of long resilient programs to address the root causes of food unavailability.

4.7 Challenges of Humanitarian Assistance

Important improvements in the food security situation are recognized inaccessible areas where humanitarian aid delivery is undertaken, Stepping up access to humanitarian aid is crucial to

reach people affected and in need of assistance (Cadre Harmonise Assessment, 2021). Humanitarian aid in Borno state continues to face challenges of access to people in need. In many local areas across Borno, market and trade routes continue to be disrupted as a result of violent conflict. four local government areas have been characterized as inaccessible areas, while fifteen have been analyzed as partially inaccessible (Cadre Harmonise Assessment, 2021). “Of the 1,547,379 people in acute food insecurity situation and need of emergency assistance during the current period in Borno State, 658,252 (42.5%) are situated in completely or partially inaccessible communities where humanitarian agencies lack access” (Cadre Harmonise Assessment, 2021). The security situation is fragile, and one cannot predict the situation. Often humanitarian officials require military escorts on the road to get access to people in areas where conflict remains high. Humanitarian action and provision of aid are now largely restricted to major cities leaving local areas that are inaccessible and abandoned. Boko Haram targets humanitarian operations, like the Anti-tank mine attack, on a food convoy in Borno state, after which the UN suspended aid deliveries in the region (REUTERS, 2016). Also, the cost of carrying out humanitarian assistance has recently risen, partly as an effect of the war waged on Ukraine, with the cost of diesel increasing by 52 percent from the period the crisis started, and the prices of fertilizer also increasing by almost 49 percent (United Nations, 2022). Threats against humanitarian assistance workers by parties to the conflict, including politicization, are affecting humanitarian access, with many areas at high risk (UNICEF,2021). Increasing numbers of illegal checkpoints on roads affect cargo and staff movement, worsened by threats of attacks, threats of improvised explosive devices or unexploded ordnances and impassable routes are challenges humanitarian assistance workers face in trying to deliver assistance (UNICEF,2021).

4.8 Role of Organizations and How They Contribute to Long-Term Food Security and Development.

Violent conflict leads to food unavailability and instability and governments, international organization and non-governmental organizations try to break the food insecurity/conflict link. Humanitarian partners have heavily increased response to the urgent needs of millions of people in Borno state. Humanitarian organizations constantly provide aid to millions of people who are reached monthly with food assistance. Humanitarian assistance has also included early recovery and livelihood interventions to enhance resilience, rebuilding, stability, and development.

Long-lasting violent conflict often affects development efforts made toward developing a state especially when a structure established towards achieving the development goals of the state are destroyed by the violent conflict (Ada and Abdullahi, 2021). The impacts of violent conflict affect development efforts planned to be carried out and already being carried out. Humanitarian assistance provides an opportunity for the development of the state during conflict and post-conflict. humanitarian organizations are committed to: through development assistance preventing crises, or at least reducing the risk of crises to people and development, through humanitarian assistance to respond to crises; and using a mix of humanitarian and development assistance, to achieve a better transition from a humanitarian situation to longer-term development (OECD, 2012). The requirement for the impact of humanitarian assistance to promote humanitarian and development goals is the end of the conflict without which the re-destruction of re-constructed infrastructures aimed at saving lives and alleviating suffering while supporting post-conflict development will be a vicious circle (Ada and Abdullahi, 2021).

In Borno state, the food security situation is dire, without sustained humanitarian aid and assistance millions of people will struggle. According to the March 2021 Cadre Harmonisé food security assessment, which shows that “9,196,120 million people (9.3%) of the analyzed population are in critical acute food insecurity state and require urgent attention”. The assessment also made predictions that the number of people in acute food insecurity may increase to 12,831,034 million people (11.9%) unless there is enhanced resilience intervention and ongoing humanitarian assistance which will be intensified in affected areas (Cadre Harmonise Assessment, 2021). Humanitarian organizations, the United Nations, and non-governmental organizations have come together to join efforts to address the issue of food security working closely with the Nigerian Government at the federal and state levels. The humanitarian coordinator for Nigeria stated “The humanitarian community is deeply concerned by the alarming food insecurity in north-east Nigeria. Levels of food insecurity today are similar to 2016-17 when the crisis was at its worst. The U.N. and its non-governmental partners are working with the Government to respond to this growing threat of catastrophic food insecurity” ... “Women in affected communities have shared stories of sleepless children who cry through the night due to hunger” (United Nations, 2021).

The ongoing assistance from the United Nations in Borno state is vital and cannot be argued. Agencies such as The World Food Programme, Food, and Agricultural Organization, United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund, and United Nations Development Programme come together with the same aim and objective to carry out operations in the region

in partnership with local NGOs which have strengthened operations. The ongoing operation carried out by organizations in Borno build on the objective of saving lives, improving food security, and achieving zero hunger by 2030. Since 2016, the World Food Programme operation in the North-eastern states of Nigeria, in cooperation with the government and humanitarian partners has made a powerful impact on people/communities affected by the violent conflict. In 2018, the organization addressed and provided the immediate food needs of about 1.2 million people affected (WFP, 2019). Members of the humanitarian community have formed an In-Country Task Force to address the food crisis and prevent disastrous food insecurity that makes the no hunger aim not achievable. The Task Force is planning and working with the government at the local and state level to carry out a thorough operational plan guided by different responses involving food security, nutrition, health, protection and water, sanitation, and hygiene (Cadre Harmonise, 2021). The implementation of the In-Country Task Force plan influences existing mechanisms and teams to make sure communities have to access immediate food and nutrition assistance. The Task Force supervises operational teams deployed to-at risk communities, and they deal with problems associated with logistics, the number of assistances needed, and access to people affected (Cadre Harmonise, 2021). Members of the In-country Task Force are organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization, International Organization on Migration, World Food Programme, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, United Nations Refugee Agency, in joint partnerships with non-governmental organizations such as Action Against Hunger, Save the Children, CARE International and Catholic Relief Service (CRS).

Through the Recovery and Peace Building of the Conflict-Affected Communities in the North-East Nigeria Project, funded by the Government of Japan, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has started interventions aimed at supporting the early recovery and peacebuilding of communities in Borno state (UNDP, 2021). With support from Japan Government, the project will use an integrated resilience-based strategy that aims to support community recovery and peacebuilding through the provision of livelihood and economic opportunities, the building of effective and accountable government, and the revival of social cohesion and community security (UNDP, 2021)

Action Against Hunger provides important monthly food assistance to people affected by violent conflict in Borno state. Their team also provides technical support and supplies to families for agriculture, animal husbandry, fishing, vegetable gardens, and other income-

generating activities to improve food security and community resilience to rebuild their livelihoods. They support health structures, staff, and community volunteers so that they can provide quality primary healthcare and carry out malnutrition prevention activities, targeting pregnant and breastfeeding women and children under five years old. The organization has improved access to water and sanitation through the rehabilitation and construction of water points, hygiene promotion, capacity building, and advocacy. They distribute hygiene kits, shelters, and non-food items in communities and displacement camps. The organization has impacted the lives of many whose homes have been destroyed as a result of the violent conflict. People receive cash installments monthly through the organization which they use to provide for their families by paying for shelters, medicine, and food. The cash installments also enable people to start up their livelihoods again.

Mercy Corps is a global team of humanitarians working jointly on the front lines of the world's serious and challenging crises, they assist to create a future of possibility where everyone can prosper. Their work and mission have been evident in Nigeria since 2012. Their aim and objectives focus on interventions in humanitarian assistance, economic development, and conflict mitigation. As a result of the ongoing crisis of violent conflict in Borno state, Mercy Corps started its humanitarian response in 2014 to respond to heightened humanitarian needs. The plan and strategy of Mercy Corps focus on long term food security by addressing the root causes of the violent conflict in Borno state and seeks to build long term resilience of communities with integrated programs focusing on governance, rebuilding markets and livelihoods of people affected, social protection, youth empowerment, and local conflict control. While the organization addresses long-term resilient programs, they also attend to the short-term needs of people affected as a result of urgent needs. The organization is providing food security, non-food items, protection, nutrition, livelihoods, and water sanitation in areas of Borno state. They have gone beyond emergency assistance by partnering with local governments, forward-thinking corporations, social entrepreneurs, and people living in fragile communities to develop bold solutions that make long-term resilience possible.

The World Food Programme has adopted a plan that aims to improve food security long-term which will contribute to development. The plan of the United Nations World Food Programme is set to expand its assistance to support humanitarian and development programs in states affected by violent conflict in Nigeria based on a Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for the next four years 2019-2022. The CSP strengthens WFP's presence by building partnerships and focusing on getting positive results through joint action with other humanitarian organizations.

The plan is based on a scenario of increased security and stability in the north-eastern states which allows WFP to stage out its direct operations over the first three years of the plan. The CSP includes provisions to secure safe access to affected communities. There will be an increase in gender transformative livelihood support and nutrition-sensitive activities, to promote self-reliance and resilience. If the food crisis increases beyond the crisis built into the CSP, WFP will amend the plan and revise the budget. The organization will continue to carry out immediate food assistance and life-saving assistance under the CSP and will also fully focus on self-reliance, resilience, and peace-building action to ensure food availability and access to all people will help achieve zero hunger by 2030. These efforts focus on long-term security to enable people to meet their food and nutrition requirements and stop the issue of hunger. In these operations, WFP continues to carry out joint action with other UN organizations and NGOs. “The “enormous challenges” faced by the north-eastern state of Borno, including the 13-year continuing insurgency, need to be recognized by the international community to create a “state of hope and a state of reality” (RNI,2022), said Antonio Guterres the UN Secretary-General, to UN News on his visit to Borno State, Nigeria on May 3rd, 2022. He also added that “it absolutely essential to understand that, in a situation like this, it’s not enough to provide humanitarian assistance” (RNI, 2022). Humanitarian assistance is important, and it is crucial for humanitarian agencies to support people in need. He, therefore, called on the international community “*to invest in the Borno of hope, to provide support to the projects of the government of Borno and of civil society to create the conditions for real development, the conditions in which schools work, hospitals work, and jobs exist; conditions in which people get to live in peace and solidarity*” (RNI, 2022) “*But let’s try to find a solution for people and that solution is to create the conditions – security conditions, development conditions – for them to be able to go back home to live in safety and dignity in their places of origin*” (RNI, 2022). This statement should be the aim and objective of every humanitarian organization and government in assisting in finding solutions to the issue of food insecurity in Borno state and beyond Borno state, Nigeria.

The role of organizations in promoting long-term programs includes support for agriculture livestock and crop production, income support by re-establishing farmer's livelihood, and market support by re-establishing market infrastructures and access to markets. Livelihoods support and provision should be the focus of organizations in protracted crisis once that is established it will promote development goals in the country.

Chapter Five

Summary, Conclusion, and Recommendations

5.1 Summary of Findings

This research has discussed violent conflicts and its impact on food availability in Borno State of North-eastern Nigeria.

for the main research question: what are the direct impacts of violent conflict on food availability in Borno state?

With regards to food availability, as the case of the study, the findings emphasize the impacts of violent conflict in Borno State. The results show that the direct impact of violent conflict is decreased agricultural production and an increase in the prices of food. It was shown that the violent conflict is a major driver of food unavailability and has thus resulted in increased hunger in Borno State. Borno State, which was an agricultural state, has been faced with severe food insecurity, and thus, a lot of individuals have become displaced with no source of livelihood. The imported foods into the state have become very expensive and not readily accessible for ordinary Borno residents due to the violent conflicts. These insurgents even tend to destroy the bridges and roads which have made land transportation risky and difficult. Also, decreased farming activities and shortages of food available have resulted in increased food prices as demands are higher than the supply in the state. Thus, there is a steady increase in the prices of the available foods in Borno state.

- i. What are the causes of violent conflict in Borno state?

The study revealed that the spread of the Boko Haram conflict has been largely evident in Borno State. Fighting between the military and armed opposition groups broke out in Borno State, Nigeria has been ongoing for almost 13 years now. Thousands of people have been killed, livelihoods destroyed leaving vulnerable people with no means to feed themselves. The study also found that the violent conflicts in Borno State, Nigeria have been attributed to various factors such as religious and ethnic factors, political causes, social factors, and economic factors. The study found that regarding Boko Haram activities in Borno State, religion played a vital role in their activities. The group holds extreme religious ideology, which they use as the basis to commit their heinous crimes. For example, the group wants to promote Sharia law

and create an Islamic state in Northern Nigeria. As a result, it has waged war on any group or western idea, that they believe is against Islam. This has created the notion that terrorism is linked to religious fundamentalism. Politically, corruption, weak political institutions, political instability, absence of good governance, and a high level of repression have resulted in the incidence of Boko Haram terrorism. It was also shown that socio-economically, the incidence of poverty and unemployment have facilitated the increase in Boko Haram members as most of these youthful population who are members of the group, are unemployed and therefore seek ends meet from sponsors of the insurgents, thus, they tend to do the bidding of these individuals, even to the extent of killing.

ii Should tackling hunger be more than humanitarian assistance?

The study also found that there is a need for humanitarian assistance to address the immediate needs of people affected while creating and implementing long-term programs. There have been roles played by the government, NGOs, and international organizations in tackling hunger in Borno state and other North-eastern states. It has delivered food and nutritional assistance to more than a million extremely vulnerable people. On the other hand, donor contributions, and non-governmental organizations have been on steady support to stabilize lives in the area and address the immediate needs of the people affected. The study also analyzed the need for long-term resilient programs and how organizations contribute to long-term food security. Tackling issues of food security in Borno state needs to be more than just attending to the immediate food needs of the people affected, humanitarian assistance should involve frameworks aimed at achieving long-term resilient food security and Development.

5.2 Conclusion

The availability of food in areas affected by conflict is usually low, and this is also the case in Borno state in North-eastern Nigeria. The purpose of this study was to identify the direct impacts of violent conflict on the people in Borno state. Also to examine if the violent conflict was a major driver of the unavailability of food in the region and the causes of the violent conflict. And also, to examine the need for humanitarian assistance.

The findings support previous literature that food insecurity is related to conflict which has shown to affect the availability of food in Borno state. The paper has assessed the impacts of violent conflict on food availability and the results showed that the violent conflict has had a heavy impact on the availability of food by having impacts on agricultural production, local markets, and food prices which has caused hunger and displacement of people in the region.

Increased food production is essential for achieving food security. The results also show the causes of violent conflict in the Borno state and link it to the theory of deprivation. The causes are economic, religious, and social, which shows that the violent group has wants and needs that they aim to achieve. The crisis has taken a heavy toll on food availability thus there is a need for humanitarian aid in the region providing to short term and immediate needs of the people while at the same time working on long term framework to achieve food security on a long-term basis which is the ongoing focus of the United Nations and NGOs and other Humanitarian partners in achieving food security.

5.3 Recommendations

What can be done to help move forward better and put us on track to achieving Zero Hunger?

The United Nations member states have committed to achieving the 2030 agenda for sustainable development goals. The world is not on track to achieving zero hunger the second sustainable development goal by 2030, with the high levels of ongoing conflict and other trends causing hunger the number of people affected by hunger would surpass 840 million by 2030 (SDG, N.D). There is an urgent need for transformation in the way in which we would tackle the problem. Most are especially relevant to the agricultural sector. Unless operations are carried out to accelerate the progress by focusing on actions to address major drivers of food insecurity affecting the access of millions to food, zero hunger will not be achieved by 2030 (FAO,2021). To achieve the SDGs ending hunger must be achieved and sustainable, resilient agriculture and food systems must also be achieved. This in turn requires global efforts to ensure that everyone has the right to adequate, enough, and nutritious food. With the number of organizations working to address food insecurity and increase food availability given the constraints present in a protracted crisis context, the adoption of food security frameworks must be based on effective policy frameworks. A universal coordinated policy framework is needed to address the immediate humanitarian crisis and to build food systems that are more resilient to diverse shocks like conflict. The response must prioritize the food security and nutritional needs of people who are most affected by hunger (CFS,2022). Frameworks could include greater integration of production, distribution, and consumption processes with a focus on systems that benefit livelihoods (United Nations, 2020).

Although all operations carried out by organizations are based on some framework, these frameworks often tend to be unyielding. The multi-dimensional features of protracted crises are social, political, ethnic, economic, and religious, which have not been well integrated into frameworks, therefore food security frameworks end up within a systemized set of responses that do not take account of the changing environment in which they are carried out in. The provision of food supply on a short-term basis is not the only solution to food security, organizations must contribute to long-term food security. It requires a multi-pronged framework that addresses the root causes of food insecurity and includes government policies, affordable food markets, increased agricultural production, and more.

Longer-term responses to these crises compel the government to create strategies to build more resilient food systems in production systems, and markets to better manage growing risks such as violent conflict that threatens food systems. And make food systems more adaptive, sustainable, and including in times of shock.

The CFS framework adopted as an analytical framework for the study can play a lead role in coordinating responses to the violent conflict in Borno state. The objective of the CFS framework for action for food security in protracted crises is to improve the food security of people affected by or at risk of protracted crises by addressing and building resilience and addressing the root causes of food insecurity (CFS,2015).

All recommendations made are based on CFS (2015) framework principle for action.

- Identifying opportunities to support and reinforce peace initiatives, and interventions in reconciliation. Immediate action in cases of conflict includes resolving and settling causes of conflict through political debate and discussion to reduce the impacts of violent conflict on food availability.
- The focus should be placed on food systems in vulnerable communities affected by violent conflict and remote areas that are the hardest to access as these are the weakest links.
- Coordinate actions, including through existing mechanisms, that support national policies and actions supporting food security and nutrition
- Invest in increasing and varying food production capacities at the national level where it is possible to do so sustainably, to build greater food system resilience.

- provide timely, safe, sufficient humanitarian food and livelihood assistance flexibly.
- Facilitate access to markets for the vulnerable and marginalized, including through cash transfer and voucher modalities, or other solutions adapted to local contexts, and based on a thorough analysis of local risks and needs.
- provide and strengthen prevention, preparedness, impact reduction, and disaster risk reduction strategies for more timely responses to conflict. Because protracted food security crises are often complemented by recurring violent conflicts, it is vital to intervene before unstable situations further deteriorate. It is also crucial to develop institutional arrangements before, rather than after, the outbreak of violent conflict, therefore conflict prevention frameworks should be set up.
- Weigh up the building of food reserves, including at community, national, and regional levels
- The provision of responsible investments will create economic opportunities for smallholders, particularly rural women, and youth, as well as for members of people affected by violent conflict, vulnerable and marginalized groups, and people living in vulnerable conditions.
- take measures to increase the capacity of local and regional markets to meet food demand by investing in more diverse distribution systems, including infrastructure that supports territorial markets.
- The provision of appropriate technologies to facilitate the provision of humanitarian food and livelihood assistance including for extreme circumstances access is not possible.
- The issue of corruption must be curbed in the agricultural sector to improve agricultural production, and the availability of food in Borno State, Nigeria, which will thereby lead to adequate food security in the state and the country alike.
- The necessity to address poverty and provide more employment opportunities to the government is another way of combating violent conflicts and terrorism. The government should be devoted to efforts geared at making life more comfortable for the citizenry.
- Conclusively, there should be a re-orientation campaign in Borno State and the North that is meant to address misconceptions about western education and other issues being manipulated by Boko Haram to lure and recruit gullible Nigerians. The case of school

drop-out should be addressed so that youths will no longer be ready-made instruments in the hands of selfish individuals.

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Norges miljø- og biovitenskapelige universitet
Noregs miljø- og biovitenskapelige universitet
Norwegian University of Life Sciences

Postboks 5003
NO-1432 Ås
Norway