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TERRORISM AND HUMANITARIAN AID DELIVERY IN BORNO STATE; CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

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Abstract
The Northern region of Nigeria has been plagued with terrorist activities from the Boko Haram Sect, and this led to large scale displacement of people in the region. there is a growing and dynamic body of literature dealing with the effects of terrorism on the humanitarian sector. However, most of this literature has been produced by NGOs or international organizations, and is rarely academic. This study therefore investigates the impact of terrorism on humanitarian aid delivery in Northern region of Nigeria, focusing on Borno State; A major State affected by the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria. The qualitative research methodology was used in generating and analyzing data used in the study. Findings from in the research shows that terrorism and its associated violence affects the free movement of humanitarian resources and personnel towards reaching affected populations in the North East region of Nigeria. Humanitarian workers have been maimed, kidnapped and killed by terrorists in North East region of Nigeria. Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) have been cut out from getting access to humanitarian aid, and various humanitarian organizations have relocated out of the region for the safety of their workers. The study also found that despite the challenges experienced, some humanitarian organization were able to remain resilient and provided reach to affected persons in the midst of terrorism in the North East. The study recommends that humanitarian agencies working in Borno State should ensure proper collaboration with locals ensure safe humanitarian aid delivery in the State. Humanitarian agencies should also network with other local humanitarian actors who are indigenous to the region, and adhere strictly to security advices during deployment of personnel and resources in Borno State.

KEYWORDS: Conflict, Humanitarian Aid, Insurgency, Terrorism, Peace-building

INTRODUCTION

Humanitarian intervention in North East region of Nigeria has been ongoing despite the pervasive impact of terrorism in the region. Specifically, insurgents have been interfering with the activities of humanitarian aid organizations (Letswa & Isyaku, 2018). With incessant attacks on communities and thousands fleeing their homes to displaced persons' camps, the majority of them have to survive mostly on humanitarian aid and relief materials (Nwizu-Okoye, 2022). The focus of humanitarian aid is the provision of short-term relief, provided to crisis affected population such as war and natural disasters, to save their lives and alleviate suffering. The assistance provided are health, food, clothes, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene among other. It is the activities of the humanitarian support that stimulates other development partners to step in and provide long-term aid towards returning the area into peace and economic vibrancy for its residence (Ada & Abdullahi, 2021)

Humanitarian organizations have greater leverage in attending to issues affecting local communities, due to its activities and programmes designed for the locals, and the development of right entry points to gain the trust of communities they focus on (Anjorin & Ojebisi, 2022). Also, non-State agents have leverage on providing relief packages such as social welfare, economic empowerment, humanitarian services, and human capital development (Ikelegbe, 2013). Securing access to humanitarian aid in post-disasters, conflicts, and complex emergencies is a major concern for humanitarian actors. Hence, to win assent for interventions, aid agencies often espouse the principles of humanitarian impartiality and neutrality. However, gaining secure access often involves negotiation and the practice of the humanitarian diplomacy (Lauri, 2021). In the arena of negotiations, humanitarian diplomacy is ostensibly used by humanitarian actors to try to persuade decision makers and leaders to act, at all times and in all circumstances, in the interest of vulnerable people with full respect for fundamental humanitarian principles (Lauri, 2018). However, humanitarian organization are mostly limited in their action due to several factors such as deploying into disaster, conflict or epidermic zones, without proper planning for whatever might come next; and this creates room for the provision of short-term aid, and then exit without ensuring local capacity reach sustainability. (Carina, 2018).

According to Antouly (2021), there is a growing and dynamic body of literature dealing with the effects of terrorism on the humanitarian sector. However, most of this literature has been produced by NGOs or international organizations, and is rarely academic. These reports mostly focus on giving real-life examples and accounts of the impacts on Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and not on the overall impacts on the humanitarian aid sector. Therefore, this study empirically analyzes the effects of terrorism on humanitarian aid delivery, focusing on analyzing the Boko Haram insurgency in North Eastern Nigeria.

The methodology adopted in this study is the qualitative research design. This involves the generation of secondary data from secondary sources such as journals, internet resources, newspapers, textbooks and archival materials in libraries. Content analysis was used to analyze textual contents generated in the research, and results were presented as findings of the study.

Theoretical Framework

Conflict Transformation Theory (CTT)

This study is anchored on the theoretical framework of Conflict Transformation Theory (CTT) propounded by John Paul Lederach. In the work of Miall (2004), conflict transformation theory states conflicts are not easily resolved and has the tendency to escalate. For conflict to be contained, long-term

measures are needed to transform the conflict. Conflict transformation provides the process of guiding parties to the conflict in transforming their differences, and searching for resolution that deals with the root causes of such conflicts (Miall, 2004). The CTT recognizes the existence of irresolvable conflicts, and conflict resolution which focuses on short term conflict management practices, but identified that the resolution of conflicts alone, do not address the root causes of such conflicts. Conflict transformation therefore allows for conflicts to be managed, so as to create opportunities for dealing with the root causes.

However, Scholars such as Bendana (2003) criticized the CTT as a theory with shift in focus from international to local actors, especially in terms of their capacities for peace building. The conflict transformation theory has been heavily criticized for its subjective reliance on local influences and not much emphasis on external traction. According to Bendana (2003) the conflict transformation theory puts more emphasis on civil society and ordinary people rather than the resolution itself. In the resolution process, these actors are normally subject to outsiders' interventions, but within the conflict transformation theory, they are at the center of the peace-building process.

Bendana (2003) noted Lederach developed the first comprehensive transformation-oriented approach to conflict, which helps to solve the dilemma between short-term conflict management, and long-term relationship building. Lederach proposal is to build long-term infrastructure for peace-building by supporting the reconciliation potential of society. For constructive transformation of conflicts to be achieved, it is necessary to identify and consolidate support structures that tend to strengthen peace. Positive opportunities can be enhanced through the awareness of mutual dependence of each other. Lederach divides society into three levels, which can be approached with different peace building strategies. The first is the top leadership which can be accessed by mediation at the level of States. The second is the mid-level leadership, which can be reached through more resolution-oriented approaches such as problem-solving workshops or peace-commissions with the help of insiders (i.e., prominent individuals in society). The third level is the grassroots level, which represents the majority of the population and can be reached by a wide range of peace building approaches, such as local peace commissions, community dialogue projects or trauma healing.

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The relevance of the Conflict Transformation Theory to this study is that, it helps for better understanding of post conflict peace-building processes, as it provides a clear basis for the implementation of conflict management and peace building activities in conflict and post conflict environments. The theory provides template for building both short term relief measures and long-term reconstruction after the impact of terrorism induced conflict. This is also by supporting the reconciliation potential of society by aiming to provide the immediate needs of victims of terrorism. The provision of aid to displaced persons during and after conflict could also be seen as a conflict mitigation measure that set the stage for effective transformation of the society. For

constructive transformation of conflicts to be achieved, it is necessary to identify and consolidate support structures that tend to strengthen peace processes.

Conceptual Review

Terrorism

O' Neil (2010) defines terrorism as political violence that is politically motivated occurring outside of State control. This political violence is seen as a form of mass, collectivist political struggle which manifests in many forms, such as revolutions, civil war, riots and strikes but can also manifest in more peaceful protest movements. Shanahan (2016) sees terrorism as State or State-sponsored events, and that governmental agencies often characterize the concept of terrorism as unlawful activity committed by non-State actors, thus precluding the possibility of a concept such as state-sponsored terrorism. Carver (2016) sees terrorism as that which is committed in whole or in part for a political, religious or ideological purpose, objective or cause; and in whole or in part with the intention of intimidating the public or a segment of the public, with regards to its security or compelling a person, a government or a domestic or international organization to do or refrain from doing any act, whether the public or the person, government or organization. Chailand and Blin (2007) sees terrorism as organized force or actions done to terrorize individuals, organization or society. Such acts are not new to society but has existed and persisted through global history and politics.

According to Crime Museum (2021), it is, however, possible to investigate the components that are at the root of terrorism and utilize that information to help determine how to better to prevent it. Terrorism involves the spread of fear, which is perhaps the most crucial factor. The goal is to strike terror into the minds of a victim and to intimidate people and cause them to cooperate out of fear of further retaliation. The threat of harm or death is an essential factor in terrorism, as such danger presented is most often to people and property. Most incidents of terrorism at least involve the possibility of a significant loss of life (Crime museum, 2021).

Jawad (2022) noted that in order for terrorists to achieve their goals, there will be predetermined efforts to strike terror or create a sense of fear and insecurity in any section of the society. They may carry out violent acts by using bombs, dynamite or other explosive or inflammable substances, or such fire-arms or other lethal weapons as may be fit. This may also include poisons or noxious gases or chemicals, in such a manner as to cause, or be likely to cause, the death of, or injury to, any person or persons, or damage to, or destruction of, property on a large scale, or a widespread disruption of supplies of services essential to the life of the community, or threatens with the use of force public servants in order to prevent them from discharging their lawful duties (Jawad, 2022).

Humanitarian Aid

Ada & Abdullahi (2021) sees Humanitarian aid as the assistance provided for the purposes of saving lives, alleviating suffering and upholding human dignity during and after crisis or natural disaster and to prevent occurrence as well as equip the people to withstand future occurrence. It is an assistance given to solve the immediate need of the population affected by disaster either man-made or natural. This assistance is meant to be for a short-term before a longer-term aid can be provided by the government.

Maurer (2019) analyzed the concept of humanitarian aid and gave an in-depth description of humanitarian aid. Maurer (2019) found that humanitarian actors are not peace builders, but they are neutral, impartial, independent actors implementing humanitarian action which is distinct from

political agendas. With this assumption, humanitarian action is seen to only helping in the emergence of peace-building, while its mode of working is distinct, as humanitarian experience relies solely on set principles. Maurer (2019) gave an in-depth description of humanitarian aid with the postulation that humanitarian actors are not peace builders, but they are neutral, impartial, independent actors implementing humanitarian action which is distinct from political agendas. With this assumption, humanitarian action is seen to only helping in the emergence of peace-building, while its mode of working is distinct, as humanitarian experience relies solely on set principles.

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Empirical Review

Insecurity and Humanitarian Access: Challenges and Prospects

Khan (2023) analyzed the insecurity faced by humanitarian workers in conflict zones and found that humanitarian organizations play a vital role in providing assistance to people affected by conflict, natural disasters, and other crises. However, humanitarian workers often face significant security challenges in the course of their work. These challenges can vary depending on the context, but some of the most common include conflict and violence. Humanitarian organizations often operate in areas affected by armed conflict, where they are at risk of attack from armed actors. In 2021, there were 109 attacks on humanitarian workers, resulting in 10 deaths and 72 injuries. Limited access to affected populations due to conflict, political restrictions, or bureaucratic hurdles can hinder the delivery of aid and assistance. Negotiating safe and timely access is critical, especially in hard-to-reach or remote areas, as humanitarian workers are sometimes targeted for kidnapping or hostage-taking by criminal groups or armed actors seeking ransom, political leverage, or media attention.

Lack of coordination among different humanitarian actors, government agencies, and military forces operating in the same area can lead to confusion, overlap, and potential security risks. This is coupled with limited financial resources and inadequate funding for security measures can constrain the ability of humanitarian organizations to implement proper security protocols and provide necessary training. Khan (2023) noted that these challenges can make it difficult and dangerous to operate in humanitarian settings, but it is important for organizations to take steps to mitigate these risks and to ensure the safety of their staff and beneficiaries. Khan (2023) recommended the in order for humanitarian organization to mitigate security risks, they need to conduct security assessments to identify and mitigate risks in their operating environment. Develop awareness and self-defense. Humanitarian organizations can also with local partners to build trust and cooperation, and to share security information.

Humanitarian Principles: Safeguard to Humanitarian Actors Working in Conflict Zones

The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs {FDFA} (2011), itemized the humanitarian principles and enabling humanitarian actors to operate in conflict and disaster zones around the world into four; Principle of Humanity, Neutrality, Independence and Impartiality. The principle of humanity requires that human

suffering of internally displaced persons be addressed in all its forms wherever found. In the event of intervening in preventing or mitigating the impact of internal displacement, affected persons must be treated with dignity, and be seen as human beings and not just some vulnerable hopeless victims of circumstance requiring assistance. (FDFA, 2011).

The principle of Neutrality requires that in the course of protecting and assisting internally displaced persons or providing services, humanitarian actors must maintain neutrality and not take sides in hostilities or engage in controversies of a political, racial, ethnic, religious or ideological nature (FDFA, 2011).

The principle of Impartiality and Non-discrimination focuses on humanitarian actions targeting internally displaced populations, The principle stipulates that humanitarian action must be carried out on the basis of need alone, giving priority to the most urgent cases of distress and making no distinctions on the basis of ethnicity, indigene, gender, religious belief, social class or political persuasion (FDFA, 2011).

The principle of Independence requires humanitarian actors to act independently and must never knowingly or through negligence allow themselves, or their employees, to be used to gather information of a political, military or economically sensitive nature for governments or other bodies that may serve purposes other than those which are strictly humanitarian, nor act instrumentally in advancing the foreign policies of donor governments (FDFA, 2011).

Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs) and Risks taking in Conflict Zones

Fast (2007) studied the characteristics, context and risk of NGO insecurity in conflict zones. The study involved the collection of data from three countries-Angola, Ecuador and Sierra Leone-and exploration of the relationship between levels of insecurity, context and the characteristics of NGOs. The research discusses the methodological approach adopted for the research, the differences between ambient and situational insecurity and the findings related to risk factors. It concludes with a summary of the study's implications Findings from the study shows that four risk factors appear to heighten the degree of insecurity that NGOs face: (1) carrying out multiple types of activities and providing material aid; (2) operational (that is, implementing programmes and activities); (3) working with both sides of the conflict; and (4) integrating into the local community. The notion of insecurity, as an external contextual factor, has increased around the world, and humanitarian workers may fall victim to attacks that indiscriminately target all civilians, such as terrorist events which assault crowded spaces, like hotels, markets and religious sites. Such difficulties are not always empirically measured because of the lack of reliable, accurate and comparable statistics. The incompleteness of data and the consequent imprecise reflection on the issue is also due to poor knowledge on the level, causes and consequences of exposure to violence. Fast (2007) recommended that NGOs should carry out proper security context analysis before deploying humanitarian programmes in conflict zones.

Stoddard, Harmer, and DiDomenico (2009) presented a report on trends in violence against aid workers and the operational response. The report is based on data from the Aid Worker Security Database (AWSD), created as part of an independent research project jointly conducted by the Overseas Development Institute in London and the Center on International Cooperation in New York, and kept current since then. The research team also conducted a new series of interviews with humanitarian programme and security professionals and drew upon recent additions to the literature. The report indicates that in

2008, 260 humanitarian aid workers were killed, kidnapped or seriously injured in violent attacks in selected conflicts around the world. This toll is the highest of the 12 years that our study has tracked these incidents. The absolute number of attacks against aid workers has risen steeply over the past three years, with an annual average almost three times higher than the previous nine years. Relative rates of attacks per numbers of aid workers in the field have also increased by 61%. The 2008 fatality rate for international aid workers exceeds that of United Nations (UN) peacekeeping troops. The report recommended the adoption and effective dissemination of security policy frameworks and procedures, and the need for a more systematic means to track and analyze security incidents, both within and between agencies.

Humanitarian Action as a Tool for Peace-building in Insurgency Infested Zones

Ferris (2013) studied operational gaps between the work of humanitarian organizations and post-conflict peace-builders. Findings from the research shows that there clear differences between humanitarian aid and development activities. Ferris (2013) noted that there is dire need to understand the point of divergence in both concepts, so as to be able to deal with the realities of sufferings on ground in communities suffering from conflicts and acute displacement. This is necessary for donors and humanitarian stakeholders to base their funding between development and humanitarian aid. Ferris (2013) work attempted to isolated activities pertaining to either emergency funds (humanitarian aid) or poverty post-conflict assistance (development) which requires organizations to choose their area of focus, creating a gray area where humanitarian aid ends and development begins (Ferris, 2013). While organizations routinely draw distinctions between these kinds of work, individuals and communities do not move cleanly from needing aid to needing development resources, nor are the reasons for needing either service largely different. The study recommends that organizations working in the field of humanitarian aid and those on developmental aid, should set clear objectives that streamline efforts and activities in dealing with the different focus areas of intervention. Both fields work in communities that, whether through identifiable incident or systemic limitations, find themselves unable to meet their needs. Therefore, the blurring of the need for development or aid means that the division is artificially constructed by organizations for the sake of funding, hence beneficiaries should not be caught in the middle without the services they need (Ferris, 2013).

Findings

This study investigated the effects of terrorism on the delivery of humanitarian aid in North Eastern Nigeria. It identified the issue of rise in indiscriminate violence which impedes the activities of humanitarian actors working in the region. In order to critical analyze the issue, the study set out to determine the impact on humanitarian aid delivery in North Eastern Nigeria. The research also analyzed the various ways humanitarian actors can surmount the challenges posed by terrorism in the delivery of humanitarian aid in North Eastern Nigeria. The study found that the impacts of terrorism on the delivery of humanitarian aid in North East Nigeria includes; the prevention of access to areas where IDPs are concentrated and in dire need of humanitarian support. Terrorism in the North East region of Nigeria also caused the maiming and killing of humanitarian aid workers, thereby creating a high risk and fear factor in delivery of aid to displaced persons in the region. The findings also shows that ways to surmount this insecurity challenges by humanitarian organization, is to work directly with the local actors or individuals who are from communities in the region. This will help to reduce the risk of insecurity on humanitarian workers in the discharge of their duties. The adherence to security protocols and warnings will also help to reduce the risk and casualties recorded on the part of humanitarian aid

agencies working in the North Eastern part of Nigeria.

Conclusion

This study investigated the effects of terrorism on the delivery of humanitarian aid in North Eastern Nigeria. It identified the issue of the rise in indiscriminate violence which impedes the activities of humanitarian actors working in the region. after careful analysis of data generated in the study, it was found this that there is the issue of recurring and indiscriminate violence which impedes the activities of humanitarian actors working in the North region of region of Nigeria. This is as humanitarian aid agencies strive to provide aid to displaced persons as a result of the insurgency and terrorist actions in the region. There are several challenges face by humanitarian workers trying to provide aid in the North East par of Nigeria. These challenges include high rate of insecurity, maiming and killing of aid workers, kidnapping and many more negative vices. Despite these challenges, some humanitarian agencies were able to deliver aid to affected population in the region.

Recommendations

Based on the finding made in this study, the following recommendations appear necessary:

·Humanitarian agencies should always endeavor to use locals who are often conversant with the locality, to deliver aid to displaced persons in their communities.

·Humanitarian workers should adhere to security advice and updates during the delivery of humanitarian aid in the region

·Humanitarian Aid agencies and stakeholders should ensure that the insecure areas are clearly identified, so as to avoid sending personnel into such locations during conflict.

·Humanitarian Aid and stakeholders should clearly designate their operations to address the need of displaced persons, so as to avoid being tagged as terrorist collaborators.

·Humanitarian Aid should ensure that their personnel do not engage with known terrorist cells, so as not to be designated as terrorism financiers.

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