

Assessment of the Effect of Insurgency on Economic Activities of people in Biu L.G.A, Borno State, Nigeria

Mohammed Mohammed Chapola

College Of Education Waka-Biu

Author Email Address: Mcmohammed30@gmail.com

Abstract: Biu local Government of Borno State is centrally located in the Northeast of Nigeria. There exists a cordial trade relationship between the local government and other parts of Nigeria and even beyond. Thousands of tonnes of grains, livestock and other goods flow between the local government and her trading partners. The study examines the effect of Insurgents activities on economic development of people of Biu. The study uses both primary and secondary data. The primary data was generated through the administration of structured questionnaire and interview conducted on from write-ups dealt with same topic under discussion. Descriptive statistical technique was used in data analysis. Study revealed that lives has been lost, monies has been lost to the insurgents, herd of cattle and sheep have been lost, and people have also lose their jobs and investors have also shun the area during the period and in general all economic activities was paralyzed..The study therefore recommends that “people should be enlightened on the fact that security is not just a government business, but everybody’s business and government should live up to its responsibilities of protecting its citizens and should embark on poverty alleviation in the area to cushion the effect of insurgency experienced in the area.

Keywords: Insurgency, effect, activities, economic development.

1. INTRODUCTION

Background of the study

Insurgency is the organized use of subversion and violence to seize, nullify, or challenge political control of a region (Goldfein, 2013). Insurgency uses a mixture of subversion, sabotage, political, economic, psychological actions, and armed conflict to achieve its political aims. It is a protracted politico-military struggle designed to weaken the control and legitimacy an established government, a military occupation government, an interim civil administration, or a peace process while increasing insurgent control and legitimacy – the central issue is an insurgency. Each insurgency has its own unique characteristics but they have the following aspects: a strategy, an ideology, an organization, a support structure, the ability to manage information, and a supportive environment. These aspects set the insurgency apart from the spoilers and present a significant threat. Typically, insurgents will solicit, or offered external support from state or non-state actors.

Since, Nigeria’s return to civil rule in 1999, She is face with some national security challenges across the six geo-political zones in the country. The spate of killings, Bomb blasts, kidnapping, pipeline vandalization and other forms of criminalities are emerging trends of domestic terrorism (Abimbola and Adesote, 2013).Some number of analysts had variously attributed the disturbing trend to political dissatisfaction, ethnic and religious differences, perceived societal neglect, and pervasive poverty among the people. For example, while youth restiveness in the Niger Delta area and parts of the south east, occasioned kidnapping and disruption of oil installations, activities of the Odua”a People’s Congress (OPC) in the south west and that of the Boko Haram saga in the Northern States have also been worrisome since 1999

(Abimbola and Adesote, 2012). The emergence of Boko Haram insurgents has its root and inspiration from colonial period as well as from the “Maitatsine” uprising of the early 1980’s in particular. Although, Boko Haram could be compare in terms of philosophy or ideology and objectives to the Maitatsine sectarian group, its organizational planning, armed resistance and modus operandi is Taliban (Danjibo, 2009) Sunday Tribune (2012) indicated that contrary to the widely held belief that Boko Haram started around 2003, the group have been existing since 1995. It was however, confirmed that the entry of the slain Mohammed Yusuf successfully radicalized the group, and opened it to foreign collaboration especially with the Al-Qaeda in Islamic Maghreb (AQIM).

Statement of the Problem

Boko Haram insurgents have been unleashing terror on the Nigerian population killing people, burning their houses, places of worship, banks, markets, confiscating their monies and other valuable properties and in some respect enslaving women, children, and youths. This trend have been going on in some Northern states particularly Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states and have became order of the day in some parts of Biu, particularly Northern part of Biu Local Government Area. Thus, affecting economic development of the area as such these problems compelled me to carry out this research on the impacts of insurgents activities on the economic development of the areas affected.

Objectives of the study

The objective of the study is to examine the effect of insurgents’ activities on the economic development of Biu Local Government Area.

Other objectives of the study are:-

- i. To describe the economic characteristics of the people of the area;
- ii. To assess how insurgents’ activities have affected the economic activities of the area;

Research Questions

- i. What are the economic characteristics of people living in the areas affected by insurgents’ activities?
- ii. How has insurgents’ activities affected economic development in the areas?

Scope of the study

The scope will cover Biu Town and surrounding accessible settlements in Biu Local Government Area.

2. CONCEPTUAL FRAME WORK AND LITERATURE REVIEW

Concept of Insurgency

Goldfein (2013) refer to insurgency as “the organized use of subversion and violence to seize, nullify, or challenge political control of a region”. He went further to elaborate that “insurgency uses a mixture of subversion, sabotage, political, economic, psychological actions and armed conflict to achieve its aims. It is a protracted politico-military struggle designed to weaken the control and legitimacy of an established government, a military occupation government, an interim civil administration, or a peace process while increasing insurgent control and legitimacy,- which are the central issues in an insurgency. Each insurgency has its own unique characteristics but they have the following aspects: a strategy, an ideology, an organization, a support structure, the ability to manage information, and a supportive environment. These aspects set an insurgency apart from other spoilers and present a significant threat. Typically, insurgents will solicit, or be offered an external support from state or non- state actors. The conflict often begins long before it is recognized, allowing the insurgency to spread and develop a covert organization within the home nation until it reveals its presence through overt subversive acts and violence. Recent operations indicate that insurgencies in the 21st century often may attract transnational terrorists in addition to covert or overt external support. Also, the increasing influence of commercial, informational, financial, political, and ideological links between previously disparate parts of the world has created new dynamics that further shape insurgencies and other irregular forms of conflict. The interaction of these dynamics with local politics makes modern insurgencies distinct and complex challenges for home nations, and multinational partners, especially when using the military instrument of national power (Goldfein, 2013).

Literature review

Kennedy (1962) has this to say with regard to insurgency and I quote “This is another type of war, new in its intensity, ancient in its origin- war by guerillas, insurgents, assassins, war by ambush instead of by combat: by infiltration, instead of by aggression, seeking victory by eroding and exhausting the enemy instead of engaging him. It is a form of warfare uniquely adapted to what has been strangely called “wars of liberation,” to undermine the efforts of new and poor countries to maintain the freedom that they have finally achieved. It preys on economic unrest and ethnic conflicts. It requires in those situations where we must counter it, and these are the kinds of challenges that will be before us in the next decade if freedom is to be saved, a whole new kind of strategy, a wholly different kind of force, and therefore a new and wholly different kind of military training.”

Daura (2014) assert that, “Developing nations like Nigeria in particular experience pervasive risk of devastation, human and property loss resulting from human and natural disasters. In addition, According to Henderson (2004) “This level of risk was attributed to socio- economic stress, aging, and inadequate physical infrastructure, weak education and preparedness for disasters and in sufficient fiscal and economic resources to carefully implement the preparedness, response, mitigation, and recovery components of emergency management.”

NEMA (2002, 2014) Observed that “The growing trend of disasters in Nigeria has implications for National sustainability. This is because disasters irrespective of causal factors are associated with diverse externalities such as mortalities, loss of income, home, farmlands, social networks, livelihoods, and infrastructures”. Available literature on Nigeria shows the existence of spatial differences in the nature of disasters. While oil and gas pollution is largely a Niger Delta problem, drought, quealer birds infestations, cattle rustling and Boko Haram insurgency occur in sudano- sahelian states (e.g. Kano, Borno, Yobe, Sokoto, Katsina states). However, soil erosion, rainstorm, and flood disasters are prevalent in virtually all over the country.

Notable among such disasters include flood, erosion, pollution, fire, explosion, plane crash, ethno religious clashes, and Boko Haram insurgency. As Crisis Group (2013) noted,” bad governance, sustained economic hardship, rising inequality and social frustration are fostering the growth of radical extremist groups.1 Boko Haram, the latest in a long list of northern fundamentalist movements, has tapped into Muslim revivalism in the north. A major challenge for the region’s traditional, religious and political elites is how to rein it in and work with federal and state authorities to find a route out of the quagmire. This report, the second in a series that examines insecurity in Nigeria, analyses the emergence, rise and evolution of Boko Haram. Its analysis and findings are based on travel to and interviews in the federal capital, Abuja, as well as northern and north-eastern Nigeria, with federal, state and local government officials, security officers, Boko Haram members and their sympathizers, academics, journalists and other security experts.

Major Incidents of Boko Haram Attacks since 2009 up to 2017**Date Casualties**

July 26, 2009 Boko Haram launches mass uprising with attack on a police station in Bauchi,

Starting a five-day uprising that spread to Maiduguri and elsewhere

September 7, 2010 Boko Haram attacked a prison in Bauchi, killed about five guards and freed over 700 inmates, including former sect members.

October 11, 2010 Bombing/gun attack on a police station in Maiduguri destroys the station and injured three by the group

December 24, 2010 The group carried out a bomb attack in Jos killing 8 people.

December 28, 2010 Boko Haram claims responsibility for the Christmas Eve bombing in Jos that killed 38 people

December 31, 2011 the group attack a Mammy market at Mogadishu Barracks, Abuja, 11 people died

April 1, 2011The group attacked a police station in Bauchi

- April 9, 2011 The group attacked a polling center in Maiduguri and bombed it
- April 20, 2011 A bomb in Maiduguri kills a policeman.
- April 22, 2011 The group attacked a prison in Yola and freed 14 prisoners
- April 24, 2011 Four bombs exploded in Maiduguri, killing at least three.
- May 29, 2011 Bombings of an army barracks in Bauchi city and Maiduguri and led to death of 15 people
- May 31, 2011 Gunmen assassinated Abba Anas Ibn Umar Garbai, brother of the Shehu of Borno, in Maiduguri
- June 7, 2011 A team of gunmen launched parallel attacks with guns and bombs on a church and Police stations in Maiduguri, killing 5 people
- June 16, 2011 bombing of police headquarters in Abuja, claimed by Boko Haram, Casualty reports vary.
- June 26, 2011 Gunmen shot and bombed a bar in Maiduguri killing about 25 people
- August 16, 2011 The Bombing of U Office in Abuja, killing over 34 people by the group
- January 6, 2012 Bombing of St. Theresa's Catholic Church, Madalla, killing over 46 people The Sect attacked some southerners in Mubi killing about 13 Igbos
- January 21, 2012 multiple bomb blast rocked Kano city, claiming over 185 people
- January 29, 2012 Bombing of Kano Police Station at Naibawa Area of Yakatabo
- February 8, 2012 Bomb blast rocked Army Headquarters in Kaduna
- February 15, 2012 Koton Karife Prison, Kogi State was attacked by the sect and about 119 Prisoners were released and a warder was killed.
- February 19, 2012 Bomb blast rocked Suleja, Niger State near Christ Embassy Church, leaving 5 people seriously injured
- February 26, 2012 bombing of Church of Christ in Nigeria, Jos leading to the death of about 2 Worshipers & about 38 people sustained serious injuries.
- December 5th 2017 bomb blast at Biu killing more than twenty people

3. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Area

Biu Town serves as the Headquarter of Biu Local Government and commercial centre and administration centre of the L G A. It is spread on latitude 10° 34' North to 10° 44" North and longitude 12° 00' East to 12° 03'15" East. Administratively, Biu Local Government has seven (7) Districts viz: Biu East, Biu West, Mirnga, Buratai, Garubula, Gunda, and Mandaragirau.

Figure I showing Borno state of Nigeria Source: Geography Department, University of Maiduguri, 2012

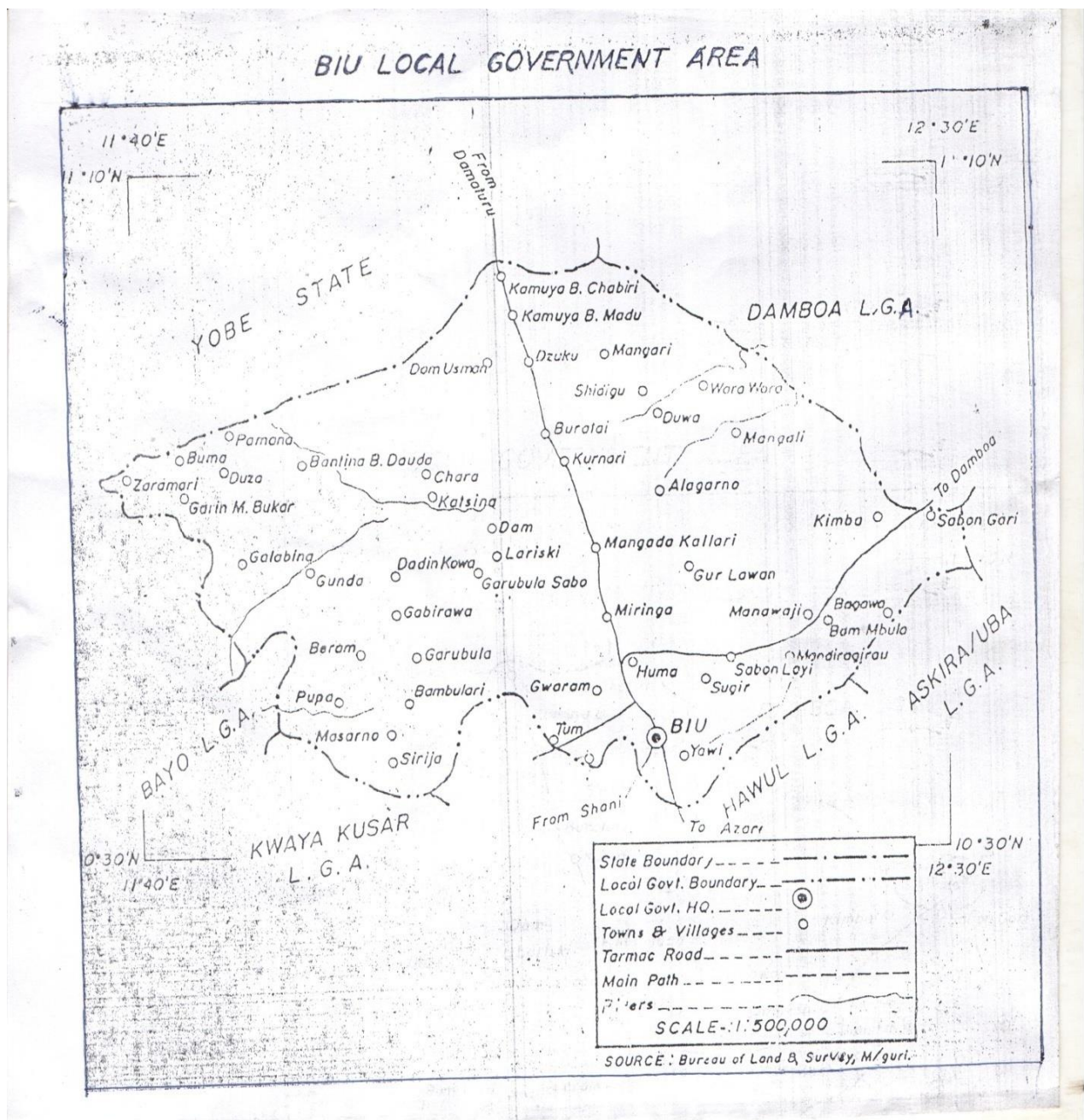


Fig. 3 showing Biu Local Government Area source (MLS, Maiduguri, 2018)

Data Required

The nature of data that was collected include information on effect of insurgents activities on the economic development of Biu local Government with particular reference to Biu and its environs which was obtained from the dwellers of the areas affected by such activities. Also, data was collected from Governmental and non-Governmental agencies such as the Community leaders, Businessmen/women, farmers, Vigilante and Civilian JTF e.t.c

Sources of Data

Both primary and secondary sources of data were used, The primary data was obtain from persons whose economic activity was affected in one way or the other by insurgency activities' and done through the administration of questionnaires. Interviews and observations were also used to obtain some parts of the primary data. Secondary data were also sourced from early researches as well as records from the Community leaders, Businessmen/women, farmers, JTF and the Vigilante.

Sampling Frame and Size

The sample frame size of the study was purposely selected at random of which three hundred and fifty one people (351 people) were administered questionnaires to fill represented the people whose economic development activities were affected by insurgency activities in the local government area.

Data Analysis

The computer based software Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was use for data analysis. Data collected was reduced to a statistical analysis of descriptive statistical technique including simple percentage and frequency distributions were employed to describe result obtained from this work.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Introduction

This chapter dealt with the analyses of data collected, interpretation and discussion of the findings. In the discussion, the field research is reported based on the questionnaire, interviews and observations. Data collected on the impact of insurgency on Economic development of people in Biu local government Area, Borno State, Nigeria was statistically analyzed in this chapter. A total of 400 copies of questionnaire were administered out of which 351 or 87.8% were successfully completed and therefore used for the analysis of this study. The chapter presents the demographic characteristics of the respondents and analysis of the research questions in line with the research objectives frequencies and percentage scores were used for the research questions.

Demographic characteristics of the respondents

The demographic variables selected were sex, job, age and marital status. These selected variables were considered to have direct bearing with the experienced effects of insurgency in the study area. Each of these variables is tabulated in frequencies and percentages.

Table 1 shows the gender classifications of the respondents.

Table 1 showing: Classification of the respondents by sex

| Gender | Frequency | Percent |
|--------|-----------|---------|
| Male | 250 | 71.2% |
| Female | 101 | 28.8% |
| Total | 351 | 100.0% |

Source: fieldwork (2018)

From the classification of the respondents in the table, 250(71.2%) of them were males while 101(28.8%) were female. This classification revealed that the opinions of male and female respondents of the communities in the study area were fairly represented in the study.

Table 2 showing: Classifications of the respondents by their economic activity

| Designation of respondents | Frequency | Percent |
|----------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Businessmen/women | 130 | 37.03% |
| Farmers /Herders | 121 | 34.47% |
| Civil servants | 100 | 28.50% |
| Total | 351 | 100.00% |

Source: fieldwork (2018)

Table 2: shows the classification of the respondents by their economic activity

The table 5 revealed that 130 or 37.03% of the respondents were members of the businessmen/women while 121 (34.47%) were farmers/herders and 100 (28.50%) were civil servants. From this classification it is be expected that the expressed opinion will reflect in classifying the economic characteristic of the people in Biu.

Table 3 showing: Classifications of respondents by their age range

| Age range | Frequency | Percent |
|--------------------|-----------|---------|
| 18-45 years | 135 | 38.47% |
| 46 years and above | 216 | 61.53% |
| Total | 351 | 100.00% |

Source: Fieldwork (2018)

From table above, the respondents between ages 18 years and 45 years were 135 (38.47%). This group was classified as youths in the study, while 216 (61.53%) respondents fall between the ages of 46 years and above. With these age distributions the respondents were expected to give valid information with respect to the effect of insurgency on economic development in the study area.

Table 4 showing: Classifications of the respondents by their marital status

| Marital status | Frequency | Percent |
|----------------|-----------|---------|
| Married | 275 | 78.34% |
| Single | 76 | 21.66% |
| Total | 351 | 100.00% |

Source: Fieldwork (2018)

The table shows that, 275 (78.34%) respondents were married and 76 (21.66%) were single. This shows that there are more married respondents in the study than the not yet married.

Research question 1: “What are the economic characteristics of the people in the study area?”

Table 5 showing: Economic characteristics of the respondents in the study area

| s/n | Economic class | Frequency of response | Percent (%) |
|-----|----------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| I | Businessman | 90 | 25.64% |
| Ii | Business woman | 40 | 11.40% |
| Iii | Farmer | 99 | 28.20% |
| Iv | Herder | 22 | 6.27% |
| v | Civil servant | 100 | 28.49% |
| | total | 351 | 100% |

Source: Fieldwork (2018)

Table 5 above shows that 90 respondents representing 25.64 % are businessmen and 40 representing 11.40% are also business women while 99 respondents representing 28.20% are farmers and 22 respondents representing 6.27% are herders while a hundred representing 28.49% are civil servants, infer from the table, I therefore conclude that majority of people in the study area are businessmen/women, farmers/herders and civil servants.

Research Question 2: “How has insurgent’s activities affected economic development in the area?”

To identify how insurgency affected economic activities in the area, a number of items were suggested to which the respondents expressed their views. Table 6 shows the frequencies and percentages of such views of respondents.

Table 6: Showing frequency and percentage of opinion of respondents on effects of insurgency on economic development in the study area

| S/No | Effects of insurgency on economic development | Frequency | | Percent (%) | |
|------|--|-----------|----|-------------|----|
| | | Yes | No | Yes | NO |
| 1 | Most markets were closed | 276 | 75 | 79 | 21 |
| 2 | Banking services obstructed | 340 | 11 | 96 | 04 |
| 3 | Some businessmen and civil servants have to pay ransom to the insurgents | 255 | 96 | 73 | 27 |

| | | | | | |
|----|--|-----|----|------|-----|
| 4 | Some Schools were burnt down | 347 | 4 | 98.8 | 1,2 |
| 5 | Insurgents broke into homes destroying such houses | 345 | 6 | 98 | 02 |
| 6 | Insurgents broke into some shops and stole goods | 329 | 22 | 94 | 06 |
| 7 | Insurgents kidnap people | 350 | 1 | 99.7 | 0.3 |
| 8 | Insurgents killed people at homes, shops and market places | 349 | 2 | 99 | 01 |
| 9 | Displaced people from their homes | 351 | 0 | 100 | 00 |
| 10 | Insurgents kept people out of business e.g tobacco sellers beer sellers and drug hawkers | 350 | 1 | 99.7 | 0.3 |
| 11 | Insurgents engage in cattle rustling | 344 | 7 | 98 | 02 |
| 12 | Insurgents killed animals, people and raze communities | 290 | 61 | 82 | 18 |
| 13 | All economic activities were paralyzed | 340 | 11 | 97 | 03 |
| 14 | Jobs were lost | 330 | 21 | 94 | 06 |

Source: Fieldwork (2018)

There was a common consensus among the respondents with regard to the items of the table that the insurgent activities had affected economic development in the study area. This is indicated with high scores for all the items in the table. In terms of the various ways the impact was manifested, 276 (79%) of the respondents agreed that some markets were closed only 75(21%) expressed a divergent opinion on this item. One can conclude then that most economic activities of respondents were affected by closure of market in the study area as a result of insurgent's activities. On item 2 of the table where 340 (96%) of the respondents agreed respectively that banking services were also obstructed as against 11 (4%) of the respondents who disagreed. Looking at the percent of the respondents that agreed, one can suggest that the obstruction of banking services had affected economic development in the area of study.

Apart from obstructing market and banking services in the area, the insurgents had also engaged in sending requisition notes to businessmen and civil servants in the area to pay ransom or else be killed as can be seen from the responses 255 (96%) agreed with the assertion. Some schools were also burnt down overnight 347 (98.8%) respondents agreed, insurgents also broke into houses and most times destroyed those houses 345 (98%) of respondents had agreed.

Looking at item 6 of the table where 350 (99.7%) of the respondents agreed that, the insurgents had resorted to kidnapping of people thus inciting fear in to the heart of the populace.

Other insurgent activities that affected economic development in the study area were the public killing of people in open spaces, market places or near shops in the study area. In item 7 of the table, 349 (99%) of the respondents agreed that the insurgents killed people in their presence. From item 8, one can confirm that people had been displaced as a result of insurgent activities in the study area as 351 (100%) agreed wholeheartedly that people had been displaced from their homes.

To further show the effects of insurgents activities in the study area on economic development responses of respondents with regard to item 9 portrayed that the combine atrocities of the insurgents had kept people out of business particularly businessmen and the indulgence of the insurgents into cattle rustling 350 (98%), killing of people and animals in villages razed 290 (82%), had also impacted or paralyzed economic development generally in the study area 340 (97%). Consequently jobs were lost 330 (94%). There was basically economic deprivation at whichever way one look at it as indicated in the table.

Discussion

This study Effects of Insurgency on Economic Development of people in Biu local government Area of Borno States, Nigeria. Three objectives and research questions were developed and tested. The findings revealed that respondents were generally of the opinion that the insurgents' activities had affected economic development in the area. Some businesses were closed, because of insurgents' activities some schools were also closed from primary school to the secondary schools, people were killed, houses were razed, economic activities were generally paralyzed herds of cattle and sheep were rustled among others. Bhattacharyya (2016) classified the Boko Haram insurgents as one of the world most deadly terrorist groups.

The oral interview concur with the questionnaire that as a result of the effect of insurgency indigenous people who are economically active had been killed by the insurgents in the area of study. Presently, there are more people that are jobless as they have lost their livelihood due to displacement by the activities of insurgents.

5. CONCLUSIONS

From the findings of this study the following conclusions were drawn;

- i. Insurgency had affected economic development of people in Biu local government area of Borno State
- ii. All classes of people were affected

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to acknowledge the Tertiary Education Trust Fund for sponsoring this research work and the management of C.O.E Waka-Biu.

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