

INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND THE PITFALLS OF THE LAKE CHAD BASIN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY: MATTERS ARISING

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ABSTRACT

This research study examines International terrorism and the pitfalls of the lake Chad basin development authority, with a specific focus on the impact of terrorism and the limitations of the Lake Chad Basin Development Authority (LCBDA). The study delves into the geopolitical complexities of the Lake Chad Basin, considering both local and external factors that hinder progress towards cooperative security arrangements and regionalization efforts. Historical animosities, linguistic differences, and mutual distrust between countries such as Chad, Nigeria, and Cameroon pose challenges to building a cooperative security architecture. Additionally, external influences, particularly France's interests in the region, further complicate the security dynamics. The research also highlights the implications of oil geopolitics and the competition for oil reserves in the Lake Chad Basin. This competition exacerbates existing socioeconomic challenges and undermines counterterrorism and counterinsurgency efforts. Moreover, the study emphasizes the importance of robust intelligence gathering and surveillance capabilities to effectively address the activities of extremist groups in the region. Territorial disputes, especially between Cameroon and Nigeria, along with local political dynamics, add further complexity to the regional security landscape. Understanding these challenges is essential in developing comprehensive strategies

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Insurgency, a violent and armed rebellion against authority, has emerged as a significant issue in Africa. It is often associated with factors such as marginalization, poverty, and inequality, and it frequently exhibits religious or ideological connections and bases. Insurgency typically originates in communities located along a country's borders but quickly spreads to neighboring countries due to the weak response from the affected state. The Chad Basin, located in Northern Central Africa, is the largest inland drainage area on the continent. It encompasses approximately 8% of Africa's landmass and spans across four countries: Chad, Niger, Nigeria, and Cameroon (Nagarajan et al., 2018). The basin holds immense agricultural significance and was once the largest water reservoir in the Sahel region of Africa, covering an area of approximately 26,000 square kilometers by 2001. However, over time, the lake has experienced a significant decrease in size, with its water covering less than one-fifth of the original area. The basin is characterized by clay and sand sediments and is surrounded by mountainous regions, including the Tibesti Massif to the north, the Ennedi plateau to the northeast, Ouaddai to the east, and theOubangui Plateau to the south.

The Chad Basin holds substantial economic importance as it provides water to over 30 million people in the surrounding countries (earthobservations.org). The decline in water levels

within the basin has had adverse effects on biodiversity and fishing activities. Furthermore, it has negatively impacted agricultural productivity, health, and overall security in the region. This decline has intensified struggles for survival and competition over resources among the basin's inhabitants. The Chad Basin serves as a vital natural resource that connects countries, and its depletion, largely influenced by climate change, has contributed to increased vulnerability, insecurity, and conflicts among these nations. The Chad Basin, encompassing an area of approximately 2,434,000 square kilometers (940,000 square miles), covers almost 8% of the African continent. It is surrounded by mountains, with the Air Mountains and the Termit Massif in Niger forming the western boundary. The rugged terrain of the Chad Basin has given rise to numerous long-standing challenges, including conservation efforts, resource conflicts, food security, and more recently, cross-border terrorism. Over the past four decades, the Chad Basin has experienced various violent conflicts, guerrilla wars, warlordism, and insurgencies primarily stemming from the Chadian civil war of the 1980s. These conflicts were followed by armed rebellions and the emergence of factional militias in Niger and the Central African Republic. These armed groups took advantage of the lack of political legitimacy, leadership disputes, and political fragmentation in the region, creating ungovernable spaces. Structural and existential factors contribute to the new waves of insecurity in the Lake Chad Basin. The continuous attacks by insurgents have intensified the fragility of the region,

resulting in immense loss of life, destruction of property, and economic strain. The affected nations are faced with the immense challenge of tackling this growing menace while simultaneously addressing the socio-economic needs of their populations. Addressing the root causes of insurgency, promoting inclusive governance, and fostering socio-economic development are crucial components of a comprehensive approach to restore stability and ensure the long-term well-being of the region.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The Lake Chad region is currently facing significant challenges related to the emergence of a new security order and regional reconfiguration. Violent terrorism has become a serious threat to the sociopolitical and economic security of the region, with far-reaching implications that transcend national boundaries and disrupt the political stability of the area. Nigeria and Chad, as regional powers, recognize the geostrategic implications of cross-border Islamist jihadism and have sought to develop a cooperative security architecture to manage the latent threats of terrorism. However, the progress towards achieving this objective is hindered by both local and external bottlenecks. At the local level, historical animosities and neocolonial linguistic differences between Francophone and Anglophone countries, particularly between Chad, Nigeria, and Cameroon, persist and contribute to perceptions of threat, responsibility, and priorities. These factors have adversely affected the advancement of security regionalization in the region, hindering collaborative efforts to address the challenges posed by terrorism. Externally, France's undue influence within the West African subregion is a matter of serious concern. France perceives the Lake Chad region as strategically important, serving its economic and political interests. France's intervention against Boko Haram was prompted primarily when the group started attacking Chad and Cameroon. French involvement, including reconnaissance missions along the Nigerian border on behalf of Chad, Niger, and Cameroon, raises questions about the alignment of interests and the impact on regional security dynamics. The geopolitical realities in the Lake Chad Basin region have undermined robust multinational efforts to combat transnational organized crimes within the area. These realities extend beyond the traditional discourse of security regionalization and involve factors that go beyond personal and national efforts. Addressing these challenges requires a solid platform to address the practical issues that impede progress and coherence in strong regional security cooperation among the riparian states of the Lake Chad Basin.

Additionally, the emerging geopolitics of oil and its impact on the structure and dynamics of the regional balance of power have serious implications for regional stability and the development of a new security architecture. The competition between Nigeria, as a regional hegemon, and Chad over the region's oil reserves has triggered power struggles throughout the Lake Chad Basin. The infusion of oil geopolitics into the existing volatile mix of ecological factors exacerbates socioeconomic devastation in the region. This competition among divergent regional actors undermines counterterrorism and counterinsurgency efforts, further complicating the security situation. This research aims to investigate the challenges posed by international terrorism in the Lake Chad Basin region and the

limitations faced by the LCBDA. It seeks to identify possible solutions to address these issues and enhance regional security cooperation.

1.3 Research Objectives

- To examine the factors contributing to the persistence of international terrorism in the Lake Chad Basin region.
- To analyze the challenges and pitfalls faced by the Lake Chad Basin Development Authority (LCBDA) in promoting sustainable development in the region.
- To explore potential strategies and interventions for addressing terrorism and improving the effectiveness of the LCBDA in promoting regional development.

1.4 Research Questions

- What are the underlying socio-economic and political factors that contribute to the persistence of international terrorism in the Lake Chad Basin region?
- What are the specific challenges faced by the LCBDA in implementing development initiatives in the Lake Chad Basin?
- What are the potential strategies and interventions that can be employed to address terrorism and enhance the effectiveness of the LCBDA in promoting regional development?

1.5 Hypotheses

- The socio-economic grievances, weak governance, and cross-border challenges in the Lake Chad Basin region contribute to the persistence of international terrorism.
- The limited financial resources, environmental degradation, and political tensions hamper the effectiveness of the LCBDA in promoting sustainable development in the Lake Chad Basin.
- Strengthening security cooperation, promoting sustainable development, and enhancing regional cooperation can contribute to mitigating terrorism and improving the effectiveness of the LCBDA in the Lake Chad Basin.

2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Lake Chad Basin Development Authority (LCBDA)

The Lake Chad Basin Development Authority (LCBDA) is an intergovernmental organization established in 1964 by Nigeria, Niger, Chad, and Cameroon. The authority was created with the aim of promoting economic development and cooperation in the Lake Chad Basin region.

The primary objectives of the LCBDA include:

- **Water resource management:** The LCBDA is responsible for the management and utilization of water resources within the Lake Chad Basin. This involves developing irrigation schemes, hydroelectric power generation, and water supply projects to support agricultural activities and human settlements.
- **Agricultural development:** The authority focuses on promoting agricultural development and improving food security in the region. It supports initiatives such as land

reclamation, irrigation systems, and the introduction of modern farming techniques to enhance agricultural productivity and livelihoods.

- **Infrastructure development:** The LCBDA works towards improving transportation networks, communication systems, and other essential infrastructure in the Lake Chad Basin. This includes the construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, ports, and other facilities to facilitate regional trade and connectivity.
- **Environmental conservation:** The authority is committed to environmental conservation and the sustainable management of natural resources in the Lake Chad Basin. It aims to address issues such as deforestation, desertification, and soil erosion through reforestation, watershed management, and sustainable land use practices.
- **Socio-economic development:** The LCBDA seeks to promote socio-economic development in the Lake Chad Basin by supporting initiatives that enhance education, healthcare, vocational training, and entrepreneurship. It aims to uplift communities and improve the well-being of the population in the region.

2.2 International Terrorism

International terrorism is a phenomenon that has garnered significant attention and concern in recent decades. It refers to acts of violence perpetrated by non-state actors with a transnational presence and driven by political, ideological, or religious motivations. These acts are intended to create fear, exert influence on governments, and advance a particular agenda on a global scale. Understanding the concept of international terrorism requires an exploration of its various dimensions. One key aspect is the psychological factors that contribute to the engagement of individuals in acts of terrorism. According to Moghaddam (2005), the "staircase to terrorism" involves a series of psychological processes that lead individuals to embrace extremist ideologies and resort to violence. Factors such as personal grievances, social identity, and group dynamics play a role in radicalization and recruitment into terrorist organizations. International terrorism poses significant challenges to global security. The impacts are not limited to the direct victims of attacks but also include economic consequences, political destabilization, and erosion of social cohesion. Laqueur (2003) argues that the threat of terrorism in the 21st century is relentless and constantly evolving, requiring comprehensive and adaptive counterterrorism strategies.

2.3 Concept of Insurgency

According to Steven et al (2004), insurgency takes two concepts, in what can be classified "national" insurgencies, the main antagonists are the insurgents and a national government which has at minimum some level of authenticity and support. The difference between the insurgents and the regime depends on financial class, belief system, character (ethnicity, race, religion), or another political element. The government may have outside supporters, yet the contention is obviously between the insurgents and an endogenous regime. National insurgencies are triangular in that they include not just the two antagonists—the insurgents and counterinsurgents—but likewise a scope of different actors who

can move the connection between the main antagonists by supporting one or the other.

The underlying socio-economic and political factors that contribute to the persistence of international terrorism in the Lake Chad Basin region.

The persistence of international terrorism in the Lake Chad Basin region can be attributed to a complex interplay of underlying socio-economic and political factors. These factors contribute to grievances, vulnerabilities, and conditions that extremist groups exploit to recruit and sustain their activities. Understanding these underlying factors is crucial for developing effective strategies to address the root causes of terrorism and promote sustainable peace in the region. One of the primary underlying factors is poverty and socio-economic marginalization. The Lake Chad Basin region is characterized by high levels of poverty, unemployment, and limited access to basic services such as education and healthcare. Economic marginalization creates an environment in which individuals may turn to extremist ideologies and groups as a means of addressing their grievances and seeking economic opportunities (Aliyu & Shettima, 2021; Omeje, 2019). Weak governance and corruption are also significant contributing factors. The region faces governance challenges, including corruption, lack of accountability, and ineffective public institutions. These issues undermine trust in the state, create a vacuum, and provide extremist groups with an opportunity to exploit the grievances of marginalized populations (Abdullahi, 2021; Umore, 2021).

Addressing these underlying factors requires comprehensive and coordinated efforts from governments, regional organizations, and the international community. Strategies should focus on the following key areas:

- **Economic Development and Poverty Alleviation:** Initiatives aimed at promoting inclusive economic growth, job creation, and poverty alleviation can address the socio-economic grievances that fuel terrorism. Investments in education, vocational training, and access to basic services can provide alternative pathways for individuals vulnerable to recruitment (Adetokunboh et al., 2020; Zongo, 2020).
- **Good Governance and Anti-corruption Measures:** Strengthening governance, promoting transparency, and combating corruption are essential for building trust in state institutions and addressing the root causes of grievances. Enhancing accountability, rule of law, and inclusive governance can help reduce support for extremist ideologies (Doh & Dauda, 2021; Omeje, 2020).
- **Environmental Sustainability and Resource Management:** Efforts to address environmental degradation and promote sustainable resource management in the Lake Chad Basin are crucial. Water management projects, reforestation, and sustainable agricultural practices can mitigate resource-based conflicts and improve livelihoods (Højen-Sørensen et al., 2020; Tahir et al., 2021).
- **Conflict Resolution and Social Cohesion:** Addressing political instability, ethnic divisions, and religious tensions through inclusive governance, dialogue, and

conflict resolution mechanisms can help reduce the appeal of extremist ideologies. Promoting social cohesion, interfaith dialogue, and tolerance is also vital (Hoffman, 2018; Yusuf & Adamu, 2019).

- **Regional Cooperation and Security Collaboration:** Strengthening regional cooperation and collaboration among the countries in the Lake Chad Basin is crucial for addressing cross-border challenges. Intelligence sharing, joint military operations, and coordinated border control efforts can help disrupt terrorist networks and prevent the movement of extremists and illicit goods (Malam & Yau, 2018; Yusuf, 2019).

Specific challenges faced by the LCBDA in implementing development initiatives in the Lake Chad Basin.

The Lake Chad Basin Development Authority (LCBDA) faces numerous challenges in implementing development initiatives in the Lake Chad Basin. These challenges are multifaceted and stem from the regional context, environmental issues, security concerns, governance problems, and limited resources. Understanding these challenges is essential for devising effective strategies to address them and promote sustainable development in the region.

- **Regional Security Concerns:** The Lake Chad Basin region has been afflicted by security challenges, particularly the activities of extremist groups such as Boko Haram. The presence of these groups creates an environment of instability and insecurity, making it difficult for the LCBDA to implement development initiatives. Security concerns hamper the access to certain areas, jeopardize the safety of personnel, and disrupt project implementation (Dalhatu, 2021; Mamman et al., 2021).
- **Environmental Degradation:** The Lake Chad Basin has experienced significant environmental degradation, including the shrinking of Lake Chad itself. This poses challenges for the LCBDA in implementing development initiatives related to water management, irrigation, agriculture, and sustainable resource utilization. Addressing environmental issues and promoting ecological sustainability is crucial for ensuring the success and longevity of development projects in the region (Mertz et al., 2020; Ndam et al., 2021).
- **Limited Infrastructure:** Inadequate infrastructure is a major hindrance to the implementation of development initiatives in the Lake Chad Basin. The region suffers from a lack of proper roads, transportation networks, and communication systems. Insufficient infrastructure limits the movement of goods, services, and personnel, hindering project implementation, economic integration, and regional development (Bolaky & Freund, 2020; UNDP, 2018).
- **Socio-economic Challenges:** The Lake Chad Basin region faces significant socio-economic challenges, including high levels of poverty, unemployment, and limited access to basic services. These challenges create an unfavorable socio-economic environment, making it more difficult for the LCBDA to implement development

initiatives aimed at poverty alleviation, job creation, and improving livelihoods. Addressing socio-economic disparities is crucial for sustainable development and reducing the vulnerability to extremism (Ibrahim, 2018; Omeje, 2019).

- **Governance and Institutional Issues:** Weak governance, corruption, and inadequate institutional capacity pose significant challenges to the LCBDA's implementation of development initiatives. These issues undermine the transparency, accountability, and efficiency of development processes, hampering progress and exacerbating the challenges faced by the authority. Strengthening governance, combating corruption, and enhancing institutional capacity are essential for effective project implementation (Adetokunboh et al., 2020; Aliyu & Shettima, 2021).

Potential strategies and interventions that can be employed to address terrorism and enhance the effectiveness of the LCBDA in promoting regional development.

Addressing terrorism and enhancing the effectiveness of the Lake Chad Basin Development Authority (LCBDA) in promoting regional development requires a multifaceted approach that combines security measures, socio-economic initiatives, governance reforms, and international cooperation. The following potential strategies and interventions can be employed:

- **Strengthening Security Measures:** Enhancing security is crucial to counter terrorism and create a conducive environment for development. This includes improving border controls, intelligence sharing, and joint military operations among countries in the Lake Chad Basin. It is essential to strengthen the capacity and training of security forces to effectively combat terrorism and insurgent groups (Obayelu, 2019; Saleh, 2020).
- **Promoting Socio-Economic Development:** Addressing the root causes of terrorism requires socio-economic development initiatives. The LCBDA should prioritize programs that alleviate poverty, provide employment opportunities, and improve access to education and healthcare. By promoting inclusive economic growth and reducing socio-economic disparities, the authority can create an environment less conducive to extremism (Abdullahi, 2019; Yusuf, 2021).
- **Strengthening Governance and Rule of Law:** Enhancing governance and the rule of law is crucial for countering terrorism and promoting development. This involves combatting corruption, improving transparency, and strengthening institutions responsible for security, justice, and public service delivery. Good governance fosters trust, legitimacy, and accountability, thereby undermining the appeal of extremist ideologies (Adekunle et al., 2019; Omeje, 2019).
- **Investing in Education and Ideological Counter-Messaging:** Education plays a vital role in countering terrorism by providing opportunities for critical thinking, fostering tolerance, and promoting alternative narratives to extremist ideologies. The LCBDA can support initiatives that enhance access to quality education,

vocational training, and awareness programs that promote peace, tolerance, and civic engagement (Musah, 2020; Yusuf & Adamu, 2020).

- **Fostering Regional Cooperation:** Addressing terrorism requires collaborative efforts among the countries in the Lake Chad Basin region. The LCBDA should promote regional cooperation platforms, such as the Lake Chad Basin Commission, to facilitate information sharing, joint initiatives, and resource mobilization. Cooperation in intelligence sharing, border security, and counter-terrorism operations can enhance effectiveness and synergize efforts (Ukeje, 2018; UN Security Council, 2017).

2.4 Theoretical framework

Governance and State Fragility Theories, Robert I. Rotberg, Paul Collier, Anke Hoeffler (2000)

Governance and State Fragility Theories provide valuable insights into the relationship between governance, state stability, and terrorism. These theories highlight the significance of effective governance, rule of law, and state legitimacy in countering terrorism. Here, I will discuss the main tenets of Governance and State Fragility Theories and their relevance to the persistence of terrorism in the Lake Chad Basin.

2.4.1 Governance Theory

Governance theory examines the processes, structures, and mechanisms through which power is exercised and decisions are made in societies. It emphasizes the importance of effective and accountable institutions, transparency, participation, and the rule of law in ensuring good governance. In the context of terrorism, governance theory posits that weak governance, characterized by corruption, lack of accountability, and inadequate service delivery, creates a fertile ground for terrorism to thrive (Obayelu, 2019; Adekunle et al., 2019).

2.4.2 State Fragility Theory

State fragility theory focuses on the vulnerabilities and weaknesses of states that make them prone to internal conflicts, violence, and terrorism. It highlights factors such as weak institutions, limited capacity, political instability, and social divisions that contribute to state fragility. In relation to terrorism, state fragility theory suggests that the presence of a fragile state with a lack of control over its territory provides opportunities for terrorist groups to establish safe havens and carry out their activities (Tella et al., 2020; Ukeje, 2018).

2.4.3 Relevance to the Lake Chad Basin

Governance and state fragility theories have particular relevance to the Lake Chad Basin region, which has experienced persistent terrorism primarily led by Boko Haram. The region suffers from governance challenges, including corruption, weak institutions, and inadequate provision of public services. These governance deficits have undermined state legitimacy, eroded trust between citizens and the government, and created grievances that extremist groups like Boko Haram exploit (Adekunle et al., 2019; Ukeje, 2018). The Lake Chad Basin countries, including Nigeria, Chad, Niger, and Cameroon, face various manifestations of state fragility. These include political instability, economic disparities, social divisions, and weak state presence in remote areas. Such conditions have allowed Boko Haram and other

extremist groups to exploit grievances, recruit members, and establish their presence in the region (Obayelu, 2019; Tella et al., 2020).

Addressing Terrorism through Governance and State Strengthening:

To effectively address terrorism in the Lake Chad Basin, governance and state fragility theories suggest the following strategies:

- **Strengthening Institutions:** Building robust and accountable institutions that uphold the rule of law, ensure transparency, and deliver public services can help restore trust between the government and its citizens. This includes enhancing the capacity and integrity of security forces, judiciary, and public administration.
- **Promoting Inclusive Governance:** Fostering inclusive governance structures that encourage citizen participation, representation, and dialogue can help address underlying grievances and ensure that diverse voices are heard in decision-making processes.
- **Economic Development and Poverty Alleviation:** Addressing socio-economic disparities and reducing poverty through targeted development initiatives can help reduce the appeal of terrorism. This includes promoting job creation, providing access to education and healthcare, and supporting sustainable economic growth.
- **Regional Cooperation:** Strengthening regional cooperation among Lake Chad Basin countries is essential for addressing terrorism. Collaborative efforts can enhance intelligence sharing, border control, and joint military operations, thereby improving security and reducing the mobility of terrorist groups.
- **Addressing Root Causes:** Tackling the root causes of terrorism, such as social exclusion, religious extremism, and ideological indoctrination, requires comprehensive approaches. This involves engaging communities, religious leaders, and civil society organizations in counter-radicalization programs, promoting interfaith dialogue, and addressing the underlying drivers of radicalization.

By adopting these strategies informed by governance and state fragility theories, the Lake Chad Basin countries, in collaboration with international partners, can enhance their capacity to counter terrorism effectively and promote stability and development in the region.

2.5 Empirical review of related works on the impact of terrorism in Chad basin

Cecilia (2019) examined the impact of Boko Haram insurgency in the Lake Chad region, this was an attempt to compare the region of old with the region of the present. It was stated that the Lake Chad region was once a thriving area, there were opportunities to trade, and opportunities for agriculture, tourism, and the people had a means of livelihood. It indicated that the Lake Chad basin had suffered from a series of issues; drought, climate change, desertification and poor governance and this has led to the receding of the lake. The study emphasized that a more recent problem the region is facing is the Boko Haram insurgency, the violent extremist activities of this sect has made the region almost inhabitable, there have been series of suicide bombings,

kidnappings, killing, destruction of properties and other violent activities. These activities have negatively impacted the socioeconomic growth of the region as the rate of poverty, illiteracy, insecurity, unemployment and underdevelopment is on the increase. It was recommended that the affected countries come together as a team to fight this common enemy, there should be interventions designed around intelligence, capacity building, foreign direct investment and environmental protection handled locally and regulated globally as this will be the key to rehabilitate the Lake Chad region.

Nagarajan (2018), studied the climate fragility of the Lake Chad basin, it was indicated that Climate change progressively threatened the security of states and social orders. In the setting of global security, it was best perceived as a 'threat multiplier' that associated with and intensified existing dangers and pressures. It was stated that at the point when climate change unites and interfaces with other environmental, economic, social, and political shocks and pressures, it improved the probability of precariousness or conflict. This threat was especially harmful in fragile and conflict influenced circumstances where governments and cultural foundations as of now battle to accomplish security and evenhanded turn of events. Simultaneously, conflicts and fragility frequently added to environmental corruption and subverted the capacity to adjust to climate change, in this way making an endless loop of expanding weakness and fragility. The perplexing and fundamental dangers that emerged out of the collaboration between climate change and other environmental, economic, social, and political pressures was called climate-fragility risks. The three key climate fragility risks were identified to be; conflict and fragility increasing vulnerability, natural resources conflict, livelihood insecurity and recruitment into armed groups. It was stated that if these risks are not taken into consideration and proactive steps are not put in place accordingly, future conflicts will follow the trajectory of these trends; the ability of armed groups to adapt, the future of self-defense militias, increasing urbanization and resettlement issues, the role of humanitarian aid and development cooperation.

Taylor et al (2020), assessed the impact of conflict on development in Northeast, Nigeria. According to the study, North-eastern Nigeria and adjoining regions have been changed by conflict that has endured over 10 years. Indeed, even before the conflict started, the region was one of the most unfortunate in Nigeria and confronted various development challenges. Long periods of assaults and destruction have prompted huge humanitarian, human rights, and development emergencies, risking the lives of millions. Two scenarios were compared using International Futures model (IFs) to ascertain the direct and indirect impact of conflict on development in the region. The first scenario was a conflict scenario and the effect it had based on available data, the second scenario was a no conflict scenario. It was discovered that under the no conflict conditions, development in the region is expected to improve consistently yet leisurely, with GDP development averaging a little more than 5 percent from 2008 to 2030. Because of quick population development, GDP per capita would become all the more leisurely, at generally 1.7 percent by and large. Poverty, infant mortality, and malnutrition would have improved bit by bit.

2.5.1 Appraisal of Terrorist Activities in the Lake Chad

Overview of timeline of attacks by the Boko Haram Insurgents in the Lake Chad region

It began as a generally peaceful religious development in northern Nigeria. In any case, the violent way of talking was rarely subtle. However, the public authority didn't give a lot of consideration to Boko Haram. Until 2009, when the group's leader, Mohammed Yusuf, was killed while in police care, setting off an inflexible chain of violent attacks that has undermined the actual presence of the Nigerian state. After twelve years, thousands have died and many thousands more have been dislodged or stay in imprisonment, (channelstv.com). However, the insurgency is a long way from being done.

2.5.2 Operation of the terrorist sect in the Chad Basin

Without question, Nigeria is the fundamental base of Boko Haram attacks in Lake Chad basin region. As indicated by Shola (2015), Boko Haram is the impression of the Nigeria society which pictures an affluent country yet so poor, so regardless of her resources, her citizens suffer from wretched destitution. Muraina et al. (2014) declared that Lake Chad basin area particularly Nigeria has seen fierce confrontations and huge attacks from the terrorist group which are without a doubt the most homicidal and dangerous, both in terms of severe brutality, thoughtless hostility and outrageous noncompliance to the standards of harmony and solidness in the region. The talk of Boko Haram insurgency obviously uncovered that Nigeria is confronted with security challenges (Shuaibu et al., 2015) which is showed in dangerous missions against protection offices, government institutions, religious clerics and individuals from the overall population. Cameroon turned into an objective of Boko Haram rebellion because of the way that Cameroonian power will not give place of refuge to the terrorists to conduct attacks on Nigeria soil and run into hiding in Far North area, in Cameroon. The terrorists saw Cameroon as a threatening neighbor and thus the various attacks in the country.

It is generally said that the best type of defense is attack. This relational word is by all accounts the core value of the Boko Haram orders in attacking Chad. When Chad joined the associated powers (Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria) to battle the insurrection in the district, the first attack was conducted on Chad soil. Financing: The Socio-Economic and Political Implications of Boko Haram region utilizing both land armed forces and military airplanes to strike the militants bases. Like Chad republic, Niger brought about the rage of Boko Haram terrorists and recent attacks on Niger could be traced to the country involvement in the four-country alliance powers to push the terrorist out of the region. A spate of Boko Haram attacks in Niger's southeast Diffa district following a long time of relative quiet and upsurge on regular folks comes after the nation joining the alliance.

3. DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the analysis and discussion of the findings of this study, it shows the timeline of Boko Haram attacks in the Lake Chad Basin region, it gives answers to the relevant questions that was asked at the beginning of the research. It is

important to find answers to these questions in order to come up with logical conclusions and recommendations.

The underlying socio-economic and political factors that contribute to the persistence of international terrorism in the Lake Chad Basin region.

One of the objectives of this research is to investigate the factors that fuels the activities of the terrorist insurgents and lead to its growth, this is important in order to know the areas which the government can focus on to bring an end to the violent activities.

The terrorist insurgency ravaging Lake Chad basin has been on the increase in recent years, according to global terrorism index, the countries of the Lake Chad basin are among the 10 least peaceful countries in Africa, this is because certain factors fuels the growth of these conflicts, the several drivers of insurgency are:

- **Poverty:** Poverty has been recognized as one of the main factors behind the growth of Boko Haram insurgency in the area. Poverty has become so endemic in the Lake Chad basin district and is viewed as the deprivation of fundamental needs like food, clothing, cover medical services and education. Throughout the years, individuals of the area like other developing or underdeveloped countries are denied of essential conveniences and political decision years in such nations give chance to politicians to guarantee that fundamental conveniences will be given. Notwithstanding, the acquaintance of religion into politic with cause divide and rule system, made the resident to understand their poverty level and need to acquire some advantage from the system. Joining Boko Haram which give elective road to better life in the wake of conditioning is an instrument in driving the insurgency in the region, (Akepe et al, 2016).
- **Limited state presence and governance:** Communities in the Lake Chad region has a history of limited interactions with the state and this reduces their relationship with the center of power. This neglect has made citizens in the region feel insignificant and disconnected from the state. This limited state presence has enabled all sorts of criminal activities to thrive in the region, the Boko Haram group is one of the armed group that has taken advantage of the weak state presence in the region to create a haven for themselves and to carry out their violent activities. When you combine limited state presence and poor governance characterized by corruption and misadministration, you have a breeding ground for anti-state behavior, (Omar et al, 2018).
- **Unemployment and Underdevelopment:** The right of citizens to vote has given them the power to choose leaders that will represent them in different sectors and leaders they can hold accountable of their words and actions. But this is not the case, in terms of job creation and development, the Lake Chad region has been lacking, the chronic youth unemployment and underdevelopment is very evident in the region. There are many youth roaming the streets without gainful employment, the unfavorable living condition in the region has created the need for a lot of youths to struggle to survive regardless of the means of survival. Some of these youths focuses their attention on terrorism and this contributes to the growth of insurgency in the region.

- **Illiteracy:** Illiteracy is usually a product of poverty, when a person cannot afford basic education, he becomes a breeding ground for all sorts of brainwashing. At the start of Boko Haram, its operational base was at the poorest part of northern Nigeria, this is because the insurgents understand the vulnerability of an uneducated mind. When citizens are denied a meaningful source of livelihood and the opportunity to go to school and get educated, they become easy prey to negative vices, they become a breeding ground for terrorist ideologies and this affect the security of the environment as they also become part of the terrorist the region is fighting against.
- **Religious beliefs:** The beliefs of the Boko haram sect has roots in religion, it pledged allegiance to the Islamic state in March, 2015, the group has killed over 15,000 people in Nigeria, Niger, Chad and Cameroon, their hatred for western influence is one of the forces that drives them to do what they do. Their ideology opposes western education as they believe that western education is forbidden by Islam. The group also claim that its violent activities is as a result of a decade long history of oppression against Muslims in Nigeria and its neighboring countries, (Alex, 2016). This religious beliefs has driven the members of the group to continue in their evil acts as they see the Muslims in power as fake Muslims and they are determined to take over the region and make it an Islamic state ruled by true Muslims under Shariah law.
- **Political factor:** Most insurgents are driven by the need to take over political power in a nation, an example is the Boko Haram sect that has been ravaging the Lake Chad basin. One of their goals is to ensure political power remains in the north as they believe the west is a corrupting influence in governance, (Akepe et al, 2016). The group also do not believe in a democratic system of government, they are fighting to overthrow the government and take over control of the land and its resources.

Potential strategies and interventions that can be employed to address terrorism and enhance the effectiveness of the LCBDA in promoting regional development.

In pursuing a stable economy free from all forms of social vices and maintain a peaceful co-existence in the society, the dialogue approach is often recommended in resolving any conflict. This approach is also referred to as the diplomatic approach. According to Ernest Satow, diplomacy can be defined as the application of intelligence and tact to the conduct of official relations between the governments of independent states". This is seen as one of the most effective instrument of curbing societal problems. For peaceful interaction to take place, war hostilities and tension must be avoided. However, in a world system whose mechanism is deeply enmeshed in distrust, other forms of hostile actions remain largely an acceptable made of states' interaction with one another. Diplomacy aims at averting wars between different ethnic groups in the society.

Diplomacy in the modern world has become very fashionable as an effective means of pursuing national interest and achieving national goals in all spheres of international involvement. Diplomacy has come a long way from the crudity

and pettiness of the old order and prestige and unseemly scramble for precedence and etiquette.

The second half of the twentieth century ushered in the era of high-tech diplomacy as interaction between states and non-state entities became increasingly dynamic and highly sophisticated. Alaba Ogunsawo (1993) believe that a diplomat must poses "[extra ordinary qualities]" such as knowledge, breath of character and personality to enable him function effectively in view of challenges facing him. The government should not engage in dialogue and negotiation with group which are actively engaged in promoting, committing, or supporting terrorism. To do so only lends the terrorists publicity, status and worst of all, a spurious respectability (Wilkinson 1981). According to Vanguard Newspaper (June 17, 2011) the federal government has directed the immediate establishment of a special joint military Task Force specifically to tackle the Boko Haram state as headquarters of the task force. The task force to be headed by a major General of the Armed Corps could comprise the Nigerian Army, Nigerian Navy, Nigerian Air force, Nigeria police force, defense intelligence Agency and the Department of state security, S.S.S (NBF News 2012).

4. CONCLUSION

The terrorist insurgency has greatly affected the Lake Chad basin region, it has affected the economic, human and social capital. The main objective of the study was to investigate the socioeconomic impact of the Boko Haram insurgency on the Lake Chad basin region and how it has affected development in the region, a proposition was also formulated that the Boko Haram insurgency has negatively affected socioeconomic growth in the region. The findings of the research showed that the proposition is true and in fact economic activities in the region is almost at a standstill due to violence in the region, investors are also taking their business out of the region since the condition in the environment is no longer favorable to the growth of businesses, the situation has also scared away potential investors. It has affected education in the region as a lot of students are afraid of returning to the classroom. Also, the situation in the region has caused tension between the Christians and the Muslims, the Christians now see the Muslims as religious extremists and they are initially treated with caution, without taking into consideration that religious extremism is not peculiar to only Islam.

4.1 Recommendations

To achieve the final objective of this research, some ways in which this problem can be curbed, and the situation can be remedied is listed as follows:

- Boost support to the armed forces: It is necessary that the military is not left to take a knife to a gun fight. The soldiers are the fore front of this war against Boko Haram and war against terrorism have indicated severally that they lack the needed equipment to fight against the insurgents, they stated that they lacked the quality of weapons and ammunitions the Boko Haram members had and they were usually at a disadvantage when it comes to fighting the insurgents, therefore they should be well prepared.
- Improve security efforts: It is not unusual for governments, specifically Nigerian government, to deploy the military to

areas where they are not needed while leaving vulnerable areas prone to attacks.

- Improve education: It is important that education is also given top priority in the fight against Boko Haram, the group has constantly fought against western education in the region and has consistently attacked schools, it is important that the government do not let them have an upper hand in education. School premises should be made should not be left with only the students and teachers, there should be presence of the military in the schools in the region.

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