



Boko Haram Insurgency and Non-Governmental Organizations Peacebuilding Initiatives in Adamawa State College of Education Hong and the Affected Communities in Hong Local Government Area, Adamawa State

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ABSTRACT

The study investigated Boko Haram Insurgency and Non-governmental Organizations Peacebuilding Initiatives in Adamawa State College of Education Hong and the affected Communities of Hong Local Government Area, Adamawa State. A descriptive survey design was employed for the study, and a total of 1000 respondents comprising student-respondents, members of NGOs and communities members from the affected villages were randomly selected for the study. The instruments of data collection (questionnaire and KII) was subjected to thorough scrutiny by some experts and the Committee on Research, Innovations and Development, Adamawa State College of Education, Hong. Demographic information of the respondents was analyzed using percentages, while mean and standard deviation were used to analyze the research questions. The findings of the study revealed that, peacebuilding initiatives employed by the NGOs in Adamawa State College of Education Hong and the affected Communities in Hong local government area include: NGOs provided empowerment in forms of vocational training and livelihood support to reduce youth involvement in violence in Hong communities and scholarship to College of education students from selected local government areas. Participants also reported challenges encountered by the NGOs in the process of building peace in Adamawa State College of Education Hong and the environs included: Security Threats: Personnel and facilities face constant risks from remnants of violence, including threats of attacks that have previously forced the closure of institutions like the College of Education, Hong; Inadequate Funding and Resources: Many NGOs operate with limited financial resources, which hinders their ability to carry out long-term, sustainable peacebuilding projects. Recommendations made include, the local, state and

federal government should be more committed in promptly reaching out to the citizens during times of crisis and distress similar to what most NGOs do in several situations, communities should be enlightened on who NGOs are and their functions so that they can accord the NGOs the respect and honour they deserve, adequate securities should be provided to ensure the safety of NGOs who reach out to conflict zones to avoid fear and lack of complete outreach to areas of concern.

Keywords: Boko Haram, Insurgency, Peacebuilding, NGOs, Attack

I. INTRODUCTION

Background

The violent activities of the Boko Haram sect in North East Nigeria which became more pronounced since 2009 have created adverse humanitarian consequence to the North East region. Life in the various communities of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states, such as, Kawuri, Baga, Konduga, Bama, Shuwa, Ajigin, Gamboru, Giwa, Chibok, Gwoza to mention a few, have been characteristically nasty, brutish and most times short (Salkida, 2012). The region has ceased to know civil normalcy as a result of the dire humanitarian situation as evident in human casualties, human right abuses, population displacement and refugee debacle, loss of means of livelihood, food insecurity, limited medical facilities and other social amenities, (Chiwendu, 2022).

Adamawa State in particular and indeed Hong local government were attacked by the insurgents in 2014, devastating more than 10 villages; killing people, burning down churches, schools, healthcare centers, carting away vehicles including buses of Adamawa State College Education Hong, and many more. This resulted in the displacements with thousands turning to



refugees with dire need for help. This scenario has led the non-governmental organizations to become an irresistible force in Nigeria today. The non-governmental organizations sector has grown in relation to an increasing demand for their services, and what many people have seen as the end result of assisting the victims of emergencies and peacebuilding. NGOs or voluntary organizations are not a new phenomenon and the concept of voluntary action is very ancient. According to Inamdar (1987), during ancient and medieval times, volunteerism operated freely and exclusively in the field of education, cultural promotion and even acted as service providers in terms of crises like attacks, war, security and the roles played by NGOs in fighting the dreaded Boko-Haram Terrorists in Nigeria is attestation to that.

Globalization of the 20th century has also strengthened the importance of NGOs as many problems could not be solved within nations, (Pawel Zaleski, 2016). Riddel and Robbison (1995) found that NGOs projects were successful and effective in improving the social status of the poor; however, not all the projects were successful in reaching the poor. Mohanan (2000) pointed out that NGOs have been playing a very important role in the country over the last decade in the sphere of social development. He opines that NGOs are powerful tool in poverty alleviation, economic recovery and peacebuilding. He consider that “The role of NGOs is more significant and pronounced when the country’s is at civil unrest. He further states that government organizations need collaboration and co-operation from other than government institutions for creating opportunities, facilitating empowerment and providing security for the poor. He prefers NGOs because they work among the poor been part of the communities they are serving. Desai (2005) maintains that NGOs have an important role to play in supporting the vulnerable groups among the poor people, men and women, households, community groups, civil society groups and expected that they can meet their welfare. This study therefore attempts to examine Boko Haram insurgency and Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs) and peacebuilding initiatives in Adamawa State College of Education Hong.

Statement of the Problem

It is apparent that response to conflicts and building peace cannot be left to the national and subnational governments to handle; but all hands must be on deck. Activities of NGOs is advantageous in creating an avenue for peacebuilding through wide range of activities such

as emergency relief services like food, shelter, clothing, health care as well as peace/enlightenment talks within and outside camps which go a long way in calming down tension, and ultimately building peace.

However, in spite of the numerous roles of NGOs in the area of peacebuilding, they are yet to be accorded due recognition compared to national and subnational governments. This is why (Goodhand, 2020; Bertha, 2011) maintains that Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have gained a very high status as the leading practitioners of development in Africa and that African governments have reacted obscurely to the existence of these agencies. Hence, the proposed study aims to examine Boko Haram insurgency and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) peacebuilding initiatives in Adamawa State College of Education Hong and the affected Communities of Hong Local Government Area, Adamawa State.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of the study was to examine Boko Haram Insurgency and Non-governmental Organizations Peacebuilding Initiatives in Adamawa State College of Education Hong and the affected Communities of Hong Local Government Area, Adamawa State. Specifically, study sought to:

- i. Identify the peacebuilding initiatives employed by the NGOs in Adamawa State College of Education Hong and the affected Communities in Hong local government area.
- ii. Discover the challenges encountered by the NGOs in Adamawa State College of education Hong and the inhabitants of the affected communities during peacebuilding process.

Research Questions

- i. What are the peacebuilding initiatives employed by the NGOs in Adamawa State College of Education Hong and the affected Communities in Hong local government area?
- ii. What are the challenges encountered by the NGOs in Adamawa State College of education Hong and the inhabitants of the affected communities during peacebuilding process?



II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Research Design

This research work will employ descriptive survey research design, which comprises both Key Informant Interview (KII) and questionnaires. This method is not only suitable for measuring attitude but also involves clearly systematic way of gathering data about a target population as well as ensuring a high precision in the generalization of findings obtained from an analysis or the sample of the population. The purpose of Survey Research Design is for the researcher to describe the attitude, opinion, behaviours or characteristics of the population based on the data collected from a sample or population (Davidio, 2008). The research will employ descriptive survey approach because the research will be guided by 'what' question to investigate Boko Haram Insurgency and Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) Peacebuilding Initiatives in Adamawa State College of Education (ADSCOE) Hong and environs. The choice of Adamawa State College of Education Hong and environs is based on the 2014 bitter experience of the area by the activities of Booko Haram.

Population of the Study

The target population will comprise approximately 10,000 students; staff of Adamawa State College of Education Hong; members of the NGOs; and the inhabitants of the communities who present a significant demographic pool for the study of peacebuilding initiatives employed by the NGOs in responses to Boko Haram attacks in Hong local government of Adamawa State.

Sample and Sampling Technique of the Study

The sampling technique that will be used in selecting respondents from Adamawa State College of Education Hong and the affected communities is a simple random sampling technique, which requires that one works with small sample of people, nested in their context and studies in-depth (Miles and Huberman, 1994). Random sampling relies on the judgment of the researcher when it comes to selecting respondents that are to be studied and it can be used for generalisation to a larger population. Therefore, the research will select 1000 respondents from the pool of students and staff of Adamawa State College of Education Hong and the affected communities.

Instruments for Data Collection

The instruments to be used for data collection will be questionnaire and Key Informant Interview (KII). The questionnaire will be divided into sections and each section will collect specific data in relation to each research objective. Section A will cover the background information of the respondents while section B will attempt to cover each of the research objectives. The KII questions will also be set collect specific answers to the research questions.

Methods of Data Collection

Both primary and secondary sources of data will be used in the course of the research. The instrument for primary data collection will be questionnaires and KII which will be self-administered by the researchers and research assistants which will in turn be collected for analysis. Secondary sources of data will be gathered through textbooks, journals, articles, thesis, internet sources and newspapers.

Validity and Reliability of the Instruments

Validity refers to the extent to which the research instrument is able to measure what it is intended to measure. To ensure this therefore, the instruments of data collection (questionnaire and KII) will be subjected to thorough scrutiny by some experts and Committee on Research, Innovations and Development, Adamawa State College of Education, Hong. All corrections made will be incorporated to the body of the instruments (questionnaire and KII). The reliability of the questionnaire items will be tested using the test re-test method and the results obtained will be analyzed using the Cronbach Alpha Coefficient.

Method of Data Analysis

Data analysis means the method of processing the information obtained from the respondents. In this study, the data obtained will be analyzed using frequency tables and statistical packages such as simple percentage, mean and standard deviation. Tables will be used to serve as illustration and the figures offers the basis for statistical inference and the percentage technique of analyzing the data using the descriptive statistic.



III. RESULTS

Research Question 1: What are the Peacebuilding initiatives employed by the NGOs in Adamawa State College of Education Hong and the affected Communities in Hong local government area?

Table 1: Peacebuilding initiatives employed by the NGOs in Adamawa State College of Education Hong and the affected Communities in Hong local government area

SN	Items	Class of Responses						Remark
		SA	A	D	SD	\bar{x}	St d	
1	NGOs provided empowerment in forms of vocational training and livelihood support to reduce youth involvement in violence in Hong communities and scholarship to College of education students from selected local government areas	39 (32.5)	67 (55.8)	8 (6.7)	6 (5.0)	3.39	0.82	Agree
2	Reintegration & Education: Focused on bringing children back to school and providing vocational training in conflict-affected communities	25 (20.8)	91 (75.8)	4 (93.3)	0 (0)	3.73	0.52	Agree
3	We Care for You International Organisation operated in the region, focusing on peace education, dialogue, and conflict management	39 (32.5)	66 (55.0)	9 (7.5)	6 (5.0)	3.15	0.76	Agree
4	United States Institute for Peace (USIP) & WANEP launched Justice and Security Dialogues (JSD) in Adamawa, specifically targeting hotspots like Hong LGA to improve relationships between communities and security providers	51 (42.5)	60 (50.0)	9 (7.5)	0 (0)	3.35	0.61	Agree
5	Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR) conducted training for stakeholders in Hong LGA as part of a state-wide peacebuilding initiative following Boko Haram insurgency and subsequent communal tensions	30 (25.0)	78 (65.0)	9 (7.5)	3 (2.5)	3.52	0.74	Agree

Source: Field Survey, 2026

Table 1 revealed those statements considered as having bearing with the initiatives employed in the course of building in Hong local area and Adamawa State College of Education, Hong. The respondents indicated that NGOs provided empowerment in forms of vocational training and livelihood support to reduce youth involvement in violence in Hong communities and scholarship to College of education students from selected local government areas, with mean score of ($\bar{x} = 3.39$); Reintegration & Education: Focused on bringing children back to school and providing vocational training in conflict-affected communities, with mean score of ($\bar{x} = 3.73$); We Care for You International

Organisation operated in the region, focusing on peace education, dialogue, and conflict management, with mean score of ($\bar{x} = 3.15$); United States Institute for Peace (USIP) & WANEP launched Justice and Security Dialogues (JSD) in Adamawa, specifically targeting hotspots like Hong LGA to improve relationships between communities and security providers, with mean score of ($\bar{x} = 3.35$); and Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR) conducted training for stakeholders in Hong LGA as part of a state-wide peacebuilding initiative following Boko Haram insurgency and subsequent communal tensions, with mean score of ($\bar{x} = 3.52$).



Research question 2: What are the challenges Encountered by the NGOs in Adamawa State College of Education Hong and the affected Communities during Peacebuilding Activities

Table 3: Challenges Encountered by the NGOs in Adamawa State College of Education Hong and the affected Communities during Peacebuilding Activities

SN	Items	Class of Responses						Remark
		SA	A	D	SD	\bar{x}	Std	
1	Security Threats: Personnel and facilities face constant risks from remnants of violence, including threats of attacks that have previously forced the closure of institutions like the College of Education, Hong	45 (37.5)	69 (57.5)	6 (5.0)	0 (0)	3.50	0.67	Agree
2	Inadequate Funding and Resources: Many NGOs operate with limited financial resources, which hinders their ability to carry out long-term, sustainable peacebuilding projects	51 (42.5)	45 (37.5)	21 (17.5)	3 (2.5)	3.20	0.81	Agree
3	Logistical Constraints: The destruction of infrastructure makes it difficult to access remote, affected communities, hindering the delivery of humanitarian and peace education services	33 (27.5)	48 (40)	30 (25.0)	9 (7.5)	2.88	0.90	Agree
4	Lack of Government Support/Coordination: Weak coordination between NGOs and government agencies, sometimes plagued by corruption or bureaucratic hurdles, reduces the effectiveness of interventions	39 (32.5)	66 (55.0)	9 (7.5)	6 (5.0)	3.15	0.76	Agree
5	The "Spoilers" Phenomenon: Individuals or groups who benefit from continued conflict often work to sabotage peace initiatives	27 (22.5)	33 (27.5)	42 (35.0)	18 (15.0)	2.58	1.00	Agree

Source: Field Survey, 2026

Table showed the challenges encountered by the NGOs in the course of peacebuilding in Hong communities and Adamawa State College Education Hong. The respondents upheld all the statements, implying that the challenges outlined were truly impediments for successful peacebuilding in Hong Local Government Area, Adamawa State. The challenges encountered by the NGOs are: Security Threats: Personnel and facilities face constant risks from remnants of violence, including threats of attacks that have previously forced the closure of institutions like the College of Education, Hong, with a mean score of ($\bar{x} = 3.48$); Inadequate Funding and Resources: Many NGOs operate with limited

financial resources, which hinders their ability to carry out long-term, sustainable peacebuilding projects, with a mean score of ($\bar{x} = 3.20$); Logistical Constraints: The destruction of infrastructure makes it difficult to access remote, affected communities, hindering the delivery of humanitarian and peace education services, with a mean score of ($\bar{x} = 2.88$); Lack of Government Support/Coordination: Weak coordination between NGOs and government agencies, sometimes plagued by corruption or bureaucratic hurdles, reduces the effectiveness of interventions, with a mean score of ($\bar{x} = 3.15$); and the "Spoilers" Phenomenon: Individuals or groups who benefit from continued conflict often work to



sabotage peace initiatives, with a mean score of ($\bar{x} = 2.58$).

IV. DISCUSSION

Peacebuilding initiatives employed by the NGOs in Adamawa State College of Education Hong and the affected Communities in Hong local government area

The study found out that the peacebuilding initiatives employed by the NGOs in Adamawa State College of Education Hong and the affected Communities in Hong local government area include: NGOs provided empowerment in forms of vocational training and livelihood support to reduce youth involvement in violence in Hong communities and scholarship to College of education students from selected local government area; Reintegration & Education: Focused on bringing children back to school and providing vocational training in conflict-affected communities; We Care for You International Organisation operate in the region, focusing on peace education, dialogue, and conflict management; United States Institute for Peace (USIP) & WANEP launched Justice and Security Dialogues (JSD) in Adamawa, specifically targeting hotspots like Hong LGA to improve relationships between communities and security providers; and the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR) conducted training for stakeholders in Hong LGA as part of a state-wide peacebuilding initiative following Boko Haram insurgency and subsequent communal tensions.

The discussion in this section relates to the value of NGOs and their culture of peace support for institutions on the community participation in peacebuilding. In other words, it means that NGOs have either partnered or lobbied with the government to participate in building sustainable peace in Hong local government and Adamawa State. This finding is in line with Ball and Dunn (1996) who see NGOs as “Organizations which are not serving the interests of members, but are concerned in one way or another with disadvantage and or the disadvantaged, or with concerns and issues which are detrimental to the wellbeing, circumstances or prospects of people or society as a whole. More recently they have become more and more an institutionalised part of decision-making, policy-making and policy implementation itself (Pearce, 2000; Atkinson & Scurrah, 2009).

American sociologist John Paul Lederach further refined the concept of peacebuilding through several 1990s publications that focus on engaging grassroots, local, NGO, international and other

actors to create a sustainable peace process, especially with respect to cases of intractable deadly conflict where he was actively mediating between warring parties. Riddel and Robbison (1995) found that NGOs projects were successful and effective in improving the social status of the poor; however, not all the projects were successful in reaching the poor. Mohanan (2000) pointed out that NGOs have been playing a very important role in the country over the last decade in the sphere of social development. He opines that NGOs are powerful tool in poverty alleviation, economic recovery and peacebuilding. He consider that “The role of NGOs is more significant and pronounced when the country is at civil unrest. He further states that government organizations need collaboration and co-operation from other than government institutions for creating opportunities, facilitating empowerment and providing security for the poor. He prefers NGOs because they work among the poor been part of the communities they are serving. Desai (2005), maintains that NGOs have an important role to play in supporting the vulnerable groups among the poor people, men and women, households, community groups, civil society groups and expected that they can meet their welfare.

There is no particular method that can universally apply to all peacebuilding activities. Conning (2013), maintains that the methods included in peacebuilding vary depending on the situation and the agent of peacebuilding. Successful peacebuilding activities create an environment supportive of self-sustaining, durable peace; reconcile opponents; prevent conflict from restarting; integrate civil society; create rule of law mechanisms; and address underlying structural and societal issues. Researchers and practitioners also increasingly find that peacebuilding is most effective and durable when it relies upon local conceptions of peace and the underlying dynamics which foster or enable conflict Coning (2013).

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whole. More recently they have become more and more an institutionalised part of decision-making, policy-making and policy implementation itself (Pearce, 2000; Atkinson & Scurrah, 2009).

Some of the interviewees submitted as follows:

NGOs have been our major source solace since the beginning of this insurgent attacks; they have at one time given bags containing cooking utensils, maize, guinea corn, millet, rice and token of seventy thousand (70,000) to each beneficiary.

Another interviewee reported that:

It was later on that they discovered that most of the immediate interventions given to the victims were not from the government but NGOs. The interviewee praised and prayed for more grace for the NGOs.

Some student interviewees also acknowledged:

The scholarship awarded by Victim Support Fund (VSF) to Adamawa State College of Education Hong students as very timely and of great advantage for their studies.

Challenges encountered by the NGOs in Adamawa State College of education Hong and the inhabitants of the affected communities during peacebuilding activities

The study revealed the challenges encountered by the NGOs in the process of building peace in Adamawa State College of Education Hong and the environs included: Security Threats: Personnel and facilities face constant risks from remnants of violence, including threats of attacks that have previously forced the closure of institutions like the College of Education, Hong; Inadequate Funding and Resources: Many NGOs operate with limited financial resources, which hinders their ability to carry out long-term, sustainable peacebuilding projects; Logistical Constraints: The destruction of infrastructure makes it difficult to access remote, affected communities, hindering the delivery of humanitarian and peace education services; Lack of Government Support/Coordination: Weak coordination between NGOs and government agencies, sometimes plagued by corruption or bureaucratic hurdles, reduces the effectiveness of interventions; and the "Spoilers" Phenomenon: Individuals or groups who benefit from continued conflict often work to sabotage peace initiatives.

According to Manning (2003), negotiated peace settlements often face their greatest challenges at the local level, when the principles of the political settlement negotiated at the centre are extended throughout the national territory. He

recommends that local peacebuilding as the case of Hong local government requires an approach to peacebuilding that is informed by closer attention to the multiple layers of the state and the statebuilding process. In the same vein, peacebuilding manual/challenge (2016) outlined the following as the challenges for peacebuilding: community readiness to new approaches, intangible results, gender, government involvement, spoilers, diversity, and lack of capable human resources, security, coverage, and effectiveness, weather and access.

The challenges of protecting the displaced are compounded by the deteriorating security situation as well as socio-economic fragility, with communities in the Sahel region facing chronic poverty, a harsh climatic conditions, recurrent epidemics, poor infrastructure and limited access to basic services. The Nigerian military, together with the Multinational Joint Task Force, have driven extremists from many of the areas they once controlled, but these gains have been overshadowed by an increase of Boko Haram attacks in neighbouring countries. Despite the return of Nigerian IDPs and refugees to accessible areas, the crisis remains acute (UNHCR, 2021).

Some interviewees lamented the following challenges encountered by NGOs:

Majority of the local people refused to shelter in the temporary shelters provided by the NGOs and relocated to their relatives in the neighbouring villages resulting to waste of resources and vandalism of shelters by some criminal elements.

Another interviewee reported that the major challenge was:

NGOs could not reach out some remote areas because of fear of attacks.

It was reported that some of the items brought by the NGOs at the local government secretariat were carted away by some vandals or perhaps a conspiracy theft.

V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, the following conclusions are drawn: the general objective of the study was to examine Boko Haram Insurgency and Non-governmental Organizations Peacebuilding Initiatives in Adamawa State College of Education Hong and the affected Communities of Hong Local Government Area. The study found out that the peacebuilding initiatives employed by the



NGOs in the process of building in Hong LGA include: NGOs provided empowerment in forms of vocational training and livelihood support to reduce youth involvement in violence in Hong communities and scholarship to College of education students from selected local government area; Reintegration & Education: Focused on bringing children back to school and providing vocational training in conflict-affected communities; We Care for You International Organisation operate in the region, focusing on peace education, dialogue, and conflict management; United States Institute for Peace (USIP) & WANEP launched Justice and Security Dialogues (JSD) in Adamawa, specifically targeting hotspots like Hong LGA to improve relationships between communities and security providers; and the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR) conducted training for stakeholders in Hong LGA as part of a state-wide peacebuilding initiative following Boko Haram insurgency and subsequent communal tensions.

The challenges encountered by NGOs in the process of building peace included security threats: Personnel and facilities face constant risks from remnants of violence, including threats of attacks that have previously forced the closure of institutions like the College of Education, Hong; Inadequate Funding and Resources: Many NGOs operate with limited financial resources, which hinders their ability to carry out long-term, sustainable peacebuilding projects; Logistical Constraints: The destruction of infrastructure makes it difficult to access remote, affected communities, hindering the delivery of humanitarian and peace education services; Lack of Government Support/Coordination: Weak coordination between NGOs and government agencies, sometimes plagued by corruption or bureaucratic hurdles, reduces the effectiveness of interventions; and the "Spoilers" Phenomenon: Individuals or groups who benefit from continued conflict often work to sabotage peace initiatives.

Recommendations

In light of the findings of this study, it is recommended that:

1. The local, state and federal government should be more committed in promptly reaching out to the citizens during times of crisis and distress similar to what most NGOs do in several situations.
2. Communities should be enlightened on who NGOs are and their functions so that they can accord the NGOs the respect and honour they deserve.
3. Adequate securities should be provided to ensure the safety of NGOs who reach out to conflict zones to avoid fear and lack of complete outreach to areas of concern.
4. Schools and religious institutions such as mosque and the church should be proactive in peace advocacy so as to guarantee an enduring peace in the society.

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