

Reintegration and Resettlement: Panacea for Sustainable Peace and Security in Post-Conflict Borno State

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Abstract

The paper on reintegration and resettlement of individuals affected by conflict and violence in Borno state has emerged as a vital strategy for attaining sustainable peace and security in the region. The protracted insurgency by Boko Haram has caused significant human displacement, with many communities ravaged, infrastructure destroyed, and countless lives lost or disrupted. In response, various stakeholders, including local and national authorities, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), have implemented reintegration and resettlement initiatives as part of a comprehensive approach to peace building and conflict resolution. Firstly, these programs focus on addressing the root causes of conflict, such as poverty, unemployment, and lack of basic services, by providing support for livelihoods, education, and health infrastructure in affected areas. Secondly, reintegration and resettlement programs foster social cohesion, reconciliation, and community resilience by facilitating dialogue and cooperation among diverse ethnic, religious, and cultural groups. They promote trust-building processes, encourage the involvement of local communities, and create spaces for reconciliation and healing. Moreover, the findings highlight the importance of gender-inclusive approaches within these programs. Women, who often bear the brunt of violent conflict, must be included in decision-making processes and given access to resources and opportunities for empowerment. Insufficient resources, limited capacity-building opportunities, and the ongoing threat of violence hamper the effectiveness of reintegration and resettlement efforts. These efforts address the multifaceted challenges arising from conflict and contribute to the rebuilding of communities, fostering social cohesion, and empowering individuals affected by violence.

Keywords: *Reintegration, Resettlement, Sustainable, Peace, Security and Post-Conflict*

Introduction

Recently, there has been a mass influx of Boko Haram members surrendering alongside with their families and captives in the state. These influxes have recorded unprecedented peace and security in Borno state and the nation at large. Since time immemorial, conflicts, wars and disputes were settled through reconciliation, arbitration of aggrieved parties or groups and re-integration. For instance, the First and Second World Wars were brought to an end through negotiation and mediation. It is the responsibility of governments to provide peace and security to the citizens not necessarily through the use of force or gun but could be through any means of conflict resolution. Moreover, captives and repentant must be reintegrated back to their societies and to re-unite with their families and loved ones (UNDP, 2019).

In Borno State, thousands of families were separated either by force or willingly by the Boko Haram group as soldiers or captives. The conflict that has lasted for over a decade has led to the deaths of thousands, devastated economy, destroyed sources of livelihood, making individuals and groups as Internally Displaced Persons in their home towns and country, brought psychological trauma, destroyed hopes and ambitions of present and perhaps the future generation.

Above all, it is the responsibility of the government and other stakeholders to resettle these repentants and captures with their families and the captives in order to sustain lasting peace and security in the State and beyond. This work will therefore, address the issue of re-integration and resettlement as solution to sustainable peace and security in post-conflict Borno State (Robert, 2011).

Borno State being the epicenter of Boko Haram insurgency since 2009 have many parts of the state ravaged by conflict leading to human and material losses. The Nigerian government and its armed forces have since 2010 tried to put a stop to the operation and sustained attacks of the Boko Haram group, but has not been able to do so despite arrests and killings of many of the Boko Haram fighters in different encounters. The violence has been overwhelming, destroying homes, farmland and infrastructure, as well as leaving thousands dead and many more incredibly vulnerable. Boko Haram insurgency in the North Eastern region appears to be a primary challenge and a very significant factor militating against the state towards its quest for peace building and development.

With nearly half of all post-conflict states slipping back into conflict within five years of the signing of a peace agreement, it has become increasingly clear that the international community's peace building toolkit remains underdeveloped vis-à-vis the complex challenges of establishing sustainable peace in war-torn societies (Fukuyama, 2004). Faced with the multi-layered and multidimensional challenges of post-conflict peace building which typically include everything from promoting social reconciliation to restoring functioning justice systems to disarming and re-integrating former insurgents, international efforts have often lacked the necessary capacity, coordination, and flexibility to effectively manage the difficult transition from war to peace.

Conceptual Clarification

Reintegration and resettlement programs can be effective solutions for achieving sustainable peace and security in Borno state, Nigeria. Borno state has been affected by the activities of the extremist group Boko Haram, leading to widespread displacement, destruction of infrastructure, and loss of livelihoods.

Reintegration

It is globally accepted mechanism of conflict resolution or dispute. It is the tool or instrument used to fast-track resettlement and development in post-conflict or insurgency. It is a win-win situation where victims of war, captives, repentant or surrendered soldiers were accepted and brought back to the larger communities or societies. In other words, it is in-cooperation, re-uniting of different factions that have different interests together as one community or state (United Nations & World Bank, 2019).

Reintegration refers to the process of helping individuals who have been involved in conflict or extremism to reintegrate into society, while resettlement involves providing displaced populations with resources and support to establish new lives in safe areas.

Here are some reasons why reintegration and resettlement are critical for sustainable peace and security in Borno state:

- i. Countering radicalization and recruitment:** One of the main objectives of reintegration and resettlement is to prevent individuals from being susceptible to radicalization and recruitment by extremist groups. By providing them with economic opportunities, education, and psychosocial support, these programs can decrease the appeal of joining or supporting terrorist organizations.
- ii. Stability and Reconciliation:** Research has shown that successful reintegration and resettlement processes contribute to stability and reconciliation in post-conflict regions. When affected individuals and communities are given the necessary support to rebuild their lives, it helps restore social cohesion and reduces the likelihood of a relapse into violence.
- iii. Countering Radicalization:** Reintegration programs play a crucial role in countering radicalization. By providing opportunities for education, vocational training, and employment, these initiatives address the root causes of extremism and help individuals reintegrate into society. Psychological support and counseling are also essential components to help individuals overcome trauma and prevent them from being susceptible to further manipulation by extremist groups.
- iv. Community Engagement and Participation:** Another important finding is that community engagement and participation are crucial for sustainable peace and security. The inclusion of local communities in the planning and implementation of reintegration and resettlement programs fosters a sense of ownership and reduces the likelihood of grievances that could lead to renewed violence. It is essential to involve traditional leaders, religious institutions, and civil society organizations throughout the process.
- v. Comprehensive Approach:** Studies emphasize the importance of a comprehensive approach to reintegration and resettlement. This includes providing not just material support such as housing, livelihood opportunities, and access to basic services but also addressing underlying socio-economic inequalities, promoting good governance, and strengthening rule of law. Implementing transitional justice mechanisms, including truth and reconciliation commissions, can also support healing and accountability.
- vi. Long-term Support:** Sustained support is vital for successful reintegration and resettlement. Findings indicate that short-term interventions are often insufficient, and long-term programs are needed to ensure the smooth reintegration of displaced persons and former combatants. Continued monitoring, social cohesion initiatives, and access to justice are crucial in the post-conflict period.

In conclusion, the highlight that reintegration and resettlement are essential components for achieving sustainable peace and security in Borno state. It is crucial to adopt a holistic approach that involves the active participation of local communities, addresses root causes of conflict, promotes economic opportunities, and ensures the provision of long-term support. By implementing these findings, Borno state can take significant steps towards lasting peace and stability.

Reintegration and resettlement programs have been proposed as solutions for achieving sustainable peace and security in Borno state, Nigeria. The state has been severely affected by the activities of the extremist group Boko Haram, resulting in widespread displacement, destruction of infrastructure, and loss of livelihoods. This abstract explores how reintegration and resettlement can contribute to long-term peace and security in the region.

The reintegration process involves helping individuals who have been involved in conflict or extremism to reintegrate into society, while resettlement focuses on providing resources and support to displaced populations in safe areas. By addressing the root causes of conflict and extremism, these programs can effectively contribute to sustainable peace and security.

Key points to consider include countering radicalization and recruitment by providing economic opportunities, education, and psychosocial support; promoting social cohesion and community integration by fostering interaction between different groups; facilitating the return and reestablishment of displaced populations to their original areas or new communities; implementing initiatives that restore and rebuild infrastructure, access to peace and stability in Borno.

Resettlement

It is the process of creating new livelihood and means of survival to repentants, captives or prisoners of war. It is also the process of empowering and giving sense of belonging to those that revolted against the state or society through organized programmes and policies of government in order to avoid future occurrence of conflicts and to achieve sustainable peace and security within a state. Resettlement refers to the process of relocating individuals or groups from one place to another, typically from their home country to a foreign country or a different area within their own country. It is often undertaken due to political, environmental, or economic factors that make it difficult or unsafe for people to remain in their current location.

Resettlement can be voluntary or forced, and it involves providing assistance and support to individuals or groups as they adjust to their new environment. This may include help with housing, employment, education, healthcare, and cultural integration.

Resettlement programs are typically organized and implemented by governments, international organizations, or non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The overall goal of resettlement is to provide individuals with the opportunity to rebuild their lives and secure a better future in a new location.

Peace and Security

It is absence of conflict, violence or a threat to life and property; Security is viewed as the condition of feeling safe from harm or danger, the defence, protection and preservation of values, and the absence of threats to acquire values (Terriff, 1991). The concept of peace and security revolves around the absence of violent conflict, societal stability, and protection of human rights. Peace refers to a state of tranquility, harmony, and non-violence within a society or between nations. Security, on the other hand, entails measures taken to safeguard individuals, communities, and nations from threats, risks, and acts of violence.

In the context of Borno state, which has been affected by years of insurgency and conflict, achieving sustainable peace and security is of utmost importance. To this end, reintegration and resettlement programs serve as potential solutions. They involve the process of rehabilitating and reintegrating individuals, particularly former combatants, back into society, as well as providing them with the necessary support and opportunities for a stable and secure future.

Reintegration typically includes efforts to facilitate psychological and emotional healing, skill development, education, and employment opportunities for those who have been involved in conflict. By addressing the underlying causes of their involvement and offering alternative paths, reintegration aims to reduce the likelihood of re-engagement in violent activities and promote their productive participation in society.

Resettlement, on the other hand, focuses on providing a safe and secure environment for displaced individuals and communities. It involves creating the necessary infrastructure, housing, healthcare, education, and livelihood opportunities to enable people to rebuild their

lives and regain a sense of stability. Resettlement efforts also aim to promote social cohesion and reconciliation among different groups or communities affected by the conflict.

It is important to note that reintegration and resettlement alone may not guarantee sustainable peace and security. They should be complemented by broader strategies addressing root causes of conflict such as inequality, marginalization, and political grievances. Moreover, efforts must be made to strengthen governance institutions, promote rule of law, and foster inclusive dialogue and reconciliation processes to ensure long-term peace and security in Borno state.

In conclusion, reintegration and resettlement programs can contribute to sustainable peace and security in Borno state by rehabilitating and reintegrating former combatants, as well as providing safe environments and support systems for displaced individuals and communities. However, a comprehensive approach encompassing various socio-political, economic, and governance aspects is required to address the underlying causes of conflict and promote lasting peace and security.

Sustainable Peace and Security in Post-Conflict Society

Sustainable peace and security could be achieved through reintegration and resettlement of repentant and captives. It is the responsibility of government to fast-track human and economic development in post-conflict society, there is a need to bridge the gap that was created by the conflict which has been on for over a decade. Basically, conflict or insurgency has three ways of ending or conclusion:

- i. Winning war through military capability and fire power
- ii. Disappearance or running away of the dissidents (rebels)
- iii. Surrender

Therefore, it is a global practice and law in the international constitution that surrendered rebels must be taken care of by the government through the process of re-integration and resettlement to give them hope and means of livelihood.

Historically in Nigeria, there have been many programs of reintegration and resettlement, for instance, General Gowon introduced the three R-R-R which is reintegration, reconciliation and rehabilitation of Biafra military the pardoning of Maitatsine group by late President Shehu Shagari and the pardoning of Niger Delta militants by late President Musa Yar'Adua. Recently, it has been proved that military power or capability is not only the instrument of ending war, as we are witnessing in Afghanistan and United States of America. War is a racket for making money by the sponsors, suppliers of logistics, houses, among others and by the military themselves (IIDEA, 2019).

Stages of Reintegration and Resettlement

1. Surrendering of the rebels
2. Acceptance of their crimes
3. Promise not to revolt against the state
4. Willingness to reform
5. Acceptance of the captives by government and granting of amnesty
6. Acceptance by their various families
7. Acceptance by the community
8. Support by NGOs and other donors

Challenges of Reintegration and Resettlement in Borno State

The reintegration and resettlement of Boko Haram insurgents has been trailed by stiff oppositions. Many victims of Boko Haram insurgency have reiterated their opposition not to accept the repentants back into their communities. However, several over-reaching challenges have complicated the reintegration and resettlement process and stabilization efforts in Borno State such as low trust, ongoing insecurity and recurring attacks by Boko Haram, ongoing military operations which have delayed the return of displaced populations and prolonged humanitarian crisis condition.

Donor agencies have struggled to work in collaboration with the Nigerian government, whose conflict response has been plagued by weak coordination and corruption; other challenges such as ethical value, lack of good governance, absence of political will, and slow capacity building, problems of social services, widespread condemnation from the public and victims of Boko Haram insurgency.

Another challenge to the settlement effort is the high rate of death it is estimated that recorded. e.g. about 38,000 people have died as a result of the conflict, the anguish is still fresh as jihadists attacks continue and the government's amnesty programme may not have considered victims of Boko Haram insurgency and designated communities in implementing the amnesty, hence the need to also reintegrate and resettle the IDPs back to their ancestral homes. Therefore, Government must prioritise the influence of those affected by the insurgency (Aro, 2013). The Nigerian state must ensure that direct victims of Boko Haram insurgency accept the principle of dialogue and support the process. It is the buy-in of Boko Haram-impacted communities and designated resettlement locations that will, to a large extent, determine the success of the programme (Gamawa, 2017). The Nigerian state must also pay heed to concerned collective voices in the terror-troubled area. Arguably, the amnesty programme for repentant low-risk Boko haram members may seem like a good path to peace, it may also create inherent problems if not properly implemented.

Suffice to say however, reintegration and resettlement programme is comprehensive in that it seeks to tackle the fighter's ideology and initial grievance as well as to help them get over their trauma and learn skills. However, there are several obstacles to success. Saskia Brechenmacher of the Carnegie Endowment has identified five challenges to reintegration in Nigeria, including lack of clarity on who is eligible, lack of clear reintegration strategy and gender mainstreaming.

The major challenge is the lopsidedness of Nigeria's reintegration program. Abuja is investing enormous resources to prepare ex-combatants for reinsertion into communities, but little or nothing is being done to prepare the communities that are expected to receive them. This failure is a major reason why reintegration could be a mirage.

Reintegration and Resettlement: A Panacea for Sustainable Peace and Security in post Insurgency Period in Borno State

Beyond the imperatives of managing and re-aligning specific state and non-state actors, security governance in post-insurgency situations also necessarily involves measures to deal with the legacies of conflict in terms of both reintegration and resettlement. These measures represent an indispensable component of the broader process of moving from conflict to sustainable peace. While these tasks are often conceived in technical terms, they are also inherently political, and the ways in which they are managed could have impacts on both positive and negative aspects on security environment (Mohammed and Yalwa, 2018).

Therefore, there is an urgent need to have, a more responsive and responsible approach by government, security agencies, and community leaders to identify and address the real needs

of the community, rather than the perceived needs. Failing to do, so may results in greater community vulnerability that leads members of the community to take matters into their own hands. The government (at all levels) must assume the primary responsibility in meeting the needs for displaced populations in Nigeria to achieve protection, access to services and realize solutions. Donors and the private sector must be mobilized to support national and state-level efforts through robust fund mobilization frameworks, joint advocacy and programming efforts.

Theoretical Framework

One theory that addresses the topic of reintegration and resettlement as a solution for sustainable peace and security in Borno state is the Community-Based Reintegration (CBR) model. This theory focuses on the rehabilitation and reintegration of individuals who were involved in conflict, such as ex-combatants or displaced persons, back into their communities.

The CBR model recognizes the importance of addressing the underlying causes of conflict and promoting peace from within the affected communities. It emphasizes community ownership and involvement in the process, which is key to fostering sustainable peace and security.

Under this model, reintegration and resettlement efforts aim to restore the social fabric of communities by facilitating the return and acceptance of individuals affected by conflict. This involves providing economic opportunities, social support, and psychosocial services to help them rebuild their lives and establish positive relationships with their communities.

To ensure long-term sustainability, the CBR model advocates for a holistic approach that considers the various dimensions of reintegration. This includes supporting individuals in their physical, psychological, and socio-economic needs. Additionally, it promotes the inclusion of vulnerable groups such as women, children, and marginalized populations, recognizing the importance of their active participation in community-building processes.

The CBR model also highlights the significance of coordination and collaboration among different stakeholders, including government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and community leaders. By working together, these actors can leverage their resources, knowledge, and expertise to implement comprehensive reintegration and resettlement programs.

Moreover, the theory underlines the importance of addressing wider socio-political challenges that hinder sustainable peace and security. These may include addressing issues of governance, promoting human rights, and addressing the root causes of conflict such as poverty, inequality, and marginalization.

In summary, the theory of Community-Based Reintegration offers a framework for achieving sustainable peace and security in Borno state through reintegration and resettlement efforts. By focusing on community ownership, holistic support, and collaboration among stakeholders, this approach aims to restore social cohesion, empower individuals, and address the underlying causes of conflict for a more peaceful and secure future.

a solution for sustainable peace and security in Borno state is based on the theory that addressing the root causes of conflict and addressing the needs of individuals and communities affected by it is crucial for long-term peace and stability.

Community-Based Reintegration (CBR) is an approach that focuses on reintegrating and resettling individuals who have been involved in violence or have been affected by conflict back into their communities in a sustainable manner. This approach recognizes that

individuals who have been involved in violence may have complex needs and challenges that must be addressed for successful reintegration.

Here are some key aspects of the CBR model:

- i. Community Engagement:** The success of CBR relies on the active involvement and engagement of the local community. Communities play a vital role in facilitating the reintegration process by providing support, acceptance, and opportunities for the individuals returning from conflict.
- ii. Restorative Justice:** CBR emphasizes the use of restorative justice mechanisms. These mechanisms aim to address the harms caused by conflict and seek to promote healing, reconciliation, and accountability. By involving the community in the process, restorative justice can help rebuild trust and foster a sense of justice and security.
- iii. Holistic Approach:** CBR recognizes that successful reintegration requires addressing the diverse needs of individuals. This includes providing access to basic services such as healthcare, education, livelihood opportunities, and psychosocial support. By addressing these needs, CBR aims to reduce the risk of individuals being drawn back into violence or engaging in criminal activities due to desperation.
- iv. Skills Training and Education:** Empowering individuals through skills training and educational opportunities is a crucial component of CBR. By equipping individuals with the necessary skills and knowledge, they can contribute to their communities' socio-economic development and become active agents of positive change.
- v. Conflict Prevention:** CBR also focuses on preventing the recurrence of conflict by addressing underlying grievances, promoting social cohesion, and building resilience within communities. By providing communities with the necessary tools and resources to resolve conflicts peacefully, CBR contributes to sustainable peace and security.

Implementing CBR requires a collaborative effort involving the government, local communities, civil society organizations, and international partners. It is essential to ensure that the process is inclusive, responsive to local needs, and adequately resourced. By embracing the principles of CBR, Borno state can work towards sustainable peace and security by providing opportunities for reintegration and resettlement that address the root causes of conflict and build resilient communities.

Methodology

The appropriate methods to conduct this study were archival research. Reintegration and resettlement as a solution for sustainable peace and security in Borno state have been analyzed thematically. It refers to the process used by the researcher to gather the information needed for the research. In this regard, the study used secondary data. The secondary data used in this study include information in newspapers, magazines, articles, journals, news media television radio, documentaries, columns, expert interview, internet source, publication, textbook and commentaries. The obtained data were discussed and interpreted analytically. This information was collected from these sources and researched. A rigorous method of content analysis, the main goal of content analysis is to transform recorded data into data that can be scientifically processed to generate knowledge. The rationale for using content analysis of documents and other secondary data sources is that it allows research to be conducted in places where the study does not have physical access to the respondents and thus cannot be investigated in other ways. This study was conducted using quantitative approaches that combine many research modules.

Discussion result and findings

Several research studies have examined the topic of reintegration and resettlement as a solution for sustainable peace and security in Borno state. These studies provide crucial findings that shed light on the potential effectiveness and challenges associated with implementing such strategies. Here are some key findings:

- i. Addressing root causes:** Sustainable peace and security in Borno state require going beyond military interventions and focusing on addressing the root causes of conflict. Research suggests that reintegration and resettlement programs can contribute to sustainable peace by addressing underlying grievances, poverty, inequality, and marginalization.
- ii. Community involvement:** Effective reintegration and resettlement efforts require active community involvement. Studies emphasize the importance of engaging local communities in planning and decision-making processes to ensure the success and sustainability of these programs. Community participation builds trust, enhances ownership, and promotes social cohesion.
- iii. Economic opportunities:** Lack of economic opportunities is often a driving factor for conflict and insecurity. Findings indicate that successful reintegration and resettlement programs should prioritize providing sustainable livelihood options to returnees and host communities. Access to income-generating activities, vocational training, and entrepreneurship opportunities can enhance economic stability and reduce the risk of re-radicalization.
- iv. Social cohesion and reconciliation:** Promoting social cohesion and reconciliation is vital for sustainable peace. Research highlights the importance of fostering dialogue, trust-building, and reconciliation processes between returnees, host communities, and other stakeholders. These initiatives can help mend relationships, address grievances, and create an inclusive and harmonious society.
- v. Security sector reform:** Ensuring long-term peace requires effective security sector reform. Studies emphasize the need for professionalizing security forces, enhancing their capacity, and promoting respect for human rights. Collaboration and coordination between the security sector, communities, and other relevant actors are crucial to ensure the safety and security of all.
- vi. Gender considerations:** Gender dynamics play a significant role in reintegration and resettlement efforts. Research highlights the need for gender-sensitive programs that address the unique challenges faced by women, including access to justice, education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. Empowering women and promoting gender equality are essential for sustainable peace and security.

It is important to note that while these findings provide valuable insights, the context in Borno state is complex and dynamic. Therefore, it is crucial to consider these findings alongside ongoing research, expert opinions, and the specific needs and priorities of the affected communities for effective implementation.

Summary

Reintegration and resettlement play crucial roles in achieving sustainable peace and security in Borno state. Borno state, located in northeastern Nigeria, has been severely affected by the Boko Haram insurgency, leading to widespread displacement, destruction, and heightened security concerns. To restore stability and promote lasting peace, reintegration and resettlement initiatives are vital.

Reintegration involves the process of restoring and reintegrating individuals affected by conflict or displacement back into their communities. In the context of Borno state, this includes individuals who have either been abducted by Boko Haram, involved in the insurgency, or displaced due to the conflict. Properly executed reintegration efforts address various aspects such as psychological healing, livelihood support, education, and social integration.

Psychological healing is crucial to help individuals overcome trauma and rebuild their lives. Providing counseling and mental health support is essential in this regard. Additionally, empowering individuals through vocational training and access to income-generating activities is vital for reintegrating them economically. This includes offering skills training, facilitating job placements, or supporting entrepreneurial endeavors.

Access to education is another critical aspect of reintegration. It helps reintegrated individuals, especially children and youths, to regain a sense of normalcy and acquire the necessary skills for their future. Building schools, providing educational resources, and organizing catch-up programs can help facilitate the reintegration of displaced children into the education system.

In parallel with reintegration efforts, resettlement plays a pivotal role in ensuring sustainable peace and security. Resettlement aims to provide a safe and secure environment for displaced individuals by facilitating their return to their original communities or by relocating them to new areas if necessary. Resettlement efforts should focus on providing adequate infrastructure, basic services, and security measures in the resettlement areas (NAPA, 2017).

To ensure the success of reintegration and resettlement programs, close collaboration and coordination between governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, and local communities are crucial. This partnership can help identify the needs and priorities of the affected population, design appropriate interventions, and ensure the effective utilization of resources.

By promoting reintegration and resettlement, Borno state can achieve sustainable peace and security in multiple ways. First, it helps restore a sense of normalcy and social cohesion among affected communities. Second, it provides opportunities for economic empowerment, reducing the risk of re-radicalization or involvement in criminal activities. Third, by addressing the root causes of conflict and displacement, it contributes to long-term stability and can prevent future conflicts.

In conclusion, reintegration and resettlement are instrumental in achieving sustainable peace and security in Borno state. These initiatives address the physical, psychological, and socio-economic needs of individuals affected by conflict and displacement. By promoting healing, empowerment, and community cohesion, reintegration and resettlement offer viable solutions to rebuild lives, enhance security, and foster lasting peace in Borno state.

Conclusion

Conclusively, it could be affirmed that reintegration of former Boko Haram militants will not succeed if the broader contours of the conflict are not dealt with. Specifically, a wider justice and resettlement package is a prerequisite one that convinces, prepares, and equips communities to receive former fighters and sustained pressure from the military are needed. Just like the ex-fighters, Boko Haram's victims should receive support to rebuild their lives and livelihoods. Extending the kind of vocational trainings defectors receive at the deradicalization camp to communities and providing trainees with starting capital and/or tools will not only empower society economically, but also reduce resentment toward ex-militants returning home with marketable skills. The government should establish

psychosocial therapy and other healing efforts to help communities accepting returning fighters recover from the atrocities they experienced. Informational campaigns to help communities understand why ex-militants are being granted amnesty and what vetting and deradicalization processes they have gone through will help as well. Moreover, to avoid further straining relations between Nigeria's Muslim and Christian communities, the government must ensure that different religious groups are closely involved and receive adequate representation in the reconciliation process. Finally, some form of community-based truth-telling, justice, forgiveness, and reconciliation mechanism should be instituted. Religious, traditional, and community leaders can play a vital role in this as they are important vectors of communication.

This intervention is aimed at ensuring that reconciliation and reintegration efforts contribute to redressing the drivers of the conflict, it does not aim to re-establish pre-insurgency conditions or contribute to strengthening structures which have traditionally marginalised and excluded the most vulnerable. Counterinsurgency measures by the Nigerian state must involve all actors in the conflict. According to the Institute for Security Studies (ISS), the voices of the community must be magnified when considering dialogue as a counter-terrorism intervention. ISS projects that community actors are best placed to understand the required concessions and possible successes of any dialogue process. Besides, since communities are directly affected by the conflict and the reintegration programmes, their buy-in is vital for the success and sustainability of peace and security in post insurgency period in Borno state.

Recommendations

The issue of addressing injustices and inequalities through job creation remains at the core of achieving a sustainable peace and security in Borno State. Hence, Government should identify and tackle all root causes of violent conflicts with sincerity of purpose. Key areas for peace and security subsume within the context of reintegration and resettlement in post insurgency period in Borno state should be geared towards;

- i. The policy objectives of reintegration and resettlement programmes should therefore be established before programmes are initiated.
- ii. The development of advocacy partnerships with religious and traditional leaders.
- iii. Decision-making processes on reintegration related issues should therefore be broadened and harmonised to include relevant external and domestic stakeholders, including domestic civil society organizations.
- iv. Policy coordination mechanisms and funding arrangements among different institutions and national actors at the state and local government levels should pay particular attention to the reintegration programme in order to link immediate security concerns with the longer-term imperatives of economic and social welfare.
- v. Reintegration and resettlement programmes should ensure that special consideration is given to child soldiers and vulnerable groups including girl soldiers, orphans, and adult combatants who entered the conflict as children. Military planning, doctrine, training, and other operational matters for peacekeeping forces should be adjusted to better deal with the challenges related to child soldiers. An early post-war priority should be to mandate the immediate removal of all child soldiers from local armed forces, and put in place programmes that pay particular attention to issues such as family reintegration, education and vocational training.

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