

## **Tackling Terrorism for Socio-Economic Development in Lake Chad: Policy Implications for Sustainable Peace**

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### **Abstract**

*Terrorism presents a real threat to Lake Chad region and has continuously deteriorated as violent conflict and human suffering have marked parts of Nigeria and Niger, Chad and Cameroon for the better part of a decade. Boko Haram raids and suicide bombings targeting civilian populations have destroyed vital infrastructure, threatening entire economies and preventing people from earning their livelihoods. This paper critically examines the pertinent issue of terrorism in Lake Chad region and its implications for socio-economic development. Although, the government's claim is that the insurgency has been degraded, available data on the level and dimensions of insecurity in the region reveals an increase over time, which constitutes serious widespread trauma, suffering and displacement of women and children. Thus, the paper upholds that the current threat to lives and properties in Lake Chad region hinders economic activities and discourages local and foreign investors which stifles and retards sustainable development in the region. Also, the paper leverages on descriptive and content analysis research design upon which secondary data are primly used. Within the context of policy framework, cosmopolitanism is employed to explain feasible solutions to the rising wave of insecurity in Lake Chad. In the light of the above, the paper prescribes an immediate decisive action to muster the resources required to develop creative and effective responses in dealing with security issues to achieve sustainable development in the region. However, a high level of political will is required from leaders in the region for there to be a sustainable peace and chance of success in socio-economic development of Lake Chad.*

**Keywords:** Terrorism, Socio-Economic Development, Cosmopolitanism and Peace.

### **Introduction**

The terrorist insurgency in Lake Chad Basin which encompassing parts of Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Niger is currently one of the largest crisis in the world, with 11 million people in need of assistance. Among them 6.9 million people are severely food insecure, as well as 2.5 million displaced, which is second largest displacement crisis in the world (Human Right Watch, 2016). The alarming level of insecurity in the region has fueled the crime rate and terrorists' attacks in different parts of the countries, leaving unpalatable consequences for the economies of the affected countries.

Boko Haram raids and suicide bombings targeting civilian populations have destroyed vital infrastructure such as hospitals, schools, roads, markets and farmland, threatening entire economies and preventing people from earning their livelihoods (Ashley, 2012). Widespread trauma, suffering and displacement count their victims in the millions. Across the sub-region, people are on the move trying to escape threats to their lives, liberty and other human rights in search of safety and protection.

Despite the progress made against Boko Haram, the terrorist group remains a threat, demonstrated by an intensification of attacks within the region. It is important to keep in mind that this crisis, while catalyzed by conflict, is multidimensional and encompasses the security, humanitarian, climate change and economic issues that local populations in the region have been facing as a result of the long-running violence associated with Boko Haram. The fundamental objective of this paper is to examine high level of terrorist attack in the Lake Chad basin for sustainable socio-economic development to take place. The crisis is complex, and so is the road to achieve the sustainable peace in the region. However, to effectively address economic, social and environmental impacts coherently, the first priority is to support the affected countries in consolidating peace processes and, at the same time, responding to the humanitarian emergency through a regional, integrated and comprehensive approach in which national actors are on the front line.

## ***Conceptual and Theoretical Clarification***

### **Concept of Terrorism**

The modern word *terror* and *terrorism* are derived from the Latin verb *terrere*, to cause tremble, and *deterre*, to frighten from. *Terrorism* and *terrorist* did not come into use until the period of the French Revolution in the 1790's (Mutiullah and Onwuagana, 2017). The term was used by Edmund Burke in his polemic against the French Revolution, and came to be used to denote those revolutionaries who sought to use terror systematically either to further their views or to govern, whether in France or elsewhere.

The concept of terrorism used in the contemporary academic literature is essentially political. What about the use of terrorism in the name of religious causes? Or in the pursuit of criminal gains? It is true that militant in the name of religions have often throughout history waged terror as part of a religious war, and there is much concern about the rise of contemporary terrorist groups such as Al-Qaeda, Al-Shabab, ISIL and Boko Haram. According to Bolaji (2010), terrorism is destruction of people or property by people not acting on behalf of an established government for the purpose of redressing a real or imaginary injustice attributed to an established government and aimed directly or indirectly at an established government.

To Moshi, (2002) and Miguel (2010), terrorism can be said to be the antithesis of human rights and the greatest threat to universal peace and stability in contemporary times. The international community's response to terrorism has been the gradual development, since 1963, of a legal infrastructure of 16 terrorism-related conventions and protocols, multilateral treaties, supplemental agreements and series of Security Council resolutions relating to terrorism, many of them adopted under the authority of chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, which empowers the Security Council to adopt resolutions legally binding on all Member States of the United Nations (Obi, 2006).

Terrorism has also caused internal displacement, abduction, rape, physical abuse, human trafficking and forced marriages on the female gender. The insurgency and counter-insurgency operations pose major challenges to the protection of the rights of the female gender in the affected area of Lake Chad region as a result of the collapse of social and moral order. These challenges affect the substance of human rights norm and their scope of application (Ojo, 2010; Okpi, 2013).

### ***Concept of Peace***

Peace has always been among humanity's highest values. Peace is seen as concord, or harmony and tranquility. It is viewed as peace of mind or serenity and a state of law or civil government, a state of justice or goodness, a balance or equilibrium of Powers (Mutiullah, 2014). Peace in this context also attribute a situation where every man in society gives to neighbor, when government gives to it citizens that which is their due.

Furthermore, in his own expression Rosato (2003) opined on what he called "true peace result from true order, that is to say, an order not imposed by forced, oppression, fear, threats, blackmail and other similar negative tendencies, but an order in society in harmony with man's reasonable "nature". In line with this definition Ray (2004) posit that "peace is that order that provides what is needed to sustain life and self-respect; it is that order that produces a society that is free, harmonious, honored by all, cultured and religious. "We can attest to it that peace comes from order steaming from reasonable nature of mankind tolerance and self-control.

Peace is not only the absence of armed conflict, it is also a dynamic set of relationships of coexistence and co-operation among and within peoples, characterized by the respect for the human values with the concern to provide the greatest possible well-being for all. Peace is increasingly threatened each day in Africa by the accumulation of weapons of mass destruction, by the great economic and social inequalities that divide mankind, and by contempt for basic human rights and the dignity of the individual which require a greater effort to overcome. It is only possible in a world in which the observance of international law replaces violence, fear and injustice with peace.

The peace question has to be seen in two aspects: peace should be conceptualized and perceived not only in the negative sense of minimizing or resolving conflict but also in the positive sense of creating material conditions which provide for the mass of the people a certain minimum condition of security, economic welfare, political efficacy and psychic well-being. The two positions are intimately related not only for the purpose of analysis or as an intellectual exercise but as the only meaningful and fruitful way to face the peace problematic and define the practical conditions for societal peace and development (Oneal, and Russett, 2001).

### ***Sustainable Development***

The concept of sustainable development is not novel. In fact, it has been known and canvassed, admittedly with less zeal, for decades. The concept has, however, become quite 'politically correct', that it has been generously applied to other socio-economic areas like health, education, and transportation. Indeed, the popularity of the concept has generated a growing literature in the field of knowledge. The term Sustainable Development has been widely used and discussed for since the mid-1980s. There are numerous definitions of sustainability and sustainable development, but the best known is possibly the one stated in World Commission on Environment and Development's (the Brundtland Commission) report "Our Common Future" from 1987. This suggests that development is sustainable where it "*meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future Generations to meet their own needs.*"

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) defined "sustainability" as follows: The intensified and sustainable demand for land, water, marine and coastal resources resulting from the expansion of agriculture and uncontrolled urbanization leading to increased degradation of natural ecosystems and erode the life supporting system that upholds human civilization. For Lake Chad, the need to achieve Sustainable Development Goals is pivotal at this point because of the numerous challenges of terrorism arising from corruption, unemployment, poverty and economic inequality and religious extremism which are not in any way respectful of economic, social, and environmental concerns.

### ***Peace and Development***

It is pertinent to note that peace and development are inextricably intertwined. Removal of conflict, as we have argued, is only the minimalist condition for the attainment of peace. For a lasting and reliable peace to be attained, it is important to fashion economic systems which can generate sustained economic growth, guarantee for the mass of the population a certain minimum of material existence or basic needs. This would not in itself remove all conflict but it would eliminate some of the causes of tension which lead to conflict. It is not by accident that at a time of economic depression there has been an increase in inter-personal and inter-group social conflict. This has been made more likely by Africa's poor development record (Omuoha, 2013).

The African development experience for the last two decades has been a major disappointment, whatever the developmental options. The hopes of the early 1960s have not been fulfilled and disillusionment seems to have set in. This has led to a sobering reappraisal which has resulted in many debates. These have led to the emergence of two main schools of thought. The modernization school, relying on the historical framework of the development of capitalism in the West, puts forward a model in which through the process of diffusion of innovation and the provision of certain inputs like capital, managerial training, change of attitudes and the removal of archaic and outmoded processes, development is seen as a linear progression from the present underdevelopment of Africa to a replica of Europe. The basic assumption here is that the transition is replicable. If that is true then all that is required is the realization of its potential. According to this model African capitalism is not only possible, but desirable; it is the one sure road to success. Rostow, Hagen and others have produced the intellectual basis of this position.

### ***Cosmopolitanism***

An emerging cosmopolitan approach insists that the maintenance of truly stable international peace and security requires a particular way of understanding, organizing and conducting peace operations. Drawing from cosmopolitan political theory, cosmopolitan conceptions of global governance emphasize inclusivity and accountability (e.g. Held 1995; Caney 2005) and principles of conflict resolution (Miall et al. 2005). As argued, it offers a philosophy of public governance suited to the global conditions of the twenty first century, (Held 2004; Archibugi 2004). Central to cosmopolitanism is the principle of global social justice crudely, that the duty to ensure fairness in the conduct of social relations is not confined simply to compatriots. The scope of justice, in other words, knows no boundaries. This is a very demanding requirement for it asserts that duties and responsibilities transcend borders. In a world in which poverty and enormous inequalities coexist with huge concentrations of wealth and affluence, cosmopolitanism constitutes a radical project for global social justice.

Taking cosmopolitan justice seriously must therefore involve accepting that, in some extreme circumstances, protective or corrective intervention in the domestic affairs of states in Lake Chad Basin may be necessary in order to advance justice or remedy injustice that led to high level of insecurity ravaging the socio-economic

development of the affected four states. This prognosis provides a good context for understanding insecurity in Lake Chad, given its relation with the crisis generated by globalization and the international economy. In view of this, it is suggested that the implementation of two streams of cosmopolitan thinking, that is ethical cosmopolitanism that advocates global social justice and political (or Institutional) cosmopolitanism that has much to say about the structures and forms of political life is necessary for the creation of more democratic governance, from the region to the global levels.

### ***Synopsis of Lake Chad***

Lake Chad gave its name to the country of Chad. The name *Chad* is a local word meaning "large expanse of water", in other words, a "lake". Lake Chad was first surveyed from shore by Europeans in 1823, and it was considered to be one of the largest lakes in the world then. Lake Chad is a historically large, shallow, endothermic lake in Africa, which has varied in size over the centuries. According to the *Global Resource Information Database* of the United Nations Environment Programme, it shrank by as much as 95% from about 1963 to 1998, but "the 2007 (satellite) image shows significant improvement over previous years (UNEP, 2007). Lake Chad is economically important, providing water to more than 30 million people living in the four countries surrounding it (Chad, Cameroon, Niger, and Nigeria) on the edge of the Sahara. It is the largest lake in the Chad Basin. Lake Chad is mainly in the far west of Chad, bordering on northeastern Nigeria. The Chari River, fed by its tributary the Logone, provides over 90% of the lake's water, with a small amount coming from the Yobe River in Nigeria/Niger. Despite high levels of evaporation, the lake is fresh water. Over half of the lake's area is taken up by its many small islands (including the Bogomerom archipelago), reedbeds and mud banks, and a belt of swampland across the middle divides the northern and southern halves. The shorelines are largely composed of marshes.

Lake Chad is the principal life source of the Sahel, a semiarid band that spans the width of Africa and separates the Sahara, in the north, from the savanna, in the south. Around a hundred million people live there. For the next two decades, the entire region was stricken with drought and famine. The rivers feeding into Lake Chad dried up, and the islanders noticed a permanent decline in the size and the number of fish. Recently, the Lake Chad region has become the setting of the world's most complex humanitarian disaster, devastated by converging scourges of climate change, violent extremism, food insecurity, population explosion, disease, poverty, weak statehood, and corruption.

The Lake Chad Basin is suffering from one of the world's largest overlooked humanitarian crises today. Almost half the population living in areas affected by Boko Haram violence is in need of humanitarian assistance. According to Multiple International Charities (2016), 2.6 million people have been forced to flee their homes, at least 65,000 people in the region are experiencing famine-like conditions and 6.4 million people are facing crisis or emergency levels of food insecurity.

### ***Evolution of Terrorist Insurgency in Lake Chad Basin***

The global incidence of terrorism has increased alarmingly since September 11, 2001. The concerted efforts embarked upon by the international community to ensure its elimination have been noted but have hitherto proved inadequate. This increase is not unconnected with the balance of terror and the wave of global insecurity that shaped the beginning of the 21st century; it is the product of unresolved issues of the Cold War and the continuation of the ideological war between the west and the Islam. Africa, and indeed Nigeria, have in the past decade been bedeviled by an increased incidence of insurgencies, recording a high level of destruction of both property and lives. The most recent rebellion in the Lake Chad Basin Area is the Boko Haram uprising which emanated from Nigeria in July 2009. Other examples of the terror siege on Nigeria and Africa in general were the Maitatsine uprising of the 1980s in Nigeria, the Al-Shabaab in Somalia and al-Qaeda in the Maghreb, which is a menace to peace and security in the region. Since the advent of Boko Haram in the Lake Chad region, the security situation has been in a state of confusion.

Since 2009, Boko Haram has attacked the Northeast of Nigeria, capturing territories and spreading to some parts of the Lake Chad Basin (LCB) region of Niger, Chad and Cameroon. Nigeria started an onslaught on Boko Haram at the onset of its activities in the Northeast; however, before the formation of the joint task force by the Lake Chad Basin regional authorities, the activities of the sect had spread to neighboring countries. Apparently the terrorists targeted these countries for attacks in retribution for their participation in the regional joint task force and for daring to support Nigeria's efforts in quelling the insurgency (Enobi and Johnson-Rokosu, 2016).

The cost of combating the attacks and defeating the terrorist group has been confounding and has already taken its toll on the LCB. Fighting the scourge of terrorist war in the LCB has been monumental for an impoverished region that for years had been struggling with deforestation and other human activities due to climate change.

Boko Haram, according to Anyadike (2013) set not only a precedent but also strengthened an attempt by the Nigerian conservative elements to impose a different Islamic religious ideology on a secular Nigerian state in particular. Other insurgencies in the sub region include the Tuareg rebellion of 2007-2009 led by the Sahara Desert Tuaregs of northern Mali and the Niger Republic. Chad has been inundated with a series of crises such as the Chadian civil war of 2005-2010, which has created a mass of disgruntled elements in that country. These disgruntled elements have served as a reservoir for recruitment for insurgency groups. Cameroon has been relatively peaceful, with a major exception being the February 2008 uprising due to a hike in fuel prices at the pump in that country. The aftermath of this unrest has left scars that must be managed by the government. Without the support of the international community and international antiterrorist agencies, such as the European Union, the region might not be able to defeat the scourge of terrorism. The situation has been compounded where such uprisings came with a level of political undertone, such as the accusation that trailed the emergence of Boko Haram at the onset.

The sect has demonstrated an unparalleled impunity of the highest order by openly claiming responsibility for several bombings and sniper activities in northern and central Nigeria, thereby placing the nation at the threshold of disintegration as suspicion and accusations between Muslims and Christians continued to rage. The level of terror and destruction that Boko Haram has unleashed on Nigeria has been devastating. The pattern of Boko Haram's devastation and the destruction arising from it has invariably undermined peace and security, not only in the country but also in the Lake Chad Basin. However, to bring an end to the Boko Haram threat in the Lake Chad Basin region, affected countries must address the root causes that contributed to the emergence of the group, including the social, economic and political grievances of marginalized communities.

### ***Implications of the Insurgency to Lake Chad Security***

Boko Haram's violent conflict in the Lake Chad Basin has continued. There are constant raids and suicide bombings, creating fears and widespread trauma for people and preventing them from accessing basic essential services, and damaging infrastructure. The Lake Chad Basin harbors about 21 million inhabitants from Nigeria, Niger, Chad and Cameroon. These people are among the World's poorest and most vulnerable. There has been the mind-boggling scenario of food insecurity, and malnutrition has gotten to a critical level (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2016). The territorial integrity of any nation is treated with reverence, and no nation can afford to do otherwise. Without proper security to maintain territorial integrity, every aspect of human endeavor, be it health, environment, food, economy, politics, or the social and or physiological, stands to be greatly affected by the security or insecurity of that nation. In recent times, the Lake Chad security environment has been bogged down with challenging security issues championed by the Boko Haram insurgency. These terror attacks have had negative implications for the socioeconomic and political health, as well as the security, of the Lake Chad region.

The effect of Boko Haram terror on the security of the area cannot be over-emphasized. People are now being denied their fundamental human rights and cannot exercise freedom of movement or worship for fear of being attacked by members of the sect. The planting and carrying of explosives has been a common method of the sect. The most dangerous of the activities of Boko Haram is the conscription of young boys and girls, who have been brainwashed to believe that their heaven is assured if they die in the process of "fighting for Allah." Sometimes they are even put under the influence of dangerous drugs to perform these heinous acts. Boko Haram has created fear in the minds of the people. Churches and mosques were bombed while people were worshipping. The almost simultaneous bomb explosions at St. Theresa's Catholic Church in Madalla, Niger state; Mountain of Fire and Miracles Church in Jos, Plateau state; and Gadaka in Yobe state on Christmas day 2011 are still fresh in memory (Allen and Silver, 2011).

Boko Haram has also put the military to shame and revealed its inadequacies. The security situation became so precarious that the Nigerian leadership became suspicious of the incompetence of their military commanders. This suspicion has led to their regular replacement. The inadequacies and incompetence allegations were validated by Air Chief Marshal Alex Badeh, former Nigerian Chief of Defense Staff (CDS), who was quoted as saying that "the military he headed lacked adequate equipment to fight Boko Haram."

Boko Haram has plunged its area of operation into long-time insecurity and danger. Troops of the Nigerian Army have reported cases of mines along the routes frequented by people, which only military engineers have the technical knowledge to breach. It is, however, doubtful if the Nigerian Army engineers have such sophisticated modern equipment. However, the defense spokesman, Major General Chris Olukolade, has denied this allegation. In a report carried by Reuters (Abdallah, 2015), a soldier was quoted as saying, “soldiers have retreated to Bama because of mines. They had been on the road but that made them vulnerable, so they moved to the bush, but there are mines planted there [too].” A member of a local vigilante group, Muhammad Mungonu, corroborated the soldier’s statement as he said, “Three of our boys were killed by a landmine as we progressed into Sambisa. We have suspended going farther” (Abdallah, 2015). An additional issue with mines is that even after hostilities have ended, these mines will remain dangerous to the inhabitants of the area. Europe and Asia are still grappling with mine-contaminated environments long after the Second World War. Busé (2000) has contended that:

Explosives and mines from WWI and WWII still turn up on European and Asian construction sites, backyard gardens, beaches, wildlife preserves and former military training grounds . . . these discoveries are not isolated incidents but are the result of hastily cleared ammunition dumps, training ground, bombings and mine fields from these wars.

Another critical security issue is that hoodlums and other criminal gangs have hijacked the situation to perpetrate their nefarious activities. Kidnapping has increased in the areas affected by the insurgency. The case is assuming a dangerous dimension as criminal gangs have taken advantage of the situation by planting bombs and kidnapping and killing innocent people in the affected areas.

The Boko Haram insurgency has also exposed the security lapses of security outfits in the sub-region, especially those involved in information gathering. It has shown that the security agencies are not adequately equipped with enough apparatus to gather information on impending attacks to nip them in the bud. These lapses account for these agencies not being proactive enough to expose planned attacks by the insurgents before they take place. The attacks on institutions such as various police stations and the United Nations building in Abuja, or the kidnapping of the Chibok and Dapchi girls, were a result of this weakness.

As mentioned earlier, one of the causes of insurgency in Nigeria has been the massive unemployment facing youths, which has provided a ready market for recruitment for the sect in the sub-region. Illiteracy compounds the already bad situation, a result of negligence in education from the successive governments of the political elites of that part of West Africa. The situation has led to the closure of schools and the collapse of business activities in the region. Boko Haram terrorism has resulted in a drastic reduction in economic investment in the sub-region. The situation in this sub-region has become worrisome; aside from the massive socioeconomic implications, the human cost is unquantifiable. It is, even more, disturbing in an area that is in dire need of development in all facets of human endeavors.

### ***Tackling Terrorism for Sustainable Peace in Lake Chad***

Nigeria initially saw the Boko Haram insurgency as a strictly internal problem which it thought could be taken care of without external influence. This assertion is not contestable considering the political, economic, military and population of the country. But with large swathes of many territories falling into the hands of the insurgents, Nigeria had no option but to cooperate with the neighboring countries to form the Multi-National Task Force (MNJTF). The activities of the sect prompted the sub-region to establish the MNJTF, comprising soldiers from Nigeria, Niger, Chad and Cameroon as granted by the African Union in February 2016. The response of the adjacent countries of Chad, Niger, and Cameroon was spontaneous as they agreed without much persuasion to join in contributing to the MNJTF (Thérout-Bénoni, 2016). The MNJTF, with its headquarters in Ndjamena, has been able to canalize the insurgents and restrict them within the Sambisa forest as the push against them was on all fronts. The present situation sees the fighting deescalating given the successes that the MNJTF has achieved. For instance, the cases of bombing have drastically reduced since the line of supply of the insurgents had been cut. They now lack food and ammunition, and even communication to the outside world seems to have been reduced. Other achievements of the MNJTF include an improvement of the security situation as many of the territories hitherto controlled by the insurgents have been taken back and people are returning home. One achievement is the recent release of some Chibok school girls abducted two years ago. The activities of the region have received a boost from the international community. The United States government in August 2016 offered over \$37 million to the Lake Chad Basin for humanitarian assistance.

The United Nations Regional Coordinator in assessing the situation said the region would require at least \$559 million in the next four months to ease the crisis in the area (Channels Television, October 14, 2016). It is a fact of history that development thrives in a peaceful environment. Consequently, all hands must be on deck to ensure peace and stem the tide of Boko Haram's terrorism from Nigeria and her neighbors. It is quite evident that Lake Chad has not fared well in its quest for an industrial and technological breakthrough since independence, and this has forced these nations to rely on importation for virtually everything; terrorism will only worsen the situation. Consequently, it is necessary for governments at all levels to create an enabling environment for investment and industrial growth by ensuring the security of lives and property in the country.

Boko Haram terrorism, which has created palpable fear and a meaningful sense of insecurity in the polity and undermined the country's growth and development, should be tackled with all seriousness by the government. Security agencies, especially those concerned with intelligence gathering and analysis, must be empowered, motivated, and adequately mobilized to combat criminality and insecurity.

Also, effective legislation that will adequately punish offenders and deter potential criminals must be put in place. A situation where criminals are offered amnesty and put on bumper payroll will not only undermine security but also encourage more people to enter into criminality with the expectations of amnesty and consequent monthly remunerations from the government, just for being repentant criminals. An example of this is the Niger Delta Amnesty Programme and the proposed offer of amnesty to Boko Haram insurgents (Adebayo, 2014). The government can, however, do better by providing social amenities.

There should be proper coordination of border patrol, and efficient regulation of the influx of immigrants among the member nations of the Lake Chad Basin into their countries to forestall the recruitment into criminal gangs. The Lake Chad Basin governments should, as a matter of urgency, conduct a credible national population census and national identity registration to ensure that their nationals are easily identified anywhere they go.

There is the need for the government to embark on poverty alleviation programs that will impact positively on the lives of the people. The improved physical, social, and psychological quality of life of a society and its members, both in a domestic setting and within the larger regional and global system, will give the citizens a deeper sense of patriotism. Accordingly, the government must introduce elements that have the capacity to provide the citizens with economic, social, and political conditions that would ensure happiness and relative prosperity. Security awareness should be made inclusive. There should be a massive orientation of all citizens, regardless of their level of education, to be aware of the importance of the security of the country and ensure they place it above any personal interests. The tranquillity and well-being of any society are necessary components of national security.

The devastating decline of youth unemployment is an issue that needs to be critically addressed by the governments of these nations. The generation of employment for the teeming population is a critical problem that requires the urgent attention of the government, vigorously and aggressively pursued. The engagement of unemployed youths would automatically result in depletion in the number of youths always readily available for recruitment into various criminal gangs. The inference is that the reduction of youth unemployment will translate to a reduction in crime and engender national sustainable development. Youths are an important segment of the society, who should be encouraged to channel their energies into productive ventures that can lead to national development by being positively engaged in the system and discouraged from activities that could be detrimental to the growth of the country. Therefore, every action taken towards youth employment is a step towards crime reduction, as well as towards national development.

Governments of the Lake Chad Basin Area must eschew corruption in the fight against criminality and insecurity. Overzealous government officials should not squander security budgets both at state and federal levels, but rather adequately utilize funds for combating security challenges. The citizens regularly paying their taxes and fulfilling other state obligations should be well compensated and protected by the state agencies responsible for such tasks. To this extent, the current charges against the former National Security Adviser (NSA) to the government of Nigeria for involvement in a scandal focusing on the mismanagement of money meant for procurement of weapons for fighting the insurgency should not be swept under the carpet. There must be sincerity on the part of government functionaries to ensure judicious use of funds meant for the security of lives and property. The government must address critically and pragmatically the issue of the *Almajiris* in the subregion. However, in recent times they have become street urchins and a menace to society. It should be reformed to make the children in the system useful to both themselves and society when they grow older. To this end, education must be given priority, aggressively pursued, and made compulsory for all children, including the physically challenged.

## **Conclusion**

Until the causes of underdevelopment in West Africa is tackled in its entirety, through democratic governance, sound economic, social and environmental policies, terrorism in Lake Chad will continue to present a major threat to peace in the sub-region. Terrorism in Lake Chad emanates from poverty which is a product of underdevelopment. The current cycle of poverty, hunger and privation in the sub-region is the direct consequence of political, social, economic and environmental underdevelopment.

The arrangement where Nigeria, Niger, Chad and Cameroun continue to produce cash crops and raw material for export while serving as market for manufactured goods cannot continue indefinitely. The increasing growth of population, falling commodity prices and subsequent pressure on the environment, if not reversed, will result in further deterioration in the quality of life within the sub-region which may lead to more social unrest and conflict, even if current spate of terrorism is defeated. Lake Chad Basin countries therefore need to adopt policies that will replace this unfair trade arrangement with a more equitable economic order that will be beneficial to both the sub-region and the developed world. An economically integrated Lake Chad Basin will improve the economic fortunes of its member states in terms of commerce and bargaining power, both regionally and globally.

## **Recommendations**

Arising from the findings of this paper, the following recommendations are therefore prescribed:

1. It is necessary for the international community to support and encourages progress by regional processes, which are more democratic and effective forms of integration that will give primacy to development and human security in Lake Chad. The primacy should be able to respect the principle of responsibility and mutual benefit. These conditions will further develop and exploit the potential of sub-regional cooperation in order to promote self-sustaining peace and security in Lake Chad Basin.
2. Out of four countries in Lake Chad, three were former colonies of France and most of the conflicts and violence in Lake Chad occurred in these countries. This is due to the assimilation policy, which France applied during her colonization process of Africa. France should therefore take a leading role in peace building in the sub-region and be responsible for reconstruction of conflict torn countries in Lake Chad.
3. Regional integration emphasizes on socio-economic aspects of integration. The other aspects of political integration and democratic socio-economic development have not been incorporated. It is recommended that all aspects mentioned including participation, social justice, equality, eradication of poverty and divisive and segregative ideologies among the people should be incorporated.
4. Regional organizations have played an important role in peace building in Africa. These organizations include SADC, COMESA, ECOWAS, EAC, and IGAD. The strengthening and consolidation of these regional organizations should be carried out within the context of the strengthened and consolidated African Union.
5. The Lake Chad Basin Authority should strengthening the multinational synergies with world superpowers to facilitate the rescue and return of abducted school girls particularly from Chibok and Dapchi in Nigeria by Boko Haram terrorist group. In addition, the Nigerian government should facilitate the rehabilitation and reintegration of such rescued persons.
6. Furthermore, the Military Joint Task Force should adopt an intelligence approach in combating the terrorist groups because this will be an effective way to put an end to the insurgency and also a means to mitigate the effect of the insurgency on the socio-economic development of the affected countries.
7. Finally, countries in Lake Chad Commission should tackle the causes of the terrorist group Boko Haram such as corruption, unemployment, poverty and economic inequality and religious extremism so as to ensure sustainable peace in the sub-region.



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