

EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF TERRORISM ON NATIONAL SECURITY (2019-2025): THE CASE OF BOKO HARAM IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

This study evaluated the impact of Boko Haram insurgency on national security in Nigeria between 2019 and 2025. Employing a descriptive survey research design, the population of the study was 6,420 individuals and data were collected from 640 respondents comprising security personnel, government officials, community leaders, and adult residents across selected Local Government Areas in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe States, purposively chosen due to high insurgency intensity. The study examined four dimensions: Boko Haram's tactics, the frequency of attacks, the economic impact on livelihoods, and the effectiveness of counter-insurgency strategies. Data were gathered using a structured questionnaire (Boko Haram Insurgency and National Security Questionnaire, BHINSQ), validated by experts, pilot-tested, and analyzed using mean and standard deviation. Findings revealed that Boko Haram employed a combination of conventional and asymmetric tactics including IEDs, suicide bombings, coordinated ambushes, drone deployment, and mass kidnappings which evolved significantly over the study period. Attacks were frequent and geographically concentrated in Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa States, disproportionately affecting both security personnel and civilians. Economically, insurgency disrupted agriculture, trade, household incomes, and local livelihoods, exacerbating poverty and humanitarian dependency. Assessments of counter-insurgency strategies indicated limited success, with challenges including corruption, equipment shortages, and border porosity, though community-based approaches and integrated strategies were recognized as more effective. The study concludes that Boko Haram insurgency poses a multidimensional threat to Nigeria's national security, underscoring the need for adaptive, integrated, and context-specific security strategies that combine military, socio-economic, and regional interventions.

Keywords: *Boko Haram, Insurgency, National Security, Counter-Insurgency, North-Eastern Nigeria, Economic Impact, Terrorism Tactics*