

Picking up the pieces: social capital, human capital and coping strategies of households displaced by Boko Haram insurgency in Northeast Nigeria

Background and Introduction

- **Boko Haram insurgency** has precipitated humanitarian tragedy on a scale comparable to the Nigerian civil war (1967-1970) and arguably the worst of any man-made or natural disaster in Nigeria's history.
 - At its peak in 2014, more than 3 million people were displaced.
- The insurgency has since escalated beyond the Nigerian border to other countries in the Lake Chad Basin (Cameroon, Niger and Chad)- with 2.5 million forcibly displaced.
- The project places a strong emphasis on the agency of displaced peoples, and how this is developed and expressed at the individual level (human capital) and the communal level (social capital).
- This project examines the extent to which the displaced and host populations are drawing on social and human capital to withstand, cope with and recover from the adverse experiences and consequences, as well as to rebuild their livelihoods.

Table 1: Profile of respondents (interviews)

ID	Category	Location	Gender	Age	Level of education
1	IDP	Gwoza, Borno State	Female	32	Primary
2	Government official	Gwoza, Borno State	Male	51	Post-secondary
3	NGO	Gwoza, Borno State	Female	31	Degree
4	Host community	Gwoza, Borno State	Male	48	Primary
5	IDP	Gwoza, Borno State	Male	28	Secondary
6	NGO	Gwoza, Borno State	Male	33	Post-secondary
7	IDP	Kasaisa, Yobe State	Male	52	No formal education
8	IDP	Kasaisa, Yobe State	Male	32	No formal education
9	IDP	Kasaisa, Yobe State	Male	41	Primary
10	IDP	Kasaisa, Yobe State	Male	51	No formal education
11	IDP	Kasaisa, Yobe State	Male	23	No formal education
12	IDP	Kasaisa, Yobe State	Female	26	Primary
13	Government official	Bakassi, Borno State	Male	25	Degree
14	NGO	Bakassi, Borno State	Male	32	Degree
15	IDP	Bakassi, Borno State	Female	36	Secondary

Implications and recommendations

- Traditional, mainly material approaches to interventions in disaster situations have come under increased scrutiny in recent years because they have failed to deliver desired long-term outcomes
- Displaced households typically rely on their networks of family and friends as the first source of support in the immediate aftermath of the insurgency
- Entrepreneurial activities and market opportunities among displaced people provides a viable pathway to generate income and thereby improve household welfare and other livelihood outcomes.
- The findings in this paper can point to opportunities and methods for humanitarian actors to stimulate social and human capital among crisis-affected people purposively as part of their interventions, with the aim of better outcomes and value for aid money.
- Governments in the affected region can use public procurement to incentivise entrepreneurship

Method

- **Study context:** Northeast Nigeria is the epicentre of the Boko Haram insurgency. It has a population of more than 30 million people spread across six states
- **Data collection:**
 - In-depth interviews of fifteen respondents across three camps for internally displaced people (IDPs), in Borno State and Yobe state—two key areas affected by the insurgency.
 - Cross-sectional survey of 810 households across 12 locations
- **Analysis:**
 - The transcripts of the interviews were then subjected to thematic analysis using NVivo11, to explore key issues relating to the role of social capital in promoting IDP entrepreneurship and livelihood recovery.

Key Concepts

- **Social capital:** "the sum of the resources, actual or virtual, that accrue to an individual or a group by virtue of possessing a durable network of more or less institutionalized relationships of mutual acquaintance and recognition" (Bourdieu and Wacquant, 1992).
- **Dimensions of Social Capital:**
 - **Structural social capital:** the structures and overall pattern of connections among actors in a network.
 - **Cognitive social capital:** intangible aspects such as trust and norms of reciprocity (Nahapiet and Ghoshal, 1998; Baum and Ziersch, 2001)
 - **Relational social capital:** the type of personal relationships actors have, and how it influences their behaviours within the system
- **Forms of Social Capital:**
 - **Bonding social capital** between people with similar socio-economic characteristic and family and religious identities
 - **Bridging social capital** among people belonging to different ethnic, social and religious groupings
 - **Linking social capital** between citizens and those in authorities (Claridge, 2013).
- **Human capital:** "the aggregation of the innate abilities and the knowledge and skills that individuals acquire and develop throughout their lifetime" (Laroche & Ruggeri, 1999, pp.89).



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Thematic analysis: findings

Social capital enables access to resources and funding

"Some of our families residing in Damaturu town have come to our assistance when we were displaced and settled in this place. Monetary and kind supports were brought to us and these have really made us to recover from the loss we encountered. One of my nieces among our family gave me N120,000 to start something and with that I started a business with sustain us" (Respondent 9, Kasaisa Camp, Yobe State, June 2019).

Social networks link IDPs to markets and facilitates skills training

They helped me by accommodating me and being kind to me, and also teach me so many skills that I didn't have before and it really helps me. They also connect me to other customers. What I learn from this people is what is really helping me. (Respondent 5, Gwoza Camp, Borno State, June 2019).

Entrepreneurship is contributing to livelihood outcomes among the displaced

"The business activities have really helped me.. The skills that I learned is of great help to me in this insurgency. Anywhere I go I can do work that will help me to provide food, clothing for myself and my brothers and so many things that helps us in live".

"In this insurgency I was able to run a business that help me to complete my Secondary school and also support my brothers too for their primary school education" ((Respondent 5, Gwoza Camp, Borno State, June 2019).

Forced displacement: global profile (UNHCR, 2019)

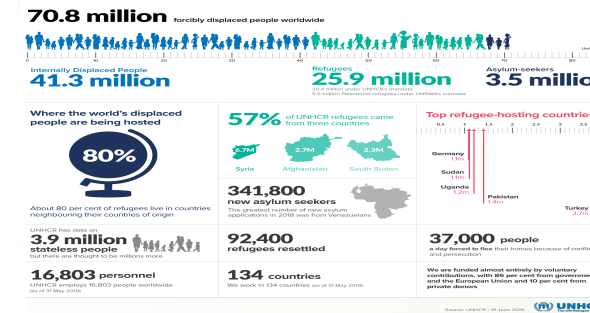


Table 2.(regression) Social capital, resilience and livelihood recovery

Variables	Model 1 (Resilience)	Model 2 (Fin. security)	Model 3 (Well-being)
EDU	0.6047623	0.341562	-0.2908837
Gender	-0.9083884	-1.863314***	1.2471*
Age	-0.1561008***	-0.0089324	-0.0693354**
HUMCP	0.3235587***	0.118314**	0.0196208
BOSCP	0.5382458***	0.5654847***	0.3096561***
LSCP	0.0607955	0.4823184 ***	0.2377198***
_cons	26.33919	3.159303	41.76587
Model summary			
No of observations	810	810	810
Adjusted R-Square	0.1624	0.3203	0.13