

Impact of Insurgency on Socio-Economic Activities of Michika, Adamawa State, Nigeria.

Umar Haliru Vulegbo¹, Kuso Umaru², Musa Mohammed Yakatun³, Ahmed Isah Makun⁴

^{1,2&3} Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Niger State Polytechnic, Zungeru.

³vuleex@gmail.com

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.70118/AMR-0901-2025-09>

Abstract

Insurgency is the organized use of subversion and violence to seize, nullify, or challenge political control of a region. This research is aimed at assessing the impact of insurgency on the socio-economic activities of the population of Michika and environs. Simple random sampling technique was adopted in administering 399 questionnaires to 34,451 households with the recovery of only 150 questionnaires owing to the sensitive nature of the study area, inverse probability weighting was used to adjust for the response biasness through assigning weights to the 150 responding households based on their probability of responding using logistic regression. However, focus group discussion was carried out among residents in the local government secretariat, Wummu, Yelchim, Adult-Male/Female returnees from the Internally Displaced Persons camp (IDP), also direct observations of the destroyed facilities were made. Their revelation further complimented the data gathered from the field through questionnaire administration. Findings from the field revealed high tendency of insecurity in the study area despite security measures by various institutions with about 142 persons drawn from the category of the host (72) and displaced (70) family members, losing their jobs as a result of insurgency in the study area while 83% have lost major assets and business efforts among the hosts at 71 and 54 of displaced residents respectively with income drastically reduced at 82% among the entire residents. However, revelations from the focus group discussion revealed that major facilities such as schools, markets, hospital and telecommunication facilities were either affected or destroyed by bombs during the course of the attacks. Therefore, the paper recommends the need to intensify measures targeted at re-integrating the people back to their homes as well as building formidable renewal programmes to combat insurgency in Michika and Nigeria at large.

Keywords: *Insurgency, Livelihood, Terrorism, Socio-economy, Impact Assessment.*

Introduction

Globally Terrorism has become a severe reality among societies today. Its manifestation includes kidnapping, banditry, hijacking of aero-plane, suicide

attack, self-suicide bombing witnessed by the world for a long time now. A quick view is the elimination of world trade center which created a horror across the globe (Enders, 2002 & Lake, 2000). Several attempts have further been exhibited to reduce the inflict of terrorism on human race (Luechinger, 2003).

Nigeria's growing manifestation of the insurgents' activities has destabilized socioeconomic activities, increased crime rate and destruction of lives and property. This can be attested to by the mass movement of people living in the Northern part of the country most especially Maiduguri, Borno State. The situation has made it impossible for the citizens in that part of Nigeria to carry on their legitimate businesses thereby scaring foreign investors out of the country and students have been forced to flee their schools. Also, the gravity of the crisis has made some government to vow never to allow Nigerian students from their state to go to the Northern part of Nigeria for anything.

Insurgent activities also affected the posting of students of Southern and Eastern extradition on National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) to the North, to the extent that parents are strongly resisting the posting of their children as corps members to the North Nigeria (UNHCR, 2014).

Insurgency has also become a fatal blow to the principled objective of the scheme as a unifying strategy. The unity of Nigeria is seriously threatened by BokoHaram fundamentalist who are been considered to be potential terrorists threat affecting Nigeria's socio-economic activities.

Amongst the deteriorating security situation in the country, Nigeria is also confronted with frightening developmental challenges which pose serious threat to socioeconomic development. These developmental challenges include endemic rural and urban poverty, high rate of unemployment and debilitating youth unemployment, low industrial output, unstable and deteriorating exchange rate, high inflation rate, inadequate physical and social infrastructure, very large domestic debt, and rising stock of external debt (Ewetan, 2013)

According to the National Bureau of Statistics 2013, Nigeria's unemployment rate increased to 23.9 percent in 2011 compared with 21.1 per cent in 2010 and 19.7 per cent in 2009. The country has a youth population of 80 million, representing about 60 per cent of the total population with a growth rate of 2.6 per cent per year, with a national demography which suggests that the youth population remains vibrant with an average annual applicant to the labour force at 1.8 million between 2006 and 2011.

It is against this backdrop that the researcher seeks to examine the pertinent issue of National insecurity, a crisis of the Nigerian state, and its implication for Nigeria's socio-economic development.

This paper seeks to:

- iii. Assess the socio-economic characteristics of the residents before and after the activities of the insurgents;
- iv. Find out the state of the social and economic activities of Michika before and during the activities of the Boko Haram; and
- v. Assess the state of infrastructural facilities of Michika since the start/operation of the insurgents in the North-East Nigeria.

Literature Review

Contextualizing Terrorism

Terrorism refers to the systematic use of threat of violence to communicate to political massage rather than defeat an opponent, military force. Thus, the targets of terrorism are symbolic and the victims of terrorism represent a wider audience. To achieve a maximum shock effective, terrorist violence is usually dramatic and provocative.

Typically, small number of extremists who otherwise lack the capacity to challenge those in power resort to terrorism. A defining characteristic of terrorism is that its users expect rewards that are of proportionate to both the resources they possess and the risk they assume. Terrorism remains a strategy that is not restricted to any particular ideology (Smelter and Beltes, 2001).

Theoretical Framework

The theories guiding this work are: Systems theory and Relative deprivation theory. The system analysis of the political system popularized by David Easton is adopted as a theoretical approach underpinning the study. The system theory is an analogy that shows a collection of interrelated parts which forms some whole. The idea is that if all the parts are working effectively the overall objectives can be achieved. A system can be open or closed. Nigeria is an open system. A key feature of open systems is their interdependence on the environment which may be relatively stable or relative uncertain at a particular point in time. This feature is of considerable importance to political and economic system which needs to adapt to the changing environment if they are to flourish. Nigeria needs the Northern economy to achieve her economic objectives. The focus of the approach is on the analysis of factors and forces that engender stability and instability in the political system strengthens its relevance to explaining the deep linkage between the dysfunctionality in governance and the challenges of poverty, inequality and insecurity in Nigeria. The political system within the Estonian framework is an input and out-put mechanism which deals with political decisions and activities and performs integrative and adaptive functions relevant to the transformation of the society

(Johari, 2011). Moreover, the mix of the environment, citizens' demand and support (inputs), and the policy output from the system are core factors that affect the structures and processes involve in the authoritative allocation of values and are thus fundamental to the stability and survival of the political system (Johari, 2011).

Empirical Review

Prominent Nigerians who have bemoaned the economic impact of BokoHaram insurgency in northeast Nigeria including the former President Goodluck Jonathan and Northern Governors forum. According to Obaremi (2014) "Economic affairs in the north is already depleting due to a massive departure of people and financial institutions from the northern region. But if the government delays in the implementing comprehensive plans to tackle insecurity from its roots, then not only will the northern region be economic desolation, the country as a whole risk losing billions of dollars in foreign direct investment" The business activities of telecom operators have not been left out from the attacks of BokoHaram. For instance, some telecom masts belong to some major mobile telephone operators were destroyed by BokoHaram and the banning of telephone services by the military affected the income generation of some of the mobile phone operators. Just as the economic implications of BokoHaram atrocities cannot be quantified, the social costs are enormous. The church, school, market, clinic and mosque are potential targets of BokoHaram. For example, in April 2014, a federal government girls' college was attacked which subsequently led to the abduction of over 250 female students. Attacks on these social places have prevented people from going to these places. Some students have stopped going to school, others have been transferred to the southern part of the country to continue their education. Christians are afraid to go and worship in the church on Sundays due to the fear of being attacked by the sect. Same for the Muslim faithful who abandon their worshiping centers because of BokoHaram attacks. The markets have become deserted. The National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) that was created by the government after the end of Nigerian civil war to foster unity among Nigeria is under threat due to BokoHaram attacks. The NYSC directorate posted 4171 corps members to Adamawa state, 1041 of the corps members have to abandon their national duty due to the precarious security situation (Ovaga (n.d.). Some parents from the south of the country have protested vehemently against the posting of their children to the northeast. Aside the socioeconomic implications, the human cost is more worrisome, more than 10.000 have been killed, a lot of people have been maimed and women have been kidnapped and raped .These have left the family of the dead, the injured, the raped and the kidnapped in agony. In a nutshell, most of the family members of BokoHaram victims are going through a traumatized period. Many have left their homes and over 650 thousand Nigerians have been displaced according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR, 2014).

Methodology

Data for this study were gathered from both primary and secondary sources. However, 399 numbers of questionnaires were administered to 34451 households but owing to the sensitive nature of the study area coupled with the fact that people's reluctance to divulge information, only 150 questionnaires were recovered thus complimented with focus group discussions, inverse probability weighting was used to adjust for the response biasness through assigning weights to the 150 responding households based on their probability of responding using logistic regression.

This was complimented by interview. The interview methodology was also adopted for asking quantitative and qualitative questions orally from key informants. Quantitative questions enabled closed-ended and specific answers that was categorized and numerically analyzed; while the Qualitative questions were more open-ended. Semi-structured interviews were conducted for the federal actor's i.e NEMA staffs, UN agencies, NGOs. Key informant interviews (KII) was also conducted with respondents drawn from major stakeholder groupings involved in disaster management in Nigeria, including NEMA staff at IDPs, SEMA staff and LEMC staff. This was to enable the more in-depth information about perceptions, insights, and experiences of the residents of Michika by gathering subjective perspectives from respondents.

Consequently, focus group discussion was conducted with the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) as they return and for the purpose of clarity some area was predefined as sample areas and they include: Fauro Ali Tikuva a unit head and a present head of Wummu Area, Delchim, Moda, BitrusWanje of KillaWanje area, EYN Church in Dlimi located on the high mountain of Michika LGA and Alh. Musa Ali area within Michika metropolis. This objective was realized through focus group discussion with the households in the predefined areas, LGA chairman represented by the DPM, Local Government Directors etc as well as key informant in the communities.

Results and Discussion

Table 1: Occupation of Respondents

Occupation	Frequency	Percent
Farming	65	43.3
Trading	40	26.7
Civil servant	30	20
Artisan	15	10
Total	150	100.0

Source: Authors Field Work, 2025

Table 1, indicated that respondents in the study area engaged in different types of occupation such as farming which accounted for 43.3%, trading 26.7%, civil servant 20% and artisan with 10% of the respondents sampled. The livelihoods of people living in the Michika district in Adamawa state have undergone significant changes due to Insurgency, insecurity, displacement and the subsequent loss of access to an agrarian-based livelihood system (Stiteset *al.*, 2006).

Table 2: Impact of Insurgency on Household Ability to Maintain Livelihood

Response	Displaced (%)	Host (%)
Lost Job	70(20.1)	72(17.4)
Lost Business	54(15.5)	71(17.1)
Lost Key Asset	53(15.0)	69(16.7)
Fewer families	62(18.0)	67(16.2)
Additional Household Members	57(16.4)	64(15.5)
Income reduced	52(15.0)	71(17.1)
Others		

Source: Author's Field work, 2025

Table 2 revealed that 20.1% of the displaced household members and 17.4% of the host families lost their jobs during the insurgency period, 15.5% of the displaced and 17.1% of host families lost their business. Also, 15.0% of the displaced members of family and 16.7% of the host families lost their key assets. From the study carried out 15.0% of the displaced families and 17.1% of the host families experienced reduction in their income. The implication implies that the activity of the insurgency has greatly affected the livelihood of the member families in the study area. The livelihoods of people living in the Michika district in Adamawa have undergone significant changes due to armed conflict, insecurity, displacement and the subsequent loss of access to an agrarian-based livelihood system (Stiteset *al.*, 2006). The majority of households depend on Aid workers' food rations for survival. Incomes, economic activity, access to land and natural resources have been greatly reduced. Direct effects of insurgency on the household includes changes in household composition due to killings, injuries and recruitment of fighters by either the government or the insurgents, changes in the household economic status due to the direct destruction of assets and effects caused by forced displacement and migration.

Indirect effects include changes in households' surrounding institutions and environments such as changes in social networks, changes in access to or destruction of exchange and employment markets and changes in local and national political institutions.

Table 3: Location of Facilities in Michika

S/N	Facilities	Coordinates		Status After Insurgency
		Northing	Easting	
1	VillegwaPri. Sch.	10.63011	13.4003	Completely burnt
2	TighimiPri. Sch.	10.56493	13.31481	Completely burnt
3	WatsillaPri. Sch.	10.60977	13.37313	Completely burnt
4	JigalambuPri. Sch.	10.59922	13.33664	damaged by bomb
5	PambulaPri. Sch.	10.62513	13.39093	damaged by bomb
6	JiddelPri. Sch.	10.62133	13.38181	damaged by bomb
7	DrighimiPri. Sch.	10.63487	13.40716	damaged by bomb
8	Central Pri. Sch.	10.61782	13.39517	damaged by bomb
9	KwabapalePri. Sch.	10.6202	13.3951	damaged by bomb
10	DzurokPri. Sch.	10.57098	13.32702	damaged by bomb
11	KamaleguPri. Sch.	10.63585	13.40557	damaged by bomb
12	FutulesPri. Sch.	10.58694	13.3432	damaged by bomb
13	KanzaPri. Sch.	10.56767	13.32328	damaged by bomb
14	KamgiriPri. Sch.	10.61802	13.39262	damaged by bomb
15	BarkinDlakaPri. Sch.	10.60536	13.37048	damaged by bomb
16	EYN primary school	10.56061	13.32318	Existing
17	Agape staff missionary school	10.56614	13.31821	Partly Affected
18	Michika maternity	10.6213	13.38904	Torched
19	Local government secretariat	10.61538 13.38861	13.38861	Completely Burnt
20	Michika General hospital	10.62777	13.39783	existing

Source: Author's Field work, 2025

As evident in table 3, most of the health facilities in the local government area have been damaged such as; Michika maternity, Local government secretariat,

meanwhile Michika General hospital have started providing skeletal services along-side the health facilities in Michika, but the facilities in Watsilla, Wambillimi, Jigalambu, Bokka, Sina/Kamale, Futukuburshosho, kwabapale are not enough to meet health issues there etc. these are areas the local government would appreciate the support of government, INGOs, NGOs and CORPORATE bodies to come to their aid.

Consequently, most of the school facilities were mostly affected thereby bringing about creation of huge gap in the attainment of teaching and learning. Also, the telecommunication facilities were not left out hence making communication difficult as the once available operates at skeletal level.

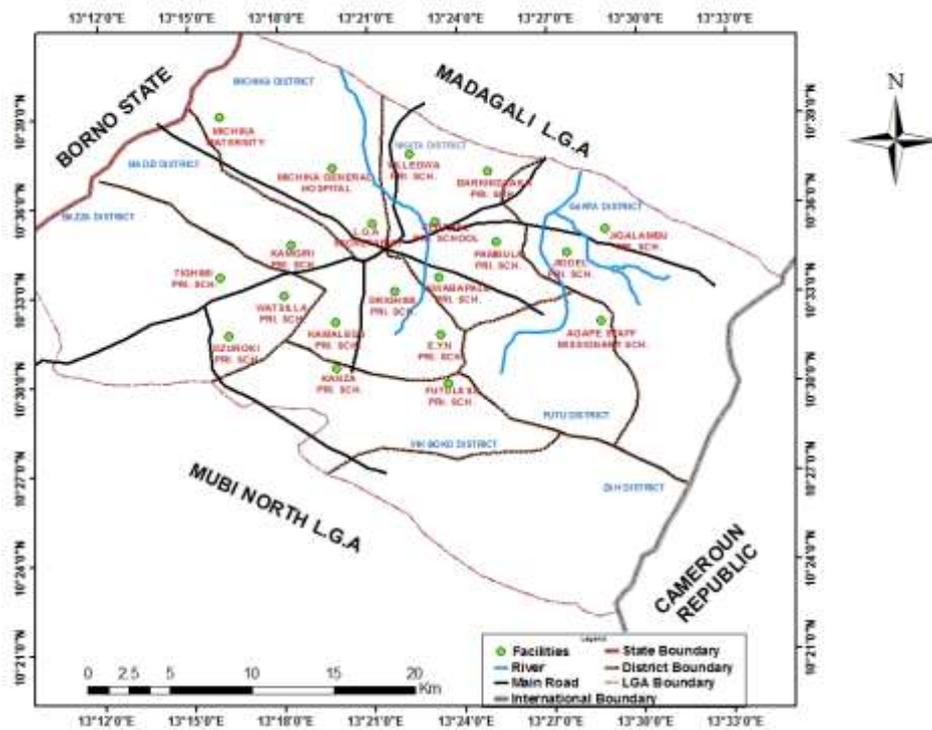


Fig 1: Map of Michika Showing the Location of Facilities before Insurgency

Source: NEMA GIS Lab, 2025

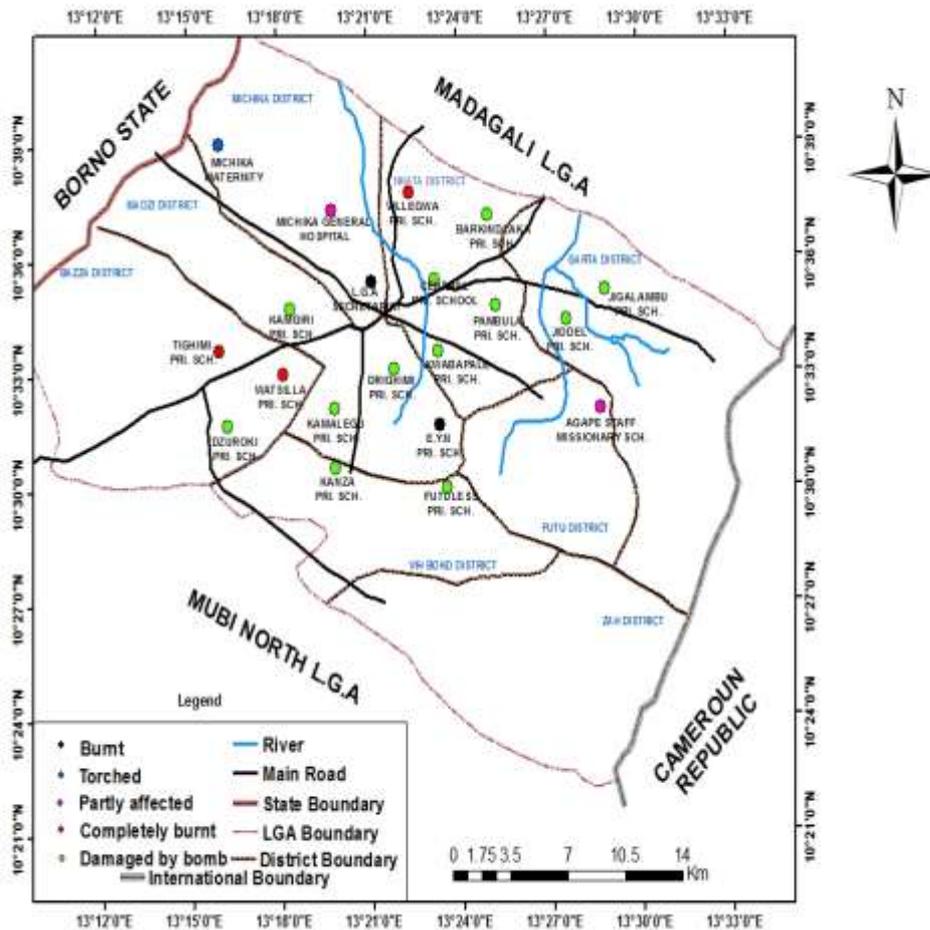


Fig 2: Map of Michika Showing the Status of Facilities after Insurgency

Source: NEMA’s GIS Lab, 2025

Summary of Findings

- The livelihoods of people living in the Michika district in Adamawa state have undergone significant changes due to Insurgency, insecurity, displacement and the subsequent loss of access to an agrarian-based livelihood system
- From the study carried out 15.0% of the displaced families and 17.1% of the host families experienced reduction in their income. The implication implies that the activity of the insurgency has greatly affected the livelihood of the member families in the study area. The livelihoods of people living in the Michika district in Adamawa have undergone significant changes due to armed conflict, insecurity, displacement and the subsequent loss of access to an agrarian-based livelihood system (Stiteset

al., 2006). The majority of households depend on Aid workers' food rations for survival. Incomes, economic activity, access to land and natural resources have been greatly reduced.

- most of the health facilities in the local government area have been damaged such as; Michika maternity, Local government secretariat, meanwhile Michika General hospital have started providing skeletal services along-side the health facilities in Michika, but the facilities in Watsilla, Wambillimi, Jigalambu, Bokka, Sina/Kamale, Futukuburshosho, kwabapale are not enough to meet health issues there etc. these are areas the local government would appreciate the support of government, INGOs, NGOs and CORPORATE bodies to come to their aid.
- Core findings revealed that residents have been surviving via self-help through property sales, donor agencies and Aid groups, alms and street begging while a few proportion of the residents have been dependent on petty trading and sales, monthly salary and family dependent-allowances have become a vital vacuum upon which residents rely on.

Conclusion

Insurgency have since manifested itself among other areas with Michika town of Adamawa State inclusive and have also been in full bloom operations for over five years since insurgency began in Nigeria, causing devastating shocks and unrepentant imbalance to the socio-economic activities inherent in the study area. These impacts have been witnessed by residents through neighbourhood and community livelihood and infrastructural loss, household shelter and domestic poverty, distortion of family and communal ties, feeding and convenience areas, death and kidnaps. These and other impacts have formed concerns for this research work in the area of resident's social and economic loss.

Conclusively, the emergence and activities of Boko Haram in the study area have had a great impact on the socio-economic life of the people while distorting the mental and reasoning ability of the residents and subjecting them to fear in thoughts and in deeds. More so, government should encourage investment, support small and medium-sized enterprise and develop infrastructure to attract businesses, strengthen local governance by way of improving security measures through community policing initiative, and last implement programs that promote interfaith dialogue, cultural exchange and community reconciliation.

However, this study can further be researched into in the nearest future by looking into areas such as comparative study on the impact of insurgency across different Nigerian states; the role of technology in mitigating security risks and effects of counterterrorism policies on economic recovery with a view to

Recommendations

While considering the impact of insurgency on the socio-economic activities of Michika town, it's been observed that residents all time activities have been altered in not just the socio-economic areas of their endeavours but cuts across all spheres of life affecting the quality of life they live. Therefore, the following pertinent recommendations are brought to fore:

1. Food aid for these communities should be intensified as it will go a long way in alleviating their suffering in terms of hunger while Farm inputs should be provided so that the communities that are dominated by farmers can resume their farming activities in order to food security.
2. Various levels of government embark on policies formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation with internally displaced persons being the focus with a view to reintegrating them into their lost socioeconomic activities
3. All facilities that have been lost to the activities of the insurgents be as a matter of urgency replaced so that normalcy be returned in terms of educational, health, social and economic activities.
4. Microfinance programs for affected businesses and skills development programs for the displaced persons will a long way in reintegrating them back into their lost businesses and means of livelihood.
5. Community policing and intelligent sharing initiative be put in place with a view to making the community members be security conscious so as to be able to check the menace.

Reference

- Enders. W & Sandler. (2002). An economic perspective on transnational terrorism, Economics, Finance and Legal Studies, The University of Alabama, *Working Paper Series*, 03-04-02.
- Ewetan, O. O. (2013). Insecurity and Socio-Economic Development: Perspectives on the Nigerian Experience. A lecture Delivered St. Timothy Anglican Church, Sango-Ota, Ogun State,
- Lake .J. (2000), Democracy and Terrorism: The Impact of the Anti; published by International IDEA
- Luechinger, (2003). Measuring terrorism, Institute for empirical research in economics *Working Paper*, 17, University of Zurich.
- NBS, (2012). *The Nigeria Poverty Profile 2010 Report* of the National Bureau of Statistics Harmonized Nigeria Living Standard Survey (HNLSS). Nwangwu, N.A. *UPE: Issues, Prospects and Problems*. Benin: Ethiopia

Publishers, 13, 1976 Nigeria Population Census 1991 Analysis (2002).
Abuja. NPC, 30.

Obaremi, O. (2014) Economic implications of Boko Haram. Retrieved from
<http://blog.policynig.com/read.php?rid=154>

Ovaga, O. (n.d.) the Socio-Economic Implications of Book-Haram Activities in
Northern Nigeria. *Review of Public Administration & Management*.
1(2).

Smelter, O. & Beltes, F. (2001). Globalization and international terrorism: the
challenges for Nigeria's Foreign Policy. *Nigeria's New Foreign Policy
Thrust: Essays in Honour of Ambassador Oluyemi Adeniji*, Vantage
Publishers, Ibadan, 32.

Stites, Elizabeth, Dyan Mazurana, and Khistopher Carlson. (2006.) "Movement
on the Margin: livelihoods and security in Kitgum District Northern
Uganda." Melford, M.A: Feinstein International center. Retrieved
December 24, 2011.
([http://www.internaldisplacement.org/8025708F004CE90B/\(httpDocuments\)/2C4BD3687B462DFC125722D004A7BE7/\\$file/LivelihoodsandSecurityinKitgumFINAL](http://www.internaldisplacement.org/8025708F004CE90B/(httpDocuments)/2C4BD3687B462DFC125722D004A7BE7/$file/LivelihoodsandSecurityinKitgumFINAL))

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees ((UNHCR) 2014). First
Regional Conference on Internal Displacement in West Africa. Internet:
<http://www.reliefweb.int/library/documents/2014/UNHCR-EN16jun.pdf>, accessed 28 June 2014.