AGRICULTURAL LAND USE: THE CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLENT CONFLICT IN SARDAUNA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF TARABA STATE

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Abstract

The purpose of the study was to examine the consequences of violent conflict in sardauna local government area of Taraba state. The specific objectives were to examine the socioeconomic characteristics the respondents, identify the IDP supporters, and analyses the consequences of violent conflict in the area. All the villages that have been affected with violent conflict were selected purposively, and sample was collected randomly. Open and closed ended questions were used with structural questionnaire. Data was analyses using both descriptive and inferential statistics. The result of the study shows that majority 76% were male and 35 years is the average age of the respondents. The respondents' found 84% and death shows 80% of the consequences of violent conflict. The study concluded that major consequences of the violent conflict in the area are loss of huge life and property. Large numbers of cattle have been killed while crop under cultivation have been abandoned due to fear of violent conflict. The study recommended that long term negotiation will be employed and the perpetrators most call to book. Their action may have implication to food security and this may hinder growth and development of the area.

Keywords: Agriculture, Land Use, Consequences, Violent, Conflict

Introduction

Nigeria today is passing through difficult security challenges engineered by various groups that have taken up arms against the country. There is violent conflict and security instability in the Nigeria. This is as a result of the inexorable pressure and violence from group determined to fast-track the process of destabilizing the nation. Since the return to democratic governance in 1999, there have been sequences of violence conflict that continuous to threaten the existence of the Nigeria state. The interplay and atmosphere of the violent conflict reflected ethnic, religious and resources-based demonstration. In some conflicts, actors are faceless and in others actors are known. Violent conflicts are mostly

organized on ethnic basis in Nigeria because outright declaration of war on the state by any individual group is not only offensive but will be totally condemned by all. One character of array of ethnic violent in the country is that, the various groups are more conscious of their sub group than the level of national unity. Though the diverse groups in a country are not bad, the fact remains that ethnicity in Nigeria is manipulated to becoming destructive forces. Ethnic based association exist in different parts of Nigeria examples are the Oodua People Congress, Arewa People Congress, Indigenious People of Biafra, the Ijaw National Congress, Movement for the Actualization of the sovereign state of Biafra (MASSOB), various Niger Delta Militant groups such as Movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta (MEND), Niger Delta people's Volunteer Force (NDPVF), Ethnic Nationality in the Niger Delta MOSIEND (Fayeye, 2006; Asamu, 2006).

Another ethnic-religion base violent conflict group is the Boko Haram and herdsmen conflict with farmers in northern part of the country. The various ethnic base violent conflicts are a means to an end as they all used ethnic sentiment to threaten the unity and peace of the country. The hope of succeeding peace in a country overloaded with ungovernable security is indeed, a farce. However Tiv-Jukun conflict in Benue state was one of several protracted inter-ethnic feuds (IRIN, 2007: 2) in Nigeria. The conflict has occurred in 1959, 1980, 1990 and 2001, with the resultant destruction of lives and properties. According to Egwu (2004: 56), the Tiv-Jukun conflict was centered on the land factor just like other cases relating to indigene-settler conflicts, such as theof Ife-Modakeke conflict, Aguleri-Umuleri conflict, Zango-Kataf conflict and Mango-Bokkos conflict.

The Nigerian state has basically influence on the use of force as preferred strategy for managing violent conflict, particularly those that challenged or had the potential of changing the legitimacy and authority of the state and its means of economic sustenance (Isaac, 2014). Beyond the force strategy, the government employed dialogue with the various violent groups as well as amnesty mechanism to douse tensing.

Nigeria is rife with violent conflict and dispute over land issues constitutes an important number of conflict events. Land issues vary from place to place for instance pastoralist-farmers conflict in north central and middle belt, violent between communities and oil companies in Niger delta area. However land tenure among different ethnic group became difficult, in most cases it result to violent conflict may places in the country. The sardauna local government has history of violent conflict and most of this violence happening between two major tribes (Fulani and Mambila) as follows; 1979/80 Mambila riot, 1982, 2001, 2002, 2016 and 2017. Theses crisis resulted to loss of lives, property and many people were displace as either internally (IDP) or internationally (refugee). The poor quality of governance in Nigeria has contributed in no small measures to the escalating incident of violent conflict in the country (Abeki and Kia, 2019). The main objective of this paper was

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to analyse the consequences of violent conflict in sardauna local government area of Taraba state. The specific objectives were**;** to examine the socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents, to analyse the consequences of violent conflict and to identify the supporters of IDP in the study area.

Main Objective of the study

The main objective of this study was to identify consequences of violent conflict in sardauna local government area.

The specific objectives were**;**

to examine the socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents,

to find the supporters of IDPs in the study area,

to identify the consequences of violent conflict and

to examine the land loss and the cause of loozing land in the area

Literature Review

Causes of Violent

The causes of violence in Nigeria are inter-connected and take their anchor source from a problem relating to the economy and fragile social structure. This is also validated by the 2015 report of the Nigeria Watch Project which asserted that a blend of politics, ethnicity and religion remains a key driver of violence in the country (Nigeria Watch Project Report, 2016). Crime related violence and violence perpetrated by herdsmen are the main drivers of violence in recent years in Nigeria (Oseremen, 2022). The Joint Report of the delegates of the World Council of Churches (WCC) and the Royal Ahl al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought, confined in the Guardian newspapers dated 12th of July, 2012, highlighted that bribery, misconduct, land clashes and lack of aid for victims and punishment of troublemakers causes violent conflict Nigeria. Ethno-religion violence and herdsmen have come with the great consequences in Nigeria. (Oseremen, 2022).

Consequences of Violence Conflict

Land tenure is the relationship among people as individual and group, with respect to land access and other national resources. Land tenure is an institution (rules established by societies to regulate behavior over land. Land tenure means how land access is granted or right to use, control and transfer as well as associated responsibility and restraints (Cotula, 2021). In simple terms land tenure system determine who can use what resource of land for how long and under what condition (FAO, 2005). Violent is the act of showing every strong emotion that is difficult to control. Conflict means a clash or disagreement between two opposition groups or individuals. Violent conflict in most communities arises for many

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reasons but the major has its roots in dispute over land resources (FAO, 2005). Even though land tenure is not the fundamental cause of violent, it only adds tension regardless of the origin of the crisis. Widespread of violent conflict over the years resulted into massive displacement of people, people became landless; those been affected the most are vulnerable people especially women and children, political and ethnic minority. At the end of the violent conflict; access to land is required by people whose displaced, to get back to their land is block by many challenges; legitimate claim of the same land as a result of successor, waves of displacement and others not been able to recover their land and have to settle elsewhere (FAO,2005).

Methodology

The study was conducted in Sardauna local government and is located in the extreme south eastern part of Taraba state, Nigeria. It is situated in Mambila plateau with an elevation of up to 1,348m (4423 ft) above sea level. The location of the study area is in latitude $70^0 20^{''}$ N and longitude $11^0 43^{''}$ E (wikipidea), it share border with Cameroun republic by the north and Gashaka local government by the south. The agricultural activities in the area were largely cattle rearing and crop growing in the area are Irish potatoes, maize, rice, beans banana, pear, etc. Purposive sampling method was used to selects the village/town that have been affected by violent conflict and simple random sampling method was used tp collect data in this study and questionnaire was used with both closed and open ended questions for data collection, however 184 respondents were interviewed for the study. Descriptive statistics was used for data analysis.

Result and Discussion

Socioeconomic Characteristics of the Respondents

The table 1 shows that 76% of the respondents were male only 24 were females. This shows that males are the dominant actors of the violent conflict. It may be due to transfer of female to safer place and did not come back. The average age of the respondent was 35 years. This is the active age that may prompt to conflict violence in the area. The educational level of the respondents shows that 46% have tertiary education while 22% and 15% have secondary and primary education respectively. This shows that majority of the respondents have formal education and this may influence the crisis negatively. The result of the household size of the respondents' shows that majority 61% of the respondent have 7 members and below. The majority of the respondent 49% have use mobile phone as medium to send information to security personnel for peace stability in the area while 51% have GSM network failure during the crisis. However some of the village do not have access to GSM network while have it with high level of fluctuation. Though 50% of the respondents have reach to securities

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during crisis. Eighty eight percent of the respondents have uses radio as means of accessing information.

Table 1 Socioeconomic Characteristic of the Respondents

Variable	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	140	76
	Female	44	24
Age	Low	36	
	Medium	84	35.5
	High	64	
Educational Level	Non-formal	32	17
	Primary	28	15
	Secondary	40	22
	Tertiary	84	46
Household Size	1-3hh	61	34
	4-7hh	50	27
	8-12hh	31	16
	13 n above	42	23
Mobile Phone	Yes	108	59
	No	76	41
GSM failure	Yes	91	49
	No	93	51
Security access	Yes	92	50
Radio	Yes	164	88
	No	20	12

Source; Field survey, 2022   n=184

Consequences of Violent Conflict in the Area

Nigerian is rifle with violence conflict. Violent conflict comes with consequences as the minority opposition may loss life and properties. Table 2 shown that 80% of the respondents been affected with death either directly or indirectly. This shows that conflict violence come with consequences that resulted to loss of life and property. Violence conflict resulted to loos of life and property (Deininger, 2003; Hoeffler, & Reynal-Querol, 2003). However 84% of the respondents have been affected with injury. This will be either temporary or permanent in jury that will affect the daily activities of the victims. The respondent also been affected with starvation as 76% have no minimum requirement of food for survival due to

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conflict violence. This may also cause death if stays for long. This also cause by low economic performance (Schracder, 2014)

It's also found that 59% of the respondents' loss their cattle through direct killing and poisoning the water by their opponents while 48 % of the respondent loss their crop under cultivation due to fair of violence conflict. They neglect their farms for their life. This resulted to hunger and starvation. This may be the reasons why 46% of the respondents were been affected with disease as lack of food will prompted to malnutrition which will cause disease among the respondents. The consequences rank according to percentage of the effects as injury rank 1st with 84% of the respondents follows by death and starvation with 80% and 76% which rank 2nd and 3rd consequences respectively. However loss of cattle and abandoning of crop under cultivation due to fear of violent conflict ranks 4th and 5th separately while disease rank 6th consequences of the respondents. This is a serious consequences (Abeki, and Kia, 2019).

Table 2 Consequences of violent conflict

Variables	Categories	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
Consequences of violence	Injury	154	84	1st
	Death	148	80	2nd
	Starvation	140	76	3rd
	Cattle lost	108	59	4th
	Crop lost	88	48	5th
	Disease	84	46	6th
Source; Field survey, 2022			n=184	
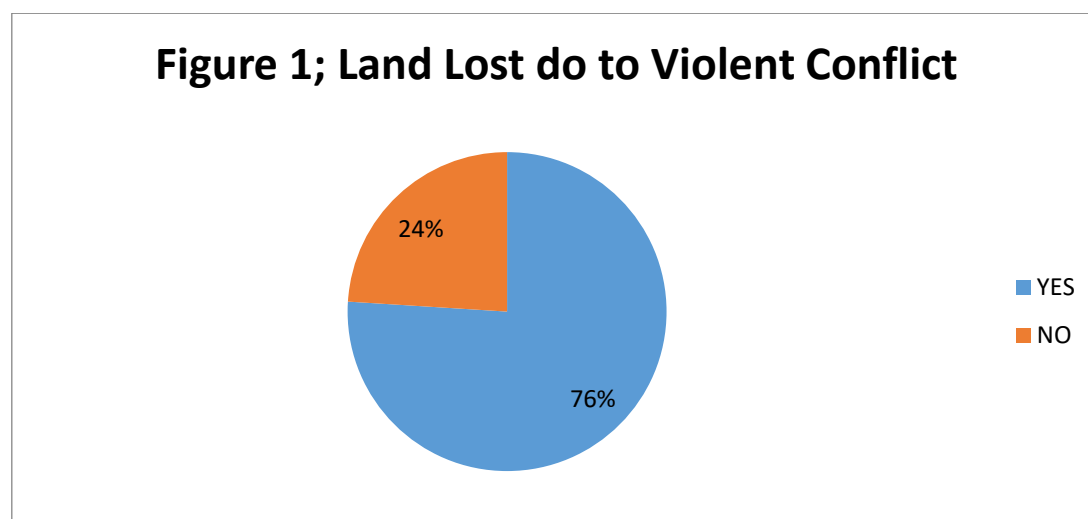
Figure 1; Land lost due to violent conflict in the study area

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Land loss in the area

The respondents lost their land as a result of violent conflict that occurs in the area. The figure 1 above shows that 76% of the respondents lost their land while only 24% of the respondents did not lost their land do to crisis. This shows that majority of the respondents' loss their land. Ethno-minority always suffers the most during violent conflict (Abeki and Kia, 2019).. According to FAO (2005) in their book titled 'land administration after violence conflict' stated that ethno and religion minority loss their land during conflict violent. According to Daniel (2022) in his work effect of violence conflict on socioeconomic condition of household who found that there is significant negative effect of violent conflict of land ownership.

Causes of land loss in the area

Table 3 shows that majority 76% of the respondents lost their land due fear of violence. In the case of the opposition are the majority in the area they may not come back. The will settle somewhere else and leave their original place due to violent conflict (FAO, 2005). Meanwhile about (10%) lost their land to powerful land owners in the study area. The powerful land owners are part of the decision makers in the communities and always take the advantage of violent conflict to exercise their power. The table also shows that 9% of the respondent lost their land due to multiple occupancies. This is the situation whereby two or more persons claim one pieces of land at the same time. This situation is common in violent prone environment. Meanwhile the one from ethno-majority will get the support of his people and take the land while only 1% of the respondents fall a victim of discriminatory law. This may be village law or some ethnic norms and value that make him to lose his land. Nevertheless, this situation may happen to vulnerable and ethno-minority. In the work of Okoro and Kia (2019) whose found that some ethnic characters hindered a peace building.

Table 3 Loosing Land due to Violent Conflict

Variables	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
Cause of land loss	Powerful land owners	14	10
	Fear of violence	104	76
	Migration	13	9
	Double occupancy	8	5
	Discriminatory law	1	1

Source; Field Survey, 2022   n=140

IDPs and Supporters

Table 4 shows that 96% of the respondents stay in the IDPs camp during crisis. This may be any government or private infrastructure (schools, hospitals, office, etc) while only 4% of

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the respondents stay in refugees camp. This may be due to their closeness to international boundary and share many things in common with the neighboring country (marriage, language, norms and values etc). However nearly all the individuals that stayed in IDPs camp have been assisted in one way or the other from Governments, Private sector or NGOs? The results shows that 77% of the respondents have been assisted with food items, the 61% have been aided with medicine, 26% have been helped with shelter, while 31% and 34% have been supported with clothes and money respectively. According to Ismanla (2014) weak economic performance within the people will also infuse violence conflict.

However these supports comes from different bodies as follows majority 51% of the supports comes from NGOs, according to USAID report (2022) Nigeria need more than $1.1 billion dollars to provide assistance to 5.5 million people in the north east. The individual assists 29% of the respondents, the federal government aid touching lives of 24% of the respondents while state government helps only 9% of the respondents.

The table also shows that major supports comes from NGOs with 42%, follows by government agencies with 36% while family and friends takes 21% of the respondents.

Table 4 Displace Persons and Supporters during Violent Conflict

Variables	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
Displacement type	IDP	176	**96**
	Refugee	8	4
Access support	Yes	176	96
	No	8	4
Kind of support	Food	142	77
	Medicine	112	61
	Shelter	48	26
	Cloth	58	31
	Money	68	36
Supporting Body	Fed Govt.	44	24
	State Govt.	16	9
	NGOs	94	51
	Individual	54	29
Major Supporters	Family/Friends	8	4
	Govt. Agency	64	34
	NGOs	74	40

Source; Field survey, 2022   n=184

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Conclusion and Recommendation

The study concluded that male were the majority of the respondents with an average age of 35years. Life and properties were lost in the area. The seventy six percent of the respondents lost their land due to fear violent conflict. Larger majority of the respondents was stayed in internally displace persons (IDPs) camps and their supports came from NGOs.

The following recommendation is drawn from the study

1. Land use act should be clearly defined in the area
2. Peace building efforts should be clearly employed through long time negotiations by all stakeholders in the area including NGOs
3. Proper support for IDPs should be encouraged
4. Prompt security respond should be encourage during crisis to mitigate the consequences

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