



Households' Livelihoods in Communities Recovering from the Effects of Insurgency: A Case of Northern Zone of Adamawa State - Nigeria

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Abstract

The study analysed the livelihoods of households in communities recovering from the effects of insurgency in Northern zone of Adamawa State, Nigeria. The study covered 4 out of the 6 most affected LGAs from the Northern Adamawa State and paid attention to livelihoods and poverty situation of the people as they are recovering from the effects of the insurgency. Interview schedule was used to collect data from 280 respondents selected from 8 communities drawn across 4 Local Government Areas of the zone using questionnaire. In few instances, focus group discussions were used to elicit information. Data collected were analysed using descriptive statistics, Foster-Greer-Thorbecke (FGT) model and Binary Logistic Regression model. The socio-economic characteristics of the respondents described in the study indicated that the average age of the respondents was 50.84 years, and that majority (68.2%) of the respondents were male, who are mostly married (60.7%). The average household size in the area was 8 persons and are mostly educated (64.3%). In terms of livelihood activities, majority (85.3%) were into crop farming, while 23.5% raise livestock. The respondents' poverty status revealed that majority (73.9%) of the respondents were poor, while 26.3% were not poor. Some socio-economic variables are found to influence the poverty status in the area positively, while few others have negative influence on the poverty status of the people. Age and household size are significant but negatively affect the probability of becoming non-poor. Level of education, access to credit, membership of group and remittances are significant and positively affect the probability of becoming non-poor. The study recommended among others the need for the government to take concrete steps by increasing funding and security measures that will fully restore normalcy and promote socio-economic activities in the area.

Keywords: Livelihoods recovery, Rural households, Insurgency, Livelihood activities, Poverty
JEL Classification: B51, H31, Q34, Q01.I38

Contribution/Originality

Rural households recovering from conflict in Adamawa State are a large harbour of poverty. Understanding how their socio-economic variables can influence their condition would help in formulating policy geared towards specific target intervention that would help in ameliorating their condition and bring about sustainable livelihood. Specifically, the study explores the role of health capital as productive mechanism, as well as education on economic growth.

1.0 Introduction

The North-eastern part of Nigeria in the past two decades has witnessed several conflicts that have claimed lives and have substantially aggravated the economic livelihoods of people of the region (Tukur, 2011; Gilbert, 2014). According to Better Assistance in Crisis-BASIC (2019), about 15 million people have been affected by the Boko Haram insurgency since its inception

in 2009. However, in 2014, the insurgency escalated leading to the death of an estimated 20,000 people and the displacement of 1.8 million persons (nearly 80 percent are women, children and youth (United Nations High Commission for Refugee-UNHCR, 2017). The displaced persons were mostly residents in parts of the region where there has been relative peace, particularly in conflict-affected states of Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe. Similarly, some of the displaced persons moved to other states within the country, while over 170,000 more have become refugees in neighbouring countries, particularly the Cameroun and Niger Republics. Due to the scale of the conflict, the people's livelihood sustainability was hampered (Mohammed, 2014; Bilyaminu and Purokayo, 2017). The conflict also triggered a humanitarian crisis, with increasing food insecurity, additional pressure on the already overstretched and considerably damaged basic social services, infrastructures and degraded the environment; all of which has exacerbated the already existing socioeconomic disparities in the Northeast, further straining to a population already among the most underdeveloped and vulnerable in the country. In fact, most of the affected communities and people have fled and abandoned their farming and business activities (Awortu, 2015; Iliyasu *et al.*, 2015; Ogbozor, 2016). Furthermore, social cohesion has been deeply eroded, with social interactions and cohesion becoming increasingly affected, character violence has followed, due to communal, property and land disputes, and retaliation for conflict-related violence, which are adversely affecting the developmental outcomes of an entire generation (Durotoye, 2015).

According to a completed Northeast Nigeria Recovery and Peace Building Assessment—World Bank, (2016) estimates that nearly US\$ 9.0 billion was the total cost of damages across all six states, with US\$ 5.9 billion damages in Borno which is the most affected state, followed by Adamawa (US\$ 1.6 billion) and Yobe (US\$ 1.2 billion). The damages to the agricultural (US\$ 3.5 billion) and housing sectors is put at US\$ 3.3 billion, which is considerable and make-up three-quarters of the total losses. The economic impact of the insurgency has also transcended the geographic borders of the country, impacting on cross-border trade with Niger, Chad and Cameroon. The cumulative effect of the above is a further increase in the number of the poor and vulnerable that fall further below the poverty line. Notwithstanding, the negative consequences that have recorded in the northeast region of Nigeria, it does not appear that the situation is getting better as reported by BASIC (2019). Adamawa State in particular is considered a return state because it has recorded very high numbers of returnees to the seven Local Government Areas affected by the insurgency. The UNHCR (2017) also estimates that approximately 900,000 people have returned to their communities since 2015. However, there are still areas at risk of attacks such as Madagali and Michika LGAs, due to their proximity to Sambisa Forest and Borno State. This has a serious consequence on the livelihoods of the residents of the area.

According to Ajayi (2009), the economy of northeast Nigeria is largely agrarian. Similarly, low prevalence of livestock pest and diseases usually high in forest regions of the country has made the region more conducive for livestock production. The impact of insurgency on agriculture which is a major source of livelihood for most of these rural dwellers cannot be overemphasized as the fears of death in recent times have limited their participation in agriculture and other agro-allied businesses. The fear of being ambushed made many farmers avoid going to distant



farms and also limited the frequency of visits to their proximate farms. Even where farmers are still able to produce, they face difficulties moving their harvest to the towns and cities where they are in demand because transport infrastructures have been sabotaged by insurgents, and vehicles travelling on remote roads risk being attacked. The ban on motorbikes which is a means of transportation for these rural dwellers has greatly limited the accessibility of their agricultural produce to markets with attendant consequences on their livelihood. Over the years, the federal and state governments of the three insurgency affected States of Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa in collaboration with other local and international development agencies have been making substantial investments geared towards improving the livelihoods of the people in the insurgency affected regions. In fact, the federal government was able to establish the North East Development Commission (NEDC), which is saddled with the responsibility of rebuilding the destroyed infrastructure and also improving the already existing ones in the region. Similarly, other local and international development agencies have been contributing to this goal of improving the wellbeing of communities being affected by the conflict.

In Adamawa State, about seven Local Government Areas across two senatorial zones were seriously affected by the insurgency. However, the magnitude of such damages was much prominent in Northern zone of Adamawa State. Given the huge resources being committed by both governmental and non-governmental organizations, and with the relative calmness gained in recent times, which warrant displaced people to return home, study of this nature is imperative. Recent studies in the region are mostly centered on the effects and impact of insurgency. This calls for a need to conduct an in depth empirical study to examine the underlying issues associated with people recovering from the violence as a way forward geared towards sustainable development in the region. The paper is divided into five sections. Section two presents the literature review. Section three dwells on the methodological issues while section four presents the results and discussion. Finally, section five concludes the paper and gave policy recommendations.

1.1 Objectives of the Study

The broad objective of this study is to analyse the livelihoods of households in communities recovering from the effects of insurgency in Adamawa State. The specific objectives of the study were to; describe the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents; identify the livelihood activities of the respondents; determine the poverty status of the respondents; and examine factors influencing poverty in the study area.

2.0 Literature Review

2.1 Conceptual Review

Livelihoods are the means that enable people to earn a living. These include the capabilities, assets, income and activities people require in order to ensure that their basic needs are covered. A livelihood is said to be sustainable when it allows people to cope with, and recover from, shocks and stress (such as natural disasters and economic or social upheavals), and improve their welfare and that of future generations without degrading the environment or natural resources base (Chambers & Conway, 1992; Carney, 1998; Scoones, 2009). This implies that

livelihoods are formed within social, economic and political contexts. As these contexts change, they create new livelihood obstacles or opportunities. The strength of a given livelihood is not only measured by its productive outcomes, but equally by its resilience to shocks, seasonal changes and trends. These changes impact the availability of assets and the opportunities to transform those assets into a “living”. Under such conditions, people must adapt existing strategies or develop new strategies in order to survive (IRP, 2015). It should be noted that poverty is an underlying contributor to increased vulnerability in most contexts. When livelihoods are ravaged by shock, particularly by conflict as it is the case in the Northeast, there is the need for livelihood recovery. Livelihood recovery is a building process that takes place in a very dynamic environment (IRP, 2015). It is aimed at livelihood promotion, which includes a set of development-based interventions that involve improving the resilience of household livelihoods so that food and other basic needs can be met on a sustainable basis. Diversification has been analyzed as a rational response by households to lack of opportunities for specialization, and was initially considered not the most desirable option. However, recent studies indicate that rather than promoting specialization within existing portfolios, upgrading them to augmenting income could be more realistic and relevant for poverty reduction (Ellis & Freeman, 2005). Livelihood diversification has become a norm especially in rural areas (Dzanku, 2015). When conflict is subsiding, people interphase with resettlement and recovery stages. Many at times at that stage their primary activities which is mostly farming, must have been altered by the conflict. Therefore, they need to adapt to new norm, which can only be achieved by diversifying their new livelihood portfolio.

2.2 Empirical Review

Several studies on livelihoods have been conducted in the areas and the country at large. Ayegba (2015) adopted the combination of Marxist, Relative-Deprivation and Frustration-Aggression theoretical frameworks for the analysis of the consequence of Boko Haram insecurity in Nigeria. This study established that there exists a strong connection in unemployment, poverty and prevailing insecurity in the region. Similarly, Ndubueze-Ogaraku & Onoja (2017) reviewed the linkages between insurgency, environment and agricultural livelihood activities in Nigeria. The study revealed that the interacting tripartite problems have led to poor yield of crops and livestock, unemployment, migration, flood, increased IDPs, food insecurity, loss of farm assets, human lives, pollution and rising poverty, most of which reinforced each other. In the same vein, Gado & Wasiu (2019) examined the existing strategies adopted by the Presidential Initiatives for North-East for the economic recovery and reconstruction of the region. Using documentary data gathered from official reports from governmental institutions both national and international such as Word Bank, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) as well as books and Journals both hard and internet versions, the paper was analysed through analysing tool of content analysis. The study argued that presidential Initiative on North East (PINE) as a strategy has help in ameliorating the suffering of the people but much is still needed. Also, Adelaja & George (2019) studied the effects of conflict on agriculture using the Boko Haram insurgency as a case study. The study revealed that the conflict directly affected human capital, infrastructure and output. While the market effects were increased input prices and risk premiums. Anadozie *et al.* (2021) combined the strengths

of the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework (SLF) and Systems Theory (ST) as a theoretical lens to understand the impact of mobile phone use in farming and its developmental contributions on the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in post-insurgency northeast Nigeria. The result shows that the greatest bane to farming in the area is insecurity and climate variability, which will continue to affect the rate of recovery.

3.0 Methodology

3.1 Study Area

The study was conducted in Northern zone of Adamawa State, Nigeria. The State is located between Latitude $7^{\circ} 15'$ and $10^{\circ} 58'N$ of the equator and between Longitude $11^{\circ} 09'$ and $13^{\circ} 47'E$ of the Greenwich meridian and covers a land area of about $39,972.3\text{km}^2$ (Adebayo, Tukur & Zemba, 2020). Adamawa State has a population of 4,504,337 people as projected from 2006 census figure (NPC, 2006) The area has a tropical climate that is characterized by high temperatures and humidity as well as marked wet and dry seasons. The State shares boundary with Taraba State in the South and West, Gombe State in its Northwest and Borno to the North. Adamawa state has an international boundary with the Cameroon Republic along its eastern border. Topographically, the area is a mountainous land crossed by large river valley, particularly, Yedsarem. The area consists of five Local Government Areas, namely; Madagali, Michika, Mubi North, Mubi South, and Maiha. The area has an estimated population of about 709, 000 people (City Population, 2022). The major occupations of the people of these areas are crop production and rearing of animals. Crops commonly produced in the areas include cereals like maize, sorghum, rice, and millet among others. Similarly, cash crops ground-nuts, soya beans, sesame, and Bambara nuts are also commonly produced. The major tribes in the area are Higgi, Marghi, Gude, Fali, Fulani, and Njai among others.

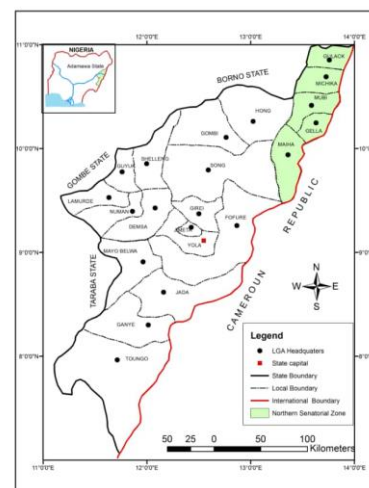


Figure 1: Map of Adamawa State Showing Northern Senatorial Zone
(Source: GIS Laboratory Department of Geography, MAUTECH, Yola 2020)

3.2 Sampling and Data Collection

Descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. Multistage sampling technique was used to select the respondents that were used for the study. In the first stage, four out of the five Local Government Areas in the area were selected, being the most widely affected by the *Boko Haram* insurgency. In the second stage, two communities were selected purposively from each of the selected Local Government Areas. The selected communities were among the most affected in the selected LGAs. In the third stage, 35 respondents were randomly selected from each of the communities as shown in Table 1. Hence, 280 respondents were used for the study. This sample sized was based on heuristic, following the submission of Wilson VanVoorhis and Morgan (2007) on absolute minimum observations in a survey.

Table 1: Distribution of Sampled Respondents

Local Government Area	Community	Frequency	Percent
Madagali	Shuwa	35	12.5
	Gulak	35	12.5
Michika	Lughu	35	12.5
	Vih	35	12.5
Mubi North	Muchala	35	12.5
	Vimtim	35	12.5
Mubi South	Gude	35	12.5
	Monduva	35	12.5
Total= 4	8	280	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2019

3.3 Methods of Analysis

Descriptive statistics, FGT poverty model, and Binary logistic regression model were used to analyse the data collected for the study. Descriptive statistics involving the use of frequencies, means, and percentages were used to describe the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents, and also identify their livelihood activities. FGT poverty model was used to determine the poverty status of the respondents, while the Binary logistic regression model was used to examine the factors influencing poverty in the study area.

The Foster-Greer-Thorbecke model is specified as follows;

$$P_{\alpha} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^H \left(\frac{Z - Y}{Z} \right)^{\alpha} \quad (1)$$

Where:

P_{α} = P = Foster, Greer and Thorbecke (PGT) index ($0 < \alpha < 1$)

Z= Poverty line,

N= Total number of respondents (household heads)

H= Number of respondents below poverty line

Y= Average per capita household expenditure of the respondents

α = Non-negative poverty aversion parameter.

Binary logit model was employed in the study to determine the influence of socio-economic variables on household poverty status. By using the logistic regression, the probability of a

result being in one of two response groups (binary response) is modeled as a function of the level of one or more explanatory variables. Thus, the probability of being poor or not is modeled as a function of the level of some socio-economic attributes. For this study, the response variable will be 1, when the respondent is non poor and 0, when poor. The functional form is stated as

$$Y = \ln\left(\frac{\phi_i}{1 - \phi_i}\right) = \beta_0 + \sum_{j=1}^k \beta_j X_{ij} + \varepsilon_i \quad (2)$$

Where: Y is the response category (1 if the respondent is non poor or 0 when poor), i denotes cases (1, 2, 3, 4, ..., 280), ϕ_i is the conditional probability, β_0 is the coefficient of the constant term, β_j is the coefficient of the independent variable, X_{ij} is the matrix of observed values, ε_i is the matrix of unobserved random effects, $\frac{\phi_i}{1 - \phi_i}$ is "odd", and $\ln\left(\frac{\phi_i}{1 - \phi_i}\right)$ is the logarithm of "odds".

Equation (2) can be manipulated to give the odds ratio using equation (3):

$$\frac{\phi_i}{1 - \phi_i} = \exp\left(\beta_0 + \sum_{i=1}^k \beta_i X_i\right) \quad (3)$$

The probability of the extent of participation will be calculated using equation (4):

$$\phi_i = \frac{\exp\left(\beta_0 + \sum_{i=1}^k \beta_j X_{ij}\right)}{1 + \exp\left(\beta_0 + \sum_{i=1}^k \beta_j X_{ij}\right)} \quad (4)$$

Equation (5) is intrinsically linear since the logit is linear in X_i (Tripepi *et al.*, 2008); it indicates that probability ϕ_i lies between zero and one and vary non-linearly with X_i . The equation for calculating partial effects of continuous variable is denoted by:

$$\frac{\partial \phi_i}{\partial x_i} = \phi_i (1 - \phi_i) \beta_j \quad (5)$$

The partial effects of the discrete variables will be calculated by taking the difference of the mean probabilities estimated for the respective discrete variable, $X_i = 0$ and $X_i = 1$

Table 2: Exogenous variables in the binary logit regression model

Variable	Measurement	Expected sign
Age	In years	\pm
Gender	Binary variable (1 = Male, 0 = Female)	+
Membership of social association	Binary variable (1 = member, 0 = not a member)	+

Marital status	Binary, variable (1=married, 0=otherwise)	+
Household size	Number of people	±
Level of education	Number of years spent in school	+
Farm size	Number of hectares	+
Access to credit	Binary Variable (1=yes, 0=No)	+
Remittances	Binary Variable (1=yes, 0=No)	+

4.0 Results and Discussion

4.1 Socioeconomic Characteristics of the Respondents

Based on the submission of Chambers & Conway (1992), socio-economic characteristics play a prominent role in determining people's livelihoods. The variables are linked to the people's social status, which is viewed as the degree of honour or prestige attached to one's position in a society (Abbey *et al.*, 2019). The respondents' socio-economic characteristics is presented in Table 2. With respect to the respondents' age, findings of the study revealed that 12.9% of the respondents were less than 30 years of age, 32.9% were within the age range of 30-39 years, 22.1% were between 40-49 years, while about 15.7% were between 50-59 years. Similarly, aged respondents (people whose age is 60 years or more) represented only 16.4% of the population. The average age of the respondents was 50.84 years, which implies that majority of the respondents are relatively young and could afford to engage in various livelihood activities that will contribute towards improved household wellbeing. The distribution of the respondents by sex shows that 68.2% of the respondents were male, while the females constituted 31.8%. This result implies that the males were majority of the household heads in the study area. This pattern of distribution of household heads is as expected due to the prevailing pattern across Nigeria. The distribution of the respondents by marital status revealed that majority of the individuals are married (60.7%), while the singles, divorced, and the widowed constituted 20%, 5.7%, and 13.6% respectively.

This finding implies that majority of the household heads in the study area are married persons. This can be attributed to some religious and cultural practices in the area where being married is often associated with maturity, discipline and sense of responsibility, which are expected attributes. The average household size in the area was about 8 persons, which is relatively large, and may have some implication on households' livelihood sustainability. Based on educational attainment, findings of the study indicated that majority (64.3%) of the respondents had one form of formal education or the other, while 37.5% had no formal education of any form. The distribution of the respondents by farm size revealed that 97.5% cultivate between 1 - 5 ha, while 2.5% cultivate more than 5 ha. The average farm size in the area was 2.04 ha, which implies that majority of the respondents are small-scale farmers. This has an implication on the income earning capacities of the people considering the fact that majority of the residents of the area are into farming as their main livelihood source.



Table 2: Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Respondents (N=280)

Variable	Frequency	Percentage	Mean
Age (Years)			50.84
<30	36	12.90	
30-39	92	32.90	
40-49	62	22.10	
50-59	44	15.70	
60 and above	46	16.40	
Gender			
Female	89	31.80	
Male	191	68.20	
Marital Status			
Divorced/separated	16	5.70	
Married	170	60.70	
Single	56	20.00	
Widowed	38	13.60	
Household Size			8.00
1-5	56	20.00	
6-10	144	51.40	
11-15	68	24.30	
>15	12	4.30	
Level of Educational			
no formal education	105	37.50	
Primary	74	26.40	
Secondary	57	20.40	
Tertiary	44	15.70	
Farm Size (Hectares)			2.04

1-5	273	97.50
6-10	4	1.40
>10	3	1.10

Source: Field Survey, 2019

4.2 Livelihood Activities

The respondents' livelihood activities are presented in Table 3. These activities are undertaken to achieve certain livelihood goals (Adger, 2006). Based on the findings, 85.3% were into crop farming, while 23.5% raise livestock. This result suggest that farming is the major livelihood activity of the people in the area. Other livelihood activities of the people were fishing (1.5%), civil service (10.3%), other salaried jobs (7.0%), and trading (8.8%). In the same vein, hired labour, sales of food/snack, craft, and commercial transportation (*Achaba*) have participation rates of 1.5%, 7.0%, 7.7%, and 6.3% respectively. From this distribution of livelihood activities, it can be deduced that farming and other semi/unskilled livelihood activities are the most common sources of livelihood for the people of the area. It should be noted that bulk of these activities are being affected by both the insurgency and counter insurgency measures being taken place in the area.

Table 3: Distribution of Respondents According to Livelihood Activities

Livelihood Activity	Frequency	Percentage
Crop Farming	232	85.30
Livestock rearing	64	23.50
Fishing	4	1.50
Other salary employment	19	7.00
Civil service	28	10.30
Trading/Marketing	24	8.80
Hired labour	4	1.50
Selling food/snack	19	7.00
Craft	21	7.70
Commercial Transport (<i>Achaba</i>)	17	6.30

Source: Field survey, 2019

*Multiple Responses

4.3 Poverty Status

Poverty is a major contributor to livelihood vulnerability. The distribution of the respondents' poverty status is presented in Table 4. Based on the result, majority (73.9%) of the respondents



were poor, while 26.3% were non-poor. This finding implies that in order for the livelihoods of the people of the region to improve, there is the need for tangible interventions and supports that can help majority of the people overcome poverty, thereby enhancing their livelihood recovery.

Table 4: Distribution of Respondents by Poverty Status

Poverty Status	Frequency	Percentage
Poor	207	73.90
Non-Poor	73	26.10
Total	280	100.00

Source: Field survey, 2019

4.4 Factors Influencing Poverty

Table 5 presents the result of the binary logistic regression used in identifying the factors influencing poverty in Northern Adamawa State, Nigeria. The model had a pseudo R^2 of 77.4% and a LR statistic that is significant at 1% showing that the model is a good fit for the data. The independent variables used were age (X_1), gender (X_2), marital status (X_3), household size (X_4), educational level (X_5), farm size (X_6), access to credit (X_7), membership of group (X_8), and remittance received (X_9). Findings of the study revealed that six of the predictors were significant, while three (namely gender, marital status, farm size) were not significant. Based on the result, age (X_1) and household size (X_4) negatively affect the probability of becoming non-poor, and the relationship is significant at 1%.

This may be attributed to the fact that, as a person advances in age, the person's rate of economic productivity declines. Hence, this reduces the income earning capacities of such persons, thereby making them vulnerable to poverty. Based on the result presented in the Table, increase in household size reduces the probability of becoming non-poor and vice versa. This is because a member increase in household size reduces the probability of being non-poor due to a reduction in per capita household consumption. In the same vein, educational attainment, access to credit, membership of group, and remittance received were all factors that positively influence the probability of being non-poor in the study area. This finding suggests that an increase in any of these variables will substantially contribute in reducing poverty in the study area and vice versa.

The non-significance of farm size in this area may be attributed to small nature of farm holdings due to the threats being posed by insurgents along distant farm locations, prohibition of the use of motorcycles and transportation of certain agro-chemicals (particularly Urea fertilizer) in area as a military counter insurgency measure. This has hampered large-scale farming due to lack of farm inputs and small farm holdings in areas considered safe (Sidney *et al.*, 2017).

Table 5: Factors Affecting Livelihood Activities

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	Z-statistic
Age(X ₁)	-0.043812	0.021037	-2.082642
Gender(X ₂)	0.440832	0.654598	0.673439
Marital Status (X ₃)	0.361478	0.353977	1.021192
Household size (X ₄)	-0.511061	0.094493	-5.408459
Educational Level (X ₅)	0.123481	0.036421	3.390402
Number of Livelihood Activities (X ₆)	0.105081	0.190771	0.550820
Access to Credit (X ₇)	0.908114	0.418994	2.167366
Social Group Membership (X ₈)	0.979355	0.353370	2.771470
Remittance (X ₉)	3.79E-05	9.08E-06	4.175651
Constant	-0.307851	1.119705	-0.274939

Source: Authors' computation using Eviews 9 software *, **, *** Significant at 1, 5 and 10%, respectively

5.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

This study has revealed that poverty has remained prominent in Northern zone of Adamawa State, and this will slow the livelihood recovery process of the people. In terms of the people's livelihood activities, farming has been the major livelihood activities in the area. But, due to the fact that this activity is being limited by the conflict, farm sizes and access to basic farm inputs have been reduced drastically. It should be noted that making the people's main livelihood activities lucrative is among the most sustainable means of enhancing livelihood recovery. Therefore, based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made in order to promote livelihood recovery in the area;

- i. There is need for the government to take concrete steps such as improving the security architecture and provision of employment among youths that will promote normalcy in the area. This will improve peoples' access to land and other production inputs like fertilizers (which have been prohibited in some areas due to the military restrictions). This will improve farming, which is the major activity of the people, thereby reducing the poverty situation in the area.
- ii. Farmers in the area should be taught on enhanced production techniques in a simple language and methods that they would understand that will ensure that farm lands are made much more productive regardless of size, this will enhance their income and thereby reducing poverty.



- iii. In this study, household size is a significant determinant of poverty in the area. Hence, residents should be encouraged through sensitization to have a family size they can properly manage with their resources.
- iv. Also, people of the area should be encouraged by giving them incentives and mobilization to join social groups/cooperative societies where they can access certain benefits both in cash and kind, which will go a long way in enhancing their livelihood strategies.

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