

POROUS BORDER SECURITY AS A BOOST TO ILLEGAL CROSS-BORDER MIGRATION AND ITS IMPLICATIONS ON NATIONAL SECURITY IN NIGERIA*

Abstract

International Migration between Nigeria and her neighbours has been a source of concern in the formulation and articulation of diplomatic and foreign policy of the nation. The porosity of Nigerian borders has made it possible for unwarranted influx of migrants from neighboring states to enter the country illegally from such countries like Republic of Niger, Chad and Republic of Benin. The nefarious activities of the dreaded Islamist terrorist group Boko Haram has made lives and properties insecure in Nigeria and this could be attributed to the incursion of migrants from the Republics of Niger and Chad to Nigeria. This work tries to ascertain the effects of poor border security on Nigeria's National Security and identify the challenge of effective border security in Nigeria. This paper observed that the problem of achieving effective border security has posed a great threat to Nigerian National Security because it has contributed to infiltration of terrorists/insurgents, loss of government revenue; smuggling or trafficking of illegal goods and in addition, it was revealed that the issue of corruption; poor technology gadget, porous nature of the borders all serve as strong challenges to effective border security in Nigeria. This paper suggested that adequate provision of funds; use of modern technology devices adequate training of security personnel; strengthening of Multinational Joint Task Force etc, will go a long way in achieving effective border security in Nigeria in order to promote national security and development.

Keywords: Border Security, National Security, Illegal Cross Border Migration, Nigeria

1. Introduction

The protection of a state's territory against any potential threats by law depends on the level of its ability or capability to achieve effective border security or control. The extent to which states protect their territory against any potential aggressors or threat depends on the level of their ability or capability to achieve adequate border security. Border security is very essential for the protection against any potential threat to national security and sovereignty of a nation-state. The border is the first line of defence against terrorism and last line of a nation's territorial integrity.¹ In contemporary nation-state, well-defined borders are not only a key element of the definition of statehood, but their consolidation has been identified as essential for building stable states and societies while unconsolidated borders have been seen as recipes for instability and conflict². States are recognized under international law based on their capability to secure their borders/territories and protect its citizens. The classification of whether a state is a weak, strong and failed state depends on the level of its capability to protect its borders.³ Nigeria and other African borders have a poor reputation and considered as porous. The African boundaries have been seen as arbitrary and artificial colonial constructs that is imposed on unwilling African peoples who have either suffered dearly from their impact or simply ignored them. There have been a wide spread perception that Nigerian government has been confronted with the problem of ensuring effective border security. The ineffective control and management of Nigeria's national border has been a serious concern to deal with. This situation has led to the rise of transnational crimes like smuggling of illegal goods, illegal movement of persons, trafficking of persons, money laundering, theft, kidnapping and even terrorism.

Protecting Nigeria's land borders is one hard task security services are still struggling to contain. Unfortunately, the country is fast losing ground to external infiltrators, who are capitalizing on our seemingly weak institutions to wreak havoc. There is growing concern that the inability to guarantee the territorial integrity of the country is predominantly responsible for the increasing influx of illegal migrants into the country. Nigeria occupies an area of 923,768 square kilometers with a total boundary length of 4,900 km, of which 853 km is coastline. Nigeria is bordered to Niger from North West to Chad by North-East, Cameroon from South, the Gulf of Guinea of the Atlantic Ocean, and Benin Republic by the South-West. Although the (Nigeria Immigration Service) NIS declared 84 Operational borders, investigation indicated that authorities are contending with over 1,400 entry points, which might not officially be recognized. Despite the efforts to curtail the rate at which insecurity spikes in Nigeria, the forces may find it inexplicable to contend with the existing porous borders where unauthorized persons penetrate to inflict terror in the country.⁴ In recent times, Nigeria is witnessing rising cases of kidnapping, banditry, cattle rustling, herders-farmers conflicts, terrorism, arm robbery, and other related criminalities. These vices are worsening the protracted battle against insurgency in the North-East, which has lasted for more than 12 years and still counting. States like Zamfara, Katsina, Kaduna, and Niger states are worse hit. This is notwithstanding the extant laws including the criminal code, terrorism Act and others specifically prohibiting terrorism financing.

The NIS has introduced several guidelines and procedures that standardize immigrant's documentation. The genuine initiative was intended to regulate and control immigration matters as well as addressing the causes of illegal migration in the country. Unfortunately, the blueprint can only be efficiently applied to immigrants using the airport in Nigeria. Experts believe the purpose of the new guideline would be defeated if the porous borders are not checked more so when the blueprint is still lacking legislative backup. Between 2017 and 2020, a documented record indicated that NIS arrested no fewer than 99 illegal immigrants from the neighboring Niger, Togo, and Benin republic. Much recently, in 2021, NIS arrested 1,400 authorized migrants from Benin Republic. Uncontrolled entry points have not only given leeway for illegal migrants but also provided

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¹ M. Spencer (2007) Border and State insecurity. In J. F. Forest (Ed), *Countering, Terrorism and insurgency in the 21st Century: International Perspective*. Vol 2 (pp. 109-126). Westport: Praeger Security International.

² F. N. Ikome 'Africa's International Borders as Potential Sources of Conflict and Future Threats to Peace and Security. Chatham House Report. Institute for Security Studies Paper No. 233, 2012.

³W. Okumu Border Management and security in Africa. Retrieved August 9, 2016 from <https://www.researchgate.net/file.postfileloader.html?id=assetkey>.

⁴ <https://guardian.ng/features/how-illegal-migration-fuels-insecurity-in-nigeria-by-experts>

unhindered routes where the infiltrators ship arms and ammunition into the country to perpetrate their heinous crimes, thereby exacerbating the rate of insecurity in the country. To stem the tide of the ugly trend, the Federal government in 2019 shut down the nation's land borders to curtail the free flow of dangerous arms into the country. But 15 months after, the situation seems intractable. Director-General of National Taskforce on Illegal Importation of Light Weapons and Small Arms, Chief Osita Okereke, recently told the National Assembly to ratify a bill for the National Commission for the Prohibition of all Illegal Importation of Small Arms, Ammunition and Light Weapons to further fortify the country against external aggression. Chief Okereke submitted that illegal importation of ammunition was one of the major security challenges bedeviling Nigeria, adding that the free trafficking along the Nigeria borders was responsible for increasing insecurity across the county and the position was made recently during Arise Television Morning Show Programme with Reuben Abati and Rufai Oseni as host presented.⁵ Speculations are common that foreign herdsmen who made their way into the country through illegal routes are responsible for the herders-farmers clashes in the southern part of Nigeria.

2. Clarification of Concepts

The following terms are explained for easy understanding of the topic.

Border Security: Border security is the control of cross-border movement of people with the main goal of reducing illegal flows and not (unduly) limiting legal flows and Nelson⁶ defined border security as 'managing the flow of people, goods, and other tangible items across national boundaries views that generally, border security include:

- i. Geophysical control of a boundary through patrol by the military or special border patrol protection force.
- ii. Immigration by internally enforcing laws.
- iii. Migration by controlling the transnational movement of people.
- iv. Enhancing enforcement of the immigration and migration law by asking questions that assist in screening people using the border
- v. Enhancing inspections through searches to ensure that harmful products or individuals do not enter into a country
- vi. Enhancing management of institutions and systems that contribute to border security
- vii. Detecting and preventing criminals and illegal persons, goods, drugs and weapons as well as other prohibited items, from entering a country.

On our own we define border security as the state of protecting the country against any illegal cross-border flows like illegal drugs, illegal migration, illegal arms etc that pose a threat to the survival of a state. In other words, border security means the prevention of illegal movement of goods and persons across borders, which can pose a threat to national security and development.

National Security: National security covers critical dimensions viz: economic security, food security, personal security, community security, political security. In addition, Nte⁷ defined national security as 'the ability of a nation to protect its internal values from internal and external threats. Thus for all practical purpose includes securing the individual against war, poverty, disease, loss of income and other health hazard. There must be national preservation and equilibrium in the economic, social, political and environment spheres'. In this work, our focus on national security is based on state's ability to protect lives and property, ensures economic development (increase in revenue and high standard of living), protection from harm, control of crimes and violent attacks.

Migration: Abonyi agreed with the definition of migration given by the Cambridge Dictionary to the effect that migration is a movement of people from one region to another and often back again especially according to the season of the year⁸. The definition above relates to geography and involves the movement of the individual or persons as case may be from their place of habitual residence to another place temporarily or permanently as case may be. There may be push factors as Abonyi contended which may include relocation or transfer based on employment procedure or rules, quest for educational qualification and improved skill, quest for improved standard of living, or it can still be for reasons relating to natural incidents or contingencies like famine, drought, flooding, disease outbreak and even as a result of political elevation or appointment.⁹ If we look at the definition of migration as given by Cambridge dictionary, it is evident that the definition is narrow. From the perspective of economics, migration is movement of people from a place to another temporarily or permanently to secure a job or paid employment¹⁰. Legally speaking, migration goes beyond geographical and economic consideration and involves the movement of people within and outside the territorial borders of a state¹¹ this gives rise to what is called domestic and cross border migration or still what is known as internal and international migration. Migration in this respect must be in accordance with the laid down procedure and must fully comply with the dictates and requirements of law and if not so done, it becomes illegal and void hence the concept of illegal or irregular domestic and cross border migration.

⁵ Arise Television Clips 'Morning show' *The Challenge of National Security*, Feb 2022 Edition.

⁶ R.O. Nelson, Conley H. A., Schaffer T. C. Bodurian B, Kraut J., Cipoletti, T.J. Dukkupati, U & Walker, R.J. 'Border Security in a time of reformation: two international case studies-poland and india. A Report of the CSIS Homeland Security and Counterterrorism program, Europe program, and south Asia Program Washington D.C. Centre for strategic and international studies (2010).

⁷ N.D. Nte 'Transnational threat and national security concerns: A Study of Nigeria-Benin Republic Border. *International Security Journal*, 1 (1), 1-33, 2011.

⁸ A. U. Abonyi, 'Trafficking in Persons and Irregular Domestic/Cross Border Migration in Nigeria' *Journal of contemporary issues in Nigeria*, Vol 2, Issue No 1, 2020, Publication of Rivers State University Port Harcourt, Also in A. U. Abonyi, *Emerging issues on Humanitarian Law* 2022.

⁹ Ibid

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ Ibid

Domestic/Internal Migration: According to Rosemary Vargas,¹² it has often been stated that mankind is migratory specie and internal migrants move for many reasons. When people assume that moving from one part of the country to another may improve their well being, others tend to move from one place to another searching for better paid jobs or pursuing a particular career or education. Others move to be closer to family and friends or to aspire for a better quality life.¹³ Women and children move in connection with marriage arrangement or to be close to a spouse trying to keep the family united.¹⁴ It is also imperative to observe that people migrate internally due to warfare, political circumstances and exigencies or religious per section¹⁵. For young people, they may move to avoid military service which is enshrined in the constitution, others may be evicted and pushed to move as a result of land grabbing by powerful or threatening individuals or groups or as a result of developmental projects like construction of dams, roads and other large scale endeavor of the state promoting the interest of unfamiliar set of people and stakeholders.¹⁶ Environmental degradation, climate change charge and various forms of natural disasters can lead to internal or domestic migration. What may be the reason for internal migration, the main motivation for such migration is without doubt economic, insufficient income, and in other circumstances on legal grounds including displacement related migration and even trafficking and prostitution. Displacement is caused by many drivers which under humanitarian law creates humanitarian crisis and need for the victims to leave and be protected. Internal migration occurs in many countries but global reports by the World Bank group show that internal migration is more pronounced in Europe North America while it is lowest in Asia and among the African states including Nigeria, internal migrants are few in number compared to cross border migrants are few in number compared to cross border migrants.¹⁷ In American, Europe and spreading currently among African states, there is push and movement from rural areas to urban cities.¹⁸ A good example is in North America where over 82% live in urban areas making the rural areas to be sparsely populated¹⁹. The figure is followed by Latin America and the Caribbean with 80%, Europe with 73%²⁰. In contrast however, Africa and Asia remain mostly rural with 40% and 48% living in urban areas respectively²¹. Close to half of the world urban dwellers reside in relatively small settlements of fewer than 500,000 inhabitants while only around 'one' in eight in 28 mega cities with more than 10 million inhabitants²² 28 megacities with more than 10 million inhabitants.

It means from the relevant studies that internal migration I often repudiated while pointing to an unsustainable current model of urbanization causing environmental degradation, over population, unsustainable resource management, pollution and growing mountains of waste uncontrolled spontaneous urban growth generates multiples from inequality, exclusion, deprivation, growing slums for the poor and 'gated' community for the wealthy.²³ The phenomenon of gated community is one where the wealthy and the affluent built their houses individually or in form of estate and barricade them with fortress walls and gates to exclude the poor. Urbanization and rural-urban migration breeds discrimination and deprivation and disrespect to liberty and dignity of the poor citizens who may be constrained by scarcity of funds. All these issues are purely constitutional matters.

Cross Border/International migration: Cross border or international migration is defined by the IOM Glossary on Migration 2nd Edition²⁴ to mean a process of movement of persons across international borders. The definition above suggests clearly that when migration is across border, the implication is that the migrant or migrants is leaving a territorial border of one state into another territorial border of another state entirely. By extension too, the migrant is expected and required to observe all the border control regulations of his country of origin and that of the destination or transit country for him or her or them to be given a valid pass both by the country of origin where he is migrating or departing as well as the transit country or indeed the country of destination. A movement by a Nigerian migrant across the Nigerian recognized borders into the territorial borders of Niger Republic or the Cameroons is a cross border migration and also international.²⁵ International migration is regulation is regulation by legal and normative framework and includes international law founded in conventions and instruments affecting management of migration and other non-legally binding best practices and principles.²⁶ A good example of these instruments is the 1951 convention and the 1967 protocol relating to the status of Refugees and the UN Convention on the protection of All Migrant Workers and members of their families. These instrument provides and streamlines the powers and responsibilities of individual states on managing the movement of people across their borders, the rights and obligations of the migrants and the state co-operation with other states in managing and controlling movement of people across the borders.²⁷ States work together to ensure that international migration governance is smooth and without hitches and ensure that there is effective and efficient protection of the rights and welfare of migrants without compromising in any manner any national or domestic legal restrictions to illegal migration and that of rules of international law in that regards.²⁸

¹² R. V. Lindius 'Word Bank group synthetic report on internal migration and urbanization, 2012.

¹³ Ibid

¹⁴ Ibid

¹⁵ Ibid

¹⁶ Ibid

¹⁷ Ibid

¹⁸ Ibid

¹⁹ Ibid

²⁰ Ibid

²¹ Ibid

²² Ibid

²³ Ibid

²⁴ International Organization for Migration Glossary on Migration, 2nd Edition, No. 2.

²⁵ A. U. Abonyi 'Irregular Domestic/Cross Border Migration in Nigeria, 2023 COOU *International Humanitarian Law Lecture Series* Vol.1.

²⁶ Susan Martin 'The Legal and normative framework of international Migration published by Global Commission on International (GCIM), 2005 updated, 2018.

²⁷ Ibid

²⁸ Ibid

Illegal migration: The term illegal migration means the same thing as irregular migration.²⁹ Illegal or irregular migration means the movement that takes place outside the regulatory norms of the sending, transit and receiving countries.³⁰ From the perspective of destination countries, it is entry, stay or work in a country without the necessary authorization or documents required under immigration regulations. From the perspective of the sending country, the illegality or irregularity is for example seen in cases in which a person crosses an international boundary without a valid passport or travel document or does not fulfill the administrative requirements for leaving the country.³¹ There is however a tendency to restrict the use of the term illegal migration to cases of smuggling of migrants and trafficking of persons. They mean a different thing. But illegal or irregular migration simply means unauthorized, unlawful entry, admission undocumented.³² This definition is in accord with the view of Abonyi who reasoned that migration is irregular or illegal where the movement fails to comply with the procedure laid down by authority in country of departure, transit and destination.³³

3. Review of Nigerian Border Situation and its Impact on Cross Border Migration and Nigerian Security

The role of border remains a very critical factor in finding solutions to Nigeria national Security challenges. Just like the skin protects the body, the border protects the Country from dangerous and unforeseeable elements. It is quite obvious that Nigeria's borders have become very porous due to years of neglect by Nigeria government. Such neglect has led to the serious National Security Challenges today like Boko Haram insurgency, armed bandit, Herdsmen, illegal bunkering, drug pushing, and weapon trafficking to name but a few which degenerated into the worrisome large scale destruction of lives, properties and economy of the Country. Regrettably, the Nigeria national security challenges have become very problematic and cumbersome because of unhindered influx of criminals and arms through the Country's porous borders. It is imperative to note that if a country cannot regulate and control its borderline, there is every tendency that outsiders will infiltrate and unleash mayhem on the citizens of the Country and that is exactly what Nigeria is undergoing currently in the hands of Boko Haram insurgency and Fulani Herdsmen. Nigeria undoubtedly has witnessed numerous gruesome attacks on police stations, army barracks, schools, Churches, Mosques, Markets, Social Gatherings and Farms from the hands of the deadly monsters called Boko Haram and Fulani Herdsmen and their attack has continued with impunity while Nigeria government seems helpless. According to United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC), the mindless attacks which were illustrated above have led to the death of many security agents and kidnapping of countless innocent young girls and boys for sex slavery and forceful conscription, firearm and drug trafficking. These are made possible by the Nigeria's porous border. Moreover, it is estimated that during the dry Season, there are more than 10,000 unmanned routes through which cross-border criminals troop in and out of Nigeria at will.³⁴ The Arewa Research and Development Project reported in a workshop in 2013 that guns were openly displayed for sale in border areas along Niger and Chad Republics.

4. Poor Border Security and its Threat to Nigeria National Security

In Nigeria, the problems of achieving effective border security have negative effects on national security. Therefore, impacts of the poor border security on Nigeria's national security are:

There is Infiltration of terrorists/rebels. The poor border security has gone a long way to aid the operation of the terrorist group like Boko Haram which is a threat to national security.³⁵ The Boko Haram has devised or used both transnational and national trafficking of arms and weapons to cause terror and fear to Nigerian citizens³⁶. The problem of securing Nigeria border helps the Boko Haram to adequately launch several successful attacks in Nigeria and other neighbouring countries killing thousands of people and displaced millions of people. The porous nature of the border has enabled the terrorists to purchase or traffic weapons and travel to other neighbouring countries for other assistance. This has led to several training camps in Chad, Niger Republic and Cameroon. This is why Okumu³⁷ 'viewed that insecure borders have greatly contributed to severe security threats such as insurrection, incursion and terrorist activity. Challenge to Economic Development: The border insecurity in Nigeria has also posed a serious challenge or threat to the economic development (economy). The process of smuggling of goods and persons into the country has contributed to high loss of government revenue, threat to domestic and foreign direct investment, problem of unemployment etc³⁸.

In the aspect of loss of government revenue, the poor border control has encouraged a lot of illegal activities in Nigeria, especially oil bunkering, smuggling of illicit goods. In oil bunkering, oil is often stolen and sent across the border, which has contributed to a huge loss to Nigerian wealth. It was reported that 300, 000 barrels are illegally exported per day along the Benin-Nigeria border which is seen as the major acting zone. In addition, It was also reported that the figure of illegal oil bunkering is between 150, 000 to 200, 000 barrel per day and which may be sold between 10 to 25 dollar per barrel amounting to 2 million dollar per day and 750 million dollar annually³⁹. Furthermore, the Nigerian Navy discovered that Nigeria loses about 20 billion dollars annually to crude oil theft and estimated 55, 210 barrels of oil per day or monthly average of 1, 656, 281 barrels was stolen in 2013. The loss of revenue from this illegal oil bunkering has amounted to estimate of one billion

²⁹ IOM Glossary on Migration No. 25, 2005.

³⁰ Ibid

³¹ Ibid

³² Ibid

³³ A. U. Abonyi, *Emerging issue in Humanitarian Law* (Nnewi Chemag press LTD, 2022.)

³⁴ H. J. Adams, *Improving Nigeria Border Security: A Comprehensive Approach*. Naval War College.

³⁵ Bearzotti, E, Geranio, A, Keresztes, V.K. & Mullerova, M. (2015). Countering Boko Haram's Transnational Reach: Towards a Development Approach to Border Management. Regional Academy on the United Nation (RAUN). 2012.

³⁶ T. C. Onuora 'Porous Border and Boko Haram arms smuggling operation in Nigeria. Aljazer center for studies. Retrieved March 10, 2015 from <http://studies.aljazeera.net/en/>.

³⁷ W. Okumu 'Border Management and security in Africa. Retrieved August 9, 2016 from <https://www.researchgate.net/file/postfileloader.html?id.....assetkey.....>

³⁸ O. Akinoyemi, Globalization and Nigeria Border security: Issues and challenges. *International Affairs and Global Strategy* 1, 1 _ 7, 2013.

³⁹ D. S. Garuba Trans-border Economic Crimes, Illegal Oil Bunkering and Economic Reforms in Nigeria policy brief series. No. 15, Global Consortium on Security Transformation, 2010.

dollars which rivals GNP of Cape Verde and Sierra Leone (African Economic Development Institute, 2015). Evidence shows that the informal trade across African borders has recorded much loss of government revenues, which could account for as much as 64% of Nigeria's GDP. This is because Nigerian state loses direct tax revenues that would be generated from formal cross-border trade.⁴⁰ In the aspect of domestic and foreign investment, it has shown that the cross-border criminal activities have posed a serious threat to growth of domestic investment and manufactures in Nigeria. Hoffmann and Melly (2015) noted, 'Nigerian-made goods are already competing with Chinese products across West African region. But many of these goods are exported through informal channels thereby excluding manufacturers from most support on offer whether from government.... or from institutions.....' Furthermore, the increase in all these informal and illegal smuggling of goods and infiltration of terrorist in Nigeria has also contributed to low level of foreign direct investment and high unemployment rate.⁴¹

Apart from terrorist activities, the unsecured border insecurity in Nigeria has encouraged the rise in certain criminal gangs that engage in armed robbery attacks and other criminal activities which posed a serious threat to national security. There are also cases of health issues. The increase in smuggling of illegal drugs, trafficking of person has shown a high tendency of spread of disease especially those into prostitution⁴². It has been reported that about two-third of the reported HIV/AIDS cases in Nigeria are females that are often migrated/trafficked to other countries. The increase in the trafficking of women from Nigeria to other countries and vice versa through the Nigeria-Benin border has to a large extent contributed to high rate of HIV prevalence. Furthermore, the smuggling of illegal goods contributes to health risk because most of the drugs illegally transported (smuggled) into Nigeria have high tendency to cause damage to human health.

5. Challenges of Effective Border Security in Nigeria

Even though efforts have been made to secure Nigeria border, it has been discovered that certain factors appear to pose a problem or challenge to effective border security in Nigeria.

Porous Nature of the Borders: Studies have shown that there is high rate of porous borders in Nigeria and it has been assumed to be the major challenge to effective border security. This can be as a result of the vastness of Nigerian border. It has been indicated that Nigerian has 147 irregular and 84 regular routes as movement were done through irregular routes⁴³. Adams⁴⁴ viewed that there is existence of 1475 official border sites and estimate of 2000 un-official border sites across Nigeria borders. Musa⁴⁵ identified that there are presence of 250 footprints from Damaturu/Maiduguri axis that link the Cameroon, Chad and Niger that are not known to Nigerian Security Agencies. The porosity of Nigeria's border can be seen or indicated in the use of dried tree, oil drum, tyres etc to demarcate national borders which makes the borders highlydisorganized⁴⁶. The existence of large number of illegal routes have made it easy for all sort of transnational crimes like movement or smuggling of illegal goods, trafficking of persons, theft and terrorist and other violent activities etc.

Corruption: The issue of corruption is another problem to effective border security in Nigeria. It has been discovered that most security agencies are often compromised to allow illegal flow of goods and people. According to Onuoha Since corruption is endemic and systemic in Nigeria, cross border arms trafficking is sometimes facilitated by security agents. In May for instance, a senior custom personnel was arrested for allegedly assisting Boko Haram insurgents to smuggle trucks loaded with huge cache of arms and ammunitions into Nigeria. Gbemre noted that some checkpoints are not meant to check passport but to extort money from people⁴⁷. Hahonou indicated that recent anthropological research shows that regular traders, transporters and passengers that moves along West African states usually provide various kinds of informal payment to state agents in order to escape taxation of goods and certain procedures⁴⁸. Report also maintained that along the Niger-Benin-Nigeria border, there is no positive relation between a higher number of checkpoints and an increased level of control because security agents create fake offices and checkpoints to increase the number of opportunity for taking bribes and racketing citizens.

Issue of Facilities & Logistics: The problem of adequate facilities and other logistics serve as a problem to effective border security in Nigeria. There have been reported cases of low operational facilities like: poor border barrack or substandard office; lack of or insufficient communication or technological gadgets or facilities; inadequate patrol vehicles etc. The work of border security officials is hampered by logistic and poor government remuneration, creating avenues for corruptions. There is no how effective border security can be achieved without adequate facilities and logistics.

Abuse of ECOWAS Protocol: The establishment of ECOWAS protocol on free movement of persons and goods among states is meant to ensure free movement of persons or citizens of member states in order to achieve development in the region. The abuse of this protocol has contributed much infiltration of illegal goods and persons. We share the view that this protocol on free movement has however become a subject of abuse particularly by criminal and terrorists that engage on smuggling of arms, ammunitions and other items into Nigeria.

⁴⁰I. K. Hoffmann & Melly. Nigeria's booming borders: The drivers and consequences of unrecorded trade. London: the royal institute of international affairs, 2015.

⁴¹ O. Akinyemi, 'Globalization and Nigeria Border security: Issues and challenges. *International Affairs and Global Strategy* 1, 1 _ 7, 2015.

⁴²C. Blum 'Cross-border flows between Nigeria and Benin: What are the challenges for (Human) security? Wuse 11 Abuja: Friederich-Ebert-Sifting, 2014.

⁴³ S. Vierner. Boko Haram Regional Cross-Border activities. *Combating Terrorism Center Sentinel*, 7(10), 10-14, 2014.

⁴⁴ Adams H. J. Improving Nigerian Border security: A comprehensive approach. Naval War College.

⁴⁵S. Musa. Border Security, arms proliferation and terrorism in Nigeria. Retrieved February 15, 2015 from www. Border-security-arms-proliferation-and-terrorisn-nigeriahtm, 2013.

⁴⁶ Gbemre, Z. The need to protect the integrity of Nigeria borders. Retrieved. 2016.

⁴⁷Z. Gbemre 'The need to protect the integrity of Nigeria borders' Retrieved May 1, 2016 from [http://refomeronline.com/the-need-to-protect-the.\(2016\).](http://refomeronline.com/the-need-to-protect-the.(2016).)

⁴⁸ E. K. Hahonou 'Security in the shahel: corruption, insecurity and border control in Niger. *Danish Institute for International Studies Policy Brief*, 2016.

Problem of globalization: Despite the positive effect of globalization, it still poses a threat to effective border security in Nigeria. Through the advancement of information and communication technology and transformation of international relations caused by globalization has increased the challenges of African states to manage their borders. Studies has pointed out that there is a relationship between globalization and trans-border (economic) crimes because the logic of time and space have been become speed up and condensed which deterritorialize boundaries and undermines sovereignty leading to increasing speed and sophistication of criminal activities and networks⁴⁹. The present globalization serves as a problem to Nigerian border security because it has aided criminal to engage on illegal business without necessarily crossing the border. This is done through the cyberspace with the use of information and communication technology. The use of ICT has also enhanced terrorist activities in Nigeria and other trans-border crimes.

Problem of Manpower/Personnel: Issue of personnel is also a great challenge towards securing Nigerian borders. The presence of inadequate manpower / security personnel has made it difficult for security operatives to effectively maim the borders. Evidence has shown the availability of security personnel is not enough for management of both regular/official and irregular/unofficial route in Nigeria⁵⁰. This contributed to high rate of smuggling or infiltration of illegal goods and persons.

Conflict/ inadequate Co-operations Among Security Agencies: Adam (2012) viewed that ‘the lack of or absence of integrated security efforts also provides criminal smuggling and other illicit networks.’ The poor co-operation and co-ordination between security agents within Nigeria and other neighbouring countries have undermined border security in Nigeria. It is noted as Scholars like Temisan has reasoned that there is poor co-operation between the security agencies (mainly the NCS and NIS) in joint patrol arrangement at the borders. Even though the multinational Joint Task Force has been improving its efforts to ensure security mainly at the borders, there has been problem of collaboration, co-ordination and co-operation between security agencies of other countries. In addition, the conflict or poor cooperation and coordination can be as a result of suspicion, problem of information and intelligence sharing, disagreement on standard to follow, adhoc operations of some joint patrol etc.

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

The understanding on how to achieve national security also requires the question of how to ensure effective border security. Therefore, border security is a very essential for the actualization of consolidated statehood, enhancement of sovereignty and national security. Nigeria has been experiencing the problem of how to effectively secure its borders from all sort of transnational crimes that serve as a threat to national security. Despite certain efforts put in place to strengthen Nigerian borders, certain factors have contributed to serious challenge to border security such as corruption; poor technological gadgets and other facilities/ logistics; issues of globalization; porous nature of the border; inadequate cooperation or coordination between security agencies etc.

In order to ensure effective border security, the following measures need to be put in place. Adequate provision and use of ICT facilities or the technological gadgets such as the geographical information system, surveillance drones, biometrics etc are very essential in order to effectively track down the activities of trans-border criminals like terrorist, robbers, arm dealers etc. The use of ICT or technological gadgets will help to complement the physical border control. Apart from provision of technological gadgets, provisions of other facilities like good accommodations, offices and logistics (like patrol vehicles, aircraft) to security agencies is very necessary in order to curb the activities of trans-border criminal activities. There is need for the government to construct adequate fences, auto-gates or border plazas. This will help to reduce the size of illegal migration, smuggling of goods and trafficking of persons. Strengthening the cooperation, collaboration and coordination between states is very essential. Nigeria and its neighbouring countries need to strengthen their cooperation especially, through the Multi-National Joint Task Force; Joint Border Control Commissions with Niger, Chad, Benin Republic and Cameroon to ensure effective border security. There is urgent need to address the problem of corruption among security agencies in order to reduce the rate of trans-border criminal activities. There is need for adequate training and remuneration of security officials or agents responsible for border patrol in order to ensure effective border security and control. There is need to strengthen the cooperation and coordination of Nigerian security agencies involved in border control or management. A well-coordinated effort and intelligent sharing between security agencies like the Police, Customs, Immigration, Civil Defence Corps, the Military etc will go a long to ensure effective border security. Encouragement of community engagement for border and security control is very important. There should be proper involvement of local communities in terms of information and intelligent sharing. This can be achieved through effective or functional border community policing.

⁴⁹D.S. Garuba Trans-Border Economic Crimes, illegal oil bunkering and economic reforms in Nigeria. *Policy Brief Series*. No 15, Global Consortium on security transformation, 2010.

⁵⁰D. O. Bondude et al. International insecurity in Nigeria: The Irony of multiplicity of insecurity challenges. *International Journal of Research in Humanities, Arts and Literature (IJRHAL)*, 2 (5), 213-219.