

METHODOLOGICAL CHALLENGES IN COMBATING IRREGULAR MIGRATION, HUMANTRAFFICKING AND MODERN-DAY SLAVERY IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Nigeria has been identified as a route, source and destination of irregular migration, human trafficking and modern-day slavery in recent times. Consequently, there had been series of awareness campaigns through public enlightenment, disseminated through different media (radio, television, print media and others), social advertisements, outreaches to religious places, markets, schools and many more to combat this menace of modern-day slavery. In spite of these innovative interventions, the issue of human trafficking, irregular migration and modern-day slavery has not abated in Nigeria. Using a triangulated technique, this paper examined various methodological challenges of combating irregular migration, human trafficking and modern-day slavery in Nigeria. A critical evaluation of the Field-Notes of the State and Regional Coordinators and Focus Group Discussion (FGD) across the 6-geo-political zones was done. The findings revealed some inherent methodological challenges that were threats to the reliability and validity of the various intervention activities. Major among these threat was history. Specifically, insecurity and deteriorating economic condition of the country had strength the propensity for irregular migration, human trafficking and modern-day slavery in the country. Until these fundamental threats are adequately addressed. Combating the menace of irregular migration, human trafficking and modern-day slavery might be a mirage.

Key words: *Irregular Migration, Human Trafficking, Modern-Day Slavery, Interventions, Threats, Nigeria*

INTRODUCTION

Many local and international bodies and Non-governmental agencies, including UNHCR, UNODC, UNICEF, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), International Migration Organisation (IOM) have been allowed significant roles particularly as they relate to the effort to combat human trafficking as well as issues concerning handling returnees/deportees in Nigeria (Asiwaju, 2008; Badejo, 2016; Okojie, 2009). However despite the different initiatives, the issue of human trafficking and irregular migration has not abated in Nigeria (Alabi, 2016, 2018a, 2018b, Badejo 2016), because of seeming inadequacies of some of the initiatives, including but not limited to the inadequacy of the operative legislation on human trafficking, challenges relating to law enforcement agencies, and challenges with regards to investigation and prosecution (Agbu, 2003; Adepoju, 2005; 2010; Carling, 2006; Asiwaju, 2008; Kigbu, 2015).

While the different Law enforcement and relevant paramilitary agencies such as the Nigeria Immigration Service, (NIS); the Nigeria Police (NPF) and the Nigerian Customs Service (NCS) have been implicitly empowered to have the charge to prevent trafficking in Nigeria (Lisborg, 2009), a major challenge has been their inadequate response, as well as the seemingly lack of a coordination of roles each agency has cut out for it in the chain (Asiwaju, 2008; Badejo, 2016 Kigbu, 2015). Typically, arrests are made at the points of entry by the NIS, who hands over victims and/or perpetrators of human trafficking to NAPTIP/NPF for adequate investigations, while case files are handed to the Federal Ministry of Justice (FMJ)/NAPTIP for prosecution. Oftentimes however, the sequence is not so seamless, and this many not be unconnected to the fact that some form of “politics” or rivalry appears to exist between the agencies, particularly the Police and the Immigration Service, as to which has the relevant jurisdiction over issues of trafficking



(Asiwaju, 2008; Badejo, 2016 Kigbu, 2015). This apparent lack of cohesion among the agencies is recipe for failure in the fight against irregular migration/human trafficking, as it is capable of causing delays in prosecution which is supposed to be a deterrent to manifest and latent offenders.

Beyond that, it has been noted too that law enforcement agents/agencies have the still encounter some other recurrent challenges, including that of the inability to actually identify traffickers and the victims, the inability to provide the requisite services as well as assistance to the victims as and when such was needed. There is an outright lack of the enabling environment to combat human trafficking/irregular migration, typified by a lack of adequate resources for effective border patrol. There is also the element of corruption of officials in some of the apposite agencies, which have rendered the fight even more challenging (Asiwaju, 2008; Badejo, 2016 Kigbu, 2015). In addition, there is the issue of inadequate funding of the relevant agencies, specifically for anti-trafficking activities, which is not in itself unconnected with a dearth of requisite and equipment for anti-trafficking activities. Finally, one of the major challenges is the lack of requisite data on human trafficking, obviously occasioned by the lackadaisical attitude of the relevant agencies in keeping up to date data, as well as a dearth of research activities in the area, owing to the low priority given by government to research activities and a data collection in this field. In view of these challenges, this paper examines some of the methodological challenges in combating irregular migration and human trafficking in Nigeria. This was done by doing a critical assessment and review of diverse methodological challenges encountered in a national study designed to combat irregular migration, human trafficking and modern-day slavery from the six geo-political zones of Nigeria including Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

Previous Studies

The literature bears ample evidence suggesting that there have been significant efforts to prevent human trafficking/irregular migration in Nigeria (Alabi, 2019; Asiwaju, 2008; Attoh, 2009; Badejo, 2016, Kigbu, 2015). Successive Nigerian governments (at the Federal and State level) have been known to predominantly employ the tools of Law and Education/Persuasion in the fight against trafficking in persons, often engendered by irregular migration (Alabi, 2019; Asiwaju, 2008; Attoh, 2009; Badejo, 2016, Kigbu, 2015). Specifically, such tools include the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law, Enforcement and Administration Act 2003, Child Rights Act 2003, Edo State anti-prostitution law, 2000. Indeed, the government had deployed the tools of Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnership, which had been the main strategy of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and other related matters (NAPTIP). There had also been series of awareness campaigns through public enlightenment, disseminated through different media (radio, television, print media and others), social advertisements, outreaches to religious places, markets, schools and many more (Asiwaju, 2008; Badejo, 2016 Kigbu, 2015). According to Lisborg (2009), apart from the enactment of several Laws and the establishment of NAPTIP, other measures involve the empowerment of the relevant paramilitary agencies such as the Nigeria Immigration Service, (NIS); the Nigeria Police (NPF); The Federal Ministry of Justice (FMJ), and the Nigerian Customs Service (NCS) who have the charge to prevent the phenomenon (Lisborg, 2009).

According to Asiwaju (2008) and Kigbu (2015), while the law against human trafficking (the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons Act) is a significant attempt at combating the problem, the legislation appears to be fraught with inadequacies, including the fact that it falls short of the standards set in the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons. For example, Asiwaju (2008) and Kigbu (2015), the law lags behind in various international human rights obligations and standards for the treatment of trafficked persons. Not only that, it is also stated that the law suffers from a fundamental lacuna because of the absence



of the phrase “for the purpose of exploitation” as entrenched in the UN Protocol. To Asiwaju (2008) and Kigbu (2015), getting conviction had been difficult as the vital ingredients of the offence which qualifies the acts and means of trafficking is the absent phrase, since in the face of Law, trafficking cannot be established without exploitation. In addition, it is believed that the Law also suffers the deficiency of coverage, as its scope is limited to the issues of sexual offences against and girls, at the expense of the actual challenges of human trafficking.

It is instructive to note beyond the tools employed by successive Nigerian governments (at the Federal and State level) in the fight against trafficking in persons, often engendered by irregular migration, there are indeed some other fundamental socio-cultural factors which have inhibited the efforts of governments at combatting human trafficking. Indeed, Socio-cultural factors have been established to be a significant factor which influences human trafficking. For example, in a study conducted by Alabi (2016), it was affirmed from all the returnees interviewed that their desire to migrate, which ultimately resulted in being trafficked, had been influenced mainly by the external social influences to which the respondents were exposed, which in turn was as a result of their interactions within the family and the broader sociocultural factors. As such, the influence of family is a significant factor which facilitates irregular migration, as the family is usually the immediate source of social, economic and emotional support for the migrants/trafficked victims, since migration is a known alternative family survival strategy in the absence of other viable options (Alabi, 2016). These findings had corroborated other studies which had established that migration (regular or irregular) is often facilitated by family pressures and influence, as well as collaboration of relatives (Adepoju, 2005; Okojie, 2009; Piper, 2004).

According to Alabi (2016) respondents also accentuated the influence of peer reference groups, especially returnees in their environment who had flaunted wealth and other possessions derived from migration. It was established from the respondents that would-be migrants were inspired by the perceived improved status of returnee migrants in the community. This had underscored earlier works, for example, Adepoju (2005) and Okojie (2009), who have differently pushed the influence of peer reference groups as being a significant factor which provokes migration (regular or irregular), and ultimately, human trafficking. With such strong factors as discussed, it will perhaps be extremely difficult to stem the tide of continued migrations (regular and irregular) and ultimately, cases of human trafficking in Nigeria.

In addition, some of the enduring socio-cultural and religious practises which have made the phenomenon of irregular migration/human trafficking fertile, particularly in the developing countries (de Haas, 2008; McCarthy, 2014), have also made combatting it such a huge challenge. Example of these practises are bonded labour used pay off debt, selling children to traffickers by poorer families in rural areas, sending children off to relatives for fostering (de Haas, 2008; McCarthy, 2014). Other such practises include social exclusion, marginalization, caste system, and gender-based discrimination, arranged, early or forced marriages, temporary marriages, marriages by catalogue/mail order brides (Chuang, 2006; McCarthy, 2014). Meanwhile, except for veiled references to these socio-cultural factors in the entire human trafficking chain in different reports, there is very little schematised effort in the literature to understand the regional differentials of how these factors have affected the fight against human trafficking.

Research Methodology Adopted in the Study

The study utilized a panel Randomised Controlled Trial (RCT) technique, an experimental equivalent control research design that was highly rigorous and protects against history, maturation, testing, instrumentation and other threats to reliability and validity of the findings of the study. The design had three distinct components/phases namely (i) pre-intervention study (baseline study), (ii) intervention implementation/monitoring and (iii) post-intervention study

(evaluation of the intervention i.e. endline study), which was driven by different methods of data collection. Baseline and Endline surveys were conducted in the 12 States and FCT using the Cross-Sectional Survey (CSS), In-depth Interview (IDIs), and Focus Group Discussion (FGD). The study population comprised general populace (main supply source of victims of human trafficking, irregular migration and modern day slavery), victims of human trafficking/irregular migration, irregular returnees/deportees, their family members and other stakeholders sampled through a combination of probability and non-probability methods. Shown in Figure 1 below is the map of the Panel RCT Design adopted in the study.

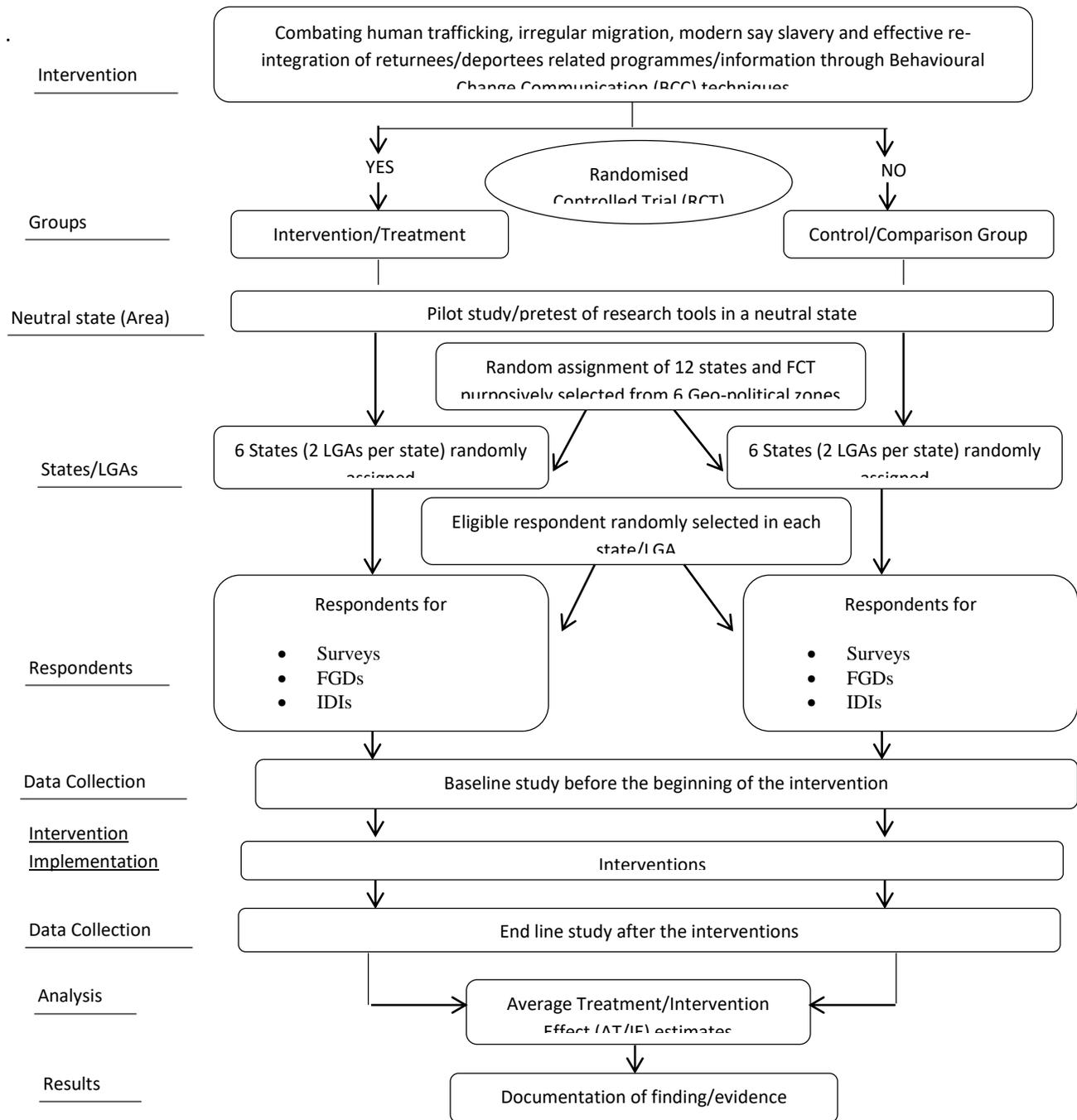


Figure 1: Panel RCT Design

Intervention occurred only in the 6 experimental States based on carefully developed community-driven interventions through behaviour change tools. The panel RCT design was used to test the impact of providing the general populace and victims of human trafficking/irregular migration, modern day slavery and irregular returnees/deportees and their family members with community-driven information (i.e. community-driven interventions programmes through an integrated behavioral change communication (BCC) materials (i.e. BCC materials on how to combat human trafficking, irregular migration, modern day slavery, and mechanisms to overcome various challenges of effective re-integration of irregular returnees/deportees) on the decisions of the people to embark on irregular migration, their susceptibility to human trafficking/modern day slavery and effective re-integration of irregular returnees/deportees in Nigeria. Here the intervention was “community-driven information through behavioral change communication (BCC) materials on how to combat human trafficking, irregular migration, modern day slavery, and mechanisms to overcome various challenges of effective re-integration of returnees/deportees” and the target population are general populace (main supply source victims of human trafficking, irregular migration and modern day slavery) and victims of human trafficking/irregular migration/modern day slavery including irregular returnees/deportees and their family members.

It is imperative to note that, a panel RCT design is a study/technique in which some people are allocated at random (by chance only) to receive the intervention whereas some people are also allocated at random not to receive the intervention. The former group of people represents the treatment/intervention group and the latter group represents the comparison/control group. RCTs are experimental approaches and viewed as the most rigorous method to estimate the impact of a programme. The impact is assessed by comparing the average change (Average Treatment Effect – ATE) in the outcome variables of interest (i.e. the decisions of the people to embark on irregular migration, reduction in their susceptibility to human trafficking/modern day slavery and effective re-integration of returnees/deportees) between the treatment/intervention and comparison/control groups. The map of study design (Figure 1) reveals that community that receives community-driven intervention strategies through behavioral change communication (BCC) materials into solving the menace of human trafficking, irregular migration, modern day slavery and challenges of re-integration of irregular returnees/deportees will invariably experience a reduction in the incidence of human trafficking, irregular migration, modern day slavery, and effectively re-integrate irregular returnees/deportees. It is imperative to note that qualitative techniques of Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and In-Depth Interview (IDI) were used to complement RCT design.

Findings

As noted earlier, the study adopted a panel Randomised Controlled Trial (RCT) technique, an experimental equivalent control research design that was highly rigorous and protects against several threats to reliability and validity of the findings of the study. This design was complemented with qualitative techniques of FGD and IDI. However, history was the major threat of this study. Histories are events that occurred over the time span of data collection in addition to the study's independent variables that tend either to increase or to decrease the expected outcomes of the project. The events are not part of the project, they are neither planned nor anticipated. The following are the historical events that create methodological challenges to the project:



Insights from Research Team's Field Notes

Insecurity and COVID-19 Pandemic as History: The most critical history bothered on the insecurity in nearly all the parts of the country which made intervention significantly less effective exercise. This was further heightened by the COVID-19 Pandemic and the attendant restriction of all forms of movement. For example, the field note of Anambra State project coordinator revealed how Monday's sit-at-home order of proscribed Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) threatened data collection and implementation of various intervention activities in the State. It was noted in the note that:

"IPOB Monday's sit-at-home order was a major challenge of the project in Anambra State. All the stipulated days assigned for data collection for baseline, intervention activities and endline data collection were extended in the State because of this order. There was nothing anybody can do about it, we have to comply with Monday's sit-at-home order. Research Assistants, Peer Educators at the Communities and Schools and their Supervisors couldn't do much on Mondays because socio-economic activities were not permitted and they totally prohibited by the order.

Anambra State **Coordinator's Field Note**

The situation was fearful and devastating in Katsina State where field officers needed to get security clearance from security officers and bandits before they could gain access to some communities at Jibia Local Government Area (LGA) a border LGA to Niger Republic. It was reported in the note that:

"Field operations were hampered in Jibia LGA due to various nefarious activities of bandits in the LGA. The situation was so terrible to the extent that we couldn't access some of the communities in the LGA until we secured security clearance for few days from the security officers assigned to protect the LGA. Kidnapping of students and members of the communities, killing people and other wicked activities of the bandits had made the LGA a dangerous environment for data collection and other research activities.

Katsina State **Coordinator's Field Note**

The report from Niger State was similar to our experiences in Katsina State. In fact, we had to change our Intervention State from Niger State to Benue State due to incessant kidnapping of school children from their schools in Niger State. Nevertheless, the team tried to navigate these events by identifying and working with credible local resource persons who not only helped us to navigate the various terrains, but also became handy for collecting data and performing various interventions from seemingly difficult domains, even though at a much higher cost.

Insights from Focus Group Discussion (FGD) Participants

Economic hardship and emergency of "Japa" syndrome

Nigeria economic outlook since 2015 has been worrisome as the entire economy shrinks by 63billion and 28 sectors struggle in the year 2022. Data from the Bureau of Statistics revealed that GDP growth in 2019 was 2.2%, it moved into a critical recession state in 2020 with negative growth rate of -3.0% and thereafter slightly moved out of recession to 1.5% in the year 2021.

Reports from FGDs conducted across different States in the country revealed that the current economic situation in the country engender exodus of able young and old Nigerian moving in their thousands outside the country. Some of their responses are presented below:

“What I understand about why people migrate through different dangerous means is that some of them finished from school, no employment or they don’t have someone in some offices where they can be placed for job opportunities. Owing to this joblessness some joined gangs of robbers after much robbery here, they decided that it will be better they leave the country to the western world. When they cannot afford the cost of making legitimate paper to travel; due to some stringent conditions, they now decided to go through dessert route – they call it “route.” Some will survive and get to their destination, while some dies on their way. Some will succeed and make so much money; while some after being caught by security or law enforcement agency of the country will be deported back to Nigeria here. Another reason for travelling, is for job opportunity, they say once you get there, there will be employment opportunity for you. So they will prefer to go and gain employment so that their education will not be a waste.”

FGD with **Female Youth, Mgbakwu, Anambra State**

“Parts of the reasons why they travel outside Nigeria are myriad of challenges/issues (nkotokariri) especially economic/financial challenges; some did not go to school because their parents cannot afford to train them. So they don’t have something doing and they will be advised by their peers to travel abroad.”

FGD with **Female Youth, Mgbakwu, Anambra State**

“It is frustration that makes our boys to move out of the country. Parents after training their children up to the University level, there will be no jobs for them. This explains why many people want to migrate. There are no jobs for the people. Some of our women travel out to engage in prostitution just to make both ends meet. If you are not connected, you will not get job. Women are sometimes expected to use their bodies to get these jobs. Anybody that is not willing to do that will not get the job. It is because of all these problems that many people decide to travel out in search of greener pastures no matter what it costs them, even if it means their dying in the desert. Some travel by road because they do not have the resources to get the valid travel documents that will enable them to follow the right routes. Many of them have perished in the desert as a result of that. For instance, my elder brother died in the desert because there was no job so he decided to travel by road through the desert.”

FGD with **Male Adult, Mgbakwu, Anambra State**

“Many of our people travel because our country is not organized at all, people are suffering. Yes, it is because of the poor state of things in the country that many people decide to move out of the country. Let me use myself as an example, I used to be a traveler, a complete hustler. I have really suffered, I been involved in farming and trading going as far as the Western part of the country with all the suffering associated. I wanted them to help me to travel to Libya by road in search of better life, even though I did not know what would have been my fate, but I believed that I would see people there that will he help me before somebody warned me about the risks involved and there was even war in Libya at that time which would have made things worse. In spite of the warning I wanted to leave Nigeria at all cost because thing are very difficult and getting worst every day in

this country. That was before I became sick. Now that I'm sick nobody bothers about whether I eat or drink, nobody asks after me. It is this kind of condition that make people travel even if they perish in the desert. There is no helping hand at all."

FGD with Female **Adult, Mgbakwu, Anambra State**

"The general reason why people move to other places is to look for money, or greener pasture. Unfortunately, some of the people (boys and girls) are deceived as shown on television on daily basis. In this our community migration seems to be much because of poverty; the country is getting bad on daily basis. People have to go out to other places especially another countries to search sustainable source of livelihood."

FGD with Male **Adult, Iorhom, Benue state**

"I think the rate of international migration is high; due to the fact that a lot of our indigenes do travel out of Nigeria in search of greener pastures. Internationally, prostitution have been pinned or pegged to some of our females, we are trying to change it behaviorally."

FGD with **Female Youth, Sakponba, Edo State**

"Parents save money to send their daughters, even sons out, it's common among Benins. A lot of times we get to know what they do out there is prostitution just to earn a living and make sufficient savings. I have even heard of a mother saying that as long as the child will bring money, they don't mind. The poverty is much, they at least need somebody to build a house for the family, at least give them asset, so it increases the rate of migration in Nigeria especially we have that very prevalent in our state here. We have people leaving Edo state into other countries, a lot of them leave and go to the west in search of greener pastures. Everybody is just trying to get something to make their lives better."

FGD with **Female Youth, Sakponba, Edo State**

"People travel due to lack of jobs and opportunities, many people believe there are more opportunities out there than in Nigeria. In Nigeria, you'll see a graduate they have graduated for maybe 2-5 years, by the time he or she sees the opportunity of travelling, he or she will grab it quickly without proper examination the pros and cons; looking at it critically, international money rate (exchange rate) is higher than Nigeria Naira currency. You can't compare Nigeria's money to international money from UK or USA, so by the time they travel, they see more opportunities there than what we have here in Nigeria especially when they have good handiwork."

FGD with **Female Youth, Sakponba, Edo State**

"My opinion about this is that people travel through illegal routes because of cost of the expenses to be incurred going through legal means. Now if I want to travel to Cotonu instead of me to go to immigration office to register, I will rather go through an illegal means to get fake documents in order to save some money to cover my expenses there. And one of the reasons why people travel is because of the economy of your country because we believe that life outside Nigeria is more better than in Nigeria"

FGD with **Male Youth, Onisajana, Ekiti State**

“Economic crisis and hardship are too much in Nigeria. We have rate of poverty, unemployment and harsh economic environment. These are the major causes of international migration. Most of our Professionals are frustrated in their places of work with poor take home. What can someone do, especially when you have bad leaders in charge of our country’s affairs? Things are very bad every day.”

FGD with **Male Adult, Chanchaga, Niger State**

“Poverty is very high in Nigeria. Majority of Nigerians are living in abject poverty without access to basic needs of life. We have to make effort to achieve something in life. It will be bad to sit down at home doing nothing. Man must move and look for means of survival ooooo.”

FGD with **Male Youth, Maiduguri, Borno State**

“Sometimes poverty contribute a lot to irregular migration. Parents’ inability to cater for their children is a big issue in Nigeria. Young people are more vulnerable to engage in irregular migration because they hear all sorts of stories, they see all sorts of things on televisions, and friends can come and influence them by saying life is easy over there.”

FGD with **Male Adult, Rivers State**

“Things are getting bad in Nigeria. Check all the indicators, Nigeria is not faring well at all. Check our foreign reserve, it is going down on daily basis. Hunger is noticeable everywhere. Unemployment in on the increase, exchange rate is skyrocketing. What are we waiting for in this county? We all have to make use of available opportunities of move to Saudi Arabia or UAE.”

FGD with **Male Youth, Sokoto State**

“Most people like to migrate in search of greener pasture. Even animals move in search of food, water and good environment. The reason anybody wants to move is to search of better life. It is always presume that where you are going is better than where you are now, mostly because of the things you have seen or the things you have heard or things you have experience by the virtue of somebody that have gone and came back with experiences. That what influences international migration generally. “

FGD with **Male Youth, Lagos Mainland, Lagos State**

“What I feel towards is it is that; if where you were staying was not bad, you wouldn’t want to think of going to other places and seeing Nigeria as a whole there is a lot of things going on that we don’t even know how to handle them. We e have poverty, no food, no water, no light and so on. Assuming the country is better we wouldn’t think of going to another country.

FGD with **Male Youth, Lagos Mainland, Lagos State**

“People migrate to earn a living. Nigerian boys, every one of them, wants to leave the country. Even, going to Ghana which is another developing country with some challenges. It all bothers on people wanting to make a living.”

FGD with **Female Adult, Lagos Mainland, Lagos State**

“I believe that, lack of social safety nets, employment and corruption contributes to the factors that push people or groups to migrate legally/illegally. According to one

of my friends, migrants in UK and USA are always prepared to take on low paid jobs because they have little or no option'."

FGD with **Male Adult, Old Enugu Road, Ebonyi state**

"Current economic crisis is very critical to high irregular migration in this country. For instance, there is a high and alarming rates of illegal migration, I mean outside the country, in 80s it wasn't like that, then dollars and naira were almost at par, you don't even need to travel outside the country to make it, because the same life is experienced here in Nigeria. The quality of live and educational system then were okay, then in school students were serve chicken for free. I have a recent experience last month that broke my heart, the rate of external migration has been on increase. It apply to one of the particular institution in this country, where a graduate with first class was rejected from a panel of interview because he was too qualify. They said what he graduated with is too high, you encourage people to study high and the man who brought the person for an interview said, what non sense is this, what message are we preaching, a candidate has first class and they were saying his qualification is too high for the job. That type of people frustration will lead them down outside the country. Many don't want to go, but because of frustration. Even now, Nigeria is headquarter of world poverty. There is no job anywhere in the country, even business is not striving. Internet is 24 hours over there, light is uninterrupted, in this country nothing is working, they want better opportunity, the rate of migration is on the high increase and it will continue to increase until when something is done."

FGD with **Male Adult, Ekiti State**

"I want to add this point as a factor responsible for the current migration dynamics in Nigeria. Check the exchange rate, now one dollar is now ₦800; that is why people are running out of this country, the hardship is too much. To live in this country is very hard, I'm just telling somebody, if government can solve and provide solution to hardship and the live of citizen turn better, this alarming rate emigration will reduce drastically."

FGD with **Male Adult, Ekiti State**

As indicated from different States in the country, rapid increase in unemployment, inflation and exchange rates in the country have moved millions of Nigerians into an abject poverty leading to emergency of "Japa" syndrome. "Japa" syndrome is the unquenchable desire of able body young people including some elderly Nigerians and willingness to leave the country at all cost through any means. This pathetic and uncertainty condition has led to unprecedented high number of people from all professions especially technologists and medical practitioners leaving the country en masse. The hostile economic environment and associated/attendant Nigerphobic atmosphere were major events that produced methodological challenges for the project.

Conclusion

It is undeniable that various efforts had been put in place in Nigeria to address and combat irregular migration and human trafficking in Nigeria. Some of these interventions have not been able to achieve their stated goals and objectives due to a significant methodological threat of history. These historical events are rooted in the socio-economic structure of the country especially the political and economic structures of the country. This threat may hinder or colour the impact of various interventions in this area. Consequently, it has been recommended and suggested that government at all levels, non-governmental organisations and development partners should take note of these threats in their activities and programmes. This will enhance



the project performance in reducing and total eradication of irregular migration, human trafficking and modern-day slavery trading in Nigeria.



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