



Boko Haram Insurgency and Livestock Cross-Border Supply along Mubi-Cameroon Trade Route

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Abstract

The decade of attacks by the Boko Haram insurgents has left many people displaced and destroyed many lives and properties in northeast Nigeria. However, little attention is paid to the degree to which this conflict has affected livestock cross-border supply. The study examined Boko Haram insurgency and livestock cross-border supply along the Mubi-Cameroon trade route. A questionnaire and an interview method were used for the study. Thematic and descriptive statistics were used for data analysis. The results showed that before the insurgency, the quantity supplied of livestock weekly that was above 100 stood at 37%, while during the insurgency was at 5% in the study area. The result further shows that the weekly income earned above ₦200,000 by the livestock suppliers before the insurgency was at 30%, while during the insurgency it was at 10%. More so, the amount of livestock demanded supply before the insurgency was at 75%, dropping during the insurgency to 3%. The study recommends that a concerted effort is needed from all stakeholders as well as the government to arrest the deplorable security situation in the country to enable livestock cross-border suppliers to have a conducive environment to carry out their transactions, thereby reducing unnecessary checking points, robbery, banditry, and theft, and then opening the borders to increase livestock cross-border marketing activities.

1. Introduction

A large part of the livelihood activity for many pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in Africa is the cross-border trade of livestock. In African nations, the sector turns out to be the main economic driver and source of income. In particular, Chad, Niger, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo,

and Nigeria all benefit greatly from cross-border commerce in livestock. Pastoralism was a dependable source of income and livestock output in the region was great due to the abundance of natural resources like water and grazing pastures. Over 67 million head of cattle are produced annually in the five nations engaged in this Basin, with roughly 28 million head and

20 million head held by Chad and Nigeria, respectively (Ikhuoso et al.,2020). As a result, there has been an increase in the movement of animals between these nations for marketing and cross-border transhumance, respectively.

In addition to producing the most cattle in Sub-Saharan Africa, Nigeria also boasts the largest cattle market in the region's northeast. According to the data, the nation has about 14.73 million cattle that are utilized to produce other intermediate materials for the craft industries as well as food (beef and milk). More significantly, the cattle industry provides roughly 13.4 billion Naira (\$135.4 billion) to Nigeria's GDP and about 12.7% of the country's agricultural GDP (Mohammed, Fausat, and Adedeji, 2020). It is impossible to overstate livestock's significance to Nigeria and Chad since it contributed roughly \$135 billion to Nigeria's GDP in the first half of 2007. It contributes more than 18% of the GNP to Chad (Lawan, Mustapha, and Malah, 2016). This contribution was made through the official route between Nigeria and Chad through the exportation of cattle and hides/skins. There are three primary routes for the cross-border trading of cattle among the nations of the Lake Chad Basin. The first corridor, leading from the Central African Republic and Chad to Nigeria, is known for transhumance and cross-border commerce in animals. Each year, many millions of livestock transits through this corridor along its length. The second corridor connects northern Nigerian states with southern Niger. Along this route, significant amounts of livestock are traded commercially between Niger and Nigeria. Due to the rise of thieves and other unexpected attacks by armed groups in northern Nigeria, this route has lately gained traction. To mitigate the consequences of the recent disruption of the recurring effects of climate change, terrorism, and other vices, the third corridor was built. For the cross-border trade of cattle, the route connects the DRC, South Sudan, Chad, and Cameroon. Commercial quantities of livestock are traded across borders between Nigeria and

her neighbors; the Mubi-Cameroon trade route was the site of the majority of these exchanges.

Livestock cross-border trade is an important economic activity along the Mubi-Cameroon route, it is an important source of revenue and employment opportunities for both Cameroon and Nigeria. The volume of livestock trade is unprecedented along this corridor because most of the people along this bordering community are pastoralists engaging in livestock trade and other agricultural activities. The long historical ties between the two border communities have eased trade activities and the business was seriously flourishing. However, these border communities recently experienced multiple and severe attacks by Boko Haram insurgents, which have affected the livestock trade activity owing to restriction of movement along the border towns, rustling of livestock, and killing and displacement of herders, pastoralists, and traders. Therefore, this study attempted to investigate Boko Haram insurgency and livestock cross-border trade along the Mubi-Cameroon route.

Although many studies (such as Mohammed et al. (2020), Idris, (2018), Yahaya, (2018), and Catley (2018) investigated the effects of insurgency, particularly on cattle traders concerning their supplies in different countries and states but, this study differs from the existing studies in many respects: first, it generally studies the livestock cross-border traders. Secondly, this study covered the period 2015-2020, when Boko Haram insurgents stopped cross-border trade along this trade route. Finally, this study was only subjected to a qualitative method of study.

This study is of great importance as it provides awareness for the majority of the cross-border traders who embark on cross-border trade along the Mubi - Cameroon trade route. The menace of the Boko Haram insurgency and its effects along all the bordering areas in the Northeastern region of Nigeria. Moreover, the findings could serve as reference material for students to further studies and could add to the

existing literature on cross-border trade in the Northeastern region of Nigeria. The study could further suggest how the insurgency affects the livestock cross-border trade concerning suppliers in terms of their supply.

2. Literature review

Ng'aski (2019) examines several cattle value chains between southern Somalia and terminal markets in central and coastal Kenya. According to the report, military authorities in Kenya harass animal trekkers as they transport animals to primary and secondary markets because they are unsuccessful in their efforts to track down insurgent organizations. The author emphasized the relevance of hybrid informal institutions. Additionally, it advocated accommodating traditional systems as an alternative to reducing state fragility. The study demonstrates how insurgency has a detrimental impact on the trans-border flow of cattle from Somalia to Kenya. The analysis made clear that due to the conflict, the cross-border commerce in cattle between Somalia and Kenya went from formal to informal.

Mohammed et al. (2020) investigate the effects of the Boko Haram conflict on livestock traders in Kasuwan Shanu, Borno State, Maiduguri. The findings indicated that whereas 57% of cattle sellers in the research region earned less than N80,000 per month during the insurgency, 81% of them did so before the insurgency. Additionally, between 2009 and 2014, the employment produced by the selling of cattle fell by 100%. The outcome showed that during the conflict, the supply of cattle decreased by about 96%. Furthermore, compared to before the insurgency, the net profit per head of cattle was roughly 29,500, down from 51,200. The author suggested that although the environment in the state is now seen as enabling and favorable, all stakeholders should work together to revitalize the cattle industry to bring it back and boost the state's economy.

Additionally, Adebisi et al. (2016) examine the effects of the Boko Haram insurgency on Nigeria's agriculture industry. According to the data, the contribution of agriculture to the GDP was significant before the Boko Haram disturbance and decreased throughout the insurgency. Based on the findings, the author suggests that the government take appropriate legal action to guarantee that Boko Haram's harm to the agricultural sector stopped and that farmers be given stronger incentives to return to farming.

In addition, Ahmed and Tukur (2015) study how insurgency has affected trade between Borno State and its close neighbors. The study found that 28,209 people had died because of the insurgency thus far. 2,751 persons were either missing or being held captive. It also showed that, before the insurgency, Borno and her trading partners exchanged 294,940 tons of grain annually; but, by the second quarter of 2014, the flow had dropped to 94,500 tons. The severity of the reduction in grain flow and the number of fatalities revealed that religious insurgency had an impact on all facets of the Borno State economy. Particularly, there was no longer any access to any foreign commerce routes. Farmlands, waterways, and fishponds were abandoned, which halted agricultural production. The study also showed that lack of political will was the primary driver that motivated the insurgents, in addition to corruption and the upper class's haughty displays of wealth. The author suggested that the foundation of governance be true growth and the right integrative program.

Furthermore, Iweze (2020) investigates the effects of Boko Haram on cross-border and intrastate travel in Northeast Nigeria. According to the report, the insurgency has hampered the free flow of people, products, and services between the Northeast area and the rest of the nation, as well as between Nigeria and its neighbors. It also demonstrates how commuters and drivers on the interstate and cross-border routes have fallen prey to rebel strikes along the

main thoroughfares in the area and border towns. These studies demonstrate how the supply of products and services in the affected areas was severely impacted by insurgency from a variety of economic perspectives. Based on the study, it is clear that insurgency had an impact on the cross-border supply of commodities and services of all kinds.

In the same way, Awodola and Oboshi (2015) investigate the numerous ways that Maiduguri, the capital of Borno State in northeastern Nigeria, has seen its food security endangered by Boko Haram's actions. The analysis of the study showed that Boko Haram's operations had an impact on the agriculture industry in the impacted areas. The author made recommendations that were designed to make the food supply chain easier. This study shows how to cushion the effect of insurgency to ease the supply chain.

It is obvious that insurgency negatively affects all the sectors of the economy such as livestock cross-border trading activities, cross-border trading of all sorts, agricultural activities, food insecurity, and many other things within the affected areas. However, most of the literature reviewed and the discussions mostly talked about the effects of insurgency on the supply of livestock within Somalia-Kenya bordering areas, emphasizing various aspects but not from suppliers' and sellers' perspectives while my study will be discussing Boko Haram insurgency and livestock cross-border suppliers and sellers along the Mubi – Cameroon trade route about their income, supply, and employment level. On the above note, it was clearly stated that insurgency affects every trading activity of the affected regions, countries, and areas; therefore, it is ascertained that the Boko Haram insurgency affects the cross-border livestock trading activities along Mubi – Cameroon trade route.

3. Methodology

The study was conducted through qualitative approaches to research. The qualitative method

was utilized to obtain results in non-quantitative form or in forms not subjected to rigorous quantitative analysis by employing a structured questionnaire. Furthermore, the inductive technique promotes the development of new ideas and generalizations. Inductive research logic is an inference in which known premises are employed to create an unproven conclusion. Data collecting is used to investigate phenomena, find themes and patterns, and develop a conceptual framework. It is also employed in the creation and development of theories.

The phenomenology type of qualitative research was chosen for this study which aims to understand a phenomenon or event by describing participants' lived experiences. The population of livestock cross-border suppliers of cattle, sheep, and goats was considered at the Mubi cattle market.

The information used for this study was collected from a primary source. Primary data was collected through the administration of structured questionnaires and Key Informant Interviews. The questionnaire was designed to capture variables specified: types of livestock supplied, and the number of supplies. In addition, a Key Informant Interview was also conducted with two experts in the field of the study.

The population frame of the respondents was obtained from the Mubi cattle market from which the sample size was selected. The questionnaire was self-administered with the help of some livestock traders in the study area. Tike Cattle Market in Mubi LGA was purposively selected for this study based on the high livestock cross-border trading and concentration of livestock traders in this market. The market is organized by suppliers in the market. 1000 registered vendors were obtained from the market and the non-probability method, convenience sampling, was employed to select 80 respondents of livestock suppliers (53 of the 80 livestock suppliers supplied cattle to the market along the Mubi-Cameroon trade route, with the remaining 27 supplying sheep). We chose the suppliers as

respondents who considered the fact that they are appropriate in the market to be addressed for all of the questions and have a holistic understanding and experience of the insurgent attacks on supplies of the producers.

The required study data were gathered and analyzed using the qualitative analysis method. A questionnaire and interview survey method were employed to select the respondents for the study. The study further utilized the use of thematic analysis and descriptive tools to see the effect of the Boko Haram insurgency on cross-border livestock suppliers that deal with cattle, sheep, and goats at the Mubi cattle market (Tike) about their supply. This approach has been used in several investigations, including Ng'asiki et al.

(2020), Valerio et al. (2020) Kanwal (2020), Tesfaye and Amaha, (2018), and Mohammed et al. (2020) on livestock cross-border trade. This is because it is used to generate factual, reliable outcome data that are usually generalizable to some larger populations.

4. Results and Discussions

This section provides the results and discussions of the study

4.1 The Type of Livestock Supplied

Table 1 shows the suppliers' livestock types, frequencies, and proportions of supplies along the Mubi-Cameroon trade route.

Table 1. Types of Animals Supplied

Types	Frequencies	Percent
Cattle	38	48
Sheep	7	9
Goat	21	26
All	14	17
Total	80	100%

Sources: survey data, 2022

Respondents were asked in the questionnaire distributed for this study what kind of animals they supply to the market along the Mubi-Cameroon trade route to the Tike cattle market. According to Table 1, 48% of respondents provide cattle, 26% supply goats, 9% supply sheep, and 17% supply combinations of all the animals. Thus, cattle and goats are the sources of supplies along the Mubi-Cameroon trade route. Therefore, this study is consistent with Ali's

(2018) observation that cattle are the primary form of cross-border livestock trade.

4.2 The Quantity of Weekly Livestock Supplied

Table 2 shows the quantities, frequencies, and proportions of livestock supplied by the respondents before and during the Boko Haram insurgency along the Mubi-Cameroon trade route.

Table 2. Weekly Quantity Supplied

Quantity supplied	Before insurgency		During insurgency	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
a) 1-10	6	8	18	23
b) 11–30	9	11	25	31
c) 31–60	15	19	20	25
d) 61–100	20	25	13	16
e) 100-above	30	37	4	5
Total	80	100%	80	100%

Sources: survey data, 2022

Table 2 demonstrates that before the insurgency, 30 out of the 80 livestock suppliers supplied more than 100 animals weekly along the Mubi-Cameroon trade to the Tike market, representing the highest proportion in the table at 30%, and goes in ascending order until the last stage, where only six respondents supplied animals between 1 and 10, representing the lowest percentage in the table at 8%. During the insurgency, however, the opposite was true, with 25 out of the 80 respondents supplying information between 11 and 30, representing 31%, followed by 18 out of the 80 respondents who exported between 1 and 10, representing the second highest proportion at 23%, and finally, 4 out of the 80 respondents who exported between 100 and above, indicating only

5%. This shows that the quantity of livestock supplied along the Mubi-Cameroon trade route was higher before than during the insurgency. This finding corroborates that of Mohammed et al. (2020), who posited that insurgency hampered the weekly cattle trade in the Maiduguri cattle market.

4.3 Responses on Quantity Demanded and Supplied

Table 3 indicates the responses by the respondents of the study about the quantity of animals demanded supply and the frequencies, and proportions of livestock supplied before and during the Boko Haram insurgency along the Mubi-Cameroon trade route.

Table 3. Quantity of Livestock Demanded and Supplied

Responses	Before insurgency		During insurgency	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
a) Increasing	60	75	2	3
b) Stagnant	15	19	5	6
c) Decreasing	0	0	70	87
d) Fluctuating	5	6	3	4
Total	80	100%	80	100%

Sources: survey data, 2022

Table 3 demonstrates that 60 of the 80 respondents agreed that livestock demand and supply were increasing before the insurgency, showing the highest percentage in the table at 75%, and 15 respondents agreed that the export was stagnant, showing the second-highest

percentage in the table at 19%. Five respondents agreed that the supply had also been varying by 6%, but no respondent agreed that exports were decreasing before the insurgency. During the crisis, 70 out of 80 respondents agreed that the supply was declining, indicating the highest

proportion in the table at 87%, and 5 out of 80 respondents agreed that the export was stagnant. Four decided it was varying, and three agreed it was increasing. This revealed that the volume of livestock supplied along the Mubi-Cameroon trade route to the Tike market was higher before than during the insurgency. This finding corroborates Ng'aski (2019); Mohammed et al. (2020); Adebisi et al. (2016); Fausat and Tukur

(2015); Iweze (2020); and Awodola and Oboshi (2015), all of which Posited that insurgency has hampered supply of livestock and other forms of goods and services.

4.4 Responses on Animal lost

Table 4. shows the responses of animals that died or became ill while exporting along the Mubi-Cameroon trade route by the respondents.

Table 4. Responses on Animal lost

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	80	100
No	0	0
Total	80	100%

Sources: survey data, 2022

Table 4. shows that all 80 suppliers reported their animals died or became ill as a result of the insurgency while exporting over the Mubi-Cameroon trade route. This implies that all the livestock suppliers lost their animals as a result of the insurgent assault while exporting them along the Mubi-Cameroon trade route. This result agrees with the study conducted by Fausat and Tukur (2015); Ali et al. (2016); Chukwurah et al. (2015); and the Northeast Assessment

Component Report (2016), all of which posited that insurgents assaulted the supply of livestock and other forms of goods and services.

4.5 The Number of Animals Lost

Table 5 shows the types and numbers of animals lost due to insurgency while exported along the Mubi-Cameroon trade route by the respondents in terms of their frequencies and percentages.

Table 5. Number of Animals Lost

Livestock	Frequency	Percentage
a) Cattle	19	66
b) Sheep	7	24
c) Goats	3	10
Total	29	100%

Sources: survey data, 2022

Table 5 demonstrates that cattle are the most prevalent animal that became ill or died due to insurgency while being exported over the Mubi-

Cameroon trade route, with the most significant frequency and percentage of 19 and 66%, respectively. Sheep had the second-highest

frequency (7 at 24%), and goats had the lowest frequency (3 at 10%) of the animals that died or got sick. Regional producers' trade was hampered during the insurrection because so much livestock was lost. The theft and livestock rustling incidents have escalated significantly in the market during this time. This means that revenue has decreased, which has changed the marketers' consumption patterns.

The Possibility of Future Expanded Livestock Supply

Respondents were asked in the study concerning the likelihood of future increases in livestock supply and sales along the Mubi-Cameroon trade route, and their diverse comments are briefly described below.

- *The livestock suppliers offered various alternate ways to supply their livestock due to the terrible road they have been on with the current route for their businesses to be successful.*

This study suggested that alternative supply routes would have been better and more profitable for livestock supply along the Mubi-Cameroon trade route. Therefore, this study supports the assertion made by Ng'asike et al. (2020); Catley (2018); and Yahaya (2018), they all suggested that alternative supply routes had been more profitable for the livestock business due to the insurgent attack.

5. Conclusion

Based on the findings the study concluded that the Boko Haram insurgency negatively affected cross-border livestock supply along the Mubi-Cameroon trade route, resulting in decreased weekly supplies, quantity demanded and supplied losses of animals, increased military checkpoints, and attacks on their lives and animals.

6. Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were preferred:

- i. **Enhanced Security Measures:** Strengthening security along the Mubi-Cameroon trade route is imperative to safeguard traders, livestock, and infrastructure. This involves increased deployment of security forces, intelligence sharing, and community engagement to counter Boko Haram's threats effectively.
- ii. **Infrastructure Development:** Investing in infrastructure rehabilitation, including roads, markets, and border crossings, will improve the efficiency and safety of livestock transportation, thereby revitalizing cross-border trade and stimulating economic growth.
- iii. **Livelihood Diversification:** Supporting alternative livelihoods and income-generating activities for affected communities can mitigate the economic impact of the insurgency on livestock trade. Vocational training, access to microfinance, and agricultural extension services can empower individuals to pursue alternative livelihood options.
- iv. **Regional Collaboration:** Enhancing cooperation and coordination among Nigeria, Cameroon, and other regional stakeholders is essential to address the transnational nature of the Boko Haram insurgency and its impact on cross-border trade. Collaborative efforts should focus on intelligence-sharing, border security, and addressing the root causes of the conflict.
- v. **Community Resilience:** Building resilience within local communities through social cohesion initiatives, conflict resolution mechanisms, and psychosocial support can help mitigate the socio-economic effects of the insurgency and foster long-term stability.

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