
Theresa Ogionwo

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Department of Social Work and Psychology

Supervisor: Komal Singh Rambaree
Examiner: Dimitris Michailakis
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Preface

My inspiration for this topic was the death of my brother in law (Yemi Osinsanya) who was killed in the bombing of the UN building by Boko Haram on the 26th of August 2011 in Abuja, Nigeria. Where He worked as an accountant with the World Health Organisation. He left behind a wife and two young children....After his death I often wondered how Nigeria got to this point, a common joke used to be that it was impossible for any Nigerian to participate in a suicide bombing, because Nigerians loved life too much. So what happened to Nigeria? How did we as a country get to this point? How can we prevent such from happening again? Such questions contributed to the idea behind this study.

I dedicate this thesis to the Memory of my late in-law Yemi Osinsanya, his family and all others that were killed on that day (26th of August 2011) along with him.
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This study attempts to explore the perceptions of victims of terrorism, and staff of NGOs with relevant experience of terrorism, based on the premise that social problems have contributed to the growth of terrorism in Nigeria; which in turn has created more social problems. This study posits that International social work can be used to manage and proffer solutions to these social problems in Nigeria. International social work refers to social work practice that applies international knowledge and practice and is not limited to one country. This study used qualitative methods - seven semi-structured interviews to collect data. The General systems theory served as the theoretical base for the analysis of the data. The findings indicated that social problems could be attributed to the rise in terrorism, and that there was an urgent need for International social workers and their competencies in combating the causes of terrorism and its disastrous effects.

KEYWORDS (International social work, Social Worker, Social problems, Terrorism, Nigeria)
1. Introduction

Terrorism has grown to become one of the biggest issues in the world and majority of the global crisis being experienced in the world at the moment can be attributed to terrorism. In the world today, there are very few countries that have not been affected by terrorism in one way or another, either through direct terrorist activities, or by dealing with the outcomes of terrorism from other countries. An example is the international refugee crisis (rooted in terrorist activities) being experienced globally. Milton, et al, (2013) points out the challenges of the international refugees flows and the need to not only address the consequences but to deal with the causes of this global phenomena. The causes of terrorism have been argued extensively by several academics Burgoon (2006) argues that social welfare policies have been neglected, and that good social welfare policies consistently correlate with fewer incidences of terrorism. This argument corresponds with the absence of social welfare in Nigeria which has created a multitude of social problems which in turn has been tangent with the increase in terrorist activities. Sule and Othman (2015) define governance as providing needed services for the populace, and argues that the Nigerian Government have failed in this. The impacts of terrorism and its outcomes on the lives of people both inside and outside of Nigeria has been enormous. This study attempts to explore the implications of social problems and terrorism in Nigeria on International social work. There are several epistemological discourses as to what constitutes as Social problems, for example structural functionist theorise that social problems occur independently of the perceptions of members of the society, while constructionist argue that social problems cannot be independent of the perceptions and activities of members of the society who are affected by these problems Weinberg (2009). This study follows the Constructivisim approach to social problems, this is because the discourse of this study is that social problems have contributed to the growth of terrorism in Nigeria; in which case the perceptions (social construct) of an individual to societal problems will determine how they respond to the problem i.e ‘contextual constructionalism’. With this in mind social problems are defined by Eitzen and Baca Zinn, (2000) as:

Societally induced conditions that cause psychic and material suffering for any segment of the population, and acts and conditions that violate the norms and values found in society. The distribution of power in society is the key to understanding these social problems. The powerless, because they are dominated by the powerful, are
likely to be thwarted in achieving their basic needs…. In contrast, the interests of the powerful are served. Cited in Best, (2004)

Putting into consideration that social problems have been attributed by some as a major catalyst for the upsurge in terrorist activities (Akhmat, et al, 2014; Blomberg, Hess, & Weerapana, 2004; Elbakidze, & Jin, 2015). It can be logical to argue on the basis of this that social workers have an important role to play in both prevention and dealing with the aftermaths. Social work as a profession is not very popular in Nigeria also the few social workers are lacking in proper social work training and knowledge. “Social welfare agencies are seldom staffed by professionally trained social workers, there are no set standards for social work education, no accreditation body and even most training staff are underqualified or unqualified” Okoye (2013, pp 169-171). Therefore there is a need for social workers from other countries - International social worker becomes very important in dealing with terrorism and its effects.

The statistic shows the total number of people dead in the countries most impacted by terrorism in 2014. Nigeria was the 2nd most impacted by terrorism in 2014. 7,512 fatalities were caused by terrorism in Nigeria.

![Figure 1 Source: STATISTA (2014)](image-url)
1.1 Problem formulation
This research has resulted from observing that social problems have been attributed as being among the main cause of terrorism in Nigeria. According to Brock “Ending violent conflicts and civil strife in the sub-region requires collaborative efforts in (a) identifying the causal indicators of conflicts; (b) developing concrete strategies and programs to prevent, manage and completely resolve these conflicts” (2012) therefore, this study attempted to explore what the implications to International Social work practice in Nigeria are. In a country with few professional social workers as Nigeria, the International social worker can bring international knowledge and even experience to the social work practice in Nigeria. To adequately explain the research problem it is split into 3 parts, International Social work, Terrorism, and Causes. It is to be noted that not all of the causes and outcomes of Terrorism can be discussed in this study, only the ones considered most relevant to fulfilling the aim of the study.

1.2 Purpose of Study
The purpose of this study is to explore perceptions of victims of terrorism, and staff of NGOs with relevant experience of terrorism; based on the premise that social problems have contributed to the increase of terrorism in Nigeria and also consider the implications of these for International social work. In doing this the study seeks to develop recommendations that will assist International social workers understand the Social problems associated with Terrorism in Nigeria and thus be better informed as to design appropriate and relevant skills and competences for intervention.

1.3 Aim
The aim of this study is to explore perceptions of victims of terrorism, and staff of NGOs with relevant experience of terrorism; based on the premise that social problems have contributed to the increase of terrorism in Nigeria, and also discover what the implications of these are for International social work practice in Nigeria.

1.4 Research questions
1. What Social problems have contributed to the rise of terrorism in Nigeria?
2. What are the implications of the findings for International social work practice within communities in Nigeria?
1.4.1 Disposition

This study begins with the first chapter, the Introduction which contains the Problem formulation the aim, and the Explanation of key concepts, International social work, Terrorism, and Social problems, thereafter the second chapter is the literature review comprising of the theories from earlier research, social problems and terrorism, social work and terrorism. The Theoretical construct is the third chapter. This is then followed by the Research methodology which is the fourth chapter of this study, it discusses the research procedures used for the data collection, the analysis and verification of data and the sampling method and population. Chapter five is the Results and Analysis. Followed by the Discussion, chapter six this chapter presents the discussion in relation to the purpose of study and the research questions, also in light of the literature review and the General systems theory, followed by the limitations and the delimitations of the study which discuss what the study could and could not achieve, then suggestions for future research. The Conclusion and Brief Recommendations for International social work practice make up the last chapter, chapter seven. Then appendices comprised of the Interview guide and the Letter of informed Consent preceded by the list of References.

1.5 Explanations and Context of main Concepts

1.5.1 International Social work

International social work is highly relevant in dealing with terrorism which is now a global problem. International social work is referred to in Healy as “comparative social welfare, international practice, cross cultural knowledge and understanding, intergovernmental work on social welfare, concern and action on global social problems, a worldwide collegiality among social workers, professional exchange activities and a general worldview” (2008, pp.7-8) It is no longer enough for a social worker to only be aware of social work within the country of practice, because in situations such as that of Nigeria some of the actions of the terrorist bring about scenarios where international knowledge and competence is needed. This could be attributed to the fact that International Social workers are able to exchange knowledge and ideas with other social workers and obtain information that might not have been possible to get otherwise, ISW offers international assistance. “The social work profession promotes social change, and the empowerment and liberation of people to enhance wellbeing. Social work intervenes
at the points where people interact with their environments. Principles of human rights and social justice are fundamental to social work” Hare (2004, p.3). For the purpose of this study International social work is social work which has an international dimension either through knowledge, location and/or action. International social work practice is highly relevant in today’s society because there are a lot of countries experiencing terrorism, and acts of terrorism which have little to no professional social workers to assists with the damages caused by terrorism. “These terrorist organisations are a result of certain social and economic problems, most of which are directly linked to unequal access to basic resources and infrastructure. Social workers can provide social engineering that reduces economic and social inequality” Elusoji (2015).

1.5.2 Terrorism

Terrorism is a phenomena that one could say became a huge global issue after the September 11 2001 terrorist attacks in America, the resultant effects of this act has inflamed further terrorist activities that have spread to become a global social problem. Terrorism according to the US Department of state is

Premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against non-combatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience. While the term international terrorism means involving citizens or the territory of more than one country cited in Krueger and Maleckova (2003. p.120)

In the past terrorism was non-existent in the Nigeria, but as the social problems have worsened in the country with no help from the government so has terrorism. The worst affected areas have become the most devastated by terrorist activities. Kronstadt and Vaughn state that the majority of people in South Asia are poor, and that the distribution of wealth among the populations is extremely uneven. This has caused many people to be easily converted to extremist movements. The sufferings of people is expressed through the violence of terrorism (cited in Akhmat, et al. 2014), one can argue based on this that gross inequality in the society can be an incentive to terrorist activities and support. Terrorism affects the lives of a huge number of people around the world and has destroyed the economies and thus the livelihood of millions of people globally. As a result of the effects of this subject, there has been an increase in poverty, orphans, human/child trafficking, underdevelopment and illegal migration amongst other global social issues. Terrorism in Nigeria has had the same effects as mentioned above in the areas that have been attacked. These abundance of social problems that have emerged
has been made worse by lack of proper support and planning in dealing with the people and areas affected. Over the years as social unrest has increased so also have the number of terrorist attacks being experienced in Nigeria. This study will focus on the terrorist group Boko Haram, the Niger delta Militant Group is briefly discussed to strengthen the argument on social problems and terrorism.

1.5.2.1 Boko Haram

The Boko Haram terrorist group is the only group that is classified as an international terrorist Organisation in Nigeria. The name “Boko Haram” is translated to mean “Western education is forbidden”. This terrorist group began its activities in Borno state in the Northeast of Nigeria, which is ironically the poorest part of Nigeria. In 2010 the leadership of the group was taken over by Abubakar Shekau, soon after which Boko Haram proceeded to bomb the police headquarters and the United Nations Headquarters in Abuja the country capital in June and August 2011 respectively. The Group which began as a small organisation that seemed to be motivated by mainly religion, had metamorphosed to a much more complex structure with ties to external international terrorist groups like Al-Qaeda, Al-Shahab and most recently The Islamic State. The group has grown in the North-eastern states of Nigeria as a result of “factors such as political and socioeconomic frustrations which are all over Nigeria but more prevalent in the Northeast Nigeria where Boko Haram thrives along with poverty, unemployment, and lack of education which are much higher there than other parts of the country also serves as reasons for the emergence of Boko Haram” Sule and Othman (2015, pp. 35-36). All the above have made it easier for the Boko Haram group to recruit foot soldiers to do the biding of the leaders of the organisation. International social work can intervene by finding solutions or ways to overcome some of these factors. “Social workers unique skills and flexible approaches to problem-solving can help develop human potential in places where people have been oppressed and create peaceful, mutual solutions to strife-filled situations” National Association of Social workers (2015).

The statistic below shows a survey conducted in Nigeria in 2014 concerning the level of threat posed by militant groups for the future of Nigeria. In 2014, Boko Haram and other Islamic militant groups were seen by 95 percent of respondents as a major threat for the future of Nigeria.
1.5.2.2 Niger delta Militants

The Niger Delta militants do not fall under the complete classification of a terrorist group, but rather can be described as a group that have committed acts of domestic terrorism. Domestic - as in within Nigeria. The Niger Delta is the Oil Producing region of Nigeria in southern Nigeria consisting of various ethnic groups such as Ijaw, Itsekiri, Ogoni, Efik, and Ibiobio etc. The major grouse of the indigenes in this area is that the Oil Exploration has been operated in a very irresponsible way leading to massive Oil spills which in turn have destroyed the ecology of the area. Thereby, destroying the primary livelihood of the indigenes which is fishing and farming. Majority. “Many of the Oil Companies in the region are reported to be causing environmental pollution and economic marginalization while the state supinely looks on” Annan (2014) this has led to increased poverty, diseases resulting from pollution. poverty percentages in of the South-South (Niger-Delta) region of Nigeria is placed at 74.8% in the Report on Human Development, it also stated that the “local people often cannot tap directly into the oil industry benefits, including employment, because they lack skills or capital resources or both” which is needed to be able to work in the oil industry UNDP (2006). All this factors resulted in the militancy that erupted in that area and affected the whole of Nigeria (from early 2000 till 2009) as well as international oil prices at the time.
1.5.3 Social Problems

1.5.3.1 Corruption

Corruption is arguably the biggest social problem in Nigeria, corruption is defined by the World Bank and Transparency International (TI) as “the abuse of public office for personal gain for the benefit of the holder of the office or some private party”, and it is also defined in the dictionary as an “impairment of virtue and moral principles” Lewis (2006). It appears all social problems in Nigeria can be traced back to corruption one way or another, an example of this is with poverty. According to ActionAid “This endemic corruption is linked to the huge incidence of poverty in the country. Corruption is related to the massive stealing of public resources that would have been invested in providing wealth-creating infrastructure and social services for the citizenry, thus reducing poverty.” (2015, p.9) mentioned here are some of the main causes of the frustration that acts as a trigger to joining or beginning terrorist activities. Corruption is a major cause of poverty, unemployment, illiteracy and inequality in the country, studies have shown that there is a link between the above factors and terrorist activities. “Corruption in West Africa’s most populous nation, Nigeria, has been highlighted as one of the underlining factors in the Niger Delta conflict and the more recent, yet very pronounced, Boko Haram insurgency” Brock (2012). Corruption in the country has meant that the most vulnerable have been left to fend for themselves as the social blanket that should have provided them with the basic necessities of life is non-existent, this is further elaborated so one could argue that if corruption were to be eradicated it would reduce some of the factors motivating the youths to support and join the terrorist group, “Corruption of state officials undermines the rule of law and the authority of the state, thereby leading to hostility by citizens who came to view the state as an enemy” UNODC (cited in Sule and Othman 2015). Oshio refers to how money for security gets diverted to private pockets. According to Oshio “All government functionaries at all levels must abstain from corrupt practices while fighting crime and insurgents. The billions of Naira voted for security both at State and Federal levels for some obvious reasons are not used for the purposes of curtailing these problems” (cited in Sule and Othman 2015, p.42). An International social worker can cooperate with other international NGO’s that focus on empowering citizens through knowledge etc. advocacy against corruption, this kind of actions can lead to a bigger and more coordinated fight against corruption and thus reduce one of the motivations that lead to acts of terrorism in Nigeria.
1.5.3.2 Poor Education

Education in Nigeria is an area that has been affected by deficient government policies and also some government regimes that have under-prioritised it. The impact that this has had on education has been tremendous. The UN stating that “Federal funding, investment in basic education is still low compared to other Sub-Saharan countries. For all these reasons, prospects of Nigeria achieving Education for All by 2015 remain frail” UN (2005). Already the effects of this are felt in most Northern states, according to the National Population Commission, people in the Northeast part of Nigeria have some of the lowest levels of literacy among the Northern states of Nigeria, In Borno state approximately 72 percent of children between the ages of 6-16 have never attended schools, compared to less than 3% in most of the southern states in the country. There are a large percentage of children who are not in schools and young adults with limited literacy and numeracy skills who have little hope of ever joining the formal workforce. Education indicators are poor nationwide, and the greatest need for assistance is in the predominantly Muslim North United States Embassy in Nigeria (2012). The Almajiri (itinerant children under Qur’anic instruction) who are located in the Northern part of Nigeria, these are street children born to poor, under aged parents, and/or polygamous homes, they constitute the largest group of children that are out of school in Nigeria. Traditionally, the boys are sent to Qur’anic teachers to receive an Islamic education, which includes vocational or apprenticeship training, majority end up on the streets begging for alms. As at 2010 the number of Almajiri children in the Northern part of Nigeria was put at 9.5million by the Nigerian Ministry of Education, and further estimated that the number of Almajiri children in the urban areas were on the rise. Some factors attributed to be primary school dropout rates are: Monetary Cost – 32%
Insufficient Interest - 6%
Labour Needed Unlikely/Unable to Join Junoir Secondary School - 16%
Unfavourable Distance – 7%
Had Enough Schooling - 26%
Poor School Quality – 4% United States Embassy, (2012)
Additionally earlier research in this area by Brockhoff, Krieger and Meierrieks, (2014) show the impact Low education can play in a country which has poor structural conditions, as opposed to a country with low education and good structural condition. The study concludes that the former increases the possibility of terrorist activities, while
the latter reduces the possibility of terrorist activities. Considering this theory in a
country such as Nigeria where both education and structural condition are poor their
follows a possibility of an increase in terrorist activities, which supports the premise of
this study. According to Elbakidze and Jin (2015, p.2) “Education improvement from
elementary to secondary is positively correlated with frequency of participation in
transnational terrorism events, while further improvement from secondary to tertiary
level is negatively correlated with participation in transnational terrorism”. This
supports the hypothesis that higher educational achievement lowers participation in
terrorist activities.

1.5.3.3 Poverty
Nigeria can best be described as a rich country with poor people, which has caused a lot
of anger and frustration among its citizenry. Nigeria is a country with the possibility and
opportunity for a lot of growth if governed properly. There are reports which show that
the economy of the country has been growing at an average of 6% per year consistently
for more than 7 years. Sadly in spite of this increase in the Gross Domestic Product
(GDP), unemployment, poverty and inequality have continued to grow (UNDP, 2010;
FGN, 2010). The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) reported that the percentage of
people living in poverty increased from 27.2% in 1980 to 46.3% in 1985, dropped to
42.7% in 1992 and then increased to 65% in 1996. By 2010, the poverty level was at
69%, indicating that about 112.47 million Nigerians are living below the poverty line
NBS, 2010 (cited in ActionAid, 2015). The Niger Delta has the largest oil resource in
Nigeria yet is one of the poorest regions in the country, this has been attributed by some
as part of the underlying factors to the Niger Delta militancy Annan (2012). According to
case studies conducted in Latin America and Northeastern India the conclusions drawn
indicate that poverty does cause terrorist activities. Mitra (2008). Several other studies
have shown there is a relationship between poverty and terrorism such as (Wolfhenson,
2002; Akanni, 2014).

2. Literature Review
For the purpose of clarity the literature review is divided into three sections: Theoretical
perspectives of earlier research, Social problems and terrorism, and lastly social work
and terrorism.
2.1 Theoretical Perspectives of earlier Research

This section examines some of the theories of terrorism, which can be applied to understanding terrorism from different perspective relevant also in application by the International social worker. The relative deprivation theory, theorises that social and economic imbalances in a society can push people to acts of terrorism. According to Gur (1970) people taking action to get some form of social change so as to get the social needs they are deprived of. It can be hypothesised using this theory that people are pushed to acts of terrorism because of factors such as poverty, corruption and lack of opportunities in their communities. Bandura’s 1973 Social learning theory is also used to explain terrorism as behaviour which is “not as the consequence of innate aggression but of cognitive “reconstruction” of moral imperatives” (cited in Victoroff, 2005, p.18). The Rational choice theory of terrorism argues that terrorist are rational and calculated in their choice to take certain actions aimed at accomplishing their common goals and objectives. (Sandler and Lapan, 1988; Crenshaw, 1992) this signifies that in a community where people are excluded the rational choice might be to join or perpetrate acts of terrorism in order to gain some sort of relevance, or control. This theory has its origins in microeconomics thus its focus on choice even though it can be used to analyse why people would make the choice of participating in terrorist activities.

2.2 Social problems and Terrorism

There have been no published academic studies on the role of International Social Work with regards social problems and terrorism in Nigeria, research in this area has been in relation to other countries and mainly in areas of the welfare of social worker, the role they play during and immediately after terrorist attacks, additionally most of the studies in this area are mostly limited to Israel and the USA and not examined from the context of underdeveloped countries such as Nigeria which have a different social structure from the developed/developing countries. Another aspect is the issue of social problems and terrorism, there are conflicting schools of thought on the relationship between social problems and terrorism, or if there is any relationship at all. This study however is in agreement of research that identifies root causes and the way its effects are affected by the development level of the countries as it is important to address the some causes of terrorism contextually. Supporting this Newman (2006) attempting to clarify the meaning of root causes (factors that cause terrorism) suggests a causal relationship between, social, economic, political and demographic conditions and terrorist activities. He argues further that an approach to counterterrorism that ignores
this relationship may even make the existing social problems that cause terrorism worse and further increase the terrorist threat. The idea of certain factors/causes that may increase the likelihood of terrorist activities or cause terrorist activities are in line with this study, it is also stressed by several other researchers for example (Ehrlich and Liu, 2002; Wolfhenson, 2002; Akanni, 2014) who address different social factors, such as poverty, lack of education, unemployment etc. as a part of the causes of terrorism. It should be noted that this study is in agreement with authors such as (Newman, 2006; Blomberg, Hess and Weerapana, 2004; Brockhoff, et al, 2014) work, which specify how country specific conditions can determine the effect social problems will have with regards to being a cause of terrorism. For instance Newman, (2006) argues that ‘Root causes’ can only be used to explain terrorism in developing countries, but is of little or no value for explaining it in developed societies. This suggests that factors that influence terrorism are not a one size fits all. The development level of a country determines what the causative factors for terrorism are. A study conducted in Nigeria by Uzodike and Maiangwa (2012) also hypothesise that factors such as endemic corruption, absence of a social safety net for the poor and unemployed, weak security apparatus, and pervasive underdevelopment in the North of Nigeria, ineffective judicial system, and ideological struggles within and between religions as the causes of terrorism in Nigeria. This argument concurs with that of Akhmat, et al, (2014) the outcome of their research also pointed to social problems such as high population, unemployment, poverty, inequality, political instability and inflation contributing to an increases in terrorism South Asia. Nigeria being an underdeveloped country, and South Asia which is made up of undeveloped and developing countries. The empirical research conducted by Blomberg, Hess, and Weerapana (2004) explored the link between terrorism and the economic situation of the people within the country. Their result showed that a reduction in economic activity produces an increase in terrorist activities. Whereas if economic activity is made to flourish it brings about a reduction in acts of terrorism. The above studies emphasis the hypothesis of this research which is that if the International Social worker is able to ameliorate some of the social problems that cause terrorism as stated by earlier research, then it follows that terrorist activities can be reduced in Nigeria. Of course, there is a certain school of thought that sees no connection between social problems and an increase in Terrorist activities, Researchers such as (Berrebi, 2007; Piazza 2006; Kruegar and Maleckova, 2003) found no significant relationship between social problems and an increase in terrorism. The study
conducted by Berrebi (2007) also concluded that the link between education, income level where either very weak or in an opposite direction. In order to show the role of international social work, earlier research that discuss the social problems that are of particular importance, which contribute to an increase in terrorist activities are examined. By establishing this connection this study explores the role an International social worker can play in empowering, supporting, helping the population to overcome these social problems that are both the cause and the outcomes of terrorism. For instance, According to Blomberg, Hess, and Weerapana (2004) groups with limited access to opportunity rationally engage in terrorist activities while policy-making elites find it rational not to engage in opening access to these groups” which contradicts the earlier hypothesis of Cresnahaw (1981) she argues that Terrorism represents the disillusionment of some of the elite in society, who decide to fight for the masses as they deem them to be clueless of their sufferings and need someone to represent their cause. Even though this argument is highly plausible, it nevertheless does not address situations where the masses themselves actually commit acts of terrorism against the elites- bourgeoisie and Government as a result of their frustration, an example of this is with the people of the Niger-Delta in Nigeria, or when the elites have a separate agenda from the masses they ought to be representing.

2.3 Social Work and Terrorism
There is very little academic literature regarding International social work and terrorism. The study conducted by Ivanauskiené and Makštutytė (2014) draws focus to the role of International social work, in dealing with terrorism, by “internationally related domestic practice and advocacy, professional exchange, international practice, and international policy development and advocacy”. The need for community level interventions on the macro level, are stressed. The observations and recommendations of this study highlight the importance of international social work, showing the global nature of social work in its ability to respond to terrorist attacks in different countries and supporting the ability of the International social worker. The research further concludes on the need for acquisition of new skills by International Social Workers based on the relative newness of the field - to combat the new threat that terrorism brings to the world, but did not address the issue of the shortage of international social workers in developing countries. The role of the social worker in administering community based help after terrorist activities is also discussed by Itzhaky and York (2005) in their research the necessity of social workers in the role of planning, community development and organization,
volunteer direction and training, and developing community resilience and assisting victims after a terror attack is prioritised and studied in its effectiveness. This is relevant to this study in that it shows the skills and practice that social workers bring in situations of terrorist attacks, and the help such social workers can bring to underdeveloped countries such as Nigeria when working in an international capacity. The role of the social worker cannot be underestimated or over emphasized. Itzhaky and Dekel (2005) study discussed how the ability of Social workers to empathise through personal experiences of Terrorism made a positive difference in the responses of the victims to them. Landau (1997) on the other hand gives insight to the emotions of the social workers themselves when dealing with terrorism, addressing issues such as feelings of helplessness, need for working in pairs to support one another, and also the emotional strength required by the social workers in order to cater to victims of terrorist attacks. The importance of this research is that it addresses issues which might make a social worker less effective and discusses coping mechanisms for social workers.

**Summary**
The three sections of the literature review have pointed out different theories and perspectives which have emerged from earlier research in areas relevant to the research topic. While several academics argue for the relationship between social problems and terrorism, that is social problems as a cause of terrorism, others argue against it, stating that there is no connection, or connections that go in opposite directions. Understanding some of the theories used to explain terrorism gives a deeper insight and also raises the question of context, because no one theory can be used to explain terrorism across the different countries experiencing it. The theories must be understood and used in context of the situation being experienced. This Chapter also highlighted the role of the international social worker in the ability to bring global knowledge and competence, which is important in responding to terrorist attacks across different countries. The next chapter goes in-depth to explain the theoretical perspective of this study.

### 3. Theoretical Construct

The theory used for this study is the General Systems theory. Rooney and Larson (cited in Parish 2010, p.206) explain a system as

An organised whole; it is contained within boundaries that serve to distinguish that system from external environment; within those boundaries, the system contains various
interacting elements that serve to define its purpose. A system occurs whenever multiple elements interact, and when the characteristics of the system are distinct from those of its parts.

The decision to use this theory is based on the versatile nature of the GST and its applicability in using different systems to explain the varying aspects of the topic being studied. According to Boulding, GST as “a body of systematic theoretical constructs which will discuss the general relationships of the empirical world” (1956, p.197).

General System Theory, gives a convenient framework that is useful for this study, it provides an organised method of explaining how terrorism may be an outcome of the social problems that are experienced by these communities in Nigeria. It is also useful in analysing how a social worker can help these communities that are affected by terrorism. GST can be used to show the links and connections in a way that is clearer and easier to understand, for instance aspects such as, community, corruption, poverty etc., can be explored while still being able to discuss the role of the International social worker. The GST approach for this study will be in accordance to one of the two approaches, according to Boulding “to look over the empirical universe and to pick out certain general phenomena which are found in many different disciplines, and to seek to build up general theoretical models relevant to these phenomena” (1956, p.200). The General systems theory is made up of key concepts, such as systems, boundaries, energy, information or communication open and closed systems, entropy, synergy, and homeostasis. When one examines this using the GST, terrorist activities occur within communities and individuals are found in families within this communities, so the community is one system, then the family is a sub-system within the community and the individual is another sub-system within the family. Then the social problems which are poverty, poor education, corruption are the energies (Negative) that flow into the system and weaken both the external and internal boundaries, “Boundaries serve to define the parameters of systems and subsystems” Parish, (2010 p.207) which in turn allow for even more negative energies (Influence) like terrorism, recruitments into terrorist groups to flow into the system. The result of this over time is for disintegration of the system (Entropy) resulting from terrorist activities.

In order to analyse the data in a precise manner, one must apply it to the specific context of Nigeria in which the study was conducted. In Nigeria the Northern states are where over 90% of the terrorist activities occur. “More than three million people are facing a humanitarian crisis in three Northern Nigerian states hit by an Islamist-led insurgency,
the government’s relief agency has said” BBC (2014). The states in the North unlike other geographic zones in Nigeria have extremely high poverty and illiteracy rates, the states comprise of small communities, which have open internal and closed external boundaries not allowing influences responsible for development flow in easily from other developed parts of the country and people. The north of Nigeria is generally not open to people from the other ethnicities and religion and have historically maintained a more traditional and Islamic lifestyle, operating closed external systems within its communities. This in turn has blocked of the positive flow of energy and information, in the form of education, and opportunities that can bring the people out of poverty and ignorance. A good example is in this article from the Barber in the WorldPost, where a man was said to have refused the polio vaccine claiming that it was against Islam and it is intended to kill or make sterile the Muslim children in his country -- Nigeria -- and other countries (2013) Quoting a man from Northern Nigeria. he goes to further to describe the man as misinformed and one of millions of people misled by zealots and fanatics believing this non-scientific myth or else using it in order to gain power within their communities Barber (2013) this captures the situation of the closed external boundaries and the open internal boundaries adequately. The people within the community have little to no education, which makes it difficult for them to be critical, and thus more prone to listen to, believe in, and pass on rumors Buckner, (cited in Ghinai, et al 2013). The leaders within the community will usually use this for their own self-interest. Which in this case might be getting new recruits for terrorist organization or promoting religious intolerance. Which results negative outputs such as terrorism from the community system. On the other hand the internal boundaries within the communities are very porous, usually there is a leader or elder that determines what happens to the people within the community. The paper by Hoechner challenges the view of Religion, portrayed as a radicalizing force in the lives of Almajiris. It describes how the Almajiri deploy religious discourses to moderate feelings of inadequacy and shame triggered by experiences of exclusion (2015).

The social exclusion suffered by majority of the communities in the North has closed the external boundaries more; social exclusion contributed to by the Government as well as community leaders have cumulated in negative energy flows into the community system. All the negative energy has caused the system to go into a state of Entropy (which can be seen in the North) by community systems that have been
completely destroyed, when all the people in the communities have become internally displaced across southern states in Nigeria, and some countries bordering Nigeria leaving majority of the communities with little to no inhabitants and destroying all business and commerce, thereby also creating more outputs of poverty. Thus the place of International social work is explored as to how it can assist in the restoration of the system to a state of Homeostasis. To do this International social work skills and training can be described as the positive energy flows into the system, through efforts of community development that will encourage education, poverty reduction incentives, advocacy of policies to curb corruption etc., and also encourage autonomy using empowerment methods etc., so as to strengthen internal boundaries.

**General System theory flow chart**

The flow chart shows the relationships between social problems, terrorism and social work.

- **Energy N** – Negative energy
- **Energy P** – Positive energy
- **Output N** – Negative output
- **Output P** – Positive output
4. Research Methodology

The purpose of this study is to examine the perceptions of selected individuals who have survived terrorist attacks and/or have worked in capacities that involved dealing with terrorism related issues, regarding the effects that social problems have had on terrorism in their communities and to find out the possible implications for international social work practice. With this in mind the qualitative method of inquiry was used for this study. The qualitative interview method is defined by Creswell as an inquiry process of understanding based on distinct methodological traditions of inquiry that explore a social or human problem, the researcher builds a complex holistic picture, analyses words, reports detailed views of informants, and conducts the interview in a natural setting (1998, p.15)

The qualitative research was used for data collection because it is important to be able to have in-depth interviews with participants, considering the scope of the study. According to Saldaña “Qualitative research is an umbrella term for a wide variety of approaches to and methods for the study of natural social life. The information or data collected and analysed is primarily (but not exclusively) non-quantitative in character” (2011, p.3). Qualitative research offers the opportunity to investigate a given phenomenon in a number of ways, which is important for this research, in order to be able to obtain data that is rich and diverse and produces results that are an accurate representation of the aim of the study. The scientific perspective of phenomenology which tries to understand “how the individual perceives and experiences the world in the here and now” Parish (2010, p.136) is used to understand the experiences of the victims and also experiences of those working with terrorism. To provide a deeper insight into the data being collected for understanding of our chosen focus of study.

The participants of the study were interviewed using the semi-structured life world “the semi structured life world interview seeks to obtain descriptions of the life world of the interviewee with respect to interpreting the meaning of the described phenomena; it will have a sequence of themes to be covered, as well as some suggested questions” Kvale and Brinkmann (2009, p.124). The reason for choosing this method of interviewing is because it allowed participant give information that is both expansive and relevant to the study. This enabled the interviewer be able to get a clearer understanding of the experiences and information from the participants.
4.1 Data Collection

For the purposes of data collections, semi structured life–world interviews were used. “Data collection in the interview is interactive, whereby we can check out our understanding and interpretation as researchers through dialogue with our research participants” Richard and Grinnell (2001, p.29) the interactive nature of interviews is important towards getting important clarifications and understanding towards the overall quality of research. An interview is described in Kvale and Brinkmann (2009) as a conversation with structure and purpose, it goes beyond spontaneous exchange of knowledge in everyday conversations, and becomes a careful questioning and listening approach with the purpose of obtaining thoroughly tested knowledge. The interviews were conducted via Skype, which still allows for face to face interaction and has similar characteristics to being in the same location as the participants of the interview. The semi structured interview “integrates a collection of spontaneous and preplanned questions, with the latter allowing the interviewer the discretion to ask new questions in response to a participants answers or body language” Carey (2012, p.112). Using Skype allowed for such observations to be made. Skype interviews were necessary as the interviewer was in Sweden at the time of conducting the interviews and the participants were located in different states in Nigeria, which made the Skype interview the most feasible option “Modern software’s, such as Skype, further create the most feasible alternative to face-to-face interviews. Skype provides not only synchronous interaction between the researcher and their participant, but without the criticisms associated with losing visual and interpersonal aspects of the interaction” Hanna (2012, p.241) in addition to using a recording device for the interviews an application was also downloaded which recorded audio and video during the skype interview. According to Hanna “Using technologies such as Skype, the researcher can easily record both the visual and audio interaction of the interview through simple software downloaded onto their workstation.” (2012, p.241) furthermore, the findings of Deakin and Wakefield (2013) show that while there are benefits and drawbacks to the utility of Skype, they argue that synchronous online interviewing is a useful supplement or replacement to face-to-face interviews.

4.2 Selection of literature

The literature that was used for this study were mainly obtained from the Libary of the University of Gavle, and also the International Social work Programme course literature, which had been purchased earlier. The library webpage was used to access
pages from discovery, and Google scholar which were the most frequently used academic search engines. Additionally, sites such as Wiley online Library, and Sage Journals, were also used to access relevant information. Google search was used to find information such as statistics, Newspaper articles, or information on relevant groups, phenomena or organisations that were of importance to the study. The terms used for searches were mostly, words such as – Terrorism, International Social work, Social problems, and Social work, Nigeria, Poverty, Corruption.

4.3 Sampling process

The Purposive samples a non-probability sampling technique was be used to collect the data, this helped to get respondents with relevant knowledge. “In Purposive sampling the researcher use their subjective judgment and attempts to select sampling units that appear to be representative of the population” Frankfort-Nachmias and Nachmias (2008, p.168). At the beginning of this study a homogeneous purposive sampling strategy was utilized. “Homogeneous sampling is used to describe a particular subgroup in depth, to reduce variation, simplify analysis and facilitate group interviewing” Palinkas, et al (2013, p.535) the thought process behind this was to interview only victims of terrorism, because they lived in the communities and would be able to better explain the motivations and effects of terrorism, and also have first-hand knowledge of this subject. That they are able to give a deeper insight into the research objectives. As this study explores perceptions on social problems attributed to terrorist activities, which affects the lives of people regardless of gender, age, or socio-economic status, and its implications for ISW. After the first interview it was clear that to get adequate data to help achieve the full aim of the study, especially the aspect of International social work other participants had to be included in the study, namely other people from Non Profit-organisations that work with issues of terrorism on a professional level, this was because they could give the required insight to social work and social problems in relation to terrorism from a more experienced and informed perspective. On completion of an interview with a staff of an NGO, the respondent was asked for connections to other staff of NGO’s with relevant experience and knowledge of the area of study, this is known as Snowball sampling “To identify cases of interest from sampling people who know people that generally have similar characteristics who, in turn know people, also with similar characteristics” Palinkas, et al (2013). This led to interviewing staffs of different NGO’s with the required relevant knowledge and experience, who were experts in the Field. The participants of this study are employees of NGO’s who have
worked in the area of terrorism in Nigeria either in the capacity of prevention, advocacy, policy implementation, conducting research on terrorism with and for international NGO’s, managers of NGO’s that care for victims and also have some contact with de-radicalised terrorist, and those affected by terrorist activities, and also victims and survivors of terrorist attacks. There were a total of two females and five male respondents who were aged late twenties to early forties.

4.4 Instrumentation

The interview instrument used in this study had two purposes, the first was to get the perception of the interviewees on social problems and terrorism. The second was to understand the implications of the first purpose for International social work. the Interview guide approach was used, this means that the wording of the interview questions are already predetermined but the order or sequence of asking the questions is set according to the course of the conversation. Using this approach will assist in ensuring that specific areas of importance are addressed during the interview. Patton (2002).

The Interview guide covered three main themes. Theme One: Social problems, addressed the perceptions of respondents about the prevalent social problems in the communities and their effects on terrorism. Theme two: Terrorism, addressed the issues relating to terrorist activities. Theme three: Social Work, examined the role of social workers/International Social workers in the communities. The Interview guide can be found in the Appendix B. There were a total of 7 interviews conducted over a time frame of approximately two weeks. The respondents of the interview were from four states within Nigeria, these states are located in the south-west (Lagos), North central (Abuja), North east (Adamawa), Middle belt (Plateau). This offered maximum variation of respondents based on their geo-graphical location. Which made it possible to generalise the results of interview across more states in Nigeria. Two interviews were conducted with victims who had survived attacks and also lost family members to the attacks. Another two interviews were conducted with staff of a non-governmental organization who do legislative advocacy and work within the communities and with the government for security safety and conduct research on causes of terrorism to create preventive strategies and proffer solutions on the rehabilitation of former terrorist. Also one of the interviews was with the chairperson of an NGO, he had worked previously with the UN in Abuja as an analysts on issues of terrorism and security strategies and
challenges in Nigeria. Then the CEO and Director of an NGO - who have also been victims themselves, so had multiple perspectives as victims and social workers. Their organisation cared for orphans and children/young adults who had been displaced, community work- assisting the members of community who had their houses and livelihood destroyed during terrorist attacks reintegrate back into society, providing shelter, food, trauma therapy, and rehabilitation to the victims of terror attacks etc. the interview sessions followed the interview guide

4.5 Data Analysis.

The process of analysis was designed to preserve the data that was obtained from the respondents and ensure that it maintained the meaning and information as was originally collected during and after analysis. All the interviews were recording with an audio recording device as well as a recording application for skype. No notes were taken during interview so as not to distract the respondents. “Common ways to record interviews have been the use of the audio recorder, which frees the interviewer to concentrate on the topic and the dynamic of the interview” Kvale and Brinkmann (2009, pp.178-179). The recording were all transcribed by the interviewer from the audio recordings. “Researchers who transcribe their own interviews will have the social and emotional aspects of the interview situation present and will already have stated the analysis of what is said” Kvale and Brinkmann (2009, p.180). According to ibid (184) it is easier for two people to independently type the same passage of a recorded interview and count number of words that differ to act as a reliability check; this was not possible for this study because of time constraint and the study was conducted by a single researcher. All efforts were made to maintain the confidentiality of the persons and organisations that participated in the study. The recording and transcripts were stored securely and the identities of the respondents were protected.

The analysis of data was done using thematic analysis. Thematic analysis is a search for themes that emerge as being important to the description of the phenomenon Daly, Kellehear, and Gliksman in Padgett (2008). This study used a hybrid approach that combines both concept- driven and data driven coding, because some of the codes were developed in advance from reading existing literature while the other codes are formulated from the raw data (Ibid, p.202) for the data driven coding, data that was collected was coded “Coding and condensation provide structure and give overviews to often extensive interview texts” (Ibid p.201) this was done by reading the transcribed
data a number of times and identifying certain keywords that form some units of meaning, by attaching the meaning to a segment of text (Ibid, 201-202). The keywords were identified by reading segments of each response and identifying the most representative of the meaning of that segment. Once this keywords were identified they were placed in categories. The keywords were then reduced by identifying repeated words and words that were redundant and removing them, this was done across all the interviews. In addition to this the codes were written in a codebook “writing process on how everything plausibly interrelates” Saldaña (2011). The codes in the codebook were then used to identify the themes and the sub-themes, this was done through identifying patterns, and for the connections within the keywords. The codes although developed by one researcher were reread a number of times by the researcher and checked against the data to ensure the validity of the codes. The concepts of the study have been developed from codes, categories, and themes, they are necessary for the construction of the theory Ibid.

4.6 Validity

Validity is described as the main goal of research Grinnel (2001, p.35). Validity pertains to whether a method investigates what it purports to investigate Kvale & Brinkmann (2009, p.246). In this study all efforts were made for the interview questions to be a true representation of the research questions and thus produce results which explain the phenomena being investigated. To the best of the knowledge of the researcher the most appropriate theoretical foundation was used from which the research questions were derived. The research design was well rounded so as to obtain data that was precise and accurate, using methods such as semi-structured interviews which allowed the respondent freedom of expression Patton (2002) but still guided them from going of point, while phenomenology was used to understand the experiences of the respondent to maintain the trustworthiness of the respondents report Kvale and Brinkmann (2009). The transcription and analysis were carefully done, with the data reread and reviewed multiple times.

4.7 Reliability and Generalization

Reliability pertains to the consistency and trustworthiness of research findings; whether the finding is reproducible at other times and by other researchers. Kvale and Brinkmann (2009, p.245) In order to ensure the reliability of the study all the method steps used to obtain the categories of the four themes, were properly reported in the research methodology. The analysis of the four themes using the General systems
theory were also explained in the results and analysis section. This ensured that this study can be repeated by other researchers.

The results of this study pertaining to social problems and terrorism and the implications for International social work can be generalised to other victims and NGO staff in Nigeria this is referred to as sample generalizability Grinnel (2001). The results of this study cannot be generalised to other populations, cross-population generalizability (Ibid) this is because the social problems identified may not be attributed to terrorism in other countries also some other countries will not have the same requirements from an International social workers as such.

4.8 Ethical Considerations

This study strived to maintain the confidentiality of the participants in the study. The participants were informed as to the aim and purpose of study and were also informed of the voluntary nature of participating, the recording of the interview, and their freedom to stop participating at any time during the interview session. The participants were also given consents forms that contained all the information mentioned above Kvale and Brinkmann (2009, p.70). Efforts were made to maintain objectivity so as to give results that are free of any form of personal opinion and/or bias. All reporting of data, findings, results and methods were done in good conscience. To eliminate mistakes and inaccurate information the study was revised by someone other than the researcher.

5. Results

The thematic Analysis of the transcripts identified four key categories, and fourteen sub themes from the data. These themes and sub-themes are crucial in establishing the perspectives of the respondents. This is shown clearly in the table below.
TABLE A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social and Economic Motivation</th>
<th>Corruption</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Education</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Poverty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychological and Social Orientation</td>
<td>Religion</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Revenge</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Status</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social work Skills</td>
<td>Social work in Nigeria</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Expectations</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Training and knowledge</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Counselling and Trauma treatment,</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Social Work Dynamics</td>
<td>Facing reality</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Competencies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Considerations</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Security concerns and trust Issues</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The themes and subthemes identify the social factors which have been attributed to contributing to the rise in terrorism in Nigeria and what the implications of these are for International Social Work in Nigeria. The themes were derived by coding and regrouping the data this was achieved by first giving a summary to each line of the transcribed interview data, about 24 codes were derived from each interview, and then the codes were reduced by eliminating codes that were similar or redundant. These codes were then categorised and then further reduced so as to construct a narrative for each theme that emerged. This finalised into the four themes stated, the first two themes are focused on social factors in relation to terrorism, while the last two themes focus on social work practice in relation to terrorism in Nigeria. In order to maintain the confidentiality of the participants in the study, their real names are not used. The respondents who had been victims are identified as Vic1 and Vic 2 then the Staffs of the NGO’s are represented as Ngo1 – Ngo5.
5.1 Social and Economic Motivation

Nigeria is a multi-ethnic society that is experiencing terrorism, one can describe this as a form of violent conflict, and other multi-ethnic countries in Africa have experienced and are still experiencing violent conflicts Annan (2014). The common themes among these countries are social and economic inequalities, this is the same as in Nigeria. The themes that have been identified in relation to social problems/factors are a testament to this. The theme Social/Economic motivation explains the social and economic reasons that motivate people to join terrorist organisations or perpetrate terrorist acts in the context of Nigeria. The respondents identified some key social and economic factors why people choose to be involved in acts of terrorism. In most underdeveloped countries there is a wide divide between those that are rich and those that are poor causing social inequality, this may lead to feelings of frustration and anger amongst a certain percentage of the citizenry of the country. In General systems theory one can explain this social inequality as an imbalance in the social systems, which cause the interaction between the systems to become negative. “Systems are defined by the interactive or relational nature of their elements with the greater environment” Parish (2010, p.206). This translates to a release of frustrations in the form of terrorism by Individual systems into the community systems.

5.1.1 Corruption

Majority of the respondents identified corruption within the government as a cause of terrorism, it is also attributed as being a factor in the increase of poverty which is mentioned below. The last statement points to how corruption within the government has caused a lack of necessary social amenities which could also be a cause of resentment among individuals. The respondent describes how the Boko Haram group seemed to have started out as a group fighting for social justice because they claimed to be fighting against the corruption of government. But even after it became obvious that this was not the case the corrupt system made it difficult to stop them. According to GST, corruption can be described as a negative energy, which has also further caused the internal boundaries to become overly permeable, this is because corruption in Nigeria is responsible for a lot of social problems that occur in communities, which cause the breakdown of boundaries and because system relationships are transactional it affects the whole system Parish (2010) this is the case in the Northern states of Nigeria where the internal boundaries are loose causing “confusion of roles and chaos” Parish (2010, p.207). As can be understood from this sentence
Some of the rhetoric's of Boko haram at the beginning was that the government was corrupt, they might not have started from corruption but they thrive in the corrupt environment which has been in Nigeria. (Ngo3)

Corruption is arguably the chief cause of poverty in Nigeria, the flow of corruption into the system can produce an output of poverty and the poverty in turn also flowing back into the system produces an output of terrorism. This shows the transactional relationships of systems and flows. The quote below describes this:

Poverty thrives where there is corruption and corruption thrives where there is poverty where you have created a loop-hole, they are interrelated (Ngo1)

The respondents usually made mention of the corruption of those in government in Nigeria, especially the governors of the Northern states and their neglect of state infrastructure, and development in the states. Corruption is also cited by Uzodike, & Maiangwa in their earlier research, as being among the main causes of terrorism in Nigeria (2012). As is stressed by the respondent in the next quote

The Nigerian government is structured in such a way that it is state government and local governments that are supposed to provide amenities for people, now state governments have turned themselves into franchises of theft, before you had social amenities provided by state government. (Ngo3)

Lack of social amenities have been linked to Government Neglect resulting from corruption in the states and thus the communities. One of the main social amenities that have suffered as a result of these in the Northern States of Nigeria are the ones needed for education like school buildings, salaries for teachers, employing competent teachers, and academic literature etc. which leads us to the next theme which is education.

5.1.2 Education

The Northern states of Nigeria have suffered the effects of corruption and poverty the most in Nigeria. Corruption has led to a shortage of schools, and poverty has meant that majority of children are kept out of the school in order to support their parents in bringing home income and/or farming, etc. These states have the highest rates of children that are out of school in Nigeria, according to the 2013 MDGs report, less than 10% of children in these states complete their primary school education -year 6, UN (2013). Which has resulted in a vast majority of youths who are uneducated and unskilled and are thereby unemployable, resulting in varying forms of destitution and social exclusion as well as social problems. Examining this using GST one could say that these youths lacking sufficient education are systems with overly permeable
boundaries that allow negative information and energy in, because factors such as poverty and lack of sufficient education make their personal boundaries porous. When a system takes in such negative energy the system will also give of a negative output in this case terrorism. Earlier research in this area by (Ehrlich and Liu, 2002; Wolfhenson, 2002; Akanni, 2014) also point to factors such as illiteracy or low education, and unemployment as causes of terrorism.

When asked to describe factors contributing to an increase in acts of terrorism, lack of sufficient education was identified as providing the foot soldiers who actually propagate these acts, under the influence of a small band of educated individuals trying to achieve their own selfish agendas. The quote below attests to GST in relation to porous internal boundaries, the individual internal system boundaries are loose resulting from lack of education, this makes it possible for energy in the form of influence and indoctrination to flow into their systems and because the external boundaries are rigid, there is little to no external flow of information to disrupt the influences and indoctrination into acts of terrorism in the community.

Because what u have is a small band of people who are educated indoctrinating a large band of people who are uneducated. So if those were educated it is impossible for you to tell a married man pick up a knife and stab someone else because you are going to marry 200 wives. So lack of education is primary factor (Ngo1)

The next quote was in response to identifying factors that cause people to participate in acts of terrorism. An uneducated individual usually is ill-informed and subject to manipulation by others, as discussed in the preceding paragraph. The next respondent spoke of the importance of education in acquiring knowledge.

Lack of education lack of information, but for you to even get the information you have to be educated, you have to be trained (Ngo4)

Lack of information, results in ignorance, so these youths in the communities lack education which on the other hand has resulted in a closed internal boundary, disrupting the flow of positive information. Less than twenty years ago some of the states in the North decided to adopt Sharia law this resulted in Islamic education being prioritised over circular western education Kendhammer (2013). This of course had a detrimental effect on the North because Nigeria is a circular country which was colonised by the British and thus English language is the lingua franca and all education, employment and economic/social interaction are in English language. The country was structured
 according to British standard so inability to read or speak the English language will lead to varying forms of social exclusion.

but also in other studies we know there is some level of ignorance some people are signing into this organisations because they think it is cool, they think they will command respect, earning respect with an AK47 is something they think is very important (Ngo3)

From this quote above, it can be inferred that the social exclusion experienced by this youths has long given them feelings of irrelevance and powerlessness. When all this is added to ignorance and illiteracy, terrorism might seem like a viable option towards attaining some form of relevance and power. The idea of belonging to a group might also reduce the feeling of social exclusion.

5.1.3 Poverty

Poverty was one of the factors the respondents mentioned repeatedly as being a cause of people participating and/or joining terrorist groups. The Northern states of Nigeria are the poorest in the country and thus prone to a lot of social problems, poverty is described as the most fundamental and intractable of problems and is attributed by many in the social sciences as the root of many social problems Healy (2008). Below are some the reasons as described by the respondents when asked to describe factors contributing to terrorist activities. In most human beings is the urge to survive, to live through difficult circumstances and situations. This is sometimes the reason behind participation in terrorist activities as mentioned by some of the respondents. The communities in the North affected by terrorism were already improvised before the reign of terror began but the situation got escalated by terrorism. In General Systems theory the deprivation and terrorism can be viewed as negative energy flows into the system, which gives a likely output of the individual joining or participating in terrorist acts.

Ngo1 describes the desperate circumstances that sometimes force people into such acts so it is a dangerous mix when It is illiteracy and poverty because a hungry person is not so concerned with character and morality as opposed to survival so if it means he has to breakdown someone's house and be paid for that hoping he will wake up the next morning with food he will do it. (Ngo1)

These areas where terrorism have sprung up are places where indigenes live very hard and difficult lives with limited to no access to basic amenities such as clean water, electricity, adequate health care, schools and general comforts, majority of the indigenes are farmers of either crops or animals and practice non mechanised farming, so earn
very little returns from their hard labour. Then there is the issue of the street children who grow up without proper homes known as the Almajiris, they are left under the tutelage of Islamic clerics but end up on the streets as beggars in the community and being used by politicians, this Islamic clerics are some of the bourgeoisie in the society. These youths have very open internal boundaries hence the control from the parties mentioned, but closed internal boundaries which makes it difficult to escape the lives they live. This explains why joining terrorist groups can be seen as a viable option. Several of this young men grow up outside a family unit – so have no family system boundaries to keep away negative energy flows from them. In a manner the terrorist organisations become a sort of family system to ‘protect’ which is to establish a ‘boundary’ to keep unwanted flows of energy away (in this case hunger, lack and harm) and ‘provide’ an open internal system for wanted energy flows. As described in the quote below

... they were joining because it was the only way to get basic services to get protection to get access to services to have an organisation that provides for its members (Vic1)

In their desire to escape from the negative flow of deprivation and lack, living in hardship the allure of safety and provision from terrorist organisation becomes very real, it is viewed as way out of the suffering. Some of the respondent described how money is used as a tool for recruitment and also payment, which has also attracted young men into terrorist groups who see it as a means of escaping from poverty. Money as a tool for enticement into terrorist groups. Financial Action Task Force (2013) in a community system of poverty an influx of money will cause some kind of shift and changes in the system, because when energy is released into a system it bring about changes either as a negative or positive output - in this case both the individual and community systems are changed. The young men who have lived in abject poverty and are economically and thus socially excluded are suddenly exposed and baited with money, which is released into their individual system, the money served as negative influence in this case to coerce them into joining or participating in acts of terrorism, which introduced a state of disorder into the system ‘entropy’ Healy (2005)

...they will give you a lot of money like dollars they are not using Nigerian money then they will give you money you will join them ....people are joining because of money it is not because of religion ... because of money ...(Vic2)

When an individual experiences an influx of the wrong type of energy in its system, the individual produces an output that is also negative. In this case the recruiters give
money to make the internal boundaries of the individuals systems loose and then they can be recruited into terrorist groups or made to participate in terrorist acts. Akhmat, et al. (2014) also conclude that factors such as poverty, unemployment among other social problems contribute to an increase in terrorism for their study which was done in South Asia.

5.2 Psychological and Social Orientation

This category identifies how the thought process and social inclinations of an individual can also lead them to terrorist activities. These were some of the responses to the question about factors attributed to joining or participating in acts of terrorism.

5.2.1 Religion

In Nigeria as with most underdeveloped/developing countries religion is a very important aspect of life. Most Nigerians identify with one religion or another; the country as a whole is also geographically divided along religious lines. The north of Nigeria is prevalently Islamic, while the south is prevalently Christian. Based on this one can begin to understand the role that religious clerics play in the lives of individuals within the country. The respondent below asserted that Islamic clerics were sometimes instruments of radicalisation, these particular clerics are preachers who move from one community to the next spreading their extreme religious beliefs that are often laced with messages of intolerance and violent extremism.

...and then there is also the itinerant religious preachers, people who move from one community to the other preaching all sorts of different ideology. They are helping to spread the radical message and attracting people to the radical religion. Ngo3

The activities of the roaming preachers in GST are symbolic of the processes that occur between open external and internal systems, because the sermons which can be called information are able to flow into the systems of community and individuals and cause some change that produces an output, which can be religious intolerance in the form of terrorist acts. This form of social influence that the preachers have produces ‘compliance’ when one does something because they are asked to – usually by a person that they respect Taylor, Peplau, and Sears (2006) like a preacher believed to be speaking ‘God’s words’

We also find the activity of roaming preachers who are not being monitored properly so you can buy your microphone and be shouting whatever it is, other religion have it how do you tell this prophet he is not called by God so he
should stop talking. We have unregulated religious activities that are going on. 

Regarding the issue mentioned in the quote above regarding monitoring, a social worker is able to launch advocacy efforts to lobby the government to establish policies that will bring about the monitoring of such ‘roaming preachers’ and their activities to discourage the dissemination of harmful religious sermons. Healy (2005) describes advocacy as one of the primary tasks of social work. This is because when social workers are able to bring about a change in policy through advocacy to the government, the effects are far reaching as they can stretch across communities and even the country in its entity. Advocacy efforts are able to cause a change in existing policies or assist in the creation and implementation of new policies that can assist in creating a more equitable and balanced society.

5.2.2 Revenge

Revenge from feeling of anger and frustration against the government, have also been mentioned frequently as a reasons for individuals joining and participating in terrorist acts within and outside of their communities. When one considers this using GST one could say that a desire for revenge results when an individual system is put in a state of disequilibrium resulting from the feelings of being wronged, revenge is now seen by the individual system as a way of achieving equilibrium ‘Homeostasis’. For instance, in communities affected by terrorism one of the issues faced, is innocent people getting killed, arrested or brutalised unjustly by soldiers either by mistake, as a result of false accusations or corruption. This has caused a lot of deep seated feelings of resentment and powerlessness against the state. This makes people join these groups as a means of feeling in control and able to revenge against the state that permitted the perceived injustice to occur. So terrorism becomes a means of revenge.

the biggest reason people are joining is revenge joining because of what happened yesterday someone has mistaken their parents , siblings friends for being members and has done them harm so they are joining because they feel they can appease their conscience by causing harm to those who had done them harm also. (Ngo2)

This desire for revenge against the state also occurs as a result of feelings of being abandoned by the state government, and the government not living up to expectations and or campaign promises. UNODC in Sule & Othman (2015, p.42) describe how the citizenry can come to view the state as an enemy owning to corruption among state officials which of course leads to the neglect of the citizenry and unfulfilled promises.
...there is also the economic and social hardships in the communities which make people very angry against the state and some people are forced by this feeling of detachments against the state to take up arms against the state – Ngo 3

This desire for revenge leads the aggrieved individual to participate in acts of terrorism. In General systems theory relationships are interactional the relationships are reciprocal Healy (2010). So in this case from the perspective of GST, the government is a system, which gives of bad governance resulting from corruption and the community as well as individual systems responds by giving back an output of terrorism for instance in Walker (2012) it is stated that the continued killing and corruption perpetrated by the police on people connected to the group and the brutal manner in which the police behave to the public at large are listed as some of the issues that cause anger which feeds the terrorist group. So we could say that the negative actions of those in the positions of authority cumulate into the taking up of arms by the citizenry as a way to express their grievances.

5.2.3 Status

In societies certain groups may wish to get some form of political leadership position in the community or state. When this goal is not achieved some choose to try to destabilise the government through creating social unrest like acts of terrorism.

People that want to become like chiefs in the community and unable to become disgruntled and form groups to challenge the sovereignty of the state. And such feeling are nationwide there is no part that feels cared for by the state(Ngo3)

In GST “overly permeable boundaries are associated with confused roles and chaos” Parish (2010, p. 207); this can be exemplified by the community systems boundaries which are overly permeable resulting from the social problems within it, caused by the flow of bad governance, corruption etc. this overly permeable boundaries result in confused, roles and chaos, which can be seen in the desire for leadership and status at all cost by individual systems who release negative flows of energy creating a negative interaction within the community system.

5.3 Social Work Skills

This theme is focused on how social work practice can be used to assist or handle terrorism related issues in Nigeria. Words used to describe social work include help, voluntary, assistance, free, and service for the lower class. Healy describes how social
workers negotiate their purpose and their practice with others, so social work is transactional, ‘others’ refers to clients, employing agencies and the society, she speaks of drawing from previous practice experience inclusive of values and theories of practice that have been developed within practice (2005).

5.3.1 Social work in Nigeria

Social work competence among social workers in Nigeria is very low, some of the reasons that have been attributed to this are the lack of accreditation bodies to regulate and monitor the activities of Social workers and the lack of trained instructors or teachers in institutions that teach Social work in Nigeria Okoye (2013). The quotes below reflect the level of incompetence that had been experienced by the respondents while dealing with professional social workers in Nigeria.

... some of the so called professional social workers they just like, ok we are social workers and that's all, they don't even know what they are doing they don't have any experience whatsoever it's just the certificate (Ngo4)

Also another point that came up was the shortage of professional social workers in the country; this in no small part has been made worse by issues of security discussed further down. There are presently a lot of internally displaced people which has made it necessary to have an increased number of social worker to work with them.

Social work is that dimension that says if this happens we are ready to deal with the outcomes, the difficulty we had last year of helping internally displaced people was because of the shortage in social workers if there had been a proper investment in social work over the year the outcome would not have been as bad (Ngo1)

The respondent went further to talk about how international social workers (they) made a positive difference during the period ‘they’ were in the community giving needed assistance.

...so it made a lot of difference when they were here, they helped a lot to put order in place they really helped but now they are not around some of the organisations don't even know their left from their right (Ngo4)

The local social workers don’t know their “left from their right”; this implies a lack of necessary knowledge and skill from the organisations – the organisations being referred to are those that have been working in the communities to address the problems that have been created by terrorist acts such as trauma, loss of life and property, bereavement, cases of rape and other acts of violence, kidnap etc. Issues such as these require knowledge, skill and competence to handle properly, which is what social
workers are trained to do. According to the GST a social worker should be the agent to restore a system back to a state of ‘homeostasis’ through the application of practice knowledge and skills which flow into the system to bring about ‘synergy’ “using energy for the purposes of regeneration” Parish (2010, p.207) so that process can begin within the community system that will bring about change in the communication between the systems and restore the systems. For instance what this could represent is a social worker using skills such as empowerment for the youths in the society to encourage them to learn some skill or trade that will enable them earn a living, so the positive energy released from the social worker will lead to the release of more positive output from the youths which in turn is released into the community.

5.3.2 Expectations
The respondents discussed some of the main issues that they felt social work could or should be able to handle. One of the points that was raised was the issue of class.
Nigeria is a country with a wide divide between the rich and the poor, and most of the services or access to good services can only be accessed by people of the higher social statues that is the bourgeoisie class since the society gives the privileged higher recognition Adeleke, Bamidele, and Ganiu (2014). The statement below reflects some the idea behinds the ethics of social work which is social justice, recognising the human rights and dignity of every person according to the IFSW. A social worker is not concerned with the class of the person that requires assistance.

When you are doing social work you are doing the work that everybody knows is non-profit the most affected people are the low class people those in the villages those that cannot afford the basic needs social work, a social worker is somebody that does work voluntary from their heart they go and help people without asking them for money because they have seen a need, they are not asking you - o! Give money I will help you (Ngo4)

Another important aspect of Social work brought up is the ability to bring social change this can be understood from the quote below, referring to the need for the social worker to be able to counter the narrative.

While you are dealing with programmes that will deal with poverty and education you are also working to counter the agents of radicalisation in fact that is primarily where a lot of our focus is on. What do you tell a person who believes he has to kill someone else as a part of his allegiance, you have to be able to counter the narrative, to create a movement that will country the existing narratives. (Ngo1)
As mentioned above countering the narrative in accordance to GST perspective is using social work skills as a positive flow of energy into the system – individual system or community system, to effects changes that will bring about ‘synergy’ which is the ability to use energy for purposes of regeneration including the creation of more energy. Parish (2010, p207) the ability to synergise refers to creating ways for the system- the community, to begin to restore itself, it could be methods such as empowerment through participation etc. social work has the ability to change the communications between systems through methods of the kind mentioned above, so the exchange of energy and communication can result in a positive output such as reducing religious intolerance in communities, increased productivity amongst the youths to eradicate absolute poverty, all this reduce the incentive for youths to participate in terrorist activities within communities in Nigeria.

5.3.3 Training and knowledge

All the respondents in the study identified training as being critical in social work intervention either teaching volunteers social work skills or giving knowledge to individuals to stop them from joining terrorist groups or participating in acts of terrorism. The respondent below a staff of an Ngo spoke of feeling out of depth as a result of the magnitude of the problems that have resulted from the terrorist attacks, the respondent who is actually a qualified lawyer and learned social work on the Job stresses the need for training.

We are now finding that we are out of depth we found we had to learn more about social work ourselves so we would be more effective. (Ngo5)

The idea of learning also resonates with another of the respondents, who spoke about building local man power; meaning the need to train volunteers within the communities so that they can help to fill the gap from a position of knowledge, as opposed to the kind of help being offered now by volunteers who are usually clueless as to how to handle the situations that occur after an attack. This type of intervention is discussed by Itzhaky and York (2005) who also stress the importance of social workers in volunteer direction and training.

Massive massive training, they need to come and train and build local man power in that regards. (Ngo1)

This quote was from one of the victims interviewed who spoke of the need for social workers to educate and give knowledge to potential recruits of Boko Haram so as to dissuade them from joining the group.
The help they need is to give them knowledge that Boko Haram is not a good organisation...explain to then put them through give them information that this thing is not a good thing, so killing innocent souls will not lead them to anywhere to let them know.. Put them thru, they will be able to, at least out of it you will get 60 or 70% out of it. (Vic1)

The youths in several of the communities affected by terrorism are ill-informed and ignorant as mentioned in preceding sub-themes, because they have lived in communities with closed external boundaries, so there is a need for social workers that can step in and work in these communities to create awareness about terrorism and its effects, and also providing other avenues (constructive) to enable the youths feel empowered. In GST this type of professional action by social workers will cause there to be a shift in the system and the flow of energy within the system, so as to change the flow of information – communication within the systems. The misinformation painting terrorism in a positive or beneficial light is changed to show it as the social catastrophe that it is. What this will achieve is to cause enlightenment within youths in communities by reducing ignorance and giving them the ability to make informed judgements which will in turn reduce the number of youths joining terrorist groups in Nigeria.

5.3.4 Counselling and Trauma treatment

The importance of counselling was highlighted by respondents who saw it as being necessary in diminishing the possibility of children who have been exposed to terrorism from engaging in it themselves. As mentioned earlier in GST, systems are transactional, what this means is that when a social worker feeds energy and information such as counselling or other forms of social work competencies into the system of the individual, this will bring about a positive development within the system which will eventually produce an output that will counter the urge to participate in or join terrorist groups. As in the quote below

Violence begets violence, a child who has seen violent tends to be violent, but a child that has gone through therapy with a social worker will have those tendencies diminished, I would say it is a 20% change of that child going out on a revenge mission. (Ngo5)

The respondent (Ngo5) referred to incidences of soldiers – referred to as security officers who had been affected by the horrors of conflicts resulting from terrorism and now suffered from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, but where not able to get any PTSD therapy, because it is not available in the communities. He further described what the
effects of this had been, and how trauma therapy could have averted the negative incidences that occurred as a result.

The area where this is most obvious is with security officers they are not getting enough post traumatic counselling and many of them are breaking down, we have had reports of many of them turning their guns against their superiors, we have had different forms of this, the military announced they were disciplining about 1000 of their soldiers for bad behaviour and I feel that, this could have been avoided if the soldiers had some form of post-traumatic stress counselling. (Ngo5)

Ngo4 describes some of the harrowing circumstances under which the children are brought to their NGO. From the perspective of GST children such as this would be in a state of entropy because their internal boundaries would have closed up in an effort to protect themselves resulting from their negative experiences. A social worker through counselling and other relevant methods of intervention is able to try to restore the child back to a state of homeostasis as in the next quote

and then we have children in our orphanage that right now are dealing with erm...trauma, yes, their parents were killed in their presence ...they were butchered actually ...who have to go through trauma healing because of that(Ngo4)

Situations such as the one mentioned above, have become a frequent occurrence since Nigeria began to experience Boko Haram terrorist activities. The children that survive have to live with horrors such as mentioned, unfortunately as stated in the quote below there is a lack of therapy and treatment centres within the communities. So children such as this are usually unable to get any trauma therapy, which results in some kind of change within their individual systems from a perspective of GST, social workers can work through Trauma therapy etc. to restore the individual system back to a state of balance. The study by Itzhaky and York (2005) also confirm the role of social workers administering community based help after a terrorist attack like care of victims after a terror attack.

.....not to talk of counselling and therapy those ones are not even available at all. (Ngo3)

while the need for counselling is highlighted by the statement above the lack of counselling and therapy becomes more of a representation for the need of International Social worker as mentioned by Ngo3 who emphasis the lack of counselling and therapy for victims of terror.
5.4 International Social Work Dynamics

This theme covers the category that describes what the respondents identify as being important in relation to International Social work in Nigeria. Their responses cover the question what do you feel an international social worker has to offer in dealing with terrorism in Nigeria?

5.4.1 Facing Reality

This subtheme refers to the need of the International social worker to understand the society in which they are coming to work in. Ngo1 refers to the social dynamic of the given place, this statement was made in reference to understanding the complexities that come with working in a country outside of the country that the international social worker is accustomed to.

They need to first understand the social dynamic of the given place - which is come with a readiness to learn what the social dynamic of a given place is. (Ngo1)

Nigeria is a complex society, it is multi-ethnic, multi-faceted, and multi-dimensional across different areas of life, so an international social worker has to come with a willingness to comprehend the society.

...that is where a lot of the work should be focused on being able to deal with the root of the problem nip it in its bud. People are dying of hunger and you keep feeding them without addressing the reason for their hunger at some point u will be overwhelmed if u don’t identify u will be overwhelmed (Ngo1)

Ngo1 refers to focusing on the providing long term solutions to the issue of terrorism and not just handling the problem without identifying the causes. Since GST is interactional, this theory is also about directing the right energy and or information to produce the right type of output. To be able to determine what they right type of input is (energy, information) one must have identified the causes of the problem, which in this case is terrorism. Also Itzhaky and York (2005) discuss about building community resilience, in order to build resilience one must understand the causes of terrorism.

5.4.2 Competencies

There was a general feeling among the respondents as to what a social work should be or be able to accomplish. The statement below was made by a respondent who felt that an International social worker would get easier access and a more responsive outcome from the government. Ivanauskienė and Makštutytė (2014) also identify the role of the International social worker in Advocacy and international related domestic practice.
They can make the government do more in terms of financing social workers within the state. And also they can get support to create service centres for counselling rehabilitation, I think they can also help to young ones becoming social workers (Ngo5)

The need to identify root causes is also discussed in the next quote from the respondent

.....not just food security but things like schools solutions that solve long term and prevent it from happening, we need people that will look at the root of the problems.(Ngo3)

According to the respondent a more holistic approach is required by international social workers in order to provide long term solutions to the issue of terrorism in Nigeria.

5.4.3 Considerations

The respondent who runs an NGO referred to the unpleasant experiences she had with International social workers who had come to their organisation to assist. She spoke of feelings of insecurity resulting from the way that she was treated by the international social workers this is what she said

They make us feel inferior as if we cannot do anything without them... so this are the experiences we have had with the international social workers. Usually they don't want to dialogue, normally our culture and their culture is different, and they don't want to sign agreements. (Ngo4)

This is contrary to the values and ethics of international social work like respecting the rights to self-determination, identifying and promoting strengths Healy (2008). Using GST, the ISW released negative energy(ignoring the ethics of SW) into the system of the NGO thereby affecting the subsystem, the individual, which might result in the boundaries to be more closed towards energy or information from other international social workers.

The respondents also mentioned the lack of continuity that have long plagued governance in Nigeria i.e. the issue of continuity. Every time a new government official is elected, previous policies and infrastructures usually are changed or neglected, this was a source of concern to the respondent who expressed this in the quote below

You can provide succour to communities in the short run we all know that social work especially is transient especially international if you open a school there is no guarantee that, that rotten government will not come and change everything which you have done (Ngo3)

The relevance of government is also mentioned by the respondent that is quoted below, he was of the opinion that if International social workers were to try to focus on long term preventive measures such as poverty, and or education, they would not be in direct
control of what would happen with changes in Government administration and policies, he also emphasised the need for Advocacy. Which is also discussed and supported in earlier research by Ivanauskienė and Makštutytė (2014)

Again social work is very limited, because the longer term goals like poverty, education, structural development are usually things that lie within the confines of government.... Advocacy to the government to commit more resources to solving the root causes of the problem (Ngo1)

The respondent above felt that for international social work to be effective government help was required towards getting resources that could be targeted towards solving the problems.

5.4.4 Security concerns and Trust Issues.

Security was mentioned multiple times by the respondents when addressing the question as to the response of social workers in dealing with both the effects and causes of terrorism in communities. Even though this was not the direct answer to the question. Security was listed as an important factor that affected the response of the few social workers available– as they were unable to go to some of the areas that had been affected. As in the next quotation which show the circumstances that majority of these NGO’s have to work under.

...so many ways we have had security issues in the places that we work for example a while ago a team from my office escaped bombing in Gombe by a few minutes they just left the market after shopping and then a bomb was detonated in the place. We have had instances where there has been an attack just before our meeting, you know the communities we plan to work in are not safe. (Ngo3)

Vic1 who is a survivor of terrorist attacks where he lost several of his immediate family members explains why the social workers left their communities.

They are leaving because of terrorism they are leaving because of security...they don't have any security for them whatsoever. (Vic1)

It can be inferred from this quote that social workers have been forced to leave the communities out of fear for their lives or coming to harm, Issues such as this, which are linked to the personal feelings of the social worker are discussed by Landau (1997) where he addresses the internal struggles that social workers have to deal with from time to time, while working with issues of terrorism. According to the GST one can see that the systems of the individual social workers can also be affected by the negative outputs that are produced as a result of terrorism and the issues around it, this shows the transaction between the social worker and the social environment Healy (2005). Linked
to the discussion above, lack of trust by the people because they have been so affected by past experiences that they consider everyone to be a potential Boko Haram accomplice. There is the opposite issue of the social worker not trusting the people once again the reciprocal nature of systems can be identified in the interactions between the systems of individuals within the community and the systems of the social workers who are treated with suspicion – which results from the negative experiences from Terrorist incidences and attacks, so the flow of energy between the two system becomes affected because their boundaries are closed from energy from one another which throws the systems into a state of confused roles and chaos Parish (2010)

Because no uniform they will look at them that maybe they are part of those people that came to disturb or they are using trick to come in for more destruction (Vic1)

The last two quotes show how an international social worker may find it easier to navigate the issue of trust because they are seen as being neutral and less likely to have ulterior motives. In GST an International social worker may be placed in a different system from locally based social workers, so we have the community system, the local social worker system and the International social worker system. So the community system interacts differently to the International social work system than it would the local social worker system. As is observed by the respondent in the quote below when she talks about how Nigerians prefer to talk to people outside meaning a preference to talk to international social workers because they are outside of the system. She was of the opinion that International social workers had a lot to offer as can be understood in her quote below

... Nigerians prefer talking to people outside than those of us inside they blab about all the problems that have been happening, so they have a role to play, they will be seen as being neutral to the incidences that are happening as opposed to saying u are sending someone from here, there is no trust, they will have a lot of impact to make. (Ngo2)

The respondent Ngo3 also a staff of an NGO speaks of being treated with suspicion because he is a Nigerian and also from one the states affected by terrorism. He explains this in the statement below

Usually you can tell my religion and my ethnicity from my name and if I tell you I come from the ministry of health you would probably accuse me of being a tool of this political parties or that political party. But this type of profiling is what we are able to provide if the social worker providing
counselling if they are international and their organisations are known to be international and non-partisan. (Ngo3)

In Nigeria the different ethnicities can usually be identified from their names and accents, so once the accent, or the name shows a social worker as being from one of those communities where there are incident’s, the individual is treated with suspicion. The reason for this is that there are instances where an NGO may have patrons who are from a particular political party, and thus the NGO might choose to use the assistance which they are offering the communities to promote the agenda of the political party. IFSW state that “SW should not subordinate the needs or interests of people who use their services for their own needs or interest” Healy (2008). Personal needs or interest could be for the benefit of personal religion, ethnicity or political party. Because once this is done according to GST it sends negative flows of energy from the organisation to the community system, causing an output of distrust from the community, which in turn will cause the individual system boundaries to be closed against further interventions from the organisation system. Ngo3 states that International social workers are not subject to this type of profiling, because an International social worker is seen as being neutral not belonging to any religious, political or ethnic affiliations thus there is no hidden agenda on his/her part.

6. Discussion

6.1 Discussion in Relation to the Aim and Research questions

The aim of this study was to explore perceptions on some social problems attributed to terrorism in Nigeria and thereby get an understanding of the implications of this to International social work practice in Nigeria. The study endeavoured to assist International social workers understand the Social problems and challenges associated with terrorism in Nigeria, and thus be better informed as to the skills and competencies required to handle and contribute towards reducing the increase in terrorist activities in the country. The findings of this study confirm that there is a relationship between social problems and terrorism in Nigeria. The effects that social problems have on individuals within the community were found to be a main contributor to participation in terrorist acts and joining terrorist groups especially amongst the youths. Factors such as corruption, illiteracy, poverty and psychological and social orientation, where found to be among the main motivations to participating in such acts. The themes within the study all had direct and indirect relationships in this manner, corruption was a causative factor to both poverty and illiteracy, while poverty was a causative factor of illiteracy,
and illiteracy was a cause of poverty and ignorance, ignorance was a leading cause of manipulation that brought about radicalisation, corruption was found to contribute to human rights abuses and wrongful killings which in turn led aggrieved individuals to desire for revenge, as they felt this would help them achieve some sort of rightness for the wrongs, poverty also meant that people were more dependent on religion, and the religion led to radicalisation, and thus the relationships went on in a vicious cycle. The implications for International social work were found to be quite strong, as a result of a shortage of social workers in Nigeria and also deficiencies in the knowledge and skill-set of these social workers, hence there is a strong and urgent need for International social workers in Nigeria. Also when the social problems and relationships above are considered in relation to the findings of the study, one can conclude that the skills, competences, knowledge and training that the international social worker can bring are very relevant towards assisting to reduce the growth of terrorism and the negative effects that result from it. The results of the study also raised the important issue of the social dynamics and challenges that are involved for an International social worker coming to work in Nigeria; considering the results an International social worker needs to be aware of issues such as security, cultural competence and following the ethics and values of International social work.

6.2 Discussion in relation to the literature review and Theory

Earlier research on the topic of study varies vastly, on the one hand there were researchers who were of the opinion that there was no relationship between social problems and terrorism, and then there were those that supported the notion of the link between social problems and terrorism. Several of the respondents identified social, economic, political and demographic conditions as factors causing people to participate in terrorism Newman (2006). These findings are however not in line with studies by (Berrebi, 2007; Piazza 2006; Kruegar & Maleckova, 2003) who conclude that social problems such as the ones mentioned do not increase terrorism. The difference in their outcomes could be as a result of the context of the countries i.e. developed/underdeveloped where the studies were carried out. For instance a study done in Palestine cannot be used to exemplify the situation of a country that has not had the same long lasting social and political conflict within, it has deep seated religious conflicts which has spanned over thousands of years that have brought about a deeper level of radicalisation than experienced in other countries. However the results also revealed that roaming preacher had a considerable influence in the communities, and
were proponents of radicalisation and influenced the youths in the communities to participate in terrorist activities through teachings which changed their mind-set. This is in line with the earlier research of Social learning theory that views terrorism as behaviour which should not be attributed to innate aggression but of cognitive “reconstruction” of moral imperatives Bandura (1973). Other factors attributed to individuals participating in terrorist activities were the desire for revenge and status, and material appeasement which signified that some of these individuals made a rational and calculated choice to participate in terrorism (Sandler and Lapan, 1988; Crenshaw, 1992). Furthermore the role of the International social worker in training, trauma therapy, and advocacy was found to be of utmost importance in managing and preventing the causes and effects of terrorism, which supports the research by (Ivanauskienė & Makštutytė, 2014; Itzhaky & York, 2005).

According to the General system theory, the degree of firmness or looseness of a boundary will determine what happens within the boundaries. The results of the study showed that the internal boundaries within the communities were loose which led to chaos within the community in the form of terrorism Parish (2010). The influences and information like extreme religious ideologies, and money that was said to come into the individual systems which already had porous boundaries, resulting from factors such as poverty, illiteracy etc. caused the system to produce terrorism. The cause and effects that is evident in the findings is in accordance to the General systems theory. When one considers the findings of this study the prevalence of social and economic hardships in the communities cause changes that result in a system collapse – entropy, which is the inability to transform energy so as to continue to function as is reported by the respondents when describing the outcomes in the communities that have resulted from terrorism. Which brings us to the implication for International social work. As described by the respondents social work is needed for training, trauma, dealing with the root causes of terrorism etc. General systems theory explains this as International Social work introducing positive flows of energy and information into the community and individual systems, thereby causing change to restore synergy and homeostasis back into the system. (Von Bertalanffy, 1969; Parish, 2010)
6.3 Limitations of the study and the Qualitative Method

- The researcher endeavoured to interview actual Boko Haram terrorist (de-radicalized), but they refused to take part in any studies as they were suspicious and fearful of getting killed by active members for participating in the study.
- It was not possible to have repeated interviews because of the time constraint for this study.
- The qualitative method only permitted for a limited number of interviews based on the time constraint for this study, this was overcome by having long in-depth interviews with the respondents.
- As with qualitative research, it is difficult to claim that there was no level of subjectivity to the study, it is possible that tone of my voice, facial cues, or even body language could have influenced the respondents’ answers during the interview sessions especially resulting from my personal ideas and knowledge of the country, the social problems and the effects of terrorism.
- In purposive sampling commonly used in qualitative research the choice of sampling population is entirely dependent on the researcher based on this, it is possible that my choice of sampling population were not free from subjectivity and bias.

6.4 Delimitations

This study focused only on particular social problems and terrorism in relation to Nigeria and its implications for International social work. Other countries were not studied.

All participants in the study were Nigerians with experience of terrorism.

The participants also were victims and staff of NGOs, perpetrators views were not studied.

6.5 Suggestions for further research.

A comparative research between countries of different developmental levels and across different continents to determine the effect that development has on the social problems that are attributed to terrorism. This is important to know because there is presently so much digression between researchers as whether or not there is a relationship between social problems and terrorism and what the nature of that relationship is. Also further research should be conducted as per understanding terrorism from the perspective of the perpetrators.
7. Conclusion

According to the Millennium Developmental Goals, poverty and hunger should be eradicated, universal primary education should be achieved, and strategies for decent and productive work for youths should be developed and implemented in cooperation with developing countries UNDP (2003) the significance of this is brought to the fore when one considers that these issues mentioned are amongst the foremost reasons found in the study to be motivations for joining terrorist groups and participating in acts of terrorism. From the findings of this study one can conclude that in the context of Nigeria (an underdeveloped society), social problems are a major cause of individuals joining terrorist groups and participating in terrorist acts. (Uzodike and Maiangwa, 2012; Newman, 2006; Ehrlich and Liu, 2002; Wolfhenson, 2002; Akanni, 2014). This study also provides evidence as to the need for international social workers (Ivanauskienë & Makštutytė, 2014; Itzhaky & York, 2005; Itzhaky & Dekel, 2005) in the capacity of training for volunteers and social workers in Nigeria, advocacy towards policy development, skilled intervention in combating the social issues that are both a cause and effect of terrorism within communities in Nigeria. This study is important because in understanding the causative factors of terrorism, more effective strategies can be developed that will deal with the main social problems attributed to the rise in terrorism, thereby preventing an increase in terrorism. It also will help in highlighting the importance of International social workers/social workers in the fight against terrorism.

Finally, this study has shown that though terrorism might have some links to religious beliefs, the reason for its spread and growth is mainly a result of the underlying social and economic factors that create an atmosphere of social and economic inequality. This is in turn reflected in the suffering and the frustrations of the people, and manifested through acts of terrorism. In every social worker should be the desire to fight for social change as well as the empowerment and liberation of people to enhance well-being. Healy (2010. p.374) this is the very reason that social work out of all professions is the most capable in reducing the factors that contribute to terrorism in Nigeria.
7.1 Brief Recommendations for International social work practice

- It may be useful for International social workers coming to work in Nigeria to make efforts to collaborate with the government of Nigeria and/or its agencies so as to be able to make lasting change, because the majority of the Social problems discussed can only be adequately addressed with the cooperation of the Government and/or its agencies.

- It is suggested that International social worker need an awareness and preparation to deal with the security situations within the affected communities in Nigeria. This could also be from collaborations with the government and/or its agencies to provide security.

- International social workers should try to understand and learn about the social and cultural complexities of working in Nigeria before making the decision to come
References


List of Abbreviations and Foreign Words

GST – General Systems Theory
ISW – International Social Work
SW – Social Work
CEO – Chief Executive Officer
Almajiri - Itinerant children under Qur’anic instruction
Appendix A

**Informed Consent Form**

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this study, which will take place between November 28, 2015 and December 10th, 2015. This form details the purpose of this study, a description of the involvement required and your rights as a participant.

**The purpose of this study is:**
- To gain insight into the role of International Social workers in helping to prevent the increase in terrorist activities and also in dealing with the social problems that occur because of these activities.

**The benefits of the research will be:**
- Assisting other International Social workers understand the importance of their knowledge and skills in combatting terrorism and its effects.
- To encourage International Social Workers contribute their skills towards overcoming this phenomena.

The methods that will be used to meet this purpose include:
- One-on-one interviews
- Mini discussion groups of two or three participants

You are encouraged to ask questions or raise concerns at any time about the nature of the study or the methods I am using. Please contact me at any time at the e-mail address or telephone number listed above.
Our discussion will be audio taped to help me accurately capture your insights in your own words. The tapes will only be heard by me for the purpose of this study. If you feel uncomfortable with the recorder, you may ask that it be turned off at any time.

You also have the right to withdraw from the study at any time. In the event you choose to withdraw from the study all information you provide (including tapes) will be destroyed and omitted from the final paper.

Insights gathered by you and other participants will be used in writing a qualitative research report, which will be read by my professor and presented at the University of Gavle.

Though direct quotes from you may be used in the paper, your name and other identifying information will be kept anonymous.

By signing this consent form I certify that I

____________________________ agree to

(Print full name here) the terms of this agreement.

____________________________ ______________

(Signature) (Date)
Interview guide.

- What does social work mean to you? (Or social help for those who don’t understand) or within your organisation?
- What has your experience of terrorism been like?
- What do feel are the reasons people join groups such as Boko Haram or the Niger delta militants?
- Can you tell me about your experience with social work (people coming to help/assist) before and after the terrorist attacks? Or people being helped by your organisation.
- What type of social help is available after a terrorist attack
- How easy is it to get social services/help?
- When help is required after a terrorist attack where do members of the community go for social help?
- What type of services do you expect (or offered) from social work/help?
- How would you describe those helping you now?
- What can you tell me about the level/extent of social work/help after the terrorist attacks?
- How do you feel social work/assistance can help with reducing the outcomes of terrorism?
- What type of factors would you describe as contributing to the increase in terrorist Activities?
- What has been your experience with social workers or NGO’s or within your organisation?
- Can you tell me about education
• Can you tell me about the application of knowledge/experience by the social workers/helpers in handling some of the social problems that cause and result from terrorism?
• In what way do you feel professional social workers can make a difference in handling the causes and outcomes of terrorism?
• What strategies have been used in the communities to address the issues that increase terrorism and its effects?
• How have the social workers/helpers approached family problems that have resulted from this attacks – e.g. Death of a family member, missing child, family separation?
• How would you describe the response of social workers/helpers to the changes in the economic situation of victims and those affected by terrorist activities?
• In your opinion what would you say about the response by social workers to some of the factors that have contributed to the rise in terrorist activities?
• Can you describe the type of emotional/psychological support available to those affected by these terrorist attacks and their families?
• What type of advocacy activities are presently being used to create or change policy that will help to fight against the increase in terrorism?