



HOW CONFLICT AFFECT WOMEN AND HOW WOMEN SHAPE CONFLICT IN NIGERIA

DAMILOLA TAIYE AGBALAJOBI Ph.D

Department of Political Science

Faculty of Social Sciences,

Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife.

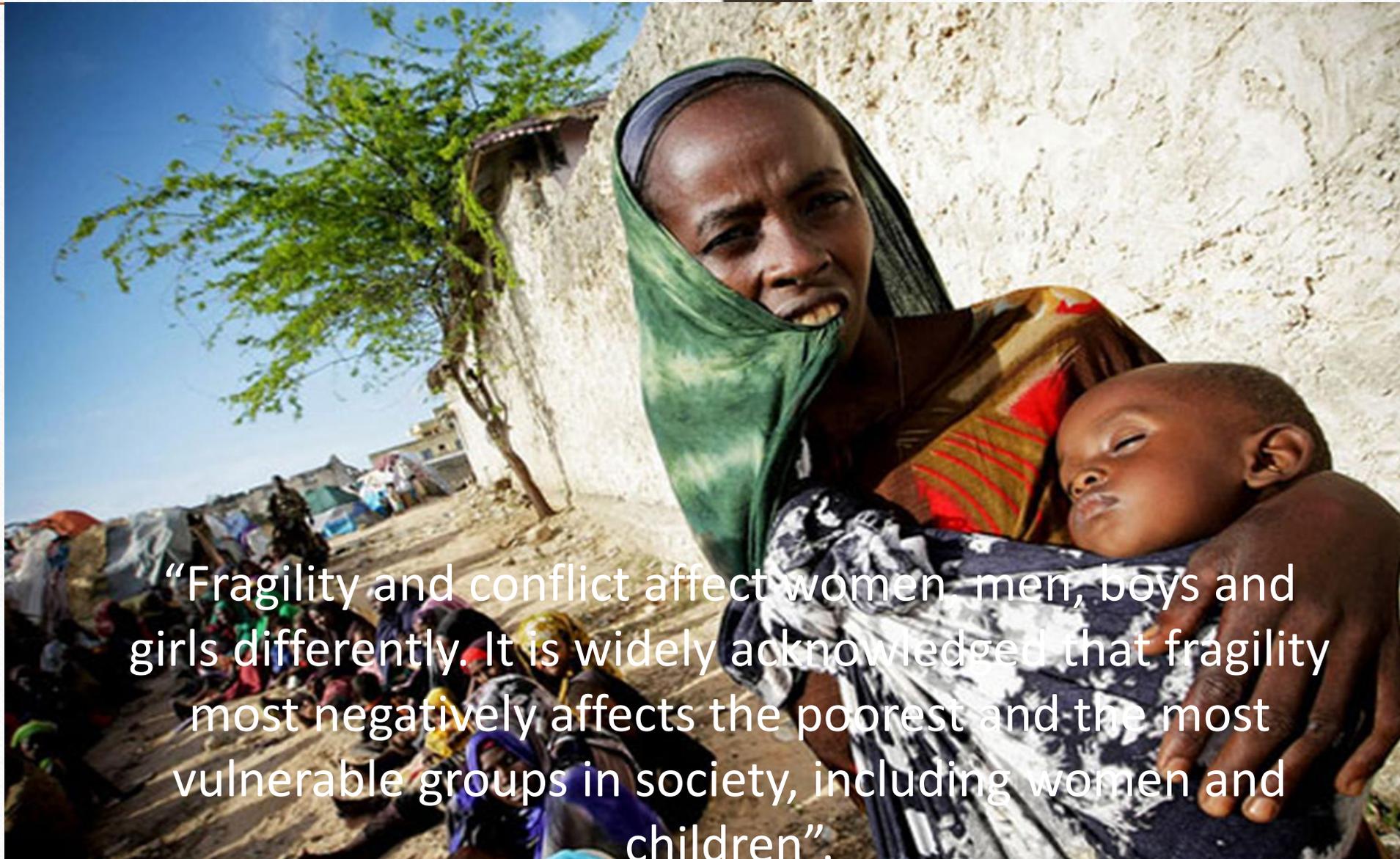
Fellow Conflict Research Network - West Africa

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Presentation Highlights

- Introduction
- Background
- What's this about
- How Conflict affect women: Case Studies
- How Women Shape Conflicts: Case Studies
- Conclusion
- Thank you!



“Fragility and conflict affect women, men, boys and girls differently. It is widely acknowledged that fragility most negatively affects the poorest and the most vulnerable groups in society, including women and children”.

Background Contd

In Nigeria, women and girls make up at least 79% of approximately 2.5 million people displaced across the country's northeast as a result of the 11-year conflict between the armed group Boko Haram and the Nigerian government.



What this is about

- Women & girls in conflict situation suffer greater vulnerabilities and inequalities and this is becoming a threat to their identity and their security.
- **Nigeria has experienced and continues to experience high level of ethnical and religious conflicts**



What this is about cont'd

- Nigeria is the epicenter for all types of violence in the region.
- 65% of all fatalities recorded since 2011 occurred in Nigeria.
- Three major ongoing conflicts in Nigeria, the Delta, Middle Belt and Lake Chad region.
- Extensive destruction of lives and properties.
- Gross human rights violations
- This review centers on the effect of such conflicts on Nigerian women and how women shape conflicts in Nigeria.

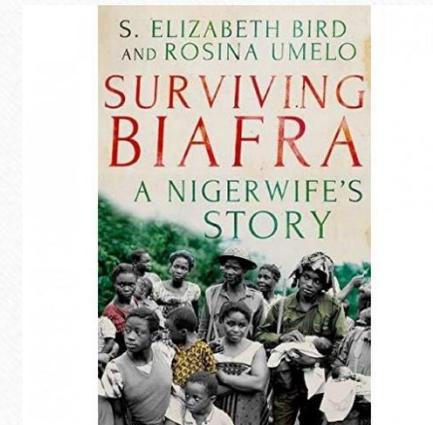
Effect of Violent Conflict on Women: Jos Case Studies

- High casualty of women and children in violent conflicts in Jos, Plateau State.
- In 2001, a major crisis occurred in Jos, leading to the destruction of properties and loss of lives.
- We also had crisis in 2004, 2008, in 2010.
- The causes of these conflicts are seen as political, ethno-religious and indigene settlers' dispute.



Effect of Violent Conflict on Women: Anioma Case Studies

- Nigerian civil war posed a multifaceted challenge to Anioma women.



How Conflict affects Women

- Health
- Disability
- Displacement
- Early Pregnancy, Marriage and Education
- Change in roles



WHO FAILED HER? HERSELF? HER PARENTS? THE GOVERNMENT OR THE SOCIETY?

How Conflict affects Women Cont'd

- Employment (Informal and formal-displaced market women)
- Domestic abuse, rape and sexual assault
- Economic disenfranchisement
- Social vulnerabilities
- Abduction of women and girls



How Women Shape Conflict

- Women in pre-colonial African wars.
- Aba Women's riot in the South-east.
- Egba Women's riots in the South-west
- Women's non-violent protest against Chevron in Escravos (Delta State), in 2002.
- Galaxy4Peace, founded by Precious Ajunwa.



How Women Shape Conflict Cont'd

- **ElectHer**, co-founded by Ibijoke Faborode and Abosede Alimi.
- **The Kebetkache Women Development.**
- **The Women for Peace & Gender Equality Initiative** (formerly the commonwealth Women's Organisation Nigeria).
- **UN Women-led peace network** under the European Union-funded programme.
- **#BringBackOurGirls** (#BBOG)



One study found that substantial inclusion of women and civil society groups in a peace negotiation makes the resulting agreement 64 percent less likely to fail and, according to another study, 35 percent more likely to last at least fifteen years.

And yet, in spite of their low socio-cultural status, displaced women are using their agency. Through peacebuilding and political mobilisation and engagement, they are compensating for the shortfalls in policy and humanitarian responses. They are not necessarily helpless victims.

Conclusion

- Women tend to suffer more and in various ways during and after the period of conflict. However, over time, they have become aware of their importance in the political and peace building spheres and have begun to act to restore normality in conflicted states.
- They are educating and equipping themselves (women and girls) with skills on how to speak for their rights, prevent violent extremism and build peace within their various communities.



Thank You!