

EXPLORING ILLEGAL MIGRATION OF YOUTHS ABROAD THROUGH THE SAHARA DESERT AND THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA: THE CASE OF PORT HARCOURT COMMUNITY (PHC), SOUTH-SOUTH, NIGERIA.



BY

INYAMA JOSEPH NNANNA

VAN HALL LARENSTEIN UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES, VELP, THE NETHERLANDS
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By

INYAMA JOSEPH NNANNA
Student ID: 21376

Supervisor:

Ir. Astrid Van Rooji

Assessor:

Dr. Annelies Heijmans

September 2020

Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences, Velp,
The Netherlands.

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DEDICATION.

This research thesis is dedicated to Deaconess Mary-Jane Nyigierefaka for your unflinching support in my pursuit to reach a greater height in my professional and academic endeavour. Without your unwavering support, this feat would have still been a dream hoping to meet reality someday.

May God continue to bless your family and grant you longevity in prosperity.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS.

COA	-	Central Agency for Reception Asylum Seekers
COVID-19	-	Coronavirus Disease 2019
DYF23	-	Dumu Lulu Briggs Youth Foundation 23
FGD	-	Focus Group Discussion
IOM	–	International Organization for Migration
IRM	–	Irregular Migrant(s)
KII	–	Key Informants Interview
MSP	-	Multi Stakeholder Partnership
PHC	–	Port Harcourt Community
SME	-	Small and Medium Enterprises
SRQ	–	Sub Research Questions
PTSD	-	Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.
TA	-	Thematic Analysis
UNHCR	-	United Nation High Commission for Refugees
UN SDGs	-	United Nations Sustainable Development Goal

ABSTRACT.

This research explores the illegal migration of youths abroad through the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea which results in the loss of lives of thousands of migrating youths travelling across these dangerous routes en route Europe.

To understand the economic and risk perceptions related to the livelihoods of youths in Port Harcourt Community which motivates their decision to make these journey through the desert and the Sea to Europe, the study adopts the various qualitative strategy of inquiry and data collection methods. Forty-four (44) online survey respondents, 11 key informants' interview, 20 individual interviews, and separate Focus Group Discussion for 8 male and 12 female participants in Port Harcourt Community have been part of this research. Overall, the study had a population size of 95 participants. Purposive random sampling and snowball method were used to select 31 respondents drawn from both youths, and other informants in Nigeria and different countries abroad for a semi-structured interview. These various sources of data collection enabled the researcher to effectively carry out an in-depth triangulation of the collected data in order to improve the quality of the study. A review of existing literature was also employed to supplement the primary data collected in this study.

Main findings of the research revealed that majority of the youths in Port Harcourt Community, and Nigeria struggle to find a decent job that enables them to meet their daily essential needs, as well as provide support for their families. Similarly, starting up a small-scale business is difficult due to lack of access to capital, and a hostile business environment resulting from high taxation on small and medium-sized businesses. It was further discovered in this study that government in Nigeria and abroad promotes, and supports the regular movement of professional degree certified migrants abroad to look for better opportunities by making favourable policy for these themed highly skilled persons to have easier visa processing to move abroad, but neglects that there are also highly technically skilled youths who do not have professional degrees to support their talents, hence, lacks the privilege to either find decent work in Nigeria or provide the required documents for regular visa applications thus, forcing them to look for available irregular means to move abroad not minding the risks involved. More findings revealed the perception of the majority of the youths in Nigeria on opportunities for decent work abroad is informed by what they see in western movies and read in social media platforms. These imaginations of a better life and the hope of earning stable income motivates them to make these unsafe migrations abroad. Similarly, the study established that majority of the youths who embarks on these dangerous journeys abroad lacks in-depth knowledge of the nature of the risks involved in migrating abroad through the desert and the sea, as well as the dangers they may be exposed to living abroad as undocumented migrants. More so, the desire to improve the family condition and the thoughts that God will protect them through these journey influences their decision and that of families to support a member to make the journey through these dangerous routes. Lastly, it was established in this study that depending on the situation, the decision to accept or reject embarking on this risky journey is further influenced by the age, marital status, and the risk attitude of the youth involved.

Based on the above findings, the study concludes with making both short-term, and long-term recommendation to the research commissioner that will guide the design of effective intervention strategies related to; building the entrepreneurial skills of youths and providing them access to start-up grants for small-scale business. Facilitating MSPs that will help provide a tax-free system for small-scale start-ups, as well as create the enabling environment that ensures male and female youths in Port Harcourt community finds a decent job that provides them sustainable income to meet their daily essential needs. Partner with returned irregular migrants, relevant national and international agencies to increase the awareness of the dreadful dangers involved in unsafe migration through these routes. all these will help to reduce the disaster associated with the rising rate of youth involvement in illegal migration through these unsafe routes. More so, the study recommended for further research on global circular migration: understanding the perception of low skilled irregular migrants.

Key Words.

International Migration Crisis, Risk and Economic Perception, Decision-Making, Resilience, Development, Refugee, Humanitarian, Disaster Reduction, Vulnerability.

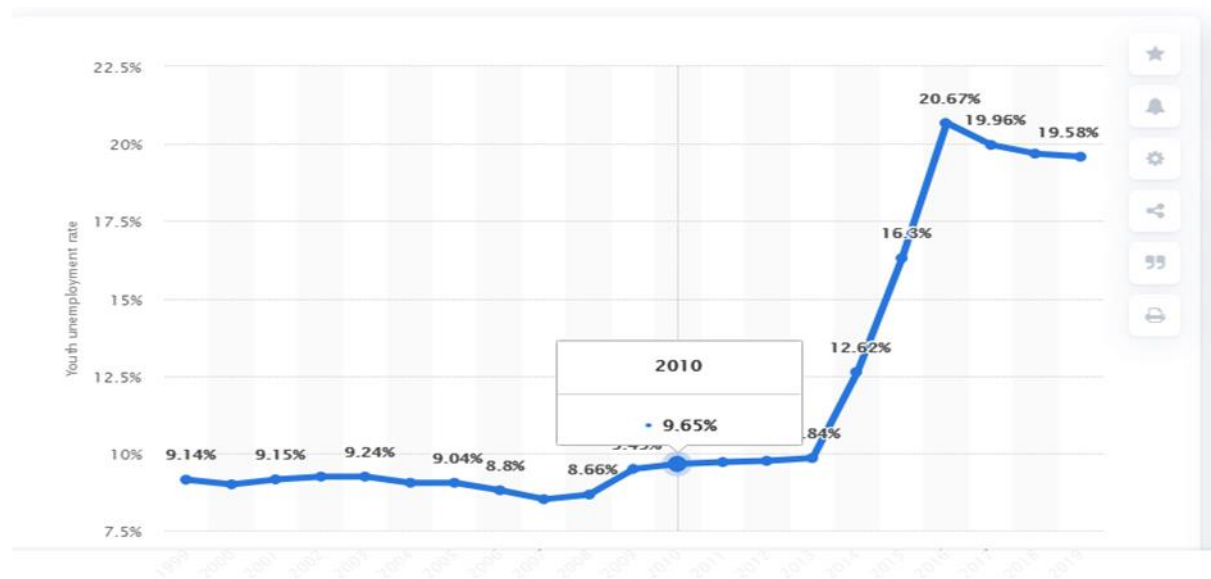
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND.

1.0. Introduction of Thesis Research.

The Platform for International Corporation on Undocumented Migrants (2015) notes that the term illegal and irregular migration has been indifferently used by both state and non-state organizations, depending on the context of the situation. Hence irregular migration is a global topic that currently occupies a central position on the agenda of the European Union, UN General Assembly, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), as well as by several countries such as The Netherlands and The United Kingdom. Similarly, Guild, 2004 cited in Perkowska, (2016) highlight that Illegal migration covers several rather different issues; such as a foreigner arriving in a secretive and illicit way on the territory of a state, However, according to Morehouse and Blomfield. (2011) the term "illegal" is considered problematic by many humanitarian organizations because the adjective has a negative connotation and suggests an involvement in a crime. Thus, The European Union Parliamentary Assembly (2006) issued Resolution 1509 to address issues related to the human rights of irregular migrants. It states the Assembly prefers to use the term "irregular migrant" to "illegal migrant" or "migrant without papers" as this term is more neutral and does not carry, for example, the stigmatization of the term "illegal". It is also the term increasingly favoured by international organisations working on migration issues". The resolution further states that 'illegal' is preferred when referring to status or process, whereas 'irregular' is preferred when referring to a person. A study conducted by the International Migration Organization (2017) shows that international migration from countries in sub-Saharan Africa to Europe and the United States has grown dramatically in the past decade. However, the study further notes that the proportion of emigrants relative to Africa's total population is one of the lowest in the world, and the numbers of African nationals arriving irregularly by sea to Italy in 2016 represented a very small share of the total migrant population in the country. Edwards (2005), shows that the Middle East region has recorded the world's highest share of the irregular migrant population; he further clarified that the top ten countries recorded in the 2004 United Nation's Human Development Report, the first four were Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, and Jordan, with another two, Israel and Lebanon ranked as sixth and ninth.

The National Population Commission (2010), notes that the Nigeria population in 2010 was 158,503,197, and youths between the age of 18 – 35 years made up 41.12% of the entire population. Macro Trend (2020), Between 2010 and 2020, Nigeria's population growth has been on a steady rise, hence, the current population is 206,139,589, with an annual growth rate of 2.58%, thus, since 2010 the steady rise of unemployment among her youthful population has now resulted in many youths endangering their lives attempting to cross the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea in a desperate effort to reach Europe, in search of a better life. Youths in this study will be defined as Nigerians between the age of 18-35 years.

Figure 1. Nigeria Youth unemployment rate



Source : <https://www.statista.com/statistics/812300/youth-unemployment-rate-in-nigeria/>

Okunade (2018) showed in his work that this movement across the Sahara Desert endangers the life of migrants, due to the series of attacks and humiliating treatment by smugglers, and pirates on these transit routes. UNCHR (2015) and IOM (2017) notes that movement from Africa to Europe has attracted more global attention since the outbreak of the so-called migrant crisis in 2015; in this sense, it implied the period in 2015 where many migrants were arriving Europe through Italy and Spain from the Desert and the Mediterranean. Furthermore, the report showed that migrants of Nigerian descent top the list of Sub-Saharan African countries whose nationals reach Italy from the sea, from where they move to other parts of Europe. Consequently, migration from Africa to Europe has developed from a manageable problem to a full-scale migration crisis, this is about the intense situation in receiving irregular migrant (IRM) states during the 2015 refugee crisis, primarily due to the sharp and exponential rise in the number of people coming to Europe from the Mediterranean Sea. More so, UNHCR (2015) notes that within this period, it was very challenging for authorities to separate economic migrants from those fleeing from war and persecution, thus, there was fear of uncertainty of what this large rush of irregular migrants arriving from the sea means to host countries and their nationals. This notwithstanding, Ceuta et al, 2005 cited in Spaan and Moopes, (2015.pp:7) states that “the large flows of migrants from Sub-Saharan countries like Nigeria heading for ‘Fortress Europe’ have steadily increased, thereby, transforming many West and Northern African states into transit countries with large clandestine and destitute illegal migrant (IM) populations residing within their borders. The main routes are the desert routes between west and north Africa, especially Morocco and Libya, and then crossing into Europe via the Spanish enclaves in Morocco”. Missing at The Borders (2020) reports that this kind of journey often put migrants in dire and unfortunate situations as boat mishap in the Mediterranean Sea leaves many dead and injured thereby creating an additional burden to the families of these migrants who have invested so much, and also hoped that a family member crossing the Mediterranean to Europe will positively turn the economic fortune of the family.

According to The Guardian (2017), while analysing the rate of youths involved in illegal migration, the Vice President of Ohanaeze Ndigbo in Madrid,¹ Chief Ferdinand Ezeji for Akpusi noted in a publication by The Guardian that Nigeria government were to be blamed for the illegal migration situation where hundreds of Nigerians are reportedly kidnapped, trafficked, and sold as slaves in Libya. Similarly, The Punch (2019) highlights that the Ijaw Youth Council (IYC) has described the rate at which Nigeria youths leave the country to other parts of the world in search of jobs as worrisome.

1.1. Background of Port Harcourt Community.

Port Harcourt Community (PHC) is in southern Nigeria, and the Capital of Rivers State, Nigeria. The community is bordered by neighbouring communities: It shares borders with Okrika in the south, Eleme and Obio-Akpor, at the east and north and the west by Degema. It covers an area of 109 square kilometres. The local government area is one of the 23 local government areas that make up Rivers State. PHC is made up of 28 small villages. The Community is part of the Greater Port Harcourt Area of the State. PHC is the most populated local government area in the State. According to the last national census, the population in the community was 638,360 in 2011, from the 538,558 in 2006 official population census in Nigeria (Port Harcourt City, 2015). In 2016, the National Bureau of Statistics in collaboration with the National population commission projected the population of the community to 756,600. (National Population Commission, 2006; cited in National Bureau of Statistics, 2016).

Figure 2. Map of Port Harcourt



Source: http://www.mission.net/nigeria/port-harcourt/page.php?lang=eng&pg_id=1393

1.2. Context Analysis.

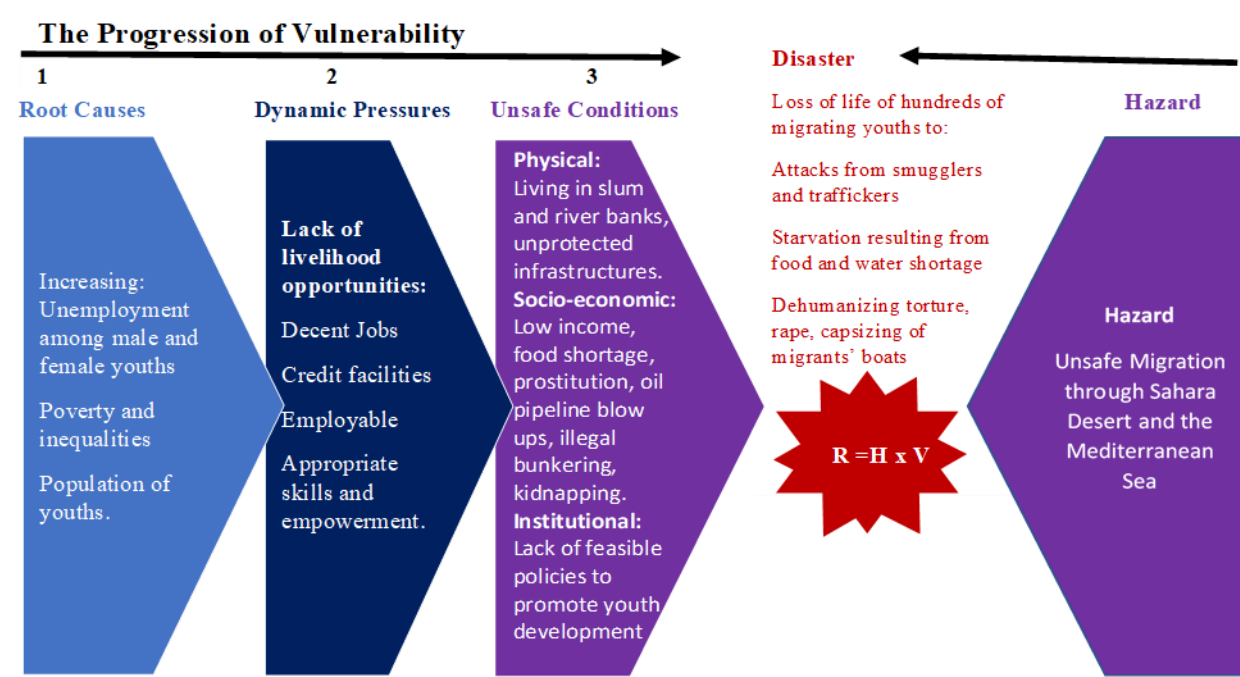
This research applied the Pressure and Release (PAR) Model developed by Blaikie et al (1994) which helped in understanding the underlying issues around Port Harcourt Community that result in youths embarking on illegal migration abroad. Akinkuotu (2019), The Cable (2020), and World Population Re-

¹ (Association of Igbo Ethnic Tribe of Nigeria in Spain)

view (2020) all note that poverty, rising unemployment, increasing population in Port Harcourt community, has been identified as a major cause of illegal migration among Nigerian youths. PAR is a tool that shows that disasters occur when there is an intersection of people exposed to vulnerability and hazard. Thus, it been observed by DYF23 that youths from PHC migrating abroad are vulnerable and moving across through these deadly routes exposes them to different hazards.

As shown in this PAR figure below, the progression of vulnerability exists as a result of perceived wider economic conditions related to the livelihood of the youths in PHC. These vulnerable conditions identified in the root causes, dynamic pressures, and unsafe conditions have combined to influence the livelihoods youths in PHC.

Figure 3. PAR Model of Vulnerability of PHC Youths to Unsafe Migration.



source: Adapted from Wisner et al (2004).

1.3. Problem Owner.

Dumu Lulu Briggs Youth Foundation 23 (DYF23) is a not-for-profit, non-governmental youth organization in Port Harcourt, Nigeria that promotes youth empowerment, enlightenment, education, and motivation aimed at building the platform and the capacity of youths to sustainably participate in the socio-economic and democratic opportunities in Nigeria. DYF23 in partnership with Google provides ICT skill acquisition training to male and female youths in remote and underdeveloped parts of PHC, Rivers State and Nigeria at large. Also, through a network in over 51+ communities, the organization has empowered youths in leadership development training, education support projects, community disaster response, and management training. Through these activities, they build capabilities and resilience of youths in Rivers State and Nigeria at large.²

² <https://dumolulubriggsyouthfoundation.org/>

1.4. Research Problem.

Several reports and publications have identified, growing population, unemployment, followed by rising poverty of poverty among youths as the main drivers of illegal Migration of Nigerian youths abroad. Akande (2014) notes that the high population of Nigeria has resulted in a state of unemployment, especially for the youths. The study showed that, in terms of age, youths struggle to find jobs; at least two-thirds of these youths are between 19 and 35 years of age. And in terms of gender, many unemployed youths are female. Similarly, World Poverty Clock (2020) states that half of Nigeria's population is living in extreme poverty. The study also revealed that more than one-third of the figure living in extreme poverty are youths between the age of 18-35years.

Consequently, DYF23 observed that many youths engage in illicit movement by risking their lives in the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea on a deadly journey to Europe in search of a better life. The journey through these routes often result in the death of these migrating youths due to the different levels of hazards they encounter such as starvation, torture, and rape by traffickers and smugglers, as well as the obvious dangers of crossing the Mediterranean to reach Europe.

Given the above, this research investigates and provide information to the research commissioner that will bridge the knowledge gap in understanding the economic and risk perceptions related to the livelihood of male and female youths about PHC and Europe that motivates their decision to make a dangerous journey through these unsafe routes to Europe leading to the deaths of these migrants. Given the sensitive nature of the study which affected the participation of Nigerian IRM³ who are unsure of their asylum status, the researcher considered the views of other migrants abroad with different nationalities who have the same historical context as Nigerian irregular migrants in abroad. The information gathered helped to make a recommendation to DYF23 to effectively design an intervention programme to address this illicit movement.

1.5. Research Objective.

The study objective focused on investigating the economic and risk perceptions related to the livelihood⁴ of male and female youths about Port Harcourt Community and Europe which motivates their decision in making the dangerous journey across the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea to make recommendations that will help Dumu Lulu Briggs Youth Foundation 23 to design effective intervention programme to build the resilience of youths against this illegal migration that results in the death of productive youths.

1.6. Research Question.

What are the economic and risk perceptions related to the livelihood of youths about the Port Harcourt community and Europe that drives the decision making of male and female youths to embark on illegal migration through the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea?

³ Irregular Migrants

⁴ In this study, the researcher considers livelihood to imply the means of securing the necessities of life. It includes a set of activities essential to everyday life that are that carried out by male and female youths in PHC.

1.6.1. Sub Questions.

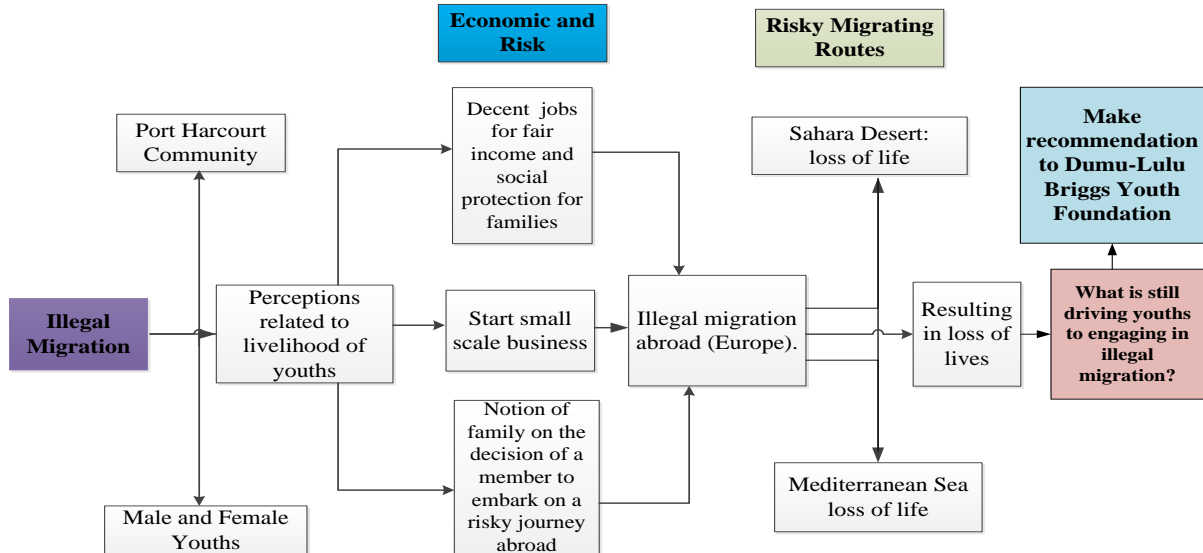
1. What do male and female youths consider as decent work around the Port Harcourt community
2. Why is it difficult for male and female youths to find decent work, or start small scale businesses in the Port Harcourt community?
3. What do male and female youths think about the opportunities for decent jobs for irregular migrants abroad?
4. What is the knowledge of male and female youths on the risk implications of illegal migration to Europe through the Desert and the Sea?
5. What is the notion of peers and families on the decision of illegal migration of a member abroad through the Desert and the Sea?

CHAPTER TWO LITERATURE REVIEW AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK.

2.0. Key concepts.

Illegal migration, Economic perception, Risk Perception and Implications, Decision Making.

Figure 4. Operationalization of illegal migration.



Source: Author, 2020.

2.1. Literature Review.

2.1.1 Illegal Migration.

The term illegal migration will be sustained in this research because the transit routes involved is not in conformity with internationally acceptable travel routes. However, given the dangers faced by these migrating youths which call for humanitarian intervention, the persons involved will be referred to in this research as irregular migrants. The basis for these clarifications has been highlighted in the introductory section of this research.

United States Immigration Services (2000) cited in Kari, Malasowe, Collins (2019), and Vives, (2011) defined illegal migration as movement across national borders that conflicts with migration laws of the destination country. It involves crossing borders without proper authority or violating conditions for entering another country. This illegal movement includes all journeys made by West Africans to North Africa and Europe where such illegal border crossing is involved. It is important to realize, though, that a substantial proportion of Europe's legally residing migrant population was IRM⁶ at some stage of their residency. Similarly, Baldwin (2008), characterized illegal migration as an undocumented or irregular movement of individuals from one location to live and work in another area. He further notes that it is

⁵ International Labour Organization (2020) notes that decent work sums up the aspirations of people in their working lives. It involves opportunities for work that is productive and delivers a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection for families, better prospects for personal development and social integration, freedom for people to express their concerns, organize and participate in the decisions that affect their lives and equality of opportunity and treatment for all women and men.
<https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/decent-work/lang--en/index.htm>

⁶ Irregular Migrants

a migration that occurs outside of the legal-institutional frameworks established by states. In his work, Papademetriou (2005), identifies four common forms of illegal migration namely; unauthorized entry, fraudulent entry (i.e. with false documents), visa overstay, and violation of the terms and conditions of a visa. He further describes the unauthorized entrants, as citizens of different countries who enter another state illicitly. Many of whom cross the land and sea boundaries very often in a desperate attempt to reach their destination. He further states that a high number of such illegal migrants enters these destinations of unauthorized. This characterization of unauthorized entrants closely defines the condition of many migrants who engages in illegal movement through the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea to Europe. It is important to recognize in this research that throughout history people have often engaged in different kinds of movement; both legal and illegal migration in search of a better life. Thus, Baada et al (2019) state that migration has been established as an important avenue for livelihood improvement, as evidenced by its inclusion in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). SDG 10 identifies migration as one way of reducing inequalities between and within countries. In effect, some targets of this goal include facilitating safe, organized entry and integration of migrants into receiving societies. However, Deotti and Estruch (2016) argued that migration is a complex phenomenon, but a key component of livelihood strategies in rural households, which focus on minimizing risks and diversifying household income. They further highlight distress migration refers to all migratory movements made in conditions where the individual and/or the household perceive that the only viable livelihood option for moving out of poverty is to migrate. Such distress is usually associated with a lack of livelihood options, given the limited economic and employment opportunities. As a livelihood strategy, many people globally have increasingly engaged in rapid migration to escape hardship. In light of this, Nigerian youths have been identified as topping the list of African migrants arriving in Europe. Eurostat (2015), Ikeke (2017), and IOM (2018), cited in Afrobarometer (2018) states that Nigerians made up the largest migrants' population entering Italy and Greece. Nigerians have also been identified as the largest cohort of migrants trapped in Libya in the protracted Mediterranean migrant crisis. The IOM reported that between May 2017 and January 2018 more than 6,700 Nigerian migrants were returned home from Libya through the efforts of Nigerian and international agencies.

2.1.2. Economic Perception of Youths about Port Harcourt Community and Europe.

In their work, Etika, Agba, and Opusunju, (2018) argued that public perception of economic freedom in Europe has increased the quest for migration to countries such as Spain, Italy. They further argued that this feeble perception has resulted to the death of many Nigerian youths who embarked on the journey of no return through these unsafe routes, little did they know, they will not get to their destination. However, UNDP (2019) revealed that in the context of global inequality, the prospect of being able to transform the economic situation of family members left at home through remittances, is, of course, a huge factor shaping motivations and drivers of Africa to Europe migration. Central to the understanding of illegal migration flow is the traditional push-pull causes. "Push factor" refers to circumstances at home that influences; examples low income, unemployment, etc. while "pull factor" refers to those conditions found elsewhere (abroad) that attract migrants (Kari and Collins, 2019). Given the rate at which young people opt-in for unsafe migration, the works of the above authors suggest that low income resulting from unemployment and perceptions of stable job opportunities may have been the push-pull factors that motivate youths in PHC to opt-in for migration abroad. More so, their work revealed that household decision-making is mostly common for predicting illegal migration in less developed societies like Nigeria because they expect the common practice of remitting income home. In a different viewpoint to an economic perception of migrants, Bayar and Aral, (2019) note that some

movement of migrants may not have been motivated out of the need to pursue better job opportunities abroad but is resulted by forced migration. In defining forced migration, they authors sustained IOM definition in their work, the IOM has defined forced migration as a migratory movement in which an element of coercion exists, including threats to life and livelihood, whether arising from natural or man-made causes (e.g., movements of refugees and internally displaced persons as well as people displaced by natural or environmental disasters, chemical or nuclear disasters, famine, or development projects).

2.1.3. Risk Perception and Implications of The Journey Through Sahara Desert, Mediterranean Sea, and In Europe.

Weber, 2001b cited in Slovic and Weber (2002) highlights three approaches by which risk perception has been studied, the socio-cultural paradigm, the axiomatic measurement paradigm, and the psychometric paradigm. Studies within the socio-cultural paradigm examined the effect of group and culture-level dynamics on risk perception. Studies within the axiomatic measurement paradigm emphasized on how people take subjective interpretation on objective risk information, that is, possible outcome of risky choice options such as death rates or loss of money and their likelihood of occurrence, in ways that reflect the impact that these events have on their lives. Research within the psychometric paradigm argued that it is people's emotional reactions to risky situations that affect their judgements on environmental, physical, and material effects in ways that undermine their possible consequences. In light of this research on illegal migration, the three approaches highlighted above contributes to the risk perception of illegal migration. Thus, perceptions of risk play a vital role the decision individuals make; differences in risk perception lie at the outcome of the conflicting thoughts about the best choice to make between two extreme situations, that is to either stay back or make this unsafe journey to Europe. Jaeger et al (2010) note that an individual's attitude towards risk perception has a direct effect on their tendency to engage in migration. Thus, the relationship between movement across borders and risk attitude is determined by the individual involved. Jaeger et al furthered stated that risk-averse individuals are more likely to be comfortable in settling in low-income locations within the same location despite the challenge. But People willing to take the risk in most situations use migration as a means of improving their opportunity to earn higher wages. Also, a study conducted in the works Jae-ger et al showed that underlying behaviours such as holding stocks, being self-employed further influenced attitude of people to take risks. The study showed that family status such as reunion or separation from a partner, seeking better jobs further influences people's potential to opt-in for risks involved in movement across borders. However, Townsend and Oomen (2015) note that understanding how migrants perceive risk and what attitude motivates them to undertake perilous journeys is incomplete without paying detailed attention to both their pre- and post-departure decision-making processes. For example, Somalis, Syrians, and Eritreans migrants fleeing from conflict perceived to be seeking safety by leaving their country, but frequently, embark on potentially deadly journeys to pass through theses unsafe routes to reach Europe. This implies that illegal migrants in many circumstances do not make a thorough risk assessment of their journey before embarking on it. Given their vulnerable situation they are often struggling between two worse options of either staying and die out of extreme poverty or make a risky journey across the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea. Kuschminder, Bresser, and Siegel (2015) reveal that depending on the situation, illegal migrants of African descent take different routes to reach Europe with no prior knowledge of the risks involved. In the case of Nigerian illegal migrants, the authors revealed that the journey typically leads to the city of Agadez in Niger, from where they join other West African migrants en route Libya through the Sahara Desert.

While on transit, smugglers often change off for each phase of the journey between towns and countries that borders the desert. It was observed that the route from the transit point of Agadez to Sabha is one of the main routes for illegal migrants from Western and Central Africa, it is also the most dangerous parts of the journey to Europe (Altai Consulting/UNHCR, 2013 cited in Kuschminder, Bresser, and Siegel, 2015).

Supporting the above view, UNHCR (2019) reports that, the journey from Nigeria often begins from Kano to Agadez en route Libya. The reports note that the journey across the desert to Libya involves multiple horrific experiences of violence, in this, many female migrants recounted how they were raped on each day of the 7 days journey, some of the men suffered series of torture such as the burning of plastics, forced labour, others were electrocuted; all these happened in the hands of a different network of smugglers who devised every means possible to extort money from migrants and their families back home. By the time migrants' step onto a boat en route Europe through the Mediterranean Sea, many would have been tortured, raped, held for ransom, and seen people die around them. Similarly, a joint work of UNHCR and Central Mediterranean Risk Mitigation Strategy (2017) showed that the increasing influx of migrants from Nigeria and other West Africans through the desert to Libya has resulted in the rapid proliferation of illegal detention, human warehouses, and connection houses run by smugglers and traffickers. Their works further revealed that lack of protection in these transit routes and countries are heightening the risk of migrants losing their lives in the journey across the desert, thus, had migrants been aware of the grave hazards involved in crossing the desert, many of them would not have been making the dangerous journey to Libya. However, Phillips et al (2016) argued that although the rise in the use of online communication media such as Twitter and Facebook has improved the way migrants share delicate information on safe routes related to their journey across the desert and the sea, it has also help smugglers and traffickers to adopt new strategies to lure unsuspecting members of the public into making dreadful illegal journeys that often result in the loss of lives of many. This shows that, although social media enable migrants to share vital information about smugglers thereby reducing the possibilities of rape, kidnap for ransom, and torture, social media is still being used by smugglers to deceive many youths.

However, William and Baláž (2012) viewed migration beyond the travelling routes by exploring deeper the different exposure to risk and uncertainty that engulf the life of migrants. By risk, it implies that migrant movements are usually associated with the possibility of exposure to the danger involved from the beginning of the journey, along the travelling routes, the destination, and the life abroad. Thus, illegal migration is understood to bring about risks such as being exploited by smugglers and traffickers. Also, their work showed that risk associated with migrants' movements also influences the wider societal level for both the country of origin in terms of possibilities of having mostly ageing population resulting from the movement of youths abroad, and for the destination countries in terms of issues such as racial profiling, smuggling, and trafficking. In respect to uncertainty, William and Balaz showed that irregular migrants always rarely have full knowledge about the current living conditions in the destination countries. Hence their movement is often associated with uncertainties rather than risk, also, their perception of risk is formed based on partial knowledge of the destination country. Also, their predictability about the future involves some level of uncertainty given that the probabilities of a particular outcome cannot be known for certain. Hence, individual migrants act based on uncertain expectations in the destination countries and these uncertainties in some cases exposes them to dangerous situations. In support of this view, NOS NIEUWS (2020) reports the rising incident of disappearance of Nigerian irregular migrants and asylum seekers to an unknown destination. The report notes

the Central Agency for Reception Asylum Seekers (COA) confirmed that between 2014 – 2019 about 1,231 IRM that received asylum qualification disappeared to an unknown destination. In January 2020, another 128 IRM disappeared. Based on the report, these incidents have been linked to activities of criminal trafficking organizations such as the Black Ax, and Vikings mafia groups who threaten these irregular migrants and force them into drug peddling and prostitution, hence the Human Trafficking and Smuggling Expertise advised the COA to look out for signs such as tattoos, Scars, or greetings. Given the partial knowledge of IRM on the conditions in the destination countries, activities of criminal organizations such as the incidents highlighted above underline some of the risk individual and group IRM are exposed to in these destination countries. Thus, aside from making the dangerous journey through the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea, the uncertain future in destination countries further deepens the risk and situation of youths migrating abroad through unsafe routes.

2.1.4. Decision Making Process of Youths to Embark on Illegal Migration Abroad.

Dinbabo and Nyasula (2017) highlight that at the root of the decision of youths to migrate abroad lies the passion to improve the living conditions of oneself and that of the family. Hence in many situations, decisions cannot be made without putting into consideration the risk associated with this dangerous movement. Minaye and Zeleke 2015 cited in Dinbabo and Nyasula (2017) note to understand the decision of migrant, it is crucial to comprehend the attitude that informs their choices and decision making. Hence, if the attitude and spiritual belief of migrating youths are such that God has predetermined their fate, they may not border about the risky or safety implication of the decision they make concerning unsafe migration. Also, the outcome of a study conducted by Minaye and Zeleke in Ethiopia showed that attitude and decisions of youths towards illegal migration were influenced by peers and the current family situation. They further state that sometimes the hope for a positive future for their families may overshadow the attitude and decision of a potential migrant to consider the risks involved in the journey. Also, personal factors such as age, gender, and religion; social factors such as media, family influence, and peer groups further shape the attitudes, beliefs, and decision of youths to embark on illegal migration abroad. Similarly, Klabunde and Willekens (2016) argued that individuals are likely to make a journey if they expect a better living condition elsewhere, although the attractiveness of such destination is dependent on the available social network within the potential migrant's reach, as social networks support the movement of a potential migrant. More so, the information option and opportunities for good jobs are transmitted through these networks. In many situations, these networks determine how long a migrant stay in the destination country as well as whether the individual returns to the home country.

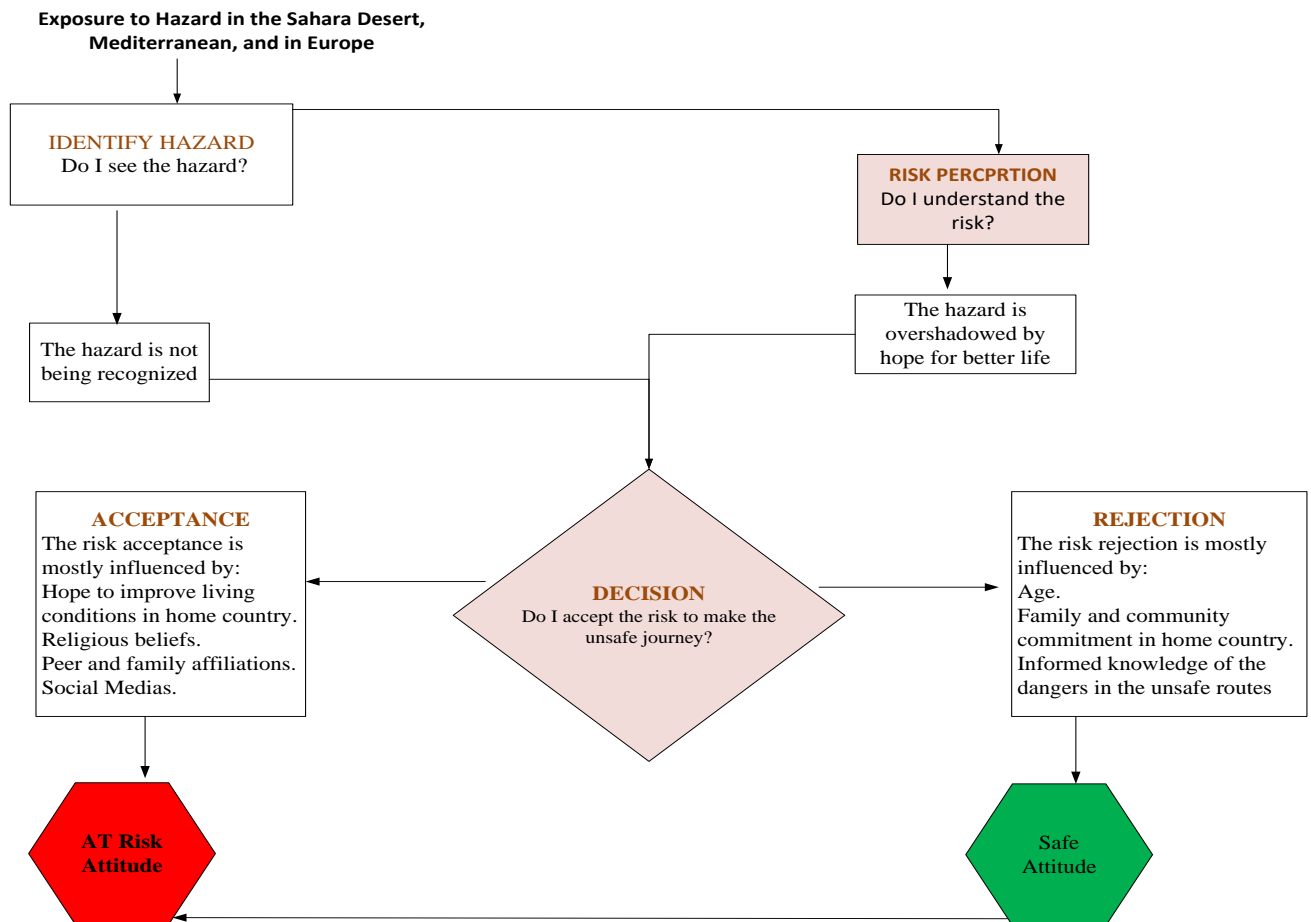
Contrasting with the view on the dangers associated with the activities of migrations networks, Haug (2008) argued that the existence of these networks helps to facilitate one's decision to embark in a safe migration. Haug defined migration network as a composite of interpersonal relations in which migrants interact with their family or friends. Social networks provide a foundation for the passing of information as well as for patronage or assistance. Interactions within social networks make migration decision easier as well as reducing the costs and risks of moving. However, concerning the gender perspective in the decision to migrate abroad, De Jong (2010) showed in a research conducted in Thailand that different gender roles in the family related to providing household needs, and expectations from an individual is another crucial determinant on one's decision to migrate abroad. In this sense, more expectations from an individual consequently increase the decision of such individual to migrate in order to improve the condition of the family. More so, he argued that the decision of men to migrate is promoted by minimal family and peer commitment in the community. Thus, having children and elderly

member dependents hinder the decision to migrate. By this De Jong implies that migration is better during youthful age when one has less family relationship and commitment.

2.2. Conceptual Framework.

This study applied this risk perception framework designed by the researcher to provide deeper insight on the underlying assumptions that shape the risk perception of migrating youths as well as the influence of this perception on their decision to embark on illegal migration through the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea.

Figure 5. Illegal Migration Risk Perception Framework.



Source: Author, 2020.

CHAPTER THREE. RESEARCH STRATEGY AND METHODOLOGY.

3.0. Introduction.

This chapter described the research strategy used for the study. It justified the chosen design and provides clarification of research tools used in context to this time of coronavirus pandemic. It explains the chosen population and sampling procedure. the chapter ends with an explanation of the procedure for data analysis, ethical considerations, and limitations of the study.

3.1. COVID-19 Context of This Research.

The researcher took into consideration this time of coronavirus pandemic in this study; thus, necessary precaution was observed within the duration of this research project to ensure both researcher and participants are not exposed to danger. In light of COVID pandemic, the researcher was unable to travel to Port Harcourt, Nigeria for this research due to the pandemic situation in both The Netherlands and Nigeria, which resulted to suspension of international flights. Nigeria as at May 4, 2020,⁷ had recorded 11,516 of COVID-19 cases. Rivers State, where Port Harcourt is located has recorded over 269 cases,⁸ with 16 deaths,⁹ thus given these situations the government of the State strongly prohibits the public gathering of any purpose. During the field study, residents and security agencies were very alert at happenings around them, hence making any immediate movement within communities very difficult. However, residents in the same neighbourhood can move around a limited time of the day while maintaining 2 meters social distance. Given this situation, the researcher conducted the fieldwork project from The Netherlands while observing and following the COVID-19 guidelines here in the country. The researcher conducted Key informants Interviews (KII), Focus Group Discussion (FGDs) using online WhatsApp tool, except for times of rare adverse weather conditions, the network signal in PHC was strong, hence the researcher had free-flowing communication with the participants. Also, the researcher collected data using semi-structured online questionnaire Microsoft form to sample the views of youths in relations to the research focus. Given the situation explained above, the researcher did not make use of a research assistant, but Co-Facilitators helped to coordinate the FGDs for this study. Concerning making contacts with KII and other participants, the researcher explored his contacts of KII already established during his previous work with various stakeholders in the community.

3.2. Research Design.

The research approach is based on a case study. In this, a desk study was carried out exploring various relevant kinds of literature that helped to gain in-depth knowledge of the issue based on the identified research problem, objective, and research questions. The research design was qualitative research which helped to understand more about aspects of human behaviour such as 'motivation', and 'drive', and requires a subjective analysis of the meaning of experiences and words. (Tesch, 2013). Also, qualitative research is a kind of research that rely on unstructured and semi-structured written data. The data often take the form of an interview, observation, visual, and audio recording, picture elicitation and note-taking. This is selected for this research because it considers the individualistic context of illegal migration which is subjective and difficult to generalize given the different push and pull factors that motivate migrant's movement. It allowed for deeper exploration into the underlying perceptions

⁷<https://journalist101.com/2020/06/04/breaking-350-new-cases-of-covid-19-confirmed-in-nigeria/>

⁸ <https://journalist101.com/2020/06/04/breaking-350-new-cases-of-covid-19-confirmed-in-nigeria/>

⁹https://www.google.com/search?q=how+many+persons+have+died+of+coronavirus+in+Rivers+State&rlz=1C1CHBD_enIN857IN857&oq=how+many+persons+have+died+of+coronavirus+in+Rivers+State&aqs=chrome..69i57.38332j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8

unique to a PHC which shaped their worldview. However, the research also included an online survey, to gain deeper insight into the demographic of youths who may be thinking of engaging in this illicit movement. Identifying this demographic will enable the researcher to gain a deeper insight into their motives. The use of the online survey increased the different sources of data collection in this study. This allowed the researcher to compare and evaluate data to gain a full understanding of illegal migration and perceptions of youths on this movement. This resulted in deeper findings that helped the study to make an effective recommendation to the Commissioner on how to build the resilience of male and female youths in PHC against illegal migration.

3.3. Study Area.

Enough information about the research study area has been provided in the community profile section of the introductory section of this study. The reason for selecting the study area is due to the increasing incidents of movement of both male and female youths from PHC to Italy, and Spain, from where they make their way to other parts of Europe. The desert and the sea have been identified as the main travel routes of these migrants.

3.4. Study Sample.

Purposive sampling technique was employed in this study. The research area and the target audience were purposively selected based on the researcher and the commissioner's knowledge of the community, as well as the rising cases of youths from this area who engages in this dangerous journey. Snowball and simple random sampling method were used to select 11 KII, and 20 II respondent in PHC and abroad. Also, two separate FGDs involving 8 male, and 12 female participants were conducted to supplement the findings from the interviews, this was further combined with the online survey with 44 respondents with diverse family backgrounds in PHC. Laws et al (2013) notes that the term purposive sample refers to a group of people in a particular area being sampled to obtain specific information about that group. Laws et al further emphasized that purposive sampling can produce some bias responses because people who have many friends are likely to be recruited into the sample, hence, to guard against bias responses in this study, the combination of simple random sampling method helped the researcher to select respondents from list of participants recruited through snowball method. Also, the researcher ensured that selected respondents are youths with historical context relevant to the research focus, and the researcher ensured not more than one youth per household is interviewed.

3.5. Data Sources.

The research was an offshoot of both primary and secondary sources. Primary data about the perceptions of youths on livelihood opportunities in PHC and abroad, risk irregular migrants face crossing the desert, the sea, and living as undocumented migrants abroad, access to information to make this dangerous journey, as well as, influence of family, age, marital status, and peer pressure on the decision of youths to accept or reject migrating abroad using irregular means were collected through semi-structured interviews (II), key informant interviews, and an online survey with Microsoft form. The focus group discussions (FGDs) were used to validate and probe deeper on some of the data gotten from the semi-structured interviews related to the livelihood of youths in PHC. The use of multiple sources of primary data helped in an effective triangulation of the study findings which increased the confidence and quality of this study report. The secondary data sources included published books, reports of relevant UN Agencies, and international organizations related to the focus of the research, journal articles, and publications relevant online media agencies. Data collected from secondary sources were used for

the background of the research, literature reviews and to elaborate the problem statement. The secondary data also helped to identify and operationalise the key concepts used in the study. Lastly, it helped to corroborate findings from primary data during the discussion of the result.

3.6. Research instrument for primary data collection.

3.6.1. Online survey.

This was used to enhance the knowledge of the researcher on the views and opinions of male and female youths on the incidents of illegal migration of youths in PHC abroad through these unsafe routes. The survey was shared in the various social media platform of youths' groups in the 22 villages in PHC by members of DYF-23 Foundation. For the list of villages in PHC (See Appendix X). 2 respondents from each village interested in the research randomly responded in the survey. Overall, 44 respondents participated in the online survey which was administered with a suitable tool. (See Appendix IV).

3.6.2. Key Informant Interview (KII).

In relation to the scope of this research, the researcher used semi-structured interview questions to interview the respondents (See Appendix V). KII with both Nigerians and abroad respondents were used to explore information related to the: perceptions youths on livelihood opportunities in PHC and abroad, the influence of family and peer pressure on the decision of youths to migrate abroad using irregular means, as well as, risks irregular migrants face crossing the desert, the sea, and living as undocumented migrants abroad. Eleven (11) KI was purposively selected based on their knowledge, expertise, and first-hand, experience, researcher's accessibility to them, and their perceived unbiased positions on issues related to youths and movement of irregular migrants across these dreaded routes. Using a suitable interview guide (see Appendix 1), each interview lasted for about 1 hour and 20 minutes and were conducted over the phone with regular calls, and WhatsApp online calls. The laptop computer was used to record the interviews, also, notes were taken for onwards transcription and empirical analysis.

3.6.3. Individual Interview (II).

To gain a deeper perspective on the perception of male and female youths about PHC community and Europe which motivate their decision to make this unsafe journey through the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea, individual interviews were conducted with male and female respondents in both PHC and abroad. Given the sensitive nature of this research, the snowball method was very effective in connecting to irregular migrant respondents abroad, because it linked me to irregular migrants living in Germany, Belgium, Italy, and The Netherlands. For more clarity on respondents interviewed in these countries (see Appendix V and VII). Also, except for referrals from someone with the same journey experience, the sensitive nature of the research made it difficult to access and gain the trust of irregular migrant respondents within the period of the data collection, Similarly, the researcher purposefully selected irregular migrant in Libya for KII (see Appendix V), the Researcher was thereafter referred to another female irregular migrant in one of the Asylum seeker centres in The Netherlands who also made the dangerous cross along these routes for II (see Appendix VII). The II with the female irregular migrant was through both regular call and WhatsApp online call, and it took the researcher 3 days to conclude the interview that lasted for 1 hour and 19 minutes. At some point of during the interview, she requested to speak off the record, citing personal reasons resulting from the horrors of recalling her experience in the desert during the dangerous cross to Europe. Similarly, the researcher inter-

viewed non-Nigerian irregular migrants who had similar travel experience with Nigerian irregular migrants abroad, this is because many of the Nigerian IRM¹⁰ were hesitant to participate in the study due to the uncertainty surrounding their asylum status. The research recorded all the II with a laptop computer, also, some notes were recorded in a notebook for effective empirical analysis. For II topic checklist (see Appendix II).

3.6.4. Focus Group Discussion.

In addition to the key informant and individual interviews, two separate focus group discussions were conducted in two different villages in PHC in order to validate and delve deeper into some of the issues raised during the KII and II sessions. The first FGD involved 8 male youths in Okuru-Ama village PHC, (See Appendix X) one of the KI youth leaders in PHC provided me with a list of 35 members of the village youths. From the list, a random selection was made based on their access to WhatsApp enabled phone device and willingness to participate in the FGD. Although 15 persons were initially contacted by the researcher through regular calls, 11 persons indicated interest to participate in the online call session for the FGD, but poor network resulted in the rescheduling of the exercise. Given the COVID-19 guidelines in PHC, the research requested their consent to meet in a location with a better network. 3 persons declined. Given their rich knowledge and familiarity with the village, the researcher considered the remaining 8 participants enough for the FGD. For FGD topic checklist (see Appendix III)

Similarly, the second FGD involved female youths from Diobu village, (See Appendix X), with 12 participants. A list of 25 members was provided by the vice president of the Catholic Youth Organization in the village. The researcher purposively made a list of 12 participants based on the experience of the female youths on cases of irregular in PHC and willingness to participate in the FGD. Due to the challenges experienced in organizing FGD 1 and the COVID-19 restrictions on public gathering, the researcher opted to have the female FGD on a Sunday after church service. Invitations were sent out to 12 participants and they all accepted because of the convenience of meeting after church service.

Data from the FGDs were recorded with a laptop computer and some notes were also taken. The FGDs used a suitable topic guide that explored the Village social maps, household economy matrix, and Venn diagram to understand the institutions with the village that can provide decent jobs for the youths as well as the influence of these institutions on the daily income of the youths. These FGDs provided a deeper perspective on the status of decent work availability in PHC highlighted by the KII and II respondents. For more clarity on data collection methods, tools used, and data processing (See Appendix IV).

3.7. Data Analysis.

Thematic Analysis (TA) based on the research sub-questions formed the basis of the research analysis. Braun and Clarke (2012), notes that thematic analysis is a method for identifying, analysing, and reporting patterns within a data. It helped the researcher organize and interpret in detail various aspects of the data. TA was complemented by narrative analysis in this study. Squire (2008) explains, narrative analysis is extremely helpful in the analysis of particularity of data and setting it in more general contexts. It aims to investigate not just how stories are structured and how they work, but also who produces them and by what means. Therefore, combining them in this analysis helped the researcher to identify commonalities and differences across the different dataset, while interpreting the data from

¹⁰ Irregular migrants

the perspective of individual respondents in this study. The data analysis commenced while the fieldwork was ongoing; starting with listening electronic recordings at the end of each interview to transcribe, and code the responses in line with the themes drawn from the research sub-questions. At the end of the fieldwork, the coded qualitative data were analysed in order to discover a certain pattern, dominant perceptions, meanings and relationships between the KII, the II, FGD and the online survey. The results were then compared with each other to identify areas of similarities and differences. These results were then presented using the narrative analysis tool. This narrative analysis helped the researcher to stay close to the data within the context of the respondents. The narratives were supported by quotes from respondents to provide some evidence without sounding too poignant and exaggerated.

3.8. Ethical Considerations.

Given the sensitivity of this research, which included participants with different family backgrounds, tragic experiences, as well as illegal migrants who have suffered different degrees of dehumanizing abuse and torture attempting to cross the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea, the researcher adhered to strict ethical considerations in relating with respondents.

Before introducing the interview guides, the researcher introduced himself and explained the context and purpose of the research. The researcher assured all respondents and participants anonymity and the free will to accept or reject the invitation, as well as, take a break, or opt-out should they feel the need during the interview session. 3 males declined to be part of the FGD, and 5 female irregular migrants for II requested for more time to enable the researcher to gain their trust which will encourage them to grant the interview on their experiences. All participants in this study were respondents who voluntarily and willingly opt-in to be part of the study. To also ensure safety confidence of all participants, the researcher conducted the KII, II, FGD, in environments and timing of the respondent's convenience.

Lastly, all participants were assigned codes in order to protect their identity. This was done to ensure the confidentiality and anonymity assurance the researcher gave the participants are maintained, and the respondents have full knowledge and verbal consent of the participants. Thus, given the sensitivity of the study, none of the participants granted the researcher's request to have their pictures published in the report.

3.9. Limitation of Methodology.

The researcher used mostly online method of data collection to carry out interview with respondents. The researcher observed that insensitive research such as this study, connecting with respondents especially persons who have gone through the horrors of crossing the desert and sea would be best carried out in a one-on-one interview. This will help to establish the trust, bond, and rapport needed to encourage respondents to share the true story of their journey. Also, it will increase their confidence in the researcher's assurance of anonymity in the study.

3.9.1. Limitation of Study.

The researcher was only able to interview the PHALGA¹¹ Council Secretary. Despite the assurance of confidentiality, effort to get lower staff cadre members of the Council to provide information related to the Council's role in creating decent job opportunities for youths in PHC was unsuccessful, because

¹¹ Port Harcourt Local Government Area

these cadres of the Council staff were scared they may give out information that may put their work in danger.

Similarly, the researcher effort to obtain the views of parents on the decision to support a family member to make this dangerous journey across the desert and the sea was unsuccessful because many of the parents contacted declined to grant an interview citing that they would require more time to make up their mind to comment on such a sensitive issue. The researcher acknowledges their perspectives will be crucial in making a recommendation to DYF-23 to design inclusive intervention. Not involving them in the study could, therefore, impact the validity of the findings.

Finally, it was very difficult for the researcher to establish trust with more female respondents who made the journey across these unsafe routes due to the sensitive and traumatic nature of their experience during the journey, majority of them requested for more time to make up their mind for such a sensitive interview.

CHAPTER FOUR. PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS AND RESULTS.

4.0. Presentation of Research Findings.

This chapter presents the results and the findings from the data collection in Port Harcourt Community (PHC), and abroad, with a total of population of 95 participants. The results are a combination of 11 Key Informants Interviews (KII), 20 In-depth-Individual Interviews (IID), two separate Focus Group Discussions comprising 8 male, and 12 female youth participants. (FGD) and 44 online survey respondents. Section 4.1 presents profiles of the three groups of respondents (KII, II, and FGD). Section 4.2 presents findings on the views of male and female youths about a decent job in Port Harcourt Community. Section 4.3 presents findings on the difficulty in accessing decent work or start a small-scale business in Port Harcourt Community. Section 4.4 present findings on the opportunities for decent jobs for irregular migrants abroad. Section 4.5 presents findings on the knowledge of the risk implication of illegal migration to Europe through the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea. Section 4.6 presents findings on the influence of peers and family on the decision of youth to embark on illegal migration abroad.

4.1. Profile of Participants and Respondents.

This chapter presents the description and characteristics of the respondents involved in the KII, II, and the participants in the FGD. 31 respondents were sampled for this study, 11 of whom were key informants, 20 were respondents for semi-structured individual interviews in both Port Harcourt Community, and abroad respectively. 8, and 12 participants were respectively involved in the FGDs for male and female youths in PHC.

Figure 6. Gender variation of interview respondents and FGD Participants.

Gender	Key Informants	Individual Interview in PHC	Individual Interview Abroad	Focus Group Discussions
Male	10	8	8	8
Female	1	2	2	12

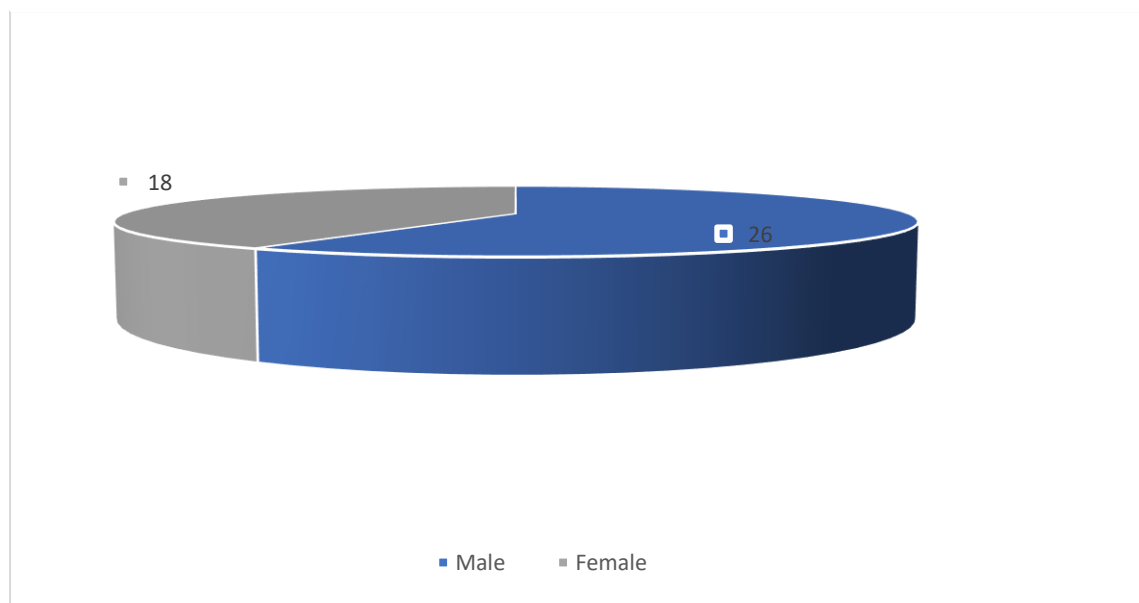
Source: Fieldwork, 2020.

For an in-depth profile of the KII, II respondents, and FGD participants in this study. (See Appendix 5,6 7, 8 and 9).

4.1.1. Gender of Online Survey Respondents.

From the simple random sampling done to select online survey respondents from Port Harcourt Community, an equal opportunity was provided for both male and female youths to participate in the survey. As shown in the pie chart below, 26 out of 44 respondents were male while 18 of the respondents were female.

Figure 6. Gender variation of online survey respondents.



Source: fieldwork, 2020.

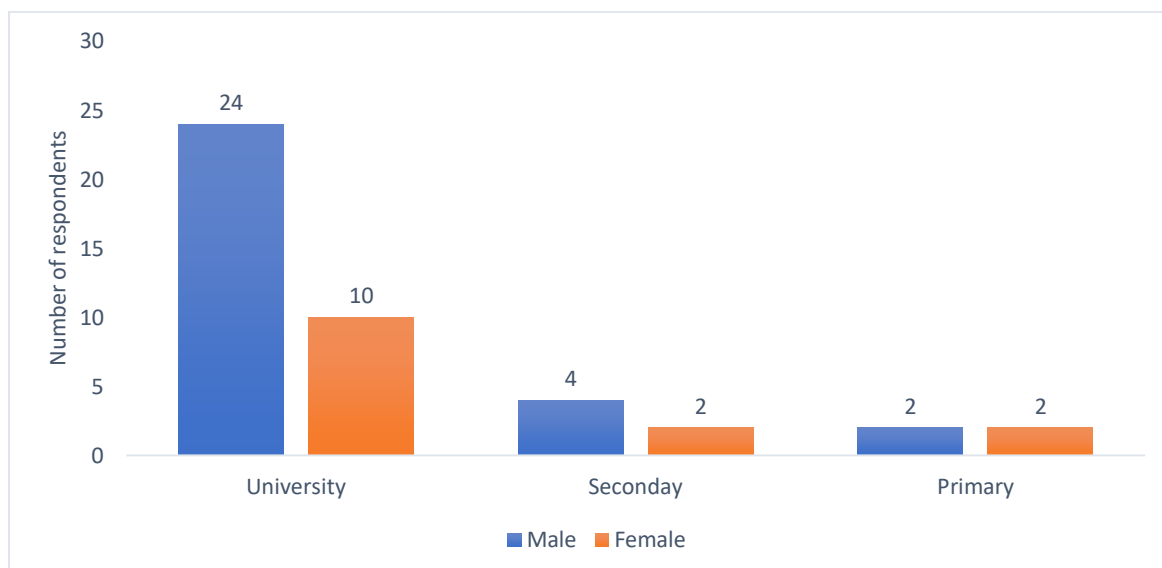
Similarly, the profile of the respondents involved in the KII, and II in both Port Harcourt Community and abroad, also showed male youths were most of the respondents. However, observation in the separate FGD in PHC showed, female youths had more participants than their male counterparts. According to one of the female FGD participant:

[..] Our Society as Africans has made it challenging for women to actively share their views on a similar issue that affects both men and women. Although this narrative is gradually changing, it will take more decades for women to freely speak with men on issues like this. [..] (FGD7, undergraduate student, Diobu village, PHC).

4.1.2. The Educational Level of Online Survey Respondents.

The results of the online survey showed that majority of the respondents have attained University education, (24 males and 10 females). 10 out of the 44 respondents have acquired secondary education, and 4 of the respondents have completed primary education. Also, result in the study area showed that female youths have a lower level of education compare to their male counterparts. The clustered Column below is clearly showing the education level of the online survey respondents in PHC.

Figure 7. The educational level of online survey respondents.

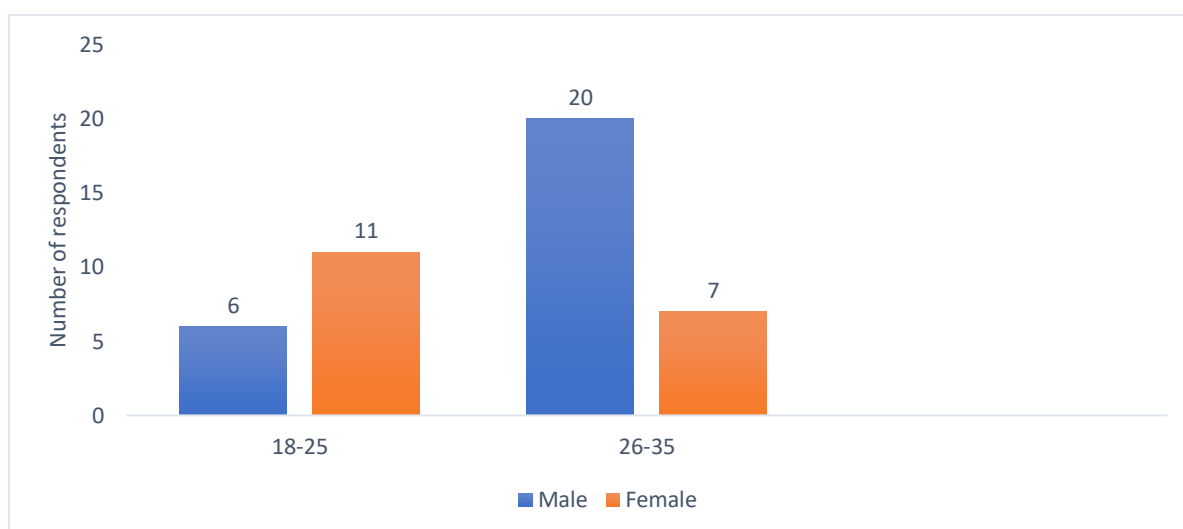


Source: fieldwork, 2020.

4.1.3. Age of Survey Respondents.

The result of the age of online respondents showed that majority of the respondent were between 26 to 35 years, while less than one-third of the respondents were male and female youths between the ages of 18-25. The findings showed that male youths represent the highest number of respondents in the study area. The clustered column below shows the age range of respondents in the online survey.

Figure 8. Age variation of online survey respondent.



Source: fieldwork, 2020.

Similarly, the above result showed older male youths between the age of 26 to 35 were enthusiastic to participate in the online survey than their female counterparts. Overall, the majority of the male and female online survey respondents were youths between the age 26-35.

On why more male youths participated in the online survey, one of the II respondents said this:

[..] Male youths shoulder more economic responsibility in Nigeria and this is why the number of male youths involved in illegal migration along these routes is often higher because the level of economic burden and dependency ration from family and relatives means that as a male youth in PHC, there is this moral obligation society has a place on you which motivates you to always look for means to improve your family condition [...]. (PHC Resident, II6, DSPNGR).

However, the KII, and II respondents, as well as the participants of the FGDs declined to specify their age.

4.1.4. Summarizing Profile of Participants.

In summary, except for the FGD, these profiles showed that there is an unequal representation of male and female youth respondents in the research. As noted by the above FGD participant, this highlights the gender dynamics in a highly male-dominated society such as Nigeria this reality was beyond the control of the researcher. Also, these profiles showed male youths in PHC are more open and willing to participate in sensitive research. Furthermore, the educational profile of respondents in PHC highlights that families are more willing to invest in the education of male youths, overall, based on the result of the educational level of the online survey, many of the respondents in PHC have attained university education.

4.2. Views of Male and Female Youths on Decent Job Around Port Harcourt Community (PHC).

To understand what youths in PHC, consider as decent jobs, the research explored the current situation of youths in the community, their knowledge on illegal migration, and the main reason youths make this movement. Also, the researcher probed to unravel the views of youths in PHC on what they consider as a decent job and the availability of these jobs in the around PHC. The researcher also explored to know why decent jobs are not available and how they can be created.

4.2.1. The current situation of youths in PHC, and their knowledge on illegal migration.

The result from PHC showed that there is a very high rate of unemployment facing the youth population of the community, hence, many of the youths are without any form of stable employment that provides them with any form of stable employment in the community. Majority of the respondents in the individual interview conducted all confirmed that male and female youths in PHC are currently facing difficult situation resulting from lack of jobs to provide them income for daily living.

The above situation of youths in PHC was confirmed by one of the key informant respondents:

[..] PHC youths are currently vulnerable to violence, and poverty due to the high rate of unemployment. They do not have access to paying jobs that can help them earn a living. Also, the land has been degraded as a result of prolonged oil drilling. In my view, the youths are 70% unemployed [..] (Youth Leader, KI4. YLCPHC).

In support of the above KI respondent, the result of the online survey showed that the majority of male and female youths in PHC are unemployed.

Table 2. Gender variation of Job-status of online respondents.

Gender	Employed with a stable job	Unemployed
Male	35%	65%
Female	22%	78%

Source: Fieldwork, 2020

Similarly, the unemployment status of youths in the PHC community was further highlighted by the view of this II respondent:

[..] Presently, youths in PHC are experiencing a very high unemployment situation. I have graduated from university for over 5 years, but yet I have not gotten a job. This situation is even worse for unskilled youths and youths without a university education. As a result, many youths now resort to a lot of crime just to survive [...]. (PHC Resident, I17, EVANGR).

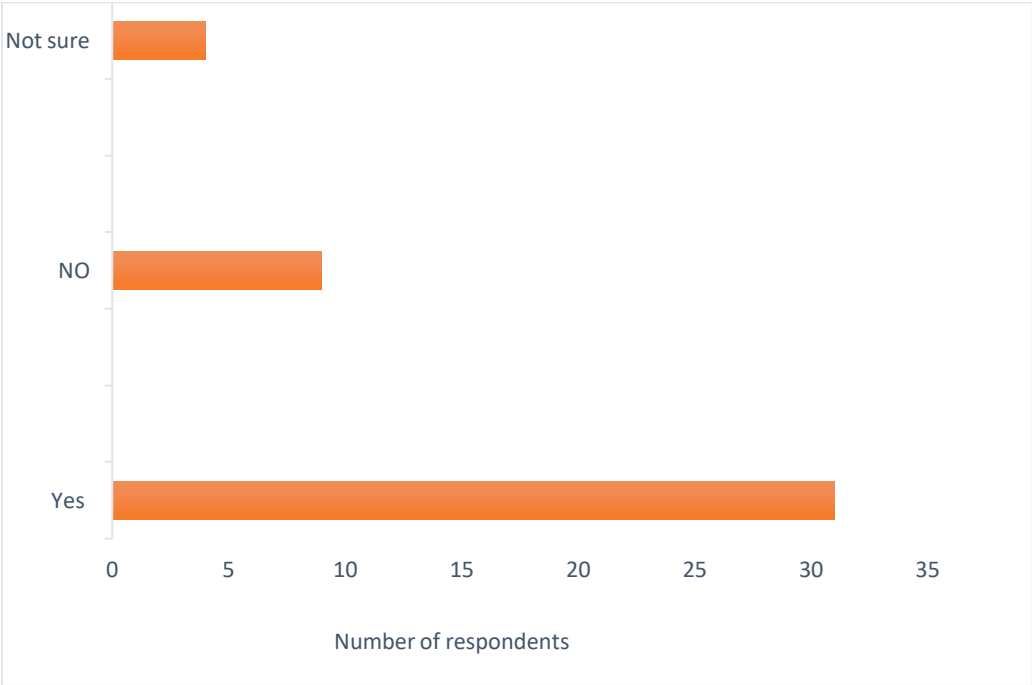
4.2.2. Knowledge of Illegal Migration and the Main Reason Youths Make this Movement.

From the findings, 6 out of the 10 respondents in the II acknowledged they are aware of the involvement of PHC youths in illegal movement abroad in search of greener pastures and they have had direct experience with close friends who made the journey across the desert and the Mediterranean. On the main reason that motivates this unsafe journey, the findings showed that lack of job opportunities for the growing youth population, and high rate of dependency from siblings and relatives are pushing many youths to engage in these desperate journeys. The above view was supported by this II respondent:

[....] Youths in this community are fed up with unchanging economic situations here, no means to meet your needs, no employment to give you hope, and earn means of livelihood. Sadly, the government is not even concerned. The system is not even supporting anyone that decided to engage in small-scale entrepreneurial jobs. For these reasons, the movement is common in PHC, although during this coronavirus time we have not heard of it. But it is happening. From my knowledge, some agents claim to know the routes and they assure youths they will give them any employment in countries in Europe. They collect some fees and then set these youths on these dangerous journeys [....]. (PHC Resident, I12, ALANGR).

Similarly, findings from the online survey conducted in this study supported the views of the above respondents. As shown in the clustered bar below, most of the respondent is aware of the involvement of youths in PHC in these desperate journeys.

Figure 9. Knowledge of illegal migration of PHC youths abroad through the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea.



Source: fieldwork, 2020.

4.2.3. Views of what youths in PHC consider as a decent job, and the availability of these jobs in the around PHC.

Based on the findings, the perception of decent work abroad is a major influencer of illegal migration in PHC. Majority of the respondents in both the KII and II affirmed youth views on decent work and its availability in the community is very important in their decision to either stay or migrate abroad through dangerous these routes. The result showed all respondents in the II viewed decent work as a work that does not strip one of one’s dignity and provide a stable legitimate source of income to meet the essential needs of youths in PHC.

In support of the above views, the outcome of the FGD2 in Diobu village highlights certain jobs that the female youths would consider a decent job in the PHC. According to one of the participants:

[....] As a female youth in Diobu village, PHC, working in organizations such as Banks, Hospital, Shopping mall, Schools, and having own thriving small-scale business would be considered as having a decent job. The reason is that these jobs provide you with a stable income, some form of job security, and dignity. But the problem for us is these kinds of jobs are not readily available, as you may have noticed, many of us here are not employed [....]. (FGD2, FGD-D6, Diobu village, PHC).

As shown in the Diobu village social map below, some of the institutions' female youths in Diobu village, consider their employees as having a decent job have been identified diagram.

Figure 10. Village social map of Orada Diobu Village, PHC.



Source: fieldwork, 2020.

Based on the findings, working in any of the institutions identified in the map would be considered having a decent job, however, in relation to working outside Diobu, all the respondents acknowledged that high cost of commuting and a low monthly wage of fewer than forty euros means that it is economically reasonable to look for within nearby institutions

Similarly, results of all 5 KII in PHC showed many youths considers working in the oil industry as a decent job. According to them, considering the lucrative salary the oil-producing companies offers their employees which gives them the flexibility to conveniently meet their needs and that of family members while maintaining a balanced financial life; getting employment in any of the sectors in the oil industry would be considered having a decent job. According to one of the respondents':

[...] Many youths depend on the oil sector for job opportunities, so for most youths, working in the oil industry offers them decent work. And the reasons are not farfetched, these jobs enable youth to put food on the table, afford good shelter over his head, and provide support for families and relatives. But the challenge facing youths are that these kinds of jobs are not available [...]. (Youth Leader, KI3, YLGPHC)

4.2.4. Unavailability of Decent Work and Job Creation in PHC.

The findings further revealed that insecurity and lack of conducive environment for business are preventing new companies from coming up. 2 out of 10 KII in PHC affirmed government have continued to pay less attention to the plight of youths in the community. More so, results from the 10 II interviews conducted in the research showed two-thirds of the respondents' states unfavourable policies on job creation, corruption and nepotism are the reason there is rising unemployment among the youth population. However, in a contrasting view, one of the KII in PHC states:

[...] availability of a job depends on the readiness of youths to get the job in PHC. The jobs are there but are also taken by more prepared youths. Also, part of the challenges is because the number of jobs is not equal to the growing number of youths. [...]. (Government Official, KI8, PHALGAS)

To create decent jobs, results showed the majority of II respondents abroad states government can diversify the economy to make other sectors such as the agricultural sector more attractive and lucrative for youths by providing seed funds for a group of youths to embark on mechanized farming. 2 out of 10 II respondents in PHC said the government need to first tackle kidnapping, militancy, and rising youth's restiveness which has been affecting private companies to open operation base in PHC. similarly, another II respondent said this:

[...] in connection to job creation, the government need to declare a state of emergency on the unemployment situation in PHC; call for economic summit that includes captains of industries, community leaders, and unemployed youths themselves for a roundtable on creating enabling environment for youths to start small-scale business [....]. (PHC Resident, II5, GPNGR).

4.2.5. Summarizing Sub Research Question 1.

Overall, the result showed there is a high unemployment rate in PHC, especially among the female youths. The sad situation has increased the awareness of illegal migration abroad through the desert and the sea in search of greener pastures. Also, youths in PHC views a decent job as work that does not strip male and female youths of their dignity. Hence, working in organizations such as banks, hospitals, schools and in the oil industry recent an ideal decent job for the youths. Similarly, lack of conducive environment for private companies to thrive, and the growing youth population has further made decent work opportunities unavailable for youths.

4.3. Accessing Decent Work or Start Small-Scale Business in PHC.

This section presents findings on the difficulties in accessing decent work, as well as starting up a small-scale business in PHC. To better understand the reality facing youths in accessing jobs that can provide them with a stable income to meet their daily essential needs. The researcher explored the challenges to finding decent jobs in PHC, challenges to starting a business, and accessing credits facilities from banks in PHC.

4.3.1. Challenges to finding decent jobs in PHC.

Based on the findings, most of the respondent in the II in PHC said decent job in PHC is an exclusive right of privileged youths with a wealthy background in the community. Similarly, 2 participants in FGD1 said this on finding a decent job:

[....] I have been unemployed 5 years after graduation with good grades. But many of the job interviews I have attended in the big companies around PHC requested that I get a recommendation letter from a first-class Chief in my village or someone equivalent of a Director in the State or Federal civil service. Regrettably, for me, I could not find one because I do not have these highly placed individuals in my network. So, lack of connections to someone that knows someone that can give or recommend me for a job in big companies has cost hindered me from getting a decent job. [....] (FGD1, FGDO8, Okuru village).

Also, results from 8 out of 10 II respondents abroad corroborated with the realities of youths in PHC on finding a decent job in Nigeria and some African countries. One of the respondents said this:

[...] There is a lot of nepotism, tribalism, and corruption in the system. Hence, as an average youth in Uganda, you have to know someone who knows someone for you to get a fairly decent job. for female youths, they are sexually exploited in what is known as "carpet interviews" for them to get a job. But here in Europe, there is a system that works for all youths regardless of who you know, so you can see why the motivation is high for youths in Africa to cross to Europe through these dangerous routes [...]. (Ugandan Migrant in The Netherlands, IIA3, JACNLD).

4.3.2. Challenges to Starting a Business and Accessing Credits Facilities from Banks in PHC.

Results showed the majority of the respondent in PHC states it is very expensive to do business in PHC because of high cost running the business and too many taxes by the government. further findings showed 4 out of 10 respondents affirmed you need between \$1,000 to \$3,000 to start up a small-scale business, and most of the capital goes into renting a space depending on the nature of the business. More findings showed all the respondents in both the FGDs and II affirmed accessing credits facilities from banks is very difficult because of high-interest rate, and collateral condition. Hence, lack of needed funds to start a small-scale business is a big challenge facing youths. According to one of the II respondents:

[...] getting funds to start up a business is a big challenge, and the high cost of taxation is further making things more challenging for youths to set up a small-scale business. I needed between \$1000 to \$2000 to set up a small scale farm, so I went to the bank for a loan, but the monthly interest rate of 12%, collateral requirement and a highly placed guarantor which I don't have made it impossible for me to proceed with the loan application. So, yes, some banks are willing to give out loans, but their conditions are not designed to support start-ups [...]. (PHC Resident, II7, EVANGR).

Similarly, one of the participants in the male focus group discussion said this:

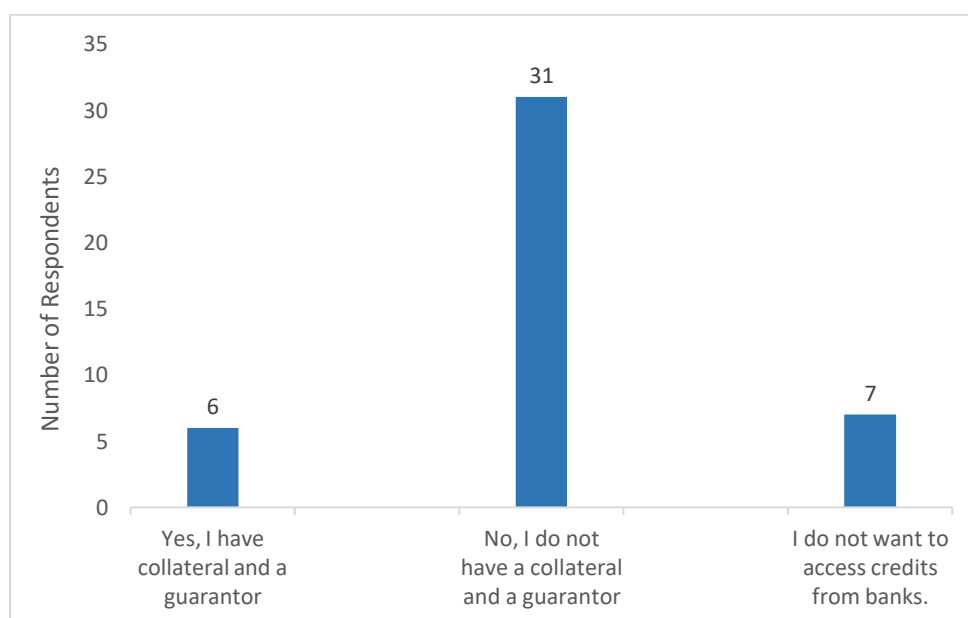
[..]. The Nigerian system does not value skilled and naturally talented youths because we do not have certificate degree, hence the government do not provide us with any form of support for us to even put our skills in productive use. Even when I research about regular skilled migration in some countries, I only see emphasis for highly skilled persons with a graduate degree. So to many unemployed youths who are highly skilled but have neglected because they do not have a college degree, travelling illegally through the desert and the sea offers an easier route because they believe they may never meet the requirement to follow legal route[..]. (FGD1, FGD-O4, Okuru village)

However, while contrasting the above view, result from KI respondent showed that banks do give out loan to youths regardless of their background. According to her:

[...] We give loan to unemployed youths, but they must demonstrate they can pay back or have collateral to offer for the loan. We have had some experiences with people who are unable to pay back their loan. So, for you to access small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) loan, you should also bring something to the table. You either have a guarantor or collateral, in some cases both depending on the amount involved [...]. (PHC Banker, KI1, Bank).

Similarly, the result of the online survey below showed more than two-thirds of the respondents have had unsuccessful attempt trying to access credit loan from the bank to start a small-scale business because they have neither collateral nor guarantors.

Figure 11. Access credits from the bank for small-scale business in PHC.



Source: fieldwork, 2020.

4.3.3. Summarizing Sub Research Question 2.

Summarily, in response to SRQ 2, the overall result showed that youths find it difficult to access decent job due to high practices of nepotism, tribalism, and lack of social connection to the upper class in the community, this has mostly affected youths in the lower class who often represent a majority of the youth population. Similarly, difficulty in accessing credits from the bank due to strict collateral condition on accessing loans, high taxation on small-scale business and the expensive nature of start-ups in PHC has strongly made it difficult for youths to access needed capital for small-scale business. Lastly, according to one of the male FGD participants too much emphasis on certificate degree over skilled natural talents among low skilled youths has made it more difficult for youths without university to find decent work, or get government support to establish a small and medium-size business, this frustration has thus, increased their motivation to decide on accepting any risk involved in migrating out of the country illegally through these unsafe routes.

4.4 Opportunities for Decent Jobs for Irregular Migrants Abroad.

This section presents findings on the perception of PHC youths on the opportunities for irregular migrants to find decent work abroad that can provide them with income to meet their needs and support their families. To understand how youths in PHC perceive living and working abroad, the researcher explored their views on opportunities to work and earn stable income abroad, comparison on working abroad vs working in PHC, the influence of remittance from migrants abroad to families in PHC.

4.4.1. Views on Opportunities to Work and Earn Stable Income Abroad.

Based on the findings from PHC during the separate FGD for male and female youths in PHC, all the participants confirmed they have neither lived nor work abroad, so for them, their perception of working opportunities is informed by what they read and watch about Europe, Canada, and United States in the media and western movies; they analyse these thoughts and begin to imagine how their living condition will rapidly improve for the better should they have a chance of moving abroad. One of the participants in the FGD2 said this:

[...] The perception I have as a female youth in Southern Nigeria is that there are more chances to get a job abroad. For example, I read over the news that in this COVID-19 pandemic, about 12 million jobs were created in the United States to cushion the effect of the job loss resulting from the pandemic, I believe these jobs will serve both citizens and immigrants, but in the last 5 years in PHC, the State or local government have not announced any form of job creation, hence, I believe there is this opportunity to get work abroad [...]. (FGD2, FGD-D9, Diobu village)

Similarly, the result of the KI and II interviews supported the above perception. According to some of the respondents:

[...] most youths have not been abroad, nor have a close associate that is living abroad, so Europe is what they see and interpret in the media. Hence, with the opening of any chance to travel abroad, they immediately take it. When this opportunity has to do with travelling through the desert and the sea, some of them consider it as a life or death option given that their condition here in PHC is worse off too. So, they believe that even if they wash plates abroad, they would earn \$5 or pounds [...]. (Youth Leader, KI2, YLDPHC).

However, further findings showed that 1 out of 10 II respondents in PHC holds a contrasting view about opportunities to work and earn stable income abroad. According to him:

[...] Personally, given family commitment, I do not think there is that opportunity abroad just waiting to be filled, because they could still have citizens and migrants who are unemployed, or not decently employed. [...] (PHC Youth, II5 GPNGR).

Similarly, based on the findings from II respondents abroad, 4 out of 10 affirmed that the flashy environment, rosy images, and free-flowing easy life perception about Europe which motivated their decision to risk their lives through the desert and the Sea changed few months after their arrival. According to one of the respondents:

[...] I heard Europe was a nice and good place to hustle, but when I arrived, I realized that success in Europe is dependent on your status, without a residency that offers work permit, you cannot work or access the opportunity you imagined about Europe while you were in Africa. The unskilled job I got did not meet my expectation I was just working to survive, even at that things were so rough for me in Macedonia, with no money on me, I had to trek to Greece where I had to seek asylum [...]. (Irregular Migrants, KI7, YMLGBR).

On the perception of youths in PHC on preferring to move to Europe illegally through the Desert and the Sea in the hope of getting opportunities for a better life; one of the KI abroad had this to say:

[...] the views of these youths are borne out of frustration and the hostile environment that exists in the country. These movements are borne out of desperate mirage. For those moving for security reasons, it is justified. But for economic migrants moving through these dangerous routes, it is not supportive of me. I have seen irregular migrants that have come to seek support to return home because things did not work as they had initially imagined. Many of these migrants that are deceitfully lured into making these journeys are so ashamed to return home because of the failure of not making it as they had initially perceived after making a huge sacrifice of crossing the desert and the Mediterranean [...]. (Diplomat, KI10, AMB-ON).

4.4.2. Comparison of Working Abroad Vs Working in PHC.

Results of II in PHC showed the majority of the respondent believe that the organization of life and the way the system work abroad already provides a conducive environment for a successful work-life unlike the situation in PHC. Also, all II respondents in PHC affirmed the provision of stable electricity supply, clean water, efficient insurance system, good road, and transportation networks has created a feeling of fulfilment that can bring out the best output from any employee working abroad. According to some of the respondents:

[...] there is an enabling environment and a system that support business start-ups abroad. Also, the atmosphere supports fairness in employment, and I believe it is easy to access to credits and grants to fund start-ups abroad, unlike here the system is structured to better the haves and exclude average youths, especially female youths from opportunities [...]. (PHC Youth, II8, UDONGR).

4.4.3. Influence of Remittance from Migrants Abroad on Youths in PHC.

On the influence of remittance from abroad on youths in PHC, findings showed that 10 out of 10 II respondents in PHC maintained this is another factor that drives youths to accept the decision to travel abroad using these unsafe routes. More so, results showed that 6 out of 10 II respondents in PHC affirmed that the influence of remittance towards improving the living conditions of migrant's family members back home is stronger on a depressed youth who shares a closer relationship with the benefiting migrant's family. 2 out of 10 respondents said the increasing exchange rate of foreign currency over naira¹² means that any little remittance sent home by migrants abroad will on one hand have a

¹² Nigeria's local currency

significant impact on the benefitting family members, and on the other hand influence youths within the neighbourhood to look for ways of migrating abroad so they too can support improve the economic condition of their family. According to one of the respondents:

[...] the exchange rate is a very strong motivation that influences youths to think you can earn more working abroad than in working in PHC; this will also imply that any remittance sent home to families in PHC will have a significant effect on the economy of the household. For me, this is an even stronger motivation for a youth who is unemployed and frustrated with the system here to decide to embark on this deadly journey [...]. (PHC Youth, I19, VICNGR).

Similarly, results showed all the KI interviewed abroad confirmed that remittance from migrants abroad has contributed to the economic wellbeing of many families in Africa. To highlight the importance of remittance in the movement of migrants globally, the Director African Diaspora Policy Centre said this:

[...] migrant have been part of the development of European society, and remittance from migrant has been part of the development of many communities back home. from my experience, there are two angles to remittance. First, is the individual remittance from migrant abroad which has contributed towards improving the conditions of their families in other to meet their basic needs back home. Second, is the collective remittance; were migrants of the same nationality come together to contribute towards the development and rebuilding of their local communities back home. Nationals of countries like Nigeria, Ghana, and Ethiopia have been involved in collective remittance towards the development of local economies. One example that comes to mind now is the Ethiopia Diaspora Trust Fund which is collective remittance geared towards socio-infrastructure development. But, this movement across these routes is also labour migration, so to address this, stakeholders have to shift thinking towards circular migration, this way we can drastically reduce the movement of youths across these deadly routes. [...] (Policymaker, KI9, DA-NLD).

4.4.4. Summarizing Sub Research Question 3.

Overall, in response to SRQ3, the result showed that the perception of youths in PHC on decent work opportunities abroad is mostly based on what they see in the movies and read on various social media platforms. Surprisingly, just one of the respondents think differently about opportunities of getting decent work abroad, according to the respondent, the family commitment will make him reject the decision to risk the journey abroad through these routes. The remaining 11 respondents believe there are more opportunities to work and earn more money, than working in PHC. Also, it was discovered that the flow of remittance from migrants abroad to their families back home further increases the motivation for youths to decide on accepting the risk of travelling abroad through these irregular routes in the hope of getting a stable job and also earning and sending money to improve their family conditions back home.

4.5. Knowledge of The Risk Implication of Illegal Migration to Europe Through the Sahara Desert and The Mediterranean Sea.

To understand the knowledge of the risk involvement of this dangerous journey to Europe through the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean, the researcher probed further on the elements of risk perception of migrating youths identified in the risk perception framework designed for this study. Based on

this, the researcher effectively explored to understand how these migrants consider the dangers associated with unsafe migration in their decision to accept or reject to risk their lives crossing these unsafe routes to Europe. four themes of elements of risk are explored; knowledge on the risk involved in the journey, the influence of religious belief, and belief in predestination on surviving the perceived dangers, hope for a better life versus exposure to risk along the travelling routes and abroad, and risk attitude of youths.

4.5.1. Informed Knowledge of the Dangers on the Decision to Accept or Reject this risky journey along these Routes.

Based on findings in the study area and respondents abroad, the journey to Europe by road is one that appears cheap and easy from the onset but comes with many unforeseen expenses and dreaded experiences along the way. On the knowledge of the risk youths may encounter should they decide to embark on this dangerous journey through these travelling routes, 22 out of 31 respondents in this study said these youths are not aware of the dangers that await them in these movements. Some of the respondents said this:

[...] I met some Eritreans, Somalians, Ethiopians, and Nigerians in the Asylum-seeking centre who shared their horrific experiences with me. The two Eritreans told me they were not aware of any danger involved in the journey. everything seemed well until when they set out for their journey from Eritrea to Ethiopia, to Kenya, and then to Sudan, from where they entered the Mediterranean Sea. Everything changed on the sea. They said their friends whom they made the journey with all died at the sea, but they were lucky to make it to Italy, and then to the refugee camp in the Netherland [...]. (Congolese Refugee in the Netherlands, II4-JAMNLD)

[...] majority of the youths have no idea of what crossing the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea looks like in real life, while some just have a shallow knowledge of what the journey entails. Yet, they do not know that it is life or death because they lack information related to the risk associated with the journey [...]. (Youth leader, KI2 YLDPHC).

and the Mediterranean know the risks involved in the journey, yet, chose to accept to risk it all due to the desperate and overwhelming economic condition of their family. According to one of the respondents:

[...] I know someone in the town with average knowledge of the risk yet, he made up his mind to accept the risks involved in the journey because of the depressing economic condition of his family was experiencing. He believed this journey was a stroll to death, but he said to me, "If I die, I die, if I perish, I perish" [...]. (PHC Resident, II4, AKNGR).

Differing from the above view, results from the interview with irregular migrants who made the dangerous cross through the desert and sea showed many of them were not informed on the dreaded risk involved in making the cross. All the 6 respondents state they only realized what dangers they are into when they were already mid-way in the journey. One of the respondents said this on the knowledge of the risk involved in crossing the desert and the sea:

[...] I did not know the risk will be this dangerous. It was something I never imagined, many persons died in the desert, but a few of us survived. my friend did not clearly explain to me about the dangers involved he told me that the journey to Libya will be smooth and easy, and not through the desert. So, the information I received was so easy for me to buy into the idea of embarking on the journey. It took me three weeks to travel from Port Harcourt to Libya, while on transit, I was spending money to save myself from being taken into captivity by the desert warriors and rebels each time we were attacked. I spent about \$2000 to make the journey to Libya, and now I cannot continue to cross the Mediterranean because my money finished in the desert, so I am now hustling in Libya to raise money for a boat to reach Europe [...]. (PHC Irregular Migrant in Libya, KI5, YMJPHC).

4.5.2. Influence Religious Beliefs on the Decision to Accept or Reject the Risk Involved in this unsafe migration.

On the belief that God will protect migrating youths along these dreaded travelling routes, 16 out of 31 respondents from both the KII and II state that religion has a strong influence on the acceptance of not just youths that make this risky journey but also, on the decision of their family to support this journey. One-third of the respondents said that in many situations' families consult pastors and other forms of traditional rituals in order to offer spiritual protection for family members who accept to make these cross. One of the respondents said this.

[...] the moment you decide to make these journey, putting your trust in God is the only option, and even your family and relatives will be praying for you and some will be making ritual sacrifices for your journey to be successful [...]. (PHC Resident, II7, EVANGR).

Similarly, as indicated in the result, 6 out of 6 II with irregular migrants who made these cross, said they believed in God to protect them through the journey. According to one of the respondents:

[...] many of us on that boat that night believed that God will protect us, and it is by his will that people die. Given that many of us in the boat consists of migrants with different religion, everyone was praying in their religion for God to see us through the journey. In my situation, I will say God came through for us. I will say God did not destine our boat to sink in that sea. [...]. (Ghanaian Refugee in Italy II9. SoloITA).

On the contrary, result show 9 out of 31 respondents state that religion and belief in God's protection are futile in a risky journey through these routes. According to one of the respondents:

[...] the religious nature of Africa gives these youth the believe that they can navigate these risky routes with God's protection, but I do not believe this is true; if it were, the number of attacks and deaths recorded repeatedly will not be rising rapidly. Embarking on these journeys is like going on a suicide mission, and God does not prevent suicide [...]. (Nigerian immigrant in UK. II1. DKEUK).

4.5.3. Hope to Improve Living Conditions in Home country, versus Risk Associated with the Journey, and Living Abroad.

Based on the findings, the imagination of a better world where dreams for an improved economic condition for oneself and family back home can be realised was stated by 25 out of 31 KII and II respondents in this study to be a major influence that motivates many youths to accept the decision to make these dangerous cross to Europe. Also, findings show that 14 out of 31 respondents state they youths that make these journey often have this belief that if they can successfully make it across the Sahara and the Mediterranean, then the hurdles and the risks they encountered would have worth it

after all. Notably, respondents from other nationalities agreed the hope to improve economic situations in home country motivates their decision to accept the risk of travelling through these unsafe routes to Europe.

Contrasting from this view 5 out of 31 respondents affirmed that this kind of hope of uncertainty of what lies ahead of them is only leading to more destructions of lives, they thought to be escaping hardship in their home country, but then find themselves into a more severe and dreaded situation in the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea. According to one of the respondents.

[...] the social media has made it easy for one to see what other people are enjoying in a different world without being there, leaving one to hunger and long for the good life. This imagination of good life in Europe in many situations beclouds the real sense of reasoning as unemployed youth in Africa. It is full of the uncertainty of what the reality is out there. In my view, migrating abroad should not be based on an uncertain plan about the future [...]. (Nigerian immigrant in Germany, II7, NNAGBR)

However, the result of the FGD 1¹³ showed, although this journey involves a lot of risks if there is a possibility of survival, the hope that one will achieve one's dream of a better life will continue to motivate youths to accept the decision to make this dangerous movement because living without a job to meet one's daily need, is also a risk in itself. One of the participants has this to say:

[...] for us in this village, we have come to see living as a survival of the fittest, some youths here have been involved in different crimes like "yahoo-yahoo"¹ just to survive, and when they get caught, you would hear things like "with no one to help me, I had no hope of surviving in PHC, so getting involved in this crime was the only way for me to survive the hardship". In the end, he will either be killed or sent to jail. But not all of us want to be involved in crimes, hence, some youths would consider the risk of crossing the desert and the sea a necessary sacrifice in the hope that they will make it if they survive the risky cross to Europe. Also, we know some persons who have tried and made it, and their support for families here is also motivating many youths in PHC to follow the same path [...] (FGD1, FGDO4)

On exposure to risk in the desert and the sea, all the respondents in both the KII and II in this study acknowledged that the dangers involved in the journey are unimaginable. But the majority of the migrating youths are more focused on the destination country rather than carefully evaluating the risk factors involved in the routes to their destination. 25 out of 31 respondents in this study said many of the migrants may even be arrested in the destination and connecting countries for entering illegally and jailed for so many years with no one knowing or coming for their rescue. Also, you can be kidnapped by trafficking organizations or rebel groups. Results from the FGD2¹⁴ showed that the life of a female youth may never be the same even if she survives the horrors of crossing the desert and the Mediterranean to Europe. one of the participants said this:

¹³ Male youths in Okwuru village, PHC

¹⁴ Female youths in Diobu village, PHC

[...] many of the female youths who go through these routes come out mentally damaged and psychologically defeated due to the series of sexual exploitation the experience to reach their destination. As a female migrant, I think travelling across the desert and the sea exposes you to a world without protection, and this makes you very vulnerable to a serial rapist, and all forms of sexual assault, and violence [...] (FGD2, FGD-D12).

On the risk experienced while making these dangerous cross, the above view was supported by the result of II with a female migrant who made the dangerous cross to Europe. According to her:

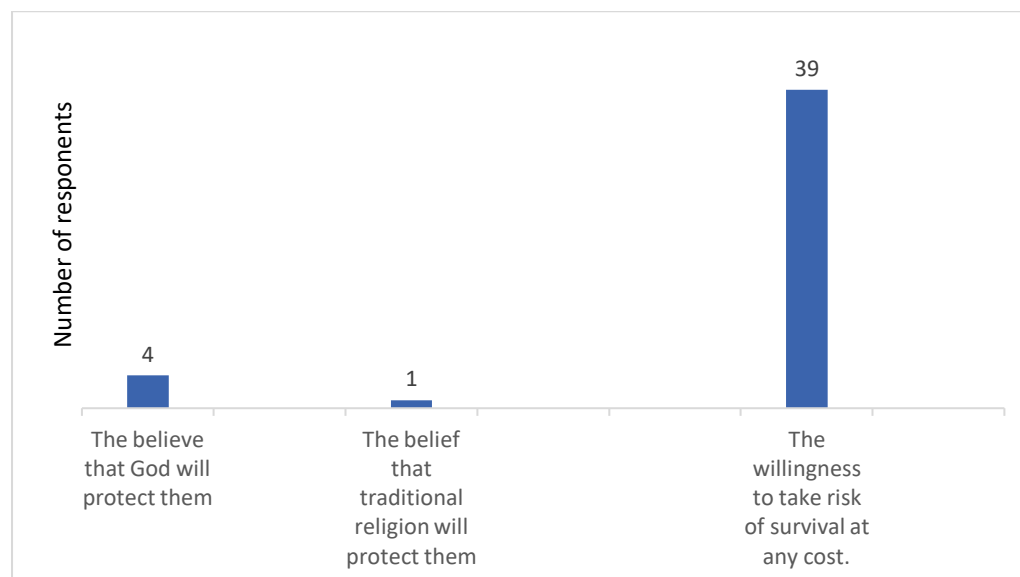
[...] I made this journey in 2015, crossing the desert and the sea was a very terrible experience, it is something I would not wish for my enemy, it is a journey of no return. For days I journeyed with no water and food. One of the nights we got to a well, and we noticed there was water, we all drank from it and wake up in the morning to discover that there was a dead body inside. Still, we fetched from it to continue the journey, because we had no choice. For female migrants whose money finished along the way, they had to pay with their body, some were also raped despite paying. When I got to Libya, I was arrested, and taken to prison by Libyan authorities, while I was there, many of the girls were sexually assaulted on daily basis, and if you are sick, they would give you abortion pills, because the assumption is that you might be pregnant. It was devastating because my family did not know where I am, or what I am going through. Also for some of the girls who ran out of money to continue the journey, you will be taken to a place called the "Connection House" where you become a sex worker, there, the men have sex with you without wearing a condom. Then the journey across the sea was another difficult experience, but at this point, I had made up mind if I die, so be it. We used a balloon or floater to cross the sea, while on the journey some of us died and were thrown into the sea, after some days, we were in the middle of nowhere when we got rescued by a ship. When we arrived Italy it was terrible there, then I escaped from there to France, my asylum was rejected there, again, I left France for The Netherland where I am now in the refugee camp seeking for asylum here. While I have been in Europe, to survive and get by every day, I have been exposed to the risk of meeting very dangerous people, and the police. I live each day watching my back. I have been in this refugee camp for two years, hoping that my asylum request will be granted someday, so I can live normal life [...] (Nigerian refugee in The Netherlands. II10. PATNLD).

4.5.4 Risk Attitude of Youths.

In connection to travelling abroad through these dangerous routes, the risk attitude of migrating youths plays a very serious role in their decision-making process to accept risking the journey. This is according to the result of 19 out of the 31 interview respondents in this study. They affirmed that compare to risk-averse individuals, youths who are more open to risk-taking will most likely embark on these dangerous journeys to Europe even if they are not certain about their chances of surviving crossing the desert and the sea.

Similarly, the online survey result supported the above view. As shown in the clustered column below, majority of the survey participants said they willing attitude to take the risk at any cost is an important factor that influences the decision making of youths to travel abroad through the desert and the sea.

Figure 13. Most influencing factor on the decision of youths to travel across the desert and the sea.



Source: fieldwork, 2020.

However, results from II with migrants that made this dangerous cross contrast with the findings of the above online survey. On willingness to take a risk for survival, one of the respondents said this:

[...] my journey was not about the willingness to take a risk because making the cross is like having a close conversation with death. My situation was very terrible, so I had to find a way to help myself. I was an auto mechanic, but the job did not provide enough income to take care of my needs. So, I met a friend who shared the information to travel to Libya. So, we set out for the journey from Agadez, Niger to Dirkou¹⁵, then to Sabha, Libya. It was a terrible experience for me, I saw a lot of death, I do not wish anybody to go through the journey. 150 of us were packed at the back of the truck with each of us carry about 150 litres of waters. Your survival is dependent on that water if your water finish no one will share with you. On the journey, some fell off and die and they were buried in the desert sand. If you are unlucky to be attacked by rebels and desert warriors, they will torture, rape, and kidnap people, so due to these dangers, the journey took me 3 weeks in the desert. Crossing the Mediterranean was between life and death. I saw a lot of dead bodies floating on the sea. The 12-meter size fishing boat was caring 51 of us on board. They gave us GPS and compass to guide our journey. I paid \$1,500 to board the boat. We struggled a lot with the wave, eventually, it changed our direction, we floated for days before a naval ship passing came to our rescue. But for the rescue, we would not have made it to cross the sea because the boat was already going down. Based on these horrible experiences I could not have signed up to take such risk. I will not even make

¹⁵ A transit town in the desert, Bilma Department, Agadez region.

the journey again should the situation arise again. Looking back, I do not think the opportunities in Europe worth the risk of the journey. I am now considering returning to Nigeria because the green pastures are not the way we thought; as an illegal migrant, you have no dignity [...]. (Irregular Migrant in Germany, KI6, YMEGBR).

4.5.5. Summarizing Sub Research Question 4.

Summarily, it was discovered that there were differing views on the risk implication of making this journey abroad through these routes. Firstly, most of the respondents think many youths that make this journey does not have an in-depth knowledge of the nature of risk involved in the journey. Hence the reason they accept the decision to risk their lives on the journey. While a few of the respondents believe that some of the youths who make the journey does have an idea of the dangers involved but still accept the decision to travel through these routes because of the desire to improve the desperate conditions of their family. However, differing from the above views, interview with migrants who made these journey revealed that if they had prior knowledge of the risks involved, they would have rejected the decision to embark on this deadly journey. Also, it was discovered that many of the migrants who survived this cross accepted to risk the journey in the belief that God will protect them in their travel across the desert and the sea to Europe. while other respondents who have not attempted the journey thinks a combination of the belief that God's protection, and the hope to improve the living conditions of families in the home country, beclouds their thorough assessment of the risks involved in this journey, hence, the decision to accept risking their lives on this dangerous journey. Lastly, the majority of the respondent from Nigeria and other nationalities believes that the risk attitude of the youth is crucial in the decision to accept risking one's life to reach Europe following these routes.

4.6. The notion of Peers and Family on the Decision to Embark on Illegal Migration Abroad.

To understand better how PHC responds to the decision youths to make these dangerous journeys. The researcher explored the role of internal influences such as family situation and peer pressure, external influences related to commitment and ties to the country of origin such as the age of the migrant, and marital status, then, social media and access to information.

4.6.1. Family Situation and Peer Pressure on the Decision of Youth to Accept or Reject Unsafe Migration Abroad.

Based on the findings, the desire to improve the economic conditions of families of youths making this dangerous journey has been indicated by all the 31 KI, and II respondents to be very central at the acceptance of youths to risk one's life migrating abroad through this illegal routes. According to the majority of the respondents, families that struggle to live above \$2 per member of the household would prefer to sell an asset or borrow money to fund the journey of a member of the household to make this trip in the hope that if the member is successful, the living condition of the family will be improved through the remittance that is sent back home. Similarly, 6 out of 31 respondents states that the number of persons in the household further influences the decision to support a member who decides to make this journey across the desert and the sea to relieve the economic burden of the family. According to one of the respondents:

[...] Most families with many children will easily decide to support a member who decides to embark on this journey. They contribute money and even sell lands or mortgage it for a loan to fund this journey. And when the person departs, they will keep praying that you live through the journey [...]. (Nigerian immigrant in Canada II6, MRACA).

On peer pressure, majority of the respondents said many of the youths are driven by what they see their fellow youths do. Also, the result showed that youths living in the same neighbourhood are more likely to accept the decision to make this journey if they know an associate from the same environment who travelled abroad through these routes and made it to support his family through remittance.

However, result from 9 out of 31 KII and II respondents disagreed with the above view that peer pressure will influence youth to accept the decision to make this journey. One of the respondents said this:

[...] in my view peer pressure don't necessarily play a role in this because it is money that they spent in making this journey. So, your friend will neither give you money nor take the risk for you. I have a Somalian irregular migrant here in the UK who told me their family had to come together to raise \$2000 for him to make the trip. So, this movement is more driven by the need to improve family economic condition [...], (Nigerian immigrant in the UK, II1, DKEUK).

4.6.2. Influence of Age, and Marital Status on the Decision to Accept or Reject the risk of making this Journey.

Based on the findings 22 out 31 respondents stated that if one is mentally and physically fit to fend for oneself, they can make this journey to Europe. According to one of the respondents:

[...] I think from age 18 youths are more audacious to make these journeys, and the idea is that they could still have the strength to withstand the challenges. But, also, if there is serious political instability, and insecurity then many persons would want to make the journey regardless of the age. So, the age is dependent on the situation pushing the migrant [...]. (Regular Migrant Resident in The Netherlands, KI11, DNLDNLD)

Contrastingly, more than two-thirds of the KII and II respondents' states that depending on the situation one's marital status can influence one's decision to reject the risk of making the journey to Europe through these routes. According to one of the respondents:

[..] In my view, mostly married men are likely to move in this situation, because the belief will be if I move, I will be able to provide a life for my family. The women are most likely going to consider the children before deciding to make the move. In many situations, single youths are more likely to make the journey than youths who are married. [...] (Ugandan Migrant in The Netherlands, II3, JACNLD).

4.6.3. Influence of Social Media on the Decision to Accept Risks Involved in embarking on these Journey. Findings show 26 out of 31 KII and II respondents noted that access to information is easier nowadays due to the internet and social media. Hence, many youths get this information on these illegal movements from covert travelling agencies with agents exploiting vulnerable communities. The result indicates that social media platforms have made it easier for youths to access information, thus, given the shallow knowledge of the risks involved in this trip, youths easily accept to take the chance.

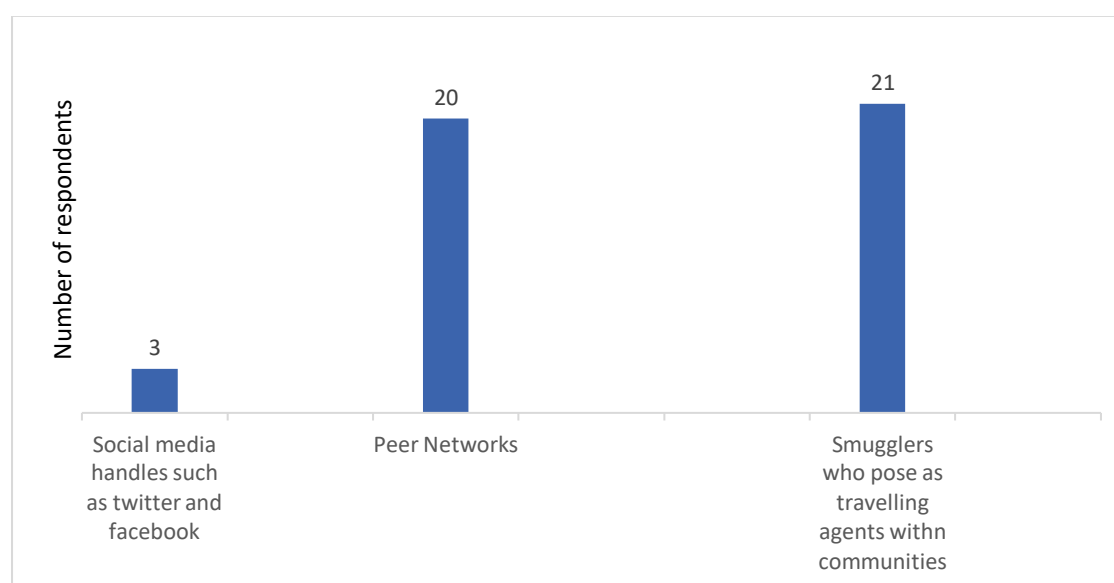
However, in a different view, result from 5 out of 31 respondents in this study indicates that some of these agencies involved in luring youths into making this unsafe journey lives within the same communities with these youths who make this journey. One of the respondents said this:

[..] I know people who arrange in this kind of movement, in local name, they are called "the journeyman". It is a big network. You don't just wake up to make the journey, so from what I

know, when you want to make the journey, you go to the journeyman, they plan the trip, they know all the transit routes and have their networks there. It takes months of planning before you make the journey. Usually, they make the trip during the summer period, when the sea is calm and less turbulent. Precisely between May and September. [...] (Nigerian Migrant in The United States, I18, SIUUSA).

Similarly, the cluster column below shows the result of the online survey on how youths in PHC access information related to making this journey. Also, it supports the above view on how youths get information related to making these dangerous trips through the desert and the sea.

Figure 14. Access to information related to illegal migration through the desert and the sea.



Source: fieldwork, 2020.

4.6.4. Summarizing Sub Research Question 5.

It was discovered all respondents agreed that the desire to improve the living conditions of families in the country of origin underlines the willingness to accept the risks involvement of crossing the desert and the sea to Europe. Also, it was discovered that one's age can result in the rejection of the risk associated with making this dangerous cross. However, if one is physically fit, there is a high possibility of accepting the decision to risk one's life to make this dreadful cross. Similarly, depending on the situation, one's marital status could hinder one's acceptance of the decision to risk it all crossing the desert and the sea. Mostly women were identified to consider their children before deciding to either accept or reject risking the unsafe journey along the desert and the sea. Lastly, there were different views related to accessing information to make this journey. Majority of the respondents believe smugglers who pose as travel agents within PHC and peer networks offers the quickest access to information related to these movements. While a few others think social media provides more access to information on making these journeys.

CHAPTER FIVE. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS.

5.0. Introduction of Discussion Section.

The section analyses the findings highlighted in the previous chapter in comparison with existing works of literature to help in drawing the necessary conclusions and recommendations that will result in achieving the research objectives. Therefore, this section analyses the views of male and female youths on a decent job around PHC, difficulty in accessing decent work or start a small-scale business, opportunities for decent for irregular migrant abroad, risk implication of illegal migration abroad through the desert and the sea, the influence of family situation and peer pressure. This chapter concludes with a reflection report on the role of the researcher.

5.1. Views of Male and Female Youths on Decent Job Around PHC.

Findings from the study revealed that the majority of the male and female youths perceive decent jobs to be works that do not strip them of their dignity and offers stable income to meet their daily essential needs. Works in the oil industry, banks, shopping malls and owning a functional small-scale business are examples of jobs considered to be decent jobs. These views were supported by ILO (2020) description of decent earlier stated in this work. Thus, decent work has been defined by the ILO and endorsed by the international community as being productive work for women and men in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity. However, further findings revealed that these kinds of decent work are not readily available in the community due to unconducive environment for industries to thrive, unfavourable government policies for job creation, growing youth population and insecurity situation in the community. Hence, as indicated by the finding's, the majority of the youths in PHC are currently without decent employment that can provide them direct income source to meet their daily essential needs. The National Bureau for Statistics (2020) report on decent employment in Nigeria corroborates with above view on the lack of decent work for youths in PHC. the NBS¹⁶ report highlights, 34.9% of youths in Nigeria are currently without jobs, as a result, majority of the youths in Nigeria are currently facing severe unemployment situation, which has now led to the rising incidents of illegal migration of PHC youths abroad through the desert and the sea as an alternative livelihood strategy to look for decent employment. Furthermore, the study revealed the unemployment rate among female youths is higher compare to their male counterparts. These findings are supported by the works of Akande (2014) earlier reviewed in this study. Akande notes, that the high population of Nigeria has resulted in a state of unemployment, especially for the youths; as the male and female youth population grows so does the unemployment. In terms of gender, many unemployed youths are female.

5.2. Accessing Decent Work or Start Small-Scale Business In PHC.

A decent job that ensures stable income, job security and offer socio protection for employees' family and a relative were beyond the reach of average youths in PHC. findings in the study revealed that access to decent jobs are easier for youths with wealthy family backgrounds, hence, without strong socio connection to elite members in the community one will hardly get a decent job. This lack of connections to upper echelon makes the majority of average youths in PHC feel they are treated like precariat without right and privileges which other members of the society enjoy. This feeling is highlighted in the work of Imhonopi and Urim, 2015b, cited in Imhonopi et al (2017), according to Imhonopi and Urim, the precariat is a class with members who consist of the disabled, homeless, ethnic minority and millions of impoverished youths belonging to the lower class families including frustrated educated

¹⁶ National Bureau for Statistics

who do not like existing socio-economic conditions before them. Also, further findings revealed that youths in PHC community find it very difficult to access loan from commercial and micro financed banks to invest in small-scale business due to high-interest rate of 12% per annum, as well as collateral conditions to mortgage the loan. Also, the high cost of taxation constitutes an unconducive environment for business start-ups to thrive in PHC. More findings revealed banks apply these tough conditions to ensure the loan is recovered at the agreed time. However, by way of reflexivity, it also suggests that banks in PHC consider giving a loan to small scale business start-up a risk not worth taking. According to a leading online business column in Nigeria, Research cyber (2018), a great number of potential Small and medium enterprises (SME) are constrained due to the inability to access credit. Poor financing of SMEs is not so much the sources of funds but its accessibility. Factors that inhibit access to funds are the stringent conditions set by financial institutions, lack of adequate collateral, and cost of accessing funds. Unfortunately, banks consider small and medium scale entrepreneurs as high-risk customers and seldom give them a loan. Also, by way of reflexivity, as established earlier in this study the growing population of the PHC, supported by its metropolitan nature means that male and female youths will have access to markets for goods and services if they can get the needed start-up capital to fund small-scale business.

5.3. Views on Opportunities for Decent Jobs for Irregular Migrants Abroad.

The imagination of a better life outside Nigeria becomes the prism through which male and female youths in PHC see the world due to the rising unemployment in Nigeria. The findings revealed most of the youth's perception on the availability of better working opportunities abroad are informed by what they see in the newspaper, television, magazines, western films, and other social media platforms. The work of Etika, Agba, and Opusunju, (2018) earlier reviewed in this study argued in favour of the above findings, according to Etika, Agba, and Opusunju, public perception of economic freedom in Europe has increased the quest for migration to countries such as Spain, Italy. many Nigerian youths embark on the journey of no return through these unsafe routes, but little did they know, some will not get to their destination. This mirage resulted in unemployment and perceptions of stable job opportunities may have been the push-pull factors that motivate youths in PHC to accept without hesitation to risk it all trying to move abroad. Further discovery revealed that although many youths have not been abroad, the accounts of more opportunities to work in a flashy environment by those who are living abroad gives them the belief that there are more chances to work and live abroad. It was also revealed that the widening gap between Nigeria's naira¹⁷ and other foreign currencies such as Euro, and Dollars contributes to this perception that working abroad is better compared to working in PHC. However, Adeyanju (2017), argued that many of this perception is borne out of poverty and the rising socio-economic marginalization facing average youths in Nigeria. According to Adeyanju, the political and socio-economic system in Nigeria offers the youths very little or no hope. Hence, these young Nigerians believe that it is difficult for them to realize their aspirations for a good life or a decent standard of living in Nigeria. A Nigerian diplomat¹⁸ in the Netherlands corroborated with the above author, according to him, these perceptions about opportunities abroad imagined out of frustration and a hostile environment. Nigeria does not currently provide the basic essentialities for life such as the enabling environment for tax-free small-scale business start-ups, stable employment, social welfare programs,

¹⁷ Nigeria's currency

¹⁸ Diplomat, K10, AMB-ON,

standard living wages, etc, that can incentivize the youths to think differently about illegal migration abroad.

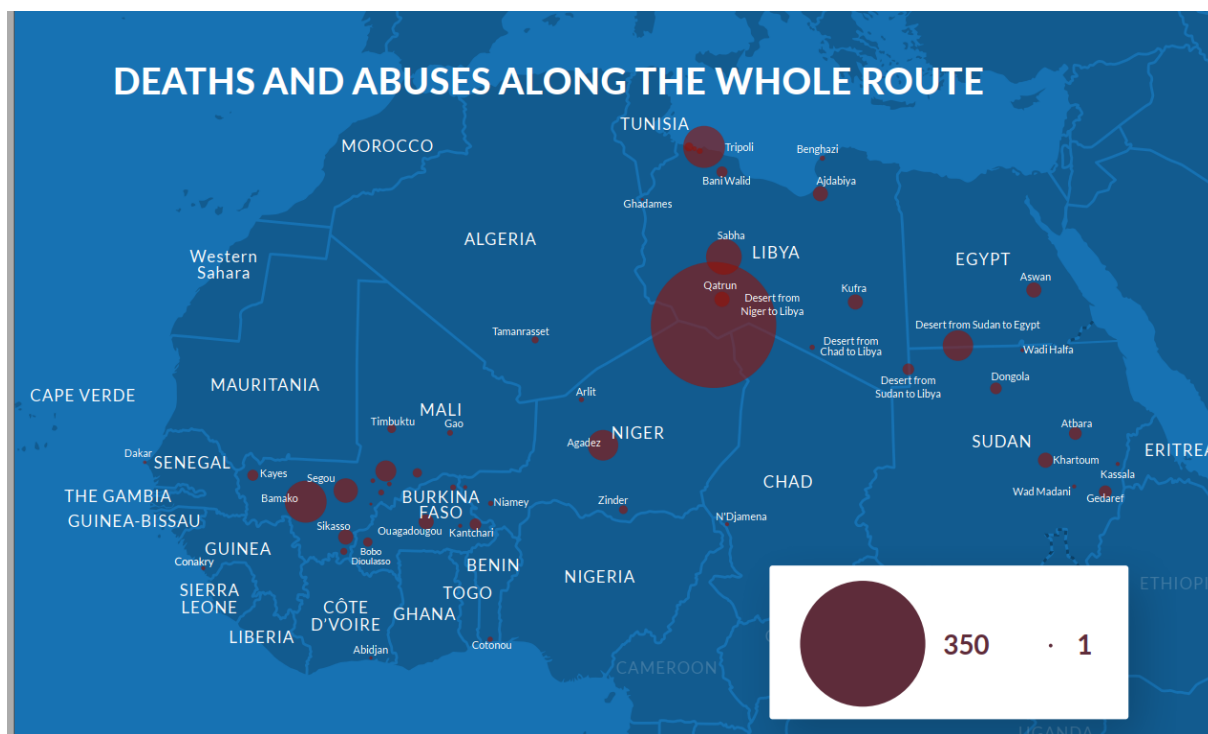
Similarly, further findings revealed the transnational flow of money through remittance from migrants abroad has contributed immensely towards the improvement of the living conditions of many migrant's families and their communities in countries of origin. This was noted as another major influencer on these movements along these dangerous routes. However, the study revealed that many of the illegal movement of youths abroad takes the form of labour migration, which is also important to sustain the flow of remittance. Supporting the above findings on how to address illegal migration, labour mobility, and poverty reduction, The House of Commons International Development Committee's report on Migration and Development 2004, cited in Vertovec (2007), argued that the UK Government should explore the potential development benefits which might be gained from more circular migration, and alongside its developing country partners should examine different ways in which such circular migration might be encouraged. The Committee's advice also goes beyond the government to other agencies by suggesting that circular migration schemes could act as an incentive for sending countries to assume more responsibility for countering illegal migration.

5.4. Knowledge of Youths on the Risk Implication of Illegal Migration to Europe Through the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea.

Findings from the study revealed that many youths who make this journey do not have full knowledge of the risk involved along the travelling routes, as well as uncertain about realities of living abroad. Support this view, in respect to shallow know of the risk and uncertainty living abroad, William and Balaz (2012) showed that irregular migrants always rarely have full knowledge about the current living conditions in the destination countries. Hence their movement is often associated with uncertainties, also, their perception of risk is formed based on partial knowledge of the destination country. Also, the agents and friends who lure youths into making this journey of no return do not also inform them of the risk involved in the journey. Findings based on the account of the survivals of this journey revealed many migrants only realize the level of danger they are exposed to halfway in the desert, and there were many deaths along the journey route. On the nature of the danger, migrants are exposed to, the report of UNHCR (2020) corroborates with the above findings, it notes; this risks along the different sections (West African section, East and Horn of African section, and the North African section) of the Sahara Desert route are multiple. Many deaths are known to occur along the routes.

The figure below indicates death and abuse recorded along the Sahara Desert route of the journey. As can be seen, the West and North African section of the route recorded reports of the highest number of deaths and abuses through kidnapping experienced, physical violence experienced, SGBV witnessed or experienced, death witnessed. The legend 350 represents the area of the desert with the highest number of deaths recorded, while 1 represents the least number of death recorded.

Figure 11. Death and abuse recorded along the Sahara Desert route of the journey.



Source: UNCHR, 2020 Report¹⁹.

As can be seen in the above figure, the desert route between Nigeria to Libya has recorded more deaths than any other part of the desert, this highlights the grave danger male and female youths from PHC are exposed to while attempting to cross the Sahara Desert en route Europe. Deaths occur in a variety of contexts with many people reported having died in recent years while crossing the desert and the sea. The UNHCR report further noted that between 2018 and 2019, 1,830 deaths were reported at the sea after departing from Libya, as at June 2020, 136 people were reported to have died during the sea journey from Libya to Italy. This desperation to leave Africa en route Europe by road even in the time of coronavirus pandemic when many European borders are still lockdown highlights the desperation of youths to move abroad by any means available, and therefore, the relevance of this study towards addressing this surge. Similarly, more findings in this study revealed that the hope for a better life and they believe that God will protect them when making the dangerous cross through the desert and the Mediterranean to Europe in many circumstances beclouds the migrant's perception of the risk involved in the journey. Hence, some of the youths that make this journey believe it is by God's will that people die, therefore, if there is a chance, they would survive the dangerous cross, then the hope of succeeding in destination countries will motivate them to look beyond the risks involved in making the journey.

¹⁹ <http://www.mixedmigration.org/resource/on-this-journey-no-one-cares-if-you-live-or-die/>

The perception of God's protection is corroborated by the work of Minaye and Zeleke 2015 cited in Dinbabo and Nyasula (2017). Minaye and Zeleke argued, if the attitude and spiritual belief of migrating youths are such that God has predetermined their fate, they may not border about the risky or safety implication of the decision they make concerning unsafe migration. This, therefore, implies to understand the decision of migrants in accepting the risks involved in making this dangerous journey, it is crucial to comprehend the attitude that informs their choices and decision making. From the findings of this study, it has been established that many migrants embark on this journey believing that God will protect them through the dangers involved in crossing the desert and the sea. Similarly, further finding in the study indicated that youths who have a more willing attitude to risk-taking are most likely to make this journey compare to risk-averse youths. These findings align with the work of Jaeger et al (2010). Jaeger et al argued that an individual's attitude towards risk perception has a direct effect on their tendency to engage in migration. Thus, the relationship between movement across borders and risk attitude is determined by the individual involved. This implies, that individuals who have a more audacious and adventurous attitude to life will easily accept the decision to risk the journey of travelling through the desert and the sea in the hope of improving one's situation and family conditions. On the reverse, a risk-averse youth will reject the decision to make this journey even if it represents such an individual's only means of survival.

Furthermore, concerning exposure to danger along the desert transit routes and abroad, findings revealed the majority of female youths who embark on illegal migration are trafficked for sexual exploitation, and often these female migrants come out of these routes mentally deranged and psychologically broken due to several sexual assault and exploitation they have experienced during this journey. These findings, agrees with the work of McQuaid (2020), according to McQuaid, when trafficked for sexual exploitation, women are subjected to extraordinary physical, sexual and psychological violence which puts them acutely at risk of developing not just short-term physical ailments but also lasting mental illness that can profoundly alter their ability to navigate effectively in the social world. Survivors may be dealing with HIV infections, experience gynaecological issues, succumb to substance and alcohol abuse and suffer the prolonged effects of physical injury. The impacts on their mental health include anxiety, depression, self-harm and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The report also notes some of these migrating female youths are forced to take vows in what is known in Nigerian parlance as "juju oaths"²⁰ to strengthen ties between them, their traffickers, their family, and the spirit world. The implication is that they may never be able to regain immediate freedom to provide the needed support towards improving their family economic condition which was the initial motivation for them to embark on this deadly journey. In support of the above report, findings from the account of female youth in this study who made this journey from southern Nigeria revealed, even after surviving the horrors of crossing the desert and the sea to enter Europe, she is currently exposed to very dangerous people here in Europe who wants her to do some dangerous things due to some agreement that ties her to them. Hence, she lives each day watching her back with no one to trust. This account further resonates with work of William and Baláz (2012) who argued that migration is beyond the travelling routes, thus, by exploring deeper the different exposure to risk and uncertainty that engulf the life of migrants, one will discover that irregular migrants movement are often associated with the possibility of exposure to a different degree of dangers involved from the beginning of the journey, along the travelling routes,

²⁰ A traditional religious practice in Nigeria that ties victims to long-term debt bondage, this is often performed in sex trafficking female youths abroad. The juju oath taking forces victims to remain under the control of the traffickers for years.

the destination country, and the life abroad. Thus, illegal migration is understood to bring about risks such as being exploited by smugglers, for the benefit of the traffickers' network. These multiples dangers summarily highlight the risks illegal migrants face in destination countries should they survive the death cross in the Sahara and the Mediterranean Sea.

5.5. The notion of Peers and Family on the Decision to Embark on Illegal Migration Abroad.

On the decision to search for better opportunities to improve the economic situation of oneself and family, the human spirit is unstoppable when economic survival is the motivation for one's actions. Findings in this study revealed, at the core of the decision to make this risky journey across the desert and the sea is the desire to improve migrant's family economic situation. This agreeably compares with the work of Dinbabo and Nyasula (2017) who notes that at the root of the decision of youths to migrate abroad lies the passion to improve the living conditions of oneself and that of the family. As a result, many families in PHC often support the decision of a member to embark of this journey which they highly consider a necessary sacrifice to liberate one's family from the shackles of deprivation and poverty. Findings revealed, in many situations' families have had to come together to either contribute money, take loans, or sell an asset in other to fund a member's decision to make the journey abroad. This is done in the hope and believes that when the person succeeds, the economic condition of the migrant's family will improve through remittance from destination country to the migrant's family in countries of origin. Furthermore, as established in this study, the flow of remittance from migrants abroad to countries of origin have contributed immensely towards improving the economic situation in migrant's home countries. On peer pressure, findings revealed that many youths in PHC are influenced into making this journey when they see the remittance contributions of their peers within the same neighbourhood who made a similar journey through these unsafe routes abroad. This agrees with Klabunde and Willekens (2016) who argued that individuals are likely to make a journey if they expect a better living condition elsewhere, although the attractiveness of such destination is dependent on the available social network within the potential migrant's reach, as social networks support the movement of a potential migrant. Further findings revealed that anyone at any age can make the journey if one is mentally and physically stable to make the trip. However, many youths embark on this journey from age 18 and above due to the audacious nature of their youthfulness. In relation to the marital status of migrants, findings revealed that male youths are more likely to make this journey than their female counterparts. Also, the decision of some married women will most likely be influenced by the need to care for the children's welfare. These findings are in agreement with the work of De Jong (2010) earlier cited in this study. De Jong showed in a research conducted in Thailand that different gender roles in the family related to providing household needs, and expectations from an individual is another crucial determinant on one's decision to migrate abroad. However, this factor in the decision to migrate can change in times of war, insurgency, or civil or political unrest as indicated by the findings of this study.

On access to information, contrary to the view of Phillips et al (2016) who argued that the rise in the use of online communication media such as Twitter and Facebook has improved the way migrants share delicate information on safe routes related to making this journey across the desert and the sea; findings in this study revealed that activities of covert agents who live within the same community with these youths provide easier access to information related to making illegal migration abroad through this routes. Peer networks also contribute significantly, in sharing information related to this movement. Further findings revealed this journey are made during the summer period when the sea is calmer and less turbulent.

5.6. Response to Main Research Question.

In responding to the main research question this study: what are the economic and risk perceptions related to the livelihood of youths about the Port Harcourt community and Europe that drives the decision making of male and female youths to embark on illegal migration through the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea?

Findings from this study revealed the hostile living conditions resulting from difficulty in accessing decent work in PHC, as well as accessing needed capital and the enabling environment to start a small-scale business has combined to influence male and female youths in PHC into thinking PHC is no longer habitable and as such, they would be unable to get stable income source that can help them to meet their daily essential needs and support their families. This hopelessness of surviving the realities of life in PHC has now accelerated the thinking that migrating abroad in search of a greener life may just become the solution to their current predicament. Hence, the energized motivation of male and female youths to look for every available means, while being prepared to accept whatever risk necessary to realize a better life. Although there is severe risk involved in travelling along these unsafe routes, the difficult economic situation, the perception of hope of better life abroad which is inspired by what they see and read in the movies and social media, and then validated by remittance from their peers abroad into families in PHC becloud their thorough assessment of the risks involved in making this dreadful journey. Also, many of the youths believe God's protection will guide them to overcome the dangers involved in the journey. Overall, findings from the various RSQs effectively helped to provide deeper responses in bringing clarity to the main research question.

5.7. Reflection on My Role as a Researcher.

This section looks at my role as a researcher during this thesis on " Exploring Illegal Migration of Youths Abroad Through the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea: A case of Port Harcourt Community South-South, Nigeria". Also, it reflects and elaborates my experiences related to the research process, mythology, and quality of research findings.

My choice of this research topic was informed by my experience on the growing involvements of youths in PHC in illegal movement abroad through these dangerous routes. Hence, I was motivated to carry out this research to further highlight the rising occurrence of these unsafe journeys, with the hope of providing recommendations that will enable the Commissioner to address the challenges. Researching on this topical issue has further increased my knowledge and awareness on the development of the humanitarian sector related to the focus of this research.

5.7.1 Research Process and Methodology.

During the research proposal stage, I designed a methodology for this study, in this, I adopted the qualitative research strategy. Given the sensitivity of the research, the data collection phase involved respondents from abroad and in PHC, also included were FGD and online data collection survey. All these data collections sources helped enhance my ability to collect in-depth data for this study. The deep probing and triangulation of the data resulted in the quality of the research. However, despite measures taken to ensure the quality of the research findings, I acknowledge certain limitations which could impact on the validity of the findings; not being able to speak to the more female irregular migrants who made the journey through these unsafe routes, as well as, lack of representation of the views of parents in PHC on supporting a family member who decides to travel abroad through this dangerous routes could have an impact on the validity of the findings.

Nevertheless, exploring the issue involved in this study with respondents was very challenging, and required skilled and patient probing that can uncover the real experiences irregular migrants encountered while making these dangerous cross. Hence, given the sensitive nature of this research, more time was needed to build more trust and bond with respondents that are directly involved in this movement to enable the researcher extract relevant data related to the risks and dangers migrants are exposed to in the desert and living in Europe as undocumented migrants. For example, it took me 3 days to conclude an interview with one of the irregular migrant respondents in the Netherlands who survived the dangerous cross.

Similarly, the feeling some of the irregular migrants have about people's perception of their status and identity also meant that the research was more sensitive for them to freely participate in the interviews. Although the fieldwork was conducted in the Netherlands, with online means of data collection due to the coronavirus pandemic, however, I do not think there would have been any different with respondent's willingness to participate in the research if there was no coronavirus pandemic situation; because for survivors of these dangerous cross along the desert and the sea, the experience encountered during the journey was very traumatic, thus, regardless of the realities of the coronavirus pandemic, the essential thing needed to encourage them to open up was more time to build trust and establish a certain level of connection with them.

Reflecting on my interviews with KII and II respondents who did not make this dreaded journey, I realized that, although many of the respondents acknowledged the journey across these routes were very risky and dangerous yet, the respondents were very careful not to sound inhuman, and insensitive to the horrible abuse and torture migrants experience crossing these unsafe routes.

5.7.2. Quality of Research Findings.

Reflecting on the thesis trajectory and the quality of research, I would say, the data collection was the most challenging part of the research, however, the process and challenges have been a period of action-learning phase for me, and it has offered me that rare opportunity to enrich my experience and acknowledge on future research and professional endeavour.

On the result presentation and given the traumatic and emotional nature of the data collected during the fieldwork, as much as possible, I tried not to allow my perspectives, thoughts, values, and biases influence the presentation of the results. Although, subjectivity and social experiences may have guided my preferences in the choice of the research topic, to ensure a reasonable degree of objectivity during the data interpretation, and reporting of the findings, I made sure to not use prejudiced languages. Similarly, I ensured professionalism, by not exaggerating the findings, and reports presented reflected the words and stories of the respondents.

To constructively evaluate my first experience in applied research, and my role as a researcher, I could have explored the possibility of connecting with more female migrants by perhaps spending more time out with them. That way, I would establish a friendship that will build the trust and bond needed for them to freely share their experiences.

In conclusion, as a researcher, I realized that one has to be very patient, with securing an appointment, composed and skilful in managing the interview sessions with respondents, because some of the KII and II respondents in this study were too busy with other activities while responding to interview ques-

tions. This resulted in the rescheduling of the interview on several occasion. Similarly, some respondents answered beyond the scope of the question. While others, often responded outside the scope of the question. This repeatedly made me probe differently in other to seek out the answer I hoped for. Lastly, many of the interview requests took between 3-4 days for respondents to confirm the appointment. Hence, I must be aware of these respondents' behaviours in future research and professional endeavours.

CHAPTER SIX CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

6.0. Introduction.

This chapter summarizes the research findings and their correlation to the objectives of the study. The conclusion is in responses to the research questions while the presentations are presented in line with the research objectives.

6.1. Conclusion.

This study set out to investigate the economic and risk perceptions related to the livelihood of youths in PHC and Europe that motivates their decision to make the dangerous journey through the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea to Europe. To understand these perceptions, five sub-questions were proposed to make recommendations to DYF-23 on effective programmes to build the resilience of youths against the illegal migration through these dangerous routes.

Main findings of the study revealed:

- Majority of youths in PHC are struggling to find a decent job that can enable them to meet their daily personal needs and provide support for their families. Also, the possibility of getting decent work by the majority of the youths is further hindered due to lack of the needed social network and connection with the elite members of the PHC; this has now resulted to endemic nepotism in accessing available decent jobs.
- Male and female youths in PHC finds it difficult to set up a small-scale business because they do not have the required capital to set up businesses. Similarly, the rigid conditions attached to the loan; such as presenting collateral and highly placed guarantors before accessing credit and loans from banks makes it very challenging for them to access financial support to fund business start-ups.
- Nigerian society does not place value on skills that are not professionally certified by a degree-awarding institution hence, hence technically skilled youths find it very difficult to access grants to set up a small-scale business is in PHC and Nigeria at large.
- Lack of inclusion of technically skilled youths in regular high skilled migrants visa waiver of different countries because they don't have certificate degree is another major influencer of illegal migration among many youths.
- Perception of youths in PHC about opportunities for decent work abroad is informed by what they see in western movies and read in the news media. However, this perception is largely influenced by the rising unemployment among the youth population in PHC. Similarly, the steady depreciation of naira to foreign currencies such as euro, dollar, etc., contributes to their perception about glowing opportunities abroad. In the same vein, the flow of remittances from migrants abroad to families in PHC have been a strong influence on how youths in the same neighbourhood perceive opportunities to succeed abroad.
- Majority of youths who make the journey across the desert and the sea do not have an informed knowledge of the risk involved in these dangerous routes. Thus, the willing attitude of youths to make an audacious journey in the hope of getting a better life abroad beclouds migrant's perception of the risks involved along the illegal routes to Europe. Also, many female youths who are lured into making this journey, are trafficked for sexual exploitation and forced into oath-taking that ties them to the traffickers, with life-threatening consequences should they attempt to opt-out.
- The desire to improve family economic condition motivates the willingness of many families in PHC to support the decision of a member to make this journey. Also, depending on the situation the marital status and age of someone may influence one to either accept or reject the decision to make this dreaded journey.

- Covert travelling agents live in the same community where youths are lured into making these journeys. Also, information about this journey can be accessed through the social media platform. In addition, the summer period is the ideal season to make this journey because the sea is less turbulent during this period.

Based on the above findings from the study, the researcher concludes that addressing illegal migration of PHC youths abroad through the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea demands the designing of series of intervention programmes geared towards building the capabilities of youths for self-reliance and improving awareness campaign against this illegal migration trend in PHC.

6.2. Recommendations to Dumu-Lulu Briggs Youth Foundation²³ (DYF23).

Based on the key findings and conclusion above, a series of recommendation are provided to address and reduce illegal migration of PHC youths abroad. The first recommendation will be implemented in the short-term between six months to one year to provide immediate relief and requires DYF23 to partner with relevant stakeholders in PHC implement it. while the second recommendation will provide a long-term solution and requires a multi-stakeholder partnership involving; the DYF23 other partner organizations.

6.2.1. Short-Medium Term Interventions.

Given the main findings of the research, it is, therefore, recommend that:

- DYF-23 design a programme that will equip male and female youths with key entrepreneurial skills and support them with start-up funds to launch the business.
- DYF-23 in partnership with ²¹PHALGA Council facilitates a process that will create a tax-free system for youths starting up a small-scale business.
- DYF-23 partner with credit institutions, and international development organizations to support male and female youths access credits and grants to start-up small-scale business in PHC
- DYF-23 partner with PHALGA and ²²NOA to ensure effective routine neighbourhood awareness campaign to educate, enlighten, and sensitize on the dangers involved in illegal migration of youths abroad through these unsafe routes.
- DYF partner with IOM to ensure returned migrants are encouraged and supported to come out and share the real story on the risks involved in crossing the desert and Mediterranean.
- DYF-23 partner with relevant security agencies to design a framework that will improve the agencies effort to burst traffickers' network within and outside the PHC.

6.2.2. Longer-Term Interventions Through Multi-Stakeholder Partnership (MSP).

In relation to irregular migration when it rains in Africa, it thunders in Europe, hence there is the need for collaborative support, shared responsibility and partnership to reduce this dangerous movement along this route. MSP is crucially important in promoting cooperation with existing agencies and international organizations. This will create the platform for stakeholders in migration, development, and humanitarian sector to have routine productive interaction aimed towards reducing these irregular movements along these unsafe routes.

Findings in the study revealed there is growing discomfort among Nigerian youths due to the rising unemployment situation among the youth population in the country, hence the decision to leave the country irregularly through these

²¹ Port Harcourt Local Government Council Area

²² National Orientation Agency

dangerous routes. Hence, despite the effort of EU through funding border externalization projects in Niger and Libya, migrants from the Western route of Sahara Desert route still finds a way to manoeuvre the border checks to make their way into the desert and the sea to fortress Europe. Against this backdrop, the long-term solution, it is recommended that:

- DYF-23 facilitate a roundtable MSP on the constructive review of the Joint Valletta Action Plan (JVAP) on strengthening the fight against irregular migration and stepping up current effort to stop trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants.
- DYF-23 facilitate global MSP involving relevant stakeholder in Nigeria, the international community geared towards developing a mechanism that promotes circular labour migration for not just highly skilled migrants but also for unskilled youth's migrants.
- DYF-23 partner with relevant international bodies to design an ecopreneur²³ project to train youths in Nigeria greenhouse farming and plastic recycling business. This will help create more jobs, and a stable income source that will build the resilient capabilities of youths against illegal migration,

These short-medium and longer-term recommendations will help sustain the effort to reduce illegal migration in Port Harcourt Community, and Nigeria in general.

Also, based on the outcome of this study, it recommended that further research be commissioned on global circular migration: understanding the perception of low skilled irregular migrants. Findings in this research will help to further understand the concept of highly skilled migrants outside the context degree certificate, it will further help policymakers to design inclusive policies that will address issues related to circular labour migration, thus, reducing illegal migration and trafficking of youths for forced labour through the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea.

²³ A term to represent the process and principle of entrepreneurship being applied to create sustainability and businesses that solve an environmental problem.

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Appendix I: Topic Checklist for Key Informant Interview (KII)

Master Management of Development (Specialisation: Disaster Risk Management) Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences

Key Informant Interview with Government Official, Youth Leaders, and Banker in Port Harcourt Community, Migration Policymaker Abroad, Diplomat Abroad, Nigerian Community Leader Abroad, and Irregular Migrants in Libya, Germany and Belgium.

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am a masters' student in Management of Development, with Specialisation in Disaster Risk Management at Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands. I am researching a project titled: "Exploring Illegal Migration of Youths Abroad Through the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea: A Case of Port Harcourt Community South-South, Nigeria". Your participation will contribute immensely towards the success of this research, and by accepting this interview you help the researcher to conduct a study in this time of coronavirus pandemic hence, you are free to express your views on the preceding questions. Rest assured of anonymity your identity, and all responses received will be treated in absolute confidentiality and will be administered solely for this research. Thank you for your willingness to participate in the research.

Yours faithfully,

Joseph Inyama

Instruction: To help in analyses of this research, I will be recording our conversation, please feel free to express your views on the following issues, and kindly let me know should you wish to stop responding to the interview.

Probe as follows on SQ1: What do male and female youths consider as decent work around the Port Harcourt community?

Current situation of youths and access to decent job opportunities

Views on illegal migration of youths abroad.

Availability of decent jobs for youths in Port Harcourt Community.

Views on opportunities for youths to work abroad.

Areas in PHC where youths are prone to engage in this illegal movement abroad

Probe as follows on SQ2: Why is it difficult for male and female youths to find decent work, or start small scale businesses in the Port Harcourt community?

Challenges to starting up a small-scale business.

Process of accessing credit facilities and loan from banks.

Category of youths covered by loan scheme.

Challenges to availability of decent jobs for youths

Probe as follows on SQ3: What do male and female youths think about the opportunities for decent jobs for irregular migrants abroad?

Availability of decent work for irregular migrants abroad.

Challenges related to working abroad as irregular migrants

Frequency of sending remittance to the home country by irregular migrants.

Probe as follows on SQ4: What is the knowledge of male and female youths on the risk implications of illegal migration to Europe through the Desert and the Sea?

Views on the dangers involved in crossing the desert and the sea.

Experience of crossing the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea.

Views on the influence of religion and believe in predestination in making these unsafe journeys.

Views of risks irregular migrants are exposed to living without documents abroad

Probe as follows on SQ5: What is the notion of peers and families on the decision of illegal migration of a member abroad through the Desert and the Sea?

Views on the influence of family members and Peer on the decision-making of youths in PHC.

Views on the influence of Age, and Marital Status

View on access to information related to travelling abroad through these dangerous routes

Appendix II. Topic Checklist for Semi-Structured Individual Interview (II)

Master Management of Development (Specialisation: Disaster Risk Management) Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences.

Individual Interview with male and female respondents in Port Harcourt Community, and respondents, living abroad.

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am a masters' student in Management of Development, with Specialisation in Disaster Risk Management at Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands. I am researching a project titled: "Exploring Illegal Migration of Youths Abroad Through the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea: A Case of Port Harcourt Community South-South, Nigeria". Your participation will contribute immensely towards the success of this research, and by accepting this interview you help the researcher to conduct a study in this time of coronavirus pandemic hence, you are free to express your views on the preceding questions. Rest assured of anonymity your identity, and all responses received will be treated in absolute confidentiality and will be administered solely for this research. Thank you for your willingness to participate in the research.

Yours faithfully,

Joseph Inyama

Instruction: To help in analyses of this research, I will be recording our conversation, please feel free to express your views on the following issues, and kindly let me know should you wish to stop responding to the interview.

Probe as follows on SQ1: What do male and female youths consider as decent work around the Port Harcourt community?

Current situation of youths in PHC in terms of unemployment

Knowledge of illegal migration abroad.

The main reason for embarking on this illegal journey through these risky routes.

Perception of decent jobs for youths in Port Harcourt Community.

Availability of perceived decent jobs for youths in Port Harcourt Community.

Creating decent jobs in the PHC community.

Probe as follows on SQ2: Why is it difficult for male and female youths to find decent work, or start small scale businesses in the Port Harcourt community?

Challenges to starting up a small-scale business.

Cost of setting up a small-scale business in PHC.

Accessing credit facilities and loan from banks.

Challenges to availability of decent jobs for youths

Probe as follows on SQ3: What do male and female youths think about the opportunities for decent jobs for irregular migrants abroad?

Views on the opportunity to work and earn more money abroad.

Comparison of working abroad versus working in PHC

Influence of remittance from abroad on your views about making more money working abroad.

Knowledge about challenges related to working abroad as irregular migrants

Probe as follows on SQ4: What is the knowledge of male and female youths on the risk implications of illegal migration to Europe through the Desert and the Sea?

Knowledge of the risks involved in travelling through the desert and the sea

Experience of crossing the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea.

The decision to stay in PHC versus making the risky journey across the desert and the Mediterranean Sea.

Hope for a better life versus abroad versus the willingness to take risks to survive.

Believe in God's protection and predestination in risking the journey.

Knowledge of exposure to dangers abroad as irregular abroad.

Probe as follows on SQ5: What is the notion of peers and families on the decision of illegal migration of a member abroad through the Desert and the Sea?

Influence of peer pressure on the decision-making of youths to make the journey.

Influence of family situation on the decision-making of youths to make the journey.

influence of Age, and Marital Status on the decision-making of youths to make the journey.

Accessing information to embark on these dangerous journeys.

Appendix III: Topic Checklist for Focus Group Discussion (FGD)

Master Management of Development (Specialisation: Disaster Risk Management) Van Hall Larestein University of Applied Sciences.

FGD with male and female participants respectively from Okwuru Village and Diobu Village in PHC

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am a masters' student in Management of Development, with Specialisation in Disaster Risk Management at Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands. I am researching a project titled: "Exploring Illegal Migration of Youths Abroad Through the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea: A Case of Port Harcourt Community South-South, Nigeria". Your participation will contribute immensely towards the success of this research, and by accepting to participate in the FGD, you help the researcher to conduct a study in this time of coronavirus pandemic hence, you are free to express your views on the preceding questions. Rest assured of anonymity your identity, and all responses received will be treated in absolute confidentiality and will be administered solely for this research. Thank you for your willingness to participate in the research.

Yours faithfully,

Joseph Inyama

Instruction: (Ground rules)

Thanks for coming today. The goal of today's meeting is to use certain PRA tools to understand the reality facing youths in PHC.

This will help provide deeper insight on the economic perception of youths about PHC and Europe that drives the decision making of male and female youths to embark on illegal migration through the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea.

There are only a few basic rules to keep in mind while participating today:

Everyone is expected to be an active participant.

There are no "right" or "wrong" answers.

Speak freely but remember not to interrupt others while they are talking.

Note-taking is for reporting purposes only and will be used for analysis. Names are not attached to the notes, rest assured the identity of every participant and all that will be discussed will be strictly confidential.

All information gathered will be analysed to determine trends and make recommendations to the Commissioner to design relevant intervention programmes.

All feedback today will remain anonymous. To maintain anonymity, I just ask that everything that is said during our session is not repeated outside of our session.

To begin, I would like to have everyone introduce themselves.

Topic Guides:

Sheet Social Map.

Different institutions found in the village. Explain with village social map.

Growing or shrinking households. Explain.

Challenges increasing number of households has caused.

Religious groups found in the village.

Family size of some male youths between the ages of 18-35.

Wealth Ranking.

Local perceptions of wealth differences and inequalities in the community and relative position of a household in this grouping.

Characteristics of a wealthy youth that is wealthy in the village

Characteristics of an unemployed or not wealthy youth in the community?

Venn Diagram on Institutions.

The organizations the villagers regard as most important in terms of creating employment and source of income for male youths

The organization that provides skilled vocational training for male youths to get decent jobs.

Organisations that provide male youths with credits and grants to start a small-scale business

Organisations only provide awareness and advocacy on illegal migration of youths abroad as well as the associated dangers.

Group of youths marginalized from accessing decent job in PHC (poorly connected and disadvantaged youths, religion, ethnic groups...)

Household Income and Expenditure Matrix

The most important sources of income in the community, both cash and in kind.

Compare poor vs rich youth's sources of income in PHC

Compare male versus female youths' sources of income.

Nature of expenditures spread in the household

Most common household expenditure

The proportion of income spent on basic needs like food, clothing, housing, health care and education

Possession of household safety net, and the ability to buy equipment, tools, agricultural inputs, or other things to improve work.

Appendix IV. Data Collection Methods, Tools, and Data Processing

S/N	Sub Question	Type of Information You Expect to Get	Source of Information	Method That You Use to Access the Information	Tool	When	Data Processing
1	What do male and female youths consider as decent work around the Port Harcourt Community?	<p>Perception of youths on livelihood opportunities around PHC.</p> <p>Views of types of works considered as decent.</p>	<p>Key Informants</p> <p>Youths in Port Harcourt Community.</p> <p>Group Discussion</p> <p>Online Survey</p>	Semi-structured interview.	<p>Interview Topic guide</p> <p>WhatsApp Call,</p> <p>Microsoft Form.</p> <p>Topic guide via WhatsApp</p>	June-July	Generating Themes
2	Why is decent work, and accessibility to credit facilities not available for youths in the Port Harcourt community, to start-up small-scale business initiatives?	<p>Views of youths on the reason for lack of decent jobs for them.</p> <p>Gain insight on issues related to the process, availability, and accessing of credit facilities to support male and female youths with business start-ups in.</p>	<p>Key Informants</p> <p>Youths in Port Harcourt Community.</p> <p>Group discussion</p> <p>Online Survey Questionnaire</p>	Semi-structured interview.	<p>Interview Topic guide</p> <p>WhatsApp Call,</p> <p>Microsoft Form.</p> <p>Topic guide via WhatsApp</p>	June-July	Generating Themes

3	What do male and female youths think about the opportunities for decent jobs for irregular migrants abroad?	<p>Gain insights of youths in PHC, and irregular migrants about decent work in Europe versus the situation in the home country.</p> <p>Gain insight into the influence of illegal migration networks from abroad on youths in PHC.</p> <p>Understand the influence of remittance from abroad on the decision-making of youths in PHC.</p>	<p>Key Informants</p> <p>Youths in Port Harcourt Community.</p> <p>Group discussion</p> <p>Irregular migrants abroad.</p> <p>Online Survey Questionnaire</p>	Semi-structured interview	<p>Interview Topic guide</p> <p>WhatsApp Call,</p> <p>Microsoft Form.</p> <p>Topic guide via WhatsApp</p>	June-July	Generating Themes
4	What is the knowledge of male and female youths on the risk implications of illegal migration to Europe through the Desert and the Sea?	<p>Gain insight into the knowledge of potential migrants and migrating youths on dangers involved in crossing the Sahara and the Mediterranean.</p> <p>Understands the motives and influence on their risk assessment.</p>	<p>Key Informants</p> <p>Youths in Port Harcourt Community.</p> <p>Group discussion.</p>	Semi-structured interview	<p>Interview Topic guide</p> <p>WhatsApp Call,</p> <p>Microsoft Form.</p> <p>Topic guide via WhatsApp</p>	June-July	Generating Themes

		Gain insight on the risk vs benefit perspective of irregular migrants in Europe before and after the dangerous cross	Irregular migrants abroad. Online Survey Questionnaire				
5	What is the notion of peers and families on the decision of illegal migration of a member abroad through the Desert and the Sea?	<p>Gain insights on the influence of families in Port Harcourt community on before and after the decision of a member to go abroad through these unsafe routes.</p> <p>Get information on which factor between the family and the peers plays a more crucial influence in the decision of a family member to go abroad.</p> <p>Views of irregular migrants about decent work in Europe versus the situation in the home country.</p>	<p>Key Informants</p> <p>Youths in Port Harcourt Community.</p> <p>Group discussion.</p> <p>Irregular migrants abroad.</p> <p>Online Survey Questionnaire</p>	Semi-structured interview	<p>Interview Topic guide</p> <p>WhatsApp Call,</p> <p>Microsoft Form.</p> <p>Topic guide via WhatsApp</p>	June-July	Generating Themes

		Uncover more information related to existing networks within and outside the community that influences the decision of youths to migrate to Europe through these unsafe dangerous					
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Appendix V. Profile of Key Informant Respondents

Code	Respondent	Organization	Portfolio	Gender	
				Male	Female
KI1 Bank	Banker	GTBank	Credit and Loan Service		1
KI2 YLDPHC	Youth Leader	Abuloma Village	P.R. O	1	
KI3 YLGPHC	Youth Leader	Elelenwo	Speaker Democracy Africa Parliament	1	
KI4 YLCPHC	Youth Leader	Elekahia	Entrepreneur	1	
KI5 YMJPHC	Irregular Migrant	PHC Resident	Irregular Migrant in Libya	1	
KI6 YMEGBR	Irregular Migrant	Nigerian	Irregular Migrant in Germany	1	
KI7 YMLBE	Irregular Migrant	Nigerian	Irregular Migrant in Belgium	1	
KI8 PHALGAS	Government Official	Port Harcourt Local Government Council	Council Secretary	1	
KI9 DA-NLD	Policymaker	African Diaspora Policy Centre	Director	1	
KI10 AMB-ON	Diplomat	Nigerian Embassy	Head of Delegation	1	
KI11 DNLD-NLD	Regular Migrant resident in The Netherlands	United Nigeria Platform, The Netherlands	Chairman	1	

Appendix VI. Profile of Individual Interview respondent, PHC

Code	Respondent	Status	Portfolio	Gender	
				Male	Female
II1 SNGR	PHC Resident	Today FM	Journalist	1	
II2 ALANGR	PHC Resident	Entrepreneur	Small-scale Telecom business	1	
II3 AMYNGR	PHC Resident	University Graduate	Freelance writer		1
II4 AKNGR	PHC Resident	University Graduate	Unemployed Youth	1	
II5 GPNGR	PHC Resident	University Graduate	Unemployed Youth	1	
II6 DSPNGR	PHC Resident	University Graduate	Unemployed Youth	1	
II7-EVANGR	PHC Resident	Entrepreneur	Small-scale farmer	1	
II8-UDONGR	PHC Resident	University Graduate	Freelance Content Developer		1
II9-VICNGR	PHC Resident	University Graduate	Data Analyst	1	
II10-LAWNGR	PHC Resident	Medical Doctor	Freelancing and volunteering	1	

Appendix VII. Profile of individual respondents abroad

Code	Respondent	Status	Portfolio	Gender	
				Male	Female
II1-DKEUK	A Nigerian immigrant in the UK	Accountant	working	1	
II2-EZYNLD	Nigeria migrant in The Netherlands	Water Engineer	working	1	
II3-JACNLD	Ugandan Migrant in the Netherlands	University Graduate	Working		1
II4-JAMNLD	Congolese Refugee in the Netherlands	Resident	working	1	
II5-KLAGBR	Nigerian Migrant in Germany	University Graduate	Working	1	
II6-MRACA	Nigeria migrant in Canada	University Graduate	working	1	
II-NNAGBR	Nigeria Migrant in Germany	Freelance IT Engineer	Working	1	
II 8-SIU.USA	Nigeria migrant in the United States	PR Specialist	working	1	
II 9-SoloITA	Ghanaian Refugee in Italy	In the Asylum Centre, Arnhem	Seeking Asylum	1	
II 10-PATNLD	Nigerian refugee in The Netherlands	In the Asylum Centre, Arnhem	Seeking Asylum		1

Appendix VIII. Profile of FGD 1 Participants in Okuru-Ama village, PHC.

Code	Participant	Location	Status	Gender
				Male
FGDO1	Okuru-Ama Youth, PHC	Okuru-Ama Village, PHC	Unemployed undergraduate	1
FGDO2	Okuru-Ama Youth, PHC	Okuru-Ama Village, PHC	Small-scale fashion designer	1
FGDO3	Okuru-Ama Youth, PHC	Okuru-Ama Village, PHC	Unskilled unemployed youth	1
FGDO4	Okuru-Ama Youth, PHC	Okuru-Ama Village, PHC	Small scale phone technician	1
FGDO5	Okuru-Ama Youth, PHC	Okuru-Ama Village, PHC	Underemployed graduate	1
FGDO6	Okuru-Ama Youth, PHC	Okuru-Ama Village, PHC	Unemployed artisan	1
FGDO7	Okuru-Ama Youth, PHC	Okuru-Ama Village, PHC	Freelancer	1
FGDO8	Okuru-Ama Youth, PHC	Okuru-Ama Village, PHC	Unemployed graduate.	1

Appendix IX Profile of FGD 2 participants in Diobu village, PHC.

Code	Participant	Location	Status	Gender
				Female
FGD-D1	Diobu Youth, PHC	Diobu Village, PHC	Small-scale hairstylist	1
FGD-D2	Diobu Youth, PHC	Diobu Village, PHC	Small-scale graphic designer	1
FGD-D3	Diobu Youth, PHC	Diobu Village, PHC	Unskilled unemployed youth	1
FGD-D4	Diobu Youth, PHC	Diobu Village, PHC	Waitress	1
FGD-D5	Diobu Youth, PHC	Diobu Village, PHC	Underemployed graduate	1
FGD-D6	Diobu Youth, PHC	Diobu Village, PHC	Unemployed youth	1
FGD-D7	Diobu Youth, PHC	Diobu Village, PHC	undergraduate Student	1
FGD-D8	Diobu Youth, PHC	Diobu Village, PHC	Skilled unemployed youths	1
FGD-D9	Diobu Youth, PHC	Diobu Village, PHC	Graduate and doing small-scale business	1
FGD-D10	Diobu Youth, PHC	Diobu Village, PHC	Fashion designing apprentice	1
FGD-D11	Diobu Youth, PHC	Diobu Village, PHC	Small-scale hairstylist business	1
FGD-D12	Diobu Youth, PHC	Diobu Village, PHC	Underemployed Nurse.	1

Appendix X. List of Villages in Port Harcourt Community

S/N	Villages in Port Harcourt Community
1.	Azuabie
2.	Abuloma
3.	Amadi Ama
4.	Eagle Island
5.	Elekahia
6.	Nkpogu
7.	Kkpolu Oroworukwu
8.	Ogbunabali
9.	Old Port Harcourt Township
10.	Orobali
11.	Orada Diobu
12	Orochiri
13	Orogbum
14	Orolozu
15	Oromerueezimbu
16	Oroworukwo
17	Oromineke
18	Rumukalagbor
19	Rumuobiekwe
20	Rumuwoji
21	Okuru-Ama
22	Tere-Ama

Source: Port Harcourt Local Government Area Council, Fieldwork, 2020.

Appendix X1: Consent Form

Van Hall Larenstein, University of Applied Sciences (referred to below as “Van Hall Larenstein”) has set up a digital repository via which papers produced by its students in the context of their studies will be made available to third parties. This will facilitate the process of creating, acquiring, and sharing knowledge within the education sector.

The papers concerned will be retained in the repository for a minimum period of seven years to be available to potential users based both at Van Hall Larenstein and elsewhere. By filling in this form, the student consents to his/her paper being included in the repository and made available.

When a student’s paper is included and made available in the digital repository, he/she retains the copyright. This means that he can also withdraw consent for the paper to be made available.

Rights and obligations of the student

Inyama Joseph Nnanna (referred to below as “the Student”) grants Van Hall Larenstein a free and non-exclusive licence to include his graduation paper in the digital repository and to make it available to users based both at Van Hall Larenstein and elsewhere. This means that users can copy and adapt some or all of the paper. Users are only permitted to do this, or to publish the results, if they do so for their study and/or teaching or research purposes and if they indicate the name of the Student and the location of the graduation paper.

Consent for the graduation paper to be made available to third parties commences with effect from **9 September 2020**

The Student grants Van Hall Larenstein the right to alter or restrict access to his/her graduation paper if there are weighty reasons for doing so.

The Student hereby declares that the organisation where he/she did his/her work placement or his/her client does not object to the inclusion and availability of the graduation thesis in the digital repository.

The Student also declares that he/she has gained the consent of the copyright holder of material that he/she has not created himself/herself for such material to be included as part of the graduation paper in the digital repository and made available to third parties based both at Van Hall Larenstein and elsewhere.

The Student grants Van Hall Larenstein the right to include the graduation paper in the digital repository and to make it available for a minimum period of seven years.

Rights and obligations of Van Hall Larenstein

The non-exclusive licence granted by the Student gives Van Hall Larenstein the right to make the graduation paper available to users based both at Van Hall Larenstein and elsewhere.

Van Hall Larenstein is also permitted to make the graduation paper accessible to users of the digital repository based both at Van Hall Larenstein and elsewhere and may allow them to copy and adapt the paper. Users are only permitted to do this, or to publish the results, if they do so for their study and/or teaching or research purposes and if they indicate the name of the Student and the location of the graduation paper.

Van Hall Larenstein will ensure that the name/names of the author/authors of the graduation paper is/are mentioned and that it indicates in all cases that whenever the paper is used its origin must be clearly indicated. Van Hall Larenstein will make clear that any commercial use of a graduation paper requires the consent of the Student concerned.

Van Hall Larenstein has the right to alter or restrict access to the Student's graduation paper if there are weighty reasons for doing so.

Rights and obligations of the user

Completion of this Consent Form means that users of the digital repository may copy and adapt some or all of the graduation paper. Users are only permitted to do this, or to publish the results, if they do so for their study and/or teaching or research purposes and if they indicate the name of the Student and the location of the graduation paper.

Date: 9 September 2020

Name of Student: **Inyama Joseph Nnanna**

E-mail: joseph.inyama@hvhl.nl josephinyama@gmail.com inyamajo@gmail.com

Theme/Study: Master Management of Development (Specialisation: Disaster Risk Management)