



## **Ignorance of Religious Teaching a Driver of Radicalisation of the Youths in Northern Nigeria**

### **Key findings:**

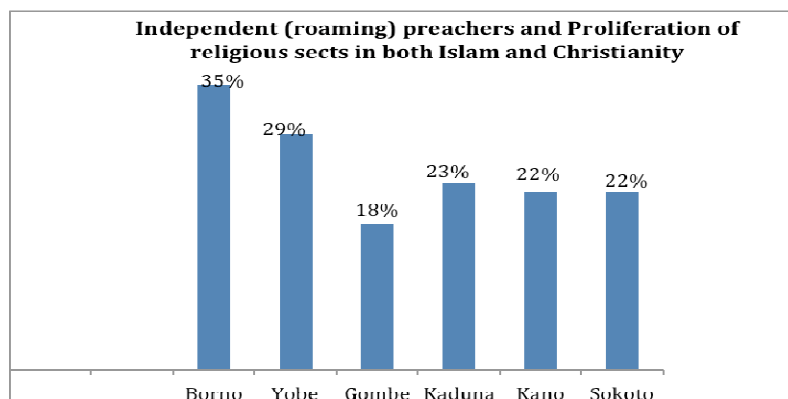
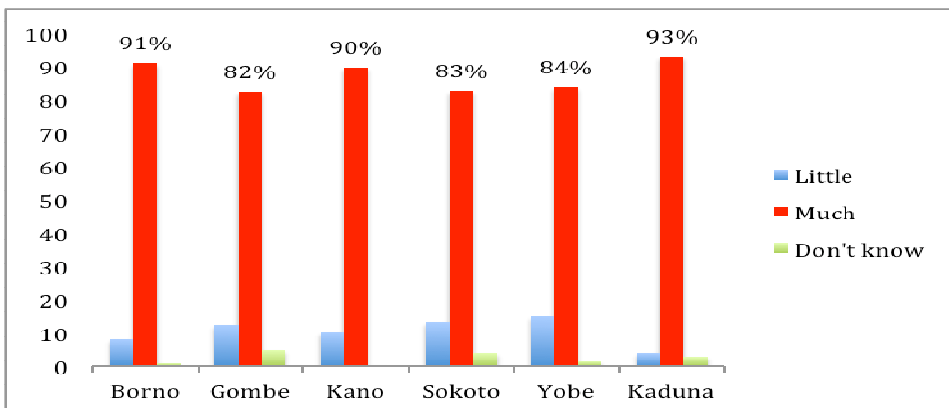
- Lack of in-depth knowledge of religious texts has led to misinterpretation principles.
- Independent preachers otherwise known as roaming preachers have created proliferation of sects.

### **The Research:**

- Youths, Radicalization and Affiliation with Insurgent Groups in Northern Nigeria
- Six States across the North were surveyed namely Borno, Yobe, Gombe, Kano, Kaduna and Sokoto. Purposive sampling techniques used, through administering of questionnaires, Key Informant Interviews and Focused Group Discussions where possible

### **Finding 1: Lack of in depth knowledge of religious texts has led to misinterpretation of Islamic principles.**

Across the Six states surveyed an average of 87% were of the opinion that lack of in-depth knowledge of religion texts is a factor that influences the adoption of extremism among youths. This was highest in Kaduna (93% , followed by Borno and Yobe 91% and 84%. were there is an emergency rule.



### **Finding 2: Independent or roaming Preachers have created proliferation of religious sects.**

There is reliance on preachers rather than individuals having understanding of religious texts or scriptures (Holy Books). This has led to multiple interpretations of scriptures.

## Recommendations

- The federal government should commence a mapping of religious centres and faith based organisations in order to know their locations, scope of influence and modes of operation.
- There is need to regulate public preaching and have designated places of worship and prayers. The overall interfaith and faith based organisations such as The Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA), Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) and the Nigeria Inter-religious Council (NIREC) should be tasked with the responsibility of overseeing, monitoring and developing benchmarks for their members.
- The Federal, State and Local Government should identify and train Imams to present moderate Islamic views
- Town hall and Community dialogue should be explored to improve inter religious/ community relationship within states especially at the grassroots level.

*For a full report of the Youths, Radicalisation and Affiliation with Insurgent Groups in Northern Nigeria 2014 see [www.cleen.org](http://www.cleen.org) or email [cleen@cleen.org](mailto:cleen@cleen.org). Support for this Policy Brief and conduct of CLEEN Foundation's Youths, Radicalisation and Affiliation with Insurgent Groups in Northern Nigeria were provided by the United States Institute of Peace*