

# Implication of Bandit Activities for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development In Nigeria: Evidences From The Northwest Region

<sup>1</sup>Larry E. Udu, <sup>2</sup>Donatus Oluwa Chukwu, <sup>3</sup>Grace Iyi Ibenwo and <sup>4</sup>Fidelis Ogbonna Ogbaga.

<sup>1</sup>Department of Public Administration, Ebonyi State University.

<sup>2</sup>Department of Philosophy, Religion and Peace Studies Ebonyi State University

<sup>3</sup>Akanu Ibiam Federal Polytechnic, Unwana, Afikpo,

<sup>4</sup>Ebonyi State College of Education, Ikwo;

---

## Abstract

The study investigated the implication of bandit activities for sustainable socio-economic development in Nigeria with particular attention to the Northwest Region. Content Analytical Approach was adopted as methodology while the broken window theory propounded by George (1980) was employed as theoretical foundation. Findings revealed that bandits' activities included; kidnapping/abduction of victims for ransom; killing, maiming, raping women victims, armed robbery and cattle rusting. These activities, the study revealed, impacted negatively on sustainable socio-economic indicators such as food security, human dignity particularly women and education in the region. Accordingly, the study recommends amongst others, that government should, in addition to increasing the level of surveillance by security apparatuses to checkmate illegal migration and profilation of firearms into the country collaborate with relevant security agencies to install modern state-of-the-art technology to improve the propensity of tackling frontally the menace of banditry in the region.

**Keywords:** *Bandit activities, sustainable socio-economic development,. Human dignity, food security, Northwest, Nigeria*

---

## I. Introduction

Socio-economic development is pivotal to a nation's development programmes because it focuses on human capital which essentially constitutes the most formidable asset and resources in striving towards sustainable development in all ramifications. It is a process of growth in life changing measures and improvement in general standard of living measured with such indicators such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP), life expectancy, literacy, and employment levels, as well as changes in less-tangible factors like personal dignity, freedom of association, personal safety, freedom from fear of physical harm and extent of participation in civil society (Nwabueze, 2020).

The Northwest region of Nigeria is known for socio-economic activities in terms of cash crops, cowpeas, cotton, millet, and equally food crops are abundant in the area. The zone stretches across Sokoto, Kabbi, Zamfara, Katsina, Kano and Jigawa States with associated sheep, goats, and cattle husbandry (USAID, 2007 in Ofoma (2022). Similarly, the womenfolk has played some critical roles in the socio-economic activities of the region. For instance, trading involving local and long-distance commercial network, weaving and dyeing, bead making and jewelries, iron smelting, agriculture, craftworks, food processing, poultry and livestock production (Ajibade, 2013 in Ofoma, 2022).

Unfortunately, the emergency of banditry in the region has dealt a devastating blow on socio-economic activities in the area. Banditry defined as armed violence is driven principally by the criminal intent to steal and plunder (Ababakar & Ibrahim, 2020). Bandits perpetrate such evil activities such as armed robbery, kidnapping for ransom, killing and maiming of victims and raping of women victims.

Banditry has existed in many parts of the world since the 19th century when bandits riding mostly on horse backs occasionally move from their hideouts, attack villages and retreat (Suleiman & Bilkisu, 2020). In Europe, Asia and West African sub region, bandits existed mainly in mountainous areas of Italy, Spain, Greece and Turkey (Cassia, 1993); Iran & Philippines (Bank off, 1998).

Bandit activities started in Nigeria, arising from decades of unresolved conflicts between crop farmers and nomadic herdsmen particularly is the Northwest region. This escalated into prominence in Zamfara State following the general elections in 2011 (Suleiman Bilkisu, 2020; Anka, 2017; and Adedeji, 2021).

Governments in the region had embarked on a number of measures to curtail the menace of banditry. Some of the measures so far adopted by state governments of the region to stem the tide of banditry include but not restricted to: launching of special taskforce on cattle rustling and Associated Crimes, innovatively embedding security agents among herders against bandits attack in addition to tightening state borders against trans-border influx of bandits and most importantly, implanting Microchips in the animals to monitor their movement so as to prevent being stolen by armed bandits. Unfortunately, bandit activities in the region have persisted despite these interventionist measures.

To capture the problem more aptly, the study was designed to provide answers to the following and related questions:

- (i) What is the relationship between bandit activities and access to education in the Northwest region?
- (ii) How has bandit activities affected citizens' personal dignity in the region,
- (iii) To what extent have bandit activities undermined food security in the region; and,
- (iv) Why has banditry persisted despite government efforts at stemming the tide?

### **Conceptual Clarifications**

#### **Banditry**

Banditry may be referred to some criminal activities perpetrated by an individual or group. Such activities manifest in the practice of stealing animals from herders, raiding of villages, kidnapping for ransom, killing/maiming and raping of female victims and cattle rustling. A bandit is conceived as an individual who methodically acquired human capital for robbery purposes or a part of an organization that pursues this end.

Notwithstanding the fact that bandits constitute an outlawed terrorist gang with illegally acquired arms for terroring and violently dispossessing victims of their goods there has been a sort of recurrent controversy over presentation of a bandit as a folk hero; aiding, sheltering and immortalizing bandits in some country by members of the same social class upon whom they predate (Currot & Fink, 2008; Egwu, 2016; Isah 2019 in Ofoma, 2022).

#### **Sustainable Socio-economic Development**

Sustainable socio-economic development may be conceived as a process of social and economic transformation in a society. Socio-economic development essentially, incorporates public concerns in formulating social policy and economic initiatives. The overall objective of social development is to bring about sustained improvement in the well-being of individuals, groups, family, community and the generality of society. It usually involves a deliberate and sustained improvement in the living standard of a country's population normally achieved by increasing its stocks of institutional and technological advancement (Nwakpa, 2021). Indicators such as "Gross Domestic product (GDP) life-expectancy, literacy and employment levels as well as health are used to measure the state of socio-economic development of a society" (Udu & Edeh, 2019). Additionally, changes in less tangible factors such as personal dignity, freedom of association, safety/security and the degree of participation in civil society are also factored in this consideration.

Sustainable socio-economic development essentially implies a long-term sustenance of human and material resources in addition to making sure that programmes continue to exist long after their establishment. Invariably, sustainable development extensively deals with a sort of participatory human development and environmental protection which essentially are determined by the Human Development Index (HDI) (Udu & Edeh, 2019), Aro (2013) in Udu & Nkwede, 2014) conceives Human Development Index (HDI) as involving a combination of degree of purchasing power with that of physical habit and level of educational attainment of the individual. These three components of HDI provides an alternative of the GDP in determining the relative socio-economic advancement of nations. It enables both governments and citizens of nations to appraise their levels of progress over a given period and to determine priority areas requiring interventionist measures in addition to providing the platform for comparing local experiences with those of other countries in similar situations.

Against the backdrop that sustainable socio-economic development is participatory, and centres on human being in addition to other related aforementioned aspects, its indicators for our use in this study shall comprise: Access to educational opportunities; personal dignity; and, food security. These indicators /components are further conceptualized in the following paragraphs.

#### **Access to Educational Opportunities**

Education is defined as a process of giving / receiving systematic instructions particularly at schools. Its synonyms includes such words as: teaching, schooling, tutoring, instruction, pedagogy, coaching, training, tutelage, drilling, preparation, guidance, indoctrination, inculcating, enlightenment, cultivation, development, improvement, bettering; e.t.c. Essentially, education is a process of facilitating learning or knowledge acquisition, requisite skills, values, morals, beliefs, habits and personal development. ([www.an.org/education/01/06/022](http://www.an.org/education/01/06/022)).

Practically, education connotes all processes that enable upward socio-economic mobility and ultimately, translate to essential, all-pervading instrument for escaping from poverty. Scholars such as Nguyen and Duog (2020 in Udu, Nwele, Ibenwa & Ogbaga (2022), asserted that there's well-proven evidence that human capacity-building or training can significantly promote organizational success through various channels like learning, innovation, skills-upgrading and motivation.

Accessibility to educational opportunities here refers to the ability of individuals/group to avail themselves of the chances provided for education without physical or emotional hindrances.

### **Personal Dignity**

Personal dignity may be conceived as the unalienable right of individuals to be valued, respected for their sake and to be treated ethically. It is critically significant in morality, ethics, law and politics. The term may also be used in describing personal conduct of an individual-when we remark that an individual is behaving with dignity. Affront to personal dignity constitutes actions, reactions and or inactions that tend to reduce or undermine people's self-esteem/self-worth (en.m.wikipedia.org (01/06/022).

Personal dignity is often used interchangeably with human dignity, a concept used to denote that all human beings possess equal and inherent worth and accordingly ought to be treated with deserving respect, honour and care irrespective of age, gender, socioeconomic status, health, ethnic origin as well as religions or political affiliation/beliefs (Andorno, 2014).

### **Food Security**

Heady and Ecker (2012) reported that there are about 250 definitions and 450 indicators of food security but the most widely accepted definition is that from FAO (1996) which evolved after the 1996 world food summit, stating that "food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. When critically X-rayed, the definition reveals the multidimensional nature of the food security concept; hence, "food sufficiency" focuses on the availability and adequacy of food of appropriate quality; while "physical and economic access" addresses individuals' access to sufficient food; with the "security" aspect relating to food utilization by the body, food safety, risks involved among other related factors and, "food stability" relates to time-bound aspect of food availability, access and utilization (Ike, et al, 2015 in Udu and Nwele, 2021). These key variables have been widely accepted as the four major dimensions of food security (De Hean, 2011; Jenes, 2013; Heady & Ecker, 2012; and, Ike, 2015 in Ayinde, 2020). Corroborating the foregoing conceptualization of food security, Okoli and Nnamani, (2017 in Ibenwo, 2021), alluded that food security is a state of being guaranteed of adequate food to save hunger and disease in the absence of threats to peoples' hard-earned income and valuables; connoting essentially, accessibility to nutritious and food supply, safe water and healthy family living.

On the other hand, food insecurity may be referred to as the absence of one or more of the components of food security discussed above. It is conventionally classified into two major categories; viz: chronic and transitory, while seasonal food insecurity falls in-between the two (FAO), 2008 in Udu, et al (2021).

### **Theoretical Andorage**

The study is premised on the "Broken windows" theory developed by Wilson and Kelling (1980). The assumption of the theory is that, ignoring minor crimes, inevitably would pave ways for manifestations of greater crimes of varying dimensions and intensity. In other words, each crime, no matter how infinitesimal it might purport to be, invariably would degenerate to greater and more complex crimes in an environment if not frontally tackled at the onset. People would develop negative attitudes in such environment. On the other hand, in an environment where issues are tackled promptly with their specific merits inhabitants would cultivate social and positive responses in a cooperative manner that would engender sanity and decorum.

The theory can be exemplified by equating a building with the society. The building, that's the society, has few broken windows (social ills); if the windows are left unrepaired; that's tackling the ills decisively, the tendency would be for vandals to break a few more windows and eventually, may even break into the building and if it isn't occupied; the vandals take over and permanently reside therein.

This theory is relevant to the present study in that, the northwest region of Nigeria as a focal area of study has social structures littered with broken winders typified as politically motivated assassinations, religious violence and killings for purported blasphemy, corruption, poor governance and lopsided system of criminal justice which paved ways to bandit and hydra-headed criminalities in the region. Unfortunately, these ills were not frontally addressed by government when the water was still an ankle-deep which unavoidably gave rise to various dimensions of insecurity in the region with monumental proportions.

## II. Methodology

A combination of Content Analytical Approach and trend analysts was adopted in presenting data in the study.

Data were obtained principally through the secondary source – scholarly literature/journal articles, the internet, periodicals and unpublished research reports considered relevant to the study.

Tables and figures used in the study were carefully extracted and analyzed in consonance with their specific relevances in the different sections of the study.

### Spate of Bandits’ Activities

Table 1 and 2 graphically illustrate the spate of criminal activities of bandits in the region particularly in recent times.

**Table I: Spate of Bandit Activities in Nigeria’s Northwestern Region**

S/NO	Date of Publication	Nature and Place of Attack
1.	March 31, 2018	Bandits attacked Bawan Daji village of Anka LGA of Zamfara State and killed over 30 people.
2.	March 1,2019	21 killed in Kawaye village in Bagega community of Anka LGA of Zamfara State.
3.	June 9, 2019	25 killed in bandit attacks in Klahu, Tsage and Gerri villages in Rabah LGA of Sokoto State.
4.	July 4, 2019	11 killed in bandit attacks on Kankara and Danmusa LGA of Katsina State.
5.	August 19, 2019	Four villagers were killed in banditry attacks in Tsayu village of Jibiya LGA of Kastina State.
6.	January 17, 2020	Zamfara bandit killed 31 persons in attacks at Babban Rafi Village in Gummi LGA and Makosa Village in Zurmi LGA of Zamfara State.
7.	March 2, 2020	Bandits killed 50 people in villages in Igabi and Giwa LGA of Kaduna State.
8.	April 20, 2020	Bandits kill 47 villagers in multiple attacks on Kurechin Atai, Kurecin Giye, Kurechin Duste, Makauwachi and Daule Villages in Kastina State.
9.	April 24, 2020	Bandits killed seven and kidnap one in Akwunakwo, Kabirasha and Damba villages in Chikun LGA of Kaduna State.
10.	May 6, 2020	5 killed and DPO shot in multiple bandit attacks at Faskari and Sabuwa LGA of Kastina State.
11.	May 20,2020	bandits killed 12 in attack on three communities in tsafe lga of zamfara State.
12.	June 5, 2020	Bandits killed 21 people in Maru and Talata-Mafara LGA of Zamfara State.
13.	July 26, 2020	Bandits killed 10 in two attacks on 3 villages of Jema “a and Kaura LGA of Kaduna State.
14.	August 9 2020	Eight bandits, two others killed after bandit attacks on Zamfarawa village in Batsari LGA of Kastina State.
15.	September 13, 2020	Bandits abducted 16 family members at Udawa farming community of Kaduna State.
16.	September 18, 2020	Bandits invaded Police Station in Tangaza LGA of Sokoto State.
17.	October 12, 2020	Bandits killed 14 persons in Ruwan Godiya village of Faskari LGA of Kastina State and Kagara town of Rafi LGA of Niger State bandits killed Southern Kaduna District Head and son.
18.	November 17, 2020	Bandits kidnapped 8 ABU students on the Kaduna-Abuja road, killed Southern Kaduna District head and son at Gidan Zaki, Zangon Kataf LGA.
19.	November 23, 2020	Armed bandits kidnapped Imam, 17 worshippers from a mosque in Kanoma District, Maru LGA, Zamfara State.

Source: Rosenje and Adeniyi’s compilation Nigeria’s Daily Newspapers (2020) in Ofoma (2022)

**Table 2: Manifestations of Bandit Activities in the Northwest, Nigeria**

S/N	Date period	Place of Incidents	Victims	Source
1.	2011-2018	Zamfara State	6,319 people were killed 19,340 were displeased	Suleiman, (20797)
2.		Katsina state	2,020 people killed; 500 communities destroyed while over 33,000 were displeased.	Kola (2020)
3.	January-Dec 2019	Zamfara, Kaduna, Kastina, Sokoto & Niger State	1,058 people, killed our 10,000 cattle, rustled, 2,688 hectares of arable farming land, lost due to displacement/forceful migration vehicles, lost to bandits in Zamfara State alone.	Hamouni (2020)
4.	November – 2019 March, 2020 26 <sup>th</sup> May, 2020	Kaduna State	4,000 people were internally displace coupled with scores of they ands of deaths	West Africa Network for peace building (2020).
5.	April – July, 2020	Sabon Birui in Sokoto State Sabon Birui	More than 80 killed by heavily armed bandits on motorbikes, many injured Over 100 lives lost	Campbell et, al (2020)
6.	April – July, 2020		Over 30,000 refugees crossed to Niger republic, mostly women & children	Hamrouni (2020)
7.	30/5/2020	Several villages in Katsina, Kaduna, Sokoto and Zamfara States	Armed bandits (500) in motorbikes with AK 47 killing 18 villagers, a traditional chief inclusive; certificated thousands of livestock especially, cattle.	Campbell & McCaslin, (2020) in Ofoma (2022).
8.		Abuja – Kaduna – Zaria Highways, Kaduna – Birui Gwari – Zamfara-	Armed robbers operating with wartime weapons/commando-like brutality, killing, maiming people in their numbers; forcing regular traders to	Okoli & Ugwu

		Funtua and Zaria- Funtua – Kastina Highways.	resort to railways for safety.	
9.		Kaduna, Kastina & Zamfara State	Kidnapping of victims perceived to possess some kidnap – Ransom value	Okoli & Agada (2014)
10.		Abuja –Kaduna Highway	Highway armed abduction of victims by bandits who are only released by payment of negotiated ransom or killed.	Gasua (2019).
11.	23.12/2018	Zamfara, and Jibya LGA, Kastina State	Mass abduction of group of persons eg. Caregivers in Jibya LGA of Katsina State.	
12.	Dec. 2018 – March 2019	Zamfara State alone Katsina State	Many kidnapping cases involving 227 victims. Kidnapping, most rampant in rural communities in the Rugu forest neighbor hood	Landon (2014).
13.	Oct 2013-March 2014	Kaduna, Katsina, Zamfara and Niger State, many villages involved	Cattle rusting, approximately 7,000 cattles were rustled from commercial livestock farms & traditional herders; many villages, under stage, most cases victims/rapped before dispossessing them of their cows.	Okoli and Lenshire (2018); Bashire (2014); Akow & Kayode (2014) in Ofoma (2022)

**Source: Authors' Compilation (2022).**

### **Government Responses to Banditry**

Banditry has metamorphosed from its rudimentary phase to a more complex and complicated pattern of criminality. We have earlier discussed the spate of bandit activities in the region and shall devote this section to discussing the various strategies adopted by government to curtail bandit activities in the area.

The general view by political commentators is that government responses to security issues in the area have been slow and reactionary. For instance, a taskforce set up by the Nigeria police force under IG, Suleiman Abba on Anti-cattle Rustling and Associated Crimes and charged with the responsibility of patrolling that areas, gathering intelligence reports, investigation and possibly prosecuting culprits was described as inactive from inauguration (Yusuf, 2015).

The government of Katsina State, in addition to Joint-Patrol operation embarked upon in the late 2015, innovatively adopted a strategy of embedding security agents among herders to protect them and their animals and also tightened the state borders to prevent trans-border influx of bandits; and, most importantly implanted computer microchips in the beasts to monitor their movement and prevent them from been stolen by armed bandits (Ofoma, 2022).

The Kaduna initiative popularly referred to as the “El-Rufac Model” embodies the use of a pro-active/pre-emptive approach, propelled by information and Communication Technology Approach coupled with peace deal and amnesty initiative adopted between Zamfara State government and Bandits’ leadership in 2016. To increase the envisaged gains of the amnesty strategy, government advanced a proposal to re-integrate bandits who had surrendered their weapons, into the society by providing them with soft grants for meaningful and self-sustaining business enterprises (Anka, 2017; Mustapha, 2019).

Similarly, the adoption of the Agro-rangers aimed at forestalling attacks on farmlands and boosting confidence of farmers to work on their farms without fear of molestation / attacks represented a step forward in government efforts towards managing the security crises in the region.

Various state actions indeed reduced incidences of bandit attacks and cattle rustling in the area to some extent. For instance, a joint patrol team by Katsina government recovered 12,00 cattle and returned same to their rightful owners (Elazeh, 2016).

The question that may agitate the dispassionate mind at this juncture is: “why has bandit activities persisted in the region despite government combined efforts at stepping out or at least, curtail the menace?”

### **Factors Responsible for Persistence of Banditry**

Despite the various efforts of government at confronting the scourge of banditry in the Northwest region in particular, their nefarious activities continue to manifest in varying degrees and intensity. From available literature, we can deduce that the reason behind continued persistence of banditry in the region includes but by no means restricted to the following factors: Porous border, unemployment, poverty, weak security system and perceived government complicity; amongst others. We shall discuss each of these factors in detail in the following paragraphs.

#### **Porous Border**

Aside from the ungovernable spaces in the remote hinderlands, forestlands and borderlines with the attendant minimal or no presence of government, one of the prominent factors aggravating banditry in the region is porous borders. Available statistics show that there are 84 legal border routes into Nigeria but there exist about 1, 978 illegal gateways into the country (Akinyemi, 2013 in Udu & Ibeogu, 2020). These numerous illegal

passages into the country are either mountainous or in the jungle making effective surveillance by security operatives a herculean task (Mltstapha, 2004; Osimen, et.al, 2017 and Babatola, 2015). Consequently, there is a continuous proliferation of arms, illegal immigrants, human trafficking, importation of contraband goods and criminal activities of varying dimensions.

### **Poverty**

Another factors responsible for banditry in the region is poverty. For instance, the poverty index in the Northwest is 77.7% (NBS, 2012; Rosenje and Moliki, 2016). Unfortunately, Nigeria has overtaken India in rate of extreme poverty with half of the estimated total population of 87 million Nigerians living in less than \$ 1.90/day and, this scenario is attributable to poor governance/ and political corruption consequently, many have resorted to criminality as a means of survival; moreso, amid the prevailing inflation in the country.

### **Unemployment**

The linkage between poverty and unemployment is obvious. Unemployed people have the propensity to be poor. The rate of unemployment in Nigeria is high and even much higher in the Northern regions as a whole. For instance, in 2003, unemployment rate was at 14.8%; declined to 11.09% in 2005 as a result of poverty alleviation programmes of government and employment in the informal sector. Be that as it may, the rate soared sharply from 14.9% in March 2008 to 9.7% in March, 2009 (NBS, 2010). Similarly the trend of unemployment from 2010 to 2014 revealed that: as at 2010, unemployment rate stood at 21.1%; 23.9% in 2011; 24.3% in 2012; 28.5% in 2013 and projected to 20% in 2014 and by 2020, the rate has increased to 33.28% (IATEL, 2014 in Udu & Abah, 2016; National Bureau of Statistics, 2021). Against this backdrop, bandit activities and multifarious criminalities have grown and seems unabated in the region.

### **Weak Security System**

Evidently, banditry in the Northwest is also attributable to weak system of security in the region. This arises either due to inadequate equipment in terms of weaponry and incompetence of personal as a result of poor training in addition to complicit security operatives who compromise ethical standards for pecuniary gratification and, this situation obtains both at the border routes and in the field (Achumba *et.al*, 2013).

Similarly, it has been alleged that prior to the 2015 general elections in the country, there was much influx of illegal immigrants imported into the country from neighbouring countries like Sudan, Niger and Togo, et.c.

These illegal immigrants constitute gangs that terrorize citizens. Unfortunately, there seem to be little or no efforts at apprehending and prosecuting culprits; hence, the suspicion of complicity in this connection.

### **Socio-economic Implications of Banditry**

We shall discuss the implications of bandit activities for sustainable socio-economic development in the Northwest region of Nigeria under the indicators of socioeconomic development earmarked in this study as: education, personal dignity and food security.

- **Education**

In a similar study by Udu & Edeh (2019) it was reported that Boko Haram atrocious activities undermined educational development in Northern Nigeria.

In the Northeast in particular, literacy level for male and female stood at 1.1% and 15.4% respectively which was lowest in other zones comparatively. The Southeast and Southwest were 77% for male and 79.9% for female and 66.1% (male) and 69.9% (female), respectively. (Nkwede & Nwogbaga 2019).

- **Personal Dignity**

Personal dignity used interchangeably with human dignity also suffered a severe attack due to bandit activities in the region. Contrary to the traditional norms of sparing woman and children in warlike situations such as banditry under reference, these vulnerables were not spared as they too faced torture, rape and death in some circumstances in the hands of bandits (Centre for International Cooperation and Security 2005). Unfortunately, the scourge epitomizes sexual violence, psychological trauma on victims, unwanted pregnancy and spread of communicable sexually transmitted diseases such as gonorrhoea and HIV-AIDs; etc.

The foregoing constitute an affront to personal dignity as they undermine the victims' self-esteem and self worth (Murtala, 2018; Council on Foreign Relations 2020).

- **Food Security**

Indicators of food security earlier discussed in this study are: food availability, accessibility and affordability of nutritious food. In the opinions of many scholars in their various studies, insecurity in the Northwest constitute great damages on food security in the region. For instance, in May 2020, farmers were reported to have warned

that the resurgence of bandit activities would create unprecedented food crises if not properly tackled by security operatives.

Similarly, commercial farming and animal husbandry were negatively affected by activities in the area culminating to great threat for food security particularly when one considers the heightening incidence of displaced population in the zone. For instance, 70% of 309,000 Internally Displaced & Persons, IDPs in the Northwest does not have access to sufficient food with global acute malnutrition rate among children reported to be as high as 18% and 13% in Sokoto and Zamfara States respectively (WRP, 2019). This situation, coupled with fears instigated on the farmers culminate to threaten food security in the region.

### III. Conclusion / Recommendations

The study investigated the implications of bandit activities for sustainable socio-economic development in Nigeria with particular attention to the Northwest region. The study specifically attempted to unravel the factors responsible for continued manifestations of banditry in the zone despite government joint efforts at tackling the menace. Findings revealed that such factors as porous border, poverty and unemployment coupled with weak security system which is worsened by complicit security operatives undermine progress in the security wars such that the bandits have even been emboldened to demand tax from citizens of the zone whose confidence in government ability to protect them has been eroded to a near irredeemable status. All these have culminated to worsen the poor socio-economic status of the zone.

The position of the study is that bandits' atrocities have become one the greatest holocaust in recent history of Nigeria and as such, ought to occupy a pride of place in national discourse backed with concrete and stringent measures. We contend that security matters should be the concern of all and sundry and must not be politicized else, Nigeria will continue to make progress in circles without decisive solution to the scourge.

The study therefore advance the following measures to frontally tackle the security malady:

- The nexus between poverty fueled by unemployment is obvious; hence, government should strategize at gainful employment creation for the youths encapsulated in programmes focused on addressing the endemic poverty in Nigeria particularly in the Northwest region;
- There is need for re-orientation to inculcate ethical values and reverence for life as well as human right irrespective of religious beliefs or political affiliations;
- Government should collaboratively continue to put in place modern technology, for e-tracking / monitoring of the beasts and herders in addition to increasing surveillance in the areas to track down perpetrators of banditry;
- Finally, there should be vigorous investigations; prosecution and conviction of culprits including complicit security operatives to serve as deterrence to prospective offenders.

### References

- [1]. Abubakar, L.U. and Ibrahim, M.S. (2020). Al-Ghazzali's Theory of Virtue: An Agent for Addressing Rural Banditry and Conflict in North-West Nigeria. *Journal of Applied Philosophy*, 8(18), 1597-0779.
- [2]. Achumba, I.C., Igbhomereho, O.S. and Akpor-Rabaro, M.O.M. (2013). Security Challenges in Nigeria and the Implications for Business Activities and Sustainable Development *Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development*, 4(2), 2222-2855.
- [3]. Adedeji, A. (2021). The growing threat of armed banditry in North-west Nigeria.
- [4]. Adegoke, S.G. (2019). Insurgency, armed banditry and corruption in Nigeria: The bane of socio-economic underdevelopment. *International Journal of Advanced Academic Studies*, 2(1), 17-26.
- [5]. Adeniyi, T. (2015). Why Incoming FCT Minister Must Act Fast on Cattle Rustling. Daily Trust, July 1<sup>st</sup>. Retrieved from: [www.dailytrust.com.ng/daily/index.city-news/58662-why-incoming-fctadministrationmust-act-on-cattle-rustling](http://www.dailytrust.com.ng/daily/index.city-news/58662-why-incoming-fctadministrationmust-act-on-cattle-rustling).
- [6]. Adeyinka, A.M. (2014). Trans-border movement and trading activities across Nigeria –Benin Republic border; *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences*; 5(1):420.
- [7]. Akinwotu, E. and Sanyinnwal, H.S. (202). "waves of "Bandit" Massacres Rupture Rural Life in North-west Nigeria". The Guardian. Retrieved from <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jun/03/waves-of-bandit-massacres-rupturerural-life-in-north-west-nigeria> on 14th July, 2020 at 11:33pm.
- [8]. Akinyem, O. (2013). Globalization and Nigeria border security: Issues and Challenges. *International Affairs and Global Strategy*; 11(5); retrieved from [www.iiste.org](http://www.iiste.org). Bba-Gbogbo, E. (2009). Climate Change Effects Mount in Nigeria Department for International Development (DFID), fighting climate change and poverty, 46. [www.development.org.uk](http://www.development.org.uk)(05.12.2011).
- [9]. Amnesty International (AI) (2018). Harvest of Deaths: Three Years of Bloody Clashes Between Herders and Farmers in Nigeria. Abuja: Amnesty International.
- [10]. Andorno, R. (2014). Human Dignity and Human Rights. H.A.M.J. Ten have, B. Gordijn (eds.), *Handbook of Global Bioethics*, DOI 10.1007/978-94-007-2512\_66.
- [11]. Anka, A.S. (2017). Emerging issues in Zamfara Armed Banditry and Cattle Rustling: Collapse of the Peace Deal and Resurgence of Fresh Violence. *International Journal of Innovative Research and Development*, 6(12), 161-170.
- [12]. Anyanwu, D. (2018). National Programme for Food Security (NPFSS) and Rural Development: A content Analysis, *International Journal of Advanced Academic Research/Social & Management Sciences*, 4(1):1832.
- [13]. Ayinde, L.A.; Otkuurin, O.A.; Akiubode, S.O.; & Oluweseun, A. O. (2020). Food Security in Nigeria: Impetus for Growth and Development; *Journal of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development*;6(2):808-820; [www.premierpublishers.org](http://www.premierpublishers.org).
- [14]. Babatola, J.E.T (2015). Challenges of Nigeria borders and frontier security (1960-2014), seminar paper in Department of History and International Studies, Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti, December.

- [15]. Cassia, P.S. (2006). Better Occasional Murders than Frequent Adulteries: Discourses on Banditry, Violence, and Sacrifice in the Mediterranean. In Fernando Coronil and Julie Skurski (eds.) *States of Violence*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press.
- [16]. Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) (2015), *Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme: Rural Conflict and Banditry in Northern Nigeria*. A Publication of Centre of Democracy and Development CITECT Estate Abuja.
- [17]. Centre for International Cooperation and Security (2005). *The Impact of Armed Violence on Poverty and Development*, Full Report of the Armed Violence and Poverty Initiative, Centre for International Cooperation and Security, Department of Peace Studies University of Bradford.
- [18]. Egwu, S. (2016). *The Political Economy of Rural Bandits in Contemporary Nigeria* in Kuna, M.J. and Ibrahim, J. (eds.) *Rural Bandits and Conflicts in Northern Nigeria*, Abuja: Centre for Democracy and Development.
- [19]. Elazeh, M. (2016). *Katsina: Gains of Masaris War Against Cattle Rustling*. Leadership, March 7<sup>th</sup>. Retrieved from: <http://leadership.ng/features/5071182/katsina-gains-masaris-war-cattle-rustling>.
- [20]. FAO (2010). *Global forest Resources Assessment main Report*, FAO: forest paper, 163, Rome.
- [21]. FAO (2013), IFAD & WFP-The state of food insecurity in the world: The multiple Dimensions of food security, Rome, FAO.
- [22]. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) (2009). *Roving Bandits in Modern Fisheries*. Swedish FAO Committee Publication Series, No. 5. Swedish Ministry of Agriculture.
- [23]. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) (2010). *Towards Food Security Multidimensional Index*-Retrieved from [fao.org/fileadmin/templates/ERP/Uni](http://fao.org/fileadmin/templates/ERP/Uni).
- [24]. Gambari, I.A. (2018). *Violent Conflicts, Conflict Resolution and Peace Building: Global Best Practices and New Perspectives on Farmer-Herder Clashes in Nigeria*. Paper Presented at a Public Lecture at the University of Uyo, Nigeria, on August 24, 2018.
- [25]. Headey, D. and Ecker, O. (2012). "Improving the Measurement of Food Security" (N0. 01225). IFPRI Discussion Paper 01225. Retrieved from: <http://www.ifpri.org/publication/improving-measurement-food-security>.
- [26]. Ibe-Enwo, G. I. (2021). *Effect of Herder-framer clash on Food Security in Local Governments in Ebonyi State; The case of Selected LGAs*; unpublished thesis to PAD-EBSU.
- [27]. Martins S. and Ferris, E. (2017). *Border Security, Migration Governance and Sovereignty*; in international organization for migration (IOM), the UN Migration Agency.
- [28]. Mustapha, U.N. (2019). *Armed Banditry and Internal Security in Zamfara State*. *International Journal of Scientific & Engineering Research*, 10(8), 1219-1226.
- [29]. Nwakpa, T.V. (2021). *Effects of Herders-crop Farmers Conflict on the Attainment of Socio-Economic Development in Selected Rural Communities of South-East, Nigeria 2010-2020*. A Thesis Submitted to the Department of Public Administration, Faculty of Management Sciences, Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Award of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Degree in Public Administration.
- [30]. Ofoma, C.V. (2022). *Effect of Banditry on Socioeconomic Zone of Nigeria (2010-2020): A Study of Selected States*; Ph.D Thesis.
- [31]. Okoli, A.C. and Lenshie, E.N. (2018). *Nigeria: Nomadic Migrancy and Rural Violence in Nigeria*. *Conflict Studies Quarterly*, 25, 68-85.
- [32]. Okoli, A.C. and Ugwu, A.C. (2019). *Of Marauders and Brigands: Scoping the Threat of Rural Banditry in Nigeria's North-West*. *Brazilian Journal of African Studies*, 4(8), 201-222.
- [33]. Osimen, A.U., Anegbode, E.J., Akande, C.A and Oyewole, O.O (2017). *The borderless-border and Internal Security Challenges in Nigeria*; international Journal of Political Science (IJPS), 3(3): 17-27; [www.archjournal.org](http://www.archjournal.org).
- [34]. Rosenje, M.O. and Adeniyi, O.P. (2018). *The Impact of Banditry on Nigeria's Security in the Fourth Republic: An Evaluation of Nigeria's Northwest*.
- [35]. Ruda'I, M.A. (2018). *Cattle Rustling and Armed Banditry along Nigeria-Nigeria Borderlands*. *Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, 23(4), 66-73.
- [36]. SB Morgan Intelligence (SBMI). 2015. *Terror in the Food Basket: A Look Into the Violence in North-Central Nigeria*. A Publication of SB Morgan Intelligence (Accessed November 23, 2017).
- [37]. Suleiman, I.L. and Bilkisu, U.M. (2020). *Impacts of Banditry on Food Security in Katsina State, Nigeria*. *Direct Research Journal of Agriculture & Food Science*, 8(12), 439-447 <https://doi.org/10.26765/DRJAFS278190136>.
- [38]. Udu, L.E & Edeh, J.N. (2019). *Implications of Terrorism and Insurgency for Sustainable Socioeconomic Development in Nigeria*; IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science, 24(5):18-31.
- [39]. Udu, L.E & Ibeogu, A.S (2021): *Immigration and Border Security as Strategy for Tackling Security Challenges in Nigeria: Beyond Politics and Sentimentalism*; Journal of Public Administration and Governance Review, 3(1): 229 – 241.
- [40]. Udu, L.E & Nwele, A.O. (2020) *Community Development and the Imperative of Food Security in Selected Communities in Ebonyi State: Critical Issues and Policy Options*; South-East Journal of Public Relations, 3(1).
- [41]. Udu, L.E & Nwofoke, E. C (2020). *Effect of Fringe Benefits on Employee Job Performance in Selected LGAs, Ebonyi State, Nigeria*; *Global Journal of Multidisciplinary Research*, 2(3):91-111, [www.pairjournal.com](http://www.pairjournal.com).
- [42]. Udu, L.E. (2019). *Women Trafficking as a Contemporary form of Slavery in Africa: Evidences from Nigeria*; A Paper Presented at the Conference of the Department of History, Political Sciences, Geography & African Studies, Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN, March 21 – 22.
- [43]. United States Agency for International Development (USAID) (2007). *Preliminary Livelihoods Zoning: Northern Nigeria* Chemonics International Inc.