Lapai International Journal
of Security & Sustainable Development

LIJOSSUD

Volume 1, Number
June, 2

THE EFFECT OF INSECURITY ON AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN MUNYA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF NIGER STATE, NIGERIA

Moshood Olayinka Salahu Ph.D, Chidawa Yohana Ph.D
Bello Musa Inuwa, Nuradeen A. Dauda
moshoodsalahu@gmail.com chidawayohana2016@gmail.com
belloinuwa1982@gmail.com, adnuradeen@gmail.com
07039089596, 08034985775, 08038347708, 08035175236

1Department of Politics and Governance, Kwara State University, Malete, Nigeria
.2,3&4Department of Liberal Studies, Niger State Polytechnic, Zungeru, Nigeria

ABSTRACT

Munya Local Government is fraught with violent conflicts, chaos, anarchy and disorderliness. These problems precipitated the desire to embark on this research. This study concentrated on the effect of insecurity on agricultural activities in Munya Local Government Area in Niger State, Nigeria. The objectives are set to highlight the causes of insecurity in Niger State and also to proffer solutions on how to address the issues of insecurity in Munya Local Government, Niger State and Nigeria in general. The Survey Research Design was adopted. Data were generated through interview of key informants, focus group discussion and observation. Under the secondary method data were collected through internet, Journals, books, Newspapers and other documented materials relevant to the study. The study adopted the Democratic Peace Theory to explain the effect of insecurity. Findings revealed that insecurity is an important factor affecting agricultural activities in Nigeria. Based on the findings, it was concluded that rapid growth of agricultural activities can only be possible when the menace of insecurity is halted. The study, therefore, recommended that Government need to encourage, support, equip and improve the local vigilantes; the government should provide employment opportunities to the teeming youth; the government should set up security measures to curb the menace; security management should be enshrined in the school curriculum and the government should rehabilitate the Sarkin-Pawa Pol-Waya road, these will enable the farmers to concentrate on their farms thereby leading to better yield in their crops for a better economy.

Keywords: *Agricultural, Government, Insecurity, Local, Munya, Local*

INTRODUCTION

Communities across the world have faced a growing number of challenging events in recent times, such as violent attacks, terrorism, oil spillage riots and water crisis that have brought untold hardship to people, especially the poor masses. Insecurity is lack of a situation that

provides national and international conditions favourable to the protection of a nation, state and its citizens against existing and potential threats. It entails an exposure of people to danger or threat. Galbulloev and Sandlar, (2009) Stated that the world has recorded a lot of terrorists attacks, some of these incidents include; Euskodi Ta Askatasuma (ETA), attacks in hotels and resorts in 1980s in Spain; the Irish Republican Army (IRA) attacks on London financial district at the Baltic Exchange (April 10,1992) and Bishopsgate (April 24, 1993); Attacks on London's Transport System in July 7, 2005; the Alqaeda attack on the World Trade Centre in September 11,2001. According to Ewetan and Urhie, (2014) the level of insecurity in Nigeria is becoming alarming. It has become a major issue for the government. Since 1990 when the activities of the Niger Delta Militants started until recent times when Boko-Haram insurgents arose in the Northern part of the country. Nigeria has witnessed unprecedented security challenges. These challenges ranges from Kidnapping, suicide attacks, bombings, ritual killings, assassination, armed robbery, and this has led to the destruction of lives and properties, hindered business activities, discouraged local and foreign investors, increases government expenditure on security all of these stifles and retards Nigeria's socio-economic development. Beland (2005) in another development stated that the UNDP (1994) human insecurity to include chronic threats like hunger, disease and depression. The state of fear on anxiety stemming from a concrete or alleged lack of protection or inadequate freedom from danger.

Chinedu, (2012) asserts that insecurity is the state of being unsafe or insecure or a state of mind characterized by self-doubt and vulnerability. In modern times, the protection of lives and properties is very fundamental to the socio-economic survival of any given society. Consequently, it falls within the responsibility of government to provide adequate security of lives and properties in a particular social formation. Security is the most important element in human life. Without security, social, economic, and political achievements cannot be attained nor sustained. Eme, (2011) In another development stated that every responsible government deploys every strategy in protecting and deepening its fundamental values, aimed at encouraging people to live their lives in free, secure and safe environments in line with their shared common beliefs by preserving their national interest, identity, and sovereignty.

Calistar, (2015) stated that insecurity is seen as a chronic threat to human life, territories, states, religious beliefs, properties and institutions amongst others. Ndubuisi and Theresa (2019), in another development highlighted that; Insecurity is a critical issue that has hampered industrialization and sustainable development in Nigeria in particular and the world at large. Nigeria which is perceived as the giant of Africa has witnessed unprecedented incidences of insecurity ranging from the activities of Fulani Herdsmen, Boko-Haram insurgencies, Armed robbery attacks, Kidnapping, Political and Religious crises, Murder, destruction of oil facilities by Niger Delta Militants, Child abduction and Trafficking amongst others.

According to Ndubuisi-Okolo &Theresa (2009), it is crystal clear that the state of

insecurity in Nigeria is largely a function of government failure and lackadaisical attitude towards the poor masses. The inability of the government to provide essential services which has led to lack of the necessities of life (food, shelter and clothing) as a result of this, 'it is often said that a hungry man is an angry man' the masses are easily provoked because of the hardship they are facing. This ugly situation has also led to the rise of different groups that has increased like a wild fire which on the other hand has also back fired to the masses, which has affected agricultural activities in Niger State.

Nigeria is a country endowed with both human and rich natural resources, the masses are wallowing in hunger and abject poverty despite the rich arable land. This had led many youths to engage in negative activities like armed robbery, kidnapping, child abduction, armed banditry among others. This ugly situation has affected the agricultural practices in Niger State. Farmers have relocated from their respective villages to the township for safety. Farmers are kidnapped and killed on their farms even requesting for huge amount of money as ransom, this has paralyzed agricultural practices in Niger State, which has therefore led to hike in prices of food items.

Objectives of the study

The main objective of this study is to determine the effect of insecurity on agricultural activities specifically, the study is to:

a. Highlight the causes and effect of insecurity in Munya Local Government Area of Niger State

b. Proffer solutions to security challenges in Niger State and Nigeria in general

Literature Review

There are abundant literatures on crises, insecurity and peace building, this work has reviewed some of these scholarly works so as to lay a good foundation and to arrive at logical conclusion Elizabeth and Joseph (2020) in a study on group communication as an effective tool in the management of Farmers/Herdsmen crises in Southern Kaduna – Nigeria, stated that the high rate of killings experienced in some parts of southern Kaduna of Nigeria by armed bandits for over two years now has crippled the social, economic, agricultural, educational, religious and other activities in the region. Southern Kaduna as a geographical environment conducive for arable and livestock farming. This assertion is supported by Bagobori (2017), who states that: Southern Kaduna senatorial district land is fertile and agrarian, it is also blessed with adequate rainfall enough to make crops yield bounteously. Corroborating the above assertion Elizabeth and Joseph (2020) asserted that unfortunately, Southern Kaduna that has for years been known to be peaceful is now in crises, majority of its people are living in fear. Farmers dread going to their farms for fear of being attacked. From the above it is clear that these crises have crippled a lot of economic activities which is a set-back to the region.

Ogebe, Daniel and Ligom, (2019), stated that recently, there were escalation of reported attacks by herdsmen who brutalizes natives of farming communities including women and children in various states across the country. States like Benue, Taraba, Nassarawa, Plateau, Kaduna, Katsina and Zamfara states has also had their own share of this ugly situation. Obi (2015) in a study on challenges of insecurity and terrorism in Nigeria discovered that insecurity and terrorism have become a major challenge to the Nigeria government. He stated that the activities of the Islamic sect (Boko Haram) has led to loss of lives and properties in the country especially in the Northern part of Nigeria. Some of these activities includes bombing, suicide bomb attacks, sporadic shooting of unarmed and innocent citizens, burning of police stations, churches, kidnapping of school girls and women etc. kidnapping, rape, armed robbery and political crises, murder, destruction of oil facilities by Niger Delta Militants alongside the attacks carried out by Fulani Herdsmen on some communities in the North and South have been another major insecurity challenge facing the country. The above author has clearly stated that every part of Nigeria has tasted its own share of this challenge.

Eme et al., (2015) In another development stated that the agitation for Biafran Republic has gathered momentum in the last decade. Vast majorities of the public have a sense of deprivation, oppression, marginalization, and this has resulted in dissatisfaction and loss of hope, particularly among the youth. Such young people are now expressing their disillusionment with the state of affairs by any means possible, whether legal or illegal.

Nzubechukwu et'al (2022) In a study on the Problem of Terrorism and Insecurity in Nigeria and its Consequences on National Development discovered that Boko Haram Terrorists, Herdsmen, Militants and Bandits across Nigeria, has resulted in the loss of incalculable lives and properties with a far reaching consequence on national economy and development. This has resulted in the decline in foreign private investments and FDI, economic redundancy and wastage due to attacks on oil facilities.

Ndubuisi-Okolo and Anigbuogu (2019), in a study on "Insecurity in Nigeria: The implications for Industrializations and Sustainable Development" concluded that, the causes of insecurity in Nigeria include: political quagmire, leadership tussle, unemployment/poverty issue, ethnics-religious conflicts, weak security systems, porous borders, wrong perception between the public and government, lack of institutional capacity resulting to government failure amongst others. This is clear that the aforementioned reasons may be the major cause of insecurity in Nigeria. In another development Olatunji (2021:12), stated that one in every three Nigerians have plans to migrate out of the country. The reason is not far fetching. The song on the lips of everyone is "security of their lives and properties, dilapidated economy, corruption and terrorism". He continued that insecurity in the nations is growing exponentially as each day passes by. The nation's state of unrest will completely turn everywhere to Miasma of bloodletting, if vital steps are not taken the havoc being wreaked by rebellions individuals is deadly, across everywhere in the country. The above author has clearly

indicated that every Nigerian is affected with the problem of insecurity.

Olatunji (2021) continued that insecurity in Nigeria is backed by corruption and corrupt people in every sector. Nearly 98 million Nigerians live in extreme poverty making the country the world's capital of poverty, of this figure the larger population being youth and children. The above assertion has made it clear that poverty is the main cause of insecurity in the country, which is as a result of corrupt leaders. Furthermore, the porous condition of the Nigerian borders according to Achumba et al., (2013) has contributed the unrestricted influx of migrants, mostly young people, from neighboring countries such as the Republic of Niger, Chad and the Republic of Benin accountable for some of the insecurity skyrocketing criminal activities in Nigeria

Olatunji (2021) also stated that many Northerners have fled their homes to take refuge in IDP camps and neighboring countries. It was reported that some youth of Sokoto state refused to yield to the plea of their governor to return home, while they enjoy peace of mind in the foreign land of Niger Republic. He continued that kidnapping, is now becoming a business in the nation both top and average individuals are being kidnapped for ransom. Lastly, students suffer the most of this ordeal. Schools are now deadly places for students in Katsina, Kaduna, Zamfara and many other northern states. The hope of many kidnapped students in these states remains unpredictable. For the fear of having their children kidnapped, parents now prefer their wards at home rather than at the school. Sporadic bullets have ended the lives of many promising youth. Herdsmen are contributing a bad quota, too. Eme, (2013) stated that any Nigerian soldiers fighting the Boko Haram terrorists in the Northeast of the country have been ambushed on several occasions and killed as a result of leaked information regarding their operations, surveillance and strategy by insiders

Many farmers have fled their farmlands for safety of their lives by the killer pastoralists. The above author has clearly spelt out the causes and effect of insecurity in some states in Nigeria. Amongst all the reviewed works none concentrated on the effect of insecurity on agricultural activities in Niger State, this is the gap that this work seeks to fill.

Theoretical Framework

This study adopts the Democratic Peace Theory. It was first articulated by German Philosopher Emmanuel Kant in his 1795 essay entitled "Perpetual Peace". In this work Kant argues that nations with constitutional republic governments are less likely to go to war because doing so requires the consent of the people who would actually be fighting the war. While the Kings and Queens of monarchies can unilaterally declare war with little regard for their subjects' safety, governments chosen by the people take the decision more seriously. Proponents cite several reasons for the tendency of democratic states to maintain peace, including:

a. The citizens of democracies usually have some say over legislative decisions to declare war.
b. In democracies, the voting public holds their elected leaders responsible for human and financial losses.
c. When held publicly accountable, government leaders are likely to create diplomatic institution for resolving international tensions.
d. Usually possessing more wealth than others states, democracies avoid war to preserve their resources (Robert, 2019)

Methodology

To realize the central objectives of this paper, the primary and secondary sources of data collection were adopted to collect the required information. The study used interview to collect information from key informants like traditional rulers in the affected villages, IDPs in Sarkin-Pawa, Gwada and Mutun-daya. A total of 5 traditional rulers and 15 IDPs were interviewed, we visited Dandaudu, Sarkin-Pawa, Injita and Chibani markets where we randomly interviewed some of the Villagers. The interview was conducted in Hausa Language which is the general language of the people of this area. The paper also made use of journals, textbooks, newspapers and magazines and internet materials that treated insecurity.

The causes of insecurity in Munya Local Government Area

Unemployment and Poverty: Unemployment births poverty and extreme poverty births criminality which in turn births insecurity. In Nigeria, the increase in unemployment have pushed many Nigerians into extreme poverty thereby making them desperate to survive by any means possible. These people become willing tools in the hands of mischief makers as they are easily vulnerable to a life of criminality and crimes.

Corruption: Corruption is generally believed to be the greatest cankerworm feasting on the development of Nigeria with evidence of government failure and systemic infrastructure collapse. The present state of insecurity in Munya Local Government Area in Niger State is unarguably a result of government failure, attributed to widespread corruption.

The Sarkin-Pawa Polwaya Road: The state of the road which passess through a thick forest that has provided hide-outs for criminals and other men of the underworld have led to the incessant attacks on villages in the area and even the local government headquarters.

Marginalization and Inequalities: The current government has been strongly accused with ethnic disparity, and the marginalization of some sections of the country in the provision of basic infrastructure and appointments into strategic public offices, and this has further worsened the state of security in the area.

Bad Governance and Poor Leadership: Any government anywhere has the responsibility of providing basic services such as water, electricity, good road network, quality education, and general infrastructure. However, these basic infrastructures are scarcely available in Nigeria and the people, in general, are frustrated and demoralized, this is in line with the position of Muhammed Et al, (2010) that Demoralization and anger logically provide a strong fertile ground for aggression and general insecurity. The scarcity of these basic amenities in the midst of extreme corruption continues to fuel people's resentment against the government, hence an increase in insecurity.

The Effect of Insecurity on Agricultural Activities in Munya Local Government Area

Insecurity has left a lot tears in the eyes of many Nigerians specifically the people of Munya Local Government Area in Niger State. In our interview with Internally Displaced Persons' (IDP) in a camp at Central Primary Primary School, Sarkin-Pawa. She said "I was brooding over the horror she had passed through since the bandits have been holding a significant part of Niger State to ransom, they abducted my daughter and son, forcing me to sell everything I owned to pay for their release".

Another victim in the same camp also stated that "the bandits come to our village in the mid-night killed some people, took away some, they have made us to desert our villages and farms which is our source of income and survival. We cannot go to our farms anymore, he continued that "we shall die of hunger because these people have sent us away from our farms".

Another victim said "they came to our village when they discovered that we have fled for our lives they burnt all our farm produce like yam, rice, soya beans, maize, guinea-corn amongst others. The above responses are in line with a study conducted by Elizabeth and Joseph (2021) remold in a study on group communication as an effective tool in the management of farmers/herders crises in Sothern Kaduna-Nigeria. The study concluded that the rate of killings experienced in some parts of Southern-Kaduna by armed bandits for over the years now have crippled the economic, socio-economic, educational, and other activities. In our interview with the village head of Gbakuku, he stated that 'we are all living in fear, we at times sleep in the bushes, our children don't go to school again because the school have been shut-down due to the activities of these evil people" The above response is in line with a study conducted by Olatunde (2020) who stated that students suffer the most of this. Schools are now deadly places for students in Katsina, Kaduna, Zamfara and many other Northern States.

Another victim from Zazzaga Munya Local Government Area who also fled for his life in a nearby town (Gwada) narrated the story and complained that "now we cannot go to our farms, this is the time for harvest and we cannot go to our farms, all the inhabitants of the village have left to nearby larger settlements for the safety of their lives. A key political office-holder in the Local Government also give us the share of his own story

that "on April 2nd, 2021, bandits invaded a military camp in Zazzaga community barely two weeks after they had attacked the military base in Alawa, Shiroro Local Government Area, killing five soldiers, and a mobile Police man and burning the base before they moved in to the communities where they also killed seven people and abducted several others.

We also come in contact with a woman who also narrated her over experience she said "we were working on the farm when we saw them coming we had no option but to run. We had harvested some of the crops, but we could not carry them because we had to run, this is because if they meet us there, they will take us along and they will demand for the amount of money we cannot afford as ransom. This is in agreement with a study conducted by Ojebe, Daniel and Ligom (2019) on land use conflict between farmers and herdsmen in Gwer-West Local Government Area of Benue State. The study discovered that farming communities and children in various states across the community had their own share of the ugly situation.

Another IDP in Gwada disclosed in an interview that "the activities of these evil men have paralyzed our farming activities throughout this year. Harvest is poor, the yield is also very low because we could not concentrate well on our farms; his response is also in line with the response of a local yam dealer (Dan'ashafa) in Dandaudu market who stated that "yam is very expensive because of the poor yield this year" this may be as a result of the activities of the armed bandits because farmers were not allowed to concentrate on their farm work during the rainy season.
Another respondent also stated that" the bandits are fed with information by some bad citizens who are compensated with some amount of money, this is also coupled with hatred on the side of the said informants this is an indication that the bandits have some local citizens in these affected villages that feed them with the information they need before embarking on any attack.

Another IDP also narrated the incident that took place in Kachiwe Munya Local Government Area on 29/10/2021 he stated that "ten people were burnt to ashes, seven women were also abducted by the bandits. He added that the bandits moved to Shape village and slaughtered many people while others took to their heels, he added that they also killed seven people in Gogope village

". Another respondent also gave the side of his own story that "they came to our village (Kamache) in the mid-night and took away ten (10) people, mainly children, they called us and we have agreed on a sum of five million naira (#5,000,000:00) and four (4) Honda Motor-cycles that costs two million four hundred thousand naira (#2,400,000:00). We had to travel as far as Kano to get these motor-cycles due to the recent ban on sale of motor-cycles in the state. We sold all we had including our fixed assets before meeting up with the demand of the bandits, we don't know how we will cope with the next planting season, how do we get money to purchase farm

inputs like herbicides, fertilizer, pesticides amongst others".

Table 1: Data on number of victims of banditry

Location	No of people killed	No. people of people injured	No. of people kidnapped	Date
Zazzga	2	1	None	20/05/2021
Zazzaga	1	None	63	17/11/2021
Fuka	None	None	4	22/05/2021
Kamache	None	None	10	20/11/2021
Chibani	1	None	None	22/11/2021
Kachlive	10	None	7	27/10/2021
Shape	9	None	None	27/10/2021
Cogope	7	None	None	27/10/2021
Gini	1	None		26/05/2021
Guni Area	None	None	14	2021
Kazai	None	1	4	2021
Kuchi	3	4	12	2021
TOTAL	34	6	114	

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Statistics of banditry attacks in Munya LGA in 2021

From the above table, it can be seen that in five months thirty-four (34) persons were killed, six (6) injured and about One hundred and fourteen abducted demanding a huge amount of money as ransom. The responses of the respondents coincide with the information on this table, this has revealed how the activities of the bandits has led to a set-back on the agricultural activities in Munya Local Government Area.

This is an indication that the activities of the bandits have paralyzed the farming activities of the habitants and the effort of the government in curbing this menace is rendered useless.

From the above we can deduce that the activities of the bandits have totally impoverished the victims leading to a total collapse of their agricultural activities, which will lead to poor yield resulting to scarcity of food and a hike in prices of food.

Conclusion and Recommendation

Insecurity has become a major threat to the Nigeria society. It has eaten deep in to the fabric of both human and natural resources. As a result of this, it has become necessary to improve the security system to bring a stop to these challenges.

Strengthening the security system will also discourage the perpetrators from engaging in these activities. This will also make Munya Local Government Area and Nigeria at large habitable for all citizens and to promote the agricultural and other economic activities.

The study recommends that:

- The government should encourage, support, equip and improve the local vigilantes group (Yan'banga and Yan'sakai). This will help to ameliorate the activities of the bandits.The government should provide employment opportunities to the teeming youth, this will discourage them from engaging in activities that may lead to societal threat.
- Religions groups should take the issue of educating their members on the havoc that the activities of these bandits may cause.
- The government should step up physical security measures in Munya Local Government Area and Nigeria at large. Through the provision of security facilities and development of stringent measures to be meted out on security defaulters.
- The government should enshrine security management in Schools' curriculum this is to educate the younger ones on the importance of security.
- The government should also rehabilitate the Sarkin-Pawa Pol-waya road that has been taken over by the bandits.

Reference

Achumba, I. (2013). Security Challenges in Nigeria and the Implications for Business Activities and Sustainable Development. *Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development*, Vol. 4, No. 2.

Bagobiri, D. J. (2017) Christians: Seed of another humanity. Ikeja, Niles or Phem Print Ltd.

Belad, D. (2000) The political construction of collective insecurity: From Moral Panic to Blame Avoidance and Organized Irresponsibility. Centre for European

Studies. Working Paper Series 126 of another

Callistar K. (2015) Challenges of Insecurity and Terrorism in Nigeria: Implication for National Development, Institutional Journal Sustainable Development

Chinedu, A. (2012). *Economic Implications of Insecurity in Nigeria*. Lagos: Amfill Publishers. p32.

Eme, O. (2011). The Challenges of Insecurity in Nigeria: A Thematic Exposition. Eme, O. I. (2004). Insecurity Question in Nigeria: A Thematic Exposition. *The Academy*, 4(4): 8-9.

Eme, O. I. (2013). Insecurity and Nigeria's Business Climate. Unpublished Mimeo.

Eme, O. (2015). Implication of Boko Haram Terrorism on Northern Nigeria. Mediterranean *Journal of Social Sciences*, 6: 371-376

Ewetan, O. & Urhie, E. (2014) Insecurity and Socio-Economic Development in Nigerian Journal of Sustainable Development Vol.5 No1

Gaibulloev K. & Sandler, T. (2009) The Impact of Terrorism on Growth in Asia Economics & Politics Vol. No. 3

Muhammed, K. (2010). Militant Islamist Groups in Northern Nigeria, in Wafula Okumu and Augustine Ikelegbe (eds.), Militias, Rebels and Islamist Militants: Human Insecurity and State Crises in Africa, Pretoria: Institute for Security Studies.

Ndubuisi, U. & Theresa, A (2019) Insecurity in Nigeria: The Implications for Industrialization and Sustainable Development, International Journal of Research, Business Studies and Management Vol. 6 (5) pp 7 – 16

Nzubechukwu, A. H., Zain, M. I. M., Ab. Halim, A., Ismail, I. A., & Ismail, M. M. (2022). The Problem of Terrorism and Insecurity in Nigeria and its Consequences on National Development. *International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences. 12(13)*, 98 - 105.

Robert, L. (2019) What is the democratic peace theory? Definition and examples. Accessed from www.thoughtco.com Democratic peace theory – 4769410 on 25/10/2019

Ogebe, F.O, Daniel, A. & Ligom, L.S. (2019) Land use Conflict between farmers and herdsmen in Gwer-West Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria. Journal of Agricultural and Veterinary Science, 12(1) 23 – 31

Elizabeth, T.A. & Joseph, J.G. (2020) Group Communication as an Effective tool in the Management of Farmers/Herdsmen crises in Southern-Kaduna, Nigeria, Nigeria Journal of Religion and Society Vol. 10 PP 13 – 27

Obi, C. (2015) Challenges of Insecurity and Terrorism in Nigeria: Implication for National Development. International Journal of Sustainable Development Vol. 8 No. 2 pp 11 – 18

Olatunji O. Sept., 17, 2021) Nigeria's insecurity and the tears it has provoked vanguard newspaper.

Ndubuisi-Okolo P. & Anigbuogu, T. (2019) Insecurity in Nigeria: The Implications for Industrialization and Sustainable Development, International Journal of Research in Business Studies and Management Vol. 6 issue 5, pp 7 – 16