



IJAHSS



Copyright@IJAHSS

SECURITY CHALLENGES AND SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NIGER STATE, NIGERIA

Nwadiani, Chinelo Grace^{1*} & Ugwueje, Ebere Augustine²

¹ Department Of Sociology, Abia State University, Uturu, Nigeria

*Corresponding Author

Nwadiani, Chinelo Grace

ABSTRACT

Adequate attention tends not to have been given to the connection between socioeconomic development and security challenges in Nigeria. This study therefore, investigated Security Challenges and Socioeconomic Development in Niger State. The specific objectives included: to examine the effects of Boko Haram activities on infrastructural development; and to find out the effects of bandits activities on people's job/businesses in Niger State. The study was anchored on the theory of organized crime. The survey design involving a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods was adopted. Quantitative data were collected through questionnaire while the qualitative data were gathered through interview. The multi-stage sampling procedure was adopted to select respondents for the study. There were three hypotheses stated for the study. The sample size was 376 respondents while 24 interviews were conducted to generate the qualitative data. The quantitative data were processed using SPSS version 20.0 and analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The QDA Miner software was used to analyze the qualitative data. The stated hypotheses were tested using chi-square statistic. The findings revealed that the drivers of banditry were poverty, unemployment, large swathes of forest reserves, thriving illegal mining activities. Again, banditry activities have led to the displacement of means of livelihood and shortage of food and have triggered an adverse socioeconomic crisis for the people. It was, therefore, recommended that the forests should be combed by the military personnel through an air raid in order to stop further attacks on infrastructural facilities; and the Nigeria porous borders should be blocked to prevent the influx of foreign criminal elements and bandits into the country as this will go a long way to open up business activities in the region and give the people the courage to embark on business trips without fear of being kidnapped or killed.

Key Words: *Socioeconomic Development; Security Challenges; Boko Haram; Bandits; Niger State*

1. INTRODUCTION

Security challenge is one of the most serious threats to global peace and stability in contemporary times. Since the dawn of this millennium, the challenge of insecurity has been on the increase. Insecurity poses a direct threat to the security of the citizens of NATO countries, and to international stability and prosperity. It is a persistent global threat that knows no border, nationality or religion and is a challenge that the international community must tackle together (NATO, 2023).

According to the African union commission (AUC) African initiatives, such as the Accra initiative and the peace fund, demonstrate that the continent can mobilize its resources and its men and women in the fight against terrorism. However, the traditional means of responding to threats to peace, peacekeeping and peace building no longer correspond to new menaces. The mandates of United Nations missions should be revised to make them more effective. The union stands ready to work with the United Nations and the council to initiate a new approach to counter the scourge, and its direct and indirect causes (Mahamat, 2022).

However, socioeconomic factors are seen as poor indicators of insecurity challenge, and its participation. Let us take poverty as an example; it has been flagged repeatedly as a potential primary driver of membership of terrorist organizations. Poverty and unemployment are often blamed for creating feelings of hopelessness and desperation. Poor economic conditions foster a lack of economic opportunities, resulting in a limited number of options for gainful employment (Rogers, 2012).

Areas most affected by insecurity and attacks are Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states in the North East. They have also been significant attacks in other states, including Gombe, Kano, Kaduna, Plateau, Bauchi, Taraba and Niger states. The risk of terrorism which cuts across Nigeria includes the capital city Abuja and its surrounding has increased since May, 2022. Islamic state of West Africa (ISWA) has conducted a number of attacks in Kogi, Niger and Abuja. Public places where crowds gather have been targeted in the past, including places of worship, markets, shopping malls, football

viewing centre's, displacement camps, transport terminals (including train networks), government buildings, Educational institutions (schools, colleges and universities are all regular targets) and international organizations.

Methods of attacks have included coordinated armed assaults, rocket attacks, assassinations, kidnapping, use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), bombings (including child and female bombers), car bombing, use of military uniforms and vehicles have been used as a tactic to get close to the intended target. Some of these bandits groups have also been known to construct illegal vehicle check points on major supply and commercial routes, such as the A3 Maiduguri Damaturu road (Article, 2022). Security challenges, mostly fueled as a result of banditry and kidnapping have continued hitting hard on various communities in Nigeria without sign of abating, it remains a thorn in the flesh in Niger state communities thereby depriving them a good healthcare system, and sources of livelihood, the bandits wreak havoc on Kagara, Satusu, Gogata, Tshogi, Ebbo and its environs are camp in Birnin Gwari forest reserve, more than 10,000 people have now become IDPs in Rafi as a result of banditry and kidnapping (Madobi, 2022).

Agriculture is another sector that is badly being affected in Niger state as a result of insecurity. This has undoubtedly led to the deficit in the quantity of agricultural supplies thereby leading to food crises. This is not unconnected to the rustling of cattle by the bandits, who were very vital in assisting farmers in land cultivation. Some of the residents in rural areas resorted into paying taxes to the bandits in order to allow them run smooth access to their farms and cultivate. However, these taxes are being paid not only once but in batches right from the process of land preparation, planting, harvesting and transportation of the yields back to home. The bandits were also in the habit of confiscating agricultural inputs such as fertilizers, chemicals seeds and farm implements from the farmers which can later be retrieved in an exchange for money. Therefore, it is worrisome that these bandits will still later abduct these farmers, forcing them to sell their agricultural produce and send the proceeds to them as ransom to regain their freedom (Madobi, 2022). This bandits has made rural agricultural production a difficult venture for the farmers due to incessant bandits attacks in spite of tax payment and thereby resulting to high cost of farm inputs and also a contributing factor to the decline of farming activities in this rural areas, and this insecurity situation has affected the quantity of agricultural commodities being traded at markets in their region (Akote, 2022). Furthermore, most rural farmers have been killed, while other have faced hospitalizations due to the shock and living in horrific fears. Others are: loss of lives, destruction of farm lands, loss of animals and farm produce etc (Abubakar, 2022). It is against the backdrop of the foregoing problems that this study is positioned to investigate security challenges and socio-economic development in Niger state, Nigeria.

2. Research Questions

The following research questions are formulated to guide this study:

1. What are the effects of Boko Haram activities on infrastructural development of Niger State?
2. What are the ways bandits activities have affected people's Jobs/businesses in Niger

3. Objectives of the Study

The objectives are as follows:

1. To examine the effects of Boko Haram activities on infrastructural development of Niger state.
2. To find out the effects of bandits activities on people's job/businesses in Niger state.

4. Hypotheses

The following hypotheses are stated to guide this study:-

1. There is a significant relationship between dilapidated social amenities and continued Boko Haram activities in Niger state.
2. There is a significant relationship between activities of Bandits and low income amongst people in Niger state.

5. Theoretical Framework

The organized theory of Crime by Daniel Bell (1953) is adopted as the frame work for this study. This is because the theory best provides a general picture of today terrorist acts. The theorist is on the notion, that organized crime thrives in contexts where the government's capacity to dictate, sanction and deter crime is poor; where public corruption is endemic; and where prospects for legitimate livelihood opportunities are slim. Under these circumstances, the incentive to indulge in crime is high, while deterrence from criminal living is low. In other words, the benefits of committing a crime surpass the costs and this creates ample pretext and motivation for criminal impunity. In application to this study, would enable one to come to terms with the prevalence of organized crime and sundry acts of criminality in Nigeria. In this regard, it is observed that the phenomenon of terrorism in Nigeria, and the high rate of kidnapping have been driven by criminal quest for economic accumulation and power in an environment that more or less conduces crime. This has been worsened by the prevailing socioeconomic malaise and its association with livelihood crises in the country and the government's inability to detect crime and create enabling measures against criminality and efficient punishment of crime in Nigeria has been more complicated and accentuated the problem.

The idea of Bell (1953) theory denotes untoward pattern of social mobility. In effect, those who take to organized crime, do so as a desperate means of social climbing and power. Furthermore, the adoption of this theory for the purpose of this discourse is informed by its analytical utility in providing insights into the socio-political foundations of organized crime, prominent among the terrorist, in our society today, for ethnic region and power. More so, crime thrives in Nigeria

simply because of the environment is amenable to crime. There seems to be a high incentive to crime and criminality in Nigeria in view of the following conditions:

- High level of poverty,
- Social inequality and marginalization,
- Criminal impunity among the high and low,
- weak law enforcement procedures and capabilities,
- Ineffective and criminal justice system.

6. METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study was based on a mixed research design. The design was considered appropriate and adopted because it enable a large population to be studied at a relatively less time and it allowed the researcher to use both quantitative and qualitative methods to generate extensive data for the study.

Area of Study

This study is conducted in Niger State which is presently one of the six states in the North-Central Nigeria, others being Benue, Kogi, Kwara, Nassarawa and Plateau states, as well as Nigeria’s Federal Capital Territory Abuja. It is a Hausa speaking state with 25 local government areas. Niger State has both Muslim and Christian populations and they engage in farming as major occupation.

Population of the Study

The total population of Niger state based on 2006 National Population and Housing Census was 3,950,249 people (2032, 725 for males and 1,917,524 for females). The population was projected to 2022 and shown by gender and state in the table.

Table 1: Projected Population Niger State by Gender

Niger state	Male	Female	Total
2006	2032,725	1,917,524	3,950,249
2022	3,364,758	3,174,066	6,538,824

Source: *Estimated from National Population Commission (2006).*

However, the target population for the study is 6,218, being the population of some (4) relevant population categories for this study which cut across the study area. The population categories are as follows: - Men, Women, Youths, and Opinion Molders (this includes: Health Workers, Teachers, Traditional Rulers, Religious leaders etc). The target population is shown in the table 2. For the list of the Local Government Area from which the target populations were selected, however, see table 17, in appendix V.

Table 2: Target Population of the Study

L.G.A/ Community	Men	Women	Youths	Opinion molders	TOTAL
RAFI					
KAGARA	530	585	450	342	1907
MARIGA					
BANGI	476	532	505	367	1880
BIDA					
LEMU	652	700	637	442	2431
TOTAL	1658	1817	1592	1151	6218

Sources: *Official records/registers of community unions/associations, official records/registers of schools, official records of Health Workers, Teachers, Traditional Rulers and Religious leaders.*

Sample Size and Sampling techniques

The sample size for this study was 376 persons. This was statistically generated by using Taro Yamane statistical method of determining sample size as follows:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where: n = Sample size

N = Target Population

e = error margin (it could be 0.10 down to 0.01, but in this work 0.05)

1 = unity or constant

Therefore;

$$n = \frac{6218}{1 + 6218(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{6218}{1 + 6218(0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{6218}{1 + 15.545}$$

$$n = \frac{6218}{16.545}$$

$$n = 375.8$$

$$n = 376$$

The multi-stage sampling technique involving cluster sampling, simple random sampling, proportionate stratified sampling and availability sampling techniques was adopted to select respondents for this study. At first, the population of Niger state was clustered into three (3) senatorial districts: The senatorial districts are Niger East, Niger North and Niger South. The local government areas in each of the senatorial zones were numbered and one local government area each was selected? giving a total of three Local government areas across the three senatorial zones. The local government areas are Rafi, Mariga and Bida.

Thirdly, the communities in each of the LGAs were numbered and one community each is selected from the three selected LGAs, making a total of three communities. The selected communities are Kagara, Bangi and Lemu. In order to collect appropriate data for the study, four relevant population categories were created in each community. The members of each population category formed the respondents for the study. The stratified proportionate sampling technique was used in selecting the respondents from each population category in view of the fact that the population categories did not have equal size. The availability sampling technique was then used to select the actual respondents from each population category as shown in Table3

Table 3: Proportionate Stratified Random Sampling Technique for the study

L.G./COMMUNITIES	POPULATION CATEGORY	TOTAL	PROPORTIONATE CALCULATIONS
RAFI			
KAGARA	MEN	530	$530/6218 \times 376/1 = 32$
	WOMEN	585	$585/6218 \times 376/1 = 35$
	YOUTHS	450	$450/6218 \times 376/1 = 27$
	OPINION MOLDERS	342	$342/6218 \times 376/1 = 21$
MARIGA			
BANGI	MEN	476	$476/6218 \times 376/1 = 29$
	WOMEN	532	$532/6218 \times 376/1 = 32$
	YOUTHS	505	$505/6218 \times 376/1 = 31$
	OPINION MOLDERS	367	$367/6218 \times 376/1 = 22$
BIDA			
LEMU	MEN	652	$652/6218 \times 376/1 = 39$
	WOMEN	700	$700/6218 \times 376/1 = 42$
	YOUTHS	637	$637/6218 \times 376/1 = 39$
	OPINION MOLDERS	442	$442/6218 \times 376/1 = 27$
TOTAL		6218	376

Source: Researcher's computation

For the qualitative data (in-depth interview data), 24 people were purposively selected for interview, 8 from each of the 3 communities based on their leadership positions in the relevant qualitative population categories as follows:

1. Men's union leaders (2) from each community
2. Women's union leaders (2) from each community
3. Youth leaders (2) from each community
4. Opinion molders (2) from each community

Instrument for Data Collection

The instruments for data collection of this study are questionnaire and in-depth interview because of the need for multi-stage research (in this case, 50% quantitative and 50% qualitative) for an investigation of security challenges and socioeconomic development in Niger state Nigeria. The questionnaire, specifically, collect quantitative data, and it is highly structured with only few unstructured questions. It also has two different sections. The first section contains the socio-demographic characteristics of respondents while the other section address the substantive issues on security challenges and socio-economic development in Niger state Nigeria, derived from the research questions, specific objectives and hypotheses.

The in-depth interview (IDI) on the other hand, be employed to gather qualitative data to complement the quantitative data for fuller understanding of Security Challenges and Socioeconomic Development in the area of study. The IDI was unstructured questions with necessary probes.

Administration of Instruments

The questionnaire was administered by the researcher herself with the help of two Research Assistants. The research assistants were recruited on the basis of ability to read and write, speak and understand both English and local dialects of the communities. They were people (male and female) that came from either the communities or local government areas of the study. They were trained for three (3) days on the objectives of the study, relevance of the study, administration and retrieval of questionnaire.

The in-depth interview was conducted by the researcher with the help of two research assistants who were from the community or local government whose community and religious leaders will be interviewed at appropriate time. This means that the two research assistants were involved in the in-depth interview at one point in time or the other depending on the community to be interviewed. The reasons for the two Research Assistants is to help close the gap of language differences between the researcher and the interviewees; to ensure easy distribution and retrieval of the questionnaire, and to ensure that every bit of information given by our interviewees was captured. The researcher moderated the interview while the two assistants do the note-taking and recording respectively.

Methods of Data Collection

The researcher issued questionnaire to the respondents at their communities with two research assistants to properly guide the respondents in filling the questionnaire. In some cases, other administration was applied because of the educational statuses of some of the respondents. The researcher personally guided the filling of the questionnaire to make sure that it was properly completed. The questionnaire was divided into two sections, A and B. Section A contained the personal data or information of the respondents. While Section B contained the closed- ended questions relating to the subject under study.

Validity / Reliability of Instrument

The researcher used face validity to ensure that the instrument for data collection could be used to collect the desired data. The researcher after showing her supervisor the instrument took it to experts in the faculty of education to look at it and validate it before the fieldwork. The researcher also conducted a pretest with some populations outside the area of study, specifically in the Southern Nigeria to ascertain the consistency of the questionnaire which served as a measure in this case. The data collected were analyzed descriptively with percentages and tables and inferentially using Chi-square. This determined whether the instrument was reliable or not.

Method of Data Analysis

The data collected were processed using Statistical Package for social Sciences (SPSS) version 20.0. The data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Both the socio-demographic data and the substantive issues were analyzed using frequency distribution tables, percentages and charts while the stated hypotheses were tested using chi square.

Ethical Issues

The researcher obtained an ethical letter from the University through the HOD, Sociology to present to the traditional rulers of the three communities of study in order to be permitted to administer questionnaire and grant interviews to the respondents. The introduction letter of the instrument were read to the respondents to assure them that the data were for academic purpose only and that whatever information they divulge to the researcher would be given utmost confidentiality.

7. Results

Socio demographic characteristics of respondents'

This section of the analysis deals with the personal data of the respondents and these include gender, age, and marital status, place of residence, educational attainment, occupation, and religious affiliation.

Table 4: Distribution of Respondents for Quantitative Data by their Socio-Demographic Characteristics (n=353)

	Variables	Frequency (F)	Percent (%)
Gender	Male	122	34.5
	Female	231	65.4
	Total	353	100
Age	18 – 22	32	9.0
	23 – 27	67	18.9
	28 – 32	53	15.0
	33 – 37	59	16.7
	38 – 42	67	18.9

	43 and above	75	21.2
Marital status	Total	353	100
	Single	88	24.9
	Married	164	46.5
	Separated	36	10.1
	Divorced	13	3.7
	Widowed	52	14.7
	Total	353	100
Place of residence	Lemu	124	35.1
	Bangi	98	27.7
	Kagara	131	37.1
Educational attainment	Total	353	100
	No formal Education	91	25.7
	FSLC	138	39.0
	WAEC/SSCE/GCE	67	18.9
	NCE/OND	24	6.7
	B.Sc. /HND	21	5.9
	MSc. /PhD	12	3.3
	Total	353	100
Occupation	Unemployed	85	24.0
	Student	44	12.4
	Self employed	43	12.1
	Public servant/Farmer	89	25.2
	Business/trading	81	22.9
	Apprentice	11	3.1
Agricultural Productivity	Total	353	100
	High productivity	136	38.5
	Low productivity	217	61.5
	Total	353	100
Religion affiliation	Christianity	148	41.9
	Muslim	172	48.7
	Judaism	2	0.5
	African traditional religion	31	8.7
	Total	353	100
Monthly income	No income	11	3.1
	Below #50,000	123	34.8
	Below #100,000	138	39.0
	#100,000	50	14.1
	#100,000 and above	31	8.7
	Total	353	100

Field survey: 2023

Table 4 shows the socio-demographic data of the respondents and key variables. With respect to gender it was found that 122(34.5%) were male, while 231(65.4%). As for age the data show that more of the respondents were 43(21.1%), while the lowest 18-22(9.0%) years. As for marital status it was found that more of the respondents were married 164(46.5%) while 13(3.7%) were divorcees. In terms of residency it was found that more of the respondents 124(35.1%) reside in Lemu area while 98(27.7%) were in Bangi. The educational status shows that more of the respondents 138(39.0%) had their first school leaving certificate while 12(3.3%) had M.sc/Ph.D. In terms of occupation more of the respondents 89(25.2%) were farmers and public servants while 11(3.1%) were apprentice. The study also found that there is low productivity in agriculture 217(61.5%). In terms of religious affiliation, more of the respondent 172(48.7%) were

Muslim while 2(172) are Judaism worship. And lastly in terms of income the study found that more of the respondents 138(39.0%) earn below 100,000 naira per month, while 11(3.1%) were of no income.

Analysis of Substantive Issues

Research Question One: “What are the effects of Boko Haram activities on infrastructural development of Niger State?” The responses are presented in table 5, 6, 7 and figure 1 and 2.

Table 5: Distribution of Respondents by Boko Haram Burning Public Buildings

<i>Options</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Strongly Agree	187	52.9
Agree	106	30.0
Disagree	38	10.7
Strongly Disagree	22	6.2
Total	353	100

Field survey: 2023.

Table 5 shows the distribution of respondents on the extent Boko haram engages in burning of public buildings. The data showed that majority of the respondents 187(52.9%) strongly agreed that Boko Haram engages in burning of public buildings, 106 (30.0%) of the respondents agreed that Boko Haram engages in burning of public buildings, then 38(10.7%) of the respondents disagreed that Boko Haram do not engages in burning of public buildings while 22(6.2%) of the respondents strongly of the respondents strongly disagreed that Boko Haram do not that Boko Haram do not engages in burning of public buildings. This implies that Boko Haram engages in burning of public buildings. This finding corroborated the qualitative findings. Some of the respondents’ narratives proved this as thus:

Our community has experienced untold destruction of properties. Take a look at all those building looking deserted what is the cause if not for Boko haram, they burnt them down and destroyed everything making the people to flee. (Male, Farmer, 67 years of Age).

They didn’t just burnt down buildings, this people have killed people and destroyed families. We are not what we used to be. The entire community is felt the devastation and destruction of life’s and properties. My house was affected; this place is not my main buildin. (Male, Retired Civil Servant, 78 years of age).

Table 6: Distribution of Respondents by Boko Haram Attacking Telecommunication Facilities

<i>Options</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Strongly Agree	196	55.5
Agree	87	24.6
Disagree	42	11.8
Strongly Disagree	28	7.9
Total	253	100

Field survey: 2023

Table 6 shows the distribution of respondents on whether Boko Haram attacks telecommunication facilities. The data showed that a majority of the respondents 196(55.5%) strongly agreed that Boko Haram attacks telecommunication facilities, 87 (24.6%) of the respondents agreed that Boko Haram attacks telecommunication facilities, then 42 (11.8%) of the respondents disagreed that Boko Haram do not attacks telecommunication facilities, while 28(7.9%) strongly disagreed that Boko Haram do not attacks telecommunication facilities. This implies that Boko Haram attacks telecommunication facilities. This also corroborated the IDI data. One of the IDI respondents, for example said:

Series of telecommunication facilities in the area have been destroyed by the bandits doing their attack in the area, having network connection in this village is extremely difficult (Male, civil servant, 48 years)

Another also narrated as thus:

The bandits has destroyed our telecommunication facilities in this area and as such we are finding very difficult to connect others outside the village, due to network failure and we end up climbing the village mountain in order to connect to network just to be able to speak to others far away from us (Female, trader in the community, 51 years)

Table 7: Distribution of Respondents by Boko Haram Attacking Police Station

<i>Options</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Strongly Agree	142	40.2
Agree	112	31.7
Disagree	65	18.4
Strongly Disagree	34	9.6
Total	253	100

Field survey: 2023

Table 7 shows the distribution of respondents on whether Boko Haram attacks police stations. The data showed that majority of the respondents 142(40.2%) strongly agreed that Boko Haram attacks police stations, 112(31.7%) of the respondents agreed that Boko Haram attacks police stations, then 65(18.4%) of the respondents disagreed that Boko Haram do not attacks police stations while 34(9.6%) of the respondents strongly disagreed that Boko Haram do not attack police stations. This implies that Boko Haram attack police stations. This also corroborated the qualitative findings. A respondent narrated as thus:

Our police stations in the community have been attacked severally by this bandits, they come into the station at night and attacked the whole place pour fuel and set the stations abase thereby end up destroying the facilities in the station and condemned the stations from functioning and the officers run for their dear lives (Male, local government staff, 49 years old)

The bandits have severally attacked the community police station at mid night and the officer's runs away for their lives and these bandits devastate the station and made away with guns and ammunition (Female, police officer, 43 years old)

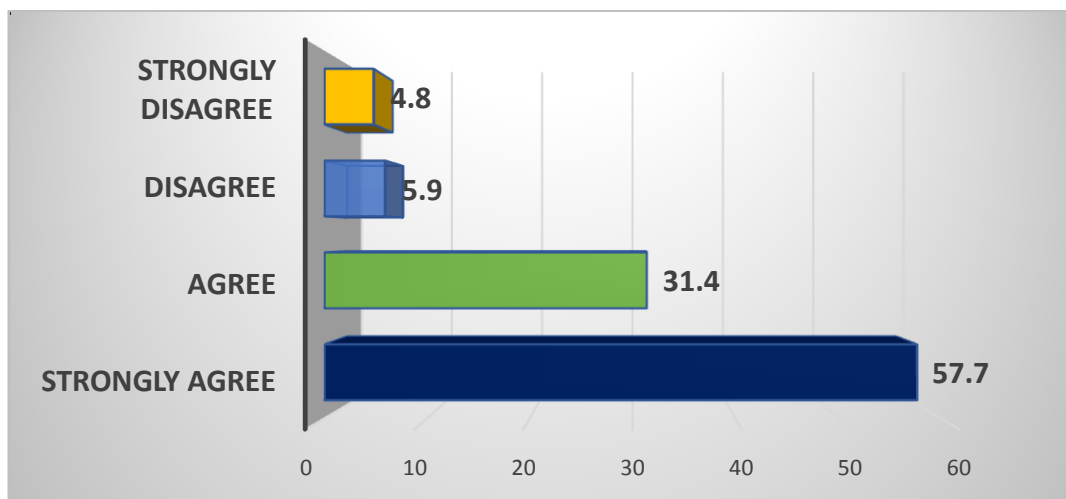


Fig 1: Opinion of Respondents on Boko Haram Targets Public Places

Fig. 1 shows the distribution of respondents on whether Boko Haram targets public places. The data showed that majority of the respondents 204(57.7%) strongly agreed that Boko Haram targets public places, 111(31.4%) of the respondents agreed that Boko Haram targets public places, then 21(5.9%) of the respondents disagreed that Boko Haram do not target public places while 17(4.8%) of the respondents strongly disagreed that Boko Haram do not target public places. This implies that Boko Haram targets public places. This is in tandem with the IDI data. For example, a respondent elaborated thus:

We have suffered from Boko Haram, the group targets every nonmember, churches, schools, market place and all forms of public place. They commit heinous crimes such as rape, abduction of people, massacre burning schools, security and every public building. Boko- Haram is a wild wind that has blown all manner of terrible things across our community, many has ran, families separated (Male, Community Head, 68 years of age)

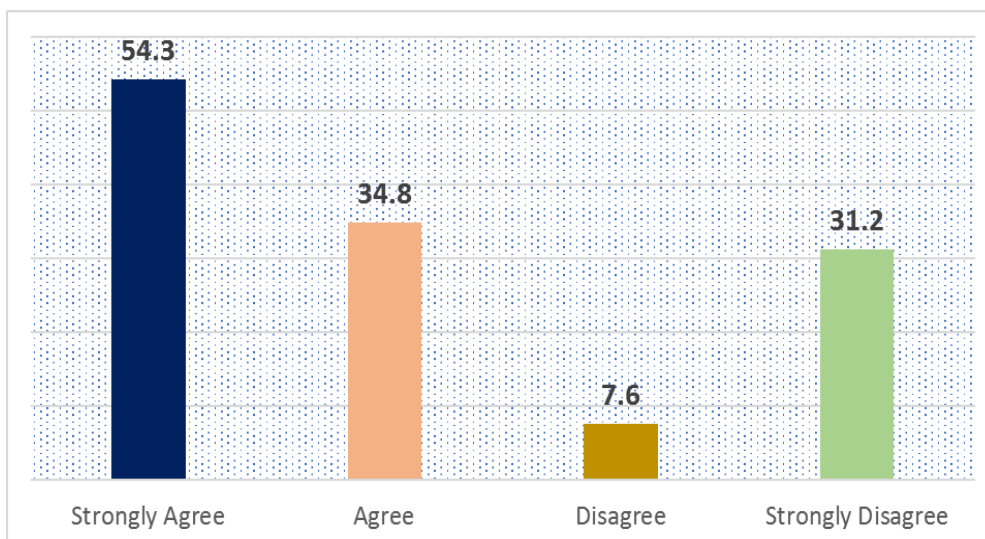


Fig 2: Opinion of Respondents on the Issue that Boko Haram Targets Educational Institutions

Fig. 2 shows the distribution of respondents on whether Boko Haram targets educational institutions. The data showed that a majority of the respondents 192(54.3%) strongly agreed that Boko Haram targets educational institutions, 123(34.8%) of the respondents agreed that Boko Haram targets educational institutions, then 110(31.2%) of the respondents disagreed that Boko Haram do not targets educational institutions while 27(7.6%) strongly disagreed that Boko Haram do not target educational institutions. This implies that Boko Haram targets educational institutions. This also corroborated the IDI data as all the narratives of the respondents showed that Boko Haram has destroyed a lot of school buildings and in most cases kidnapped school children and teachers

Research Question Two: Research Question Two: What are the ways bandits activities have affected people’s Jobs/businesses in Niger State? The responses are presented in table 8, 9, 10, and figure 3 and 4.

Table 8: Distribution of Respondents by the Ways Bandit Activities have Affected People’s Job/Businesses in Niger State

<i>Options</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Strongly Agree	177	50.1
Agree	123	34.8
Disagree	38	10.7
Strongly Disagree	15	4.2
Total	253	100

Field survey: 2023

Table 8: Showed the distribution of respondents on how bandit’s activities have affected people’s income. The data showed that majority of the respondents 177(50.1%) strongly agreed that the activities of bandits in the area has affected their income, 123(34.8%) of the respondents agreed that the activities of bandits in the area has affected their income, then 38(10.7%) of the respondents disagreed that the activities of bandits in the area has not affected their income while 15(4.2%) strongly disagreed. This implies that the activities of bandits have not affected people’s income. This implies that the activities of bandits have affected people’s income. This corroborated the IDI data. Some of the IDI respondents, for example, said:

The bandit activities has affected my business badly I no longer travel out of the state to buys goods as usual due to fear of being kidnap or killed and this has greatly affected my income level, my shop is no longer stock with goods (Female, trader,35 years old)

The bandit attack my shopping complex and destroyed the structure since then raising capital to start up business and rent a new shop has been difficult, I barely feed myself and the family because that complex was my means of generating income (Male, trader, 48 years old)

Table 9: Distribution of Respondents by whether High way Abduction has Decreased the Transportation System in Niger State

<i>Options</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Strongly Agree	212	60.0
Agree	92	26.0
Disagree	34	9.6
Strongly Disagree	15	4.2
Total	353	100

Field survey: 2023.

Table 9: Showed the distribution of respondents on whether high way abduction of travelers has led to decrease of transportation system in the state, thereby affecting the income of transporters. The data showed that majority of the respondents 212(60.0%) strongly agreed that high way abduction of travelers has led to decrease of transportation system in the state, thereby affecting the income of transporters, 92(26.0%) of the respondents agreed that high way abduction of travelers has led to decrease of transportation system in the area thereby affecting the income of transporters, then 34(9.6%) of the respondents disagreed that high way abduction of travelers has not led to decrease of transportation system in the area while 15(4.2%) strongly disagreed that highway abduction of travelers has not led to decrease of transportation system in the state, thereby affecting the income of transporters. This implies that high way abduction of travelers has led to decrease of transportation system in the state, thereby affecting the income of transporters. This corroborated the IDI data as some of the IDI respondents said:

People are afraid of travelling by road these days because of the fear of being kidnapped. This is truly affecting the transporters and some of them are now forced to change their line of business. Let me tell you the truth people are afraid of going into transportation and going into farming as it stands now in Niger State because they don’t want to either being kidnapped or die (male, trader/farmer, 37 years old)

I have escaped abduction several times as a driver and that made me to stop. The last incidence that made me to stop transportation business was when all my passengers were abducted and I managed to escape, it was God that helped me that day (male, Former transporter/artisan, 49 years old)

The market women findings it difficult to travel down to market due to the fear of being rape and kidnapped by the bandits, which has greatly affected the turnover of market goods by women and has equally affected families because this women can no longer support and take good care of their families they way they normally do (Female, market woman, 42 years old)

Table 10: Distribution of Respondents by whether the Insecurity Situation in The area has Decreased the Level of Investment in Niger State.

Options	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	231	65.4
Agree	83	23.5
Disagree	26	7.3
Strongly Disagree	13	3.6
Total	353	100

Field survey: 2023

Table 10: Showed the distribution of respondents on whether the insecurity situation in the area has decrease the level of investment. The data showed that majority of the respondents 231(65.4%) strongly agreed that insecurity situation in the area has decrease the level of investment, 83(23.5%) of the respondents agreed that insecurity situation in the area has decrease the level of investment, then 26(7.3%) of the respondents disagreed that insecurity situation in the area has not decrease the level of investment while 13(3.6%) strongly disagreed that insecurity in the area has not decrease the level of investment. This implies that insecurity situation in the area has decrease the level of investment. This finding is in tandem with the qualitative finding. An IDI respondent, for example narrated as thus:

Look at the communities they are all devastated, people no longer try to invest in our State. You know why, nobody puts his or her money where it is not safe. We have generally suffered not just economically but socially and otherwise

(Female, Local Government Employee, 46 years of Age).

Another respondent also said: *“life is more than investment, nobody will witness the level of attacks by these herdsmen and still decides to risk is money and life” (Male, teacher, 42 years old)*

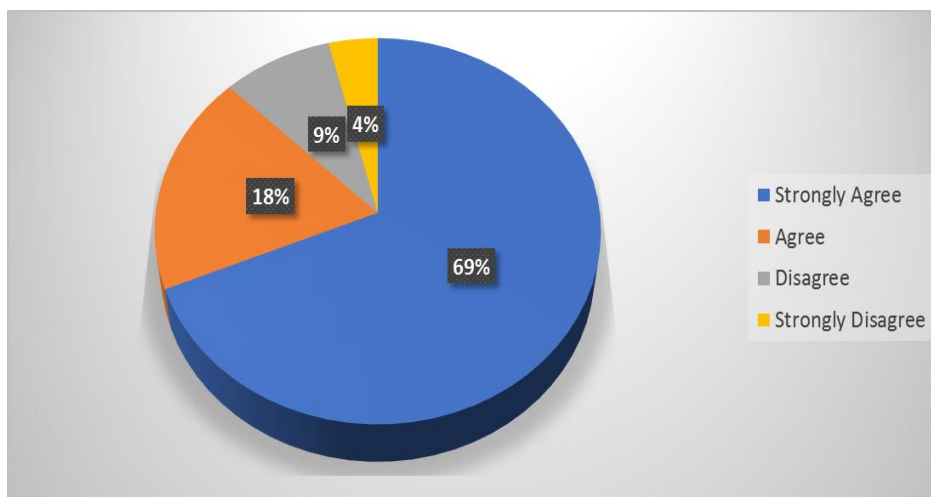


Fig 3: Opinion of Respondents on Herdsmen/Farmers conflict and decline in food crop production

Figure 3: Showed the distribution of respondents on whether the conflict between herdsmen and farmers has systematic disempowerment of the rural farmers and decline in food production. The data showed that majority of the respondents 242(69%) strongly agreed that the conflict between herdsmen and farmers has systematic disempowerment of the rural farmers and decline in food production, 63(18%) of the respondents agreed that the conflict between herdsmen and farmers has systematic disempowerment of rural farmers and decline in food production, then 32(9%) of the respondents disagreed that the conflict between herdsmen and farmers has systematic disempowerment of rural farmers and decline in food production while 14(4%) strongly disagreed that the conflict between herdsmen and farmers has no systematic disempowerment of the rural farmers and decline in food production. This implies that the conflict between herdsmen and farmers has systematic disempowerment of the rural farmers and decline in food production. This corroborated the IDI data. One of the respondents, for example, said:

Part of the reason for food shortage in Nigeria is as a result of herdsmen attacks on farmers. They farmers are now scared of assessing their farms and going to see their agricultural products and this has really affected food productivity in Nigeria. It is not the question of farmer's herdsmen clash, rather criminals and terrorist groups makes life unbearable for farmers. Even if it's about the herdsmen then the government should have tried to resolve it so that we could assess our farms and have peace (Male, Farmer, 46 years of age).

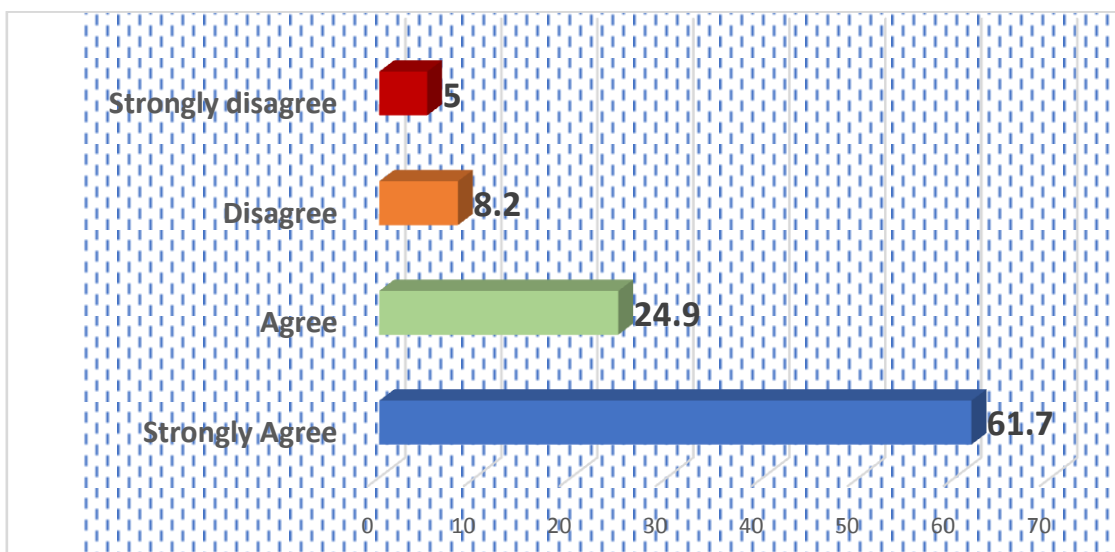


Fig 4: Opinion of Respondents on Abandonment of farm land due to herdsmen attack

Figure 4: Showed the distribution of respondents on whether farmers abandoned their farm land because of incessant attack of herdsmen. The data showed that majority of the respondents 218(61.7%) strongly agreed that farmers abandoned their farm land because of incessant attack of herdsmen, 88(24.9%) of the respondents agreed that farmers abandoned their farm land because of incessant attack of herdsmen, then 29(8.2%) of the respondents disagreed that farmers did not abandoned their farm land because of incessant attack of herdsmen while 18(5%)of the respondents disagreed that farmers did not abandon their farm land because of incessant attack of herdsmen. This implies that farmers abandoned their farm land because of incessant attack of herdsmen. This finding corroborated the qualitative data. For example, one of the IDI respondents said:

The truth about Bandit's activities is that livelihood has been affected adversely. Most of the people that owned manufacturing enterprises have all closed. Their reasons are not far-fetched life is far more important than money. At times they even burnt down shops and business premises. So indeed businesses has been affected

(Male, Trader, 38 years of age).

Another also narrated as thus:

The herdsmen attack on farmers is too much and no farmer wants to loose his or her life. They have to run for their dear life. Ma, if it is you, you will do the same. All of us are are on the run, life is precious, my children are still young (female, Farmer, 35 years of age).

8. Test of Hypotheses

Hypothesis One: There is a significant relationship between dilapidated social amenities and continues Boko Haram activities in Niger state.

Table 4.3: Cross Tabulation between dilapidated social amenities and Boko Haram activities in Niger state.

Dilapidated Social Amenities	Boko Haram Activities			Total	χ^2
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree		
Strongly Agree	72(54.5%)	21(19.1%)	12(23.5%)	117	$\chi^2 = 2.394$ (N = 353), df = 4, P = .000
Agree	22(16.7%)	38(34.5%)	9(17.6%)	86	
Disagree	15(11.4%)	25(22.7%)	13(25.5%)	68	
Strongly Disagree	23(17.4%)	26(23.6%)	17(33.3%)	81	
Total	132	110	51	59	

The result of the test shows there is a strong statistical significance $p > .000$ evidence therefore the hypothesis is accepted. There is, therefore, a statistical significant relationship between dilapidated social amenities and Boko Haram activities in Niger State. This implies that the activities of Boko Haram insurgency have led to destruction of properties in Niger State.

Hypothesis Two: There is a significant relationship between activities of Bandits and low income amongst people in Niger state

Table 4.3.2: Cross Tabulation between activities of Bandits and low income.

Low income	Activities of Bandits			Total	X ²
	Strongly Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree		
High income	59(45.4%)	23(20.4%)	23(46%)	133	X ² =3.134 (N = 353), df = 3, P =.000
Low Income	71(56.6%)	90(67.7%)	27(54%)	220	
Total	130	113	50	60	

The hypothesis shows that there is a significant relationship between activity of bandits and low income among residence of Niger state at $p > .000$. This implies that bandits' activities impede greatly on the peoples means of livelihood and generation of income.

9. Discussion of findings

Effects of Boko Haram Activities on Infrastructural Development

The study investigated security challenges and socioeconomic development in Niger State. On the effect of Boko Haram activities on infrastructural development of Niger State, it was found that Boko Haram engaged in the burning of public buildings such as government parastatal, government buildings and secretariats. This finding corroborated the qualitative (i.e. the IDI) data. Again, the result of the related hypothesis, that is, hypothesis one, also showed that there is a significant relationship between dilapidated social amenities and Boko Haram activities in Niger State at $p\text{-value} > .000$. This finding agrees with the study of Ndimele (2018) who found that Boko Haram has caused the destruction of both private and public properties worth billions of naira. It is also in tandem with the study of Adeboye (2021) who found that Boko Haram abuses to the local communities included looting and burning of public buildings (such as schools), personal properties (such as farmlands) and in some cases entire villages. The finding is also in consonant with the theory of organized crime which in the view of Okoli, and Agada (2014) hold, that those in criminal organization like Boko Haram relied on unleashing fear or terror to achieve their goals or aims as well as maintain control within the organization. It was also found that Boko Haram targets public places such as churches, clubs, market, motor parks, bars, as a majority of the respondents strongly agreed that Boko Haram targets these places. The IDI data corroborated this finding. This finding is also in line with the view of Okoli and Agada (2014) that those in criminal organization like Boko Haram relied on unleashing fear and terror to achieve their aims and maintain control within the organization. The finding, however, disagrees with social banditry theory which in the words of Adam (2010) states that rural development regard social badits as class heros and avengers of social justice who robbed the rich to give to the poor and in turn, expect protection and support.

The study still found in this same direction, that Boko Haram taught educational institutions/ facilities as a majority of the respondents (54.3%) strongly agrees that Boko Haram targets educational institutions. This corroborated the qualitative data. This finding agrees with the view of Global coalition to protect education from attack (GCPEA) that the United Nations Children's fund. This study support the assertion of the theory of organized crime as stated by Okoli and Agada (2014) that the prevalence of organized crime in Africa demonstrates the dwindling capabilities of her states to ensure sustainable development and national security.

The study further found that Boko Haram attacks Telecommunication facilities. This is because majority of the respondents 196(55.5%) strongly agreed that Boko Haram attacks telecommunication facilities such as telecom mass and base stations. This corroborated the IDI data. This agrees with the idea of the theory of organized crime which in the view of Okoli and Agada (2014) states that those in criminal organizations like Boko Haram relied on unleashing fear and terror to achieve their goals and maintain control within the organization.

It was also found that Boko Haram targets police stations as more of the respondents 142(40.2%) strongly agreed that Boko Haram attacks police stations in Niger State. This corroborated the qualitative data. The result of the related hypothesis, i.e. hypothesis one, all supported this finding. The result of hypothesis one showed that there is a statistical significant relationship between dilapidated social amenities and Boko Haram activities in Niger State at $p > .000$, This agrees with the provision of rational choice theory. By Adam Smith (1776) that individuals decision of what will serve them best is dependent on personal preferences. This means that members of the Boko Haram sect do not put the feeling of other people into consideration when attacking the police stations and other infrastructural facilities.

Effects of Bandit Activities on Jobs/businesses

The study also investigated the effects of bandit activities on Job/businesses in Niger State. It was found that bandit activities affect people's income in Niger State by affecting their businesses and Jobs. This corroborated the IDI data. The result of the related hypothesis, that is, hypothesis two showed that there is a statistical significant relationship between activities of bandits and low income among residents residents of Niger State at $p > .000$. This finding agrees with the study of Akunyili, (2009) who found that kidnapping is fast destroying economic good and can destroy the

survival of Nigeria as a nation. The economic implication is that investors might be discouraged because of the insecurity arising from kidnapping and it has a spiral effect on businesses especially, high profile businesses activities. The study also found that high way abduction of travelers has led to decrease of transportation system in the study area, thereby affecting the income of transporters. This corroborated the IDI data. This finding is in consonant with the view of Iweze,(2020) that Boko Haram insurgency had disruptive effects and therefore road transport infrastructure and trans-boarder mobility constituted one of the major targets of terrorist attacks leading to growing insecurity in Nigeria's Northeast region. The study further investigated insecurity and decree in level of investment. It was found that insecurity in the region has decrease the level of investment. The qualitative data also corroborated these findings as respondents (65.4%) believed strongly that insecurity in the religion has decrease the level of investment in Niger State. This is in accordance with Wakas, (2022) who found that the high rate of insecurity has affect investment in the state, noting that investors are avoiding the North-Central state. Also, the qualitative component also supports these quantitative findings. The findings also align with the study by Udeoba,(2013) who observed that a large number of Nigerians are frustrated as a result of poverty and inequality which has continued to fuel crises and insecurity in Nigeria. It was further found that the conflict between herdsmen and farmers has led to systematic disempowerment of the rural farmers and decline in food production. This finding corroborated the qualitative data. This finding is in tandem with the study of Mohammed, Umar, Olaleye, Pelemo and Ahmed (2021) who found that displacement of yam marketers from their native markets to nearby markets were the major constraints faced by yam marketers. It is also in agreement with the view of Audu (2021) who stated that the menace of armed banditry in Katsina State Nigeria does not only pose a threat to national security but also threatens the prospects for food security in the country as it prevents both crop farming and cattle rearing activities. Likewise, the finding agrees with the view of Olaoye and Ojo (2023) that the activities of the bandits in Iangan Ibarapa north Oyo State Nigeria resulted into poor supply of food and food shortage.

Relatedly, the study found that farmers abandoned their farmlands because of incessant attack of herdsmen. This corroborated the IDI data. This is in congruent with the view of Ladan and Mutawalli (2020) who states that one of the most devastating impacts of banditry in Katsina State is the situation whereby farmers were being killed and chased out of their farm lands by bandits. This finding supports the assertion of the theory of organized crime that as captured by Okoli and Agada (2014) which states that the prevalence of organized crime in Africa demonstrates the dwindling capabilities of her states to ensure sustainable development and national security.

10. Conclusion

The security challenge in Niger State Nigeria had significantly affected the socioeconomic activities of Nigeria. Through the displacement of millions, destruction of infrastructure and also disruption of people's businesses, jobs and other means of livelihood. Nigeria is badly in need of increased trade and investment, and the increasing reluctance of business organizations to carry out their activities is a significant blow to this laudable aim. No commercial activity can be undertaken when security cannot be guaranteed, the unmanned borders in places, the already porous borders has made it easier for bandits to penetrate into the state and further facilitate the undesirable elements and weapons that are fueling insurgency.

11. Recommendations

Given the finding of this study the following recommendations were made:

1. The government should take proactive measure to stop the insecurity rate to its nearest minimum by combing the forest areas where this banditry operates through an air raid. This will go a long way to protect the infrastructures in the state.
2. The Nigeria porous borders should be blocked to prevent the influx of foreign criminal elements and bandits into the country. This will go a long way to open up business activities in the region and give the people the courage to embark on business trips without fear of being kidnapped or killed.

12. References

1. Abubakar, A. (2022). Why banditry is rising in Niger state –Official premium time. Retrieve from www.premiumtimesng.com?north-central
2. Adam, N. (2010). Bandit Heroes: Social, Mythical or Rational. *American Journal of Economics and Sociology*.71 (2): 470-497
3. Adebeye, A.O. (2021) Addressing the Boko Haram induced mental health burden in Nigeria. *Health and human rights Journal* 23(1):71-73
4. Akote, A.Y.,Hamza, K., Yusuf, H.E.& Abubakar, B.B. (2022). Resilience Against Banditry and Insurgency in Niger State, Nigeria (2015-2022). *Journal of Terrorism Studies* 4(2): 1-19.
5. Akunyili, D. (2009) kidnapping in Nigeria: An Emerging social crime and the implications. *International Journal of Humanities and social science* 4(1):133-145
6. Article (2022).Terrorism-Nigeria travel advice. Retrieve from <https://www.gov.uk>terrorism>
7. Audu, Y. A. (2021). Effects of Armed banditry on food security in katsina state-Nigeria. *Journal of research and development* 6(2):43-51.
8. Iweze, D. (2020). Insurgency in the Northeast region of Nigeria and its implications on inter-State and trans-border mobility, 2009-2016. *Canadian Journal of African Studies* 54(2):319-327

9. Ladan, S.I. & Mutawalli, B. (2020) Impacts of Banditry on food security in Katsina State, Nigeria. *Direct Research Journal of Agriculture and Food Science* 8(12):439-447
10. Madobi, M. (2022). Investigation: How Banditry Affected Livelihood in Kagara Niger State. Retrieve from Prnigeria.com
11. Mahamat,M.F. (2022). Counting Terrorism in Africa requires preventive approach. Retrieve from Press.un.org.
12. Mohammed, U; Umar I.S; Olaleye, R.S; Pelemo, J.J; Ahmed, B.S; Mohammed U. & Umar. A. (2021). Effects of banditry on income and livelihoods of yam marketers in Shiroro local government area of Niger state, Nigeria. *Journal of Agriculture and food science* 19(1):163-178.
13. NATO (2003). Countering terrorism. Retrieved from nato.int/cps/en/natohq/
14. Ndimele, B. (2018) socioeconomic effects of Boko Haram operations in Nigeria. Retrieved from [https://www.grin.com>document](https://www.grin.com/document)
15. Okoli,AL.C & Agada,F.T (2014) Kidnapping and National Security in Nigeria: *Research on Humanities and social sciences* 4(6):137-146
16. Olaoye,S.& Ojo, O.T (2023) Impact of Armed Banditry on food security in Igangan, Ibarapa North of Oyo State, Nigeria. Retrieved from <https://papers.ssrn.com>papers>
17. Rogers, B. (2012). The economic downturn: a boon for home-grown terrorists? Retrieved from www.nato.int.
18. Udeoba, IC. (2013) Government strategies in tackling insecurity in Nigeria and the way forward. Nigeria *Journal of Social Development* 10(1):93-97
19. Wakaso,A. (2022) Investors Shun Niger Over Insecurity-Gov Bello. Retrieved from <https://punching.com>investors-shun.....>