



# Investigation of the Effects of Armed Banditry on the Socio-Economic Development in the North-West Region of Nigeria

Muawiya Shuaibu<sup>1\*</sup>, Abdulrazak Aide<sup>2</sup>, Irmiya Keros Sachiya<sup>3</sup> and Rufai Sani Usman<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Public Administration, Adamawa State Polytechnic Yola, Nigeria.

<sup>2,3,4</sup>Department of International Relations and Strategic Studies, Adamawa State Polytechnic, Yola, Nigeria.

Email: [malamuawiya@gmail.com](mailto:malamuawiya@gmail.com)\*

**Abstract:** The primary objective of this research is to investigate the consequences of armed banditry on socioeconomic development in Nigeria's northwestern states. The target population of the study consist of all the states in the North-West Geo-political Zone and all the businessmen, farmers, government officials and security personnel in North-Western states of Nigeria. The researchers selected four states of Zamfara, Kaduna, Katsina, and Sokoto states as the sample states for the study. The frequency distribution table and simple percentage was used in analysing the respondent's demographic data, the mean and Standard Deviation methods of data analysis was used to answer the research questions that were raised in this study. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used to determine the mean and the standard deviation for data analysis. The chi-square method of data analysis was used in testing the research hypotheses formulated for the study. The paper concluded that the pervasive and escalating armed banditry in Nigeria's North-West region has inflicted profound and multifaceted damage on its socio-economic development, creating a complex web of challenges that threaten the very fabric of society and hinder progress. Without a concerted and sustained effort to tackle both the symptoms and root causes of armed banditry, the North-West region of Nigeria risks being trapped in a cycle of violence and underdevelopment, with devastating implications for its people and the nation as a whole. Based on the above the following recommendations were put forward: There is the need Deploy additional well-equipped and adequately trained security personnel to banditry-prone areas, focusing on rapid response and sustained operations. This entails stepping up ground patrols and aerial surveillance capabilities. Additionally, corruption in government institutions and security organizations must be addressed since it frequently thwarts attempt to stop banditry and erodes public confidence.

**Keywords:** Social Issues, People Welfare, Armed Banditry, Socio-economic Development, Nigeria.

## INTRODUCTION

A number of historical, economic, social, and political issues have contributed to decline in socioeconomic development of Nigeria, which is most apparent in the North-West region. This deterioration is marked by widespread poverty, increasing violence, insufficient infrastructure, and notable inequalities in human development indicators. Epron (2019) [1] attributes Nigeria's socio-economic stagnation to multiple factors, including corruption, ineffective governance,

poor policy execution, and insurgency. Recently, a new array of emerging security threats, such as armed banditry, appears to exacerbate the previously mentioned issues, jeopardizing Nigeria's socio-economic progress by endangering lives and property, undermining local businesses, and deterring foreign investment. Armed banditry has emerged as a global phenomenon with severe social, political, and economic repercussions that threaten the overall developmental initiatives of affected nations. In recent years, banditry has led to widespread insecurity in Nigeria's North-Western region, heightened tensions within various communities, disrupted development efforts, deterred investors, intensified religious conflicts, and undermined the nation's social cohesion [2], raising alarm among Nigerian citizens. The threats posed by armed banditry have evolved into a significant national security concern that continues to impact the socio-economic development of the country, particularly in the North-Western region [3]. This is due to the strong correlation between security and development in general [4][5].

In the Northern States, banditry and kidnapping are widespread in regions such as Zamfara, Katsina, Sokoto, Niger, Kaduna, Kebbi, Abuja, and Kogi. The groups involved in kidnapping typically operate in both rural and urban settings across Northern Nigeria, frequently demanding substantial ransom payments from the victims' families, which often results in financial ruin for these families. In many cases, bandits impose levies on numerous communities in rural areas (Adetayo, 2022). This criminal enterprise has evolved into a highly profitable venture for these gangs, exacerbated by the complacent attitude of security agencies, as well as the activities of informants and saboteurs.

It is against the backdrop of the upsurge in incidences of banditry in recent times that this study was design to examine the effects of armed banditry on the socio-economic development of Nigeria with particular reference to the North-West.

### *Statement of the Problem*

The issue of banditry, recognized as a significant security challenge by Arisukwu (2017), has become a widespread global human issue; it carries severe social, political, and economic repercussions that threaten the overall developmental initiatives of the nations impacted. This problem has particularly emerged as one that Nigeria, especially the North-western states, is striving to manage in order to enhance human security and socio-economic progress within these states and the country as a whole [6]. Banditry inflicts devastating negative impacts on the socio-economic, political, cultural, and psychological dimensions of the communities affected. This threat has posed serious security and socio-economic challenges to Nigeria as a whole, with a particular emphasis on the North-western states. In light of this, the present study is designed to investigate the effects of armed banditry on the socio-economic development of Nigeria, focusing specifically on the North-West.

### *Objectives of Study*

The primary objective of this study is to explore the effects of armed banditry on the socio-economic development of North-western states of Nigeria. The specific objectives are to:

- a. Examine the impact of armed banditry on the socio-economic development of North-western states of Nigeria.
- b. Identify the strategies employed in tackling armed banditry in North-western states of Nigeria.
- c. Examine the challenges militating against efforts in tackling armed banditry in North-western states of Nigeria.

### *Research Questions*

Three research questions will be raised to guide the conduct of the study. These research questions are:

- a. What are the impacts of armed banditry on the socio-economic development of North-western states of Nigeria?
- b. What are the strategies employed in tackling armed banditry in North-western states of Nigeria?
- c. What are the challenges of militating against efforts in tackling armed banditry in North-western states of Nigeria?

### *Research Hypotheses*

The following research hypotheses were formulated to guide the study:

**HO1:** There is no significant difference in the opinion of businessmen, farmers, government officials and security personnel on the impact of armed banditry on the socio-economic development of North-western states of Nigeria.

**HO2:** There is no significant difference in the opinion of businessmen, farmers, government officials and security personnel on the strategies employed in tackling armed banditry in North-western states of Nigeria.

**HO3:** There is no significant difference in the opinion of businessmen, farmers, government officials and security personnel on the challenges militating against efforts in tackling armed banditry in North-western states of Nigeria.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### *Concept of Socio-Economic Development*

There is no universally accepted definition of the concept; however, it is generally understood to involve the process of social and economic development within a society. This development is typically assessed through various indices, including gross domestic product (GDP), life expectancy, literacy rates, and employment levels. In certain contexts, economic growth is frequently viewed as a reflection of the degree of economic development. Moreover, the primary objective of this concept is to foster sustained enhancements in the well-being of individuals, groups, families, communities, and society as a whole [6].

Socio-economic development is a fundamental concept that is crucial to addressing any issues related to change in the socio-economic domain. Its importance is effectively articulated by Stemplowski (1987), as referenced by Chojnicki (2010) [7], who remarked that "the concept of development serves both as a product of an optimistic vision and an expression of social interests, as well as a tool for analysis." Socio-economic development can be perceived as the process of social and economic advancement within a society, which is typically evaluated through various indices, including gross domestic product (GDP), life expectancy, literacy rates, and employment levels [6]. Essentially, socio-economic development encompasses the transformations occurring in both the social and economic realms, predominantly of an economic character.

### *Concept of Armed Banditry*

Banditry is defined as criminal activities that include armed robbery and related violent offenses, such as kidnapping, cattle rustling, and raids on villages or communities. This act

employs force or threats to life to intimidate individuals for the purposes of robbery, genderual assault, or murder [8]. Armed banditry constitutes a crime against individuals; it is a prevalent form of crime and a source of violence that is executed through the use of weapons [9].

Armed banditry entails the application of force or the threat thereof to intimidate an individual or a group, aiming to rob, genderually assault, or kill (Okoli and Okpaleke, 2014) [8]. From an economic standpoint, Wartyo (2011) characterizes armed banditry as a crime perpetrated by members of a community or individuals from lower economic and social backgrounds, driven by the need to satisfy their basic needs and desires. This characterization can be linked to the issue of escalating structural pressures resulting from a lack of access to the natural resources essential for their survival.

### *Effects of Armed Banditry on the Socio-Economic Development*

According to Saheed (2020) [10], the issue of armed banditry in Nigeria has significantly impacted and continues to impact the socio-economic development of the North-Western region specifically, as well as the nation as a whole. If this situation is not urgently addressed as a priority, it poses a substantial threat not only to the socio-economic progress of the nation but also represents a serious danger to the entire West African region. In addition, Mohammed (2019) [11] observed that armed banditry has severely hindered socio-economic development and activities in the North-Western region, leaving the populace in a state of constant fear of the unknown.

The cultivation and harvesting of agricultural products have become nearly impossible due to targeted assaults on farmers by bandits, who have issued warnings for them to abandon their farms. Tragically, approximately 26 farmers who disregarded this warning were killed [12]. Furthermore, in the mining sector, which is another vital economic activity, Onuah & Akwagyram (2019) [13] reported that mining operations have been halted in Zamfara due to the frequent assaults by armed bandits. This suspension has significant implications, as it has resulted in a cessation of revenue generation from mining in the state, which may adversely affect the overall economic activities within the country.

Attacks by bandits have shown a significant potential to worsen insecurity and the food crisis, particularly in rural areas where most conflicts are concentrated, leading to nationwide repercussions (Theophilus, 2016). This recent surge of violence in Nigeria, has disrupted socioeconomic, religious, and educational activities, contributed to political instability, and posed a threat to national unity in Nigeria. The extrajudicial killings and kidnappings have compelled thousands to flee their homes and agricultural lands in search of safety. Okereke (2012) [14] argues that this escalating violence has reached such alarming levels that it is undeniable that Nigeria stands at a crossroads, gradually transitioning into a conflict-ridden society.

Additionally, pressing social issues such as the rape of women, robbery, and kidnapping for ransom are also in dire need of attention (Thomas & Nta, 2009). The impact of banditry on food security is particularly devastating in Katsina State, where farmers are abducted, taken into the forest, and substantial sums of money are demanded for their release. This dire situation impoverishes farmers, forcing them to liquidate their assets, including their fields, to raise ransom money [15]. Bashir and Mustapha (2019) [16] conducted research on the effects of armed banditry and kidnapping on socio-economic activities, focusing on selected local government areas in Katsina State, Nigeria. The findings revealed that armed banditry has significant adverse effects on poverty, unemployment, food security, education, health,

income, and the overall standard of living for the residents of the state; it also disrupts other socio-economic activities in the region.

#### *Efforts in tackling the menace of Armed Banditry in Northwest*

The Nigerian government's response to Armed Banditry has been rather slow and generally reactive.

- a. The Nigerian government has exhibited a sluggish and reactive approach in addressing this security challenge. According to Yusuf (2015) [17], coordination initiatives commenced in 2014 under the guidance of former Inspector General Suleiman Abba, leading the Nigeria Police Force to establish the Task Force on Livestock Theft and Related Crimes.
- b. The establishment and financial support of a collaborative operation involving the military, police, state security service, and the Civil Defence Corps aimed to scour the forests believed to harbor cow thieves in the affected states [18].
- c. One such initiative to combat the issue of armed banditry in the crime-ridden regions along the Nigeria/Cameroon border, as reported by AllAfrica.Com (2009) [19], was the formation of a specialized police unit stationed in the border towns. This elite squad has engaged in numerous confrontations with armed bandits who have been terrorizing the local populace.
- d. Additionally, the government proposed strategic measures aimed at reintegrating the bandits into their communities by offering soft grants to enable them to start businesses, as well as fostering closer ties between some of them and the government [16][20].
- e. In 2016, the Zamfara State government reached an agreement with bandit leaders for a peace settlement and amnesty, seeking alternative solutions to the crisis. Consequently, the state government determined that negotiating with the armed bandits to encourage them to surrender their weapons was the most viable option for achieving lasting peace (Tangaza, 2014).
- f. The government also proposed innovative strategies to facilitate the reintegration of bandits into society, including providing financial support to assist them in starting businesses and fostering closer relationships with the government [16][20].

#### *Challenges militating against efforts in tackling Armed Banditry*

The most alarming trends persist despite the various strategies, measures, and interventions implemented by governments to address this issue; the horror appears unending, and consequently, efforts to alleviate the problem have become increasingly burdensome for the nation (Adamu and Muhammad, 2023). The challenges hindering governmental initiatives in combating armed banditry include: Economic Corruption [2] , Political Corruption (ICG, 2014), the Government's Reactive Nature [21], Underfunding [22] and the Underpayment of Foot Soldiers and other security personnel [22]. Furthermore, Saheed (2020) [10] noted that the Nigerian military has endured years of corruption, despite the substantial financial investments made in the sector over time. Even high-ranking security officials have acknowledged that their agencies are inadequately prepared to confront the security challenges posed by insecurity, which stem from underfunding caused by corruption, insufficient training and equipment, poor intelligence gathering, complicity, inter-agency rivalries, and a lack of effective political leadership.

## METHODOLOGY

The descriptive survey research design was employed for this investigation. This design was selected due to its capacity to elicit favorable responses from a diverse array of individuals. It is a methodology typically utilized when addressing a substantial population. The study's target population encompasses all the states within the North-West Geo-political Zone, including businessmen, farmers, government officials, and security personnel from the North-Western states of Nigeria. Given the considerable number of states in North-Western Nigeria, the researchers opted to focus on four states: Zamfara, Kaduna, Katsina, and Sokoto, as the sample states for this research. A sample of 1000 respondents will be drawn from these four states, with 250 respondents selected from each state. The sampling techniques employed for this study include a combination of purposive sampling and stratified random sampling methods.

For the purpose of data collection, a structured questionnaire comprising twenty-one (21) items was developed, utilizing a modified 4-point Likert scale with the following responses: Strongly Agreed (SA=4), Agreed (A=3), Disagreed (D=2), and Strongly Disagreed (SD=1). This questionnaire will be administered to the sample population. The analysis of the respondents' demographic data will be conducted using a frequency distribution table and simple percentages. To address the research questions posed in this study, the mean and standard deviation methods of data analysis will be employed. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) will facilitate the calculation of the mean and standard deviation for the data analysis. Additionally, the chi-square method will be utilized to test the research hypotheses formulated for this study.

Decision Rules: An item will be accepted if the mean score is greater than or equals to 2.5 while an item is rejected if the mean score is less than 2.5. A hypothesis is accepted if the calculated chi is less than the table chi at 0.05 level of significance while a hypothesis is rejected if the calculated chi is greater than the table chi at 0.05 level of significance.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

From the analysis in Table 1, it is clear that out of the 1000 questionnaire distributed, 942 were well filled and returned representing 94.2 percent while 58 representing 5.8 percent were either not well filled or not returned.

**Table 1: Questionnaire Returned Rate.**

Description	Frequency	Percentage
Questionnaire well filled and returned	942	94.2
Questionnaire not well filled or not returned	58	5.8
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>100</b>

[Sources: Survey Nov, 2025]

**Table 2: Distribution of Respondents by State.**

State	Frequency	Percentage
Zamfara	233	24.7
Kaduna	236	25.1
Katsina	241	25.6
Sokoto	232	24.6
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100</b>

[Sources: Survey Nov, 2025]

From the analysis in table two it is clear that the out of the 250-questionnaire distributed in each of the sampled states, 233 (24.7 percent) were returned in Zamfara State, 236 (25.1 percent) were returned in Kaduna State, 241 (25.6 percent) were returned from Katsina State while 232 (24.6 percent) were returned from Sokoto State. This means that the state that has the highest questionnaire returned rate of 25.6 Percent is Katsina State followed by Kaduna State, Zamfara and Sokoto State.

**Table 3: Distribution of Respondents by Categories of Respondents.**

Descriptions	Frequency	Percentage
Businessmen	232	24.6
Farmers	231	24.5
Government officials	242	25.7
Security personnel	237	25.2
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100</b>

[Sources: Survey Nov, 2025]

The data in table 3 shows that out of the 942 questionnaires well filled and returned, 232 (24.6 percent) were returned by business men, 231 (24.5 percent) were returned by farmers, 242 (25.7 percent) were returned by government officials and 237 (25.2 percent) were returned by security personnel. This shows that majority of the respondent’s 25.7 percent are government officials.

**Table 4: Distribution of Respondents by gender.**

Description	Frequency	Percentage
Male	634	67.3
Female	308	32.7
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>100</b>

[Sources: Survey Nov, 2025]

The analysis in table 4 shows that 634 (67.3) are male respondents while 308 respondents (32.7 percent) are female respondent. This means that majority of the respondents of the study are male.

*Answering the Research Questions*

**Research Question One:** What are the impacts of armed banditry on the socio-economic development of North-western states of Nigeria?

**Table 5: Shows the impacts of armed banditry on the socio-economic development of North-western states of Nigeria.**

Sl.	ITEM	Business Men	Farmers	Govt. officials	Security personnel	Mean Set	Decision
1	Armed banditry is affecting cultivation and harvest of farm produces	2.53	2.56	2.60	2.72	<b>2.60</b>	Agreed
2	mining activities have been suspended in	2.62	2.60	2.53	2.53	<b>2.57</b>	Agreed

	Zamfara for instance due to frequent attacks by armed bandits.						
3	The revenue generated through mining in the state has been cut off, and this may likely affect the aggregate economic activities in the country.	2.72	2.71	2.61	2.56	<b>2.65</b>	Agreed
4	Banditry impoverishes farmers by forcing them to sell their assets,	2,54	2.60	2.50	2.51	<b>2.54</b>	Agreed
5	Banditry has significant negative consequences on unemployment,	2.64	2.54	2.54	2.66	<b>2.60</b>	Agreed
6	Banditry has significant negative consequences on food security,	2.62	2.60	2.70	2.62	<b>2.64</b>	Agreed
7	Banditry has significant negative consequences on education,	2.57	2.70	2.59	2.51	<b>2.59</b>	Agreed
8	Banditry has significant negative consequences on general standard of living of the people	2.72	2.62	2.67	2,71	<b>2.67</b>	Agreed
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>2.64</b>	<b>2.62</b>	<b>2.63</b>	<b>2.60</b>	<b>2.62</b>	Agreed

[Sources: Survey Nov, 2025]

The mean analysis summarized in table 5 shows that the impacts of armed banditry on the socio-economic development of North-western states of Nigeria are: Armed banditry is affecting cultivation and harvest of farm produces, mining activities have been suspended in Zamfara for instance due to frequent attacks by armed bandits, the revenue generated through

mining in the state has been cut off, and this may likely affect the aggregate economic activities in the country, Banditry impoverishes farmers by forcing them to sell their assets, Banditry has significant negative consequences on unemployment, Banditry has significant negative consequences on food security, Banditry has significant negative consequences on education, and Banditry has significant negative consequences on general standard of living of the people. This is supported with mean set of between 2.54 and 2,67 and a cumulative set mean of 2.62.

**Research Question Two:** What are the strategies employed in tackling armed banditry in North-western states of Nigeria?

**Table 6: Shows the strategies employed in tackling armed banditry in North-western states of Nigeria.**

Sl.	ITEM	Business Men	Farmers	Govt. officials	Security personnel	Mean Set	Decision
1	Creation and funding of joint operation involving the military, the police, the state security service, and the Civil Defence Corps	2.63	2.62	2.57	2.42	<b>2.56</b>	Agreed
2	the setting up of a crack police squad stationed in the border towns of Mubi and Ganye.	2.56	2.70	2.63	2.35	<b>2.56</b>	Agreed
3	integrating the bandits back to their communities by providing soft grant for them to commence business as well as bringing some of them closer to the government	2.62	2.63	2.67	2.61	<b>2.63</b>	Agreed
4	The launching of series of security operations under different name codes like: Sharan Daji, Hadrin Daji, Dirar Mikiya, Harbin Kunama and Puff Adder in tackling the menace	2.54	2.72	2.64	2.62	<b>2.63</b>	Agreed

5	The launching the Task Force on Cattle Rustling and Associated Crime by the Police force	2.63	2.56	2.65	2.70	<b>2.64</b>	Agreed
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>2.60</b>	<b>2.65</b>	<b>2.63</b>	<b>2.54</b>	<b>2.60</b>	Agreed

[Sources: Survey Nov, 2025]

The summary in table 6 shows that Creation and funding of joint operation involving the military, the police, the state security service, and the Civil Defence Corps, the setting up of a crack police squad, integrating the bandits back to their communities by providing soft grant for them to commence business as well as bringing some of them closer to the government, the launching of series of security operations under different name codes like: Sharan Daji, Hadrin Daji, Dirar Mikiya, Harbin Kunama and Puff Adder in tackling the menace and the launching the Task Force on Cattle Rustling and Associated Crime by the Police force are the strategies employed in tackling armed banditry in North-western states of Nigeria. This assertion is supported with calculated mean set of between 2.56 and 2,64 and with a cumulative mean score of 2.60.

**Research Question Three:** What are the challenges of militating against efforts in tackling armed banditry in North-western states of Nigeria?

**Table 7: Represents the challenges militating against efforts in tackling armed banditry in North-western states of Nigeria.**

Sl.	ITEM	Business men	Farmers	Govt. officials	Security personnel	Mean Set	Decision
1	Economic Corruption	2.54	2.58	2.76	2.56	<b>2.61</b>	Agreed
2	the Reactive Nature of the Government	2.71	2.51	2.64	2.61	<b>2.62</b>	Agreed
3	Underfunding	2.54	2.54	2.58	2.55	<b>2.55</b>	Agreed
4	Underpayment of Foot Soldiers and other security agencies	2.39	2.53	2.55	2.72	<b>2.55</b>	Agreed
5	lack of training and equipment,	2.57	2.81	2.57	2.59	<b>2.59</b>	Agreed
6	poor intelligence gathering,	2.58	2.54	2.83	2.63	<b>2.62</b>	Agreed
7	inter-agency rivalries	2.51	2.51	2.51	2.76	<b>2.57</b>	Agreed
8	lack of effective political leadership.	2.54	2.63	2.74	2.84	<b>2.69</b>	Agreed
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>2.55</b>	<b>2.58</b>	<b>2.65</b>	<b>2.66</b>	<b>2.59</b>	Agreed

[Sources: Survey Nov, 2025]

The summary of analysis presented in table 7 shows that: the challenges militating the efforts in tackling armed banditry in North-western states of Nigeria are: Economic Corruption, the

Reactive Nature of the Government, underfunding, Underpayment of Foot Soldiers and other security agencies, lack of training and equipment, poor intelligence gathering, inter-agency rivalries and lack of effective political leadership. This is supported with calculated set means of 2.55 and 2.69 and a cumulative set mean of 2.59.

*Testing the Research Hypotheses*

**HO<sub>1</sub>:** There is no significant difference in the opinion of businessmen, farmers, government officials and security personnel on the impact of armed banditry on the socio-economic development of North-western states of Nigeria.

**Table 8: X<sup>2</sup> Summary Table for testing Hypothesis One.**

Calculated X <sup>2</sup>	Degree of freedom	Level of significance	Table value of X <sup>2</sup>	Decision
14.718	9	0.05	16.919	

[Sources: Survey STAT Nov, 2025]

The X<sup>2</sup> summary presented in table 8 shows that with calculated X<sup>2</sup> of 14.718 at 0.05 level of significance and a degree of freedom is less than the table value X<sup>2</sup> of 1.919. using the two tailed test the calculated X<sup>2</sup> will fall within the acceptance region. This means that the Null hypothesis one is accepted meaning that There is no significant difference in the opinion of businessmen, farmers, government officials and security personnel on the impact of armed banditry on the socio-economic development of North-western states of Nigeria.

**HO<sub>2</sub>:** There is no significant difference in the opinion of businessmen, farmers, government officials and security personnel on the strategies employed in tackling armed banditry in North-western states of Nigeria.

**Table 9: X<sup>2</sup> Summary Table for testing Hypothesis Two.**

Calculated X <sup>2</sup>	Degree of freedom	Level of significance	Table value of X <sup>2</sup>	Decision
15.114	9	0.05	16.919	

[Sources: Survey STAT Nov, 2025]

The X<sup>2</sup> summary presented in table 9 shows that with calculated X<sup>2</sup> of 15.114 at 0.05 level of significance and a degree of freedom is less than the table value X<sup>2</sup> of 1.919. using the two tailed test the calculated X<sup>2</sup> will fall within the acceptance region. This means that the Null hypothesis two is accepted meaning that There is no significant difference in the opinion of businessmen, farmers, government officials and security personnel on the strategies employed in tackling armed banditry in North-western states of Nigeria.

**HO<sub>3</sub>:** There is no significant difference in the opinion of businessmen, farmers, government officials and security personnel on the challenges militating against efforts in tackling armed banditry in North-western states of Nigeria.

**Table 10: X<sup>2</sup> Summary Table for testing Hypothesis three.**

Calculated X <sup>2</sup>	Degree of freedom	Level of significance	Table value of X <sup>2</sup>	Decision
16.006	9	0.05	16.919	

[Sources: Survey STAT Nov, 2025]

The X<sup>2</sup> summary presented in table 10 shows that with calculated X<sup>2</sup> of 16.006 at 0.05 level of significance and a degree of freedom is less than the table value X<sup>2</sup> of 1.919. using the two

tailed test the calculated  $X^2$  will fall within the acceptance region. This means that the Null hypothesis three is accepted meaning that There is no significant difference in the opinion of businessmen, farmers, government officials and security personnel on the challenges militating against efforts in tackling armed banditry in North-western states of Nigeria.

### *Summary of the Findings*

- a. the impacts of armed banditry on the socio-economic development of North-western states of Nigeria are: Armed banditry is affecting cultivation and harvest of farm produces, mining activities have been suspended in Zamfara for instance due to frequent attacks by armed bandits, the revenue generated through mining in the state has been cut off, and this may likely affect the aggregate economic activities in the country, Banditry impoverishes farmers by forcing them to sell their assets, Banditry has significant negative consequences on unemployment, Banditry has significant negative consequences on food security, Banditry has significant negative consequences on education, and Banditry has significant negative consequences on general standard of living of the people.
- b. Creation and funding of joint operation involving the military, the police, the state security service, and the Civil Defence Corps, the setting up of a crack police squad, integrating the bandits back to their communities by providing soft grant for them to commence business as well as bringing some of them closer to the government, the launching of series of security operations under different name codes like: *Sharan Daji, Hadrin Daji, Dirar Mikiya, Harbin Kunama and Puff Adder* in tackling the menace and the launching the Task Force on Cattle Rustling and Associated Crime by the Police force are the strategies employed in tackling armed banditry in North-western states of Nigeria.
- c. the challenges militating the efforts in tackling armed banditry in North-western states of Nigeria are: Economic Corruption, the Reactive Nature of the Government, underfunding, Underpayment of Foot Soldiers and other security agencies, lack of training and equipment, poor intelligence gathering, inter-agency rivalries and lack of effective political leadership.
- d. There is no significant difference in the opinion of businessmen, farmers, government officials and security personnel on the impact of armed banditry on the socio-economic development of North-western states of Nigeria.
- e. There is no significant difference in the opinion of businessmen, farmers, government officials and security personnel on the strategies employed in tackling armed banditry in North-western states of Nigeria.
- f. There is no significant difference in the opinion of businessmen, farmers, government officials and security personnel on the challenges militating against efforts in tackling armed banditry in North-western states of Nigeria.

### *Discussions of the Findings*

The mean analysis summarized in table 5 shows that the impacts of armed banditry on the socio-economic development of North-western states of Nigeria are: Armed banditry is affecting cultivation and harvest of farm produces, mining activities have been suspended in Zamfara for instance due to frequent attacks by armed bandits, the revenue generated through mining in the state has been cut off, and this may likely affect the aggregate economic activities

in the country, Banditry impoverishes farmers by forcing them to sell their assets, Banditry has significant negative consequences on unemployment, Banditry has significant negative consequences on food security, Banditry has significant negative consequences on education, and Banditry has significant negative consequences on general standard of living of the people. This finding agreed with the findings of Saheed (2020), Mohammed (2019), Orjinmo (2020), Onuah & Akwagyram (2019) and Bashir and Mustapha (2022).

The summary in table 6 shows that Creation and funding of joint operation involving the military, the police, the state security service, and the Civil Defence Corps, the setting up of a crack police squad, integrating the bandits back to their communities by providing soft grant for them to commence business as well as bringing some of them closer to the government, the launching of series of security operations under different name codes like: *Sharan Daji, Hadrin Daji, Dirar Mikiya, Harbin Kunama and Puff Adder* in tackling the menace and the launching the Task Force on Cattle Rustling and Associated Crime by the Police force are the strategies employed in tackling armed banditry in North-western states of Nigeria. This finding agreed with the findings of Yusuf (2015), Binniyat (2015), AllAfrica.Com (2009), Anka (2017), Mustapha (2019), and Tangaza (2014).

The summary of analysis presented in table 7 shows that: the challenges militating the efforts in tackling armed banditry in North-western states of Nigeria are: Economic Corruption, the Reactive Nature of the Government, underfunding, Underpayment of Foot Soldiers and other security agencies, lack of training and equipment, poor intelligence gathering, inter-agency rivalries and lack of effective political leadership. This finding agreed with the findings of Adamu and Muhammad (2023), Eme and Ibietan (2013), ICG (2014), Blanchard (2014), and Saheed (2020).

## CONCLUSION

The widespread and increasing armed banditry in Nigeria's North-West region has caused significant and varied harm to its socio-economic development, resulting in a complicated array of challenges that jeopardize the very foundation of society and obstruct advancement. The ongoing violence has resulted in a notable decrease in agricultural output, as farmers face death, kidnapping, or are barred from reaching their lands due to fear and insecurity. This disruption to the primary source of income for many has intensified poverty and food shortages, driving vulnerable groups deeper into destitution.

Furthermore, the disintegration of social structures, driven by fear, distrust, and the spread of weapons, has weakened traditional community support systems and heightened inter-communal conflicts. Tackling this intricate crisis necessitates a multifaceted strategy that integrates strong security measures to dismantle bandit factions with extensive socio-economic initiatives aimed at revitalizing livelihoods, reinstating essential services, and promoting peace and reconciliation. In the absence of a coordinated and ongoing effort to address both the manifestations and underlying causes of armed banditry, the North-West region of Nigeria faces the danger of becoming ensnared in a cycle of violence and underdevelopment, with dire consequences for its populace and the nation at large.

*Based on the above the following recommendations were put forward:*

- a. There is a necessity to deploy additional well-equipped and properly trained security personnel to areas prone to banditry, with an emphasis on rapid response and ongoing operations. This encompasses enhancing aerial surveillance capabilities and ground patrols

- b. Implement focused poverty alleviation programs, vocational training, and entrepreneurship initiatives to offer alternative livelihoods for at-risk youth who may otherwise be vulnerable to recruitment by bandit groups. This also involves investing in agricultural development, as many individuals in the region depend on farming.
- c. Tackle corruption within security agencies and governmental institutions, as it frequently undermines efforts to combat banditry and diminishes public trust.
- d. Ensure the timely and sufficient provision of food, shelter, medical care, and psychological support to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and communities impacted by banditry.
- e. Promote stronger collaboration with neighbouring countries such as Niger and Benin to address the transnational aspect of banditry, which includes joint security operations and intelligence sharing.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to TET Fund Abuja for their generous support and funding of this research work. Their financial assistance has been instrumental in enabling the successful execution of this research work.

### REFERENCES

- [1] S. Epron, "Emerging Security Threats: Factors and Implications for Nigeria's Socio-Economic Development 2015-2019," *Journal of Economics and Development Studies*, vol. 7, no. 2, pp. 141-149, 2018.
- [2] O. I. Eme and J. Ibieta, "The Cost of Boko Haram Activities in Nigeria," *AJMBR*, vol. 2, no. 2, pp. 10-32, 2012.
- [3] A. Olaniyan and A. Yahaya, "Cows, bandits, and violent conflicts: Understanding cattle rustling in northern Nigeria," *Africa Spectrum*, vol. 51, no. 3, pp. 93-105, 2016.
- [4] C. J. Nwanegbo and J. Odigbo, *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, vol. 3, no. 4, pp. 285-291, 2013.
- [5] O. L. Ewetan and E. Urhie, "Insecurity and Socio-Economic Development in Nigeria," *Journal of Sustainable Development Studies*, vol. 5, no. 1, 2014.
- [6] M. Adamu and A. Muhammad, "Armed Banditry and Socio-Economic Development in Zamfara State: The Assessment," *International Journal of Research and Development (IJRD)*, vol. 6, no. 12, pp. 1-10, 2016.
- [7] Z. Chojnicki, "Socio-economic development and its axiological aspects," *Quaestiones Geographicae*, vol. 29, no. 2, 2010. doi: 10.2478/v10117-010-0010-9.
- [8] A. C. Okoli and F. N. Okpaleke, "Banditry and crisis of public safety in Nigeria: Issues in national security strategies," *European Scientific Journal*, vol. 10, no. 4, pp. 350-362, 2014.
- [9] Nigerian Watch, "Third report on violence in Nigeria (2006-2011)," *A publication of the Nigerian Watch*, June 2011.
- [10] G. A. Saheed, "Insurgency, armed banditry and corruption in Nigeria: The bane of socio-economic underdevelopment," *International Journal of Advanced Academic Studies*, vol. 2, no. 1, pp. 17-26, 2020.
- [11] I. Muhammed, "Ripped by militia attacks, Shiroro communities lose farming season, likely facing future famine," *HumAngle News*, June 22, 2019. [Online]. Available: <https://humangle.ng/>.
- [12] N. Orjinmo, "Kastina: The motorcycle bandits terrorising northwest Nigeria," *BBC News*, July 5, 2020. [Online]. Available: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-53009704>.
- [13] F. Onuah and A. Akwagyram, "Nigeria suspends mining in Zamfara after banditry rises," *Reuters*, 2019.
- [14] A. Olaniyan, "Foliage and violence: Interrogating forests as a security threat in Nigeria," *African Security Review*, vol. 27, no. 1, pp. 1-20, 2018.

- [15] A. O. Suleiman, "Thematic Appraisal on the Impulsive Upsurge of Yahoo-Yahoo in the 21st Century in Nigeria: Qur'anic Standpoint," 2019.
- [16] U. N. Mustapha, "Armed banditry and internal security in Zamfara State," *International Journal of Scientific & Engineering Research*, vol. 10, no. 8, pp. 1219-1226, 2019.
- [17] V. Yusuf, "Deadly persistence of cattle rustling," *Daily Trust*, May 16, 2015. [Online]. Available: [www.dailytrust.com.ng/weekly/index.php/features/20488-deadly-persistence-of-cattle-rustling](http://www.dailytrust.com.ng/weekly/index.php/features/20488-deadly-persistence-of-cattle-rustling).
- [18] L. Binniyat, "Northern governors met again to tackle cattle rustling," *Vanguard*, Oct. 26, 2015. [Online]. Available: [www.vanguardngr.com/2015/10/northern-govs-meet-again-to-tackle-cattle-rustling-banditry](http://www.vanguardngr.com/2015/10/northern-govs-meet-again-to-tackle-cattle-rustling-banditry).
- [19] AllAfrica.Com, "Nigeria: IG Raises Squad for Cameroon Border," 2009. [Online]. Available: [www.newstin.co.uk/tag/uk/112459675](http://www.newstin.co.uk/tag/uk/112459675).
- [20] A. S. Anka, "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*, vol. 6, no. 12, 2017.
- [21] D. O. Alao, C. O. Atere, and O. Alao, "Boko Haram Insurgency in Nigeria: The Challenges and Lessons," in *Issues in Conflict, Peace and Government*, D. Alao, Ed., Ibadan: Fodnab Ventures, 2015.
- [22] L. P. Blanchard, "Nigeria's Boko Haram: Frequently Asked Questions," *CRS Report for Congress, Congressional Research Service*, vol. 10, June 2014.
- [23] International Crisis Group, "Crisis Group Africa Report (CGAR)," pp. 1-55, Apr. 3, 2014.



This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons NC-SA 4.0 License Attribution—unrestricted use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, for any purpose non-commercially. This allows others to remix, tweak, and build upon the work non-commercially, as long as the author is credited and the new creations are licensed under the identical terms. For any query contact: [research@ciir.in](mailto:research@ciir.in)