

Assessing the Cause - Effects of Bandits and Terrorists Attack on Food Security and Possible Clues to Collaborative Learning Actions in Adamawa State, Northeast, Nigeria

¹James Allen Otunomeruke, ²Iliya Sarki Dongs, ³Peter Edafiogho, ⁴Francis Enahoro Itiveh

¹Department of Statistics, Delta State University of Science and Technology, Ozoro

²Professor of Agricultural Economics, IUB Cameroon

³Public Health Specialist -Chemonics International

⁴Department of Statistics, Delta State University of Science and Technology, Ozoro.

Email

¹divineallen2000@yahoo.com

²iliya_dongs@yahoo.com

³petereda2001@yahoo.com

⁴fenoitiveh4@gmail.com

Abstract

Livelihoods of rural community members in Adamawa State remain disrupted. Farming and other income earning opportunities are restricted and many households could not afford safe and nutritious food at all times due to incessant bandit's attacks. There is fear at home, road, in the farms and even in the rivers. Bandits have covered major parts of the Northeast, Northwest and Northcentral zones of Nigeria. Could the bandits' attacks be linked to unhealthy politics or to posterity that is limited to the wealthy, which is feeding on injustice and oppression of the poor? Or could religious observance in the country that is insincere and security more apparent than real is the cause? If not, how come the country that sits solitary and quiet, with peace loving people suddenly becomes a war-torn country where killing, destruction of property and lives, displacement of people, raping, and kidnapping for ransom, raiding grain silos and out-of-school children become order of the day? As security challenge increases, food insecurity makes life unbearable; no physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets the dietary needs of the people. With little evidence-based data for informed decision-making, the researchers conducted a survey to examine the cause-effects of bandit's attack on food security and possible clues to collaborative learning actions to address the impasse in the Northeast zone. A cross-sectional household population survey was conducted between October - November 2021 in Hong and Gombi Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Adamawa State. Multi-stage cluster sampling was used to select the state, LGAs and 660 households for the study. Personal interviews were used, which yielded a response rate of 98.5%. Findings revealed potential causes of banditry to include: unemployment (56.5%), low literacy (53.1%), poverty (63.7%), and political bigotry (49.4%), proliferation of arms (37.7%), porous borders (47.7%), and open grazing (51.1%). The effects range from internally displaced persons (67.8%), insufficient food supplies (66.6%), high prices of food stuff (57.1%), consumption of imbalanced diet (65.5%), out-of-school children (16.8%), difficulty in farming (64.5%), seizing farmlands (63.7%), raiding grain silos (63.7%), blocking distribution channels (67%), and kidnapping (66.2%). Collaboration between Government and stakeholders is needed to ensure out-of-school children are identified, enrolled, retained and to complete their studies. Recruit more foot soldiers, and deploy to strategic routes and forests that serve as hideouts for the bandits for clearance; establish vocational training centers to train people especially the women and young adolescent girls who may not want to go to farm again to learn and acquire skills in other business areas of their choice that will enhance their livelihood. The community leaders should sensitize their members on inherent dangers of serving as informants to the bandits. Above all, government should allow justice to run down as waters, and showing a strict regard for what is morally right as a mighty stream in the governance of the country.

Key Words: Food security, banditry, terrorism, cause-effects, community

1 Introduction

Banditry is any form of violence or attacks that increases insecurity of lives and property. This form of attack leads to loss of lives, property, farm produce, and dislodgement of people from their original habitation to other locations where they are considered as alien (IDPs). Banditry is as old as the world. It had happened thousands of years ago to Israelites when they sinned against God and for seven years, God gave them into the hands-on Midianites...at that time whenever the Israelites planted their crops, the Midianites, Amalekites and others from eastern people invaded the country, carried their farm produce, livestock, and impoverished the Israelites which made them to cry to the Lord for help and God forgave their sins and sent Gideon to rescue them; Judges 6:1-6. Bandit presence was witnessed before in Europe, primarily in Italy, Spain, Greece, and Turkey mountainous regions (Bankoff, 2019).

According to Cassia, 2013, bandits were equally discovered in Iran, Philippines and India, among other Asia countries.

In Nigeria, banditry activity is growing deep and taking root because people have forsaken the ordinances of God which says, "Thou shall not kill, thou shall not covet your neighbour's house, ... *love the Lord thy God with all your hearts, with all your mind and with all your souls as well as love your neighbour as yourself.*" but today, there is nothing like love your neighbour as yourself and people tend to have forsaken the good old ways of uprightness, probity and integrity.

Bandits continue to plague the Horn of Africa, East and Central Africa, and the trans-Sahara trade routes from Niger Republic to Libya, posing another security threat in Africa (Aregbesola, 2020). Research findings had also shown that the prevalence and severity of banditry in West Africa has contributed to rise in regional instability, posing a threat to the sub-region's integration (Abdullahi, 2019). It is on record that some of the bandits travelled through porous national border in West Africa such as the Niger Republic and Mali into Nigeria.

About two decades ago, Nigeria started experiencing insurgency activities in the country most especially in the Northeast, Northwest and North Central zones and about ten years now banditry surfaced in the same zones in the country. What could have caused it? Could insurgency and bandits' activities be attributed to posterity that is limited to the wealthy and that is feeding on injustice and on oppression of the poor? Or could religious observance in the country that is insincere and security more apparent than real is the cause? If not, how come the country that sits solitary and quiet, with peace loving people suddenly becomes a war-torn country where killing, destruction of property and lives, raping, and kidnapping become order of the day? As security challenge increases, food insecurity geometrically increases hence; there is no physical and economic access to be sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets the dietary needs of the people, especially in the rural areas whose main occupation is farming. The government at all levels have tried different strategies to ascertain the best ways to curb and put an end to these nefarious activities, however, their efforts have not yielded lasting solution but a little respite. The Humanitarian organizations have been providing aids reliefs to the internally displayed persons (IDP), shelter and education for the school aged children but all these have reduced and their staff are relocating either due to high rate of inflations or from the hot spot areas due to increase kidnapping and killing of the humanitarian staff.

Banditry is a type of organized crime committed by outlaws typically involving the threat or use of violence. A person who engages in banditry is known as a bandit and primarily commits crimes such as extortion, robbery and murder, either as an individual or in group of individuals. The results of the heinous crime on food security leads to under development, poverty, hunger, lack of freedom of movement, kidnapping for ransom, militancy, youth restiveness, armed robbery, fear, drug abuse, and political thuggery. In response to government adopted strategy, some school of thoughts believed that negotiation is the best approach to achieve lasting peace. According to this school of thought, the negotiation agreement should involve disarmament, the release of kidnapped victims, and amnesty for the bandits. While another school of thought claimed that dialogue is not a good military option for tackling banditry, kidnapping, and other heinous crimes bedeviling the country especially the Northeast, Northwest and North Central. In their own opinion, they believed that violent problem requires violent solutions to curtail further attacks of unprotected civilians, hence, suggested government should use every military might to end any form of violent attacks on the citizens.

Notwithstanding, all hands must be on deck to ensure the bandits and terrorists activities are brought under control.

1.1 Problem Statement

Farming is the main occupation of men and women living in rural areas in Nigeria. They practice farming in both commercial and subsistence quantities depending on the capability of each of the farmer. Prior to the era of criminal activities of the terrorists/bandits, farmers cultivated farmlands, sown, harvested, engaged in food production, processes, distribution and made the produces available at both local and regional markets for exchange of money. That period also witnessed the physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that fits people's dietary needs and for preference for an active and healthy life. However, after several decades of peaceful coexistence among the people and farming in their domain, a tsunami of criminal activities of terrorism and banditry took their ugly turn on the innocent farmers. With these consistance attacks, rural dwellers are very scared and afraid to go to their farmlands for food production, distribution and made available food for consumption. As a result of this, farmers began to cultivate gardens at the backyard of their houses at subsistence level which cannot meets the daily needs. Generation of income to care for the household members' need becomes an uphill task, and this has led to frustration and hopelessness of the rural inhabitants. With the presence of terrorists' attacks, access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food all the times has become a mirage for the rural inhabitants and people living in the urban areas. Inadequate information for informed decision-making on causality and effects of the bandits' activities on food security and the best way to tackle the issue has been a setback. On this premise, a cross sectional survey on the causality and effects of terrorism/banditry on food security and possibly identify clues for collaborative learning actions to tackling the impasse in the country especially the Northeast zone was conducted.

1.2 Research Objectives

The study aimed to examine the cause and effects of banditry and terrorism on food security in both Gombi and Hong LGAs in Adamawa State with the following specifically objectives:

- To assess the associated factors that make people to go into banditry in a state
- To uncover the effects of bandits on food security (production, harvesting, storage, and access to regional market)
- To determine the impact of attacks on security of property and lives
- To derive possible clues to collaborative learning actions in curbing bandits' activities in the zone

1.3 Limitation of the survey

Insecurity, finance and time constraints are the limiting factors for the restricted coverage area of the research.

1.4 Definitions of Terms

Farming: Farming is growing crops or keeping animals by people for food and for raw materials as inputs to other businesses

Food security is defined by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) as: when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

Food insecurity: Food insecurity is measured as a household level concept that refers to unacceptable availability, access, or utilization of food

2 Literature Review

Food security is a state of having reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable and nutritious food. It ensures better nutrition leading to better growth of a generation of citizens who are helpful in serving the nation. Lack of food security can trigger morbidity and mortality among newborns, infants, children under five years and mothers as well as the population in a geographical area. Food security enhances each individual or a country to have access to safe and healthy food at all times of the year. A country that is plagued with banditry activities, always experience insufficient food supplies, high prices of foodstuffs, lack of availability and access to safe, and nutritious food on daily basis as well as loss of lives. According to Collins, 2000, he defined banditry as an act of robbery and violence in areas where the rule of law has broken down. In his submission,

banditry constitutes a team of people coming together to plan, perpetrate and execute evil intentions to dislodge people of their properties, homes, farm lands and even their ancestral given habitation.

In September 2020, the United Nations predicted that attacks by the Al-Shabaab insurgent organization will exacerbate food insecurity in Mozambique through 2021 (Channels TV, 2020). In a response to UN claims on banditry activities in Mozambique and on how to nip it on bud, Nlasi Wodu advised that to ensure lasting peace, *“the government must start to build trust with local communities vulnerable to attacks by bandits. They should set up early warning and response systems, working with vigilantes and community leaders on ground. Structural inequalities that drive people to violence such as poverty, lack of education, lack of opportunity and government mistreatment should be addressed without delay. Military should refocus her attention to controlling the trafficking in small arms and light weapons, specifically by patrolling porous national borders. Banditry is not a problem that will be solved through the barrel of a gun”*; he iterated.

The activities of banditry are not limited to Nigeria alone; it cut across West Africa and Africa continent. These activities of the bandits have led to regional insecurity and possible disintegration of the sub regions. Therefore, there should be collaboration among the neighbouring states and countries in West Africa, Africa and developed world with the view of bringing this heinous crime to a stand-still. In attempt to x-ray the implications of banditry, Femi Akintunde-Johnson remarks that *bandits attack is driven by “many overlapping factors, such as cattle rustling, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, illicit artisanal mining, youth unemployment, poverty and inequality”*, *THIS DAY, Editor, July 3, 2021*. Banditry activities include armed robbery, murder, raping, and cattle-rustling that are all taking place in any community raided by these bandits. Empirical findings revealed that some of the causes of banditry are due to collapse of governance, lack of education, quest for quick wealth, injustice and lack of equality and equity, access to illegal small arms and light weapons, and porous national border. Hence, it could be claimed that social-economic challenges trigger this dreadful enemy to continue to fester and threaten to overrun the country, especially the Northeast, Northwest and North Central zones of Nigeria.

In a report attributed to the West Africa Network of Peace building (WANEP), from January to December 2019, claimed that armed bandits were responsible for more than 1,000 civilian deaths in the Northwest. This assertion was supported by the Nigeria Security Tracker that agreed that the death through bandits was greater than civilians killed by Boko Haram over the same period. The impact of these deaths has ripple effects across communities, LGAs, State, and the nation that will last generations. To prevent the escalation of banditry activities, government deployed armed forces to strategic routes to protect lives and property so that the rural community can go about their daily activities like farming, trading and marketing. This strategy has to some extent yielded positive results that successfully pushed back bandits' attacks in some of the regions, destroyed several hideouts, and arrested or killed hundreds of bandits, nevertheless, the bandits continue re-cooping and carrying out their spontaneous attacks on soft target.

In appraising education system in the country, former President Olusegun Obasanjo examined policy implication of out-of-school children for the next 10 to 15 years to come in Nigeria during his presentation in Murtala Muhammed Foundation (MMF) lectures in 22nd February 2022 said, *“If the population of Nigeria today stands at 215 million and 15 million children are out-of-school, it doesn't matter how we deal with Boko Haram, banditry and kidnapping – either by stick or by carrot approach; those 15 million children that should be in school but are not in school are potential Boko Haram (BK) of 10-15 years from now”* He went further to reiterate that *“I believe it is not late to start and say to ourselves, we do not want Boko Haram of 2030 or 2035. But if we don't do anything about those 15 million out-of-school children, we are already in more trouble with Boko Harm (BHs) of the future. That means we are already nurturing the Boko Haram of tomorrow”*. His Excellency, the former President Olusegun Obasanjo also critic the slow pace of Nigeria government's response to the Boko Haram insurgency. Saying, *“the government failed to act quickly in taking the fight to Boko Haram domain when there was no external financial assistance. He further reiterated that the insecurity in the country was caused as a result of the ease to access weapons and since then we have been unable to address the issue, it keeps getting worse.”*

He also attributed the agitation of the terrorists/bandits to unemployment in the country. The former President Olusegun Obasanjo of Federal Republic of Nigeria submission on the need to resolve issues surrounding youth

unemployment in the country. According to him, Boko Harm leaders complained about their followers that had no job, and in their efforts to do something about getting legitimate income to help their followers, the government started chasing and gunning them down. He asked a question on why Nigeria is not succeeding in fighting war against insurgency and bandits, his response was, *"it is because, the society continue to do the same things all the time and expecting a different result"*. He continued by saying, *"People want a good life, a good job, and they must be given a good education. As long as they are denied these, they will be right to demand on society. We, the society must be willing to give it to them or they extract it from society unwillingly"*, opined by the former President Obasanjo.

In the same vein, His Excellency, the Vice President of Nigeria, Professor Yemi Osinbajo in one of his addresses lamented the security situation in the country, especially the rise of terrorism and access to illegal weapons by non-state actors. He said, *"We must be smarter in policing the country using smart drones and surveillance equipment"*. *"The politicization of our means of the purchase of weapons tells us that we must manufacture our own arms; he reiterated"*. From the comment of His Excellency, you will observe that the banditry and insurgency have eaten deep into the fabric of Nigeria society as a country and the earlier the government wake up to her responsibility of protecting lives and property, the best for the citizenry.

In a study conducted in Zamfara State, it was noted that the State host most of the leaders of banditry in Nigeria and operate from Zamfara to other States. It was stated that the bandit's take-off from Zamfara through motor bikes to neighbouring states, such as Kastina, to operate and then return to their forest den. (Farouq and Chukwu, 2020). Without adequate policing of the zone, it will be an uphill task for the rural populace whose major occupation is farming, livestock breeding, and other subsistence food production activities to be confident in going to farm on daily basis. And if the farmers could not carry out farming, the society will not have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets people's dietary needs and food preference for an active and healthy life.

According to World Food Summit of 2016, *"food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that fits their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life"* (FAO, 2016). Any sort of violence that causes insecurity in rural areas where the bulk of the population are farmers will definitely have negative effects or impacts on the global food security.

Adamawa State have been facing a lot of insecurity challenges for almost one and half decades from insurgency and at the time of respite, banditry surfaces in some LGAs in the state especially Hong, and Gombi LGAs to mention but a few. Fear at home, on the road, and at the farm; and no one can predict the time armed bandits might strike. Recently, residence of Kwapre and Dabna villages in Hong LGA of Adamawa state fled their homes over persistent attacks by bandits. It was gathered that in April 2021, 52 people were abducted and only eight people survived. Currently, about five communities within Hongs have deserted their habitations due to buildup of heavy presence of suspected bandits. What could have led to these nefarious activities which is claiming lives and property on daily basis which, invariably results into food insecurity? This survey provides evidence-based data to the root cause and effects of bandits and possible clues to collaborative learning actions in Adamawa State.

2.1 Conceptual Framework for the study

The conceptual framework of Human Needs model was adopted for this article. Norman Maire defined needs as a condition requiring the supply of relief, the lack of anything requisite, desired or useful. She gave an example of a need of food that produces tension in the stomach, and this tension force one to seek something to satisfy hunger; and when he actually eats something, his/her tension is released and he feels relaxed. In the opinion of Kolosa, *"A need is a lack or deficit of something within the system or organism."* From this perspective, we can say that a need is a personal, unfulfilled vacuum or vacancy that determines and organizes all mental processes and all behavior in the direction of its attainment. In Maslow theory, *"the concept of need hierarchy, the satisfaction of physiological needs, which are the most fundamental, results in the safety needs becoming more potent and felt by the individual concerned..."*. Hence, Maslow theorizes, *"The various needs are interdependent, with the maximum expression of need for accomplishment and growth emerging with satisfaction of the basic needs."* It should be noted that, Maslow theory was manipulated a little bit without necessarily considering the hierarchy of needs but we are interested in the human needs that are not met but

serve as catalysts to banditry activities in this research. Some of the needs as we learnt are individual and/or collective needs which government of a country should provide for her citizens for enhancement of their livelihood. However, if the people perceived that only few privileged people are the one enjoying all the resources, and majority are left behind, this could trigger the people to taking up of arms and violence; hence, the survey explores the spiral effects of lack of satisfaction of human needs that result into bandits attack on food security and ripple effects on socio-economic and security challenges of the society using human needs model to come up with possible clues for collaborative learning actions to address the impasse.

3 Research Methodology

3.1 Brief description of study area

Adamawa State is a state in the Northeast geographical zone bordered by Borno to the northwest, Gombe to the west, and Taraba to the southwest, while its eastern border forms part of the national border with Cameroon. It takes its name from the historic emirate of Adamawa, with the emirate's old capital of Yola, serving as the capital city of Adamawa state. The state is one of the most heterogeneous in Nigeria, with over 100 indigenous ethnic groups, formed in 1991, when the former Gongola state was divided into Adamawa and Taraba states. Adamawa is one of the largest states of Nigeria and occupies about 36,917 square kilometers. Adamawa is a mountainous land crossed by the large river valleys – Benue, Gongola and Yedsarem. It has 21 local government areas (LGAs).

The major occupation of the people is farming as reflected in their two notable vegetation zones, the Sub-Saharan and Northern Guinea Savannah zones. Their cash crops are cotton and groundnuts, while food crops include: maize, yam, cassava, guinea corn and rice. The village communities living on the banks of the rivers, engage in fishing, while the Fulanis are cattle rearers. The state has a network of roads linking all parts of the country. Adamawa state was affected by Boko Haram insurgency and in January 2012, Boko Haram attacked Gombi, Mubi and Yola LGAs respectively. On 21st – 22nd February 2020, Boko Haram terrorists launched an attack on homes and churches in Garkida, killing three soldiers and wounding civilians.

3.1 Sample Design

The sample for the cross-sectional household survey in the Northeast was representative and covered the population inhabiting in the selected state and LGAs. The survey used a sampling frame, the list of enumeration areas (EAs) prepared for the 2006 population Census of the Federal Republic of Nigeria provided by the National Population Commission (NPC). The sample was designed to provide population and food security indicators at state level. The sample design allowed for specific indicators to be calculated for the state.

A multi-stage cluster sampling design was used to select a state out of the three most insurgent attacked states in the Northeast (Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States). Adamawa State was randomly chosen for the survey. A simple random sample method was adopted to select two Local Government Areas (LGAs) - Hong and Gombi in Adamawa state. Within each LGA, 30 clusters each were randomly chosen; hence, 60 clusters were covered in the state. The survey covered the following communities: Hong town, Shangui, Thilban, Daksiri, Bانشaki and Bانشika in Hong LGA, while Gombi South, Gombi North, Garkida, Garkida South, and Guyaku were covered in Gombi LGA respectively. The researchers used 80% power, assuming design effect of 1.5, and 95% confidence interval. Enumeration areas (EAs) maps of the selected areas were obtained from National Population Commission for identification purposes. The primary sampling unit (PSU), referred to as a cluster in the 2021 is defined on the basis of EAs from the 2006 EA Census frame. The cross-sectional survey sample was selected using a multi-stage cluster design consisting of 60 clusters, 30 in Gombi LGA and 30 in Hong LGA. A representative sample of 660 households was selected for the survey, with a minimum target of 300 completed interviews per LGA. Due to insecurity situation a complete listing of households and a mapping exercise were not carried out for each cluster; rather, a systematic sampling method was adopted to selecting the households and the potential respondents for the survey. The survey target audience were rural inhabitants, farmers, farm owners, traders, and food processors. The study was conducted in October - November 2021.

Household is being defined as a group of people living together under one roof, having everything in common, eating from the same pot and recognized one person as the head of the household. The head of household could be male or female or both depending on the operational definition of household head.

Structured questionnaire was designed first in the English language and key words in the questionnaire translated to Hausa and Fulfulde languages for easy understanding and uniformity purpose during the fieldwork. Virtually all the people in Adamawa State can speak either Hausa or Fulfulde or both languages; hence, local language was considered during the development of the questionnaire and training of the research assistants. Pre-testing of the questionnaire was conducted in one of the wards in Yola town in Adamawa State, which, was not selected into the sample, and the results were used to fine-tune the final questionnaire. The research design was a Cross-sectional Household Survey. Respondents successfully interviewed were 650 out of 660 potential respondents sampled with response rate of 98.5 percent.

3.2 Training and Fieldwork Management

The research assistants were recruited from the LGAs of the survey for the ease in data collection, safety and return to their base before night falls. Key words were translated into local language for proper understanding and uniformity in obtaining adequate response from the respondents. Ten research assistants and two supervisors were identified and recruited for the fieldwork. A two-day training on act of conducting interview, purpose, methods, role-play and field trial were taught and practiced to ascertain the proficiency of the research assistants. All the research assistants were either undergraduates or graduates with at least two years' experience in data collection. The research assistants were subdivided into two teams. Each team was made up of 5 research assistants and a supervisor to cover an LGA area. Each of the research assistants was given well-structured questionnaires, sketch map of the enumeration areas for easy identification, pen, and notepad and identity card. The sketch maps were used to identify the demarcation of the enumeration area, while a sampling gap of 1 in 5 Households after a successful interview was adopted to identify the next household for the interview.

4 Data Management

4.1 Editing, Coding and Data Entry of Variables

The supervisors and researchers cleaned and edited the completed questionnaires from the field and coding of the variables followed immediately. The key variables in the questionnaire were addressed accordingly. The edited and coded data were entered into the Excel spread sheet for further analysis and running of frequency tables.

4.2 Detailed Findings

The descriptive analysis using percentages and balanced scores analysis was carried out. The respondents surveyed from Gombi LGA (325) and Hong LGA (325) in Adamawa with a response rate of 98.5% (650). Gender analysis revealed that 52.2% were males and 47.8% females in the sampled population.

Table 1: Demographical Variables of the Surveyed Respondents in Adamawa State

Variables	Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Age				
15-19	15	4.4	12	3.9
20-29	64	18.9	60	19.3
30-39	81	23.9	69	22.2
40-49	90	26.5	79	25.4
50-59	66	19.5	71	22.8
60+	23	6.8	20	6.4
Total	339	100	311	100
Education				
No education	45	13.3	113	36.3
Primary	58	17.1	56	18.0
Secondary	173	51.0	117	37.6
Tertiary	63	18.6	25	8.0
Total	339	100	311	100
Marital Status				
Single	43	12.7	10	3.2
Married	296	87.3	301	96.8

Total	339	100	311	100
Place of Residence				
Urban	143	42.2	106	34.1
Rural	196	57.8	205	65.9
Total	339	100	311	100
Occupation				
Paid employed	71	20.9	43	13.8
Self-employed	38	11.2	30	9.7
Farming	201	59.3	186	59.8
Business or trading	21	6.2	23	7.4
Craft / Knitting	8	2.4	29	9.3
Total	339	100	311	100

Source – Field Survey, 2021

4.3.2 Age of Respondents

About 25.4% of women interviewed were within the age cohort of 40-49 years, followed by 50-59 years (23%) women and 15-19 years had the lowest of 4%; while men interviewed were in the range of 40-49 years (26.5%), 30-39 years (24%), 50-59 years and 20-29 years recorded 19.5 and 19% and 15-19 years has 4.4% as the lowest. The age of the respondents is normally distributed.

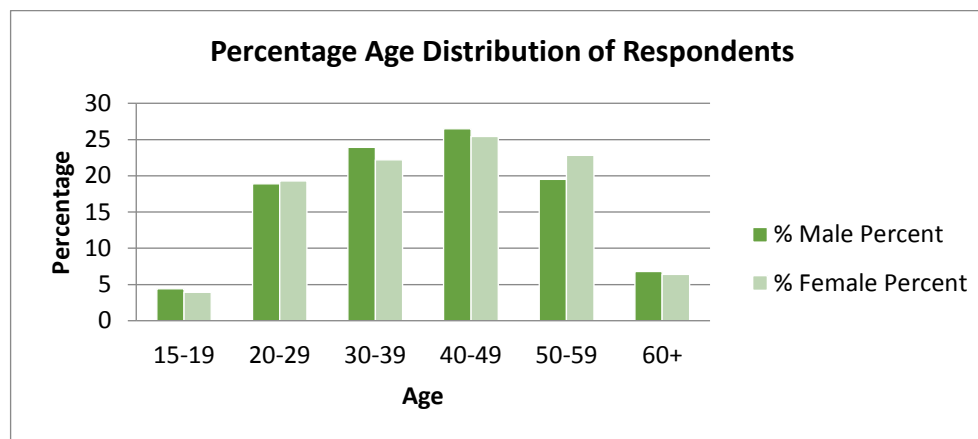


Figure 1: The distribution of the respondents by age category

4.3.3 Marital Status with Residence Area

Over 9 in 10 (96.8%) and 87.3% surveyed were women and men that are currently married; and about 61.9% of both respondents live in rural area while 38.1% reside in urban area.

4.3.4 Education of Respondents

In terms of education, 36.3% of women have no education, primary education (18.1%), secondary education (37.6%) and tertiary education (8%), while 51% of men has secondary education, tertiary (18.6%) and no education (13.3%).

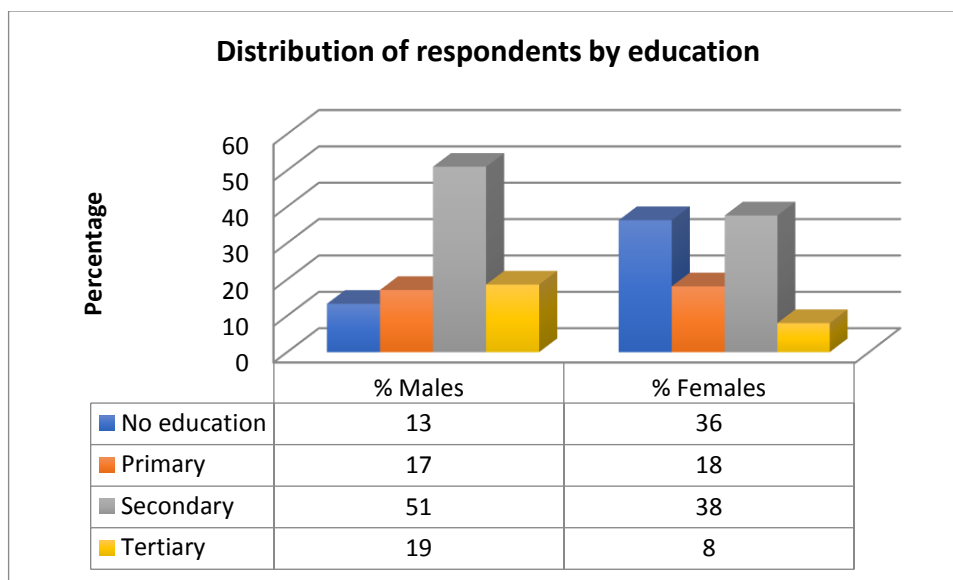


Figure 2: The distribution of the respondents by educational attainment

4.3.5 Occupation of Respondents

Occupation of the women show that 17.3% are currently engaged in paid employed job, 10.5% self-employed, farming (59.5%), business/trading (6.8%) and craft/knitting had 5.9%) (See table 1 in Annex). The men recorded 21% for paid employment, self-employed (11%), farming (59%) and crafts/knitting (2%) as the lowest occupation among men.

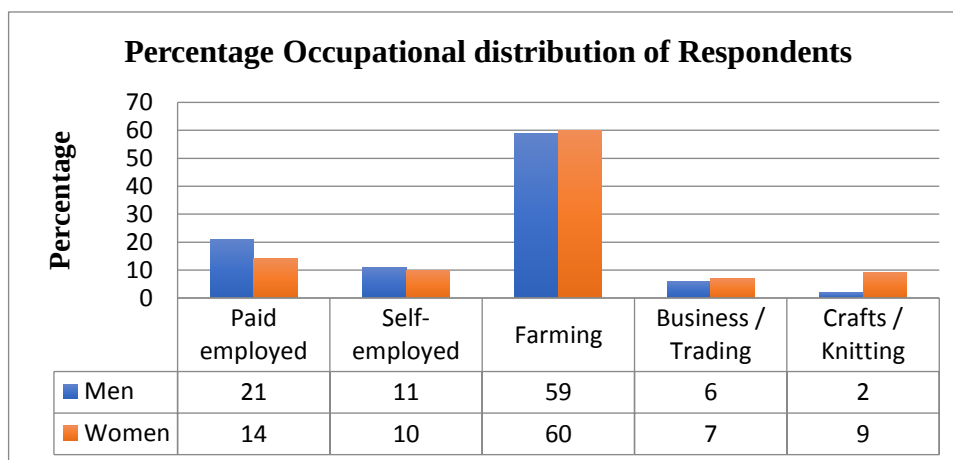


Figure 4: Percentage distribution of respondents by occupation

Table 2: Ownership of land, farm size, Market patronized and Source of Secondary Income by the respondents

Variables	Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Ownership of Land				
Yes	290	85.5	264	84.9
No	49	14.5	47	15.1
Total	339	100	311	100
Size of the Land				

Less or equal to 0.5 hectares	132	38.9	156	50.2
Greater than 5 Hectares	207	61.1	155	49.8
Total	339	100	311	100
Knowledge of Market				
Local Market	35	10.3	32	10.3
Regional Market	305	90.0	278	89.4
Total	339	100	311	100
Source of Secondary Income				
Other sources	197	58.1	180	57.9
Farming only	142	41.9	131	42.1
Total	339	100	311	100

4.3.6 Ownership of Land

The respondents were asked whether they own or have access to land for farming. Over 85% of the respondents claimed they have land for farming including some of the civil servants who said they farm to supplement their income. *The ownership of land is defined as access to farmland either by ownership, access, bought, or through inheritance that is being used for agricultural activities.*

4.3.6.1 Size of the Land

The size of the land was assessed using less than or equal to 0.5 hectares and greater or equal to 0.5 hectares. Proportion of the farmers whose size of land was less than or equal to 0.5 hectares had 39.1% and greater or equal to 0.5 hectares recorded 60.9% respectively.

4.3.7 Knowledge of Market

Over 4 in 5(89.7%) of farmers were knowledgeable about the regional market where they can sell their agricultural produce, while 10.3% of them said they sell their produce in local markets.

4.3.8 Source of Secondary Income

Almost 3 in 5(58%) of the respondents claimed of having other sources of income apart from farming, while 42% depend solely on agricultural activities.

4.4 Perceived Root Causes of Insurgency and banditry on Food Security in Adamawa State

When the respondents were asked to mention perceived root causes of insurgency and banditry activities in the country especially in the Northeast, Northwest and North Central zones, it was observed that the respondents did not mince words before mentioning the following as top-of-mind root causes of the insurgency and banditry to include: poverty (64.3%), low literacy (53.1%), unemployment (56.9%), open grazing (50.6%), decadence of moral values (48.2%), political bigotry (49.2%), desires to get rich at all means (41.1%), illegal possession of arms (32.2%), peer pressure (29.8%) and out-of-school children (28.8%). *Top-of-mind responses of root causes are defined as things a person know and without prompting will mention them when asked.*

Table 3: Distribution of top-of-mind responses on causes of banditry and terrorism in Adamawa State

S/N	Statements	Top-of- mind response	Prompted	% Top-of-mind response	% Prompted response
1	Low literacy	342	308	52.6	47.4
2	Unemployment of the youths	370	280	56.9	43.1
3	Poverty and inequality	418	232	64.3	35.7
4	Bad peer pressure	194	456	29.8	70.2
5	Porous border	257	393	39.5	60.5
6	Out-of-school	180	470	27.7	72.3

	children				
7	Moral decadency	313	337	48.2	51.8
8	Political bigotry	320	330	49.2	50.8
9	Desires to get rich at all means	267	383	41.1	58.9
10	Illegal possession of arms	209	441	32.2	67.8
11	Open grazing	329	321	50.6	49.4

Both “top-of-mind” responses and Likert-scale measurement responses showed almost the same results about the root causes of insurgency and banditry activities in the State. The Likert-scale measurement statements assessed the root causes of banditry on food security with each balanced scores as reflected in table 3 above to include (i) Poverty and inequality (63.7%) (ii) Low literacy (53.1%) (iii) Unemployment (56.6%), (iv) Open grazing (51.1%) (v) Political bigotry (49.4%), (vi) Porous borders (47.7%), (vii) Proliferation of illegal arms (37.7%) and (viii) Out-of-school children (27.8%).

Table 4: Likert-scale Measurement Statements of Causes of Banditry and Insurgency on Food Security

S/N	Statements	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	% Balanced Scores
1	Low literacy is one of the causes of the banditry activities	247	243	15	73	72	53.1
2	Unemployment of the youths is a trigger to terrorist, & bandits attacks	250	231	55	72	42	56.5
3	Poverty and inequality are part of factors causing bandits/terrorists attacks	251	268	26	60	45	63.7
4	Porous border makes easy access for bandits and terrorists into the country	189	260	62	80	59	47.7
5	Out-of-school children leads to ready tools on the hands of bandits/terrorists	148	241	53	130	78	27.8
6	Unhealthy political actions where thugs were hired and equipped with arms during elections and those weapons were not retrieved serves a source of illegal arms	204	258	47	87	54	49.4
7	Illegal trafficking in small arms and light weapons gives rises to bandits	162	267	37	109	75	37.7
8	Open grazing of cattle and livestock fuel consistent attacks on the farmers	221	259	22	90	58	51.1

4.5 Effects of Insurgency and Banditry Activities on Food Security in Adamawa State

In the top-of-mind awareness responses on effects of insurgency and bandits, the respondents mentioned the following: people are homeless (66.5%), shortage in food supplies (63.2%), high price of goods and services

(67.5%), Prices of foodstuff are not acceptable (78.5%), increased unemployment (55.9%), urban-rural migration (47.6%), rise out-of-school children (29.1%), pressure in urban slums areas for residence (40.8%), inadequate infrastructural facilities (50.2%), and lack of investment (49.1%). While in Likert-scale measurement statements that assessed effects of insurgency and banditry activities include: low food production (63.7%), inaccessible of farmland (64.5%), loss of lives and property (47.1%), insufficient food supplies (65.5%), high prices of food items (78.5%), rise in internally displaced persons (67.8%), displacement of people from their ancestral habitation and farmlands (63.7%), cattle and livestock rustling, burning of houses and community, lack of balanced diet (65.5%), make more money (32.5%), inadequate access to regional markets (77.7%) (See tables 5 & 6 below).

Table 5: Distribution of top-of-mind responses on effects of banditry and terrorism on Food Security in Adamawa State

S/N	Statements	Top-of- mind response	Prompted	% Top-of-mind response	% Prompted response
1	People Homeless	432	218	66.5	33.5
2	Shortage in food supply	411	239	63.2	36.8
3	High price of goods and services	439	211	67.5	32.5
4	Unemployment	363	287	55.8	44.2
5	Urban-rural migration	309	341	47.5	52.5
6	Increase in out-of-school children	189	461	29.1	70.9
7	Pressure in urban slums areas for residence	265	385	40.8	59.2
8	Inadequate infrastructural facilities	326	324	50.2	49.8
9	Lack of investment in the country	319	331	49.1	50.9

Table 6: Balanced Scores Effects of Banditry and Insurgency on Food Security in Adamawa State

S/N	Statements	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	% Balanced Scores
1	Less production of food due to insecurity	175	239	61	102	73	63.7
2	Going to farm is dangerous now due to insecurity challenges	189	323	45	63	30	64.5
3	There was availability of food before the era of bandits and terrorists' attacks	153	252	70	91	84	62.3
4	There is adequate food supply despite banditry and terrorism in the state	16	54	77	274	229	-66.6

5	The distribution of food items through local and regional market is still the same with the presence of bandits/terrorists	11	22	79	319	219	-77.7
6	I have sufficient food that is safe and nutritious for my family all the time prior bandits/terrorist attacks	248	259	31	72	40	60.8
7	We eat only what we have without considering the nutrition value and safety of the food due to insecurity	239	287	24	46	54	65.5
8	I make more money as result of high price of food stuffs now with the advent of bandits and terrorists attacks	23	51	63	300	213	-67.5 (32.5%) make more money
9	The price of food stuffs is just right for me	29	51	48	370	220	-78.5 (21.5)
10	Loss of property and lives	191	278	18	85	78	47.1
11	Displacement of people from their ancestral habitation and farmlands	211	293	56	54	36	63.7
12	Increased in internally displaced persons ripple effects of bandits' attacks	237	291	35	71	16	67.8

4.6. Impact of Terrorists/Bandits attack on Food Security in Adamawa State

The rural dwellers are more vulnerable partly due to the geography and history in which they inherited from their ancestors. The manner the Federal Government and security personnel handle the incessant attacks and reprisals of the terrorist will make a difference to the consequences of future attacks. The impasse is mostly felt by the women folk and girl-child due to their vulnerability. Generally, women and children especially girls need protection from these terrorists and bandits' attacks and molestation. Through the attacks many men and some women were killed leaving many women to be widows and, in some cases, where the husband and wives killed left the children without parents. Caring for the family became difficult for the women because the main means of livelihood (husbands) has been killed and farming to cater for the family are no go areas due to incessant attacks. The empirical findings show that the most important causes of vulnerability are those that are socially determined because they are frequently the causes that can be adjusted most readily in the short time. If the government can provide education at all levels for her citizenry and back-up with job opportunities and other social security for her teeming population especially the youths, people taking up arms to secure their future will not arise. And if it eventually arises, the magnitude will be very low.

One of the immediate effects of bandits' incessant attacks is inaccessibility to farmland. Going to farm will be dangerous due to insecurity challenges (64.5%). As results of inability to engage in food production, shortage in food supply will not match food demand. Inadequate food supply (66.6%) invariably increased the prices of goods and services which will negatively affect the purchasing power of the people. About 78.5% of the rural inhabitants considered the price of food stuff unaffordable, hence, 65.5% of the respondents eat only what they have without considering the nutrition value and safety of the food due to insecurity. This finding is in conformity with the prediction of the United Nations that attacks by the Al-Shabaab insurgent organization will exacerbate food insecurity in Mozambique through 2021 (Channels TV, 2020) which is invariably happening now in Nigeria. Due to consistent increase attacks, many rural inhabitants (67.8%) have been displaced from their ancestral given geographical location. Some of the rural inhabitants either relocated to urban cities where their relatives are living or internally displaced camps (IDPs) if they don't have where to go. This displacement has negatively impacted the suffering of many women and children due to the nature of their vulnerability. Prior to the advent of terrorist activities in the survey location, about 60.8% claimed to have had sufficient food that was safe and nutritious for their family all the time, but now, only 39.2% have access now. Seizure of farmlands (63.7%) and raiding of grain silos (63.7%) by the herdsmen led to conflicts and many casualties between the two parties. This situation is not good enough and call for proactive action by all state actors and international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) to proffer lasting solution to the impasse. Notwithstanding, the leaders (government) and people in position should put the fear of God (Allah) before them, do the right things, give room for equity, fairness and even distribution of resources through adequate policy implementation as steps to resolving the causes of the terrorism in the country.

4.7 Possible Clues to Collaborative Learning Actions in Curbing Banditry Activities

According to one school of thought, "a need is a lack or deficit of something within the system or organism." Another school of thought defined need as "a personal, unfulfilled vacuum or vacancy that determines and organizes all mental processes and all behavior in the direction of its attainment." When lack of satisfaction of physiological needs, which are the most fundamental, which ought to result in the safety needs becoming more potent and felt by the individual concerned, there is a challenge. Hence, human beings everywhere express the desire to satisfy basic needs first, followed by safety needs, before thinking about needs that will enhance the growth. The needs we talk about in this context include shelter, clothes, food, earnings that enhances purchasing power of parents or caregivers, protection, safety needs, and freedom of movement. If there is restriction in movement and farmers could not access farmlands or means of livelihood, ability to care for the family will be a mirage and frustration and hopelessness will be the order of the day.

The survey identified perceived associated factors or human needs (not exhaustive) that are not met but could serve as catalysts to terrorists and bandits' activities. The adaptation of human needs model enabled the investigators to identify empirical facts that serve as clues to collaborative learnings derived from this cross-sectional household survey. These clues include: poverty and inequality, unemployment, low literacy level, high number of out-of-school children, moral decadence, peer pressure, rise of terrorism, access to illegal weapons by non-state actors, policing of the country using smart drones and surveillance equipment, necessity of local production of weapons, weak border monitoring (porous border), high numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs), inadequate food supply, and unaffordable prices of goods and services. Some of the needs as shown in the study are individual and/or collective needs which government of a country is saddled with responsibility of providing for her citizens for enhancement of their livelihood. The cumulative effects of the banditry and terrorism have led to lack of physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that fits the people dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

The lesson is, government and non-state actors all need to expose themselves to wind of change and constructive criticism that can serve as catalyst to reduce negative impact on the citizenry. The survey empirical findings are not meant to apportion blames to the Government but to point out things people mentioned as catalysts to terrorism and banditry in their geography locations for considerations. If we all want act of terrorism – killing, kidnapping, raping, raiding of silos, seizure of farmlands and blockage of trade routes to stop, the leaders need to be proactive in governance and ensure education and provision of job opportunities for the people. Government should come closer to the people they lead, identify their needs and try to meet them gradually without coercion. When terrorists/bandits see, that government are trying to change from status quo by providing things that initially made them to take up arms, will have a rethink or reconsider their stand

and embrace dialogue and peace. Any attempt on the part of individual or government to view innovation as risky and suspect, and block ears to positive criticism or suggestions can be a road block to lasting peace and economic progress in the state and a country. Government should genuinely tackle the issue of poverty and by so doing, there will be circulation of wealth among the citizenry and not limited or accumulated to few hands. Empowerment schemes that are tailored to the needs of the people most especially the youths can be introduced. These schemes should be a life-long ones, well mapped out, financed, coordinated, monitored and conduct periodic or regular evaluation to ascertain efficiency and effectiveness of such intervention. Periodic interaction between the implementers and the trainees to know challenges, successes, learning, and accountability can be instituted by the organization saddled with such responsibility of empowerment.

6 Discussions of empirical findings from the Cross-sectional survey in Adamawa State

From human need point of view, the action of all human beings are goal oriented and people behaviour is directed towards the fulfillment of the needs, drives, wants, aspirations, etc.

The safety and security needs refer to the avoidance of danger, deprivation and harm from physical environment. Banditry and terrorism are plagued with multi-faceted factors that when critically analyzed, solution proffered, lessons learned and use the learning for informed decision will prevent future bandits' attack. According to Eigege and Cooke 2016, not only are farming activities incapacitated of being carried out under unsecured environment, domestic agricultural production is stifled, farming communities are displaced and access to regional markets is blocked agreed with the survey findings. Rural -Urban migration is aftermath of insurgency. Rural inhabitants flew from farmland to meet their relatives living in urban areas, hence, increased the dependency on the working class. Due to rush to urban cities, there emerges pressure on residential areas and people tend to move to urban slums to live and this on its own is another challenge of urban areas.

Top-of-mind awareness is an important concept in consumer behavior, marketing research and marketing communication. It is awareness that deals with a measure of how high brands rank in the consciousness of consumers. The first brand that comes to mind when consumers think of a certain niche, product or industry has achieved top-of-mind awareness. *It is defined as the first brand name that comes to someone's mind when asked about a specific industry.* In the same vein, the concept was adapted to ascertain the prominent roots causes and effects of insurgency and banditry activities in form of top-of-mind awareness or response in the consciousness of the respondents. It helps the researchers, policy makers and humanitarian organizations to know the main causes of bandits and insurgency impinging on food security in the sub-consciousness of people and possibly derive clues to collaborative learning actions so that when applied can address the issues at stake.

The findings revealed that the pooled figures of almost one-quarter (24.8%) of the respondents (males and females) were not educated, a little below one-fifth had primary school education, and almost half of the respondents had secondary school education and about one-tenth had tertiary education (**see table 1**). Almost two-fifth of women surveyed have no education, one-fifth had primary education, while about women population (45.6%) had secondary and higher education qualifications respectively. Low literacy level of the people is among the factors the terrorists and bandits are using as a weapon to convince and recruit unaware youths into their gangs with a little cash incentive. Therefore, education of the children is very importance. School-aged children should be enrolled into the school and ensure that they are not on the street roaming when they ought to be in the classroom learning. If the children especially the girl-child are not enrolled in school, there is high likelihood that such a girl-child can easily be given out for early marriage with its associated challenges for the girl. According to the top-of-mind response and Likert scale measurement responses, the population of out-of-school children in the surveyed areas is bad enough to disorganized the society. This result conforms to the assertion of His Excellency, former President Obasanjo that said about 15 million of children are out-of-school. He claimed that some of the children that were not educated yester years are part of the bandits that is causing mayhem in the state. The teeming population must be educated and all the necessary infrastructures to promote education must be in place. The question is why do we have such a huge number of out-of-school children in our society without meaningful interventions to address it? What (if any) is the implication of out-of-school children in our society? His Excellency, former President Olusegun Obasanjo in trying to answer the above issue raised, examined the policy implication of out-of-school children for the next 10 to 15 years to come in Nigeria during his presentation in Murtala Muhammed Foundation (MMF) lectures in 22nd February 2022 and said, *"If the population of Nigeria today stands at 215 million and*

15 million children are out-of-school, it doesn't matter how we deal with Boko Haram, banditry and kidnapping – either by stick or by carrot approach; those 15 million children that should be in school but are not in school are potential Boko Haram (BK) of 10-15 years from now". He reiterated further that "I believe it is not late to start and say to ourselves, we do not want Boko Haram of 2030 or 2035. But if we don't do anything about those 15 million out-of-school children, we are already in more trouble with Boko Harm (BHs) of the future. That means we are already nurturing the Boko Haram of tomorrow". This is a food for thought for everyone. The government at all levels should make education their first priority because if we are not able to take care of education, we cannot be able to take care of other things; this claim was also in agreement with what the former President Olusegun Obasanjo in his address mentioned. We encourage Government to put systems in place and ensure that things are working well, recruit enough teachers, train, and deploy to the remotest part of the villages in the state with good remuneration and accommodation to make the teachers to stay in such communities. Social infrastructures should be provided to reduce the flock of people to urban centers.

Looking at the unemployment data from both spontaneous response and Likert-scale measurement, it is observed that unemployment of the youths is very high with 56.9% and 56.5% respectively. With the triangulation of the data (spontaneous responses and Likert-scale measurement variables) it is observed that about 57% of the youths are unemployed which is a signal for unhealthy environment. This is one of the reasons the youths can easily be manipulated and lured into crimes or any form of violence, which they considered profitable to satisfy their aspiration and needs. For it is said, an idle hand is a workshop of the devil. The finding is in conformity with the former President Olusegun Obasanjo of Federal Republic of Nigeria submission on the need to resolve issues surrounding youth unemployment in the country. According to him, Boko Harm complained about their followers that had no job, and in their efforts to do something about getting legitimate income to help their followers, the government started chasing and gunning them down. The former President Olusegun asked a question on why Nigeria is not succeeding in fighting war against insurgency and bandits, his response was, "it is because, the society continue to do the same things all the time and expecting a different result". He continued by saying, "People want a good life, a good job, and they must be given a good education. As long as they are denied these, they will be right to demand on society. We, the society must be willing to give it to them or they extract it from society unwillingly".

We have to pay special attention to employment creation on a mass scale so that our bid for socio-economic progress can stand a chance of being achieved. One of the banes of the banditry activities is youth unemployment causing danger to everybody in the country. The Federal Government should be proactive in establishing new industries, introduce mechanized farming with many hectares of land and employ the youths and adults with attractive remuneration; this will serve as income earning job and learning new skills which they can use if they decide to establish their own business in future. This strategy can reduce the population of youths that can be lured into banditry once they have something doing.

Most of the communities that experience frequent bandits and terrorists' attacks do not have access to land for farming, because the bandits or herdsmen have taken over their houses and farmlands hence, witnessed food insecurity and inadequate access to basic needs of life. Therefore, it will not be out of place to say that access to land for farming remains a key determinant of food security in Adamawa state. Hence, adequate security apparatus should be deployed to ensure that the farmers are well protected and nobody displace them at will. Lack of farming, production and harvest on the part of the farmers leads to death of raw materials for the local industries to produce goods and services. Without local raw materials the local industries will produce below the threshold and once this consistently happen, many staff will be laid-off, and the industries will eventually close down. For firms to close down it signal loss of revenue to the state government and the industries.

Open grazing was also mentioned as a root cause of fighting between the bandits, terrorists/herdsmen and farmers. Government should introduce ranches for the herdsmen where their livestock can be cater for just as it is done in developed countries. Expanse of land can be acquired at a cost for the ranches purpose and other different agenda that can disrupt the peaceful and coexistence of different tribes and ethnic groups. Ranches will prevent cows eating up the crops of the farmers that often times leads to fighting and killing of each other.

The incessant attacks on farmers by bandits have led to persistent insecurity and military operations in such areas and these have placed restriction on movement in the LGAs within Adamawa State. Fear of attacks has deterred people from going to farm, and/or market to purchase food items, hence, limited access to basic needs and services. Farmers are finding it difficult meeting their basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing and education of their children. The most affected people are the internally displaced persons, who are now homeless and outside their own inherited habitation. It has been observed that most displaced persons to greater extent depends on humanitarian actors. If humanitarian food assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the country stops due to limited income earning opportunities what will be the faith of the IDPs? There is a need for the Government at all levels to strive and prevent any crisis or bandits' attacks that will result into displacement of people. Government should put their house in order so that with or without humanitarian food assistance, the IDPs should not be starved of food and shelter.

Security safety of lives and property in anywhere person reside should be the responsibility of the government. However, to cushion negative effects of bandits' attacks, well equipped vocational centers should be established with adequately trained personnel to man the centers. The training fee should be affordable so that people can access the training and at worst scenarios the indigent people who are willing to learn a trade should be sponsored by the government.

Economic security, in the form of security of job, availability of sufficient jobs, and easy access to loans, are needed to assist the unemployed population and reduce the burden placed on the few working class. Freedom of movement, that is, going to farm for production, harvesting, distribution through markets can only reduce poverty level in the environment devoid of anarchy, bandits or terrorists attack. Presently in the state, the poverty level is below US\$1 daily and government have done little or nothing to ameliorate the hardship, hence, impatient youths look for illegal means of satisfying their needs. Research findings show that over every 3 in 5 of the respondents are poor, which was among reasons given for the increased in bandits and terrorists' attacks. Many people are not earning up to US \$1 on daily basis as results, people tend to device-crooked means of satisfying their needs to the detriment of their fellow human beings. A rational human being wants a good life, a good job, and need education. As long as the citizens are denied of these amenities, they will be right to make a demand from the society they belong. If the society refused to give those amenities to them, they will be forced to extract it from the society unwillingly said by former President Obasanjo. Government at all level should therefore; put up structures and entrepreneurship activities in place to tackle the menace that is claiming lives on daily basis. *Femi Akintunde-Johnson, Editor, THIS DAY's remarks that bandits attack are driven by "many overlapping factors, such as cattle rustling, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, illicit artisanal mining, youth unemployment, poverty and inequality" support this point.* Empirical data from this survey confirmed the opinion of the editor.

The nature of porous border of the country is a concern to her citizens. When the respondents were asked to name likely routes of illegal arms acquisitions. The respondents were very emphatic that porous national borders enhance illegal arms dealings in Nigeria. If Nigeria borders are well policed the activities of the underworld men will be reduced and influx of sophisticated weapons both small and large will be checked. Land, Sea and Air routes should be manned by the authority and bring anybody caught with illegal importation of arms to face the wrath of the law of the country without bias or sentiments. This is in consonant with His Excellency, the Vice President Yemi Osinbajo views that states, *"We must be smarter in policing the country using smart drones and surveillance equipment". "The politicization of our means of the purchase of weapons tells us that we must manufacture our own arms. Nigeria has what it takes (human and material resources) to engage in production of different types of weapons, which, in turn would save our foreign reserve."* The production of arms will also create job opportunity for the youths and unemployed adults. Deployment of armed personnel with high integrity to national borders will checkmate the trafficking of illegal arms.

There is a popular saying of the wise one that "righteousness exalts a nation and sin is a reproach to it". The virtue or value attached to moral upbringing of children while we were growing up seems to have been eroded with time. Family ties that bind the nucleus and extended family together is so loosed that it has lost its importance. In 60s to early 90s, bringing up children was collective responsibility of everybody residing in the community bounded by geographical areas; but today it is to your tent, oh Israel. Caring for one another and the beauty of being your brother or sister's keeper is no more in vogues; hence, children are left without

communal efforts of caring for the children. The decline in moral values (48.2%) was one of the major reasons of banditry and terrorism in the country according to the research findings. What can be done to restore the moral values with the fear of God in people's hearts? Will it not be possible to re-introduce moral instructions in the schools again? What will it cause the society to go back to community or family ties that bounds people together and still embrace the collective training and upbringing of children with the fear of God?

About 2 in 5 (41.1%) of the respondents mentioned that the youths' desire to get rich at all cost through illegal means and that some of them do not mind to shed blood in the process. Could we attribute this impasse to unemployment situation, impatient of the youths and/or peer pressure only or are there other underlining factors that have led them to indulge in crime, armed robbery, kidnapping for ransom, ritual killing, banditry activities to dislodge people of their properties and livelihood as shortcut to making money? To what extent can we claim that our youths value labour, and worked hard to earn income and save for raining days? Critical x-ray of the findings may suggest that attitude, behaviour, beliefs and upbringing influence the way these group of youths' reason and do things. Some of them lack moral values and are not ready to listen to the advice from the elderly ones. Whatever they do is right in their sight. Their conscience is perceived to be dead, hence, what they are after is how can they make money quickly whether good or bad. Even though some of them are aware the consequences of what they are doing but since there is no meaningful employment or job opportunities to explore, they are persuaded to continue with the evil ways of making money and enjoy themselves like their peers. This set of youths may be difficult to change, nevertheless, the society should not give up or allow them to toll the way of destruction rather every effort should be devised to ensure they are changed from evil doings. Adequate and well financed empowerment projects should be established in youth friendly environment that will enhance their participation in such schemes. The elders should try to inculcate in the youths the importance of integrity, honesty, trust and safe-guide of the family names which our forefathers cherished. Some of the young adults lack integrity and honesty in everything they do and concentrate on the comfort, wealth or fame without considering the negative effects on their victim. This art of behaviour could be such that the youths have not met someone (counselor) who is interested in their welfare, warn and inform them on the inherent dangers of the crime and possibly assist them to get legitimate job. But if the youths could see the genuineness of person admonishing them in love, they may likely change for the better.

Peer pressure is another soft danger identified in the survey plaguing the youths in the country. Many of the youths might have been brought up in godly way but bad peer pressure influenced their behaviour. This could partly be attributed to lack of inadequate parental care on the part of the parents or society. In a situation where both parents (father and mother) are working class and leaving house early in the morning and returned late, it will be difficult for them to monitor their wards' friends and movement. As a result of no adult at home to care for the children, the children become free to do whatever they like. This freedom may result into lawlessness, whereby some of them go into drug and eventually become addiction. The empirical finding shows that every 3 in 10 (29.8%) of the respondents mentioned the peer pressure or bad peer group influence as one of causes that drives people into terrorism. Some of the youths are negatively influenced by their peer's group to do evil without thinking about the repercussion at the end. Although, bad peer influence attracted 30% but let us assume, in a community of 650 people, and 30% of 650 are 195 youths influenced by peer pressure. This number is high enough to turn the society upside down. Therefore, the society should look inward and come up with useful entrepreneurship activities that will gainfully engage the youths and re-channel their thoughts and energy toward profitable ventures. This bad influence cut across both boy- and girl child, but with profitable youths' friendly recreation centers where they can be positively engaged and tutored can salvage the youths and turns them to channels of blessings in the society.

Moral decadence is another challenge being faced by young adults. The value attached to moral and civic responsibility have been eroded, hence, the youths may have forgotten the importance of integrity, honesty, fairness, equity and godliness in everything they do. Just of recent, an 18 years old girl lured (kidnapped) a little boy of 6 years from the village in Michika in Adamawa State to Mubi LGA, Niger State to sell to make money. But luck ran against her and she was apprehended by the Police through efforts of an informant. When asked why she kidnapped the boy and what would she use the money for? She replied by saying she needed the money to buy a car. Is it not ridiculous for an 18 years old girl who ought to be in school learning, talking of get a car just for fun of it? This is offshoot of moral decadence and inadequate upbringing of children on the part of the parents and the society. Parents, school administrators and the society should consider moral issue

as important as air we breathe in and possibly brings it back into the school as curriculum. This will help shape the perception, knowledge, attitude, behaviour and practice of the youths and everybody in general.

Raiding the grain silos and stealing is another point raised during the survey. According to the respondents, when the bandits arrived, they continued to shoot into the air during cattle rustling, stealing of the livestock and raiding the silos; and anyone who challenge them will be wasted since they are well armed and government security were out of reach. This point raised is in agreement with Collins definition of bandits' using force and coercion to collect farm produces from the communities by the bandits. The store houses are raided and the entire foodstuff carried away without living grains or foodstuff for the owners. According to the respondents, the grain silos and houses in the community are set on fire after raiding. The invasion of buildup foodstuff for future and grain silos has adverse effect on the rural inhabitant's due to inadequate protection at the communities. Government should come to the aids of the farmers and establish many agricultural warehouses to store farm produces in every farming season. Apart from establishment of warehouses, farmers are also advised to form cooperatives and collaborate with the government in food production, processing and distribution. Government on the other hand, should provide adequate security personnel to guide such warehouses and grain silos to prevent future invasion by bandits and terrorists. These efforts will maintain the stability of farm produce prices and ensure goods and services are always available at both the regional and local markets. Physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that fits the people dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life will be made possible.

Access to regional or local market is problematic due to insecurity ravaging the rural areas. Most of the time, the bandits intercept the traders on their way to market and/or when they are coming from the market. All their wares or sales money are collected and any resistance can lead to death of the farmers without mercy. With this type of development, farmers are afraid to go to regional markets to sell their produce, hence, resulted into trade by barter among themselves in the community and this has impoverished the community members. The activities of bandits' overtime have paralyzed economic activities of the rural population. This is because the bandits have not met or encountered stiffer counter-attack. Displacement of local or regional market from original location led to elasticity of prices of goods and services. As result many people could not afford the purchase of the goods and services desired, and this has led to untold hardship among the community members and the society.

Food availability in the market will continue to decline due to blockage of market routes by the bandits. Most households, traders and institutional buyers who may want to replenish their stocks will find it difficult, hence, the little staple food items available in the market will be out of reach of a common man. The prices are very high; hence, people do not consider nutritional value any longer of what they buy and consumed. Notwithstanding, some traders claimed that the situation of inadequate supply of food items has enriched them since consumers have no other choice that to buy what is available at the prevailing prices in the markets.

Finding of the survey shows that internally displaced persons (IDPs) to greater extent depend on humanitarian actors who do assist them with food and some empowerment opportunities. However, for sometimes now, the humanitarian food assistance to IDPs has reduced either due to frequent attacks of their staff that are been apprehended and killed by terrorists, kidnapped for ransom, and/or escalation of inflation rate. This has made the displaced persons handicapped and only eat whatever they see or get from benefactors without the consideration of the safety and nutritional values of the food. Government at all levels should put their house in order so that with or without humanitarian food assistance, the IDPs should not be starved of food, shelter and other basic needs of life.

With increase of bandits' attacks here and there continuously, it will be a wise decision for Federal government to allow state policing to take place. We observed that Amotekun (Community Security) in the West has prevented a lot of bandits' attacks and invasion around Ogbomosho and its environs, where it was said that over 1000 bandits prevented from penetrating the state and the neighbouring communities. And also reported that activities of kidnappers for ransom have drastically reduced in the area. Therefore, state policing with collaboration with vigilantes at the communities is a factor to reckon with in safe-guiding the environment. Through effective collaboration with state government security personnel, vigilante and the community leaders will bring respite to the communities and prevent attacks from the bandits.

Although, efforts by the Nigeria governments and security personnel had yielded some positive results but more is still required to clean the environment. The military and other security agencies efforts have pushed the terrorists away from the areas they previously occupied, notwithstanding, recouping of the terrorists is faster than expected. Therefore, some school of thoughts suggested deployment of soldiers and police along with air access to the region over the course of several consecutive operations would be an asset. Nevertheless, the state security presence on the ground remains too few and poorly resourced in terms of weaponry to subdue the armed groups with sophisticated weapons with the view of protecting communities across the vast territory in Northeast. Multiple conflicts plaguing the country also led to withdrawal of some of the security personnel to states with conflicts e.g. (IPOB) in the Eastern zone hence, resulting into inadequate manpower to tackle the insurgency and bandits. Therefore, the onus is on the government to recruit more foot soldiers with more sophisticated weapons supplied that will be deployed to routes and forest that serve as hideouts of the bandits and terrorists for clearance. Bad eggs in the armed forces that serve, as informant to the bandits and terrorists should be flushed out of the system to protect the patriotic security forces that are ready to defend their fatherland at all cost.

6 Conclusion and Recommendations

Human needs are insatiable and the few needs people are able to satisfy should not be taken by force. Agriculture has been the mainstay of the people for many decades; but with advent of banditry and terrorism activities, farmers are forced out of Agro-allied activities. Protection of the farmers from any form of hazard is necessary and essential for the survival of the rural dwellers and the society. Government should pay attention to the areas of education of women and girl-child education designed to improve their status and giving them a more secured future. Early marriages should be frowned at because it is said when you train a girl child, you are building a nation. Parents should be educated not to subtly push their girl-child into having male partners as source of income to the household. If the mothers are well informed about parenting, the girl-child will be well nurtured and prevented from early life sex deposition with multiple sex partners. Schools' authority and other stakeholders should come together to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate the upbringing of the children with required moral values. Census of out-of-school children especially the girl-child be taken and plans should be made to re-enroll them back to school. School administrators should ensure the children are retain and complete their schooling as at when due.

State government should provide empowerment schemes that will enhance job opportunities such as lifelong skills acquisition programmes - information, communication and technology (ICT), mechanized farming, poultry, food processing, catering, knitting, and crafts for both males and females. The youth and the unemployed will have opportunity to choose any programme of their choice to follow especially for those who may not want to go back to school. Cottage industries can be established in the rural areas while finding lasting solution to end the bandits' activities in the state.

Traditional and religious leaders should admonish their young people to stay away from any acts that will lead to violence and other forms of criminality. Religious leaders' sermons on Friday Jumat and Sunday services, should centered on importance of moral values, fear of God, be our brother and sisters' keepers, staying away from any acts of violence, killings and kidnapping for ransom and pursue peace with all men (women inclusive). The people should be encouraged to be upright in every aspect of life and do to others as they wish others to do to them. No religion ethics support shedding of innocent blood and do harm to their neighbours. To prevent clashes between herdsmen and farmers, Government can introduce ranches for the Fulani herdsmen where their livestock will stay and be fed like what is obtainable in the developed world. To effectively put an end to bandits and terrorists attack, older politicians should set aside their differences and work closely with younger leaders in powerful positions to fashion ways to tackle Nigeria's insecurity. All those abetting and collaborating and aiding the bandits and terrorists be identified, have round table talks and be encouraged to change from evil perpetrating and be a patriotic Nigerian.

Currently, the armed forces are overwhelmed by the insurgency, bandits, and conflicts in the country, hence, massive recruitment, purchase of sophisticated weapons that surpassing the terrorists' weapons to help in flushing out of bad elements in such regions and not be able to run to a new region to recoup. Government can adopt drones and aerial surveillance equipment to monitor the activities of the bandits and terrorists in the

country. Identify the hide-outs of the bandits and terrorists and send security forces to such areas and forest to clean them for freedom of movement. Local production of small arms and sophisticated weapons within the country should be considered. Structural inequalities that drive people to violence such as poverty, lack of education, lack of opportunities, and government maltreatment should be addressed without delay. There is need for collaboration between government, humanitarian organizations and food security sector partners to plan together and provide modality to ensuring food security all the times. All hands must be on deck to collaboratively apply lessons learnt and take appropriate actions to curb the menace plaguing our society especially Adamawa State. Above all, government should allow justice to run down as waters, and uprightness as a mighty stream in the governance of the country.

Reference

1. Abdullahi, (2019) Effects of banditry on food production: A case study of Daura LGA of Katsina, Nigeria
2. Aregbesola 2020 Severity of banditry in West Africa – Impact of banditry on food security, Katsina State, Nigeria; published by Direct Research Journal.
3. Bankoff (Sept. 1998) Bandits, banditry and Landscapes of crime in the nineteenth-century Phillipines published online by Cambridge University Press.
4. Bankoff (2019) The effects of banditry on food production in Katsina State, Nigeria. Published by researchproject.com.ng
5. Cassia (2018) Rural banditry and agricultural development in Katsina State, Nigeria published by Direct Research Journal
6. Cassia (2013) The effects of banditry on food production – a case study of Daura Local Government Area, Katsina State, Nigeria published by projectclue.com
7. Collins H. (2000) Banditry invasion of Nigeria and its effects on community development, published by iResearch.ng.com
8. Eigege and Cooke 2016, not only are farming activities are incapacitated of being carried out under an insecure environment, domestic agricultural production is stifled, farming communities
9. Farouq and Chukwu 202 Zamfara on bandits and insurgency
10. Femi Akintunde-Johnson, Editor, THIS DAY, July 3, 2021
11. FAO 2010 & 2016 World Food Report bulletin
12. FEWS Intense insurgent attacks in northeast Nigeria leads to increased displacement and food needs
13. International Crisis Group (18th May 2020) Violence in Nigeria's North West: Rolling Back the Mayhem
14. James A. Otunomeruke, IliyaSaraki et al (2017) Household Assessment in Post Conflict Situations in Northeast region, Nigeria.
15. Judges (6:1-6), Exodus (20:17) The Bible
16. Strategies, Challenges and Results: A Case Study of North East Zone, Nigeria
17. NET West Africa Nigeria (February 2019 to September 2019) The Famine Early Warning Systems Network
18. Mamoria C.B. (1992) Personnel Management
19. Olusegun Obasanjo (February 22, 2022) Paper Presentation during Murtala Mohammed Foundation Annual Lecture in Abuja
20. Suleiman Ladan & Bilikisu Mutawalli (2020) Impacts of Banditry on Food Security in Katsina State
21. United Nations predicted that attacks by the Al-Shabaab insurgent organization will exacerbate food insecurity in Mozambique through 2021 (Channels TV, 2020).
22. World Food Programme and National Bureau of Statistics (August 2019) Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States of Nigeria
23. Yemi Osinbajo (February 2022) Presentation on Musa Yar'adua Annual Lecture Series