



ASSESSMENT OF BANDITRY AS A THREAT TO FOOD SECURITY IN GIWA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF KADUNA STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The study is on the Assessment of Banditry as a Threat to Food Security in Giwa Local Government Area of Kaduna State, Nigeria. Covering five sections, including the introductory part that features brief background, statement of the problem and research question. The second section focuses on the conceptual and empirical review of related literature on banditry and food security which paves the way to identifying the gap that prompted this study, also featured are the theoretical frameworks upon which the study underpins- Rational Choice and Structural-Functional. The third section dwells on the methodology of the study vis-à-vis the research philosophy, design, target population, sampling procedure, and instrumentation. This study adopts an interpretative research philosophy by gathering qualitative data using in-depth interviews and focus group discussions with various key stakeholders. Furthermore, the fourth section delves on the expected results and outcomes based on the responses gathered from the respondents on the effects of banditry on food security in the study area. Finally, the fifth section finds among others that: banditry has had devastating effects on agricultural production and food security in Giwa LGA. Continuous attacks have displaced farmers from their lands, reducing food production and increasing food scarcity. Many farmers are reluctant to cultivate their fields due to fears of violence, leading to economic instability and rising food prices. It recommends among others that: the enhancement of Conflict Resolution Mechanisms through Traditional leaders, community stakeholders, and government agencies working together to resolve disputes between farmers and herders through clear land-use policies, designated grazing reserves, and mediation programs to prevent violent clashes.

Keywords: *Banditry, Food Security, Kaduna, Nigeria*

1.0 Introduction:

Ensuring security in all its dimensions remains a fundamental priority for every government. Insecurity, regardless of its form, poses a significant threat to the socio-economic development of nations, particularly affecting lives, property, and food supply. Globally, the quest of security in all ramifications is the desired of every government (Tikk-Ringas, 2023).

Banditry has emerged as a major challenge in developing societies, with its ripple effects extending across various sectors (Anikwudike & Agabi, 2024; Qadeer, Kazmi, & Khan, 2024). Across Africa, incidents of banditry have escalated to the extent that criminal groups occupy certain areas for extended periods without facing resistance from state security agencies. Nigeria has witnessed this pattern for years, with Onyia, Ugbor-Kalu, Ikem, and Okoye (2024) identifying banditry as one of the country's most persistent crimes against humanity. Reports of gruesome attacks, including killings, kidnappings, cattle rustling, and the burning of villages, have become alarmingly frequent (Lekan, Temitayo &



Gambarawa, 2022). The most severely affected states include Zamfara, Katsina, and Kaduna, though banditry is also prevalent in the North-central region, particularly in Niger, Nasarawa, Plateau, and Benue (Ameh, 2024). Banditry directly undermines food security as it disrupts the livelihoods of rural populations, predominantly engaged in farming and livestock rearing (Ladan & Matawalli, 2020). Food security requires individuals to have consistent access to sufficient and nutritious food to sustain a healthy life. However, the persistent activities of armed bandits have significantly hampered agricultural progress (Ayinde, Otekunrin, Akinbode, & Otekunrin, 2020).

Statistics indicate that between July and December 2021, over 343 people lost their lives due to banditry, communal clashes, and violent attacks in Kaduna State. This led to mass displacement in areas such as Birnin Gwari, Igabi, Chikun, Kauru, Kajuru, Kachia, Kagarko, Zangon Kataf, Jema'a, Sanga, and especially Giwa Local Government Area, which is the focus of this study (Ministry of Internal Security and Home Affairs, Kaduna State, 2021, cited in Abdulsalam, Olayiwola & Akinniyi-Duyile, 2022). The local economy in these areas, primarily sustained by agriculture, is on the brink of collapse due to persistent banditry. Weekly markets—essential to economic activity—have been disrupted, and residents have lost their means of livelihood. Security is a prerequisite for societal development, as Nsiah-Gyabaah (2010) notes, encompassing protection of lives, property, and food systems. Consequently, the government at all levels—federal, state, and local—must fulfill their constitutional responsibilities, as stipulated in the 1999 Nigerian Constitution, to guarantee adequate security and facilitate unhindered movement of people and goods. Unfortunately, banditry continues to be a dominant security concern in Kaduna State, with Giwa LGA being particularly vulnerable. Despite its fertile land, agricultural activities have been severely disrupted, threatening food production and, by extension, food security in Kaduna State. The unchecked activities of bandits have led to widespread terror, disrupting farming cycles and creating a food crisis. This has resulted in rising food prices and economic hardship, further exacerbating poverty in the region (Lekan, Temitayo & Gambarawa, 2022). Farmers in Giwa LGA frequently face threats of abduction for ransom, and some have been killed on their farms. In certain cases, bandits demand payments before allowing farming activities to continue. As a result, many farmers have abandoned their farmlands, leading to unemployment and financial hardship. In extreme cases, some individuals have resorted to crime to survive, creating a cycle of poverty and insecurity. In response to the crisis, the government has implemented several measures, including bans on the sale of fuel in jerry cans, restrictions on livestock transportation across state borders, market closures, motorcycle bans, and telecommunications blackouts (FEWS NET, 2022, cited in Lekan, Temitayo & Gambarawa, 2022). However, these strategies have yet to yield lasting solutions. FEWS NET (2020) has documented chronic and seasonal food insecurity across Nigeria, exacerbated by persistent high food prices, conflicts linked to insurgency, armed banditry, and clashes between farmers and herders. Additionally, herdsmen-led banditry is responsible for approximately 73% of security crises in Nigeria, further fueling food shortages (World Bank, 2018).

Banditry has become a severe security challenge in Kaduna State, with devastating humanitarian consequences, particularly in Giwa LGA. The region has witnessed rising numbers of fatalities and displaced persons. Acts of violence—including shootings, cattle rustling, kidnappings, rape, arson, and looting—have severely impacted agricultural output and overall socio-economic development (Abdulsalam, Olayiwola, & Akinniyi-Duyile, 2022). This study is significant in uncovering the root causes, manifestations, and potential mitigation strategies to address the effects of banditry on food security in Giwa LGA. The findings will be beneficial to policymakers, government agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders seeking solutions to rural insecurity. Additionally, the research will serve as a valuable reference for future academic inquiries into the subject. The central research question guiding



this study is: What is the impact of banditry on food security and sustainable agriculture in Giwa LGA? The study also explores the specific dimensions of banditry in the area, the underlying causes, its effects on agricultural productivity and food security, and potential solutions to mitigate its adverse impacts.

Therefore, this study is relevant in unraveling the causes, manifestations and the measures to navigate the challenge on the effect of banditry on food security in Giwa local government area of Kaduna State Nigeria. Thus, the government or policy makers at all levels, general public, Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs), and other stakeholders will find the study relevant. Finally, the study will be a source of literature for future research in the area.

The major pertinent question that seeks to be answered is; what is the effect of banditry on food security and sustainable agriculture in the Giwa Local Government Area of Kaduna State? Other specific questions are: What are the forms or dimensions of banditry in the Giwa local government area of Kaduna State? ; What are the causes of banditry in the Giwa local government area of Kaduna State? ; What are the effects of banditry on agricultural production and food security in the Giwa local government area of Kaduna State? ; What are the ways of navigating the challenges posed by banditry on food security in the Giwa local government area of Kaduna State?

2.0 Literature Review:

This study focused on Banditry as a Threat to Food Security: Assessment of the Manifestations, Effects, and Measures to Navigate the Challenges in Giwa Local Government Area of Kaduna State, Nigeria. Therefore, we shall in this section conceptually and empirically review the key concepts of the study. This will assist in identifying the underlying gap in the literature that justifies the study.

Conceptual Review

Firstly, the attempt is made to conceptually review the key concepts of the study from scholarly perspectives which will pave the way for operationalizing the concepts based on the context of this research. These concepts include banditry and food security.

Banditry

The concept of banditry has been interpreted in various ways, leading to a multitude of definitions. Ayeni, Meduna and Babatunde, (2025) defines banditry as the act of stealing livestock from herders or raiding them from their ranches. Similarly, Okoli and Okpaleke (2014) conceptualize banditry as incidents of armed robbery and related violent crimes, including kidnapping, cattle rustling, and raids on villages or markets. Banditry involves the use of force or coercion to intimidate individuals or groups for the purpose of robbery, sexual violence, or homicide.

Consequently, bandits are organized criminal groups that terrorize and dispossess local populations and travelers of valuable assets, including merchandise, money, and livestock such as cattle, camels, and sheep. These groups typically operate along rural borders with the support of local collaborators, which, in some instances, include state agents assigned to maintain public safety and security (Abdullahi, 2019).

For the purposes of this study, banditry refers to armed robbery and associated violent crimes such as kidnapping, cattle rustling, and village or market raids-that have detrimental effects on agricultural production and food security. It encompasses the use or threat of force to intimidate individuals or communities for the purpose of robbery, sexual violence, or homicide, with a particular focus on its impact in Giwa Local Government Area.



Concept of Food Security

Diverse food security definitions abound. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (FAO, 1996). World Bank (1986) defined food security as a condition in which all have access to sufficient food to live healthy and productive lives.

The FAO (1996) food security definition later became the widely accepted definition which incorporated three pillars of food security. These are food availability, food accessibility, and food utilization. This means that a nation whose food production level is unable to satisfy these three criteria is said to be food insecure. Supporting this assertion, Maxwell and Frankenberger (1992) stated that a country and its people are food-secured when their food system operates in such a way as to remove the fear that there will not be enough to eat. He further stressed that food security requires that the poor and vulnerable have secure access to the food they want. A country is food-secure when the majority of its population has access to food of adequate quantity and quality consistent with decent existence at all times (Reutlinger, 1985 cited in Lekan, Temitayo & Gambarawa, 2022).

The term 'Food Security' is a broad concept involving adequate production and distribution of food items to those who desire it (Eme, Onyishi, Uche, & Uche, 2014 cited in Shanka, 2022). Adom, (2014), food security implies the availability of food and one's access to it whereas non-availability and inaccessibility of food items for everyone amount to scarcity of food. In other words, there is no food scarcity or insecurity when people are not hungry or in fear of starvation. Food scarcity occurs when the majority of the population does not have access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

Therefore, food insecurity is shortage food in circulation and the inability to buy the food (Beetseh, Abubakar and Nongo, 2021). In this study, food security is related to the availability and accessibility of food in a sustainable manner.

Empirical Review

Ladan and Matawalli (2020) examined the impact of banditry on food security in Katsina State, Nigeria. The study employed a focus group discussion (FGD) methodology, involving two groups of five participants each, drawn from local government areas (LGAs) affected by banditry. The findings indicated that banditry has had a detrimental effect on food security in the region. These adverse impacts include the killing and kidnapping of farmers, displacement of farmers from their lands, confiscation of farmlands, livestock theft, destruction and looting of grain silos, and the obstruction of local trade routes. The study recommended the implementation of decisive measures to combat banditry in order to enhance food security.

Faruk and Abdullahi (2022) explored the impact of armed banditry and kidnapping on socio-economic activities in selected LGAs of Katsina State. The study covered six local governments and employed a survey research design. A structured questionnaire was administered to 430 respondents from various communities within the selected LGAs. Data analysis was conducted using tables and percentages. The results revealed that armed banditry has significant negative implications for poverty, unemployment, food security, education, healthcare, income levels, and overall living standards in the state. Consequently, the study recommended enhanced border security patrols to prevent the proliferation of illegal arms and ammunition, as well as proactive interventions by security agencies to safeguard the lives and property of residents.



Ijoko, Muhammad, and Ali (2023) investigated the impact of herder-farmer conflicts on food security in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Nigeria. The study utilized both descriptive and inferential statistical analysis, employing the Probit Regression Model. The findings demonstrated that herder-farmer conflicts significantly undermine food security in the FCT. To address these challenges, the study recommended that security personnel be deployed to protect the lives and property of those affected by the conflicts. Additionally, it emphasized the need for adequate security measures for farmers and agribusiness workers to ensure the safe transportation of agricultural products to markets. The study further advocated for the enforcement of anti-open grazing policies to mitigate disputes between herders and farmers.

Similarly, Owolabi, Oladimeji, Ojeleye, and Omokore (2016) examined the consequences of farmer-pastoralist conflicts on food security in two LGAs of Kaduna State, Nigeria. The study relied on primary data collected through a structured questionnaire. Descriptive statistics and the Logit Regression Model were employed for data analysis. The findings revealed that marital status and farm size were significant determinants of conflict incidence. Moreover, the study found that conflicts had a statistically significant impact on food security ($P < 0.05$). Based on these findings, the study recommended that the government promote modern grazing techniques and provide fair compensation to pastoralists as a strategy to reduce the frequency of conflicts between farmers and pastoralists.

More recently, Rufus and Ogbe (2025) examined the underlying causes of banditry in the region, identifying widespread poverty, unemployment, and competition over limited resources, particularly in rural areas as key drivers. The weakening of state authority and inadequate law enforcement have further exacerbated the crisis, enabling armed groups to operate with impunity. The security implications are severe, encompassing violent attacks on villages, kidnappings for ransom, and the displacement of thousands of individuals, thereby creating a humanitarian emergency.

Additionally, the study explores the intersection of banditry with other forms of criminal activity, including cattle rustling, arms smuggling, and potential links to terrorist organizations, which further complicate efforts to restore stability. As banditry continues to spread across the region, it erodes public confidence in government institutions, impedes economic development, and contributes to political instability.

In response to these challenges, the paper evaluates various strategies for enhancing stability, including strengthening local governance, improving law enforcement capacity, and addressing the socio-economic factors that contribute to criminality. Given the transnational nature of banditry, cross-border collaboration between Nigeria and its neighboring states is also identified as a critical component of an effective response.

The study advocates for a holistic approach that integrates security interventions with long-term investments in education, healthcare, and infrastructure to tackle the root causes of violence. Ultimately, it argues that a comprehensive, multi-sectoral strategy is essential for mitigating the threat of banditry and restoring peace and security in Northwest Nigeria.

Therefore, this study differs contextually from others by focusing on the Giwa Local Government area with reference to the effects of the banditry on food security using selected wards as samples. The study will also cover the recent period between 2019 and 2023. Moreover, the study unlike others that were empirically reviewed will use qualitative instruments of data analysis. Furthermore, the study is unique



in the sense that Rational Choice and Structural-Functional Theories are adopted as the theoretical underpinnings to explain the relationships between the effects of banditry on food security in the study area. In terms of methodology, the study is peculiar as purposive and quota sampling techniques will be used to select the representative samples from the population.

2.1 Theoretical Framework

Establishing a strong connection between research and theoretical frameworks is essential, as theories guide the selection of methodological approaches and the development of analytical tools. In the context of banditry, several theories have been proposed, including the Frustration-Aggression Theory, Dual Factor Theory, Eco-Violence Theory, Structural-Functional Theory, Rational Choice Theory, and Dialectical Materialism Theory, among others.

For this study, the Rational Choice Theory and Structural-Functional Theory are adopted. Rational Choice Theory, rooted in Cesare Beccaria's utilitarian and classical school perspectives and later popularized by Jeremy Bentham, posits that individuals engage in criminal behavior based on rational decision-making. According to this theory, individuals commit crimes when they perceive that the benefits outweigh the risks (Vincent, Zhang, Brown, Feng, Mekis, Milewska, & Wang, 2015). This framework is particularly relevant to the study, as banditry in Nigeria, especially in Giwa Local Government Area initially emerged through cattle rustling before evolving into widespread kidnappings. The lucrative nature of ransom payments has fueled the persistence and escalation of banditry and violence in rural communities, exacerbated by the government's inability to effectively curb these activities (Ojewale, 2024)

Conversely, Structural-Functional Theory, originally proposed by Herbert Spencer (1869), provides an explanatory framework for societal stability and internal cohesion. Structural functionalists argue that societies function similarly to biological organisms, with various social institutions working interdependently to maintain equilibrium. From this perspective, all social and cultural phenomena are seen as functional components that contribute to the overall stability of society. These structures are analyzed based on their roles in maintaining social order. Shanka (2022) applied Structural-Functional Theory to examine the relationship between herdsmen banditry and food scarcity, emphasizing the need for effective governance in Nigeria.

Accordingly, every social structure must contribute to the proper functioning of society as a whole, as dysfunction in any segment negatively impacts the entire system. Banditry, therefore, can be attributed to governance failures, which have far-reaching consequences on agricultural production, food security, and overall socio-economic development.

3.0 Methodology

The survey research design was adopted for this study. This is because the nature of the topic has to do with eliciting information from relevant respondent (Key informants). It allowed the views of the respondents to be collected from a microcosm of a large population. This was done using interview technique, which gives room for the researcher to collect data from different groups in order to make inferences and generalizations on the entire population of the study.

Sampling Procedure

The population of this study comprises key stakeholders in the Giwa Local Government Area (LGA) of Kaduna State. Interviewees included local government officials, community leaders, social workers,



and representatives of Miyetti Allah, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), political figures, traditional leaders, security personnel, and farmers.

Instrumentation

The instrument used for the study adopted Key informant interview which was drafted to reflect the title of the research i.e Assessment of Banditry as a Threat to Food Security in Giwa Local Government Area of Kaduna State, Nigeria (BTFS). Responses are gotten on causes of banditry in Giwa Local Government Area, Effects of Banditry on Agricultural Activities measures to ensure Food Security, Banditry as a threat to Food Security, measures implemented to combat banditry in Giwa Local Government Area, ensuring Food Security through Sustainable Agricultural Production in Giwa Local Government Area.

The responses obtained from the interviews were aggregated and analyzed using interpretative research with themes in accordance with the research question of the study. This is done in order to enhance the understanding of issues raised in the research questions for conclusion and relevant recommendations to be reached.

4.0. Findings and Analysis

This report presents a qualitative analysis of findings from interviews. The aim of this research is to investigate the causes, characteristics, effects, and potential solutions to banditry in the region, particularly its implications for agricultural activities and food security.

Insights from various stakeholders reveal that a variety of interconnected factors have contributed to the rise of banditry in Giwa LGA. Many respondents emphasized that economic hardship and a lack of viable job opportunities have driven numerous young individuals into criminal activities, including banditry, as a form of survival. Security personnel and local government officials pointed to insufficient law enforcement presence and governance inefficiencies in addressing security threats, allowing banditry to flourish. Representatives from Miyetti Allah and farming communities noted that conflicts over grazing land and water resources have intensified tensions, often leading to violent clashes. Traditional leaders highlighted that the decline of indigenous conflict resolution practices has worsened violence, as local communities struggle to effectively mediate disputes without established customary systems.

Interview Responses on Causes of Banditry in Giwa Local Government Area

Banditry in Giwa LGA is largely driven by socio-economic instability, inadequate governance, and ineffective security measures. The scarcity of employment opportunities and limited access to basic services have created an environment conducive to criminal activities. Moreover, ineffective law enforcement allows bandits to operate with little fear of reprisal. Many young people, facing economic distress and frustration, have turned to banditry as a survival strategy. Long-standing disputes between farmers and herders over land and water access have escalated into violent confrontations, further complicated by government failures to intervene effectively. Social workers indicated that poverty, illiteracy, and social exclusion are significant contributors to the rise of banditry, with many involved being young individuals without formal education or employment options. The breakdown of community values and the absence of effective conflict resolution mechanisms have also played a role. Miyetti Allah representatives believe that the conflict between herders and farmers is a primary driver of banditry. They pointed out that unclear policies regarding grazing and land use have led to violent confrontations, exacerbating insecurity. NGO representatives noted that the proliferation of illegal



arms, weak border controls, and organized criminal networks contribute to the persistence of banditry. Traditional leaders have asserted that the erosion of traditional conflict resolution mechanisms has significantly fueled the rise of banditry, as disputes that were once settled through community-led discussions are now inadequately handled by external law enforcement, which is often ineffective. Frequent attacks on farmland, cattle rustling, and crop destruction have instilled fear and uncertainty among farmers, significantly displacing farming communities and diminishing agricultural output, thereby contributing to food insecurity in the region.

Measures to Ensure Food Security through Sustainable Agricultural Production

Government officials emphasize the need for prioritizing rural development through investments in security infrastructure, road networks, and irrigation systems. Enhancing local governance and ensuring transparency in resource allocation are also vital for boosting agricultural productivity. Community leaders advocate for encouraging youth involvement in agriculture through skill acquisition programs and access to agricultural credit, which could assist in reducing crime rates. Social workers stress that addressing social inequalities through education, vocational training, and job creation is essential. Supporting displaced farmers and implementing rehabilitation programs for former bandits can also aid in achieving long-term stability.

Farmers believe that improved access to seedlings, fertilizers, and farming equipment will bolster food production. Miyetti Allah leaders recommend a well-structured grazing policy that designates grazing reserves and water access points to help prevent farmer-herder conflicts, while fostering dialogue between both groups is viewed as essential for promoting peaceful coexistence. Political leaders advocate for tighter border controls to curb arms trafficking, enhanced intelligence gathering, and increased funding for security agencies as crucial steps to mitigate banditry. Additionally, policies promoting agricultural development, such as farmer subsidies and agribusiness incentives, should be prioritized.

Interview Responses on the Effects of Banditry on Agricultural Activities and Measures for Ensuring Food Security in Giwa Local Government Area

Many interviewees agree that banditry has severely disrupted agricultural activities in Giwa LGA, resulting in significant displacement of farmers from their lands due to attacks and kidnappings, which in turn has led to a marked decline in food production. Insecurity has also deterred investment in agriculture, as many individuals feel unsafe cultivating their land or engaging in agribusiness. Rising food scarcity and inflation have exacerbated malnutrition and poverty levels. Additionally, cattle rustling, destruction of grazing lands, and livestock killings have hindered herders' livelihoods. The persistent threat of attacks has disrupted traditional pastoral routes, prompting further conflicts over diminishing resources. NGOs in the area report that agricultural supply chains have been impaired, making it difficult for farmers to transport and sell their produce, consequently increasing reliance on food aid.

The decline in agricultural investments is notable, as many agribusinesses and commercial farmers relocate to safer regions, adversely affecting food production and limiting employment opportunities in agriculture. Missed trade routes due to insecurity complicate market access for farm produce, intensifying food scarcity. Traditional farming communities have weakened economically, with many subsistence farmers left without food or income. Cultural farming practices sustained over generations are deteriorating amid rising insecurity. Farmers often become targets of kidnappings and extortion, deterring them from practicing agriculture. The inadequate security presence in rural areas emboldens



bandits, who continue to loot food supplies, destroy farms, and steal livestock. The overall result is a drastic decline in food production and economic instability in the region. The increasing danger associated with farming, including frequent raids and crop theft, has diminished food availability, leading to rising prices and hunger.

The impact of banditry on agricultural activities in Giwa LGA has been catastrophic, resulting in displacement, food scarcity, and economic decline. Tackling this crisis necessitates a comprehensive approach, including enhanced security measures, conflict resolution strategies, economic empowerment initiatives, and agricultural development efforts. By implementing these strategies, food security can be restored, and sustainable agricultural practices revitalized in the region.

Interview Responses on Banditry as a Threat to Food Security in Giwa Local Government Area

Undeniably, banditry poses a significant threat to food security in Giwa LGA. The displacement of farmers, destruction of agricultural lands, and disruption of farming activities have led to decreased food production. Many rural areas have become unsafe for agricultural practices, resulting in food shortages, rising prices, and economic instability. If left unaddressed, hunger and malnutrition will continue to escalate. Villages that were once prosperous agricultural centers are now abandoned due to fear of attacks. The loss of livelihoods, combined with limited market access, has significantly reduced food availability, directly affecting food security in the region. Additionally, the destruction of stored grains, livestock theft, and restricted movement due to insecurity have further aggravated food scarcity, increasing hunger, malnutrition, and poverty both locally and nationally.

It is clear that banditry constitutes a major threat to food security. The displacement of farming communities and the destruction of agricultural infrastructure have rendered sustainable food production increasingly difficult. Many families have turned to food aid, but this is not a long-term solution. Immediate interventions are imperative to restore security and invigorate agricultural activities, ensuring food security in the region. There is a consensus that without urgent measures to address this issue, the consequences will be dire, not just for Giwa LGA but for the entire state and beyond.

The widespread agreement among respondents is that banditry is a serious threat to food security in Giwa LGA. The displacement of farmers, devastation of farmlands, livestock theft, and limited market access has severely hindered agricultural production. Addressing this challenge necessitates prompt security interventions, support for displaced farmers, and the implementation of policies that promote sustainable agricultural practices.

Interview Responses on Measures Implemented to Combat Banditry in Giwa Local Government Area

Many respondents reported that the government has introduced several initiatives to combat banditry in Giwa LGA. These measures include deploying additional security personnel, conducting joint military operations, and collaborating with local vigilante groups to enhance surveillance. Efforts to bolster intelligence gathering and improve coordination among security agencies are also underway. However, many bandits operate from remote locations, complicating efforts to eradicate their activities entirely. Enhanced government support is essential to sustain these endeavors. Additionally, community members have taken proactive measures, such as forming local security networks, establishing increased checkpoints, and initiating awareness campaigns to dissuade youth from engaging in banditry. While some NGOs provide assistance to affected communities, the absence of long-term



solutions continues to impede progress. Greater investment in education and job creation is crucial to address the root causes of the problem.

Dialogue has been established between herders and farmers to avert conflicts that might escalate into banditry, with local leaders working to negotiate peace agreements with bandit groups, while security forces conduct operations to disarm and neutralize criminal elements. However, the proliferation of arms and a lack of trust between communities and authorities remain significant challenges. Political officials have noted that the government has initiated several programs, including enhanced military patrols, improved border security to prevent illegal arms influx, and relief support for displaced individuals. Legislative measures are also being pursued to enact stricter laws against banditry. Nonetheless, the lack of a unified response from the government and local communities continues to limit the efficacy of these efforts. Strengthening traditional conflict resolution mechanisms is also crucial.

Although multiple strategies ranging from security operations and community policing to dialogue and economic initiatives are being employed to tackle banditry in Giwa LGA, considerable challenges persist. Weak law enforcement, corruption, resource scarcity, and entrenched socio-economic issues impede progress. A more comprehensive and coordinated approach is essential, integrating sustained security efforts, economic empowerment initiatives, and enhanced community engagement to effectively address the threat of banditry.

Interview Responses on Ensuring Food Security through Sustainable Agricultural Production in Giwa Local Government Area

Many stakeholders assert that a unified effort is necessary to improve security for farmers by bolstering law enforcement and deploying additional security personnel in rural areas. The government should provide financial backing, subsidized agricultural inputs, and irrigation facilities to incentivize year-round farming. Moreover, policies promoting mechanized and climate-smart agricultural practices should be prioritized. To ensure food security in Giwa LGA, farmers require a safe environment to return to their fields. This can be achieved through heightened security patrols and collaborative efforts between law enforcement and community vigilante groups. Beyond security concerns, farmers also need access to credit and modern farming techniques to enhance productivity.

The government should aid displaced farmers by providing them with agricultural tools and seeds. Long-term solutions necessitate addressing both security and socio-economic challenges. Youth empowerment programs, which include vocational training and agribusiness development, can help mitigate the number of young people engaging in banditry. Women and other vulnerable groups should receive targeted support to engage in agricultural activities. Additionally, psychological and financial assistance should be extended to farmers affected by banditry to help them rebuild their livelihoods.

It is also essential to resolve conflicts between farmers and herders to foster a peaceful agricultural environment. NGOs can assist by training farmers in sustainable agricultural practices, promoting the use of improved seedlings, and advocating for policies that safeguard farmers' rights. There is a critical need for better market access to allow farmers to sell their products without fear of attacks. Investments in rural infrastructure, such as roads, irrigation systems, and storage facilities, are imperative, along with stronger agricultural policies.



Traditional leaders can play a vital role in ensuring food security by fostering peace between farming and herding communities and facilitating grassroots implementation of agricultural programs. Collaboration between traditional institutions, security agencies, and community vigilantes is essential to maintaining safety in rural farming areas. Farmers must be assured of their safety through increased military presence, surveillance technologies, and community-based security networks. Stricter measures must also be enacted to control illegal arms and prosecute criminal elements.

Ensuring food security in Giwa LGA demands a multifaceted approach that combines security interventions, economic empowerment, modern agricultural techniques, and infrastructural development. Key strategies should focus on enhancing law enforcement, promoting harmony between farming and herding communities, providing financial and technical assistance to farmers, and investing in rural development initiatives. Without a stable and secure environment, sustainable agricultural production will continue to face significant obstacles.

Summary of findings

The findings of this study reveal that banditry in Giwa Local Government Area (LGA) manifests in multiple forms, including armed attacks on villages, kidnappings for ransom, cattle rustling, and violent clashes between farmers and herders. The proliferation of small arms, weak law enforcement, and the erosion of traditional conflict resolution mechanisms has exacerbated these security threats. Many respondents highlighted the role of organized criminal networks, which facilitate the movement of stolen cattle and weapons, further entrenching banditry. The fear of attacks has forced many rural communities into displacement, disrupting not only daily life but also agricultural activities, which form the backbone of the local economy.

Secondly, the study identifies socio-economic instability, inadequate governance, and ineffective security measures as the primary causes of banditry in the area. Many young individuals, faced with extreme poverty and unemployment, resort to banditry as a means of survival. Additionally, long-standing disputes over grazing land and water resources have intensified, often escalating into violent conflicts. Government failures in providing clear policies on land use and grazing rights have contributed to these tensions. Social workers and NGO representatives also pointed out that limited access to education and social services has created an environment where crime thrives, further perpetuating cycles of violence and insecurity.

Thirdly, banditry has had devastating effects on agricultural production and food security in Giwa LGA. Continuous attacks have displaced farmers from their lands, reducing food production and increasing food scarcity. Many farmers are reluctant to cultivate their fields due to fears of violence, leading to economic instability and rising food prices. Cattle rustling and the destruction of farmlands have further crippled agricultural activities, pushing communities into deeper poverty. The disruption of agricultural supply chains has made it difficult for farmers to transport and sell their produce, exacerbating food insecurity in the region. The loss of livelihoods has forced many families to rely on food aid, which is unsustainable in the long run.

Finally, to navigate these challenges, respondents emphasized the need for a multi-pronged approach combining security measures, economic empowerment, and agricultural development. Strengthening security through increased patrols, community policing, and intelligence gathering is essential. Additionally, promoting mechanized and climate-smart agriculture, improving rural infrastructure, and providing farmers with access to credit and modern farming tools will help sustain agricultural



productivity. Addressing social inequalities through education and vocational training for youth can reduce the appeal of banditry. Furthermore, fostering dialogue between farmers and herders, alongside implementing clear land use policies, will be crucial in mitigating conflicts and ensuring long-term stability in the region.

5.0. Conclusion and Recommendations

In conclusion, banditry in Giwa LGA is a multifaceted crisis driven by socio-economic hardship, governance failures, and unresolved conflicts between farmers and herders. Its impact on agricultural production and food security has been severe, leading to displacement, reduced food output, and economic instability. The persistence of insecurity has deterred investment in agriculture, further deepening poverty and hunger in the region. Addressing these challenges requires a holistic approach that integrates enhanced security measures, economic empowerment initiatives, conflict resolution mechanisms, and sustainable agricultural policies. By fostering community engagement, strengthening law enforcement, and investing in rural development, Giwa LGA can work toward restoring stability and ensuring long-term food security. The study therefore recommends that: Strengthen Security and Law Enforcement become necessary. The government should increase military and police presence in Giwa LGA, enhance intelligence gathering, and collaborate with local vigilante groups to combat banditry. Stricter measures should be implemented to control illegal arms proliferation and dismantle criminal networks; there should be Promotion of Sustainable Agricultural Development, by providing farmers with improved seeds, fertilizers, mechanized farming tools, and access to irrigation will help restore agricultural productivity. Investment in rural infrastructure, such as roads and storage facilities, is crucial for efficient food distribution and market access; the enhancement of Conflict Resolution Mechanisms through Traditional leaders, community stakeholders, and government agencies working together to resolve disputes between farmers and herders through clear land-use policies, designated grazing reserves, and mediation programs to prevent violent clashes; Finally, investing in Economic and Social Development by creating employment opportunities through vocational training, agribusiness support, and youth empowerment programs can reduce the appeal of banditry. Expanding access to education and social services will also help address the root causes of insecurity and promote long-term stability in the region.

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