The Rising Insecurity In Nigeria: Interogating The Linkage Between Poverty And Banditry

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
	Security creates an environment in which people in an economy can set goals and invest in their future and where social bonds and institutions are strengthened, which leads to economic growth and development. The paper went into detail about the rise of insecurity in Nigeria and how security threats and banditry are linked to the country's high poverty level. Even though poverty is not the only reason why people in Nigeria engage in banditry and other related crimes. Poverty was identified as a major cause in the paper. Other reasons cited include religion and a lack of education, both of which may be indirectly related to poverty. According to the study, banditry has direct consequences such as the destruction of lives and property and the displacement of people, as well as indirect consequences such as a decrease in foreign investment, a widening in the production gap of food items, a spike in food prices, deterioration of educational institutions, and loss of confidence of local and foreign investors, among others. Banditry is worsening Nigeria's poverty situation. The study concludes that insecurity threatens not only the affected Northern region of Nigeria, but also the country's overall growth and development. To address the insurgency problem in Nigeria, the government should focus not only on combating insecurity through militancy, but also on developing human capital and empowering the youth.

Introduction

Insecurity has been on a rise every year in Nigeria since the first and major attack carried out by the "Boko-Haram" Islamic terrorist group on UN headquarters in Abuja, in 2011. Nigeria is facing a lot of insecurity challenges that affect economic growth and development and puts the entire economy in a state of unrest. Two prevalent crimes at the forefront of insecurity cases in Nigeria are banditry and kidnapping. Banditry is a common occurrence in Northern states in Nigeria. States such as Borno, Zamfara, Kaduna, Adamawa, Benue, Plateau, and Yobe are plagued the most by the activities of armed bandits such as kidnapping, cattle rustling, and destruction of lives and properties. These activities are not limited to Northern states only, Kidnapping and killing are now a national epidemic as it is becoming more prominent by each day, and the overall security of the country has deteriorated.

Among several groups responsible for causing havoc and crimes in the country, the activities of Boko-Haram and Fulani Herdsmen are the most pronounced. These two groups are dreaded and are known to have caused several havoc and crimes in the country. Boko-Haram is an Islamic sect that was created in Maiduguri in 2002, this group launched its first terrorist attack in 2011 during President Goodluck Jonathan's tenure at UN headquarters, and ever since then, the group has been terrorising the entire country taking innocent lives and destroying properties. Fulani Herdsmen is a name given to a terrorist group of herdsmen who carry arms in Nigeria. Victims of this group are usually farmers. They are fond of taking their cattle to random farms to feed their cattle destroying farmers' crops in the process. This causes strife between the herdsmen and farmers, countless lives of farmers have been lost, a lot of farm produce and property have been lost and quite many farms have been abandoned as a result of the notorious activities of these Fulani Herdsmen. However, the actions of the Fulani Herdsmen have metamorphosed from just terrorising farmers to diverse crimes such as

kidnapping, incessant killings, and rape. Asides from the aforementioned terrorist groups, the Niger Delta Militants is a popular terrorist group in the south-south part of Nigeria which is majorly known for their notorious activities of kidnapping. They abducted some foreign oil workers in 2003 which made them gain national recognition. Since then the issue of kidnapping has been a major issue in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria (Awojobi, 2014). Their major target at the beginning were foreigners but have shifted attention to Nigerians, making every Nigerian around the Nigeria Delta region to be a possible target of these terrorist group (Chukwueme and Phinos, 2019).

The masses perceive the Nigerian government as insouciant about the insecurity problem of Nigeria, this is because the insecurity problem keeps getting worse. The activities of the Fulani Herdsmen and Boko-Haram were only limited to North-Western but are now spreading to all the geopolitical zones in Nigeria. Various crimes such as kidnapping and destruction of lives and properties are now being witnessed all over the country. There is fear to embark on journeys in Nigeria, especially in northern states, this has hindered growth and development, in the sense, and local traders find it risky to travel down to the north to buy food items because of the fear of being abducted.

The reason for the government's failure to adequately address this issue of insecurity is inextricably linked to the government's failure to meet the developmental needs of the people, which has forced people to ally with various groups that have succeeded in breeding terrorist groups. Urim, Onifade, and Imhonopi (2013)

Conceptual Review

Concept of Terrorism:
Terrorism is a constantly debated topic in today's world, resurfacing from time to time. We can see terrorism in relation to several events that have occurred in the past and even those that are imminent in the PAN African society today as affecting the BOKO HARAM, which are a threat in this particular part of West Africa, Nigeria. Also, when we look at some Islamic countries and their counterparts, we can see for ourselves in the world today how much havoc they've caused to several economies in some parts of the world today, of which the United States had also been a victim in the past, even in recent times, when it's evident of the typical Islamic country, Pakistan, how the activities of terrorism were made clear. Therefore from all these though few deduction around many we can easily come to stand point that terrorism has its root from religion differences and an avenue to create fear in the hearts of the contemporary government and the other religions surrounding; a standpoint to prove superiority and absolute power in which in turn births violence and a state of anarchy (Mansbach and Taylor, 2012).

Terrorism is defined as the act of instilling grave fear and despair in a group of people, a community, or a society at large through the demonstration of cruel activities such as killings and man slaughter, kidnappings, banditry, and any other activity that endangers man's security in any such society. Since the events of September 11, 2001, there has been a new concept of terrorism known as Islamic extremists, which can be seen clearly in this event (Quadri and Oladejo, 2021).

Banditry:
Banditry can be traced back to ancient Italian society as far as the 16th century, when it arose from the word 'bandito,' which means banished and is still used in the Word Reference (2021). They can also be defined as outlaws, a group of people united by a common goal who take pleasure in the unfair treatment of others and carry out their activities through violent means, terrorising and crippling society through acts such as kidnapping, extortion, rape, murder, armed robbery, and even environmental resource exploitation. Banditry can be further defined by their activities and the purpose for which they operate regardless of the medium and various activities they carry out by the day of which are of a wide range and make it quite difficult to ascertain what really is the purpose of these groups but a number of occasions of their activities brought us to a very end point which is financial gain being their most immediate drive. Of course, just because these groups are primarily interested in financial gain does not mean they have no other motivation to disrupt the terms of the incumbent government, such as religious strife, politics, and so on. Though they adhere to structured groups, they appear anonymous to the general public because they lack a definite organisation name for which they are known, such as the BOKO HARAM and ISWAP, among others (Osimen, Aisedion, Adi, 2021).

Insecurity:
Insecurity is a very broad topic though all seems engulfed in such a single word yet could be found encompassing in every states of the world having their own dose of effects. When considering the word insecurity, the word security would help shed more light on the ambiguous word insecurity in relation to today's societies in the world, which is a major case study. A state's security can be defined as an atmosphere in which a state is equipped with all of the necessary fortifications to keep both in balance and under internal and external threats that could endanger a state's socioeconomic system and, more importantly, its citizens (Osimen, Daudu, & Awogu-Maduagwu, 2023).

According to Nwanegbo and Odigbo (2013), the cold war is a reason for a broader view to be taken out on the state of security of a nation that places a high value on the interests of its citizens in particular. The security of

a state is solely dependent on these two major subjects: safeguarding and preserving a state's socioeconomic stability against both internal and external terrorizations, and advancing a preferred global order, which should reduce any harm to the states' core values, culture, and interests, as well as national stability.

As for a state's security, it is well known that for any such state to exist in its sovereignty, an organised web of armies, a democratic system, and a partisan government must be in place to ensure the security of such state as well as the lives and properties of its citizens from not only external but also internal threats such as homelessness, poverty, starvation, unemployment, diseases, and pollution, among other things (McGraw, 1988). Therefore, we can define insecurity as a nation's vulnerability to both internal and external hazards, and terror as the result of a nation's failure to provide adequate protection for its citizens from socioeconomic, physical, and psychological threats, among other things. In other words, it is a lack of safety and a state of fear imposed on a state as a result of a nation's inability to stand up to intended threats.

Poverty:
Poverty has been viewed as a broad subject in our societies throughout history and continues to be so today. Poverty is defined as an individual's or family's inability to participate in a standard and good livelihood, which may include a person's inability to access basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing, health care facilities, education and information, and some other necessities, among others (The Copenhagen Declaration, 1995). Poverty, according to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (2004), is an international trend in which people are subjected to powerlessness, lack of security, lack of choice, and a lack of financial power to meet their daily basic needs, which are essential for a good standard of living.

Facets to the Rising Insecurity in Nigeria
There are several dimensions to Nigeria's rising insecurity, which is not a new case study in the country today but of a widespread nature that the country is facing. Nigeria is confronted with a major challenge of insecurity, which can be seen in different facets such as banditry, kidnapping, man slaughter, political violence, and armed robbery, among others, posing a major threat to national security (Adofu and Alhassan, 2018). The economic and religious aspects are the most important to consider here.

Economic Facet

Niger Delta Crisis
The economic aspect of the rising insecurity can be seen as with the militants in the Niger Delta area. It was recorded in 1956 that oil was initially discovered in commercial quantity in Oloibiri, Bayelsa state (Davis, 2010). The Niger delta province consists of the following states: Abia, Akwa-Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross Rivers, Delta, Edo, Imo, Ondo, and Rivers, which are known to constitute the major oil resources of the nation for which over 90% of the oil produced in the nation comes from this south-south grid of the nation in which the total revenue generated from this region totals about 80% of the national income (CBN, 1981). It is known that these oil resources have been the heartbeat of the Nigerian economy over decades, yet the zones where the oil is produced are not kept developed and improved, which was assumed the international oil companies, in conjunction with the government, would bring development in the regions. Instead, the underdevelopment and poverty in the region were devastating (Daudu, Osimen, & Shuaibu, 2023). The area was being ruined by the multinational oil industries because the land and their water were being polluted by the oil spills and gas fumes, which is a major problem among others in the area. According to Nwagboso (2012), this triggered the inhabitants of the lands to grow furious against the multinational companies and the government as their farms had been spoilt and their land been polluted. It's been recorded that about 70% of the inhabitants of these provinces were wallowing in poverty and unemployment in the region skyrocketed. The people of the region were also agitated that the indigenes were being denied employment as well, which was a result of the negligence of both the federal government as well as the multinational oil industries in the economic development of these provinces. As a result, the inhabitants of this region went ahead with a peaceful protest in demand for compensation due to the misuse of the land and their God-given resources as well as access to management of their oil resources. Instead, they were faced off with armed forces, which resulted in conflict during the army regime of Abacha, which was followed up by the murder of the popular activist in the region, Ken Sara-Wiwa, and nine other Ogoni leaders, which caused the inhabitants of this region to engage in banditry, destruction of lives and properties of the multinational oil companies, explosion of oil installations and kidnap of foreign workers in that region (Urim, 1999).

During the regimes of Musa Yar'adua and his deputy, Goodluck Jonathan, Niger Delta militants were granted amnesty in 2009. This programme included an unconditional national pardon for penitent militants who are willing to surrender all of their weapons and ammunition for a new life with the government making provisions for them in terms of economics, health, and everything else they need to become better citizens, and it was stated that this would last five years, resulting in harmony between the governments and the residents of the region as well as a reduction in the region's crime rate. This programme resulted in a total of 26808 militants surrendering their arms and ammunition in exchange for acceptance of the proposed amnesty, resulting in the

government incorporating them into society and equipping them with some skills to help them survive, thereby lowering the rate of militancy in the region (Ajodo-Adebanjoko, 2016).

It has been established that in recent times, there has been a resurgence of a new group of these militants, which can be stated to consist of the region's dissatisfied and headstrong inhabitants, both the remnants who refused the amnesty and those who received the amnesty issued by the government. Among these new militants are the Niger Delta Vigilante (NDV) led by Tom Akete, the Niger Delta Avengers (NDA), the Joint Niger Delta Liberation Force (JNDLF), and, in 2016, the Niger Delta Red Squads. It has recently been established that hundreds of these new militants groups have emerged in this region, which has increased the crime rate and all other vices that previously existed in the area (Daudu, Osimen, & Shuaibu, 2023).

Kidnapping

This can be described as the unlawful seizure of an individual or a group of individuals forcefully to an unknown location, which can be precipitated by several notions of economic, political, or religious reasons (Fage and Alabi, 2017). This found its root in the Niger Delta crisis when the white workers of the multinational companies were being collected forcefully and a request for a huge ransom in the release of the abducted individuals was required (Awojobi, 2014; Adofu and Alhassan, 2018). This was being done because of the impoverished state of the economy and their standard of living. It's been established over the years that the increase in the rate of kidnapping and the widespread of this vice that extends to every part of the nation, which is a major threat to the security of the nation and also an alarming one. It has been made conventional, according to statistics by the Nigeria Security Tracker (NST), by the spiking rise in kidnapping incidents and the number of kidnapping victims as well as mass abduction over recent years. From the year 2017 to 2020, the rise in the number of kidnapping victims went from a number of 484 victims recorded in the year 2017 to 2,860 at the end of the year 2020. It was more gruesome in the year 2021 as the number of kidnapping victims in a span of 6 months was more than the total of the victims abducted in the year 2020, which totaled 2,944, which made 2021 the worst year so far. It was recorded that over the span of 2011-2020, a minimum of $18.34 million (N7 billion) has been lost as ransom to kidnappers (Kabir, 2020).

Since the emergence of this vice, it's been established that the cause of this alarming increase in the rate of kidnapping is the high rate of unemployment and the poor economic situation of the country. This has caused the youths to delve into several criminal activities, of which kidnapping seems to be the very catch in that the victims abducted are requested to source for a huge amount for their release and whichever victim whose people don't get the ransom is killed. The families of the victims find it safer to pay the ransom rather than inform the police because of the fear of getting the victim killed, and this has in turn made it a huge profit-making business for the abductors, as a result, causing it to breed new groups of these same terrorists in recent times (Umejei, 2010). For instance, Mr. Ado and his two daughters were travelling in a police convoy along the Buruku road in Kaduna state, known for a danger zone in the area while they were kidnapped in December. They were held captive for 15 weeks until their ransom was paid, which was a sum of 10 million naira in total in cash (BBC, 2022). Another case was that of Usman Mbaekwe, who was abducted and held captive in an unknown location in the forest in the southern part of Nigeria. His bus was attacked during a trip, and it was reported that the security forces made no attempt in their search to rescue him but was freed as soon as his wife raised the ransom of a sum of 1 million naira in total (BBC, 2022). This brings us to the end of the fact that the major cause of the kidnapping has its roots in the poor economy of the nation and a need to survive, which has in turn resulted in the many vices practiced in the nation today, which has to be attended to speedily by the government to ensure the safety of its citizens (Chukwudi, Gberevbie, Abasilim, & Imhonopi, 2019).

Religious Facet

The Boko-Haram

Boko Haram has caused major crisis In Nigeria that has brought the country into international attention due to the heinous activities of this group in the country at large. The meaning of the group's name 'Boko,' which in Hausa means western or other culture that does not conform to theirs, and "Haram," an Arabic word that means sin or forbidden (Adofu and Alhassan, 2018). Putting the two words together, it is clear from the name and their activities that this has been a movement initially warring against every other religion, with the goal of imposing Sharia law on the nation at large and Islamizing the nation (Awojobi, 2014). It was first recorded the commencement of their activities in the year 2002 (adofu and Alhassan, 2018). The execution of the kingpin and the founder of this criminal group, Ustaz Mohammed Yusuf 2009 had the group go haywire as they commenced a bloodier rampage in the Northern end of the nation (Onifade, Imhonopi and Urim 2013). The report that came with Boko Haram's affiliation with the ISWAP is seen to have caused more damage in terms of security, lives, and property in the northern end of the country, as they've benefited from reinforcement of arms and ammunition from these foreign compatriots. Following their first attack in 2009, this group has grown stronger, and their activities have become more visible and widespread in the nation's northern hemisphere, with even the Federal Capital Territory not immune to these attacks (Awojobi, 2014). The destruction of the United Nations building and the Nigerian Police Authority headquarters, as well as the guerilla war and several suicide bombings, has increased both the economy and social activities in the area,

while also excluding tourists and investors (Nwagboso, 2012). According to former US President Bill Clinton, the alarming rate of banditry in the nation's northern geopolitical zone is being precipitated by the increasing high level of poverty in this region, just as it has been recorded that the northern hemisphere of this nation holds the highest number of impoverished youths and citizens, as well as the low level of education and the unemployment rate in this area. According to Nwandegbo and Odigbo (2013), the Boko Haram group is perceived as a vicious political instrument rather than a religiously motivated group.

Understanding Terrorist Groups in Nigeria and why the youths join terrorist groups

Activities of terrorist groups in Nigeria have been increasing over the years. These groups are becoming increasingly famous, they have not only attacked Nigeria but also conducted operations in Niger, Chad, and Cameroon. These are countries that share a border with Nigeria. The popularly recognised terrorist groups in Nigeria are Boko-Haram, ISWAP, and Fulani Herdsmen. The most popular among these groups is the Boko-Haram and the similar feature among the three listed terrorist groups is that they are all Islamic terrorist groups are they carry out their nefarious operations mostly in the Northern area of Nigeria. Boko-Haram, ISWAP, and Fulani Herdsmen get funding from ransom and extortion from their victims, financial assistance from bigger terrorist groups, and some villages pay protection fees to Boko-Haram to prevent them from attacking. A big question here is why youths are recruited into terrorist groups and why are these groups becoming bigger in Nigeria (Onuoha, 2015).

Terrorist groups in Nigeria recruit youths that are disaffected, unemployed, destitute, and suffer from poverty. These kinds of youths are the majority of youth recruited by these terrorist groups. However, these are not the only type of people who are recruited, rich and influential people are also recruited but the destitute and impoverished set of youths constitute their major recruitment. In 2019, the Nigerian Bureau of Statistics stated that 23.1% of Nigerians are out of work, 55.4% of them are youths and 77% of the youths in the Northwest are suffering from poverty (NBS, 2020). The high rate of poverty and employment among the youth can be argued to be the cause of rising insecurity, especially in the Northern part of Nigeria as a result of the rising crime rate. The rate of unemployment and poverty keeps rising every year as higher institutions in Nigeria keep producing graduates and there are not many available jobs to absorb these large numbers of graduates. Youths that are idle and have little or no means of income have resulted in illegal and criminal activities to meet up with times. The lavish lives of young people who are involved in criminal activities such as banditry, kidnapping, and fraud have created a "get-rich-quick syndrome" which has made more youth get involved with criminal activities. Therefore, high rates of unemployment and poverty can be said to be the reason why youth have turned to violent crimes such as banditry (Adeniyi, 2015; Abdulkabir, 2017).

The government's inability to solve the problem causing severe poverty in the country has resulted in a more serious case of insecurity. Over 87 million Nigerians which is about half of the Nigerian population live below $1.90 a day. Almost half of the country lives in extreme poverty (Adeniyi, 2018). Alao et al (2015) stated that there is a strong linkage between poverty and banditry. Although all crimes are caused due to poverty but most of the people who turn to crimes and illegal activities are people struggling financially. Most people who joined terrorist groups in the Northwest did not join because of religious reasons but because of the gains, they could get from becoming a bandit (Adegoke, 2019).

The rise in insecurity in Nigeria cannot be necessarily linked to a lack of security. A country with adequate security can experience a rise in insecurity when there is a spike in the crime rate usually caused mainly by poverty. An increase in security personnel does not necessarily result in a decrease in insecurity. Security personnel in Nigeria do not have enough adequate weaponry to drive the crime rate down to the barest minimum. To top it off, many people in security have bad attitudes and behave badly. A major challenge to fighting banditry is security officials that leak information to these terrorist groups at the expense of national security instead of being national watchdogs. This set of people is swayed by ethnic, religious, and selfish reasons (Achumba et al., 2013).

Terrorism Being a Major Threat to Food Security

Food security has always been a major issue in Africa, especially in sub-Saharan countries. The impressive macroeconomic performance of Nigeria in the last decade has prompted the expectation of a rise in the living standard of the people. However, over the years, the standard of living of people has continued to decline. The number of people living under $1.25 per day continues to increase. The cost of living of an average Nigerian continues to increase without a corresponding increase in income (Oguniyi et al., 2016). According to recent statistics, 83 million Nigerians live below $1.25 per day which makes up 40% of the Nigerian population.

According to NBS statistics, 70% of the Nigerian labour force is employed in the agricultural sectors, agriculture constitutes 30% of the national GDP, and 90% of food produced in the country is supplied by small-farm holders who still rely on a traditional method of farming. However, terrorism has worsened the situation of food security in Nigeria. Hundreds of farmers have been displaced from their farms in the Northern region of Nigeria due to frequent attacks on farmlands by Boko-Haram and Fulani Herdsmen. This has resulted in a chain reaction of thousands of farmers abandoning their farmlands for commercial purposes. There are numerous cases of Boko-Haram and Fulani herdsmen killing dozens of farmers in the North. In 2020, 110 people were killed by Boko-Haram, 43 of them being in a rice plantation invasion in Zabarmari, a local

community, and the report also stated that 15 women were kidnapped in Jere local government, Kaduna. Many farmers in the North pay levies to Boko-Haram to prevent them from invading their farms. This act of paying levies to farm in rural areas in the North discouraged a lot of people from going into commercial farming in the North. Many have abandoned their farms due to incessant occurrences with the terrorist. A popular terrorist group known as Fulani herdsmen are also known to wreak havoc on people's farms not only in the North West but also in the North East and North Central part of Nigeria. This group of terrorists is known for invading people's farms with their cattle destroying farmers' crops by letting their cattle graze on people's farms (Okechukwu et al., 2014). The majority of their victims are farmers but the activities of this group of terrorists are gradually evolving into the activities of the Boko-Haram terrorist group such as highway kidnapping, raiding of villages, and many other crimes. Attacks on farmers by these terrorists are not limited to only farmlands only but also livestock farmers. Cattle rustling is a major threat to the economies of rural areas, especially in the North. Castle rustling is stealing cattle and terrorising herders (Oguniyi et al., 2016).

The activities of terrorists have not only affected rural pastoral and livestock farmers' livelihoods and means of income but the Nigerian economy as a whole. The incidence of attacks on farmers has made several farmer quit farming, many of them have moved to urban centres and chosen an alternative means of income aside from farming. This has resulted in to fall in the supply of food products in Nigeria and increased reliance on imported food products. The Northern part of Nigeria supplies the largest share of agricultural products among all the geopolitical zones. There has been a heavy reliance on them over years. The terrorist plague in the North has led to a hike in the price of foodstuffs between 2020 and 2022 (Amalu, 2015). The spike in the price can also be attributed to Covid-19 and inflation but the reduction in the supply of these food products cause by terrorism also contributes greatly to the spike in the prices of food products. Incidents of cattle rustling have made herdsmen in Zamfara and others move undesirably to neighbouring countries with their cattle. This has increased the price of meat all over the country and the importation of meat and other related dairy products have been resulted to meet up with demand. From 2020 till date, prices of basic foodstuffs produced in Nigeria such as beans, yam, rice, cowpeas, millet, tomatoes, onions, yams, corn, sorghums, vegetables, and livestock have been witnessing a steady increase. The price of these foodstuffs has doubled in retail price over two years. The displacement of farmers in the north has left a strain on food production in the north and disrupted the market. Borno state has suffered mostly from terrorism, banditry, and kidnapping in this Nigeria. This state which used to contribute 30% to the wheat consumption in Nigeria now contributes an insignificant percentage due to activities of banditry (Deborah, 2022).

Banditry Impacts on Women and Children

Violent attacks by bandits on civilians have had a significant impact on women and children, which has not received significant policy responses. Women and children have suffered violent attacks by terrorist groups. While boys were abducted for indoctrination into Boko-Haram's ideology and recruitment into its fighting force, women and girls were abducted for sexual exploitation, forced marriage, and labour. Women hold a larger percentage of internally displaced people up to at least 79% of 2.5million displaced across the country's northeast. Inaccurate data figures and logistical challenges mean that the figure of the IDP is probably higher. This situation has numerous protection and humanitarian implication for women. Sexual and gender-based violence faced by women from Boko-Haram has been escalating over the years. There isn't enough consistent humanitarian support for women in internally displaced camps which has led to a cycle of food and nutrition insecurity and economic dependence deprivation. For instance, women were raped indiscriminately by Boko-Haram across communities in Shiroro local government area in Niger state. A similar occurrence happened in Tsafe local government area in Zamfara state.

Aside rape and kidnapping of women and girls, families are forced to offer their daughters to Boko-Haram for protection, and the local market area which is run by women has also been greatly affected. Reduction in the production of farm produce has led to a lower supply of foodstuffs in the local markets and internally displaced women can no longer carry out their trade. A lower supply of farm products has led to a cycle of increased prices of food products.

Banditry attacks have greatly affected the education of children, so many schools in the north have been shut down indefinitely. Only in 2021, over 780 children were kidnapped in a mass abduction for ransom, in 2022, about 61 children are still in captivity. The incessant raiding of schools has drastically reduced the school completion rate in the north. A forecast by The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) says that a million students will stay away from school due to the threat of violence. Mohammed (2019) stated that other than school kidnapping, school buildings were destroyed by the Boko-haram and parents are scared of sending their children to school because of the fear of being abducted or killed by bandits, this has crippled social-economic development in the North.

Banditry and Foreign Direct Investment

Banditry has a huge setback on foreign direct investment. One of the signs of development in a developing country is foreign direct investment. Developing countries are a target for big multinational companies for investment purposes because most developing countries are either seen as a new market for products, have resources the companies can tap from, or have cheaper labour relative to developed countries. The threat from

banditry in Nigeria has cut short opportunities from foreign investors and not only that but existing foreign companies in Nigeria have been forced to close down or relocate to neighbouring countries (Adegoke, 2019). Terrorism and banditry and other organised crimes must be got rid of, to record meaningful progress in growth and development in the country, terrorism and banditry and other organised crimes must be got rid of. Apart from the slowdown of FDI companies are making their way out of the country. For instance, data from Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC) showed a 69% decline in the value of investment announced in the first quarter of 2022 when compared to data from 2021. The case of general insecurity has made Nigeria to be ranked 131 of 190 on World Bank 2019 annual rating on the ease of doing business (NBS 2022). Data recently released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) shows that Nigeria generated a total of $698.7million from foreign investment in 2021, although figures on FDI has been fluctuating from 2012-2021, figure on 2021 has appeared to be the lowest since 2012. Report from importation report reflected that FDI fell from $1.028billion in 2020 to $698.7million in 2021 by a margin of $332 million (NBS 2022). The implication of that foreign investors do not find Nigeria attractive for investment purposes, when investors take their production out of the country, the GDP of the country is negatively affected. In the situation of various incidences of kidnapping, banditry, and terrorism in the country, there is a risky atmosphere and environment for foreign investors. The majority of foreign investment would be short-term. For example, investors who only want to trade their products and go back.

The linkage between Poverty and Banditry and Implications on Socio-Economic Development in Nigeria

Security threats caused by terrorism and banditry have negative implications on socio-economic development in Nigeria. In 2018, the security sector got a budget of N1.3trillion of a total budget of N9.12trillion. In 2019 and 2020, the budget was N8.92trillion and N10.59 trillion respectively, while the security sector got N1.4trillion and 1.8trillion respectively. The budget for security increased in 2021 to N1.96 trillion with padding of an additional N722.5billion. Nigeria's military budget is bigger than the amount spent on the security of all other West African countries combined. The implication is that there is less budget for socio-economic development in the country. Nigeria being a developing country should commit more of its resources to development purposes but the present insecurity challenge is costing the country a large percentage of budgetary allocation to fighting insecurity at the expense of development. This is making the Nigerian government cut subsidies and fewer empowerment programs are being rolled out thereby worsening the economic situation of the economy. This huge amount of budgetary allocation to security is sufficient to relieve Nigeria of the socio-economic burden currently bedeviling it.

A lot of revenue that could have been realised from local and foreign investors has been lost over years due to forced migration or closure of investors. There is a loss of revenue and tax from farmers and traders living in areas plagued by banditry and other related crimes that have closed down or moved. Employment opportunities, tax, revenue, and royalties that could have been gotten from foreign investors who have closed down or relocated from the country have also been lost. Inyang and Abraham (2013) noted that six foreign expatriates from Shell oil and gas were abducted in 2006, this event led to the closure of the company in that particular area in Nigeria. This resulted in a loss of millions of standard cubic metre feet per day of gas production in the country.

There is an increase importation of basic food items such as cows from neighbouring countries for consumption and other staple food items such as beans, rice, and palm oil. This shows there is a production gap in the country which is filled by importation. The basic aforementioned food items are produced in the countries in large quantities sufficient to meet the demand of the entire country. But the incidence of terrorism, raiding of farmland, highway kidnapping, extortion from farmers, violence, and other related crimes in the economy has led to a reduction in the supply of basic food items and loss of revenue, thereby requiring the reliance on importation to fill in such production gaps. Other sectors in banditry affected area also suffer revenue loss. Onuah and Akwagyram (2019) reported that mining activities have been suspended in Zamfara due to frequent attacks from terrorists. This has led to a loss of revenue which could likely affect the aggregate economic activity of the country (Agara, & Osimen, 2021).

Schools in the North-East geopolitical zone in Nigeria are greatly affected by the activities of Boko-Haram. There have been several abductions of school children, a popular example is the abduction of the Chibok girl in 2014, where 276 female secondary school students were kidnapped (UN, 2015). Schools have been destroyed and burnt down in the north, gender-based violence and rape have continued increase to among school children, and parents are forced to pay ransom for the release of their abducted children. These terrorist incidences have caused a drain in educational activities in the Northeast. The implication of this is that the school completion rate has dropped greatly in the northeast which is another socio-economic setback in the economy. There is a brain drain in the area, as there is no sufficient staff to carry out a myriad of educational activities in the affected area. The insecurity issue is leading to an exodus of professional educators in the area leaving their educational institutions with inadequate staff. According to the UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report (GEM, 2018), over 19,000 staff have been uprooted from the area as a result of the threats posed by Boko-Haram. According to Mamman, a former leader of ASUU, over 70 lecturers have fled from the areas affected by the insurgency since the beginning of the Boko-Haram crisis in 2012. In 2014, 57% of schools

were closed in Borno state, this state is worst-hit by the insurgency crises in the last two years, schools at all levels were shuttered in 22 of 27 local governments to prevent further cases of terrorist or banditry attacks. Public secondary schools in Maiduguri finally re-opened in 2016, after IDPs have been evacuated (Sanchi et al., 2022). There is a reduction of private investment in educational institutions because private investors are deterred from establishing new schools as a result of security concerns in the northeast. The federal and some state governments have decided to postpone the development of educational infrastructure in affected areas till security threats are subdued.

Conclusion

The security threat posed by Boko-Haram, Fulani Herdsmen, ISWAP, Niger Delta militants, and other organised crimes has hampered the socioeconomic development of Nigeria. The study discussed some factors responsible for the upsurge in security threats which include unemployment, poverty, and poor governance among others. Security threats have direct and indirect implications on the socio-economic development of Nigeria. Direct implications are rising cases of kidnapping, killings, destruction of properties, rape and gender-based violence, and fear of intrastate and interstate movement among others. The indirect implications are the negative effects insecurity pose on the overall economy such as loss of foreign investors, increase in reliance on importation, and degradation of the educational institution among other.
Despite the millions of dollars pumped into the military to fight the insurgency in Nigeria, the military is unable to combat these terrorists effectively. The military is still ill-equipped to tackle the insurgency effectively. The military is affected by corruption, lack of enough arms and ammunition to combat terrorists and inadequate training. The Nigerian police force is more ill-equipped relative to the military. The government spends almost twice more equipping a soldier than a police officer. This has made police officers almost unreliable in combating terrorists. The security threats need to curbs as soon as possible to allow for growth and development in the country.

Recommendations
- The root cause of banditry should be tackled which are unemployment, poverty, and illiteracy rather than an overdependence on military actions to curb the rise of insecurity in Nigeria.
- The use of foreign intelligence and mercenaries can be used to fight insurgency in Nigeria. Foreign technologies are more advanced and mercenaries who are more trained and better equipped than Nigerian soldiers have better chances of fighting terrorists.
- Employment opportunities and empowerment programs should be provided to the youths. This will help reduce the crime rate in the economy thereby bringing a reduction in the incidences of kidnapping, robberies banditry, and other related crimes.

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The authors do not have any conflicting interests.

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