EFFECT OF TERRORISM ON HUMAN SECURITY IN ADAMAWA STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

For several years now, terrorists' attacks have remained recurrent across many communities in the Northeast region of Nigeria; the situation is not getting better as residents in many communities have been moved from their ancestral homes to the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camps in the region. This study investigates the effect of terrorism on human security in Adamawa State, the study was anchored on the State Fragility Theory, survey research design was adopted, the study population was 1,747,617 from which a sample size of 400 respondents were drawn using Yamane Statistic. The study was narrowed to three LGAs; Mubi North, Numan, and Hong in Adamawa State based on history of terrorists' attacks, cluster sampling technique was used, structured questionnaire instrument was employed for data collection. Data collected was analysed using descriptive statistics (simple percentage, frequency and table). The study revealed that majority of the respondents indicated government negligence towards the grassroots population, growing unemployment rate, religious intolerance and proliferations of small arms and light weapons were the basic factors influencing terrorism and human security in Adamawa State. The study recommends that government and other critical stakeholders like civil society organizations within and outside Nigeria should intensify efforts geared towards addressing the basic sociological challenges that serves as a spring ball of terrorism (unemployment, religious intolerance, proliferation of small arms) as identified in study area to enable the youth shun terrorism while contributing to the development of Adamawa State, Nigeria.

Keywords: Effect, Human Security, Security, Terrorism,

Introduction

One of the basic challenges facing Nigeria is widespread violent conflicts and aggression. Violent conflict has not only become endemic in Nigeria but has in recent times become the major defining characteristic of Nigeria. Virtually all the regions or geo-political zones of Nigeria have at various times suffered losses of human and material resources arising from violent group conflicts (Arewa, 2013 cited in Dassah, 2021). The spate of group violence in Nigeria has negatively affected the development and growth of the nation, as both domestic and foreign investors are scared to invest in the ever-promising Nigerian economy. Cases of violence in Nigeria have become more worrisome as security agencies whose constitutional duty are to maintain law and order and secure the nation, are themselves caught in the web of violent conflicts (Maurice, 2024).

National security is a premise for national economic growth and development of nations in this 21st century. This is given that peaceful nations attract foreign investors while domestic investors freely operate the economy with little or no tensions and apprehensions.

According to Nwanegbo (2013), security is the pillar upon which every meaningful development could be achieved and sustained. Nigeria as a nation-state has witnessed unprecedented series of agitations in the forms of kidnapping and abduction, armed robberies, bombing, and carnages of all forms and magnitude in the past decade and present the most dastard so far is the activities of 'Boko Haram', interpreted to mean 'Western education is evil'. With the coming to the scene by Boko Haram in 2002, the insecurity situation in Nigeria seemed to have assumed higher and more complex dimensions (Osatimenhin, 2023). Apart from the frequency and intensity of deadly attacks and carnages, insecurity in Nigeria cuts across virtually all regions and major cities, towns, and villages in the country. Lives and properties are not safe for urban dwellers as well as for rural farmers. People live in apprehension almost every day (Osatimenhin, 2023).

Many factors have been postulated as causing unrest in Adamawa states such as a large army of unemployed youths, poor governance, poor access to quality education or training, inadequate basic infrastructures, corruption and corrupt practices of government officials, perceived victimization, arrant poverty amid affluence, ethnic superiority, religious superiority fanatism, domination and exploitation, materialism and the display of it with impunity (Maurice, 2024). Given the forbearing, this study is focused on the effect of Terrorism on Human Security in Adamawa State, Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

For several years, terrorism has remained a serious security threat in Adamawa State in spite the huge financial and human burden incurred by the international, regional, and national governments in financing security, gathering intelligence, and sponsoring research aimed at tackling the menace of terrorism in Nigeria and the northeast particularly, the threats of mass killing using improvised explosive devices, kidnapping, mass adoption of students, murder and destruction of infrastructure by the Boko-Haram terrorists persists in its brutal form. Terrorism has continued to drain human resources across the Northeast especially in Adamawa state. The use of modern war tactics and sophisticated weaponry by the terrorist groups in Adamawa state has further compounded the situation across the state and beyond. Conspicuously, the effects of terrorism are glaring in Adamawa State with heavy human casualties and economic loss from both the military and civil population; social and academic activities are truncated especially in Mubi, Hung, Gombi, and Garkida local government areas in the state. The situation has destroyed peoples' livelihood with Internally Displaced Persons Camps (IDPs) spread across the country. The speed with which small arms and light weapons are spread in Nigeria and the merciless ways that the lives of innocent ones are being wasted are worrisome. Bello (2018) observed that people are burdened daily with psychological and emotional trauma resulting from gory sights of lifeless and mutilated bodies of loved family members, close associates, and colleagues littered on the streets, public squares, and everywhere.

Consequently, apart, a stable economy cannot be guaranteed in the face of insecurity. Since the emergence of the Boko-haram sect in 2002, more than thirty-thousand human lives had been lost while many are still unaccounted for in thousands (Maurice, 2025). In the Northeast states especially Adamawa state killings have continued unabated despite the procurement of modern military wares for the Nigerian security personnel. The escalated

activities of terrorism have increased tensions between and among various ethnic communities, interrupt development activities, frighten off investors and generate concern among Nigeria's northern neighbours (Epron, 2019). According to Ibrahim, and Mukhtar (2016) between July 27th, 2009, and February 17th, 2012, "Boko Haram" had carried out 53 deadly attacks. Wikipedia reported 57 attacks between September 2010 and 11th August 2014 (Ibrahim, & Ahmad, 2020). The inability of security agencies to completely predict Boko-Haram's next actions have further spread fear and despair among the residents in Adamawa State. Reports on terrorism in the Northeast States and Adamawa have suggested that casualties from terrorists are increasing on daily basis. There are several studies on the effects of terrorism on human security in Nigeria. Nevertheless, most of the studies conducted on terrorism were limited to the period of 2002-2019 and were mostly focused on Northeast and Borno State being the epicenter of the Boko-haram activities. However, this study x-rayed the impact of the Boko-haram terrorists in Adamawa state from 2019-2021 to elicit an in-depth understanding of the current effect of the Boko-haram terrorists on human security in Adamawa State.

Objective of the Study

The main objective of this study is to examine the effect of terrorism on human security in Adamawa State. the other specific objectives include:

i. To determine the factors influencing terrorism in Adamawa State
ii. To ascertain the effect of terrorism on food security in Adamawa State
iii. To explore how the effect of terrorism is affecting economic growth in Adamawa State
iv. To investigate the efforts of government in curbing terrorism Adamawa State

Research Questions

The following questions guides this study:

i. What are the factors influencing terrorism in Adamawa State?
ii. What is the effect of terrorism on food security in Adamawa State?
iii. How the effect of terrorism is affecting economic growth in Adamawa State?
iv. What is the efforts of government in curbing terrorism Adamawa State?

Conceptual Clarifications

Concept of Terrorism

There is no universally accepted definition of terrorism since the concept can be viewed essentially from three main perspectives. The United Nations Panel (2019) conceived terrorism as criminal acts, including against civilians, committed with the intent to cause death or serious bodily injury, or taking of hostages, with the purpose to provoke a state of terror in the general public or a group of persons or particular persons, intimidate a population or compel a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act. While, Ugwu (2021) sees terrorism as political violence in an asymmetrical conflict designed to induce terror and psychic fear (sometimes indiscriminate) through the violent victimization and destruction of noncombatant targets (sometimes iconic symbols), involving acts meant to send a message from an illicit clandestine organization. However, this study conceived terrorism as any act of violence intended against someone with the intension to create fear to achieve a goal set by the perpetrator(s).

Concept of Security

The term security is about the condition of safety or feel safe from danger. It has to do with the defense protection and preservation of core values, and the absence of threats to acquired values (Hart, 2016). Similarly, security is defined as the defense, policing, and intelligence functions of states, and the management of threats to and breaches of the peace through multilateral and bilateral processes (Ezeoba, 2011). Aboh (2018) conceptualized security as the absence of political, economic, social, and environmental threats that are militaristic. He demonstrates a tripartite concept analysis of security based on the international system, state-level, and individual level but submitted that sovereign states should remain the most effective security provider. Thus, security has to do with the process connected with assuaging any kind of threat to people and their precious values. This is why Action on Armed Violence (2013) cited Buzan's conclusion that security is about freedom from threat and the ability of states to maintain independent identity and their functional integrity against forces of change, which they see as hostile while its bottom line is survival (Action on Armed Violence, 2013). This study conceived security as the perceived absence of threats to the core values life, health, education, economy, political and other institution of the state.

Human Security

According to the United Nations General Assembly's resolution 66/290, "human security is an approach to assist the member states in identifying and addressing widespread and cross-cutting challenges to the survival, livelihood, and dignity of their people." It calls for "people-centered, comprehensive, context-specific and prevention-oriented responses that strengthen the protection and empowerment of all people" (US Department of State, 2018). To Uloko, Gomment, and Yunusa (2024) human security is a focus on the wellbeing of humans at the individuals or group level to protect people from traditional (i.e., military) and nontraditional threats such as poverty and disease. Ikpe (2022) further explained that moving the security agenda beyond state security does not mean replacing it but rather involves complementing and building on it. Central to this approach is the understanding that human security deprivations can undermine peace and stability within and between states, whereas an overemphasis on state security can be detrimental to human welfare. However, this study adopted Ikpe (2022) conception as the working definition of human security in this study.

Theoretical Framework

State Fragility Theory

The fragile state as articulated by Sara (2008) cited in Adeniyi (2019) argued that the term used for states facing severe developmental challenges such as weak institutional capacity, poor governance, political instability, unemployment, poverty, and low level of economic development. The Fragility theory is a perspective that describes how extreme poverty is concentrated in a given state, how low level of human and social development is linked to weak institutional capacity, governance, and to internal conflict, all of which undermine the capacity of the state to deliver basic social and infrastructural services and offer security to citizens (Bello, & Jamilu, 2017). More fundamentally, a fragile state is trapped in a vicious circle of violent conflict and poverty or suffers from a natural resource curse; others face a legacy of not providing the most basic services to their citizens as is the

case in Adamawa state. Such basic services include among other things, access and availability of food, good health facilities, good roads, quality education, electricity, good water supply, secure borderline, etc. The rise and expansion of insurgency and other terrorists' activities are tied to conspicuous negligence of the masses by the Adamawa state government; policies and programmes of the state government were not directed at human development. Corruption, poor leadership style, embezzlement, and all manners of negativities filled in the print and audio-visual media were a precursor to the development of the formation of terrorist groups in reaction to the system. Adamawa state presents itself with a weak political system which further entrenched poverty, squalor and want among its people; the reaction to the marginalization and misery was involvement in terrorism as many of the members of the terrorist group claimed to have been receiving better salaries than the conventional state-owned security agencies. It is a clear indicator that high levels of illiteracy, poverty, frustration, and poor access to resources allocation were few among many other factors that fueled terrorism in Adamawa State and Nigeria.

Empirical Review of Literature

Factors Influencing Terrorism in Nigeria

Bello and Jamilu (2017) observed that scholars have argued that terrorism originates from various sources. It is therefore important to investigate this at both individual and group levels. At the individual level, some experts have distinguished rational, psychological, and cultural origins of terrorism. According to Arewa (2013) rational terrorists think through their goals and options, making a cost-benefit analysis. Psychological motivation for resorting to terrorism derives from the terrorist's dissatisfaction with his or her life and accomplishments. At the group level, terrorism can grow out of an environment of political activism, when a group's goal is to redirect a governments or society's attention toward the grievances of an activist social movement (Wajim, 2020). Dassah (2021) observed that the foundation for armed insurrection (and later terrorism) against the Nigerian state was laid when Isaac Adaka Boro, an Ijaw nationalist led an armed campaign for greater Niger Delta autonomy, resource control, and self-determination for the inhabitants of the Niger Delta. As the founder and leader of the Niger Delta Volunteer Force (NDVF), an armed militia consisting of members from his fellow Ijaw ethnic groups, Isaac Boro rose to address what he saw as the marginalization and subjugation of his people and their economic interests by the Nigerian state. With a force of 150 recruits, who were given training in the use of firearms and explosives in the creeks and bushes, he and his men attacked a police station on February 23, 1966, raided the armory, and kidnapped some officers, including the officer in charge of the police station. They also blew up oil pipelines, engaged the police in a gunfight, and declared the Niger Delta an independent republic. The revolt was however suppressed and Boro and his compatriots were put on trial on a 9-count charge of treason at Port Harcourt Assizes before Judge Phil Ebosie (Diep, 2019).

However, the rise of the Boko Haram terrorists in Adamawa had been predated by similar uprisings in the past. It was just that the Boko Haram-styled terror acts assumed a more virulent, sophisticated, and religious dimension. Arewa (2013) in his erudite treatise traced the evolution of the crisis to the Maitatsine uprisings of 1980 in Kano, 1982 in Kaduna and Bulumkutu, 1984 in Yola, and 1985 in Bauchi. These were the first attempts to impose a

religious ideology on a secular, independent Nigeria, and marked the beginning of ferocious post-independence conflict and crises in that region (Babangida, 2012). Following the Maitatsine crises, or interspersing them, were several other crises. These include the Kano metropolitan riot of October 1982, the Ilorin riot of March 1986, the University of Ibadan crisis of May 1986, the nationwide crisis over Nigeria's membership in the Organization of the Islamic Conference in January/February 1986, the Kafanchan/Kaduna/Zaria/Funtua religious riots of March 1987, the Kaduna Polytechnic riot of March 1988, the acrimonious nationwide debate on Sharia (Islamic law) at the Constituent Assembly in October/November 1988, the Bayero University crisis of 1989, the Bauchi/Katsina riots of March/April 1991, the Kano riot of October 1991, the Zangon-Kataf riot of May 1992, the Kano civil disturbance of December 1991 and the Jos crisis of April 1994 (Akagu, 2025).

Effect of Terrorism on Food Security in Adamawa State

Akagu (2025) examined the food security situations of the Nigerian's major farm households using Ekiti State, as a case study. The study comprised a random sample of 160 farm households selected across 16 villages in the two Agricultural Development Project (ADP) zones of Ekiti State. The USDA approach for analysis of farm household's food security was used to measure the intensity of food severity among the farm households. Results showed that only 12.2% of the farm households were food secure, 43.6% were food insecure with hunger (moderate) and 8.3% were food insecure with hunger (Severe). Cassava, yam, and their products were shown to contribute immensely to the food security status of the farm household. The vast majority of Nigerians are reported to be food insecure as revealed by studies on availability, utilization, and access to food. However, the intensity of the terrorists' attacks on farming communities is high and has been too frequent that government rarely act to mitigate the threat before it was being hatched. Many farmers, fishermen, and traders have been murdered in cold blood, the attacks usually send chilling messages to prospective farmers and traders leaving the food chain disrupted.

Effect of Terrorism is Affecting on Economic Growth

Maurice (2025) carried a study on determinants of human insecurity and their impact on economic growth in Nigeria. The study adopted a mixed method. Annual time series data were collected from 1994 to 2016 on Gross Domestic Product, unemployment rate, corruption perception index, inflation rate, and total expenditure on security and estimated using Auto-regressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) technique while descriptive statistics were employed to analyze the survey data. Findings revealed that the key causes of insecurity were predominantly unemployment, poverty, ethno-religious violence, terrorism, corruption, lack of specialized skills/sources of livelihood, and unresolved agitations. Comparative analysis showed that the proportion of the share of government expenditure appropriated to security was more than twice the non-oil revenue generated in Nigeria for the period under study. Adegoke (nd) in his study on Economic Growth Amidst Insecurity: The Nigeria Experience, using data on Real GDP, Total Expenditure on security, Gross Fixed Capital Formation, Total Labour Force, corruption perception index, and poverty index to show the relationship that exists between Economic Growth and Insecurity, employed the OLS regression method. Also, Abubakar Salihu and Alheri (2017) in their investigation on the impact of insecurity and

poverty on sustainable economic development in Nigeria, used the Frustration-Aggression theoretical framework and argued that terrorism is caused by frustrated expectations and a state of hopelessness, sustained mainly by bad governance, corruption, and a pervasively weak institutional framework.

Government efforts in Curbing Terrorism Nigeria

Camille and Toulemonde (2021) examined Combating terrorism and insurgency in Nigeria. As a qualitative study, it found that domestic measures include the deployment of troops to the affected areas, joint task force by the neighboring countries, declaration of state of emergency and encouragement of public and media to provide intelligence support. The international actors use economic sanctions to punish the state sponsors of terrorism, the deployment of security assets abroad, the monitoring of the expanding scope and diversity of facilitation networks. It therefore recommends the cutting off of the sources of contact of Boko Haram, an empowerment programme that reduces unemployment, conflict resolution among parties and strict enforcement of law against terrorism.

Methodology

This study adopted a survey design, the study population was 1,747,617 being the actual population of adults within the age bracket of 18 years and above from the INEC register (2023), Taro sampling determination statistics was used to draw a sample size of 400 respondents, cluster sampling technique was adopted structure questionnaire instrument was self-administered for data collection. Data collected was analysed using descriptive statistics (simple percentage, frequency and table).

Results

Table 1

Socio-demographic data of respondents

Variables	Groups	Frequency	Percent
Age	16 – 24	43	12%
	25 – 34	106	29%
	35 – 44	129	35%
	45 and above	89	24%
	Total	**367**	100%
Sex	Male	203	55%
	Female	164	45%
	Total	**367**	100%
Marital Status	Single	108	29%
	Married	213	58%
	Divorced	29	8%
	Widowed	17	5%
	Total	**367**	100%
Religion	Christianity	141	38%
	Islam	213	58%
	Traditional	9	3%
	Others	4	1%

	Total	**367**	100%
Education	Primary	13	4%
	Secondary	75	20%
	Tertiary	274	78%
	Others	5	1%
	Total	**367**	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 2

Factors influencing terrorism in Adamawa State

S/N	STATEMENT	SA (%)	A (%)	U (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	MEAN	STD. DE
1	Government negligence of the grassroot population influences terrorism in Adamawa State	25.5 %	55.3 %	4.6 %	10.6 %	4.0 %	4.21	1.36
2	Unemployment is the major human security risk that influences terrorism in Adamawa State	46.6 %	45.1 %	5.2 %	4.1 %	.9%	4.49	.81
3	Religious intolerance is one of the major factors that influence terrorism in Adamawa State	37.7 %	44.5 %	3.4 %	11.7 %	2.7 %	4.41	.89
4	Poor school enrolment is responsible for the spread of terrorism in Adamawa State	19.3 %	54.5 %	16.3 %	5.0 %	4.9 %	3.69	.86
5	Small arms and light weapons proliferation in one of the basic factors responsible for terrorism in Adamawa State	14.8 %	46.9 %	9.5 %	25.2 %	3.6 %	3.55	1.20

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 2: revealed that majority of the respondents 81% indicated that government negligence towards the grassroots population is a significant influencer of terrorism in Adamawa State, it also revealed that majority of the respondents representing 92% perceives unemployment as a major human security risk contributing to terrorism in the study area. Furthermore, the study shows that 82% of the aggregate respondents identify religious intolerance as a major factor influencing terrorism in the state while 62% of the respondents blamed the proliferation of small arms and light weapons as the basic factor influencing terrorism in the state.

Table 3

Effect of Terrorism on Food Security in Adamawa State

S/N	Statements	SA (%)	A (%)	U (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	MEAN	STD
1	Terrorism has led to the destruction of farm and farm products in Adamawa State	8.9 %	40.3 %	11. 0%	28.3 %	11.5 %	3.26	1.34
2	Because of terrorism, many farmers have stopped farming practices in Adamawa State	21.6 %	36.9 %	21. 0%	18.4 %	2.1 %	3.97	.94
3	The current inflation in prices of food commodities is linked to the impact of terrorists' activities in Adamawa State	26.4 %	23.3 %	11. 2%	21.3 %	17.8 %	2.10	1.37
4	Terrorism has made food storage nearly impossible in Adamawa State	2.4 %	45.6 %	16. 7%	33.0 %	2.3 %	3.25	1.35
5	Terrorism has reduced the feeding ration of people in Adamawa State	14.3 %	34.1 %	2.5 %	30.7 %	18.4 %	3.17	.91

Source: Field Survey 2024.

Table 3 indicated that majority of the respondent 49.2% agrees and strongly agrees that terrorism has led to the destruction of farm and farm products in the state, it was further indicated that 58.5% indicated that terrorism has led to the reduction of farming practices by many farmers. In addition, 49.7% disagrees and strongly agrees that the current inflation in prices of food commodities is linked to the impact of terrorists' activities in Adamawa. Furthermore, majority of the respondents representing (78.3%) agrees and strongly agrees that terrorism has made food storage nearly impossible. Thus, a significant portion of the respondents (48.4%) agrees and strongly agrees that terrorism has reduced the feeding ration of people

Table 4

Effect of Terrorism on Economic security in Adamawa State

S/N	Statements	SA (%)	A (%)	U (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	MEAN	STD
1	Economic activities in Adamawa State have suffered set back due to terrorists' attacks on business facilities in Adamawa State	34.2 %	26.6 %	3.5 %	23.7 %	12.0 %	3.99	1.25
2	Terrorism has negative effects on economic security in Adamawa State	32.6 %	32.5 %	7.0 %	21.3 %	6.6%	3.70	1.27
3	Terrorism has led to the loss of business capitals in Adamawa State	40.0 %	28.0 %	1.4 %	22.0 %	8.6%	4.00	1.31

4	Terrorism has made many companies to fold up businesses in Adamawa State	13.3 %	5.9 %	26.5 %	32.4 %	22.9 %	2.96	1.21
5	Terrorism has had negative effect on government revenue generation in Adamawa State	27.7 %	36.2 %	9.6 %	24.2 %	2.3%	4.63	.70

Source: Field Survey 2024.

Table 4 shows that majority of the respondents 60.8% agrees and strongly agrees that economic activities in the state have suffered due to terrorists' attacks on business facilities. This was further ratified when 65.1% agreed and strongly agreed that terrorism has negative effects on economic security in the state. the study further indicated that majority 68% agrees and strongly agrees that terrorism has led to the loss of business capitals. Hence, 65.3% agrees or strongly agrees that terrorism has led to the closure of many companies in the state.

Discussion of Findings

The study revealed that government negligence of the grassroots population, growing unemployment rate, religious intolerance and proliferations of small arms and light weapons were the basic factor influencing terrorism in Adamawa State. This finding was consistent with Okeke (2024) conclusion that the major challenge affecting Nigeria is expanding youth unemployment, poverty, and small arms and light weapons proliferations in Africa and more so in Nigeria.

The study also revealed that terrorism has led to the destruction of farm lands, agricultural produce and food storage facilities leading to inflation in food prices because inadequate food for consumption and storage in the State. However, this finding was consistent with Ado (2023) when he observed that Northeast region of Nigeria is known for livestock, fish and cereal production for distribution to other region of Nigeria but current security challenges has reduced the quantity of farm produce from the northeast region.

The study further revealed that economic activities in the state have suffered due to terrorists' attacks on business facilities, leading to negative effect on economic activities, loss of capital and terrorism has led to the closure of many companies in the state. Thus, this finding corroborates Maurice (2024) argument that insecurity has reduced social and economic activities in the northeast region especially in Adamawa State in his study on impact of insecurity on food security in Adamawa North senatorial district of Plateau State

Recommendations

The study has made the following recommendations:

i. Government and other critical stakeholders like civil society organizations should intensify efforts in addressing the root causes of terrorism (unemployment, religious intolerance, proliferation of small arms) identified in Adamawa State to enable the youth contribute their quota to the development of the grassroot communities in Adamawa State, Nigeria.

ii. Government and other well-meaning Nigerians should invest in commercial farming where adequate security measure can be design to address the fluctuation in food supply while the local communities should be co-opted into intelligence gathering and be trained on resilient farming, economic processes and social cohesion in Adamawa State.

iii. Government should redesign the current security measure to address the security challenges affecting businesses in Adamawa State to enable businesses and their owners to thrive

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