



## INSECURITY AND THE ECONOMY OF ADAMAWA STATE BY

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### Abstract

*Declared as one of the epicenters of insurgencies in Northeastern Nigeria; over flooded, Internally Displaced Person Camps, terrorism, herders farmers conflicts, exacerbated malnutrition outlook and weak protection for communities, translates the inability of Adamawa State to mitigate against wants, lacks and wellbeing of her citizenry and such inadvertently affects the economy of the State. It was against this background that this study engaged Structural Functionalism Theory to examine food insecurity and the community insecurity as it aggravates the economy of Adamawa State. This study decomposed insecurity into food insecurity and community insecurity as the independent variable against the dependency on the Adamawa State economy. This study employs a qualitative research design; by reviewing publicly available archived documents. The study relies on secondary data by examining literature concerning insurgencies, terror cell groups, community security, and food security. The literature was obtained through searches in the publicly available material. Literature from non-serial publications, official reports, and conferences has been included particularly if they have been cited by other references in connection with human security, community security, food security, and political economy. Findings from this study showed that food insecurity in Adamawa negatively affects the economy of Adamawa State. The study also submitted that community insecurity as aggravated by banditry and insurgencies adversely influences the Adamawa State economy. This study, therefore, recommends that Nigeria should evolve a policy that protects the agrarian communities from insecurity constricting food security. This study also recommends that State Policing should be factored into the security architecture of Adamawa State to further secure the vulnerable communities.*

**Keywords:** Community Insecurity, Food Insecurity, Internally Displaced Persons, Structural Functionalism Theory,

### Introduction

The spiraling effects of socioeconomic and political imbalances in the existing social system of any society could be seen in the ills spanning across the society; spike in crimes, prevalence of non-state armed actors, insecurities and eroded sovereignty of authority (Usman, 2015). With an active terrorism cell groups of Jama'atu Ahlis-Sunnah Lidda'awati Wal Jihad, known as Boko Haram (BH) and Islamic State of West African Province (ISWAP), malnourished and flooded Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps, wanton rural banditry and incessant herders farmers conflicts, are all indicators of a constricted economy as aggravated by insecurity.

Interestingly, security is no longer defined along the State centric approach but rather with human referent, measuring the absence of wants lack and fear. Consequentially, Food insecurity and community insecurity are of major constructs measuring human security. Human security could be seen endangered when

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community safety can no longer be assured and agrarian productivity could be seen impacted. The agro sectors players could be seen endangered by activities of terrorists, bandits which negatively slow down food production even as many displaced relocated into IDP camps for safety as most communities are fragile and insecure due to the activities of insurgents disrupting economic activities extensively.

There has been widespread disruption in the main economic activities in the region: agriculture, commerce and trade. Agricultural production is in decline with dire consequences for food prices, food security and agricultural livelihoods. This is linked to the displacement of labour, the destruction of agricultural infrastructure and input systems, and diminished access to land and farm equipment. There is no gainsaying that agriculture, has been impacted by the conflict through the destruction of communities, farms, public spaces as well as transport routes. Such developments further underscored increased transaction costs in the requisition of mandatory payments and tribute from farmers by Boko Haram, increased transport costs and diminished trade levels. This has had a direct impact on rising food prices in the northeastern region and beyond (Ikpe, 2017).

The absence of food insecurity could translates to retarded productivity and consecutively the production of food. This could then account for discounted opportunities in providing income generation opportunities for those engaged in the agro allied sector. The value chain that grows with food security when constricted could have a negative effect on labour efficiency of human capital which will inadvertently show down labour productivity and economic growth of a nation. Food insecurity when triggered discounted away the quality of rural life, thus endangering community development. Agricultural economists have maintained that greater concentration on small farmers leads to faster growth rates of both aggregate economic output and employment (Polasky, 2023).

Food insecurity precedes hunger and hunger incurs huge economic cost (Diouf, 2002) and this precipitate higher incidence of disease, and greater vulnerability of people, especially children. This could spiral into incidental costs on health, crime and criminalities. The private sectors agro investments amidst insecurity; insurgencies, banditry could be seen challenged extensively in the northeast of Nigeria. Studies have shown that very few countries have achieved rapid economic growth without preceding or accompanying agricultural growth. This insecurity has not exempt women; who are the backbone of domestic work, household economy as well as in most production, processing, storage activities, and marketing of agricultural products to stabilise food security (Hemanthakumar & Preetha, 2023).

Alarmingly, insecurity in Adamawa State has made women highly vulnerable and exposed to rape, sex slaves when abducted by terrorists, exposed to violence of rural bandits, market raiders. Hence, women vital

contributory roles in food security remained impinged thereby aggravating effect of food insecurity on the economy of Adamawa State even as community security is fragile (Addeh, 2021). Community security which entails absence of threats, particularly, inter-ethnic, religious and other identity based tensions (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (UNOCHA), 2009). Community security is very fragile as Boko Haram elements and Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) were still operating in certain parts of the state, raising risk concerns to severe levels for business travelers (Addeh, 2021).

This study is situated in Adamawa State, a state in the North-East geopolitical zone of Nigeria, bordered by Borno to the northwest, Gombe to the west, and Taraba to the southwest, while its eastern border forms part of the national border with Cameroon. Topographically, Adamawa is a mountainous land crossed by the large river valleys. As an agriculturally-based state, the Adamawa State economy mainly relies on livestock and crops, such as cotton, groundnuts, millet, cassava, guinea corn, and yams. After years of the Boko Haram insurgency affecting development in the State. Adamawa State has been badly impacted by the Boko Haram insurgency and became home to camps housing an estimated 35,000 internally displaced people, fleeing violence from Boko Haram in locations including Mubi, Madagali, Garkida in the states of Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe (Omenma, 2019; Ismail, 2015).

To achieve the objective of this study, the following research questions were answered:

- i. How does food insecurity affect the economy of Adamawa State?
- ii. To what extent does community insecurity influence the economy of Adamawa State?

The paper is structured into five sections. Following this introduction, section two is concerned with literature review. Section three discussed the methodology adopted for the study; section four discussed the findings, conclusions and recommendations.

## **Conceptual Review**

### **Concept of Security**

Security is often considered to be an essential human need, a fundamental requisite for the continued existence, livelihood and dignity of people (Weisbrod, 2006). It is argued that security, when embedded in people's lives brings about senses of belonging, stability and direction (ILO, 2004) and gives people the power of self-control, which is necessary for real freedom and independence. Security is also understood in terms of national survival needs, i.e. protecting boundaries and citizens from external attacks (Standing, 2002).

Security, in sum, by equipping people with social agency and by providing them with suitable environments to act not only enables them to participate in the decision-making process, but also enhances their capabilities to influence policies in the direction of their own interests (Commission on Human Security, 2003). Security

is now beyond State centric approach beyond guns and ammunition and now situated into human security hence security could be triggered of by fears, lacks and wants that threatens the welfare of an individual from food to economic to environmental.

Security is perhaps the most important aspect of governance, it takes priority over all else. This is so much so as insecurity affects and has the ability to put on hold every other aspect of governance. The security of the governed ought therefore to be the paramount preoccupation of any government at every point in time. Bad governance and policies lead to weakness and a failed state. The lack of capacity to address social ills and general insecurity provide the impetus for threatening groups to emerge, thereby challenging the sovereignty of the government. This study uses food and community security as a construct to measure insecurity:

### **Food Security**

Food security is of dominant necessity for the continuation of not only human existence but the peace and security of the whole world. There is no gainsaying that insecurity as driven by rural banditry, market raids, kidnapping, farm confiscation and armed robberies have casted shadows on national security in so much that insecurity crowds out agricultural productivity of communities in the Northeast of Nigeria, where Adamawa is situated. In other words, the disruptions from the activities of insurgent, terrorists, armed non state actors and warring communities extensively undermine the capacity of farming communities and agro investors to produce optimally, thereby creating food shortages that ultimately undermine the nations national security profile of the country (Jeremiah, 2022).

Effects of food insecurity could be broad with wide ranging from serious health issues when people have to choose between spending money on food and medicine or healthcare Food insecurity can make it more difficult for a child to learn and grow, can lead to difficult decisions like choosing between food and rent, bills, and transportation.

### **Community Security**

Community security as a subset of human security is defined as protection against the breakdown of communities, as a result of loss of traditional relationships and values, and from sectarian and ethnic violence (UNDP, 1994). Threats to community security can come from several factors. These include: discrimination, exclusion, violence from other groups, and threats from the state. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs also defines community security in terms of threats, particularly, 'inter-ethnic, religious and other identity based tensions' (UNOCHA, 2009).

Community security combines both group and personal security, while focusing largely on freedom from fear. Threats to personal and group security can include: ‘threats from the state’ (physical torture), threats from other states in the case of war, threats from other groups of people (ethnic tension), threats from individual or gangs, threats directed against women (rape, domestic violence), threats directed at children (child abuse), and threats to self (suicide, drug use) (UNDP, 2009). While the emphasis of community security is on ‘freedom from fear’, there is also recognition of the importance of responding to a wider range of social issues that influence communities’ ‘freedom from want.

One of the most controversial initiatives is the Responsibility to Protect (R2P), introduced in 2001 as an emerging norm, which essentially demands that States should protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity; should encourage and assist others to fulfil their responsibility; and should take timely and decisive action when necessary to and in accordance with the UN Charter to protect populations from these crimes. R2P is premised on the idea that state sovereignty is not to be taken as a right, but as a responsibility, with the understanding that the most basic responsibility ‘for the protection of its people lies with the state itself’ (International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty, 2001)

## **Empirical Review**

### **Food Insecurity and the Economy**

Manap and Ismail (2019) deployed quantitative research design to analyse impact of food security on the economic growth of dry-land developing countries, by engaging poverty, life expectancy, and total employment as construct of food security. Study measured food security on poverty, life expectancy, and total employment. The study adopted a dynamic panel data model known as the Generalized Method of Moments (GMM). Results from the study established that food security has an impact on economic growth, especially in dry-land developing countries. study submitted that an increase in food security increases economic growth via increase in life expectancy, total employment, and poverty, whereas life expectancy and total employment with better food security have a positive impact on economic growth, reduction in poverty, achieving food security and enhancing economic growth. Study did not consider community security as an aggravating factor on the economy of Adamawa State which this study considers.

Anyio and Atobatele (2017) engaged mixed research design to investigate the nexus between socioeconomic activities and Boko Haram insurgency in Adamawa state. The study administered questionnaire on 355 respondents drawn from IDP camps, students, businessmen and civil servants from a population of 3,168,111 using Yaro Yamane sampling technique and Spearman's Rank Correlation for data analysis. Result from study showed that insurgencies negatively impacted farming, fishing, husbandry and agro allied business,

affecting not only the living conditions of the people through hunger but most probably the Human Development Index in the long run.

Manpaa (2022) examined the nexus between Community Safety, Security, Arms Conflicts and Reintegration Challenges in Madagali Local Government Areas of Adamawa State, Nigeria. The study employed qualitative research design with combination of survey, observation and available documents. Study submitted that there is the emergence of new crimes such as kidnapping for ransom, abduction, drug abuse and trafficking, cattle rustling, rape and other forms of sexual and gender based violence in the community particularly Madagali. Study established that the insurgency menace has brought serious setbacks to the socio-political and economic development of the region. Study focused on Madagali local government area while this study is a State wide study of Adamawa to examine the nexus between insecurity and the economy of the State

### **Community Security and the Economy**

Audu and Maigari (2020) thematically investigated consequences of terrorism and insurgency in Adamawa State of Nigeria. The study engaged mixed study research design with sixty questionnaire administered and focus group discussion on purposefully chosen respondents in Michika, Mubi and Hong local government areas of Adamawa State. Findings from study revealed that incessant attacks on public places, schools, hospitals, businesses, bridges and other economic and social institutions, has further endangered community security and public safety. Study submitted that activities of insurgencies has grossly underdeveloped Adamawa. Study did not capture food insecurity consequences of insurgencies activities which this study captures.

Caballero-Anthony (2015) thematically investigated the extent to which community security, as one of the elements of human security, has been advanced through the security discourses and practices in the international arena of Association of Southeast Asian Nations. The study leveraged on secondary data from relevant literature and public archive document. Results that emanated from the study submitted that the massive gaps in human development, security and democracy hinder progress in promoting community security. The study was done using Association of Southeast Asian Nations hence the need for similar study to be done using Nigerian data particularly of Adamawa State.

Anyio and Atobatele (2017) deployed mixed research design to analyse the relationship between Boko Haram insurgency and socioeconomic activities in Adamawa state. The study engaged Yaro Yamane sampling technique on a sample size of 355 respondents drawn from IDP camps, students, businessmen and civil servants to elicit data analysed by Spearman's Rank Correlation. Findings from study indicated that insurgencies negatively impacted community security of several businesses, schooling, critical infrastructure

like the destruction of roads, bridges, communication gadgets, electricity cables, water supply; shutting out. Study did not consider the political economy of Adamawa State which this study does.

Anyio and Atobatele (2017) engaged mixed research design to investigate the nexus between socioeconomic activities and Boko Haram insurgency in Adamawa state. The study administered questionnaire on 355 respondents drawn from IDP camps, students, businessmen and civil servants from a population of 3,168,111 using Yaro Yamane sampling technique and Spearman's Rank Correlation for data analysis. Result from study showed that insurgencies negatively impacted several businesses, schooling, farming, fishing etc. were negatively affected, affecting not only the living conditions of the people through hunger but most probably the Human Development Index in the long run. Findings also revealed the Boko Haram insurgency also affected critical infrastructure like the destruction of roads, bridges, communication gadgets, electricity cables, water supply; shutting out. Study was done in 2017 hence the need to fill in the gap in period which this study considers

## **Theoretical Review**

### **Theory of Structural Functionalism**

The structural functionalism theory is associated with the works of Emile Durkheim (1917), Robert K. Merton (1968) and Talcott Parson (1979). The basic assumption of the theory sees the society as a living organism made up of components part, which functions harmoniously for the survival of the whole system. If any parts fails to contribute to identifiably useful function neither does it promote values consensus among members of the society – it will not be passed on from one generation to the next (Schaefer, 2002). When applying the theory to explain the social problem of kidnapping in Nigeria, and its implication on the socioeconomic development; structural functionalism assumes that, the economy which is part of the social system is not functioning well.

Concerningly, the dysfunction that occurs within the political system causes high level of poverty, unemployment, deprivation as well as marginalization. The result is visualized in the high crime rate of which kidnapping is at the fore front. The crime of kidnapping has been identified as profitable and functional to its perpetrators. The lucrative nature of kidnapping makes it very attractive. Kidnapping as observed in some parts of Nigeria, is identified as a functional measure of politicians to fight their opponents. The money collected as ransoms are means to destabilize the opponents and as well force them to back-out of the political race.

However the structural functionalism theory is criticized for not being capable of explaining change and also for addressing the issues of a system as “closed” concept (Charles et al., 2005). Despite these criticisms, the theory is justified for its ability to highlight on the functional aspect of crime in our society. Specifically, the

flaws and challenges occasioning malfunction in the said agencies as gleaned from the inability of the police to access call logs from GSM network providers, and the frequency in the transfer of investigating police officers affects the criminal justice system. Consequently, the court is unable to effectively determine the guilt or otherwise of suspected kidnappers.

Similarly, the malfunctioning in the prison system, for instance in terms of poor working conditions and inadequate facilities like functional operational vehicles, also causes a disequilibrium in the criminal justice system as the court is unable to proceed with criminal trials resulting in series of adjournments and eventual striking out of charges against suspected kidnappers. In applying this theory to explain the challenges confronting the administration of criminal justice in prosecuting terrorism, bandits and kidnap cases in Nigeria, functionalism assumes that the police, court and prison which are the agencies of the criminal justice system are in a state of disequilibrium hence the desired social order remains unattainable.

### **Methodology**

This study adopts exploratory research design; it examines the nexus between insecurity and the economy of Adamawa State. The study relies solely on secondary data. The research is conducted by examining literature concerning the insecurity, food insecurity, community insecurity, and terror cell groups of Boko Haram and Islamic State of West African Province. The literature was obtained through searches in publicly available material. Literature from non-serial publications, official reports, and conferences has been included particularly if they have been cited by other references.

### **Discussion of Findings**

The review of literature showed that food insecurity in Adamawa negatively affect the economy of Adamawa State. This could be seen as women who are deeply rooted in farming could be seen extensively dislodged and vulnerable to rape, abduction, sex slaves. This impacted on food productivity which dropped and such could be seen impacting on Human Development Index of the State. This findings align with the previous works of Abdul and Ismail, (2019); Anyio and Atobatele, (2017)

The result gotten from empirical literature submitted that community insecurity as aggravated by banditry and insurgencies adversely influence Adamawa State economy. This could be translated to mean that an unsecured community cannot accommodate investors, travelers, trade and commerce as security cannot be guaranteed. An unsecured community is equally disconnected from development index as nothing could be achieved in an unsecured community. This finding is consistent with the findings in the previous work of Audu and Maigari (2020); Caballero-Anthony (2015)

### 1.1.1 Conclusion and Recommendations

Based on the conclusions of this study, the following recommendations are made;

- i. This study therefore recommends that Nigeria should evolve a policy that protect farmers and agrarian people of Adamawa State from insecurity as such insecurity further constricts food security. The Agro ranger team of Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps should be made visible as visibility of law enforcement agent is also a deterrence to crime and criminalities.
- ii. That Community Policing should be officially factored into the security architecture of Adamawa State and Nigeria at Large in order to further secure the vulnerable communities. The need to take out security from the exclusive list so that both State and Local Government could partake in security provision cannot be over emphasised. While it is expected that the Northeast Regional Government will emulate the Amotekun Security Outfit as practice by their counterpart in the Southwest.

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### Compliance with ethical standards

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