POVERTY AND NATIONAL SECURITY: AN OVERVIEW OF NIGERIA'S FOURTH REPUBLIC

ADAMU MOHAMMED Ph.D.
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, FEDERAL UNIVERSITY GUSAU, ZAMFARA STATE,
mohdshiwidi@gmail.com

KEYWORDS
National Security, Security, Poverty, Nigeria

ABSTRACT
Nigeria is now facing significant internal security difficulties, such as the Niger Delta militancy in the South-South geopolitical zone that includes Bayelsa and Rivers, and the Boko Haram insurgency in the northeastern regions of Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa. Conflicts between farmers and Fulani herders, kidnappings, ethno-religious conflicts, political assassinations, and other incidents pose hazards nationwide. Amidst these perilous circumstances, there is an astounding quantity of individuals experiencing impoverishment, particularly inside the adolescent demographic. It is impossible to overstate the significance of poverty and all of its associated tendencies, dimensions, and points of view when considering national security. Thus, this essay examined the mutually beneficial link that exists in Nigeria between poverty and national security. According to the study, poverty is fundamentally a complex phenomenon caused by ineffective leadership and administration, a reliant and unproductive economy, and a lackluster use of Nigeria's own indigenous technologies. This paper, which employed the secondary method of data collection and analysis, posited that Nigeria's developmental processes which could have resulted in the eradication of poverty and the ensuing implications for national security were unpredictably and rapidly derailed, restricting the contested spaces and opportunities for growth in Nigeria's national security. Poverty and weaknesses in national security evolved to the point that the impoverished people took up weapons against the government as a manner of expressing their dissatisfaction, which has taken many forms, including the insurgencies by Boko Haram and the Niger Delta. The paper recommends among others for transformational leadership as a framework for a better Nigeria based on the trends and events previously mentioned about poverty and national security in Nigeria.

1.1 Introduction

Nigeria, sometimes referred to as the "giant of Africa" and having the largest economy on the continent, is not without its share of underlying issues that have created gaps in its security measures. The ongoing ethnic and religious conflict that arises from the near-unrest of minority communities driven by poverty is one of the most important of these issues. The nation's social and economic development has lagged behind the rapid increase in population during the past 20 years. Approximately 70% of Nigerians are estimated to be living below the poverty line, and the country's per capita income is still lower than it was in 1980. According to the United Nations Human Development Index, Nigeria is ranked 151st out of 174 nations (2000: 183 referenced in Mamman, 2008).

Low capacity utilization, a high rate of inflation, high unemployment, low per capita income, significant domestic debt, and a declining foreign reserve are statistical characteristics of Nigeria's economy (Kolawole, 2004: 4 quoted in Adeyerni, 2008).
Nigeria, the self-proclaimed superpower of Africa, has gone backwards after over fifty years of freedom. Nigeria would have been scrapped if it had been a car, and the scrap dealer would have most likely rejected the metal because to its imperfections. For a state with its resources, every performance metric has shown failure. Despite receiving hundreds of billions in oil cash, Nigeria has regressed since 1976, and the historical record is almost blank (Wilmot, 2007:20).

With the exception of highly industrialized and economically developed nations, poverty is a global problem that affects people everywhere. The whole population of such nations is in no way kept out of poverty by this. This kind of condition is thought to be one of the signs or symptoms of underdevelopment (Wilmot, 2007:8).
The impoverished are kept in a state of social disillusionment and incarceration by the relentless circle of poverty. Its expressions differ from person to person and from nation to nation. This is basically the reason poverty impacts a wide range of human circumstances, making it challenging to come up with a single, well accepted definition of it.

The peaceful coexistence of the people is essentially threatened or always endangered in a country where the majority of the population lives in extreme poverty and lacks access to basic essentials of life (food, clothes, and shelter). It will be the day of confrontations and violent protests. This is due to the fact that someone who is impoverished would not hesitate to violate the law in order to meet their fundamental necessities. Because the achievement of a nation's goals depends in part (if not entirely) on the degree of peace and tranquility throughout the whole society, it is crucial to remember that a nation's peaceful coexistence (security) is essential to its survival (Wilmot, 2007:8).

According to Aluko (1975), poverty is defined as "a lack of control over social phenomena like housing, work, and functional literacy as well as basic consumption needs like food and clothing." Due to a lack of resources to address fundamental requirements, society as a whole and individuals are unable to defend themselves against political, social, and economic injustices. Malnutrition, environmental degradation, infections, unemployment, and other poverty-related causes account for almost eight million deaths worldwide each year. Since 70% of Nigerians are below the poverty line, the country is susceptible to issues associated with poverty (Akeredolu, 2010).

In Nigeria, a number of events have been linked to poverty: the Austerity Measure in the early 1980s, the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) in the middle of the 1980s, the Minimum Wage Crisis in 1999 and 2000, the Ethno-religious Crisis, the high rate of inflation, armed robbery, and even prostitution.

The primary cause of all these issues is our insatiable urge to satiate our fundamental needs, which include food, clothes, housing, health care, and literacy. Therefore, it appears that engaging in various social vices is the only way to satisfy these fundamental requirements. The saying "a hungry man is an angry man" could readily be used to explain why people were reacting violently to one another or to government policies because they were not having enough resources to meet their fundamental necessities.

Nigeria's national security is under a multifaceted danger from several societal segments, akin to a doomsday plot. At the cost of grand strategy, the conventional approach dominates the Nigerian security landscape. Priority is given to the military and other defense and security institutions, with little regard for the extent to which poverty is viewed as a serious threat to national security. According to Mijah (1998), the majority of nations, particularly the industrialized ones, saw dangers to their national security primarily in the form of hostile international alliances, nuclear demands, and the balance of

weapons. However, since the conclusion of the Cold War, statesmen and foreign policy makers have paid more attention to domestic issues and national security concerns.

The absence of justice, equality, and the rule of law, institutional and widespread corruption in both public and private life, the cyclical nature of poverty, and the absence of fair and accountable governance are a few of these. This is the foundation upon which this article seeks to assess the impact of poverty on national security. The remaining portions of the study are organised as follows: section 2 reviews relevant literature; section 4 focuses on a few chosen Nigerian events; section 5 concludes.

2. Literature review

2.1 Conceptual Review

2.1.1 Poverty

Authors have highlighted the challenges in defining poverty mainly due to the fact that the researchers who defined poverty are typically not the impoverished themselves (Iyayi, 2002). For instance, the National Policy on Poverty Eradication, cited byLyayi(2002:5), defines poverty as a "dynamic process of socio-economic and political deprivation, which affects individuals, households, or communities resulting in lack of access to basic necessities of life".Engberg(2002:7) defines poverty as a state of "marginalization and exclusion" that has relational, structural, personal, and psychological components.Enberg (2002) further disputed that the definition of poverty includes a determination of fundamental human needs and is determined by the resources needed to sustain physical well-being.Poverty as defined by Alcock (1997) as "going short materially, socially, and emotionally." Above all, it means spending less on food, eating, and sleeping than someone with an average salary; poverty robs people of the resources to lay the foundation for their future opportunities in life.

World Bank (2000/01) states that "poverty is a marked deficiency in well-being (quoted in Ariyo& Jerome 2005:7)." An individual's income, health, diet, education, possessions, and housing status may all be used to gauge their level of well-being. Hunger, not being able to go to school and not knowing how to read, not being ill and not being able to visit a doctor, and not having a job are more definitions of poverty. According to Ravallion and Bidani (1994), poverty is the result of not being able to manage one's fundamental demands for consuming—that is, when one's level of consumption is insufficient to provide one with enough food, clothes, and shelter.

2.1.2 Security

Security is a broad notion that encompasses all human endeavors. For instance, Akpuru (1999), viewed security as a social system is the absence of threat or dread. Akinyele (2001) defines security as "the limiting of such harm, injury, and death inflicted by military means as well as avoidance of property destruction, death and casualties during a battle." According to Buzan (1991), security is the capacity of a state or society to preserve both its functional integrity and its autonomous identity.

The parameters given above are rather restrictive, only considering security from a traditional standpoint. According to the second meaning, security is related to more than only conflict. The devastation caused by non-military threats like starvation, poverty, and natural calamities is greater than that of military threats. Ebo contended that this limited the concept's breadth since "the traditional approach to security has had an overwhelmingly military bias." As a result, another viewpoint has emerged, the core of which is that "security is development, properly understood" (Ebo 1997:32).

Barney et al. (1991) suggest that a comprehensive understanding of national security should extend beyond military security and the traditional understanding of national defense, which is predicated on territorial defense. They maintained that "national security, properly understood includes not only military security against foreign invasion, but also food security, domestic order, educational security, old age security and national disaster security" (Barney et al., 1991, p. 129).

According to Onuaha (2007), scholars began to rethink security as the Cold War came to an end and new threats to people's survival as well as states appeared. They emphasised concepts like cooperative security, societal security, comprehensive security, collective security, and human security as fundamental ideas in the discourse on security. It is untrue that human security arose suddenly, even if the term "human security" has just acquired analytical relevance. Moreover, human security has not always been necessary. In contrast, the ontological and epistemological tenets that have underpinned traditional security and policy formation have neglected to recognise or include the riskiest aspect of security (Thomas 1999:5).

In this way, conventional security theory—which prioritises the maintenance of state power—marks a paradigm shift from the concept of security as derived from human security to one that sees individuals and their complex social and economic ties as the primary sources of reference. It is based on the notion that everyone's security ought to be the moral goal of all governments and their citizens, not just a shoddy or constrained national security that serves to protect the interests of the powerful class or the government (Nelles, 2003:1).

In its 1994 Human Development Report, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) introduced the concept of "human security" (UNDP 1994:22). In the study, two main aspects of human security are discussed: defending against sudden disruptions to daily routines in homes, businesses, or communities, and protecting against long-term threats such as hunger, disease, and persecution. Therefore, challenges to human security fell under the seven basic categories of security: economic, food, health, environmental, personal, communal, and political.
Thus, Thomas (1999:3) defines human security as a condition in which an individual may realise their basic material needs as well as their human dignity, which involves meaningful participation in community life.

According to Hubert (2001:62), national security is not superseded by human security. He claims that a human security viewpoint holds that state security is not an end in and of itself. Instead, it's a way to guarantee people's security. State security and human security are therefore complementary and mutually reinforcing.

Thus, human security as understood here means being free from threats to one's life, safety, and survival, both real and potential, which can come from one's own actions or inactions, as well as from natural disasters like floods, earthquakes, famines, droughts, diseases, and other man-made or unnatural events that cause death, suffering, and material loss. Human security is therefore a key component of national security. However, the focus on human security stems mainly from three fundamental beliefs: the value and sanctity of human life; the universality and dignity of human rights; and the existential necessity of personal safety in a world full of diverse threats.

Therefore, any danger that undermines or restricts a person's right to these three fundamental principles touches on human security, which inevitably touches on national security (Onuala 2007).

Consequently, the unavoidable minimal level of human security involves avoiding and reducing threats to people's rights, lives, and safety. Minimising risks, implementing preventative steps to lessen human vulnerabilities, and taking remedial action when preventive measures fail are only a few of the requirements for human security. Food security, economic security, and national security are further aspects of security. Alongside governmental security demands, people's security needs must be acknowledged (Nsirimovu 2005:184).

Therefore, security is no longer primarily the result of military might; rather, a growing number of individuals believe that security is supported by aspects of society that are socioeconomic, political, educational, scientific, and technical. According to Tedheke (1999), "alternative security doctrine" is predicated on the idea that, in order for security to be adequately in place, national security considerations must take into account factors other than military threats to security, but safety predicated on people's survival and well-being. Tedheke (1998) went on to say that security encompasses more than simply a citizen's well-being. To sustain sustainable development, it must involve enhancing the people's ability through education, training, and retraining.
The biggest danger to Nigeria's continued existence as a nation is our underdeveloped status. The ruling class in Nigeria has failed to educate Nigerians while they are in love with imperial forces due to their collaboration with imperialism. Notwithstanding any conditions associated with the aid, the majority of Nigerian officials believe that foreign expertise and technical support are helpful and, in certain situations, very essential.

2.2 Theoretical frame work

It is also possible to examine the effects of poverty on security from an empirical and theoretical perspective. A substantial corpus of research on the possible impact of poverty on national security has been produced over the past few decades (Collier &Hoeffler, 1998; Elbadawi, 1992; Stewart, 2002). One may argue that impoverished nations are more prone to experience war, and those afflicted by conflict often have lower growth rates and greater rates of poverty. Collier (1999) and Deininger (2003) show that a greater likelihood of conflict escalation was associated with communities' views of poverty in Uganda. According to Collier &Hoeffler (2001), putting health and education spending first may demonstrate a government's commitment to maintaining peace by keeping the populace happy.

Stated differently, a lessening in social tensions might potentially result from increased equitable possibilities for excluded groups to receive education. According to Justino (2004), public spending on social services and educational enrollment increases are therefore excellent ways to lower civil unrest since they have a direct impact on major social conflict drivers, particularly poverty. In theoretical terms, the Reference Group Theory and the Relative Deprivation Theory offer the most convincing frameworks for understanding the likelihood of violent conflicts in nations with greater levels of poverty. Davies (1962) established the Relative Deprivation Theory to explain violence, either individual or collective.

According to the idea, the primary cause of complaints and the catalyst for people to engage in conflict behavior is their relative sense of deprivation. Therefore, the concept of unfulfilled expectations is at the core of both individual and collective complaints. According to Ouit (1970), a person's level of discontent increases with the amount of deprivation they feel in comparison to their expectations. Civil unrest is also more likely to occur and be more severe when discontent among society's members is widespread and intense. Therefore, poverty has been a serious issue for Nigeria over the years, both in absolute and relative terms. Because of this, the poor have a great deal of resentment and complaints towards the political system, partly because the nation's leaders are unable to effectively manage national issues in a way that would enable everyone to live better lives (Umar, 2008). As a result, the populace is unhappy that the system cannot satisfy their desires for an affluent life. This is the reason for the increasing levels of violence and the establishment of potential for insecurity in the North Western States of Nigeria.

3 Methodology

The primary sources of data used in this work were conference papers, government gazettes, textbooks, journal articles, and the internet. For the purpose of examining poverty and national security and identifying any gaps, important policy and scholarly literature on youth involvement, exclusion, and security were evaluated.

4 Incidence of Poverty in Nigeria

As poverty and severe hunger have been publicly reported to be raging in Nigeria, the country's incapacity to feed its expanding population has been further highlighted. The bulk of Nigerians are impoverished, according to Uchechukwu (2006). Nigeria was listed as the 26th most impoverished nation in the 2002 UNDP ranking. In the assessment from that year, Okpe and Abu (2006) rated it 148th out of 173 nations whose living circumstances were evaluated, trailed only by Haiti and Madagascar. In the Human Development Index assessment conducted in 2003, Nigeria was ranked 154th out of 172 nations (Aluko, 2004). According to Kolawele (2006), Nigeria was placed 151st out of 177 nations in the UNDP's 2004 Human Development Index assessment, trailing only Madagascar.

Relative poverty affects 112.519 million Nigerians, a startling number according to Nigerian Insight (2014). Assuming a total population of 163 million, this amount represents 69% of the nation's population. Along with these, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) uses various measures to assess poverty. These include an absolute measure, a dollar per day measure, which places the rate at 61.2%, and a subjective measure, which places the rate at 93.9%. 5.4 percent was the 2004 poverty measurement rate, according to the study, which gives information on income inequality and poverty across the nation. According to Nigerian Insight (2014), it also demonstrates that income inequality increased, rising from 0.429 in 2004 to 0.447 in 2010. In 2010, the North-West and North-East regions of the nation had the greatest rates of poverty, with 77.7% and 76.3%, respectively. This is the report's main finding. The geopolitical zone to the west, however, had the lowest percentage, at 59.1%.

According to Nigerian Insight (2014), Sokoto had the highest poverty rate (86.4%) among the 36 states in the federation, while Niger had the lowest (43.6%). According to the Poverty Profile of 2010, between 2004 and 2010, poverty rates in Nigeria rose overall, with the greatest rates seen in the North-West and North-East geopolitical zones. Although extreme violence in these areas cannot be solely attributed to poverty, it is undoubtedly a component to take into account when attempting to overcome this security dilemma. Nigeria is in a state of (poverty) emergency, according to Soludo (2012), if high rates of poverty persist in the country despite a 7% yearly rise in income, which is primarily derived from the non-oil economy (particularly the agricultural sector). He brought up the South-East's increasing poverty profile as well, saying that it has "shown to be on a high-speed lane in the race to the bottom to catch up with the north."

4.1 Security Situation in Nigeria

Nigeria has had a concerning security situation ever since democracy was restored in 1999. Naturally, traditional crimes have always existed in

any community, particularly in the wake of a civil war. However, more recent experiences with violent extremism, insurgencies, and other types of militancy have added complexity to the picture. At the moment, Boko Haram's violent extremism and the violent militancy in the Niger Delta pose the greatest security dangers to Nigeria, falling under the category of dissatisfaction or separatist agenda (Dambazau, 2014). While the former uses religion as a platform and engages in activities like suicide bombing, coordinated attacks on military and law enforcement facilities, scaring rural communities, and so forth, the latter is resource-based and uses its domain's oil control as a platform, cognizant of the fact that approximately 90% of Nigeria's income is derived from that natural resource.

The terrorists in the Niger Delta employ improvised explosive devices (IEDs) to destroy oil platforms, abduct foreign oil workers, bomb oil facilities, and deface oil pipelines. The Niger Delta's violent militancy has, however, decreased since 2009, when the late President UmaruYar' Adua declared amnesty for the militants in exchange for them laying down their weapons. This has come at a high financial cost, though, as all registered ex-militants receive monthly allowances, have access to skills training, have lucrative contracts as a result of their patronage, and the Niger Delta Development Company was established. This was on top of the 13% of overall oil earnings distributed to the local communities in the area (Dambazau, 2014).

The federal government has made efforts to bring about peace in the Niger Delta, but the issue of insecurity in the area persists. The Movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta (MEND), a prominent group, planted twin car bombs in 2010 during the celebration of the country's 50th anniversary of independence in Abuja. The bombs injured 17 people and killed 12 people. Henry Okah, the group's leader, was found guilty of terrorism by a South African court (Dambazau, 2014). Indications suggest that the Niger Delta's militancy is not going away, as seen by the 2016 formation of Niger Delta Avengers, a new militant organisation that has vowed to target oil infrastructure. Additionally, cultist violence has been reported on several occasions, particularly in Rivers State. A number of high-ranking individuals and foreign oil workers, as well as members of their families, have been abducted for ransom and large-scale oil theft. Nigeria's political, social, and economic progress has surely been threatened by all of these security issues.

4.2 Poverty and National Security in Nigeria

It goes without saying that poverty and insecurity are related. This is due to the fact that poverty indirectly fuels resentment, hostility, and violence. This enigmatic idea is defined as the 'freedom for death, poverty, suffering, fear, or anything else makes people feel uneasy' (Ogota, 2001), even in the most basic description. On the other hand, it might be argued that chronic poverty will probably drive the bulk of oppressed people to look for relief elsewhere. As a result, a lot of them switch to using violence and other actions that endanger security. The high rate of poverty in Nigeria has had a significant impact on the country's security and, more broadly, on the maintenance of the nation's peace and unity.

Additionally, as poverty tends to restrict people's ability to access resources that will enhance their quality of life, its consequences on national security and development may be explained. This has led to a sustained decline in their economic activity. Along with other economic sectors, the impact is felt most acutely in the agriculture industry. The industry has been severely impacted by Nigerian farmers' lack of access to sufficient cash to invest in this area (to improve soils and increase yields), as well as their lack of current skills, contemporary technology, capacity building, creative techniques, and instruments.

There is a significant danger to food production and security in Nigeria given the country's rapid population expansion in proportion to its declining food output and economy. The strategies that have been advocated by those seeking political advantage to ensure food security and end hunger in Nigeria have remained theoretical. Nigeria's poverty has caused the nation to experience a series of political crises since 1966, which culminated in a civil war in 1967. Other political crises the country has faced include coup d'états, military dictators who are tightly gripping power, faulty elections, and so on. These events have been caused by the belief that nectar is only found on or around the crown.Most of the time is spent fighting (Civil War, stopping Niger-Delta Militants and Boko Haram terrorists' operations, etc.), the majority of the workforce is trained to use weapons, and very little money is utilised to buy weapons. Thus, women and the elderly are left to manage the weak economy. National development in Nigeria is unlikely to occur if the country is kept in a constant condition of poverty and instability.

4.2.1 Gbaramatu Killings

According to documents, the Military Joint Taskforce (JTF) began a significant attack against terrorists on May 15, 2009, against those residing in Gbaramatu Kingdom in Warri South West Council, Delta State. According to the information at hand, the JTF subdues the attackers by employing every tactic and technique known to conventional warfare. These included attacks from the air, land, and water. This massive military operation was justified as being required to allow the armed forces to drive insurgents from the Niger Delta out of the oil-rich region's creeks (This Day, June 7, 2009, p. 8). This source also bemoaned the fact that the military operation in Gbaramatu is thought to be the most catastrophic military assault in the area.

Three helicopter gunships, two warships, fourteen boats, and three thousand soldiers were among the military arsenal stationed for that assault (This Day, June 7, 2009). Human rights organizations said that hundreds of civilians had died and their homes and belongings had been damaged as a result of the strike. The Military Joint Task Force (JTF) said that after weeks of attacks on troops, hijackings of oil boats, and kidnappings of workers around Gbaramatu, which hindered oil production in the area, they could no longer remain silent as defenders of peace, law, and order. (This June 7, 2009, day).

A close examination of the aforementioned circumstances shows that the use of all available WMDs for this operation—air, sea, and land—was akin to declaring a full-scale war against the terrorists in Gbaramatu. According to this study, the Niger Delta people's fight is more of an insurrection against their long-term marginalization. Presumptive militant organizations are attempting to exert pressure on the current administration to take into account the situation of the Niger Delta's residents, who feel wronged by their marginalization and segregation, rather than engaging in a "breaking-away" war (insurrection) (This Day, June 7, 2009).
It is reasonable to question if these military actions or conflict resolution strategies have permanently fixed these issues. The response based on the information at hand is, predictably, negative. Indeed, whenever they had the chance, these acts have encouraged the terrorists to target government oil infrastructure and officials with ever-greater ferocity. It is crucial to remember that if using force were the appropriate course of action to resolve Nigeria's ongoing oil-related problem, it would act as a deterrent to future terrorist insurgencies in the Niger Delta and elsewhere. This tends to strongly reinforce the idea that military occupation and bombing are not the best solutions for managing domestic security.

4.2.2 Jos crisis (2008 and 2010)

Although there hasn't been a significant change from the 2001 crisis, the 2008 Jos Crisis still reflects the scope and intensity of the fight for control over political and therefore economic resources in a decadent and unproductive African state. An election disagreement in this crisis swiftly turned into an ethnic and religious conflict with serious ramifications for people's lives and property. It was the result of a protracted struggle between various ethnic groups and those classified as "indigenous" or "non-indigenous" local residents for control of governmental authority and economic dominance. Over time, both sides exploited appeals to religious sensibilities to inflame public mood and finally escalate the situation to the point where it could no longer be handled. "Non-indigenes" and "indigenes," Christians and Muslims, turned into both of these groups—perpetrators and victims" (Ezeoha, 2011).
The 2010 pogrom, which saw the warring sides massacre a large number of women and children in the villages of Rasat, Zot, Dogo Na Hauwa, and several other places, was the worst of all the atrocities. This horrific and intolerable bloodletting, carried out by cunning acts of retaliation, was so bad that it captured the attention of the whole world. The ownership of Jos has been the main source of contention (Okolie, 2009).
The ensuing impact of Nigerian society's ethnic division and the tensions arising from conflicts within and between various groups tends to erode and produce instability.

As has previously been said, the desire by these groups to claim what they believe is rightfully theirs in the grand scheme of things frequently serves as the catalyst for the growth in the frequency of ethnic conflicts in Nigeria. According to Nnoli (1980), the ethnic community also symbolizes the persistence of social and daily means of communication, as well as material and spiritual cultures, throughout the history of certain peoples. This feature, whose importance and influence should not be disregarded in the study of a society's development, is what enables class activities to be effectively clothed in ethnic attire.

Destructive confrontations have emerged in various regions of the nation as a consequence of some of this. Pogroms and all of their unpleasant consequences have resulted in the catastrophic consequences that are being felt right now. Ethnic militancy has been used as a weapon by some ethnic groups in Nigeria, resulting in the needless

deaths of members of other ethnic groups. To address actual or perceived marginalization, some organizations have resorted to the weapon of severe blackmail accompanied by threats of more severe action. If nothing else, these actions taken separately or in concert have the potential to deflect government attention from more worthwhile projects.

4.2.3 Boko haram Tragedy

Ten years earlier, Boko Haram is believed to have sprung from a detachment of these extreme Islamist youngsters who prayed in the Alhaji Muhammadu Ndimi Mosque in Maiduguri. They deemed the city and the Islamic establishment to be completely corrupt and beyond redemption in 2002. On Thursday, the organisation said that it was embarking on a hijra, a retreat that is akin to the Prophet Muhammad's trek from Mecca to Medina. With the goal of creating a separatist society ruled by rigid interpretations of Islam, it moved from Maiduguri to Kanama, a hamlet in Yobe state near the Niger border.

In an effort to create a more ideal society free from the corrupt system, the group's leader, Mohammed Ali, advocated anti-state ideology and urged other Muslims to join them in returning to a life governed by "true" Islamic law (Adagba, 2012). Numerous individuals within the Borno religious community believe that the organization had financial support from Salafist connections in Saudi Arabia after the head completed two hajj journeys during this period. Donations from affluent northern Nigerians were another potential source of money during this time. In 2006, the State Security Services detained a rich northern businessman on suspicion that he had transferred a group of minors to a Mauritanian al-Qaeda training camp.

The businessman claims that his contributions to the organization were an honest attempt to fulfill his duty as a rich Muslim to make charitable contributions, known as zakat (Booth, 1994). Strategically, the cult had mostly limited its terror campaign to the northeastern region of Nigeria until to the bombing of the Nigeria Police Headquarters in Abuja on June 16, 2011. The attack on the Police Headquarters was noteworthy because it occurred immediately after Hafiz Ringim, the Inspector-General of Police at the time, returned from a duty tour in Maiduguri, where the group had just carried out a terror campaign, and he had promised to smoke them out. Following that assault, the cult bombed the United Nations House in Abuja on August 26, a location Shekau indicated.

Numerous explosives that went off on Christmas Day in 2010 in two neighborhoods of Jos, Plateau state, near churches and a market killed a large number of people. It was believed at the time to be a vicious turn to the long-running ethno-political struggle there rather than an attack by Boko Haram. Then, on New Year's Eve 2010, a bomb went off in a well-liked outdoor fish market and restaurant located on the grounds of the Mogadishu barracks, eleven individuals were killed not far from Abuja. The market was very little guarded and is generally visited by civilians, despite being located relatively close to a military barracks (Buzan, 1991). According to reports, Boko Haram struck the national police headquarters in Abuja in June 2011. Following a procession of senior officials past the gates, a car loaded with several bombs forced its way inside the courtyard of Louis Edet House, a block of offices long believed to be safe in Abuja's government zone. The driver is said to have intended to park the vehicle close to the entry stairs as the senior officials entered, but guards led him around the rear of the building, where the device went off (Adagba, 2012).

The This Day newspaper office in Abuja and Kaduna, the Catholic Church at Bayero University Kano, and a livestock market in Yobe have all seen devastating bomb and rifle assaults in recent times. In every onslaught, many were slain. There are too many Boko Haram assaults to list, especially in light of the two most recent strikes in Nyanya Abuja, the attack in Kano Sallah, and the simultaneous attacks in Kaduna by General Buhari and Sheik DahiruBauchi.

4.2.4 Banditry/ Kidnapping

In Nigeria, the issue of banditry is in recent years tends to be a major internal security challenge particularly in the Northern parts of the country. In Zamfara State, banditry has been a menace which has, and still continues to haunt many communities in the state un-abated. The vicious circle of kidnapping, cattle rustling, and arbitrary killing of people by the bandits have been of immense concerned from 2011 to date. The activities of these bandits have to some extent paralyzed the daily routines of the affected communities and by extension the whole State.

Due to forced migration in search of safety, the banditry rate in Zamfara State has resulted in a high rate of fatalities, injuries, and population displacement. The haphazard and disorganised movements have an impact on their social, political, psychological, and financial well-being. The majority of the villagers' religious, political, social, and economic activities were all impacted by these

horrible acts committed by the bandits. People no longer engaged in large-scale agricultural or pastoral activities.

In an effort to enhance national security and socioeconomic advancement, the Nigerian government has taken on the problem of armed banditry in Zamfara State since 2011. For Nigeria as a whole and Zamfara State in particular, this threat has presented significant security issues. The impacted communities in Zamfara State saw detrimental effects on their socio-economic, political, cultural, and psychological domains as a result of this illicit company. This is a result of the numerous deaths and forced emigrations from their homes to safer locales where they hoped to find protection.

The most disturbing trends in spite of the various governments' strategies, and interventions to curb this menace, is that the phenomenon appears ceaseless and attempts at managing the problem through some policy responses are yet to yield desired outcome. The state has introduced policies on Land Use Act with the view to ending farmers-herders crises from which sprouted banditry. Also, Forest Preservation Laws were enacted for the continued preservation of fertile land for cultivations and fodder for animal feeds. In the same vein, there are other intervention measures like the involvement of traditional rulers, religious clerics, community sensitization, engagements of military, police, and paramilitary security outfits. These and other measures were introduced since 2011 to 2019, but they apparently could not end the problem as it still persists in different parts of the state. As it can be observed, banditry still constitutes a major threat to the livelihood of herders who depend largely on animal rearing for survival and the farmers for crop productions. Moreover, the potential of these to create food and animal shortage in all manifestation became a major worry and concern to all affected communities and more fundamentally the Zamfara State Government, the Federal Government and other critical stake-holders in the society. There is also great fear and uncertainty regarding the potential for spread of the bandit activities to other part of the country. All these and other reasons prompted the State to respond to the phenomena through many measures some of these were jointly pursued by Federal and State Governments while some seek the involvement of the critical stake-holders like the religious leaders, traditional rulers, some community-based organizations, and the media. Despite all these, however, it still remains a recurring and therefore disturbing issues against which there is the need to assess the effectiveness of the measures between 2011- 2019 in Zamfara State. Despite these efforts, banditry remains a disturbing threat to security.

5 Conclusion and Recommendations

Nigeria is undoubtedly going through a difficult time marked by extreme poverty and instability, all of which have an impact on national security. The prevalence of criminal activity and insurgencies is high and pervasive, which makes it challenging to recognise the efforts of succeeding governments to safeguard people's lives and property and enhance their quality of life. This may be attributed in large part to governments' abject attempts to combat poverty, which blatantly push individuals to turn to violent agitation as a way to deal with their situation. Thus, the vast population of impoverished individuals in Nigeria represents one of the biggest risks to the country's security.

In Nigeria, therefore, national progress can only be realised via the fight against poverty and instability. The idea of stable national development and lasting prosperity in Nigeria would remain a pipe dream if poverty and insecurity are permitted to rule over communities." behind "a free society cannot save the few who are rich, if it is unable to aid the many who are poor," this is the reason behind this.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this paper, the following recommendations are made:

i. The government of Nigeria must reorganise and reform policies in order to permanently reduce poverty by providing efficient basic infrastructure and services, given the country's rising rate of poverty and related security issues. The poor should be able to afford the expense of them, rather than just having them given.

ii. Additionally, there is a need for increased investment in human development since research indicates that this type of spending boosts productivity among the impoverished and reduces the state's susceptibility to security breaches. This is particularly true of planned education, housing, and social services. In addition, the government must deal with the growing socioeconomic inequality that is contributing to the growing number of impoverished individuals in the population.

iii. Poverty reduction and development strategies need to be implemented with patriotism, with a strategic geographic vision and adequate articulation. Decentralising the policy-making process for matters related to poverty and national security is crucial if a national security ideology is to gain broader acceptance at this point. Opportunities for more community engagement in the creation of security and poverty programmes would arise from decolonizing the policy-making process. Together, these measures will enhance the assessment of contentious regions and prospects for the advancement of Nigeria's domestic security.

References

Abba. A. (1995). The Nigeria Economic Crises and Solutions ASUP. ABU Zaria.

Akeredolu, V.O. (2010). FIRS Jobs: Only 2% of Applicants make final list. Economic confidential, September, 2010, 4-45.

Aluko, S. (1975). Poverty: its remedies, in poverty in Nigeria. The Nigerian economic society, Ibadan.

Amartya, S. A. (1987). Poverty andfame: An Essay on Entitlement and Deprivation. London.

Claredon Press. Akintola, 1. O. &Yusuff, J. M. (2001). Socio Economic Analysis of Poverty Levels among Rural Dwellers in Kwara State, Nigeria. International Journal of Environment and Development, 5(2) 42-48.

Collier, P. &Hoeffler, A. (1998). " On the Economic Consequences of Civil

Conable; Barter B: (2002) World Development Report 1990 - 2000, World bank/Oxford University Press, P.6

Davies, J. (1962). Towards Theory of Revolution. American Sociological Review. 27, 5-19. Deininger, K. (2003). 'Causes and Consequences of Civil Strife: Micro-Level Evidence from Uganda' Oxford Economic, 55, 579-606

Elbadawi, I. A. (1992). Civil Wars and Poverty: The Role of External Interventions, Political Rights and Economic Growth. The World Bank, Washington DC Encyclopedia Americana: 100th Anniversary Library Edition, Vol. 22 Danbury, Connecticut: Golier Inc.
Federal Office of Statistic Nigeria (1997) Poverty Profile for Nigeria Green Issues Becoming Driving Force in USA's Foreign Policy Christian Science Monitor, 88, 1-18.

Kolawole, O.D. (2006). Nigeria Poor Majority: Issues and Challenges in the 21st Century. Journal of Social Sciences, 1(1), 1-20.

Kpakol, Prof. Majons (2004) Press briefing on the activities of National Poverty Eradication Programme in Nigeria, 2, 14-21.

Lawal, J. (1996). Wealth Creation and National Development: An Overview. Journal of College of Social and Management Science, 1(1),36-47.

Mijah, B.E. (1998). ''Sustainable development, Security and the physical environment in Nigeria''. Journal of the faculty of art and social sciences, Nigerian defence academy, 1, 35-53.

Moses, U.T (2009). Security Challenges Affecting Democracy in Nigeria: An alternative view. Journal of center for development and research advocacy. 4th floor. HamzaZayyad house, MuhammaduBuhari Way, Kaduna, Nigeria.

Okpe, I.J. & Abu, G.A. (2006). Foreign Private Investment and Poverty Reduction in Nigeria (19732003). Research Journal of Social Sciences, 1(1), 68-70.

Soludo, C.C. (2012). ''Breaking the Dynasties of Poverty in Nigeria''. This day Newspaper. November 26.

Soyinka, W. (2007), Interventions of Power. Book Craft Publishers Lagos. UNDP (2000). Human development index.

Uchechukwu, N.O. (2008). Nigerian Youth Unemployment and Poverty. Implications for National Development. A Paper Presented at International Conference Organized by Centre for Democratic Research Training, Mambayya House, Bayaro University Kano. 5th-6th August.

Watt, P. (2000) Social Investment and Economic Growth; Strategy to Eradicate PovertyOxford: Oxfam.

Wilmot, P. (2005): Seeing Double, Book Craft Publishers Ibadan.