THE IMPLICATIONS OF TERRORISM ON FOOD PRICES IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT
Nigeria as a nation has been overshadowed by terrorism since 2009 in Borno state where it started as a fight against western education until it aggravated to the destruction of lives and properties in several towns and cities of the country. Farmers are not left out in this mayhem as some were killed and injured on their farms, thus creating a scenario where people are afraid to go to their farms for fear of being maimed and killed. This whole development has led to a decline in food production which has further resulted in the sharp rise in the prices of food which has made lives difficult for the common man. In view of these occurrences , this paper examines the implications of terrorism on the recent prices of food and our empirical results shows that terrorism has a negative effect on the prices of food in the country .The study adopted the descriptive analysis of secondary data to examine the effects of terrorism on food prices in the nation .The study will examine the topic in detail and based on this ,the following policy recommendations will be put forward which includes government providing securities for farmers by using the non-biased military to silent the insurgents, adopt a registration data of herders with government which will capture all operating herders in Nigerian states for easy tracking of any misbehavior, provide employment for our jobless youths who had become instruments in the hands of terrorist promoters, and above all, Nigerian government should adopt State police for a better protection of our rural areas and communities.

introduction

In the past few years, food prices have risen unexpectedly since the time President Buhari's administration where he closed the borders of the nation in the year 2017 in order to reduce the smuggling of foreign food into the country like rice, milk etc {Campbell 2019}. Food prices are not the same as it varies based on the quality of the agricultural produce. The aim of the previous administration was to encourage the indigenous farmers to produce local crops that will sustain the populace. Why because we eat to repair our damaged worn out tissues, replace our worn out blood cells, prevent foreign diseases from entering our bodies and grow tall. This is because no man can

survive without food. The plan of the government failed because terrorists prevented our local farmers from producing enough food for the citizens. This led to food scarcity which later boomeranged to increase in the prices of agricultural products. Agriculture is one of the mainstays of an economy because it is used to measure the economic growth of a nation, prevents famine in the land and reduces poverty in families. Farmers are of two categories which are subsistent farmers and commercial farmers. Subsistent farmers cannot farm more than two hectares of land while Commercial farmers farm more than twenty hectares of land but it is a pity that most farmers in Nigeria are mostly subsistent farmers which is as a result of terrorism that is ravaging the country especially the northern part. This has slowed down the rate of economic growth in the nation because the transformation of agriculture has been hindered due to the activities of the insurgents

Bandits and Fulani herdsmen now made things worse by maiming, killing and attacking farmers on their farms, taking away their stored grains in their farmhouses, and as well kidnapped people on their farmlands and as a result of this, they do not go to their farms anymore and those that risked going to their farms usually sell their farm produce at high prices{ Odeniyi 2024}and this resulted to people not being able to feed well due to high cost of living thus resulting to the increased number of malnourished children/people in several families in the country Nigeria . Nigeria is the second largest economy in the country with nothing to show for it due to high food prices which was caused by the destructive activities of the insurgents. Some of who even waylaid trucks that transport farm commodities to various parts of the country {Atuma 2024}

Terrorism has eaten deep into the Nigerian economy despite efforts of the government to curb the trend. It is already an issue of global concern and it even got worse when the United States Department of state listed Nigeria as a terrorist nation. What made Nigeria's terrorist entirely different is that they always have the insatiable greed to control territories. Boko haram is an example of such before they subdivided into other groups like ISWAP etc. It started in the late 2000's when the pioneer leader of Boko Haram was arrested and murdered by the security forces with the thought that terrorism will end at that stage only for it to escalate to the situation we are in today. The consequencies are that many schools have been burnt down, students kidnapped church goers and Muslim faithfuls gunned down like giraffes and this is where this study comes in to examine the implications of this monster on food prices, concluding and providing relevant recommendations to stop this menace so that this nation will not end up as a pariah nation.

Statement of the Problem

Despite the fact that this country is blessed with several resources that can sustain the natioin for thousands of years to come yet the issue of terrorism has been lingering for years without any meaningful solution to stop the menace .The terrorists started their nefarious activities in 2009 in the north east before they gradually spread towards the other parts of the country .Terrorists later metamorphosed to Fulani herdsmen and banditry where they massacred several people on the streets and in their farms .This made several people to abandon their farms thereby making the prices of food to skyrocket to abysmal level for example a rubber paint of cassava flakes suddenly jumped from N1500 to N3500,people that were purchasing the rubber paint now started buying in tin cups

Agriculture which was the mainstay of the economy was the main source of food and income for several families but the onslaught of terrorists has put the whole scenario on a downward trend. Despite the efforts of government in providing a lot of security to tame those dogs, the whole situation continues to aggravate as several families in the nation cannot afford three square meals. If these issues of terrorism are not addressed, it may take a lot of decades before the country will recover.

Literature Review

This section reviewed concepts, theories and empirical studies which are relevant to this study

Conceptual Review

Concept of Terrorism

The word terrorism originated in France during the reign of terror as far back as eighteenth century, it resulted to the French Revolution which descended into madness where those that spearheaded the revolt executed the public officers by guillotine. Robespierre justified the revolution saying that terror is the same as justice where people have the right to free themselves from oppression .Terrorism tactics started emanating in the nineteenth century where several extremists developed several strategies to eliminate the

Russian Czar which prompted the authorities to nip the case in the bud not until the twentieth century when the Islamic extremist now introduced suicide bombing as a form of terrorism ,this changed the world order right away. Subsequently many anarchist groups all over the world now started using the tactics of terrorism to weaken their governments ,while some succeeded others failed and were publicly executed .Terrorism is now an international phenomenon because they operate in several countries where they recruit new members ,train them to eliminate their targets unexpectedly{Bruce 2021}.Many nations have agreed to find means of eliminating the group but their efforts are proving abortive .Terrorism have existed for several decades with international agencies killing their members but this have not stopped their resolve in harming humanity .Terrorism has no standard definition and some people confuse terrorism with extremism but they are not the same because not all extremist groups are involved in violent acts while terrorists groups are synonymous with violence. Terrorism is a threat that is designed to influence the government to follow their bidding or frighten the public to their submission .The reasons for this is to advance a political , religious or ideological cause in order to achieve their aim .Terrorism have put a lot of lives in danger and killing them in the process{Fadare O et al 2022} ,they have caused a lot of damage on lives and properties across the world ,they pose a lot of health risk to the people and society at large because majority of them usually look unkempt and dirty and they usually disrupt all forms of communication networks in the places where they are located. The United states government also defined terrorism as a premeditated violence done against an unarmed group by some hidden agents to influence an audience{Okafor & Chikalipah 2021} .The above definition summarized terrorism as an unlawful act which poses a serious danger to humanity .Terrorist attacks all over the world are always focused and indiscriminate as they can study their targets for months before the final attacks .Their attacks are always in form of victimization which is different from criminal victimization because their own has a political undertone in order to send signals to the government while the criminal aspect is as a result of contravening the laws of the land.

Forms of Terrorism

Terrorism are of different types and that is why it is important to emphasize on the diverse dimensions of terrorism which is as a result of many factors hence there are diverse forms of terrorism among which are:

i. **New terrorism** which involves attacks on a large number of victims. The perpetrators make use of jets, passenger ships or a big public vehicle to achieve their aims. They plan the act for several months and perfect it with a hundred percent accuracy before putting it to practice. They do not consider religious and political affiliation when they carry out the deadly attacks as they murder all at once. An example is the world trade center terrorist attack in New York several years ago.

ii. **State terrorism** which is always in form of witch-hunting by the government against its perceived enemies. They use anti-graft agencies to arrest their victims especially if they are members of the opposition party to the government in power. This act is committed by several governments all over the world take Russia for example, almost all their activists fled the country because of the fear of their dictator president Vladmir Putin who might arrest and imprison them for years.

iii. **Dissident terrorism** which is committed by non-government groups against the government, this involves the agitation for independence from the colonial masters if the groups discover that their neighboring nations have gotten their independence, the result is protest, riots, burning of private and government properties to press home their demands for independence. The ruling government sees their actions as terrorist act and either arrest and imprison them or accede to their request if there is an external pressure from foreign bodies especially the United Nations. Hatred of a particular religion can cause dissident terrorism especially the Christians which have been facing persecutions for many centuries because of their belief in Jesus.

iv. **Religious terrorism** is carried out by fanatics in defense of their faith, they instigate violence against people of other religions over some perceived offence. They end up looting, killing, maiming and destroying properties that costs millions of naira. Many African countries including Nigeria have experienced lots of religious violence.

v. **Ideological terrorism** occurs between two groups that opposes each other's views due to their different backgrounds and aims that formed the background tenets of the warring parties, those opposing views can be theoretical or philosophical views. They end up

having several clashes which usually ends up in bloodshed and destruction of properties.

vi. **International terrorism** is a type of terrorism that stated from the national level to international level. Targets are always hit if they oppose their views, they do this to teach them a lesson. Religious terrorism was limited to the middle east before it became an international monster which made many nations to acquire billion dollar weapons to ward off terrorist attacks.

vii. **Criminal Dissident terrorism** happens when some government and political officials fund evil perpetrators or cult groups to gain recognition or make profits. Some politicians hire several criminals to eliminate their opponents in order to win an elected office and dump those urchins thereafter, those guys will now use the weapons they acquired during elections to forment violence.

viii. **Gender Selective terrorism** is a form of terrorism which is directed at a particular gender because of the hatred of that gender, it can be male or female gender. Men are always attacked during the period of war so as to eliminate the male soldiers of that clan while the female gender are always targeted as captives during the war during which the soldiers share the female captives among themselves.

Concept of Food Prices

Food prices is a serious matter to producers and consumers because the producers set the price of their products for the consumers to buy. High food prices scares away consumers which reduces demand while affordable food prices attract consumers which increases demand. Prices of food strikes a balance between agricultural produce and market demand in the sense that prices of food go up when the supply of farm produce is reducing while prices of farm produce goes down when the supply increases which have a significant impact on consumers if they can afford the produce or not {Hannah Ritchie et al 2022}. However, food prices express the rate of increase or decrease of prices of any given food stuff utilized by man.

A large percentage of the population in developing and underdeveloped countries are involved in agriculture as their primary source of production which makes farmers to gain at high prices of food and the consumers groan over high prices of food especially in Nigeria {Balogun & Madau 2023}. This makes some of the products to get rotten since the public cannot afford to buy them because they are expensive thus making food prices to be of critical concern worldwide.

Besides, there are some factors which influences the cost of food which includes high cost of transportation due to increase in the price of petrol and diesel have a negative impact on food prices as these vehicles travel long distances to deliver these goods .Maintenance of vehicles and the wages of truck drivers will also add up to the cost of transportation which will surely affect food prices .The cost of raw materials is another factor because the higher the cost of raw material ,the higher the prices of food. Fuel, seeds, oil, flour, sugar, salt etc are essential ingredients in manufacturing spaghetti and macaroni therefore their price value will reflect in the price tag of macaroni and spaghetti. Labor cost is the third factor in the sense that if the farmers and workers are not paid well, the final edible commodity they process will be of low quality which may scare away consumers no matter the price but if they are given enough incentives, they will be motivated to produce a quality food product which will attract buyers irrespective of the food price {Kafando & Sukurai 2024}. The last factor is the investments in technology. Acquiring computerized farm equipment makes food processing to be easier and faster as the producer will be able to achieve his or her specific targets in food production but the consumers will bear the cost of acquiring those machines that were imported from abroad as the food product will be quite expensive.

Impact of Food Prices on the Nigerian Economy

Nigeria is an importer of food yet the nation is still undergoing a period of high food prices, this is because of the food the farmers are producing are not meeting the demands of the people. High food prices will reduce the volume of money in circulation because people will spend more money in purchasing food items rather than investing the money in other projects {George J et al 2020}, this later affects the Gross Domestic Product of the country because the high consumption of food is not included in it. Besides high food prices make several families to be poorer because they cannot afford to buy the expensive food items which reduces their standard of living and worsen their health conditions thereby causing several deaths of people, they may not be able to contribute to the nation's Gross Domestic Product {GDP}.

Implications of Terrorism on Food Prices in Nigeria

Some states in Nigeria were known for large expanse of farmlands that covered three of four local governments in Nigeria thereby making the northern Nigeria a large production food belt before the terrorist onslaught went on a high gear as many farmers and their families were injured and killed {Oyewole & Utibe 2024}, this made several farmers to abandon their farms for fear of being killed. This reduced food productivity from 80% to 40% thereby increasing food prices in order to cope with its scarcity.

Furthermore, the high level of insecurity led to forced migration farmers to the southern parts of the country for their safety {Tranchant J.P et al 2020}, some of their farm produce got rotten and the ones some people could retrieve were sold at high prices to the public therefore in a nut-shell, food scarcity as a result of the damage caused by terrorists led to increase in food prices.

Theoretical Review

Terrorism has many theories which include

1. **Instrumental theory** which says that terrorism is a deliberate act and it is done by a political actor. The organization as a unit always acts to achieve some collective values which will always involve some radical changes in the social and political obligations. Terrorism is seen as an answer to an external force which has a government backing in it. Some parts of government reward those terrorists that is why they are motivated to increase their rate of violence.

2. **Organizational theory** which examines the terrorists struggle for survival as an organization in a competitive environment where they are closely monitored by their enemies especially those that successfully eliminated many of their high profile targets. They follow the tenets of an organization in offering rewards to their faithful terrorist members. They also try to prevent a break-away of some of their members to ensure loyalty so as not to expose the secrets of the terrorist organization.

Emperical Review

Ojogbo and Egware {2015} looked at the effects of those terrorists on agricultural produce in the nation and adopted the time series data that covered the period of 1960 to 2011 which used some variables like infant mortality rate, agricultural portion of the GDP and the level of agricultural transformation which serves as agents for agricultural positive change .They discovered that agricultural transformation will be the best option since all the long run elements have a long run equilibrium relationship therefore terrorism has a negative impact on agriculture thereby changing the level of food production which also affects food prices.

Adebisi & Okotie {2017}carried out a study on the activities of those insurgents in the agricultural sector of the Nigerian economy .Time series data analysis was adopted by them ,they also use descriptive statistics and t-teats to analyse the time series data .They discovered that agricultural prosperity was at the highest peak before those insurgents struck .They recommended that the government should take a drastic action against the insurgents so that agricultural losses will come to an end and farmers will be motivated with rewards when they are back to their farms.

Chuku et.al {2019} adopted the Auto Regressive Distributed Lag Model {ARDL} and the Structural Vector Auto-regressive {SVAR} Technique to analyze the growth and fiscal effects of terrorism in Nigeria using different measures of incidences of terror, money spent by government and economic activity. The empirical results indicated that terrorism led to the government spending more money to tackle terrorism than spending on private investment which has a negative effect on economic growth.

Research Methodology

This research methodology analyzes secondary data which was gotten from a reliable source to examine how terrorism has affected things generally in Nigeria. It showed the effects of terrorism in Nigeria for twelve years which is from 2012 to 2023.

Data Analysis

Nigeria terrorism index declined to 7.575 points in year 2023 from 8.065 points in the year 2022.Terrorism index in Nigeria averaged 7.07 points from 2012 to 2023 reaching a high level of 9.12 points in 2015 and a low level of records of 3.86 points in 2002 . The data below shows the terrorism index in Nigeria for twelve years

Year	Terrorism index
2012	8.103
2013	8.342
2014	8.927
2015	9.118
2016	8.761
2017	8.645
2018	8.482
2019	8.38
2020	8.421
2021	8.233
2022	8.065
2023	7.575

Source: Institute of economics and peace

From the graphical analysis, terrorism had a high impact on general Nigerian economy from 2012 to 2015 because of the negligence on the part of the government in tackling insurgency squarely. In addition, 2015 had the highest impact of 9.118, because it was an electioneering period, thus the insurgents adopted diverse modalities to kidnap, maim and kill their victims vis-à-vis their political enemies, all to actualize their objective of Islamizing the nation and gradually eliminate western education.

From 2016 to 2023, there was a slight decrease in the impact of terrorism on the country, why, because the government went into dialoging with the terrorists, granting amnesty to so called repentant ones as well as good rehabilitation and free education.

From the above analysis, terrorists' activities have declined more than before.

It is good to note that global terrorism index measures the direct and indirect effects of terrorism, inclusive of its effect on loss of lives, injuries, damage to properties and the after effects. It is a composite score that ranks countries in accordance to the impact of terrorism from 0{no impact} to 10{highest impact}

Conclusion and Recommendations

Terrorism is a global menace which has affected the whole world hence many foreign governments have set-up measures to reduce its menace, therefore the Nigeria government should take a clue on that and find ways of tackling the monster.

First of all, the government should invest more money and resources to tackle those insurgents by encouraging state police which will reduce the work of the federal police in neutralizing those bandits, that is to say they will be able to grant a better protection of rural areas and communities.

Secondly, the governing body should sensitize the locals by telling them that any terrorist kingpin caught by the locals will be heavily rewarded financially, this will serve as a motivation for the people of that village to nab terrorists.

Thirdly the authorities should provide jobs for the people especially the youths so that no one will be able to use a meagre amount of money to lure them into terrorism.

In addition, Government should ensure by providing securities for farmers by using non biased military officers who will safeguard the lives of farmers and silence the activities of the insurgents.

Furthermore, the government should endeavour to have a registration data of herders which will capture all the population of operating herders in the Nigerian states for easy tracking down of any misbehavior of the herders.

Finally, if these things can be put into consideration, terrorism will be brought to the nearest minimum, farmers will go back to their farms and food prices will come down to the benefit of the people and the nation at large.

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