



JOURNAL OF PHILOSOPHY AND CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Volume 1, Number 2 (September 2025)

ISSN: 1595-9457 (online); 3093-060X (print)

Website: <https://jppssuniuyo.com/jpci> Email: jppssuniuyo@gmail.com

Received: August 05, 2025 Accepted: September 29, 2025 Published: September 30, 2025

Citation: Farinola, A. A.; Alimba, Chinyere N. & Awodoyin, Francis O. (2025). "Exploring the Nature and Dynamics of Insecurity in Borno State, Nigeria." *Journal of Philosophy and Contemporary Issues*, 1 (2): 98-111.

Article

Open Access

EXPLORING THE NATURE AND DYNAMICS OF INSECURITY IN BORNO STATE, NIGERIA

A. Adeniyi Farinola¹, Chinyere N. Alimba² & Francis O. Awodoyin³

Center for Peace and Security Studies, Modibbo Adama University, Yola, Nigeria^{1, 2, & 3}

Corresponding Email: cnalimba@mau.edu.ng²

Abstract

Insecurity has become a critical challenge to the achievement of peace, stability, and development in Borno State, Nigeria. With its protracted nature, based on the manifestations of the activities of Boko Haram, herdsmen militancy and banditry, insecurity triggered devastating havocs in the state. Thus, the nature and dynamics of insecurity were explored to bring to limelight its nature, factors driving it and measures adopted to address it. Drawing from primary data collected through a structured questionnaire, the study uncovered that trans-border criminal activities, Boko Haram insurgency, armed criminality gangs; electoral violence, and excessive availability of small arms were the causes of insecurity manifesting in the state. The major driving forces remain illiteracy; poverty; unemployment; corruption; increasing numbers of out-of-school children and bad governance. These forces overlapped to create a complex web of insecurity, consequentially bringing about the displacement of communities, humanitarian crises and breakdown of laws and orders, with adverse impact on social cohesion in the state. It was revealed further that the problem also generated development challenges that destabilised education, livelihoods, and the deaths of people. The study therefore recommended that provisions should be evolved that will create a pathway for the creation of robust security reforms, provision of social amenities, socio-economic empowerment and developing community resilience to enhance cooperation in order to address the root causes and evolving dynamics of insecurity in Borno State.

Keywords: Insecurity, Borno State, Boko Haram, Herdsmen, Insurgency, Armed Criminality.

Introduction

Insecurity is one of the most persistent challenges manifesting around the world. It has become a global phenomenon playing out in different shapes with devastating outcomes across societies in many continents. According to the United Nations (2018), political and

social polarization built on economic disparities and populism, competition for natural resources and environmental degradation, fragmented non-state armed actors and the absence of political solutions to evolving conflicts, form the basis for insecurity. Therefore, societies are experiencing situations in which armed conflicts are evolving into act of terrorism triggering economic, political, social and environmental instabilities. Insecurity has turn out to become significant threats to the harmony, peace and sustainable development worldwide. The Global Terrorism Index (2017) reported that “since 2002, eight out of the nine regions of the world have experienced an increased level of insecurity, which was largely caused by terrorism. North America was the only region to experience a reduced impact. That is, 88.9% of the world has experienced an increase in terrorism with respect to the world regions”. As a result of the pressure of insecurity, nowhere in the world is completely secure, due to the activities of terrorists, criminal gangs, insurgents, armed bandits and herdsmen militants. This is a reflection that the spate of insecurity is seriously halting nations to the extent that their social, economic, political, health and security sectors have been compromised, operating below expectations. The impacts of insecurity varies from one country to another, depending on the nature of measures put in place to counter its dominance. In spite of the provisions initiated by countries to contain it, its toll keep spreading largely with devastating consequences in many countries of the world. Africa is not immune from the antecedents of insecurity, owing to the patterns of governance system operating in the continent. According to Collier (2015), Africa is currently facing two entirely distinct dimensions of insecurity, one is from the rise of radical extremism, the other is from increased natural resource extraction. Armed violence has been a defining element in the analysis of postcolonial era in Africa. The changing dynamics of insecurity has become more complex, as the numbers of violent actors have increased in the continent. The number of rebels and extremist groups is exponential as they tend to fracture into additional groups, thereby increasing the level of insecurity. Alda and Sala (2015) stated that the link between transnational organised crime and terrorism is also growing and the allegiances between Africa’s domestic violent radicals and those in the Middle East have shifted from al-Qaeda to Islamic State. This development has further strengthened the terrorist groups operating in the continent.

Terrorist groups in Africa seem to have easy access to supports and logistics from their allies outside the continent. The connection is grossly reflected in the nature of weapons they use to conduct their attacks. This has made their operations in Africa to be more sophisticated and devastating in nature. Amnesty International (2019) reported that protracted conflicts in the Central African Republic (CAR), Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Sudan and South Sudan have continued to simmer, with indiscriminate attacks on the civilian population. Also, in countries like Cameroon, Mali, Nigeria and Somalia, armed groups are committing serial abuses, including killings and abductions, which caused mass displacements. As a result of the intensities of insecurity manifesting in these countries, there has been excessive violation of human rights and livelihoods destruction. Shirley (2015) reported that many violent conflicts have intensified in Africa; with five countries in sub-Saharan Africa: the Central African Republic (CAR), Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan accounted for an estimated 75% of all conflict-related deaths on the continent. In Nigeria, the attacks of Boko Haram insurgents coupled with that of herdsmen militants and bandits have increased the spate of insecurity, which has affected economic activities, especially in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States. Mohammed (2014) stated that Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States, which are the epicentre of the activities of Boko Haram sect have

witnessed serious crippling of economic activities that range from farming, buying and selling to art and craft. The author indicated further that Boko Haram has not only led to closure and/or abandonment of business activities within the states, but also has led to migration of people from the states as well as the reduction of people's patronage of product from Northern Region (Mohammed, 2014). Apart from the insurgency, the activities of criminal gangs and smugglers equally contribute to insecurity in Borno State. Gaji (2017) reported phenomenal rise in smuggling of goods such as money laundering and drug trafficking and other trans-border crimes occurring within the border areas of Borno State. The trans-border trade is growing in large scale and momentum without a corresponding clear and coordinate strategy for dealing with trans-border criminal activities. This referred to as "hydra headed monster" and is extremely driving insecurity in the state (Gaji, 2017).

Also, the challenges of banditry and herdsmen militancy are issues that have contributed to the escalation of insecurity in the state and generally in the country. Ogbonna, Lenshie and Nwangwu (2023) posited that banditry and herders' aggression, kidnapping for ransom, and insurgency have ravaged lives and livelihood opportunities, not only in Zamfara State, but also in Borno State. The nature of insecurity manifesting in Borno State is characterised by regular attacks on military forces as well as the civilians in the state. These attacks led to the kidnapping of 276 school girls in Chibok in 2014 in Borno State. Therefore, the experiences of mass abduction, large-scale displacement and killing of people are some of the repercussions of insecurity in the state. Localities such as Gwoza, Bama, and Monguno, just to mention a few, were often caught up in a crossfire between militant actors and military forces, resulting in some domains being taken over by the insurgents and were basically controlled by non-state armed actors (Nwolise, 2019). The dynamics of insecurity manifesting in Borno State has caused a lot of challenges to the government, military forces, local people and livelihood occupations of the people. Therefore, it becomes imperative to explore the nature and factors responsible for insecurity in Borno State.

Statement of the Problem

In every society, security and welfare of the people are issues of major concern to the government. Therefore, government is bound constitutionally to ensure the security of lives and properties of their citizens. Nigeria like other African countries is experiencing a wave of insecurity. The issue of insecurity is not a new phenomenon in the country, as the history of Nigeria is replete with the challenges of insecurity, since independence. Apart from the civil war in 1967 to 1970, there are several ethno-religious crises, communal conflicts and intermittent farmer-herder conflicts have contributed to insecurity in the country. Alimba and Salihu (2020) reported that Boko Haram has been the most enduring phenomenon and is a serious driver of instability and insecurity after Nigeria's 1967 –1970 civil war. Since the return to democratic governance in 1999, the experiences of insecurity has been unfolding in an uncommon manner in the country. The level of insecurity in Nigeria has created room for wanton killings, bombing and kidnapping of people on a daily basis in the country. This has affected various sectors of the economy in a devastating way, especially in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States where Boko Haram insurgency hold sway. The persistency of insecurity in Borno State, primarily due to the Boko Haram insurgency, bandits and criminal gangs have had profound and devastating effects on the economic, social and political factors of the state.

Due to the state of insecurity caused by insurgency and other nuisances playing out such as banditry, herdsmen militancy, many lives were lost, business activities destroyed and paralyzed in rural and urban areas of Borno State. Also, the spake of insecurity caused

the displacement of people thereby rendering them unproductive. According to Adeniran and Owonikoko(2021), the state of insecurity forced thousands of entrepreneurs and traders to flee their homes and communities, making displacement to disrupt business continuity and affecting access to customers and suppliers. Apart from these communities have invaded and destroyed, government facilities such as electricity poles, telecommunication were destroyed and roads were blocked to prevent free movement of people and access to goods and services in the state. Akinola (2018) pointed out that in Borno State, frequent roadblocks, curfews, and fear of being attacked limited the movement of goods and people, as a result preventing people from effective engagement and interactions in their domains in the state. Ali, Mustapha and Yusuf (2020) posited that insecurity reduced household income and economic confidence, leading to lower consumer spending, which negatively affected the turnover and profitability of businesses in the state. The governance system of the state was also adversely affected as well as the military forces countering the militants. Studies such as Zubairu (2020) revealed that the devastating development in Borno State, specifically pointing attention to the activities of Boko Haram insurgency as the precipitating factor of insecurity. The position of these studies seem marginally true, however, there exist a gap which need to be filled because the popularity of Boko Haram concealed other adversaries causing havocs and insecurity in Borno State. Therefore, this study intends to explore the nature and factors responsible for insecurity in Borno State, Nigeria.

Research Questions

The following research questions were raised to guide the study.

- i. What are the nature of insecurity manifesting in Borno State?
- ii. What are the factors responsible for insecurity in Borno State?
- iii. What are the strategies adopted by government to address insecurity in Borno State?

Methodology

The research design adopted for this study was the ex-post facto research design. The choice of this design was informed by the fact that the subjects being interrogated had occurred, so the intention of the researchers was to describe and present the subject the way it occurred without altering it. The study area was Borno State. The state was deliberately selected because insecurity has been manifesting for over two decades in the state. The population of the study comprised of six local government areas totaling 2,261,000. The sample size consisted of six local government areas. Two LGAs were selected from each of the three senatorial districts. Thus, Maiduguri and Bama local government areas were chosen from Borno central senatorial district, while Askira Uba and Gwoza local government areas were selected from Borno south senatorial district. Also, Munguno and Kukawa were selected from Borno north senatorial district. The choice of these local government areas is informed by the fact that they experienced high incidents of insecurity.

Table 1: Distribution of Sample Size by Senatorial District, LGAs, and Population

S/No	Senatorial District	Local Government Area	*Population	Sample gotten through proportional representation
1	Borno Central Senatorial District	Maiduguri	791,200	140
		Bama	395,800	70

2	Borno South Senatorial District	Askira Uba	210,000	36
		Gwoza	405,200	72
3	Borno North Senatorial District	Monguno	160,900	29
		Kukawa	297,900	53
Total			2,261,000	400

*City Population Projection, (2022)

Table 1 showed the sample size of the study. The Yamane formula was used to determine the total of the respondents that were sampled. Thus, the formula is:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where:

n: is the sample size

N: is the population size

e : is the level of precision

Therefore, N = 2,261,000

e = 0.05

calculated n = 400

Therefore, since n = 400, proportional representation(PR) was used to determine the samples for each of the local government areas. The PR formula is:

$$n = \frac{N}{N} \times n$$

Where: n = required sample size for each LGA

N= population of selected LGAs

N=2,261,000

n = 400

Table 2 Proportional Representation Allocation(PRA)

S/No	Locality	Population	PRA
1	Maiduguri	791,200	140
2	Bama	395,800	70
3	Askira Uba	210,000	36
4	Gwoza	405,200	72
5	Monguno	160,900	29
6	Kukawa	297,900	53
	Total	2,261,000	400

Sampling Techniques

Purposive sampling technique was used to select the six local government areas in Borno State. The parameter used was based on the degree of attack experienced in localities and accessibility to such places. Respondents were village heads, youth and women leaders, traditional leaders and security forces. They were selected through random sampling in their various localities. Adopting this procedure gave the researcher the opportunity to balance the respondents in order to avoid lopsided responses and to select respondents that were knowledgeable about the subject matter.

Instrument for Data Collection

The instrument that was used for data collection was a structured questionnaire, titled “Insecurity Dynamics Questionnaire”(IDQ). The questionnaire was divided into four sections A to D. Each section was patterned to reflect an aspect of the research question, except for section A which captured the personal information of the respondents. The instrument was demarcated into four (4) points Likert Rating Scale of: strongly agree (4 points scale), agree (3 points scale), strongly disagree (2 points scale) and disagree (1-point scale).

Validation of the Instrument

Face and content validity was adopted to validate the research instrument. Therefore, two lecturers, who are knowledgeable on the subject under investigation were consulted in the Centre for peace and security studies to help in validating the instrument. Their observations were included in the final draft of the instrument.

Reliability of the instrument

The Split half test was adopted to measure the reliability of the instrument. The questionnaire was administered to a sample of 20 people in Mubi North local government area of Adamawa state as a way of conducting pilot study to ascertain the reliability of the instrument before administering it. The result of the reliability test showed that the instrument was reliable as it has a coefficient of 0.85. Thus, the instrument was considered reliable for use in collection of data.

Method of Data Collection

In the process of collecting data, the researcher personally visited the areas selected for the administration of the questionnaire. The researcher employed two research assistants to help out in the administration of the questionnaire. The research assistants were trained on how to go about administering the questionnaire. The researcher distributed 400 copies of questionnaire to the respondents to fill for three days, before it was retrieved from them. Out of the questionnaire administered a total of 385 copies were retrieved from the respondents, implying that 15 copies of the questionnaire were not returned by the respondents.

Method of Data Analysis

Data collected was analysed using percentage, frequency counts, mean, and standard deviation. The research questions raised in the study were analysed with percentage, frequency counts, mean and standard deviation. For the purpose of interpretations and decision-making, a cut-off point with regards to 4 point Likert Rating Scale was employed. Therefore, the limit of the mean was 2.5, so items with mean equal to or greater than 2.5 were considered as agree or are regarded as strong factors, while those items with mean score less than 2.5 were considered as disagree or weak factors in the study. The justification for using this scale is based on the fact that 4 point Likert Rating Scale average is based on 2.5 and so items within that margin are considered as agree and disagree for those items with lower margin.

Analysis and Results

The analysis and interpretations presented below represent data analysis and results.

Biodata of Respondents

The biodata of the respondents sampled with respect to gender indicated that there were 210 male and 175 female, implying that the male respondents constituted 54.5%, while 45.5% were female. The age bracket of the respondents revealed that those within 31-35 years were 163 representing 42.3%. The respondents within 36-40 years were 101, constituting 26.2%, while those respondents that fall within 41-45 years were 54, signifying 14%. The respondents that were 46-50 years were 5, representing 1.3%, while 5.7% represented 22 respondents within 51-55 years. The respondents that fall within 56-60 years were 32, constituting 8.3%, while the respondents within the age 61 years and above were 2.1%. Therefore, the majority of the respondents fall within the age bracket of 31-35 years. Out of the 385 respondents sampled, 22.1% were single, 57.1% were married, 9.1% divorced, 6.2% were widowers and 5.5% were separated. The educational qualification of the respondents revealed that 12.7% attended primary school, 16.1% completed secondary school and 15.6% were diploma holders. The respondents with higher education qualification constituted 45.2%, while respondents with other qualifications such as Qur'anic education and apprenticeship training constituted 10.4%.

Nature of Insecurity Operating in Borno State

Table 3: Respondents Rating of Nature of Insecurity Operating in Borno State, N= 385

S/N	Item	S A	A	SD	D	$\bar{x}$	Std
1	Trans-border criminal activities are responsible for insecurity in Borno State	215 (55.8%)	160 (41.6%)	4 (1%)	6 (1.4%)	3.51	0.60
2	Insecurity caused by herder-farmer crisis in Borno State	77 (20%)	197 (51.2%)	90 (23.4%)	21 (5.5%)	2.85	0.79
3	Boko Haram insurgency is the main threat causing insecurity in Borno State	186 (48.3%)	158 (41%)	32 (8.3%)	9 (2.3%)	3.35	0.73
4	Communal crisis induced insecurity Herder-farmer crisis is the main security threat in the state	109 (28.3%)	187 (48.6%)	75 (19.5%)	14 (3.6%)	3.01	0.79
5	Indigene and settler crisis is responsible for insecurity in Borno State	99 (25.7%)	177 (46%)	74 (19.2%)	35 (9.1%)	2.88	0.89
6	Insecurity created as a result of kidnapping in Borno State	101 (26.2%)	180 (46.8%)	72 (18.7%)	32 (8.3%)	2.90	0.88
7	Excessive availability of small arms is the main cause of insecurity in the state.	132 (34.3%)	190 (49.4%)	40 (10.4%)	23 (6%)	3.11	0.82
8	Armed criminality gangs is the reason for insecurity in the state.	154 (40%)	180 (46.8%)	44 (11.4%)	7 (1.8%)	3.24	0.72
9	Cattle rustling results in insecurity in the state.	130 (33.8%)	150 (39%)	85 (22.1%)	20 (5.2%)	3.01	0.87
10	Electoral violence leads to insecurity in Borno State	141 (36.6%)	176 (45.7%)	62 (16.1%)	6 (1.6%)	3.17	0.74

Table 3 showed the nature of insecurity manifesting in Borno State. The respondents agreed that all the item statements practically induce insecurity in the state. However, the major factors that are responsible for insecurity in the state were trans-border criminal activities ($\bar{x} = 3.51$); followed by Boko Haram insurgency ($\bar{x} = 3.35$); armed criminality gangs ($\bar{x} = 3.24$); electoral violence ($\bar{x} = 3.17$); and excessive availability of small arms ($\bar{x} = 3.11$). On the issue of trans-border criminal activities, the respondents that agreed constituted 97.4%, indicating that this factor is the major security threat inducer in the state. Boko Haram insurgency was

considered by the respondents as the next factor that breeds insecurity, 89.3% of the respondents agreed that Boko Haram insurgency is a security threat in the state. Also, 86.8% of the respondents agreed that armed criminality gangs contribute to insecurity in the state. A total of 82.3% of the respondents indicated that electoral violence is part of insecurity inducer in the state. The respondents that agreed that excessive availability of small arms trigger insecurity represented 83.7% in the state. It is also important to note that cattle rustling ($\bar{x}$ = 3.01); communal crisis ($\bar{x}$ = 3.01); kidnapping ($\bar{x}$ = 2.90); indigene and settler crisis ($\bar{x}$ = 2.88) and herder-farmer crisis ($\bar{x}$ = 2.85) were equally indicated by the respondents as contributory factors to insecurity in Borno State.

Factors Responsible for Insecurity in Borno State

Table 4 Respondents Rating of Factors Responsible for Insecurity in Borno State, N= 385

S/N	Item	S A	A	SD	D	$\bar{x}$	Std
1	Unemployment is the reason for insecurity in the state	158 (41%)	167 (43.4%)	36 (9.4%)	24 (6.2%)	3.19	0.84
2	Religious fundamentalism breeds insecurity in Borno State	148 (38.4%)	117 (30.4%)	47 (12.2%)	73 (19%)	2.88	1.12
3	Illiteracy problem is part of the cause of insecurity in the state	183 (46.5%)	144 (37.4%)	16 (4.2%)	42 (10.9%)	3.21	0.95
4	Poverty is the cause of insecurity in the state.	166 (43.1%)	163 (42.3%)	25 (6.5%)	31 (8.1%)	3.20	0.88
5	Bad governance is also a major cause of insecurity in the state	156 (40.5%)	161 (41.8%)	34 (8.8%)	34 (8.8%)	3.14	0.91
6	Poor security of the state results in insecurity	150 (39%)	156 (40.5%)	27 (7%)	52 (13.5%)	3.04	1.00
7	Corruption is responsible for insecurity in the state	171 (44.4%)	147 (38.2%)	26 (6.8%)	41 (10.6%)	3.16	0.95
8	Excessive availability of small arms is the reason for insecurity in the state	130 (33.8%)	160 (41.6%)	34 (8.8%)	61 (15.8%)	2.93	1.02
9	Problem of increasing numbers of out-of-school children contribute to insecurity in the state	160 (41.6%)	158 (41%)	32 (8.3%)	35 (9.1%)	3.15	0.91
10	Problem of discrimination/injustice in the state.	144 (37.4%)	153 (39.7%)	39 (10.1%)	49 (12.7%)	3.01	0.99

Table 4 is a summary of respondents rating of factors responsible for insecurity in Borno State. The respondents agreed that all the item statements are insecurity inducers in the state. The respondents indicated that the major factors responsible for insecurity were illiteracy problem ($\bar{x}$ = 3.21); poverty ($\bar{x}$ = 3.20); unemployment ($\bar{x}$ = 3.19); corruption ($\bar{x}$ = 3.16); problem of increasing numbers of out-of-school children ($\bar{x}$ = 3.15) and bad governance ($\bar{x}$ = 3.14). On the illiteracy problem, 83.9% of the respondents agreed that it is the main source of insecurity in Borno State. A total of 85.4% of the respondents indicated that poverty was an integral part of the causes of insecurity in the state. Unemployment was considered by 84.4% of the respondents as a core factors that brings about insecurity. Similarly, 82.6% of the respondents considered corruption as a significant factor that drive insecurity in the state. The problem of increasing numbers of out-of-school children was equally considered by 82.6% of the respondents as a driver of insecurity in the state. Bad governance was indicated by 82.3% of the respondents as a trigger of insecurity in the state. The respondents equally identified poor security of the state($\bar{x}$ = 3.04); problem of

discrimination/injustice ($\bar{x} = 3.01$); excessive availability of small arms ($\bar{x} = 2.93$) and religious fundamentalism ($\bar{x} = 2.88$) as contributory factors to insecurity in the state.

Strategies Adopted by the Government to Address Security in Borno State

Table 5 Respondents Rating of Strategies adopted by the Government to address insecurity in Borno State, N=385

S/N	Item	SA	A	SD	D	$\bar{x}$	Std
1.	Tackling unemployment rate in the state	245 (63.6%)	104 (27%)	18 (4.7%)	18 (4.7%)	3.49	0.79
2.	Preventing injustice in the state	231 (60%)	134 (34.8%)	18 (4.7%)	2 (0.5%)	3.54	0.61
3.	Provision of quality education for the youths in the state.	251 (65.2%)	107 (27.8%)	22 (5.7%)	5 (1.3%)	3.56	0.66
4.	Acquisition of new technological facilities for security agencies	235 (61%)	121 (31.4%)	23 (6%)	6 (1.6%)	3.51	0.68
5.	Provision of social amenities in communities to improve security	236 (61.3%)	114 (29.6%)	26 (6.8%)	9 (2.3%)	3.49	0.72
6.	Provision of training and retraining opportunities for security agencies in the state	209 (54.3%)	136 (35.3%)	20 (5.2%)	20 (5.2%)	3.38	0.80
7.	Establishment of skills acquisition centres for youths in the state	233 (60.5%)	118 (30.6%)	23 (6%)	11 (2.9%)	3.48	0.73
8.	Provision for logistics support for security agencies for proper functioning in the state	204 (53%)	142 (36.9%)	30 (7.8%)	9 (2.3%)	3.40	0.73

Table 5 revealed the strategies adopted by the government to address insecurity in Borno State. The strategies implemented include provision of quality education for the youths ($\bar{x} = 3.56$); preventing injustice in the state ($\bar{x} = 3.54$); acquisition of new technological facilities for security agencies ($\bar{x} = 3.51$); tackling unemployment rate ($\bar{x} = 3.49$), provision of social amenities in communities to improve security ($\bar{x} = 3.49$), establishment of skills acquisition centres for youths in the state ($\bar{x} = 3.48$), provision of logistics support for security agencies for proper functioning in the state ($\bar{x} = 3.40$) and provision of training/retraining opportunities for security agencies ($\bar{x} = 3.49$). Thus, 93% of the respondents signified that government provided quality education for the youths in the state. Also, 94.8% of the respondents indicated that government ensured that injustice is prevented in the state, while 92.4% of the respondents agreed that government acquired new technological facilities for security agencies to improve security in the state. Similarly, 90.6% of the respondents revealed that government tackled unemployment rate in the state to reduce insecurity. A total of 90.9% of the respondents indicated that government made provision for social amenities in communities to improve the security situation. The respondents that agreed that government established skills acquisition centres for youths in the state represented 91.1%, while 89.9% of the respondents indicated that government made provision for logistics support for security agencies for proper functioning in the state. The respondents that indicated that government made provision for training and retraining opportunities for security agencies in the state constituted 89.6%. These provisions helped to ensure that the security landscape of the state take a positive turn for good for people to freely go about their businesses in the state.

Discussion of Findings

The discussion is centred on the nature of insecurity, causes and approaches adopted to address it.

Nature of insecurity manifesting in Borno State

The nature of insecurity operating in Borno State ranges from trans-border criminal activities, Boko Haram insurgency, operations of armed criminal gangs, electoral violence, excessive availability of small arms, cattle rustling, communal crisis, kidnapping, to herder-farmer crisis. However, trans-border criminal activities was a major driver of insecurity in the state. This is because the state is surrounded by different countries in its border corridors. The Niger Republic is bordering it to the north; Chad is to the northeast and Cameroon is to the east. Gaji (2017) reported that the phenomenal rise in smuggling of goods such as money laundering and drug trafficking and other trans-border crimes occur within the border areas of Borno State. It was stated further that trans-border trade is growing in scale and momentum without a corresponding clear and coordinate strategy for dealing with trans-border criminal activities. This is referred to as “hydra headed monster” in the state. The trans-border criminal activities are overshadowed by Boko Haram insurgency.

However, trans-border crimes is a serious criminal situation that has been existing for a very long time before the advent of Boko Haram insurgency. Thus, Boko Haram insurgents are therefore perpetrating trans-border crimes, hence, it constituted a huge security challenge not only in Borno State, but in Nigeria as whole. Salkida (2012) observed that Since 2009, Borno state has been the epicentre of cross-border insurgency unleashed by the Boko Haram terrorist. This notorious sect has been relentless in its mission to destabilise the region with tension and mayhem and with the ambition to cause instability and social disorder (Okunadea and Ogunnubib, 2020). Also, Omilusi (2016) indicated that Boko Haram insurgency has negatively affected the relationship between Nigeria and other nations of the world because of bombing, kidnapping and hostage taking of foreigners. Therefore, issues that used to agitate the minds of the people, in the past, such as armed robbery and kidnapping have been downgraded given the scale of destruction and devastation caused by Boko Haram’s indiscriminate targeting of civilians (Omilusi, 2016). Ogbonna, Lenshie and Nwangwu (2023) posited that banditry and herders’ aggression, kidnapping for ransom, and insurgency have ravaged lives and livelihood opportunities, not only in Zamfara State but also in Borno State. The issue of small arms proliferation is a very deadly one as Boko Haram insurgents are major dispersal of weapons. They steal weapons, due to porous border criminal trafficking in the state. Moses and Ngomba (2017) observed that most of the Boko Haram weapons were stolen from security post. For instance, on the 21st September 2004 insurgents attacked Gworza and Bama police divisions all in Borno State. The attack led to the death of many law enforcement officers and carting away of numerous arms and ammunitions. The weapons are used to perpetrate criminal activities and attacking communities in the State.

Factors Responsible for Insecurity in Borno State

The factors responsible for insecurity in Borno State are: illiteracy problem, poverty, unemployment, corruption, problem of increasing numbers of out-of-school children, bad governance, poor security of the state, problem of discrimination/injustice, excessive availability of small arms and religious fundamentalism. The Premium Times (2019) reported that Governor Babagana Zulum of Borno identified poverty and unemployment as major causes of the insurgency and security challenges facing the state. The Governor considered

these factors as “nagging problem of unemployment among youth and women” in the state. Also, Ajaja (2022) buttressed the points that poverty, unemployment and illiteracy are major promoters of insecurity in Borno State. The author stated further that beyond deploying technology and military solution, massive unemployment, aided by high illiteracy rate, inequality and high-level poverty continue to provide pool of recruits for criminal gangs, frustrating all efforts to curb criminality and insecurity in the state. Albert (2022) noted that many of the challenges playing out in Borno State “are products of bad governance”. Apart from the fact that the problem of out-of-school children is endemic in Borno State, the high rate of attacks on educational institutions across the state made the matter worse. According to Onyekwelu (2023), Borno State is often cited as having the highest number of out-of-school children in Nigeria. While there is about 20 million out-of-school children in Nigeria, Borno State alone accounted for 1.8 million children, which is 9 per cent of Nigeria’s out-of-school children.

Strategies Adopted by the Government to Address Insecurity in the State

The provision of quality education for the youths, prevention of injustice, acquisition of new technological facilities for security agencies, provision of social amenities in communities to improve the security situation, establishment of skills acquisition centres for youths, provision of logistics support for security agencies for proper functioning and provision of training and retraining opportunities for security agencies are approaches adopted to address insecurity in the state. Oriazowanlan and Erah (2019) indicated that government provided opportunity for the prosecution of any criminals caught, police response to distress calls, and police security guard are available always. This is a revelation that security forces are provided for the protection of people and to tackle insecurity in the state. The positions of Okonkwo, Ndubuisi-Okolo and Anagbogu (2015) were that creating employment opportunities to unemployed youths will go a long way in addressing insecurity in the state. Also, Oluwarotimi(2012) observed that good governance is the panacea to insecurity and that the war against insecurity can only be won by raising governance standards and creating the culture of good governance, responsibility and accountability to the people. When this happens, justice will be restored and insecurity will diminish to the point where a pathway for peace and stability will be created in the state. Umar (2021) noted that the strategies adopted by government in addressing insecurity were the provision of employment for youths, dealing with corruption as well as injustice and creating social welfare for youths to reduce their state of vulnerability. These approaches are fundamental in containing insecurity in the state. The programmes initiated by the government to ensure that proactive measures are put in place to ensure the continuity and sustainability of existing peace and stability are greatly supported by the people.

Conclusion

Insecurity is a common phenomenon manifesting in societies around the world. However, the degree at which it is playing out vary from one society to another. The variation rest squarely on the measures adopted to address it. Nigeria as a country has an history tinted with the plight of insecurity. The civil war fought in 1967 to 1970 attest to this development. However, the return to democratic governance in 1999 was heavily accompanied by various violent conflict incidents such as religious fundamentalism occasioned by the introduction of Sharia law in most states of northern Nigeria. However, in 2002, the emergence of Boko Haram insurgency changed the topology of the northeast region of the country. By 2009, Boko Haram went violence, destroying properties and killing people, resulting in the

displacement of millions of people in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States. The massive attacks of Boko Haram insurgents between 2014 and 2015 resulted in the manifestation of insecurity, underscoring the manifestations of other act of criminalities in the background such as herdsmen militancy, banditry and armed criminality with grave consequences on people and their livelihood occupations. Borno State being the epicentre of insecurity and an ancient trading domain motivated the need to understand the dynamics of insecurity operating in the state. Therefore, in this study, the nature of insecurity manifesting in Borno State was explored, with the tempo to understand its causes and approaches adopted by government to address it. It is obvious from the study that contrary to the believe that the main driver of insecurity was Boko Haram insurgents, it was discovered that trans-border criminal activities was the main factor responsible for insecurity in Borno State. The underlying sources were the problem of illiteracy, poverty, unemployment, increasing numbers of out-of-school children, bad governance, excessive availability of small arms and religious fundamentalism. Apart from the fact that people were killed and livelihood occupations destroyed, the scale of insecurity created room for the experinced of internal displacement compounding the the problem in Borno State. The spate of insecurity resulted in mounting of multiple road blocks which consequentially created room for extortion of people, humiliation and violating human rights. Despite the insecurity, various approaches were adopted people to cope with it, so that they can continue their businesses. In some places they set up vigilante group to help secure their environment and businesses, and equally collaborated with security agencies to bring about peace and stability in the state. In veiw of this development, it becomes imperative to make the following recommedations:

- i. Government should make sure that the various insecurity operating in the state are addressed by the security forces. This will means understanding their nature and dynamics to provide structures and frameworks necessary for combating them. The structures and frameworks will include training of security forces on how to tackle insecurity and provisions of facilities necessary to address it.
- ii. Government at various levels should ensure that the root causes of insecurity are addressed through the formulation of policies and implementation of programmes that are capable of mitigating the issues of poverty, unemployment, and illiteracy, so that the youths can be fully engaged and be useful to themselves and the society. This will make them to be off the street for good, thereby making tangible contribution to the growth and development of the state and the country at large.
- iii. Government should strenghtened the security forces by ensuring that the necessary facilities are provided for them, and should organise political and institutional reforms that will promote good governance, transparency, and accountability at all levels in the state. Justice System should be strengthened to ensure that the judicial systems operate effectively to ensure that perpetrators of insecurity are held accountable. This will restore peace and business owners will be able to conduct their businesses without complaints and fear of insecurity in the state.
- iv. The problem of out-of -school children should solved through resettlement programmes.

References

- Adeniran, A. and Owonikoko,S.B. (2021). Conflict and the informal economy: Impacts of insecurity on livelihoods in Northeast Nigeria. *African Development Review*, 33(1), 50–65.
- Ajaja, T. (2022) How unemployment, poverty rubbish fight against insecurity (III), Retrieved on 3rd December 2023 from https://punchng.com/how-unemployment-poverty-rubbish-fight-against-insecurity-iii/#google_vignette

- Akinola, O. (2018). *Boko Haram insurgency and small business development in Northern Nigeria. Journal of Small Business and Entrepreneurship Development*, 6(2), 34–44.
- Albert, O.I.(2022) How unemployment, poverty rubbish fight against insecurity (III), Punch Newspaper retrieved on 3rd December 2023 from https://punchng.com/how-unemployment-poverty-rubbish-fight-against-insecurity-iii/#google_vignette
- Alimba, C.N and Salihu, N.(2020) Understanding the root causes of Boko Haram Insurgency in Nigeria. A perceptual Study. *Ethnic Studies Review*, 43(2) 43-57
- Alda, E. and Sala, J. (2015). Links Between Terrorism, Organized Crime and Crime: The Case of the Sahel Region, Stability, *International Journal of Security & Development*, 3(1), pp. 27.
- Ali, M., Mustapha, L.,and Yusuf, M. (2020). *Insecurity and business survival in conflict zones: Evidence from Borno State. International Journal of Management and Commerce Studies*, 8(1), 78–88.
- Amnesty International, (2019). Africa 2019. Retrieved from <https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/africa/report-africa/> Accessed July, 2020.
- Collier, P. (2015). Security Threats Facing Africa and its Capacity to Respond, *PRISM* 5(2), pp.31-41
- Gaji, B(2017). Cross-Border Trade and Security Implications to North-Eastern Nigeria With Particular Reference To Borno State: A Historical Overview. *International Journal of Advance Research*, 5(4): 475-482
- Global Terrorism Index (2017) Measuring and Understanding the Impact of Terrorism. Sydney: Institute for Economics & Peace.
- Mohammed D. (2014). The effect of boko haram crisis on socioeconomic activities In Yobe state, *The International Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Invention*, 1(4), 251-257.
- Moses, J.M and Ngomba,J.L(2017) Small Arms and Light Weapons Proliferation in the Early 21st Century: The Nigerian Case, *International Journal of Development and Sustainability* 6(11), 2017, p 1645
- Nwolise, O. B. C. (2019) Bullet kills the terrorist and insurgent, but not his ideas: The Imperative of deploying comprehensive dosage of non-kinetic measures in Nigeria's counter-terrorism, counter-insurgency efforts in the north-east.Ibadan: Gold Press Limited
- Ogbonna, C.N; Lenshie, N.E and Nwangwu, C.(2023) Border Governance, Migration Securitisation, and Security Challenges in Nigeria. *Society*, 1-13 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12115-023-00855-8>
- Okonkwo, R.I.;Ndubuisi-Okolo, P; and Anagbogu, T(2015) Security Challenges and its implications for Business Activities in Nigeria: A Critical Review. *Journal of Policy and Development Studies*, 9(2):157-168
- Okunadea, S.K and Ogunnubib, O.(2020) Insurgency in the border communities of North-Eastern Nigeria: security responses and sustainable solutions. *The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs (The Round Table)*, 109(6):684-700
- Oluwarotimi, A. (2012). US to use more Balanced Security Strategy to Fight Insecurity in Nigeria, *Leadership Newspaper*, Lagos.
- Omilusi, M.(2016) The Multi-Dimensional Impacts Of Insurgency And Armed Conflicts On Nigeria. *Asian Journal of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities*, 4(2):29-39

- Onyekwelu, I. (2023) Borno's 1.80m out-of-school children and Nigeria's ticking time-bomb. Edugist, Retrieved on March 10,2023 from <https://edugist.org/bornos-1-80m-out-of-school-children-and-nigerias-ticking-time-bomb/>
- Onyekwelu, I. (2023) Borno's 1.80m out-of-school children and Nigeria's ticking time-bomb. Edugist, Retrieved on March 10,2023 from <https://edugist.org/bornos-1-80m-out-of-school-children-and-nigerias-ticking-time-bomb/>
- Premium Times(2019) Poverty, unemployment causes of Boko Haram insurgency – Borno Governor Zulum, July 27, <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/north-east/343424-poverty-unemployment-causes-of-boko-haram-insurgency-borno-governor-zulum.html?tztc=1>
- Salkida, A. (2012). Africa's vanishing Lake Chad. African Renewal. Retrieved May 16, 2019, from <http://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/april-2012/africa%E2%80%99s-vanish-inglake-chad>
- Shirley de V. (2015) An Overview of Conflict in Africa in 2014" (African Security Review, 24(1): 89-100.
- Simon, M.K. and Goes, J.(2013) Ex-post facto Research. Dissertation and Scholarly Research: Recipes for Success, Seattle WA, USA
- Umar, A.(2021) Assessment of the impact of insecurity on small scale businesses in Adamawa State. A masters thesis submitted to the Centre for Peace and Security Studies, Modibbo Adama University Yola, Adamawa State.
- United Nations, (2018). Political, Social Polarization Leading to Rise in Global Insecurity, Secretary-General's Report Finds. Retrieved from <https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/org1681.doc.htm#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20report%2C%20political,the%20main%20causes%20for%20insecurity>. Last Accessed July, 2020.
- Zubairu, N. (2020). Rising Insecurity in Nigeria: Causes and Solution, *Journal of Studies in Social Sciences* 4(19)