

Climate Change, Banditry and Transborder Crime: Interrogating Food Insecurity in Northern Nigeria.

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ABSTRACT

Northern Nigeria in recent times is finding it difficult to adequately feed its huge population and supply food to the rest of the country as well as other part of West African sub-region. Unfortunately, research attentions as not been able to establish how Climate Change, Banditry and Transborder Crime is underscored as major threat to food security. The objectives of this article paper is to examine Climate Change, Banditry and Transborder Crime, interrogating food insecurity in northern Nigeria. The methodology adopted to generate data for the study is through the use of secondary sources of data. Consequently, the paper takes to scrutinize the concept of climate change, banditry trans-border crime, food security and food insecurity. The paper in addition to other issues, relies on Social Conflict Theory as it theoretical explanation for this study. In the mean the paper discovers that negative impacts of climate change that manifested in the form of drought and increasing desertification, drying up of water resources (rivers and lakes), increasing ambient temperature and changing climate seasons. For instance has led to banditry revealing in the form of killing and kidnapping of farmers, chasing of farmers out of their farmlands, seizing of farmlands, theft of cattle, burning and raiding of grain silos, and blocking of local trade routes, have remained principally distorts food security in Northern Nigeria. On the other hand activities in Transborder crimes, such as trafficking in arms, persons, drugs; armed banditry, gun- running, vehicle theft, smuggling, touting and duping, and illegal or silent migration serious negative effects on food security in Northern Nigeria. The paper concludes that to mitigate food insecurity demand the collective efforts of government across board with proactive commitment in tackling Climate Change, Banditry and Transborder Crime and improving food security. The paper thus, suggest the following as its modest recommendations; implement home grown climate adoptability, mitigating and resilience mechanism and support for a low carbon emission economy; by calling for a strategic way of doing things from the business as usual ways of securing our borders manually to technological driven border control system; adequate training of our security personnel on the modern trends in migration and border management; taking decisive measures in tackling banditry and people centric food policy that would guarantee accessible, affordable and nutritious food for the people healthy life.

Key Words: Climate Change, Transborder Crime, Banditry, Food Insecurity, Northern Nigeria

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Northern Nigeria have over the last two decades confronted with frightening insecurity issues that are deeply rooted in socio-economic, political, ethnic, and religious tensions. According to Muhammad, Kabiru and Yunusa, (2021), at the core of Northern Nigeria's insecurity is the pervasive issue of banditry, transborder crime, and climate change which has significantly evolved from its historical origins. Although, these challenges are regarded to be initially integrated into the societal structure, with the nature transformation, becoming more violent the crumbling of traditional social structures and survival (Muhammad, Kabiru, Yunusa, 2021).

For instance, the impact of banditry that has gone beyond the rise and spread of Islamist insurgencies, notably Boko Haram and its offshoots like Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP), have also contributed to an insecure environment leading to food insecurity. Unfortunately, banditry originating as a result of nearly four decades of unresolved conflicts between settled cultivators and nomadic herding communities that wander on the high plains of northern Nigeria particularly the North West geo-political zone of Nigeria. Sadly, bandit groups have profoundly altered the security and socio-political landscape of Northern Nigeria in the last decade and a half, intertwining with local criminal gangs to deepen the region's crisis (Olakunle and Adejoke, 2012).

Transborder crime is another critical area of focus that has intensified the food insecurity crisis in northern Nigeria. This alone as significantly compounds northern Nigeria peace and tranquility just as it affected

regional insecurity, with intricate cross-border networks facilitating illegal imports. The proliferation of weaponry has not only amplified the regions conflicts but also poses significant challenges to peace and stability efforts (Muhammad, Kabiru, Yunusa, 2021).

Climate change has brought new perspectives into the security issue in around herder-farmer conflicts, land degradation, and the subsequent competition for dwindling resources. With other consequences such as the longstanding discord of ethnic and religious dimensions, exacerbating regional and indigene-settler divides (Olakunle and Adejoke, 2012). However, the world today is already alarmed to the threat posed by climate change of which the northern Nigeria is having a share of its devastating effect on food production (Muhammad, Kabiru, Yunusa, 2021).

The Federal Government of Nigeria (2000) have acknowledged the impacts of climate change as it continue to take its toll on Nigeria; it is a clear threat to all sectors of socio-economic development, including the natural ecosystems; the impacts of climate change possess palpable threat to the security of the nation, especially those related to cross-border crime. Climate change carries therefore a potential danger capable of leading to unprecedented local/regional disruptions in social systems with the resultant adverse impacts on a fragile nation's security (Federal Ministry of Environment 2009). Thus, because of its potential danger to the security of the countries that those affected by the aftermaths of the consequences of climate change

Yet still, several scholarly studies have unveiled that banditry is a major threat to food security Adefolarin,2022, Gadzama, Saddiq, Oduche, and Dariya, 2018; Jaafar, 2018; Kuna and Ibrahim, 2016; Mashi, 2017; Lawal and Kareem, 2021; Okoli and Okpaleke, 2014; Okoli and Ugwu, 2019; Sardauna, 2020; Shehu, Victor, and Binta, 2017. With their various studied discovery of exceptional displacement of farming communities, stalled cultivation, and paralyzing food production, leading to unprecedented spike in food insecurity and hikes in food prices items (Olusegun, James and Jafaru 2022).

Equally transborder crime has taken center stage terrorizing border communities and villages and disrupting agricultural activities. These disruptions have truncated agricultural supply creating food crisis leading to inflated prices of agricultural produce and significantly hurt income-generating activities in the Northern region Nigeria (Kelechi, and Vincent, 2022). Combined with, transborder crime is the motivation behind the rise in arms and drugs trafficking that significantly compounds regional insecurity, with intricate cross-border networks that facilitate illegal small arms and light weapons imports. This proliferation of weaponry has not only amplified the regions conflicts but also poses significant challenges to peace and stability efforts as well as food security of northern Nigeria (Adefolarin,2022, Olusegun, James and Jafaru 2022, Muhammad, Kabiru, Yunusa, 2021).

The broad-spectrum objectives of this article paper is to interrogate food insecurity in northern Nigeria. The methodology adopted to generate data for the study is through the use of secondary sources of data. Consequently, the paper scrutinizes the concept of climate change, banditry trans-border crime, food security and food insecurity. The paper in addition to other issues, relies on Social Conflict Theory as it theoretical explanation for this study.

CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION

Climate Change: Several attempts have been made by several scholars to conceptualize climate change from different perspectives. For instance, Kelechi, and Vincent, (2022) assert that climate change refers to changes in the mean variability properties of the climate, which persists over an extended period of time, typically within decades or longer. However, the International Partners for Climate Change (2014) defines Climate to be the atmospheric condition of a particular location over a longer period. According to them they view the climatic condition to be the long-term summation of the atmospheric elements such as solar radiation, temperature, relative humidity and precipitation and their variations over a long period. They added that main cause of the climate change experienced in the present time is the human expansion of greenhouse effect (IPCC, 2014).

For Enete, (2000) climate change as to do with the persistent departure from the mean or/and variability properties of the climate is referred to as climate change. In his view, the activities of human being that progressively utter the concentration of greenhouse gases and aerosols, both of which influence the climate thereby leading to greenhouse gasses producing greenhouse effects and global warming that follows it (Enete, 2000).

Similarly, what is regarded as global warming which has been a persistent manifestation of climate change is caused by the trapping of heat radiated from earth towards the space by greenhouse gases such as nitrous oxide (N₂O), Carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄) and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). As this these greenhouse gases in their natural occurrences serve to keep the earth's atmosphere warm enough for living organism including plants and animals (Kelechi, and Vincent, 2022).

Unfortunately, several human activities such as burning of fossil fuels, coal and oil have led to high concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Meanwhile, industrial and agricultural activities have led to expanded emissions of these gases into the atmosphere thereby resulting to an expanded greenhouse effect which brings about increase in mean atmospheric temperature otherwise known as global warming. Evidence includes

global rise in sea levels, drought and increasing desertification, drying up of water resources (rivers and lakes), increasing ambient temperature and changing climate seasons (Olakunle and Adejoke, 2012).

The climate change phenomenon in Africa can be seen in persistent drought, desert encroachment and water scarcity in the north, rising sea level and inundation of coastal lands by sea water in the south, while above average daily minimum and maximum temperature, increasing floods and erosion are being experienced all over the continent. Changing rainfall patterns have the potential to devastate the agriculture on which most of the population of Africa depends to survive and an increased occurrence of drought will eventually lead to a decline in agricultural yields and diminished food availability (Kelechi, and Vincent, 2022, Olakunle and Adejoke, 2012).

Thus, climate change induced alterations such as droughts, heavy precipitation, flooding of farmlands; rising temperature, increasing aridity and soil acidity, changes in relative humidity, increase evaporation, among others have adverse effect on agricultural productivity and food security in northern Nigeria

Banditry: In the view of Egwu (2016) banditry has to do with the practice of stealing cattle and animals from herders or raiding of cattle from their ranches. In the same disposition, Okoli and Okpaleke (2014) defines banditry as armed robbery or allied violent crimes, such as kidnapping, cattle rustling, and village or market raids. It involves the use of force, or threat to that effect, to intimidate a person or a group of persons in order to rob, rape or kill. Olusegun, James and Jafaru (2022) citing Rossetti, (1982), said banditry has to do with those who refused to abide by the law of the state, went around armed and in bands and had the support of the local population. They added that banditry involved in damage to enclosed property and in rustling of livestock belonging to various villages, in demolishing the walls enclosing fields, cattle and resources once belonging to the corporate village communities

On the other hand, Isah (2009), described the term banditry as the acts of robbery, conspiracy and violence where the rule of law was not duly followed. Adding that a bandit is a robber or outlaw belonging to a gang, who uses weapons to steal or rob from the people and typically operating in an isolated or lawless area of a country. However, Abdullahi, (2019) was of the view that the term banditry implies a group of outlawed involved in illicit activities such as raiding of villages, kidnappings and cattle rustling for primitive accumulation of wealth. Consequently, bandits are gang groups terrorizing and dispossessing local people or travelers of their valuable items or properties such as merchandise, money, cattle, camel, and sheep, among others. Therefore, banditry constitute violence that leads to insecurity in rural areas where majority of the people are farmers and this is bound to affect food security in Northern Nigeria.

Transborder Crime: The concept of Transborder Crime is plethora in nature. According to the United Nations Convention against Trans-national Organized Crime, (2000), trans-border crimes are the crimes that have actual or potential effect across national borders and the crimes that are intra-state but offend fundamental values of the international community. This definition corroborate with that of Ering (2011), that “trans-border crime” represents a number of illegal and notorious activities carried out by individuals and groups across national and international borders, either, for financial or economic benefits and also socio-political and religious considerations. According to Sunday and Okechuku, (2014) were of the view that Transborder Crime is a set of criminal acts whose perpetrators and repercussions go beyond territorial borders. They further added that this type of criminal activities has many elements acts that include human trafficking, money laundering, drug trafficking, arms smuggling or trafficking of weapons terrorism, illegal oil bunkering, illicit trafficking in diamonds, corruption, and business fraud, amongst others. Passas, (2003) cited in Adefolarin (2022) assert that trans-border crime or trans-national crime is defined as acts which violate the laws of more than one country. Food security in northern Nigeria is threatened by trans-national organized criminality and jihadist activities especially the Boko Haram insurgency. Other threats include the illegal spread of small arms and light weapons, illegal drug trade, human trafficking and maritime piracy, etc. (Muhammad, Kabiru, Yunusa, 2021).

Arguing on the security threat of trans-border crimes to food security Wakili, Sunday and Okechukwu, (2014), alluded to the fact that trans-border crimes pose significant threats to the security and stability of West African nations. According to them, the nature of trans-border crimes in West Africa Sub-region has changed rapidly over recent years through the use of technology, the loosening of travel restrictions and through criminal diversification which has drastically increased the threat to international peace and security. Thus, this is evidence of increasing terrorism especially in the Sahel region, incidents include deadly terrorist attacks in northern Nigeria with lot of destabilizations of farming communities.

Food security and Food insecurity: Sundry food security definitions abound in the literature. Olusegun, James and Jafaru (2022) citing the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), adopted the 1996 World Food Summit definition of food security as earlier noted with such key elements as food availability, food accessibility, food affordability, and food utilization. This position is in tandem with what the Food and Agriculture Organization, food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (FAO, 1996 cited in Adefolarin (2022). Similarly, the World Bank (1986) defined food security as a condition in which all have access to sufficient food to live healthy and productive lives. In the same vein, the FAO (1996)

cited in Abdullahi, (2019) food security definition later became the widely accepted definition which incorporated three pillars of food security. These are food availability, food accessibility, and food utilization.

According to Omonona and Adetokumbo (1997) cited in Olusegun, James and Jafaru (2022) defined food security “as access by all people at all times to sufficient food for a healthy and productive life. However, Omonona and Adetokumbo, like aforementioned international development bodies and organizations, identified four key elements which are critical in any discussion about food security, namely, availability, adequacy, accessibility and sustainability of access. Significantly, the importance of food as a basic necessity of life, they contended that food is the basic means of sustenance and adequate food intake both in quantity and quality is key for a healthy and productive life.

On the other hand, The World Food Summit plan of Action (1996) cited in Abdullahi, (2019) states that food insecurity occurs when people experience a large reduction in their sources of food and are unable to make up the difference through new strategies; the prevalence of malnutrition is abnormally high for most time of the year and this cannot be accounted for by either health or care factors; a large proportion of the population or group is using marginal or unsuitable strategies; and people are using —coping strategies that are damaging to their livelihoods in the longer term or incur some other unacceptable cost, such as acting illegally or immorally. Thus, while the food availability, food adequacy, food accessibility and food acceptability which are all inter-related because the absence of one or two of the variables will tilt the food security balance.

What this implied from the foregoing is that food must be available to the people to an extent that will meet some acceptable level of nutritional standards in terms of a calorie, protein and minerals which can be taken to mean access by all people at all times to sufficient food for an active and health life.

THEORETICAL UNDERPINNING

Social Conflict Theory provides theoretical explanation for this study. Social Conflict Theory is a Marxist-based Social Theory which argues that individuals and groups within society have differing amounts of material and nonmaterial resources and that the most powerful groups use their power in order to exploit groups with less power. The theory provides an explanation for how for instance human activities such as burning of fossil fuels, coal and oil have led to high concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Meanwhile, industrial and agricultural activities have led to expanded emissions of these gases into the atmosphere thereby resulting to an expanded greenhouse effect which brings about increase in mean atmospheric temperature otherwise known as global warming. This informed why Kelechi, and Vincent, (2022), argued that climate change is the key driver of conflict in part of Nigeria which has worsened the food security situation in the country and has reinforced poverty in some communities. All these happens as a result of human competition for materials wealth.

In relations to this is the aftermath of banditry and transborder crimes. According to Muhammad, Kabiru and Yunusa, (2021), Nigeria borders have been described as porous allowing all sorts of trans-border criminal activities such as human trafficking, smuggling, drug trafficking, arm robbery, money laundry and illicit arms trafficking resulting to proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons. For Olakunle and Adejoke, (2012), there is no more contestation that climate change is a serious threat to the national security and sustainable development of Nigeria because of its serious security breaches in the Northern Nigeria where invaders from the neighboring countries have killed innocent people with impunity.

In Northern Nigeria, there is prevalence of lingering food insecurity resulting from the triple challenges of climate change, banditry and transborder crimes. This is rooted in conflicts over control of the natural resources, particularly grazing areas, farm lands and grazing with attendant consequences on lives and property of the people of northern Nigeria. At the same time the failure of the Nigerian authority to tackle the problems associated to flood, desert encroachment and draught has exacerbated the situation leading to hunger and desperation. It is important to note that the Northern Nigeria have enjoyed vast arable land that agricultural activities are the common enterprises among the people. The impact of climate change and resurgence of banditry is not only capable of reducing agricultural production, it will make the dream of attaining self-sufficiency in food production unrealizable.

Today, the prevalence of the activities of the bandits in Northern Nigeria have made the practice of agriculture difficult as bandits impose huge sum of money to farmers before they are allowed to access their farmland. Same farmers are equally taxed heavily by the bandits before they are allowed to harvest their farm produce. One may be tempted to ask if the security agencies are privy of this occurrence? The truth is that the situation has overwhelmed the state security services leading to the armed-bearing bandits operating without any form of resistance from either the state agents or members of the community. Evidences have shown that members of communities (informants) usually provide the bandits with relevant information as to who to attack and when, the role of other key players like domestic servants have equally aid and abate the criminals in their heinous activities.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOOD INSECURITY IN NORTHERN NIGERIA

One of the major explanations behind climate change has a global concern is the threat it posed to food production. According to Adishi and Oluka (2018) that climate change has become an everyday reality in Nigeria with growing intensity and resulting to frequency of environmental issues such as floods, droughts, rising temperature and extreme weather events which disrupt agricultural productive activities. Kelechi, and Vincent, (2022), argued that climatic vagaries that are brought about by climate change have adverse effect on agricultural productivity in Nigeria leading to lowered food production outputs. Therefore, this condition has led to short fall and disruptions in food and has brought about hiking food prices.

Sadly, the northern part of Nigeria is experiencing era of food insecurity as a result of climatic factors which have limited food production. In this regards the northern Nigeria is impacted by Climate change induced alterations such as droughts, heavy precipitation, flooding of farmlands; rising temperature, increasing aridity and soil acidity, changes in relative humidity, increase evaporation, among others have adverse effect on agricultural productivity and food systems in northern Nigeria. For example, in August 2024, with death tolls amounting to 35 person and 40,000 families were displaced by flooding that ravage farming communities and wash away farm lands in Jigawa state, similar thing happened in KADUNA, Sokoto, Kebbi and Katsina state.

The Punch Newspaper Editorial stated that “the livelihood of some 30 million pastoralists in northern Nigeria are threatened by decreasing access to water and pasture shortages linked to climate change. Similarly, Anyika (2020) noted that shrinking water resources in the Lake Chad area of Nigeria brought about by climate change has drastically affected the hitherto flourishing and lucrative fishing activities in the area, thereby cutting the fish supply chain that originates from the zone and rendering many fishermen jobless. Hence, its effects inevitably affect every other element in a food supply chain in northern Nigeria. The movement of pastoralist from the North down south in search of grazing land has equally exacerbated the farmers-herders conflict across the country with its attendant consequences.

BANDITRY AND FOOD INSECURITY IN NORTHERN NIGERIA

In Northern Nigeria, the activities of bandits which includes kidnapping for ransom, killing, and large-scale cattle rustling is recorded in the recent time with attending impact on food security. Suleiman, and Bilkisu (2020) posit that banditry is an acts of robbery and violence on the people particularly rural dwellers who mainly engaged in farming, cattle rearing and other food production activities tha is bound to have impacts on food security. However, the northern Nigeria boost of arable and semi arable lands for the cultivation of maize and cotton in the country. Other crops produced included food crops such as millet, guinea corn, beans, soya beans, potatoes, sesame, rice, wheat etc. cash crops produced included groundnut sand wheat. Majority of the farmers engaged in rainy season or rain-fed farming as the states were blessed with abundant land for the cultivation of wide variety of crops (Ladan, 2017). One of the most recent was the fatal attacks by Boko Haram insurgents on farmers working on rice fields in Zabarmari in Jere LGA of Borno state on 28th November, 2020. This attack portends danger to food security in northern Nigeria as many farmers are very scared to go to their farms to engage in irrigation farming among other food producing activities. Banditry has brought negative impacts on food security in Northern Nigeria characterized by killings, kidnappings of farmers, threats, robberies, theft, burnings, raiding and blocking of local trade routes which are chronicled in below table:

Killing of farmers: This is one of the most devastating impacts of banditry in Northern Nigeria whereby farmers were killed by the bandits. Most families experience food insecurity when the head of the households are dead. These farmers are heads of households who are married with children and their death adversely affects the other family members in terms of Food supply. Example of killing of farmers by bandits took place at Yargamji village of Batsari LGA Katsina State where on 6th July 2020, famers were on the farm working after an overnight rain, the bandits numbering over 200 shot sporadically killing 15 farmers and injuring several others. On 10th September, 2020, three famers were also killed by bandits in Dandume LGA, one of the most Agrarian areas in the state In Zamfara, bandits attacked Bawan Daji village of Anka LGA of Zamfara State and killed over 30 people on March 31, 2018; 16 killed, 40 abducted in Kawaye village in Bagega community of Anka LGA of Zamfara State on the 1st of March, 2019; 25 killed in bandit attacks in Klahu, Tsage and Geeri villages in Rabah LGA of Sokoto State on the 9th of June, 2019; bandits kill 50 people in villages in Igabi and Giwa LGA of Kaduna State (Nigerian Tribune: March 2, 2020); bandits kill 10 in two attacks on 3 villages of Jema'a and Kaura LGA of Kaduna State (The Nation: July, 26, 2020);

Kidnapping of farmers: This is another devastating impact of banditry where farmers were kidnapped when they go to the farm to work. In case where famers were kidnapped, they were taken to the forest and will not be released till large sums of moneys are paid as ransom. Bandits abducted 16 family members at Udawa farming community of Kaduna State; bandits invade Police Station in Tangaza LGA of Sokoto State, killing DPO and 1 Inspector and abducted 2 women September 18, 2020 (Vanguard: September 13, 2020).

Chasing farmers out of their farms: Bandits chased farmers out of their farms when they saw them working there. As the bandits were well armed, they ran after the farmers on their motorcycle with the intention to hurt or kill and the farmer had no option than to run since the farmers were not armed. For example, on the wake of 3rd of May 2020 at the outskirts of Maigora, Sabon Layin Galadima and Unguwar Tsamiya villages of Faskari LGA Katsina State some farmers were on their way to farm in preparation for the farming season when they were chased out by the bandits

Seizing of farmlands: This occurs where farmlands are located very close to the forest hideout of the bandits. It also occurs outside villages that have been completely deserted due to incessant attacks by the bandits. The bandits seize the Farm lands and use them as grazing fields for the large number of cattle they acquired illegally through cattle rustling activities located outside Gauren Dutse, Yar Laraba and Shekewa villages of Batsari LGA. Katsina State

Theft of cattle: Bandits engage in theft of cattle or cattle rustling particularly in the Northwest. When the bandits attack villages, they shot sporadically into the air to scare away the villagers and create an atmosphere of chaos as the villagers run for safety.

Burning and raiding of grain silos: During large scale attacks that involve large number of bandits which lasted for some hours, the bandits engaged in the burning of local grains silos (called *rumbu* in Hausa language). These grain silos contained foodstuffs that were stored by the farmers which could last for many months but were burnt by the bandits which created lack of food for the villagers. Example here includes the attack on Dankar and Tsauwa villages of Batsari LGA on 14th February 2020. The attack on Unguwar Gizo in Faskari LGA on 29th May 2020

Obstruction of local trade routes: These are local trade routes that are found along roads linking rural markets where buyers and sellers of foodstuffs pass through especially on market days. The bandits blocked such routes to intercept the vehicles with the traders inside. The bandits snatched foodstuffs intended for sale at the markets; money meant for the purchase of foodstuffs or even kidnapped the traders. For example, on Sunday 5th January 2020, bandits blocked a section of Jibia to Batsari road to kidnap 38 traders returning from Jibia weekly market. Also, on three consecutive days 21st, 22nd and 23rd February 2020, bandits mounted a road block along Runka to Marina road in Safana LGA to rob travelers of their money and cell phones. On 20th October 2020, bandits again blocked the Danmusa to Runka road to rob traders coming to the weekly market at Runka, Safana LGA. In certain cases, the bandits even attacked the weekly markets where these traders meet to exchange their goods for money. For example, on the 17th October 2020, bandits attacked Gurbi weekly market in Jibia LGA killing two traders, injuring one woman and kidnapping some people. Armed bandits in December, 2021 ambushed a vehicle of 40 passengers travelling from Sabon Birni Local Government in Sokoto State and burnt them alive; suspected bandits in December 2021 attacked villages in Giwa Local Government Area of Kaduna State killing 38 persons (Premium Times: January 8, 2022).

TRANSBORDER CRIME AND FOOD INSECURITY IN NORTHERN NIGERIA

Existing facts on trans-border crimes in Northern Nigeria point to many implications of trans-border crimes on food security as highlighted below:

Proliferation and use of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW): The proliferation and use of SALW in banditry, ethno-religious clashes and armed robbery. The trafficking and wide availability of these weapons fuel communal conflict, political instability and pose a threat to northern Nigeria's food security. Nte (2011) and Abdulkareem (2012), cited in Olusegun, James and Jafaru, (2022), that the majority of these Small Arms and Light Weapons, about 59% are in the hands of civilians, 38% are owned by government armed forces, 2.8 % by police and 0.2% by armed groups.

Terrorism, Insurgency and Violent Extremism Activities: Nigeria's Response to Transnational Organized Crime and Jihadist Activities in West Africa date with incredible intensity. The risks presented by this militant group are amplified primarily through the prevalence of porous borders in the West African Sub Region. Countries like Niger, Chad and Cameroun Republics are currently experiencing terrorist activities largely because they share common border with Nigeria; recurring incidents of violent clashes between farmers and herders was not known in Nigeria before the year 2000. For centuries in Nigeria, both the farmers and herders have coexisted with no group crossing each other path. The sudden change in status quo is a valid pointer that something has gone wrong in the system. People cross our national frontiers willingly. Nigeria receives more people than what her economy can sustain. Globalization contributes to these loose borders.

Human and Drug Trafficking

Available data on cross-border crimes in West Africa such as human trafficking, drug trafficking show that transnational social networks can have serious negative effects on national security. The phenomenon of human trafficking, particularly in West Africa, has in recent years assumed alarming proportions and hence

receives unprecedented global attention. Although there is a lack of accurate data, it is reported that in West and Central Africa about 200,000 children are trafficked annually, while in West Africa alone, an estimated 35,000 women and children are trafficked every year for commercial sexual exploitation (Mashi, 2008).

Smuggling: This is another index of transborder crimes activities that have over years impacted on northern Nigeria's food security. Smuggling is quite rampant in the Sahel region which is the main source for the fast-growing black market for fuel, stolen cars, contra ban product in West Africa (UNODC, 2013 cited in Olusegun, James and Jafaru, (2022). In the bordering town and communities of northern Nigeria, "parallel" economic activities notably in the form of sale of smuggle products, cars, food, mineral resources, petroleum products, and re-exported products continue to grow and expand. Most of the smuggling activities take place within northern Nigerian border communities and villages, with Niger Republic, Chad, Cameroun, as far as Central Africa Republic, and Mali also severely affected and other attacks throughout the region (Muhammad, Kabiru, Yunusa, 2021).

II. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the research paper is a detail analysis of Climate Change, Banditry and Transborder Crime, interrogating food insecurity in northern Nigeria. The research discovered that the Climate change induced alterations such as droughts, heavy precipitation, flooding of farmlands; rising temperature, increasing aridity and soil acidity, changes in relative humidity, increase evaporation, among others have adverse effect on agricultural productivity and food systems in northern Nigeria. Similarly, banditry has brought negative impacts on food security in Northern Nigeria characterized by killings, kidnappings of farmers, threats, robberies, theft, burnings, raiding and blocking of local trade routes. The consequent of this is decrease in food production as farmers are been attack, killed and kidnap for ransom, as these clearly indicate the negative impacts of banditry on food security in northern Nigeria. Yet is the issue of transborder crime that is a serious danger to food security, threat to peace, social harmony, political stability, good governance and sustainable development in northern Nigeria. The negative impacts of transborder crime have also completely affected food security with evidence of increasing terrorism especially in the northern Nigeria that include deadly terrorist attacks with lot of destabilizations of farming communities. Thus, in the effect of the above mentioned, this paper concludes that the sequence of Climate Change, Banditry and Transborder Crime, intensifies food insecurity in northern Nigeria.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

The devastating consequences of banditry, climate change as well as transborder crime have left an indelible mark in Nigeria's quest to attain food security. Arising from the foregoing, the paper recommends the following with a view to mitigating food insecurity. The paper argued that in order to change the narrative, it calls for collective efforts of government across board with proactive commitment in tackling Climate Change, Banditry and Transborder Crime and improving food security. Specifically;

1. Implement home grown climate adoptability, mitigating and resilience mechanism and support for a low carbon emission economy and adopted to ensure supportable food security in northern Nigeria
2. Suitable legislative frameworks and measures and policies for our domestic environmental-responsiveness and practices.
3. Taking decisive measures in tackling banditry and people centric food policy that would guarantee accessible, affordable and nutritious food for the people's healthy life.
4. A new strategic way of doing things from the business-as-usual ways of securing our borders manually to technological driven border control system.
5. Technologically driven method of agricultural system and strategic food storage scheme should be adopted and resistant to food insecurity in northern Nigeria.
6. The Federal, State and Local Governments should make efforts towards tackling the Transborder Crime with stronger punitive action against Transborder Criminal and their sponsors and collaborators.
7. Adequate staffing and training of our security personnel on the modern trends in migration and border management and crimes.

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