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Terrorism and Food Insecurity in Nigeria: A Historical Approach

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Authors' Contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors.
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ABSTRACT

Terrorism has emerged as a significant threat in Nigeria where groups like Boko Haram and Fulani Herdsmen have intensified their activities. This paper explores the nexus between terrorism and food insecurity in Nigeria by focusing on how insurgent activities disrupt agricultural production, displace communities, and undermine food distribution systems. The study adopted the historical approach to data gathering from secondary sources (journals, books, newspapers, magazines, seminar papers and internet) to discussing terrorism and food security in Nigeria. The study finds that terrorist activities of Boko Haram, Fulani Herdsmen, Bandits, kidnapers in Nigeria disrupt agricultural activities, displace communities, and hamper economic development. All of these are ultimately accountable for the present food insecurity witnessed in Nigeria. The study recommends the strengthening of security forces, intelligence capabilities, national borders, and law enforcement agencies in order to effectively combat terrorist activities in Nigeria; and boost food production, and distribution in the country.

Keywords: Banditry, Boko Haram, farmers, food insecurity, herdsmen, terrorism

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INTRODUCTION

Terrorism in West Africa and food security in Nigeria are critical issues that intersect in complex ways, posing significant challenges for Nigeria and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Nigeria, a country in West Africa with a diverse population and a complex socio-political landscape, has been grappling with the dual threats of terrorism and food insecurity. This intersection has profound implications for the well-being of its people, the stability of its economy, and the overall development of the nation. Terrorism in Nigeria, notably perpetrated by groups such as Boko Haram and other insurgent factions, has not only resulted in loss of lives and widespread displacement but has also had far reaching implications for the agricultural sector in Nigeria. George, Adelaja and Awokuse (2021) revealed that terrorist act in Nigeria have negatively impacted on farm outputs in the country. The deliberate targeting of agricultural communities, destruction of farmlands, and disruption of food supply chains have contributed to a precarious food security situation in the country. Butler and Gates (2012) argued in this line that increased incidence of armed conflict in a country affect food security. This introduction sets the stage for a comprehensive exploration of the intricate relationship between terrorism and food security in Nigeria. It aims to provide an overview of the historical context of terrorism in the region, the evolving nature of the threats, and the impact of these security challenges on the nation's ability to ensure a stable and sustainable food supply. Additionally, it will highlight the interconnectedness of these issues, emphasizing the need for a holistic approach to address both the security and agricultural dimensions to foster resilience and development. Understanding the interplay between terrorism and food security in

Nigeria is crucial for policymakers, researchers, and the international community to develop effective strategies that not only counteract the immediate threats posed by terrorism but also address the underlying vulnerabilities that contribute to food insecurity. As we delve deeper into this complex relationship, it becomes evident that comprehensive and coordinated efforts are essential to mitigate the multifaceted challenges facing Nigeria and pave the way for a more secure and food-sufficient future.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Concept of Terrorism

Terrorism is a complicated and multidimensional phenomenon characterized by the use of violence and intimidation to create fear for political, religious, ideological, or social objectives. Terrorist activities often target civilians or non-combatants to instill fear in a broader population and draw attention to the perpetrators' cause. Terrorism is often rooted in political, religious, or ideological goals. Groups or individuals may resort to terrorism as a means of expressing grievances, achieving political objectives, or promoting a particular worldview. Terrorism includes threatening or using violence in order to produce a climate of fear. Tactics may include bombings, assassinations, hijackings, kidnappings, and other forms of violence against civilians or symbolic targets. States can engage in acts of terror, terrorism is typically associated with non-state actors. These can be individuals, groups, or organizations that operate independently or in connection with broader movements. The primary aim of terrorism is not only to cause physical harm but also to create psychological impact. By instilling fear and uncertainty, terrorists seek to disrupt societies and provoke reactions from governments or communities. Terrorism is

not confined to a specific region or ideology. It can be a global phenomenon, with interconnected networks and influences that transcend national borders. Schmid (2002) posits that most of the time, terrorism is fundamentally a political act. It is intended to inflict severe and fatal injuries on civilians and to generally instill terror in order to further political and ideological goals. Schmid argues that terrorism is a criminal act but it is more than mere criminality and to overcome the problem of terrorism it is essential to comprehend not just its fundamental crime and psychology but also its political essence.

The history of the word terrorism is rooted in the French revolution (Cox, 2010). There is a wide consensus that this term was used in the eighteenth century to describe terror from above or terror that emanated from the State, describing the guillotining of the aristocracy by the revolutionaries who seized France by force and established themselves as the legitimate governmental power (Guelke, 1998). Scholars like Alexander & Maskaliunaite (2002) have proceeded to point out that the concept had a deeper origin in the form of two well-known terrorist campaigns. The first was mounted for 70 years in the first century by the Zealot Sicarii, which was a Jewish opposition movement aimed at the Roman occupation of Judea. The Zealot Sicarii often used unorthodox tactics such as random murders in the midst of large crowds and torching public archives or poisoning public wells in Jerusalem. Also, for 200 years, between the 11th and 13th centuries, the Hashashin (assassins) attacked crusaders with unorthodox suicide or martyrdom tactics. When a person or group attacks civilians, then such group or person has engaged in what can be dubbed terrorism. Why is attacking civilians illegal? The answer is because there is very well-developed international law that not only prohibits the

arbitrary or wanton killing of civilians during times of war but also includes treaties such as the 1949 Geneva Conventions that prohibit inhumane treatment of prisoners of war. Terrorists are armed persons whose sole aim is to disrupt the activities of a sovereign government. Their method involves illegal acts of violence that have political aims intended to evoke fear and attract sympathy to their ideological cause. Terrorists do not necessarily seize political power. They employ large scale violence that could lead to anarchy. Such acts of terrorism as earlier referenced include bombing, sabotage, assassination and hijacking of airplanes.

Boko Haram

Boko Haram, whose full name is Jama'atu Ahlis-Sunna Lidda'Awati Wal-Jihad, was founded in 2002 in Maiduguri, northeastern Nigeria, by Mohammed Yusuf. The group's initial focus was on opposing Western education, which it viewed as corrupting Islamic values. Boko Haram gained attention for its attacks on schools, government institutions, and security forces. The group's ideology evolved over time, becoming more radicalized. Boko Haram's violent activities escalated in 2009 when Nigerian security forces clashed with the group, leading to the death of Mohammed Yusuf in police custody. After Yusuf's death, Abubakar Shekau assumed leadership, and Boko Haram intensified its attacks, targeting not only security forces but also civilians (Obiazu, 2021). Boko Haram's violence expanded beyond Nigeria's borders, with attacks in neighboring countries like Chad, Niger, and Cameroon. The group has been responsible for numerous deadly bombings, abductions, and massacres in Northern Nigeria; thereby causing a humanitarian crisis in the region. Boko Haram insurgency has remained a central security concern for Nigeria State over the years with the notoriety of its activities since 2009. Nigeria

seems to be laced with the garb of terrorism as the United State Department's Global Report on Terrorism in 2011 assigned it a 2nd position after Somalia in the African continent (Bahir, 2013).

Suicide bombings have become a serial phenomenon in the techniques employed by this sect with the abductions, and attack on civilian targets. No fewer than 1200 people died and nearly 200,000 were displaced in the north east in 2018. In February, 2018 similar to the 2014 kidnapping of 276 schoolgirls from Chibok, militants kidnapped 110 schoolgirls from Dapchi, Yobe State by the same group. Two weeks following talks with the government, 104 of the Dapchi girls were set free. Five (5) of the remaining girls reportedly died in captivity and one, Leah Sharibu is still held hostage for allegedly refusing to deny Christian faith. About 100 of the Chibok school girls remain unaccounted for till date (Obiazu, 2021). In September and October 2019 Boko Haram insurgent group executed Saifura Ahmed and Hauwa Liman, both aid workers with the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) who the group kidnapped in March of the same year. The killing of Lawal Andimi, the Chairman of Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), by the Boko Haram Sect on January 20, 2020 showed how notorious Boko Haram has become as a terrorist organisation in Nigeria (Thisday Newspaper, 2020, Punch Newspaper, 2020). On November 28 2020, Boko Haram massacred farmers in the fields near the villages of Koshobe and Zabarmari, Jere Local Government Area, Borno State, killing more than 100 people. December 24 and December 26, 2020, Boko Haram killed 20 people and abducted 12 others in attacks in six villages of Borno and Adamawa States. The attackers burned down churches, schools, and police stations and looted hospital pharmacies and shops (US Department of State, 2020).The Nigerian

government, along with regional and international partners, has been engaged in efforts to counter Boko Haram and address the security and humanitarian challenges posed by the group.

Fulani Herdsmen

Fulani herdsmen, also known as Fulani pastoralists or Fulani nomads, are a nomadic or semi-nomadic ethnic group in West Africa. The Fulani people are found in many countries across the region, including Nigeria, Senegal, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, and others. They are known for their traditional pastoralist lifestyle, which involves herding cattle, sheep, and goats (Akporobaro & Babalola, 2018). In recent years, the term "Fulani herdsmen" has gained attention in the context of conflicts in Nigeria. There have been reports of clashes between Fulani herders and farmers, often over issues such as land use, grazing rights, and resource competition. Some of these conflicts have taken on ethnic and religious dimensions, with tensions between predominantly Muslim Fulani herders and predominantly Christian farming communities (Onwubiko, 2003). It is important to note that the term "Fulani herdsmen" is a broad categorization and does not imply that all Fulani people are involved in conflicts. The situation is complex and influenced by various factors, including historical, economical, environmental, and political issues. Fulani people are widely known for their involvement in the so-called Fulani or Sokoto Jihad of Usman Dan Fodio Jihad (holy war), which permanently changed the political and religious situation in what later became Northern Nigeria (Onwubiko, 2003). The Jihad or Islamic holy war was a revivalist religions movement championed by Usman Dan Fodio. The Jihad began in 1804, with a battle at Trabinkwatto against Yunfa the King of Gobir. Yunfa was

defeated and gradually the rest of Hausa land came under Fulani defeat and attendant subjugation. The jihad ended in 1809, but wars of consolidation continued until the 1850s when the last Emirates such as that of Kontagora were founded.

One of the consequences of the Fulani Jihad was the overthrow of Hausa political leadership; and the political ascendance of Fulani people. The jihad also led to a situation whereby the previously landless Fulani people became landlords in Hausa land and other parts of northern Nigeria. Therefore, the jihad established the Fulani people as the new conquerors and leaders of the Hausa people. The implication was that for the first time in their history, the Fulani were able to establish what they would call their homeland. Importantly, the economy of the Fulani people largely revolved around animal husbandry (Akporobaro & Babalola, 2018). But the Fulani aspect of specialization in that field was cattle rearing (the most widespread occupation among them). It was entirely dominated by men, with their women limited to menial domestic and household duties. Hence, the nomenclature, Fulani herdsmen became very popular due to their massive and near universal engagement in animal, particularly cattle rearing as a major occupation and source of livelihood. The attacks, killings, and destruction of private property by the Fulani herdsmen have been reported in Nigeria's 22 States. Recently, the herdsmen onslaught continued as they infiltrated the States of Cross River, Akwa Ibom, Delta, Edo, Ebonyi, Enugu, Osun, Ondo, Ogun, Kogi, Taraba, Ekiti, Abia, Anambra and Benue. Adayo and Algebe (2016) reported that 3,094 Nigerians had been slain by Boko Haram and Fulani Herdsmen as of May 28, 2016. Olu-Adeyemi (2017) also mentioned that the Fulani herdsmen in Nigeria murdered over 1,200 people in 2014. The Fulani herdsmen are now

the fourth-deadliest terrorist organization in the world as a result. Over 300 persons are said to have died in an attack on farmers in Benue State in February 2016 (BBC, 2016). Olayoku (2014) adds that out of the 61,314 fatalities reported in the Nigeria watch database, 615 deaths may be classified as violent deaths. The Benue State slaughter that lasted five days and unleashed dread was the longest protracted act of violence by Fulani herdsmen (Olayoku, 2014). The Fulani herdsmen's invasion of farmlands and the devastation of the indigenous people's agricultural farmlands in the villages have been identified as the main causes of this violence. With 128 fatal cases, Nigeria has one of the highest numbers in 2012 (Joseph, 2012).

Banditry and Kidnappings

Banditry and kidnapping are organized crime perpetrated by gangs that threaten the peace and tranquility of the area by intimidating, evicting, murdering, and destroying property, among other crimes. It involves using force or firearms (or any other instrument of coercion, assault, or violence), as well as using terrorism to deprive people of their material belongings (Okoli & Abubakar, 2021). Furthermore, bandits operate in discrete organizations that lack formal structures and are not cohesive. The only things these gangs have in common are the possibility of robberies, group competition, and territory issues. The bandits are still a variety of commercially motivated, non-ideological organized crime groups that engage in large-scale extortion schemes, abduction for ransom, armed robberies, looting, and targeting motorists (Osasona, 2023). Furthermore, they respond to shifting security conditions by utilizing a loose, opportunistic, flexible, and adaptive network; members are selected based on their operational expertise and knowledge.

Kidnapping is a criminal act that involves the unlawful abduction or taking away of an individual against their will. It is typically done with the intent to hold the person captive, often for ransom, or to commit other crimes such as extortion, human trafficking, or assault. On March 28 2022, a passenger train on the state-run Nigerian Railway Corporation's track between Abuja and Kaduna was attacked by suspected terrorists. There were eight fatalities and 62 abductions in the attack (US Department of State, 2022). Kidnapping is universally condemned and illegal in most jurisdictions. The severity of charges and penalties associated with kidnapping can vary depending on the circumstances, such as whether violence was involved, the duration of captivity, and the motive behind the abduction. Law enforcement agencies and legal systems around the world take kidnapping very seriously, and efforts are made to prevent, investigate, and prosecute such crimes. Kidnapping is a violation of an individual's basic rights and is considered a grave offense with severe legal consequences.

Farmers

With approximately 182 million people, Nigeria is the most populated country in Africa. Its land area is 92.4 million hectares, and 53% of its people live in rural regions. 90% of Nigeria's food is produced by subsistence farmers, who make up 70% of the country's rural population (IFAD, 2024). Farmers in Nigeria play a crucial role in the country's economy, contributing significantly to food production and the agricultural sector. Farmers in Nigeria are the backbone of the nation's food security and agricultural economy. Farmers are individuals or groups of people engaged in agriculture, the practice of cultivating the soil, growing crops, and raising livestock for food and other products. Agriculture is a crucial component of the

global economy and a primary source of food for populations worldwide. Hence, Farmers play a pivotal role in providing sustenance, contributing to economic development, and shaping rural landscapes (Attah, 2012).

Farmers engage in a wide range of activities, including crop cultivation, animal husbandry, and agroforestry. Their specific practices vary based on factors such as geography, climate, available resources, and cultural traditions. Farmers can be broadly categorized into different types based on their activities. For example, there are crop farmers who focus on cultivating crops, livestock farmers who raise animals for meat, milk, or other products, and mixed farmers who combine both crop and livestock production though the focus here is on crop cultivation. Farmers are central to global food security. Their ability to produce an adequate and stable food supply is critical for the well-being of populations around the world. Farming is often deeply tied to rural communities, and the economic well-being of these communities is closely linked to the success of local farmers (Attah, 2012). It's important to recognize the diversity within the farming community and the importance of supporting sustainable and equitable agricultural practices to ensure a secure and resilient food supply for the growing global population

Food Security

Food security is the availability, accessibility, and affordability of nutritious and healthy food for all individuals within a society (FAO, 2019). A situation in which everyone has constant access to enough safe, nourishing food to lead active, healthy lives is known as food security. Food security, according to Anderson (2009), is the state in which all individuals consistently have physical and financial access to enough wholesome food that satisfies their dietary

needs and preferences while promoting an active and healthy lifestyle. Adebayo (2021) posits that food security exists at macro and micro levels. The macro level is the ability of a nation or a continent to provide enough food to feed its population either through production or importation while the micro level is the ability of a household or individual to ensure its food security. However, a country may be food secured at the national level but still have local issues of food insecurity at various levels of agricultural circle (IFSS, 2002).

Food security is the state of having access to and availability of food. When a household's members do not experience starvation or hunger, it is deemed to be food secure (FAO 2001). When everyone, everywhere, has physical, social, and economic access to enough wholesome food that satisfies their dietary needs and preferences while maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle, then there is food security (Idachaba, 2006). The World Bank (2006) defines food security as everyone having access to enough food for a healthy, active life at all times. The Economic Commission for Africa (2009) further states that food security includes access to food produced domestically or at home as well as food availability through trade and storage. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO, 2010) asserts that in order for a nation to have sustainable food security, food supplies must keep up with population growth and urbanization. As such, the FAO believes that addressing agriculture and population growth is essential to achieving food security (Otaha, 2013). The goal of food security is to ensure that all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and preferences for an active and healthy life (IFSS, 2002). There are four main dimensions of food security:

- i. **Availability:** Sufficient quantities of food must be consistently available on a national and global scale. This involves aspects such as agricultural production, storage, and distribution systems.
- ii. **Access:** Individuals and households must have the economic means to access an appropriate diet. Factors influencing access include income levels, employment opportunities, and the prices of food in local markets.
- iii. **Utilization:** Food must be of sufficient quality to meet nutritional needs and support good health. This dimension involves considerations of food safety, dietary diversity, and the availability of clean water and sanitation.
- iv. **Stability:** Food security requires that the three aforementioned dimensions remain stable over time. This means that access to food is not unduly disrupted by factors like economic shocks, political instability, or extreme weather events.

International organizations, governments, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and the private sector are actively involved in efforts to enhance food security globally. Sustainable and equitable agricultural practices, improved infrastructure, education, and social support systems are crucial components of long-term solutions to ensure food security for growing populations.

Food Insecurity

Food insecurity refers to the lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life. It can be caused by

various factors, including poverty, economic instability, natural disasters, conflict, and other social and environmental issues (IFSS, 2002). Food insecurity can manifest in different ways, such as hunger, malnutrition, and the inability to afford nutritious food. According to Otaha (2013), food insecurity occurs when a person is undernourished due to a lack of access to sufficient food, either socially or economically, or because food is physically unavailable. Individuals who experience food insecurity are those whose consumption of food falls short of their minimum energy needs and those who display physical symptoms brought on by deficiencies in energy and nutrients from an inadequate or unbalanced diet or from the body's incapacity to use food efficiently due to illness or infection.

Food insecurity, as defined by FAO (2010), is the result of consuming insufficient amounts of nutrient-dense food, with the body's physiological utilization of food falling under the purview of nutrition and health. Poor health is another consequence of malnutrition, which makes it difficult for people to support their families. Hunger causes a number of negative effects that, if unchecked, can lead to malnutrition, make it harder for people to work and have healthy children, and impair children's capacity to study and enjoy happy, healthy lives. The possibility for future generations' economic progress in a nation is compromised by this curtailment of human development. Famine and hunger are both products of food insecurity. In Nigeria, particularly in the northwest in Katsina, Zamfara, and Sokoto states, food insecurity and malnutrition are on the rise and spreading like a deadly wildfire, with an estimated 2.9 million people suffering from severe food insecurity at any one time (UNICEF, 2023).

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The systems theory, though has its origin in natural science biology, was first used in political analysis by David Easton as presented in his work, 'Political System' in 1953. The purpose of system analysis was to make description more scientific or inductive and to use it for theory building in the sense of making generalizations on the basis of cumulative knowledge (Varma, 1975). System theory encapsulate that items or components within a group interact with one another, are connected to one another in some manner, or serve as the foundation for a distinct process. The idea that "each part of the political canvas does not stand alone but is related to each other part" or that "the operation of the one part can be fully understood without reference to how the whole itself operates" are two ways in which the topic can be interpreted (Akpotor, 2011). System theory is based on the notion that the world is a whole and the whole is more important than the parts (Easton, 1965). Systems theory is an interdisciplinary approach to understanding and describing complex systems, whether they are physical, biological, social, or organizational. This theoretical framework originated in the natural sciences but has since been applied to various fields, including biology, psychology, engineering, sociology, and management. Systems theory provides a way to study and analyze the interactions and relationships within a system, emphasizing the interdependence of its components (Varma, 1975). Systems theory is used to study and model complex phenomena, providing a holistic perspective that considers the relationships and interactions between components (Varma, 1975). This approach is particularly valuable in understanding dynamic and interconnected systems where traditional reductionist methods may fall short.

Applying systems theory to the relationship between food insecurity and terrorism in Nigeria involves examining the complex interconnections and feedback loops between these two phenomena and other relevant factors. Nigeria's economy is upset by terrorism, which lowers agricultural output and forces farmers to flee their properties out of fear for their safety. This results in a shortage of food. Refugee crises arise when terror drives people from their homes. Food insecurity is exacerbated by displaced persons' strain on host communities' resources. Food distribution and transportation are hampered by attacks on infrastructure, such as markets and highways, which further reduces the amount of food available. Chronic food insecurity leads to economic hardships, unemployment, and social unrest. Vulnerable populations may become susceptible to recruitment by extremist groups promising economic relief or addressing grievances related to resource allocation. Food insecurity creates a financial burden on households by requiring them to spend a large portion of their income on food, which limits their ability to invest in healthcare, education, and other essential services. Persistent food insecurity can lead to social unrest and conflict as communities compete for scarce resources. Food riots and protests are manifestations of the underlying issues of food insecurity. Food insecurity follows malnutrition, especially among vulnerable groups such as children, pregnant women, and the elderly. Acts of terrorism disrupt agricultural activities, cause displacement, and create an environment of fear and instability, negatively impacting food production and distribution.

EMPIRICAL REVIEW

Overview of Food Security in Nigeria

In Nigeria, like in any other nation, food security is defined as the population's

capacity to obtain, use, and depend on a stable and wholesome food supply. Food security is a multifaceted notion that requires addressing a range of elements that impact a country's capacity to guarantee that its citizens have access to enough safe and nutritious food to fulfill their dietary needs and enjoy active, healthy lifestyles. Farmers have been displaced in large numbers as a result of terrorist actions; especially those carried out by organizations like Boko Haram, Herders, and Armed Robbers. Due to the forced abandonment of many farmers' properties, there are now shortages of food since cultivated areas have significantly decreased. Over 2 million people have reportedly been forced to flee their homes as a result of terrorist attacks in the Northeast alone (FAO, 2021).

Food insecurity is made worse by the demolition of agricultural infrastructures, thereby making it more difficult for farmers to produce, store, and deliver their commodities to markets. For instance, a number of grain silos and irrigation channels in Borno State were damaged by Boko Haram extremists in 2020 (Amnesty International, 2020). Farmers are discouraged from participating in agricultural operations by the widespread fear and instability brought about by terrorism. Because of the ongoing fear of terrorist attacks, kidnappings, and bandit extortion, many people are scared to work on their crops. Because of this anxiety, fewer people are willing to work as farmers, thereby lowering agricultural productivity (ICG, 2021).

UNICEF (2023) reports that ongoing violence in the North-Eastern States of Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe (BAY) as well as armed banditry and kidnapping in States like Katsina, Sokoto, Kaduna, Benue, and Niger have impacted food access in Nigeria, reducing harvests and raising the likelihood of food insecurity for families throughout the

nation. They make note of the fact that more than 25 million Nigerians might experience food insecurity. The effects of terrorism on farmers' bottom lines are significant. A growing number of people now lack a reliable source of income, which exacerbates their poverty and food insecurity. Reductions in agricultural production have also hurt Nigeria's economy, which is mostly dependent on the agricultural sector. According to World Bank projections, the prolonged violence has reduced the agriculture sector's contribution to Nigeria's GDP (World Bank, 2021).

Effects of Terrorism on Food Security in Nigeria

Terrorism has significant and far-reaching effects on various aspects of a country's development, including food security. The effect of terrorism on farmers in Nigeria is severe, affecting not only their livelihoods but also the overall food security and economy of the country. In Nigeria, the presence of terrorist groups like Boko Haram, Herdsmen and Bandits has several implications for the country's food security (Nwozor, et.al, 2019). There has been a startling increase in food and nutrition insecurity as a result of rural communities being uprooted by armed groups' attacks, criminal violence, and banditry. There are many fatalities, population displacements, and humanitarian crises in Nigeria as a result of terrorism and its related activities. There are terrible circumstances in refugee camps and among internally displaced people (IDPs), with little access to food, water, and medical treatment. Continuous acts of terrorism disrupt the economy, discourage investment, and result in the destruction of infrastructure (Okafor & Chikalipah, 2021; Wahua, 2017; 2020). Poverty and unemployment are made worse by this economic downturn, which feeds the cycle of radicalization and suffering. Nigerian

governments find it challenging to stay in power and deliver essential services because of terrorism (Okafor & Chikalipah, 2021).

Food insecurity in Nigeria is made worse by terrorism because of the long-term armed activities of groups like the Fulani Herders and the Boko Haram group, whose raids and sackings of farming communities have killed numerous civilians and left many more injured. Because of the extreme levels of insecurity in many of these farming communities, farmers are unable to continue producing food as efficiently as possible, which has a negative impact on productivity and raises food prices (Nwozor, et.al, 2019). Agriculture output has decreased as a result of terrorism. The negative effects of the activities of Boko Haram on agriculture, and the destruction brought by Boko Haram's actions is not only evident but extensive (Okafor & Chikalipah, 2021). In addition to the Boko Haram organization, other organizations' illegal actions have made Nigerian instability worse. The Fulani herders, who have targeted farmlands and villages with their homicidal operations without opposition from the state, are the group having the most catastrophic effect (UNHCR, 2018; Nwozor et.al, 2019). Here are some of the effects of terrorism on food security in Nigeria:

- i. **Disruption of Agricultural Activities:** Terrorism often leads to the displacement of communities and disrupts agricultural activities. Farmers have been forced to abandon their fields due to insecurity, leading to decreased agricultural production in Nigeria (Okafor & Chikalipah, 2021).
- ii. **Internal Displacement and Migration:** The activities of terrorist groups can result in the internal displacement of people.

This displacement often leads to a loss of livelihoods, including farming, and creates challenges in accessing food resources.

- iii. **Infrastructure Destruction:** Terrorist attacks may target critical infrastructure, including roads, markets, and storage facilities. Destruction of such infrastructure can hinder the transportation and distribution of food, affecting both urban and rural food supplies.
- iv. **Market Instability:** Terrorism can lead to economic instability and affect market dynamics. Insecurity may discourage traders and farmers from participating in markets, leading to reduced market activities and increased food prices.
- v. **Reduced Foreign Investments:** Persistent terrorism can deter foreign investments in the agricultural sector. This lack of investment may hinder the adoption of modern farming techniques, reducing overall agricultural productivity.
- vi. **Humanitarian Crisis:** Terrorism can contribute to a broader humanitarian crisis, with the displacement of populations and disruption of normal life. This crisis may strain the ability of the government and humanitarian organizations to provide adequate food assistance to affected populations.
- vii. **Psychological Impact on Farmers:** Constant threats from terrorist groups can create a climate of fear among farmers,

affecting their mental well-being and confidence. This fear may lead to reduced agricultural activities as farmers may be hesitant to work in insecure environments.

- viii. **Policy Responses:** Governments often divert resources from development projects, including those related to agriculture, to address immediate security concerns. This reallocation of resources can negatively impact long-term food security initiatives.

CONCLUSION

This study finds that terrorism in West Africa is an old phenomenon in Nigeria's political system in particular but became more pronounced in the 2000s with the spring up of Boko-Haram and other terrorist groups in Nigeria. The evolving nature of terrorism in Nigeria reflects a combination of historical grievances, religious tensions, economic disparities, and governance issues. Terrorism, due to activities of insurgent groups like Boko Haram and banditry has disrupted agricultural activities and displaced communities which have resulted in decreased agricultural output and food shortages in Nigeria. This study further revealed that terrorism has affected food security in Nigeria in several ways such as disruption of agricultural activities, displacement and migration of farmers, destruction of properties and farming establishment, psychological impact on farmers among others which have translated to reduction in agricultural output and subsequently food insecurity in Nigeria. It further revealed that food insecurity is one of the loopholes in which terrorist groups capitalize on in recruiting food soldiers and food security sometimes is the objective or

reason behind terrorist movements. That is to say, that food insecurity pushes people or is the reason why many people are involved in terrorist acts. Conclusively, terrorism disrupts agricultural activities, displaces communities, and hampers economic development, all of which contribute to food insecurity. Terrorism has led to the displacement of farmers, making it difficult for them to cultivate their lands, and this has direct implications for the availability and accessibility of food.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings and conclusion drawn, this study recommends strengthening of security forces and intelligence capabilities to effectively combat terrorist activities. There is a need to improve border security to prevent the movement of terrorists and illicit goods, including weapons and contraband into the country.

The need for the federal government to invest in conflict resolution mechanisms and peace building initiatives as a way of addressing the root causes of terrorism and promote stability and also should often engage in dialogue with local communities to understand and address grievances that may contribute to support for terrorist groups.

Implement programs to support farmers in conflict-affected areas, including access to seeds, tools, and training to enhance agricultural productivity and also pursue policies that will promote unity such as support for ban on open grazing. They should develop and implement strategies that will facilitate the return of displaced farmers to their lands.

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