

ANALYSING THE TRAJECTORIES OF RURAL BANDITRY, HUMAN DISPLACEMENT AND HUMANITARIAN CRISES IN NIGERIA'S NORTHWEST REGION

Rosenje Musharafa Olapeju and Adeniyi Oluwatobi Peter

Department of Political Science, Tai Solarin University of Education, Ijagun, Ijebu-Ode, Ogun State

Corresponding Author's email: rosenjemo@tasued.edu.ng

(TETFund/ESS/UNI/SOKOTO/ARJ/2)



Abstract

An environment bestowed with peace and tranquility is usually conducive for harmonious social interaction and economic development. Rural banditry in Nigeria's Northwest has brought untold hardship on people resulting in massive human displacement and humanitarian crisis of serious magnitude. This paper investigated the trajectories of rural banditry, human displacement and humanitarian crisis in Nigeria's Northwest region. It adopted descriptive research method, extracted information using secondary sources of data and used human needs theory as its theoretical framework of analysis. The paper revealed that rural banditry in the northwest region of Nigeria is accentuated by weak nature of state institutions, availability of ungoverned spaces, porous nature of Nigeria's borders, proliferation of arms, poor leadership, corruption, unemployment, widespread poverty and the discovery of gold reserves that prompted illegal mining activities in the region. The paper disclosed that the persistent incidence of rural banditry in this region has occasioned increased poverty, food insecurity, poor social facilities like water supply and economy crash, which had resulted in immense humanitarian crisis, that threatened the education of the children, dislocated family members and claimed many lives in the region. It revealed that most efforts made by stakeholders in the region to rescue the situation of human displacement and humanitarian crisis as occasioned by rural banditry in the region yielded minimal results. Thus, it was concluded that rural banditry had enormously prompted human displacement and humanitarian crisis in the northwest region. The paper thus recommended, among others, that the government should to holistically tackle the incessant rural banditry activities by providing basic social amenities, better security for the local communities and tame spiraling unemployment that pervade the region. Government should also strengthen the security personnel by adequately equipping them with sophisticated weapons, modern surveillance gadgets like drones, satellite and GPS, communication gadget and logistics to enhance their fight against rural banditry and other criminalities.

Keywords: Human displacement, Humanitarian crisis, Northwest Nigeria, Rural banditry.

Introduction

In several regions of the world, the discussion of development has placed a strong emphasis on human security and sustainable humanitarian conditions (World Health Organisation [WHO], 2018; Gregoratti, 2018; Akanle, Olorunlana & Shittu, 2017). However, with over 60 million displaced people worldwide and over 18% of the world's population experiencing violent conflict on a yearly basis, armed conflict, disaster, and violence are the most prominent causes of human displacement and humanitarian crisis (Global Peace Index, 2021; International Organisation for Migration [IOM], 2021; The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR], 2015).

In addition, conflicts, floods, famines, or other natural disasters force one in every 100 individuals to apply for refugee status, seek asylum, or become Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) (Global Peace Index, 2021; IOM, 2021; UNHCR, 2015). With over 60 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) worldwide, insurgencies and related crises like human displacement create a need for protection and continue to be the biggest humanitarian burden in various countries (Ban, 2014). Indeed, armed conflict, terrorism, and banditry have an adverse effect on economic growth, with consequences for the development of human communities (Fayehun & Akanle, 2022; Akanle & Omobowale, 2015).

In Africa, intra-state violence, armed conflicts, and ethno-religious conflicts are significant causes of internal displacements with a record of about 15 million Internally Displaced People, which makes the continent a locus of insurgency, human displacement, and humanitarian crises (Akanle, 2018, Crisp, 2010). Similar to this, Nigeria has seen millions of people displaced due to a variety of internal conflicts, including armed warfare like rural banditry, natural catastrophes, ethno-religious conflicts, and communal violence (Mohammed, 2017). Along its national roads, international borders, as well as in the forested interior, the Northwestern region, particularly Zamfara, Katsina, and portions of Sokoto States, has recently seen an increase in rural banditry in the form of kidnapping, livestock rustling, and village raids (Balarabe, Kirfi & Abdulsam, 2021; Ojewale, 2021).

Rural banditry is occasioned by the increasing level of poverty due to the widening political and economic gaps and exclusions in different parts of the nations. These put some groups of people at an economic disadvantage, leading to the emergence of various non-state actors to demand their rights, which has caused tension among citizens and even led to human displacement and humanitarian crisis (Fayehun & Akanle, 2022; Akanle, 2018; Kalin, 2010). On a general note, the consequences of rural banditry on human displacement and humanitarian crises are widespread, depriving the affected people of their jobs, homes, and security. Human displacement and humanitarian crises expose victims to terrible consequences such as arbitrary incarceration, enforced disappearances, forced conscription, human trafficking, sexual assault, lack of access to adequate health care, hunger, and educational opportunities (Adekola, Azuh, Amoo & Brownell, 2019; Danlami & Idowu, 2019).

This is particularly important in the nation's Northwest, where rural banditry and other insurgencies are widespread and have been going on for more than ten years. More than 10 million children are not actively enrolled in school, according to recent data (Mugisha, 2022; Agbakwuru, 2022). As a result, Nigeria has the greatest proportion of out-of-school children worldwide (ACAPS, 2021). For instance, just 53% of primary-age students in northern Nigeria obtain a formal education. Additionally, bandit organisations have put the livelihoods of nearly 21 million people in Kaduna, Katsina, Kebbi, Niger, Sokoto, and Zamfara in danger (Abdullahi, 2022). This has signal the beginning of a new humanitarian crisis in the nation. Therefore, this study conducted an appraisal of rural banditry, human displacement and humanitarian crisis in Nigeria's northwest region.

Conceptual Clarification

Rural Banditry

Banditry has been perceived in a number of ways by different scholars. The reoccurring theme is that it involves the use of violence by sub-national criminal organisations to advance their economic objectives rather than their political or religious objectives (Abdullahi, 2022). It is understood to include all armed robberies as well as other violent crimes like cattle rustling, village raids, highway raids, and kidnapping that involves the use of force or the threat of force to intimidate an individual or a group of individuals with the intent to rob, rape, kidnap, or kill the victims (Abdussalam,

Olayiwola & Akinniyi-Duyile, 2022). In other words, it cuts across the practice of engaging in a variety of criminal crimes such as cattle rustling, arson, armed robbery, murder, kidnapping, and maiming, in order to acquire simple material fortune or to advance an ideology (Akinyetun & Bakare, 2022).

Sunday (2021) avers that it entails using force or making threatening statements in order to frighten someone with the intention to rob, rape, or kill them. The crime has recently developed into a complex and well-organised criminal network, posing a severe security threat to the affected states (Sunday, 2021). Warlordism, terrorism, inter-ethnic strife, and criminality are all components of banditry. What is more, the relative importance of these distinct components varies through time and across different actors (Barnett & Rufai, 2021). In modern civilisations, this kind of criminality and violence is frequent (Ayoola, Ayoola, Icheme, Olasupo & Akinrinde, 2021). Simply put, it is thus a criminal activity that preys on people and organisations in an effort to amass wealth. It includes murder, armed robbery, village raids, ransom kidnapping, rape, theft of livestock, and other acts of armed violence including illegal mining (Okoli & Okpaleke, 2014, cited in Abdullahi, 2022).

On the other side, the term “rural banditry” refers to engagement in illegal activities such as raiding villages, kidnappings, and livestock rustling for financial benefit by group of rural outlaws. In order to take their valuables, including products, cash, livestock, camels, sheep, and other animals, rural bandits, or gangs, terrorise people and visitors. They operate within and along rural borders with the assistance of their local partners, sometimes involving governmental agents directed to work for the population’s safety and security (Abdullahi, 2019). Additionally, it was claimed that rural banditry thrived as a primitive type of cowherd accumulation within the context of subsistence and commercial pastoralism. The most concerning impact of this banditry is the disruption of pastoralist transhumant operations. Also included in rural banditry are rape, kidnapping, coordinated attacks on towns and villages, and looting in the rural environment (Ayoola *et al.*, 2021).

Rural banditry is described as armed conflict where the victims are valuable resource-rich people and communities, and the perpetrators are largely motivated by a desire to plunder and steal in order to succeed financially (Okoli, 2019). It is also evident in criminal activity in rural areas, such as cattle rustling, kidnapping, armed robberies, drug use, arson, rape, and other acts of violence (Rosenje, Soluade, Olatoye, Peju-Rosenje & Adeniyi, 2022). In line with the foregoing, rural banditry in the context of this study encompassed all forms of armed robbery, kidnapping, livestock rustling, and market and village raids, among others, occasioned by the bandits in the rural communities.

Human Displacement

Multiple conceptualisations of human displacement have been developed from a variety of angles, contexts, and usages. Internal displacement and human displacement have been used interchangeably. Human displacement is perceived as the involuntary or forced transfer, evacuation, or relocation of individuals or groups of individuals inside internationally recognised state borders by the African Union Kampala Convention on the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Mohammed, 2017). Human displacement is also characterised in the 1998 Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement as follows:

persons or groups of persons who have been forced, obliged to flee, to leave their homes or places of habitual residence; in particular, as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict situations of generalised violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognised state border (cited in Olanrewaju, Olanrewaju, Omotoso, Alabi, Amoo, Loromeke & Ajayi, 2019, p. 2).

Human displacement describes a situation where various groups of people who are still inside their own country's boundaries but have fled their homes as a result of a natural disaster or armed war. Natural or man-made calamities cause people to leave their homes or places of living, but they have not crossed an internationally recognised boundary that might be their country of citizenship or place of residency (Askederin, Omole & Shonibare, 2021). In this study, human displacement is expressed as a situation where groups of people who due to generalised violence situations like rural banditry, natural or human-made disasters, have been forced to flee their places of habitual residence within a nation.

Humanitarian Crisis

Humanitarian crisis as a concept lacks universally acceptable definition. In many cases, the terms "humanitarian crisis, humanitarian emergency and humanitarian disaster" are used synonymously. But typically, humanitarian crisis is seen as a single occurrence or a chain of connected incidents that pose a serious risk to the health, safety, security, or well-being of a community or other significant group of people, typically over a vast geographic area (Bloxham, 2022). Conflicts and disasters that cause extensive human suffering as well as destructive events and necessitate a variety of emergency resources are referred to as humanitarian crises (Iserson, 2014). An unusual and widespread threat to life, health, or basic survival that is beyond the capacity of individuals or communities to cope with is considered to be a humanitarian crisis (Macrae & Harmer, 2003, cited in Askederin *et al.*, 2021).

Humanitarian crises are considered as single occurrences or strings of events that pose a threat to the health, safety, or general well-being of a neighborhood or large population. The occurrence can be internal or external, and it typically spreads across a broad land region (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [OHCHR], 2022). It is a generalised emergency scenario with high rates of mortality or undernourishment, the spread of diseases and epidemics, and health problems that affect an entire community or a group of people in an area. Inadequate access to safe shelter, food, water, and sanitation are further factors. This problem results from a lack of protection in regions of the world that already experience ongoing inequality, poverty, and a lack of basic services, as well as political events like rural banditry, armed conflict, coups, persecution of ethnic and religious groups, and natural disasters like tsunamis, earthquakes, and typhoons, among others (Iberdrola, 2022). For this study, humanitarian crisis is perceived as a violence or conflict situation that threatens the security of life, property and wellness of large number of people in geographically defined area.

Theoretical Framework

The Human Needs Theory is employed as the theoretical foundation for this study. Abraham Maslow (1954), John W. Burton (1990), Marshal Rosenberg (1983), and Max-Neef Manfred A. (1991) all contributed to the popularisation of this idea. Despite the fact that there have been numerous theories about human wants, this study concentrated on the postulates of Abraham Maslow's (1954) and John W. Burton's (1990) theories. Human needs theory is said to have developed in response to widespread dissatisfaction with the idea that meeting one's basic wants poses a threat to social order and harmony. Human needs theorists canvassed that the desire of the people to meet their needs, whether on an individual, group, or societal level is always the root cause of the majority of irresolvable conflicts. This theory's core tenet is that in order for human beings to survive and achieve some degree of well-being in every area of life, they must have certain things. These requirements are known as (basic) human needs. The lack of alternative means to meet the wants of individuals or groups, according to the human needs theory, is what typically leads to violence or conflict, such as rural banditry, armed robbery, kidnapping, and cattle rustling (Abdussalam *et al.*, 2022).

The theory posits that violence frequently occurs because people need to be understood, respected, and given due consideration. These demands range from biological necessities like involvement, identity, understanding, and acknowledgment to basic necessities like food, water, and shelter. It argues that certain necessities are important for human survival by nature. However, because these fundamental human needs are regularly disregarded, groups frequently resort to violence to defend their rights and meet their wants (Burton, 1990). Human wants are, therefore, powerful sources of explanation for human behaviour and social interaction, human needs theorists remarked (Coate & Rosati 2016, cited in Abdussalam *et al.*, 2022).

Since the theory was created to address conflicts related issues, it is therefore, applicable to this study. In this context, it is evident that the northwest region is currently battling with the threat of rural banditry, which has led to human displacement and humanitarian crisis. The area has been marred by persistently violent attacks by rural bandits, which may be related to inadequate provision of basic requirements and interest protection. Similarly, the human needs theory's applicability can be explained by the government's incapacity to provide the fundamental necessities for human survival in the Northwest. In truth, conflict had mostly been caused by the federal and state governments' inability to provide adequate social amenities to the majority of the affected villages in the area. In most of the afflicted Northwest communities, there are no basic social services, inadequate medical care, bad roads, unemployment, or poverty. From the perception of human needs theory, when these fundamental wants are unjustly denied, they might trigger violence in people (Abdussalam *et al.*, 2022).

Causes and Trends of Rural Banditry in Northwest Nigeria

During the eras of the slave trade, colonialism, and post-colonialism, banditry and other types of conflicts were present in the majority of African nations. Even though banditry and other kinds of violence have undergone notable changes in West Africa, socio-economic and political factors continue to play a dominant role in explaining the phenomenon's presence in the area (Abdullahi, 2019). Banditry in Nigeria has a troubled history that dates back to 1901, when 210 merchants were killed in Western Hausaland while moving grains on a 12,000 camel train (Akinyetun & Bakare, 2022; Umaru, 2020). Since then, the catastrophe of ungoverned places where the state's authority is lacking has emerged as the primary problem that fuels rural banditry (Anyadike, 2018).

Violent rivalry for limited resources due to climate change, particularly between farmers and herders in the northwest, however, has given rural banditry assaults a new dimension since 2011. Land and water have become valuable commodities as a result of environmental and ecological changes in the region, including desertification (Abdussalam *et al.*, 2022). Conflict over resources, including livestock in some circumstances, led to farmer-herder confrontations and violence between armed sedentary Hausa/Non-Hausa farmers and armed nomadic Fulani herders. Some of them on both sides became banditry organisations very rapidly after the establishment of illicit enterprises. Unresolved legal disputes over land and grazing rights, a lack of security and government presence in the region, and the politicisation of the issue have all contributed to the crisis's escalation. Gang violence is said to have originated from Zamfara state, which later expanded to five other states in the area, including Kaduna, Katsina, Sokoto, Kebbi, and Niger, which is in the north central part of Nigeria. Over 8,000 people have perished as a result rural banditry in these areas (Akinyetun & Bakare, 2022).

Recurrent violence due to rural banditry, frequently with high mortality, has resulted from a decadeslong conflict in the area between the Hausa and Fulani on the one hand, and many smaller ethnic groups on the other, for governmental offices, financial resources, and the rewards of

government investment. The problem has been made worse by the growth of dangerous criminal groups that are difficult for state security services to manage and that flourish in an area covered in weapons. The Northwest has experienced a surge in criminal activity over the past 10 years due to the abundance of guns and armed Hausa and Fulani who engage in livestock rustling, kidnapping for ransom, plunder, and gold miner robberies.

In the Northwest, while cattle rustling had previously happened on a local scale in various areas of northern Nigeria, organisation and intensity have increased since 2013. The majority of the rustling is carried out by large, well-armed criminal organisations that have bases in the Kamuku, Falgore, Dansadau, and Kaduna Dajin Rugu forests, which span Kaduna, Katsina, and Zamfara states. The herders have been slain and many herds stolen by the rustlers, who frequently use automatic weapons (Akinyetun & Bakare, 2022). In order to defend themselves, many herders have acquired additional weaponry, which they also employ when battling farmers. These organisations often ambush drivers on roads, killing those who resist or whose families refuse to comply with their demands, in addition to kidnapping persons in rural regions. Also, they plunder and raid villages, raping and kidnapping women while burning homes and barns. In some instances, they send letters to village chiefs asking for money from the locals to pay them to prevent lethal attacks or for farmers to pay tolls to gain access to their crops (Vanguard, 2019).

The militant Islamist group Ansaru organised a sophisticated ambush in January 2020, killing numerous Nigerian soldiers after years of inaction. Since then, Ansaru has taken credit for a number of strikes in the northwest, mostly in northern Kaduna. It has been challenging to distinguish these attacks from those committed by other criminal organisations. Ansaru's revival seems to be related to the group's capacity to capitalise on complaints resulting from the deteriorating socio-economic and insecurity conditions in the area. In order to recruit members, Ansaru uses an intellectual campaign that portrays democracy as corrupt and incompatible with Islam. The extremist organisation seems to have been particularly successful while recruiting among Fulani. The organisation's attempts to spread outside the area and its capacity to target Nigerian soldiers underline the greater security concern the region faces. These have steadily increased the number of security lapses, deadly attacks, and daring criminal acts in the states throughout the area (Ayandele, 2021).

The northwest region of Nigeria's rural banditry has been attributed to a number of factors. The causes and prevalence of rural banditry in northwest Nigeria have been the subject of several studies, including those by Akinyetun and Bakare (2022), Abdussalam et al. (2022), Abdullahi (2022), Rosenje and Adeniyi (2021), Bashir (2021), Mustapha (2019), Adegoke (2019), Anyadike (2018), Gaye (2018), Suleiman (2017), and Olaniyan and Yahaya (2016). The weak state institutions in Nigeria, particularly the security agencies, the availability of areas that are blatantly ungoverned, the porosity of Nigeria's borders, the proliferation of arms, poor leadership, corruption, unemployment, and widespread poverty are some of the factors that have been alleged.

Furthermore, the discovery of gold reserves in parts of the affected regions, such as Zamfara and Kaduna, raises the possibility that the government, unlicensed miners, and Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) may contest ownership of these reserves, leading to an increase in rural banditry, violence, and population displacement. An estimated 80% of mining in the area is artisanal, and there is also covert, illegal mining going on (Abdullahi, 2022; Institute for Security Studies, 2020). Additionally, it was claimed that because rural bandits are notorious for attacking remote villages and seizing local authority, they have typically escaped official supervision. The competition for resources by the Hausa and the Fulani pastoralists has been compounded by banditry, which is majorly brandished by the latter as compensation for excision from local political power by the former (Anyadike, 2018).

Currently, rural banditry is a problem in the Northwest states, with Sokoto, Kaduna, and Zamfara reportedly being its epicenters (Akinyetun & Bakare, 2022; Anyadike, 2018). Table 1 presents selected recent incidences of rural banditry in northwest Nigeria.

Table 1: Selected Incidences of Rural Banditry in Northwest Nigeria (2018-2022)

S/N	Date of Attack	Place of Attack	Nature of Attack
1	31st March, 2018	Bawan Daji village of Anka LGA of Zamfara State	Bandits attacked and killed over 30 people
2	1st March, 2019	Kawaye village in Bagega community of Anka LGA of Zamfara State	16 people were killed and 40 others got abducted by bandits
3	9th June, 2019	Klahu, Tsage and Geeri villages in Rabah LGA of Sokoto State	25 people were killed by bandits
4	4th July, 2019	Kankara and Danmusa LGA of Katsina State	Bandit killed 11 people
5	17th July 2019	Kamitau, Ololo & Rijiyar Communities, Goronyo LGA of Sokoto State	29 people were killed; shops were set ablaze while cattle were stolen.
6	19th August, 2019	Tsayu village of Jibiya LGA of Kastina State	Death of 4 villagers due to bandits' attack
7	17th January, 2020	Babban Rafi Village in Gummi LGA and Makosa Village in Zurmi LGA of Zamfara State	Bandit killed 31 persons
8	2nd March, 2020	Villages in Igabi and Giwa LGA of Kaduna State	50 people were killed while several others injured by bandits
9	20th April, 2020	Kurechin Atai, Kurecin Giye, Kurechin Duste, Makauwachi and Daule Villages in Kastina State	Bandits killed a total of 47 villagers in multiple attacks on all the villages
10	24th April, 2020	Akwunakwo, Kabirasha and Damba villages in Chikun LGA of Kaduna State.	7 persons were killed and 1 person was kidnapped by bandits
11	6th May, 2020	Faskari and Sabuwa LGA of Kastina State	5 people were killed, 1 was kidnapped and DPO was shot by bandits
12	20th May, 2020	Three communites in Tsafe LGA of Zamfara State	Death of 12 people and cart away animals
13	5th June, 2020	Maru and Talata-Mafara LGA of Zamfara State	Death of 21 people by bandits
14	26th July, 2020	Jema'a and Kaura LGA of Kaduna State	Bandits kill 10 in two attacks on 3 villages

S/N	Date of Attack	Place of Attack	Nature of Attack
15	13th September, 2020	Udawa farming community of Kaduna State	Bandits abduct 16 family members
16	18th September, 2020	Tangaza LGA of Sokoto State	Bandits invade Police Station, DPO and 1 Inspector were killed and 2 women abducted
17	27th September 2020	Wasagu town, Danko Wasagu LGA of Kebbi State	Bandits stormed the town, killed one person and kidnapped seven others
18	17th November, 2020	Kaduna-Abuja road Gidan Zaki, Zangon Kataf LGA	Bandits kidnap 8 ABU students on
19	23th November, 2020	Kanoma District, Maru LGA, Zamfara State.	Armed bandits kidnap Imam and 17 worshippers from a mosque
20	1th December, 2020	Tashar Bama, Dogun Muaze and Unguwar Maigayya villages of Sabuwa LGA of Kastina state	Bandits invade and 7 farmers including nursing mother were killed and abduct 30 others
21	5th December, 2020	Kasuwan Magani town in Kajuru LGA of Kaduna State	1 person was killed by bandits
22	12th December, 2020	Government Science Secondary School (GSSS) in Kankara LGA of Katsina state	Bandits attack the school and abduct about 333 students
23	5th March, 2021	Tara, Sabon Birnin LGA & Dingyadi, Bodinga LGA of Sokoto State	A total of 14 persons were killed by bandits in the two communities
24	24th March, 2021	Tunga Community, Illela LGA of Sokoto State	Bandits attacked the village and killed 2 people.
25	3th June, 2021	Koro, Kimpi, Gaya, Dimi, Zutu, Rafin Gora and Iguenge villages in Danko/Wasagu LGA of Kebbi State	Bandits killed about 88 people in eight different communities in Danko-Wasagu Local Government area
26	17th June, 2021	Federal Government Girls College, BirninYauri, Kebbi State	Bandits abducted about 40 students and 3 teachers of the school
27	28th September, 2021	Gangara community, Sabon Birni LGA of Sokoto State	Bandits killed several people and abducted many others.
28	6th & 8th October, 2021	Mamande Market, Gwadabawa LGA & Ungwan Mai Lalle Market, Sabon Birni LGA of Sokoto State	About 32 persons were killed in the two attacks.
29	10th November, 2021	Gatawa town, Sabon Birni LGA of Sokoto State	Bandits abducted 5 people and demanded ₦500,000 as ransom.

S/N	Date of Attack	Place of Attack	Nature of Attack
30	15th November, 2021	Illela & Goronyo LGA of Sokoto State	Bandits on rampage killed about 15 persons in two communities
31	15th November, 2021	Gidan Dare, Sokoto North LGA of Sokoto State	Bandits attacked the community and killed NSCDC officer
32	6th December, 2021	Isa LGA of Sokoto State	About 23 travellers were burnt to ashes on their way to Gayan by bandits
33	9th December, 2021	Kurawa, Sabon Birni LGA of Sokoto State	3 persons lost their lives to bandits' attack while many others were injured.
34	12th December, 2021	Kwasare and Chacho Villages, Wurno LGA of Sokoto State	About 20 villagers were abducted by bandits
35	14th January, 2022	Dankade Village, Danko/ Wasagu LGA of Kebbi State	Bandits invaded the village, killed 13 civilians, 1 police officer and 2 soldiers.
36	1th February, 2022	Ambarura, Illela LGA of Sokoto State	Bandits abducted a mother, 2 children and 1 servant at the traditional ruler's residence
38	20th February, 2022	Yar Tsakuwa Village, Rabah LGA of Sokoto State	Bandits attacked Yar Tsakuwa village and kidnapped about 9 persons, including a serving councilor
37	19th February, 2022	Yauri-Koko Road, Kebbi State	Bandits killed five persons and wounded many after blocking Yauri-Koko road
39	6th March, 2022	Sardauna Community, Sabon Birni LGA of Sokoto State	2 people were killed while 4 others were kidnapped by bandits while working on their farmland
23	6th March, 2022	Sakaba LGA of Kebbi State	Vigilantes were ambushed while chasing bandits and about 63 were confirmed dead
40	9th March, 2022	Kanya Community, Danko Wasagu LGA of Kebbi State	18 soldiers were killed while 8 others were injured in a deadly attack by bandits on a patrol team.
41	15th March, 2022	Kwanan Danjira, Goronyo LGA of Sokoto State	Bandits attacked onions trader, killed 1 person and injured 6 others
42	15th March, 2022	Garara Village, Ngaski District of Kebbi State	Bandits invaded tomato-processing factory killed 4 policemen and one resident.
43	23th & 24th March, 2022	Kwargba & Gatawa villages in Sabon Birni LGA of Sokoto State	Bandits killed 6 people and stole many domestic animals in the two communities

S/N	Date of Attack	Place of Attack	Nature of Attack
44	28th March, 2022	Katari, Kaduna State	Bandits attacked Abuja-Kaduna train, killed about 8 people and abducted many people
45	10th May, 2022	Taka Lime Village, Goronyo LGA of Sokoto State	Bandits killed 8 people and abducted many in the village
46	6th May, 2022	Bakura LGA of Zamfara State	Bandits killed 56 people in three villages
47	7th May, 2022	Faru & Kauyen Minane Villages, Maradun LGA of Zamfara State	Bandits killed 7 people in the attack
48	5th June, 2022	Ugqwan Gamu, Dogon Noma, Ungwan Sarki & Maikori villages in Kajuru LGA of Kaduna State	About 32 people were killed in separate attacks on 4 communities
49	23rd September, 2022	Juma's Mosque, Ruwan Jema Town, Bukkuyum LGA of Zamfara State	Bandits pretended to be worshippers attacked the mosque and killed 15 worshippers.
50	2nd September, 2022	Zugu Community, Gummi LGA of Zamfara State	Bandits attacked Juma'at prayer and abducted scores of worshippers
51	18th September, 2022	Birni Gwari – Funtua Road, Kaduna State	Bandits killed one person, abducted three others and seized 30 vehicles.
52	2nd December, 2022	Karare & Maigamji villages in Batsari and Funtua LGAs of Kastina State	One person was killed and about 46 people were abducted by bandit in attacks on two villages

Source: Author's Compilation from Nigerian Dailies

Overview of Rural Banditry, Human Displacement and Humanitarian Crisis in Northwest Nigeria

Rural banditry is common in the Northwest states of Kaduna, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, and Zamfara, which has contributed to the country's large human displacement and humanitarian catastrophe (Bashir, 2021; ACAPS, 2020; Nigeria Watch, 2018). In the majority of states in the region and elsewhere, it has had terrible humanitarian effects. The number of fatalities and displaced persons has continued to soar, and it has taken the form of shooting and murdering, cattle rustling, kidnapping, rape, torching entire villages, and stealing of valuables. The rural economy has been depleted, while the socio-economic advancement of the affected regions, as well as the state as a whole, has been severely impacted by this menace. Given its expanding impact and ramifications, there can be little doubt that rural banditry constitutes a severe threat to the security of the Northwest states as well as the entire nation (Abdussalam *et al.*, 2022).

Large-scale agriculture and animal husbandry have been highlighted as the region's primary economic activity, with trading serving as a supplementary source of income. However, cultivation and harvesting have now been terribly hindered because of targeted attacks by rural bandits on farmers. The care of animals in these areas has been impacted by cattle rustling as well. The danger of food insecurity for both displaced and non-displaced individuals increased as a result of the violence and forced relocation, which prevented impacted communities from using self-produced grains for commercial farming and subsistence farming. There is the fear of being kidnapped and held captive for ransom, and the affected public has expressed skepticism about

the army's and the police's abilities to reverse this terrible trend since the rural banditry attacks have continued unabatedly (Abdussalam *et al.*, 2022; Ojewale & Balogun, 2022).

Over eighty percent of the population is employed in agriculture, which has been devastated in many areas of northwest Nigeria by rural banditry. Farmers in the affected areas have been abandoning their harvests for years out of the fear of attack or kidnapping. In Zamfara state, attacks by armed organisations and criminal gangs have either damaged or made inaccessible more than 13,000 hectares of crops (International Crisis Group, 2020). According to the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), 80,000 fearful farmers avoided cultivating 21,316 hectares of farmland across five local government areas in Sokoto state (Ladan & Matawalli, 2020; Daily Trust, 2019). In the same vein, many animals also died (Abdullahi, 2022).

The right of vulnerable children and women to education is under threat due to the increasing attacks of rural banditry. For instance, according to a recent report, more than 61 kids are still held captive months after a huge kidnapping for ransom of more than 780 kids in 2021, while several schools were closed down indefinitely. Additionally, between March 2020 and June 2021, many school kidnappings in northwest Nigeria resulted in the abduction of nearly 1,400 students and personnel. These kidnappings happened in the Katsina state towns of Kankara and Mahuta, Zamfara state towns of Jangebe and Maradun, Kaduna state towns of Mando, Afaka, and Kasarami, and Birnin Yauri in (Kebbi state) (Abdullahi, 2022; ACAPS, 2021). Following the targeting of students in 2021 alone, according to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), at least one million children will likely skip school due to the danger of violence. This trajectory foretells dire humanitarian consequences for Nigeria, a nation plagued by widespread poverty in the northwest (Ojewale & Balogun, 2022).

Children have suffered significantly due to banditry attacks and this situation has led to humanitarian crisis in Nigeria's Northwest. In the last ten years, violence in Zamfara state has left almost 16,000 children orphaned. Some political figures in the state have increased their projections; one has boosted it to 44,000. The already high number of out-of-school children in the northwest region has tremendously increased, and the number of young street beggars in multiple towns and cities has surged as a result of rural banditry, which is disrupting schools in many regions (Abdullahi, 2022; International Crisis Group, 2020).

In addition, the northwest region's rural banditry places the greatest humanitarian burden on women and girls. The prevalence of sexual violence has increased, with women frequently being raped, kidnapped, or turned into commodities by families who are compelled to trade their daughters for safety. Communities in Zamfara State's Tsafe Local Government Area were subjected to a similar behaviour after they refused to pay a ₦3 million (approximately US\$5,000) charge (Gadzama, Saddiq, Oduelie & Dariya, 2018). The human cost of rural banditry also includes the livelihoods of women, whose marketplaces and farms were frequently plundered. In the midst of escalating instability and the urgent need for food, safety, housing, and clothing, victims highlight the impact of rape and hunger. In densely populated displaced persons' camps, getting access to water has been more challenging. It is pertinent to state that in tandem with how urban banditry has developed; rural banditry has shown that women are being recruited for criminal activity. The Nigeria Police Force detained a woman in November 2021 for providing criminals in Zamfara with 991 rounds of live AK-47 ammunition and cocaine (Ojewale & Balogun, 2022).

One of the most obvious effects of rural banditry is the displacement of people from their homes, especially in the Northwest. For instance, more than 200,000 people were internally displaced in many villages across the states of Zamfara, Katsina, and Sokoto between January and August of year 2022 (Abdullahi, 2022). The majority of the IDPs that sought safety in the nearby nations of

Niger, Cameroon, and Chad were women, children, and the elderly. Rural banditry in Zamfara State is said to have left 22,000 widows and 44,000 orphans, according to reports from the state government (Abdulyakeen, 2021). Others are dispersed around Internally Displaced Camps, the majority of which are below par and lack access to sleeping accommodations, bathrooms, drinkable water, healthcare, and basic utensils. Because of this, the bulk of these IDPs have turned to begging in order to survive (Akinyetun & Bakare, 2022). Table 2 presents overview of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Northwest Nigeria as at March 2022, while Figure 1 presents number of Internally Displaced Persons (from 2013-2020 in Nigeria).

Table 2: Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Northwest Nigeria as at March 2022

S/N	State	No. of IDPs	% of Total IDPs
1	Katsina	173,856	36.6%
2	Zamfara	123,102	25.9%
3	Kaduna	81,080	17.1%
4	Sokoto	72,106	15.2%
5	Kano	24,600	5.2%
Sub-Total		474,744	100%

Source: International Organisation for Migration, (March, 2022)

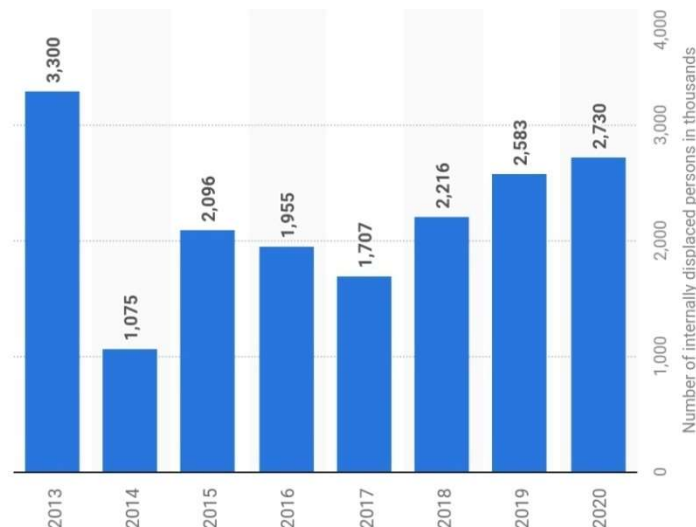


Figure 1: Number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) from 2013-2020 in Nigeria

Source: Sasu (2022)

Though the statistics in Table 2 give the peculiar situation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Northwest region of Nigeria and Figure 1 used for illustration in this study gives a general statistics about the situation in Nigeria, it is however evident that the large chunk of these figures should be attributable to the Northwest, where the security challenge of rural banditry is prevalent and persistent.

The humanitarian crisis that is being sparked by the widespread kidnappings and deadly raids by rural bandits affected mainly citizens in weak areas. As a result, there have been casualties and property losses, evictions from houses, and an increase in the number of widows, widowers, and

orphans who now reside in IDP camps (Rosenje & Adeniyi, 2021). In order to prevent their attacks, bandits levied a fee of 20 million naira (about \$50,000) on five villages in September 2021 (Abdullahi, 2022). Statistics from the Assessment Capacities Project for September to December 2021 showed a dynamic trend of crime, rising mortality, and displacement of people as a result of rural banditry. In addition, 35 violent incidents involving assaults and kidnappings by armed gunmen occurred between September and November 2021, with 229 fatalities (Abdullahi, 2022). Moreover, from January to June 2020, these tragedies resulted in the deaths of at least 1,126 peasants. At least 200 peasants were slaughtered by bandits in Zamfara state in early January 2022 (Ojewale & Balogun, 2022; Akinwotu, 2022).

Stakeholders' Efforts in Addressing Rural Banditry, Human Displacement and Humanitarian Crisis in Northwest Nigeria

Rural banditry has caused widespread population displacement and a humanitarian disaster in Nigeria's northwest and other regions. The government, whether at the state or national level, develops methods and techniques to curb, minimise, or control the threat of any type of severe criminality, such as rural banditry and kidnapping. In order to successfully supply security services, this calls for the formalisation of structures as well as inter-institutional cooperation to combine community and non-community initiatives and improve information collecting (Abdullahi, 2022). Members of the affected communities and government officials at both the state and national levels have been forced to start over and rethink the "baby-sitting" approach to the problem after it failed to yield the desired results due to the rise in rural banditry in Zamfara and parts of Sokoto States (Shinkafi, 2018).

In response to the increasing level of rural banditry in the area, the government increased its deployment. A number of bandits were captured and killed as a result of increased security deployment in the affected states. The brutality of the gang attacks dramatically escalated in spite of the military engagement, making the use of coercion useless (Abdullahi, 2022). The Northwest states and the bandits came to an amnesty agreement in 2019. When Governor Masari emphasised that a negotiated amnesty is still the best way to bring about the region's long-term peace and calm (Sunday, 2021; Campbell & McCaslin, 2020). The negotiated amnesty agreement, however, did not provide the desired results because rural banditry in the area significantly increased. The agreement called for the disarming of the bandits, the release of the victims who had been kidnapped, and, most importantly, the bandits' amnesty in exchange for an undisclosed monetary incentive. The strategy spun in the opposite direction of what was intended, worsening the situation throughout Northwest and beyond instead of deescalating it (Igbini, 2022; Sunday, 2021).

Consequently, the Nigerian government publicly outlawed mining in the northwest when it was discovered that rural banditry activities were being utilised as a cover for illicit mining in ungoverned areas. However, this has not stopped the illegal mining activities, most especially illegal mined gold are being smuggled into nearby nations, and the problem of rural banditry has not stopped getting worse either (Ojewale, 2021).

Conclusion and Recommendations

Rural banditry has displaced many people across Nigeria's Northwest, springing up a burgeoning humanitarian crisis in the region. This paper attempted an appraisal of rural banditry, human displacement and humanitarian crisis in Nigeria's northwest. It revealed that rural banditry in Nigeria's the northwest is accentuated by weak state institutions, availability of ungoverned spaces, porosity of Nigeria's borders, proliferation of arms, poor leadership, corruption, unemployment,

widespread poverty and the discovery of gold reserves, which promoted illegal mining activities in the region. The paper revealed that the persistent incidence of rural banditry in this region has occasioned increased level of poverty and halted the local economic activities of the region, thereby giving rise to food insecurity. It has equally resulted in immense humanitarian crisis, which threatens the education of the children, dislocated family members and claimed many lives as well as displaced many people in the region. It equally disclosed that most efforts made by stakeholders in the region to rescue the situation of human displacement and humanitarian crisis as occasioned by rural banditry in the region yielded minimal results. Thus, it was concluded that rural banditry has enormously prompted human displacement and humanitarian crisis in the northwest region of Nigeria.

Therefore, in order to curb rural banditry and prevent human displacement and humanitarian crisis in the region, the following recommendations are offered:

- (i) Government needs to holistically tackle the incessant rural banditry activities by providing basic social amenities, employment and better security for the local communities in the region and country at large.
- (ii) Government should make a practical law against rural banditry and such enforcement must include the concerted prosecution of all bandits perpetrating crimes of all sorts, most especially crimes against women and children in Nigeria's northwest.
- (iii) State governments should put in place a functional security system like community policing to supplement the operations of national security agencies to collectively fight against rural banditry in their states.
- (iv) Government should strengthen the security personnel by equipping them with sophisticated weapons, modern surveillance gadgets like drones, satellite and GPS, communication gadget and logistics to enhance their fight against rural banditry and other criminalities.
- (v) There is need for the government to improve efforts to address the vulnerabilities and needs of IDPs within host communities. These government policy directives regarding the protection of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) should conform to the international humanitarian laws and the fundamental rights of IDPs as enshrined in such protocols.

References

- Abdullahi, A. (2019). Rural banditry, regional security, and integration in West Africa. *Journal of Social and Political Sciences*, 2(3), 644-654.
- Abdullahi, I. (2022). Armed banditry, coercive approach and human security in the Northwest Nigeria. *International Journal of Research and Innovation in Social Science (IJRISS)*, 6(3), 329-338.
- Abdulyakeen, A. (2021). Armed banditry and human security in Northwestern Nigeria: The impacts and the way forward. *Journal of Humanities Social and Management Sciences Edwin Clark University*, 1(1), 89-107.
- Abdussalam, A. A., Olayiwola, R. A., & Akinniyi-Duyile, P. F. (2022). Impact of banditry on rural development in Kaduna State (2016-2021). *KIU Journal of Social Sciences*, 8(2), 71- 80.
- ACAPS (2020). Nigeria: Banditry violence and displacement in the Northwest. ACAPS. Retrieved from <https://www.acaps.org/special-report/nigeria-banditry-violence-and-displacement-northwest>
- Adegoke, S. G. (2019). Insurgency, armed banditry and corruption in Nigeria: The bane of socio-economic underdevelopment. *International Journal of Advanced Academic Studies*, 2(1), 17-26.
- Adekola, P.O., Azuh, D.E, Amoo, E.O & Brownell, G (2019). Restoration of water supply in post conflict communities in Nigeria and Sustainable reintegration. *International journal of Civil Engineering and Technology (IJCET)*, 10(2), 191-201.
- Agbakwuru, J. (2022, February 18). Out-of-School children national, not northern problem – FG. *Vanguard*. Retrieved from <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/02/out-of-school-children-national-not-northern-problem-fg/>
- Akanle, O. & Omobowale, A. O. (2015). Trans-border banditry and integration in the ECOWAS Region. In A. O. Olutayo & I. A. Adeniran (Eds.), *Regional Economic Communities: Exploring the Process of Socio-economic Integration in Africa* (pp. 101-110.). CODESRIA Dakar: Senegal.
- Akanle, O. (2018). Non-state actors as the strategic realm in Africa's development. In. O. Akanle & J. O. Adesina (Eds.), *The Development of Africa: Issues, Diagnoses and Prognoses* (pp. 289-306). Berlin: Springer.
- Akanle, O., Olorunlana, A. & Shittu, O. (2017). Culture, suicide-terrorism and security in Nigeria. In P. Adejoh & W. Adisa (Eds.) *Terrorism & Counter Terrorism War in Nigeria* (pp. 138-149). Lagos: University of Lagos Press.
- Akinwotu, E. (2022, January 9). At least 200 villagers killed by bandits in north-west Nigeria. *The Guardian*. Retrieved from <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jan/09/hundreds-villagers-killed-by-bandits-in-north-west-nigeria>
- Akinyetun, T. S. & Bakare, K. (2022). A web of crimes, routine activity theory and the deepening scourge of armed banditry in Nigeria. *Facta Universitatis Series: Law and Politics*, 20(1), 61-76.
- Anyadike, O. (2018). Zamfara: Nigeria's wild northwest. *The New Humanitarian*. Retrieved from <https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/news-feature/2018/09/13/zamfara-nigeria-s-wild-northwest>

- Askederin, F. M., Omole, D. K., & Shonibare. D. O. (2021). The state of internally displaced persons camps in Nigeria: A case study of Durumi camp in the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria. *Texila International Journal of Academic Research*, 8(4), 1-8.
- Ayandale, O. J. (2021). Confronting Nigeria's Kaduna crisis. *Africa Centre for Strategic Studies*. Retrieved from africacenter.org/spotlight/confrontingnigerias-kaduna-crisis/
- Ayoola, G. O., Ayoola, O. O., Icheme, M. O., Olasupo, A. S., & Akinrinde, S. A. (2021). *Nigeria navigating insurgency to banditry and avoidable resurgence mayday approach*. Retrieved from <https://www.academia.edu/49679781/Nigeria-navigating-insurgency-to-banditry-and-avoidable-resurgence-mayday-approach>
- Balarabe, A., Kirfi, M. M. & Abdulsaam, Z. (2022). An assessment of the impact of structures and interinstitutional collaboration on the delivery of security services in the bandits-bedeviled Zamfara and Sokoto States. *International Journal of Management and Commerce Innovations*, 9(2), 125-140.
- Ban, K. M. (2014). *UN Chief urges more action to tackle displacement; recalls youth on the run in wartime Korea*. Retrieved from <https://www.unhcr.org>
- Barnett, J. & Rufai, M. (2021). The other insurgency: Northwest Nigeria's worsening bandit crisis. *War on the Rock*. Retrieved from <https://warontherocks.com/2021/11/the-other-insurgency-northwest-nigerias-worsening-bandit-crisis/>
- Bashir, A. M. (2021). The implications of cattle rustling to human and food security in the rural communities of Kaduna State, Nigeria. *Zamfara Journal of Politics and Development*, 2(1), 1-18.
- Bloxham, L. (2022, January 26). What is a humanitarian crisis? *Concern Worldwide*. Retrieved from <https://www.concern.org.uk/news/what-is-a-humanitarian-crisis>
- Burton, J. (1990). *Conflict: Resolution and prevention*. New York: St. Martin's Press.
- Burton, J. W. (1990). *Conflict: Basic human needs*. New York: St. Martin's Press.
- Campbell, J. & McCaslin, J. (2020, June 12). Bandits and Jihadi attacks span Northern Nigeria. *Council of Foreign Relations*. Retrieved from <https://www.cfr.org/blog/bandit-and-jihadi-attacks-span-northern-nigeria>
- Crisp, J. (2010). Forced displacement in Africa: Dimensions, difficulties, and policy directions. *Refugee Survey Quarterly*, 29(3), 1-27.
- Daily Trust (2019, October 9). Bandits kill 200; displace 45,175 in 15 months in Sokoto. Retrieved from <https://dailytrust.com/bandits-kill-200-displace-45175-in-15-months-in-sokoto>
- Danlami, G. & Idowu, O. O. (2019). *Analysis of the effects of service delivery on the wellbeing of IDPs in Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja*. Being a paper presented at the 60th Annual Conference of the Association of Nigerian Geographers held at Kaduna State University between 13th to 18th October.
- Fayehun, O. & Akanle, O. (2022). *Humanitarian crises and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nigeria: A situation analysis*. Ibadan: Arts and Humanities Research Council.
- Gadzama, I. U., Saddiq, N. M., Oduelie, T. C., & Dariya, C. J. (2018). Appraisal of rural banditry in Kamuku forest in Birnin Gwari Local Government Area of Kaduna State Nigeria. *Nigerian Journal of Rural Sociology*, 18(1), 42-49.

- Gaye, B. S. (2018). *Connections between Jihadists groups and smuggling in the Sahel*. Dakar: Friedrich Ebert Stiftung.
- Global Peace Index (2021). Measuring peace in a complex world. *Institute for Economics & Peace, Sydney*. Retrieved from <https://www.reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/GPI-2021-web.pdf>
- Gregoratti, C. (2018) Human security. *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Retrieved from <https://www.britannica.com/topic/human-security>
- Iberdrola, S. A. (2022). *Humanitarian crises*. Retrieved from <https://www.iberdrola.com/social-commitment/humanitarian-crises-causes-effects-solutions>
- Igbini, D. M. (2022). Banditry and security threats: An analysis of insecurity in Nigeria. *Journal of Public Administration, Finance and Law*, (23), 53-62.
- Institute for Security Studies (2020). *Criminal networks fuel community violence in a bid to exploit untapped mineral deposits in the North West*. Retrieved from <https://issafrica.org/iss-today/how-illegal-mining-is-driving-local-conflicts-in-nigeria>
- International Crisis Group (2020). *Violence in Nigeria's Northwest: Rolling back the mayhem*. Brussels, Belgium: International Crisis Group.
- International Organisation for Migration (IOM), (2022). Displacement tracking matrix North Central and North West Zones. *Displacement Report Round 2*. Retrieved from <https://displacement.iom.int/Nigeria> or www.globaldtm.info/nigeria
- International Organization for Migration (IOM) (2021). *Nigeria-North East displacement factsheet round 36*. Retrieved from <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/nigeria-%E2%80%94-north-east-displacement-factsheet-round-36-may-2021>
- Iseron, K. V. (2014). Tackling the global challenge: Humanitarian catastrophes. *Western Journal of Emergency Medicine*, 15(2), 231-240.
- Kalin, W. (2010). *The human rights of internally displaced persons*. Retrieved from <https://www.brookings.edu/on-the-record/thehuman-rights-of-internally-displaced-persons-2/>
- Ladan, S. I. & Matawalli, B. U (2020). Impacts of banditry on food security in Katsina State, Nigeria. *Direct Research Journal of Agriculture and Food Science*, 8(12) 439-447.
- Macrae, J. & Harmer, A. (2003). *Humanitarian action and the global war on terror: A review of trends and issues* (HPG Report 14). London: ODL.
- Maslow, A. (1954). *Motivation and personality* (2nd ed.). New York, NY: Harper and Row.
- Max-Neef, M. A. (1991). *Human-scale development: Conception, application and further reflection*. London: Apex Press.
- Mohammed, F. K. (2017). The causes and consequence of internal displacement in Nigeria and related governance challenges. *Working Paper*. Division Global Issues, Stiftung Wissenschaft und politik. German Institute for International and Security Affairs.
- Mohammedu, S. A. (2017). *Farmers –pastoralist conflicts in Nigeria: Case studies of Dansadai, Sabuwa and BirninGwari communities of Zamfara, Katsina, and Kaduna States*. Pilot CEDDERT Seminar, Zaria, (EDDERT).

- Mugisha, E. (2022, May 16). Out-of-school children: More than 10 million girls are not receiving any education in Nigeria. *Radio Ndarason International*. Retrieved from <https://ndarason.com/en/out-of-children-more-than-10-million-girls-are-not-receiving-any-education-in-nigeria/>
- Mustapha, U. N. (2019). Armed banditry and internal security in Zamfara State. *International Journal of Scientific & Engineering Research*, 10(8), 1219-1226.
- Nigeria Watch (2018). *Eighth report on violence*. Retrieved from <http://www.nigeriawatch.org/media/html/NGA-Watch-Report18V4.pdf>
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR, 2022). *Humanitarian crisis and emergencies*. Retrieved from <https://www.ohhchr.org/en/taxonomy/term/878>
- Ojewale, O. & Balogun, O. (2022, January 10). *Banditry's impacts on women and children in Nigeria needs a policy response*. Retrieved from <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/africaatlse/2022/01/10/banditry-impacts-on-women-children-in-nigeria-needs-policy-response-kidnappings-ssi-education/>
- Ojewale, O. (2021, February 18). *Rising insecurity in northwest Nigeria: Terrorism thinly disguised as banditry*. Retrieved from <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2021/02/18/rising-insecurity-in-northwest-nigeria-terrorism-thinly-disguised-as-banditry/>
- Okoli, A. C. & Okpaleke, F. N. (2014). Banditry and crisis of public safety in Nigeria: Issues in national security strategies. *European Scientific Journal*, 10(4), 350–62.
- Okoli, A. C. (2019, September 12). What can be done to fight rural banditry in Northern Nigeria. *Reliefweb*. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/what-can-be-donefight-rural-banditry-northern-nigeria>
- Olaniyan, A. & Yahaya, A. (2016). Cows, bandits, and violent conflicts: Understanding cattle rustling in northern Nigeria. *Africa Spectrum*, 51(3), 93-105.
- Olanrewaju, O. F, Olanrewaju, A., Omotosho, F., Alabi, J. O, Amoo, E, Laromeke, E. & Ajay, L. A. (2019). Insurgency and the Invisible Displaced Population in Nigeria: A Situational Analysis. *Sage Publication*, April-June, 1-12.
- Rosenberg, M. B. (1983). *A model for nonviolent communication*. Philadelphia, PA: New Society Publishers.
- Rosenje, M. O. & Adeniyi, O. P. (2021). The impact of banditry on Nigeria's security in the Fourth Republic: An evaluation of Nigeria's Northwest. *Zamfara Journal of Politics and Development*, 2(1), 1-26.
- Rosenje, M. O., Soluade, Z. O., Olatoye, O. A., Peju-Rosenje, T. O. & Adeniyi, O. P. (2022). Armed banditry and the collapse of education in northwest Nigeria. *Journal of Lexicography and Terminology*, 6(2), 94-115.
- Sasu, D. D. (2022, December 12). Number of internally displaced persons in Nigeria, 2013-2020. Statista. Retrieved from <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1237374/number-of-internally-displaced-persons-in-nigeria/>
- Shinkafi, A. (2018, April 5). Beyond the banditry in Zamfara. *This Day*. Retrieved from <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2018/04/05/beyond-the-banditry-in-zamfara>

- Suleiman, A. O. (2017). Thematic appraisal on the impulsive upsurge of yahoo-yahoo in the 21st Century in Nigeria: Qur'anic standpoint.
- Sunday, O. (2021). Buying peace or building peace? Amnesty deals and the rising armed banditry in Northwestern Nigeria. *Nile Journal of Political Science NJPS*, 2(1), 27-51.
- Umaru, M. E. (2020). Threats of rural banditry on human and food security in Niger state, Nigeria. *Zamfara Journal of Politics and Development*, 1(1), 1-14.
- UNHCR, (2015). *Global trends: Forced displacement in 2015*. Retrieved from <https://www.unhcr.org/576408cd7.pdf>
- Vangaurd (2019, June 23). *Kidnapping, banditry, killings: 133 highways of terror*. Retrieved from <https://www.vangaurdngr.com/2019/06/kidnapping-banditry-killings-133-highways-of-terror/>
- World Health Organization (WHO). (2018). *Nigeria Humanitarian Response Plan 2018*. Retrieved from www.fews.net/west-africa/nigeria/key-message-update/january-2018