

## Effects of Banditry on Food Production on Borno South Senatorial District

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### ABSTRACT

Banditry is the formation of armed bands with the intent of attacking state or societal institutions, businesses, or individuals. These are gangs of criminals who terrorize and take valuable possessions of the local populations and travelers, such as their merchandise, money, livestock, camels, and sheep. There are various types of armed banditry. These include social, rural-urban frontier, countryside, mercenary, organized, maritime, and petty banditry. Relative deprivation, social inequalities, and grievances often trigger armed banditry. Accordingly, armed bandits often operate in rural settings, such that their attacks, kidnappings, and cattle rustlings, lootings, among other criminal activities, are carried out in, from and against villages. Their operational control can therefore revolve around rural and border communities, and uninhabited or less populated spots along major roads or waterways. In this manner, the primary victims of armed banditry are innocent citizens residing in or travelling along remote parts of the country. Frustration aggression theory was used. The research used both primary and secondary data. Relative deprivation theory was adopted. The research revealed that banditry led to food insecurity, banditry also led to loss of lives and properties. The research recommend investment on poverty alleviation and also agricultural infrastructure so as to improve food security.

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### INTRODUCTION

Banditry has existed and functioned in various parts of the world since the 19th century, when bandits riding primarily on horseback moved from their hideouts to attack communities and then retired back to their hideout (Usman & Singh, 2021). Banditry thrived in northeast Nigeria due to long-term unresolved conflicts between farmers and herders' populations who roam the high plains of northern Nigeria (Balogun et al., 2024). As a multifaceted quandary, insecurity assumes varying dimensions in different geopolitical zones. The South West is plagued by a surge in cybercrime, armed robbery,

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kidnapping, domestic crime, extrajudicial killings, herder-farmer conflicts, ritual killings, and banditry (Lekan et al., 2022).

The South East is a centre for ritual killings, commercial crime, secessionist agitation, kidnapping, herder-farmer clashes, attacks by unknown gunmen, and banditry (Nwankpa, 2024). The South remains threatened by militancy, kidnapping, and environmental agitation (Ajiboye, 2023). The North East has been subject to a humanitarian crisis lasting over a decade and caused by the Boko Haram insurgency and the Islamic State in West Africa Province (Ladan & Matawalli, 2021).

The North West is faced with illegal mining, ethno-religious killings, and banditry (Oyewole & Utibe, 2024). It is, therefore, an axiom that insecurity in Nigeria has assumed a disproportionate geopolitical stance, which has claimed thousands of lives and caused extensive damage and loss of property (Ojo et al., 2023). Any form of violence that creates insecurity in rural areas, where farmers make up the majority of the population, is bound to impact national food production and farming methods (Ojewale et al., 2024). A bandit is a robber or outlaw who is a member of a gang and operates in a lawless or isolated area of a country, stealing or robbing people with weapons (Oladoyin et al., 2024). Banditry is the formation of armed bands with the intent of attacking state or societal institutions, businesses, or individuals (Olaoye & Ojo, 2023). These are gangs of criminals who terrorize and take valuable possessions of the local populations and travelers, such as their merchandise, money, livestock, camels, and sheep (Ajiboye, 2023).

There are various types of armed banditry. These include social, rural-urban frontier, countryside, mercenary, organized, maritime, and petty banditry (Oyewole & Utibe, 2024). Relative deprivation, social inequalities, and grievances often trigger armed banditry (Balogun et al., 2024). Mercenary banditry usually operates as either an agency or a master-servant relationship, as a case of a group operating under a master who provides necessary logistics (Ladan & Matawalli, 2021). Organized banditry operates across borders through an efficient network and command structure (Nwankpa, 2024). Maritime banditry operates along the coastal belts, whereas petty banditry is a lone criminal act characterized by robbing citizens of their belongings (Usman & Singh, 2021).

In most cases, armed bandits often live in ungoverned or under-governed spaces, like northeast Nigeria, where government presence is mostly limited or absent, which can be seen in areas like Biu, Hawul, Bayo, Askira Uba, Shani, and Kwaya Kusar (Usman & Singh, 2021). These include remote areas and forest enclaves, which are used as hiding places to plan and execute attacks (Lekan et al., 2022). Such an environment provides bandits with opportunities for operational advantage (Oyewole & Utibe, 2024). Consequently, armed bandits often operate in rural settings, such that their attacks, kidnappings, cattle rustlings, and lootings, among other criminal activities, are carried out in, from, and against villages (Ajiboye, 2023). Their operational control can therefore revolve around rural and border communities, and uninhabited or less populated spots along major roads or waterways (Ojo et al., 2023). In this manner, the primary victims of armed banditry are innocent citizens residing in or travelling along remote parts of the country (Oladoyin et al., 2024).

According to the World Food Summit of 1996, food security "exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that

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fits their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life" (FAO, 2016). Food security is defined by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO, 2010) as the availability of food in terms of production, distribution, and consumption (Nwankpa, 2024). Any sort of violence that causes insecurity in rural areas, where the bulk of the population are farmers, is sure to have an impact on global food security (Ojewale et al., 2024). The activities of banditry in northeast Nigeria have forced rural dwellers to abandon their homes, leading people to lose not only their residences but also access to the resources needed for agriculture (Ladan & Matawalli, 2021). Displacement disrupts established farming practices and erodes the communal support structures crucial for resilience in the face of adversity (Olaoye & Ojo, 2023)

In the course of reviewing existing literature, the following gaps were identified First, at the conceptual level, definitions of banditry. Thus, the challenge of designating armed conflict in Borno state and North East Nigeria as acts of terrorism. This study will attempt to fill this conceptual gap by proffering a holistic definition of banditry.

Secondly, there is little or no empirical study on the banditry and food security in Borno State. Existing literatures focused on food security, climate change and military operations. This study will attempt to fill this gap. Furthermore, various literatures in the Borno south valley have no under pinning solution to the attack by bandits hence the gap. The existing literature on the Borno south seems to be silent on the root cause of the attacks by bandits and its mitigating efforts. This study will attempt to fill this gap.

This study is aimed at highlighting the effects of banditry on food security in Borno south senatorial district and the efforts of government in mitigating the problem of banditry. The study will benefits the community under study to be aware of different form of banditry and the need for collaborating with security agencies through intelligence gathering so as to end banditry .The recommendation of the study will also help security agencies within the areas on the need to be proactive and use of technology in dealing with issue of banditry .

Furthermore, the paper was structured into sections where the first section formed the introduction that entailed the motivation of the authors and objectives of the research, section 2 contained conceptual clarification in line with relevant literature that supported the research, section 3 cached the effects of banditry on food security ,section 4 deal with efforts of government in tackling banditry and improve food production . section 5 deal with theoritcal framework section 6 is methods and procedures followed in the conduct of the research; section 7 housed the results and discussion of the research presented following the pattern of the objectives in the research, and the last section, 8, covers the conclusion and further scope of the research.

## METHOD

### Literature review

#### 2.1. Conceptual clarification

Banditry Is as an organized crime involving kidnapping, armed robbery, murder, rape, cattle-rustling, and the exploitation of environmental resources. The concept of banditry has been changing over time, space and circumstances.

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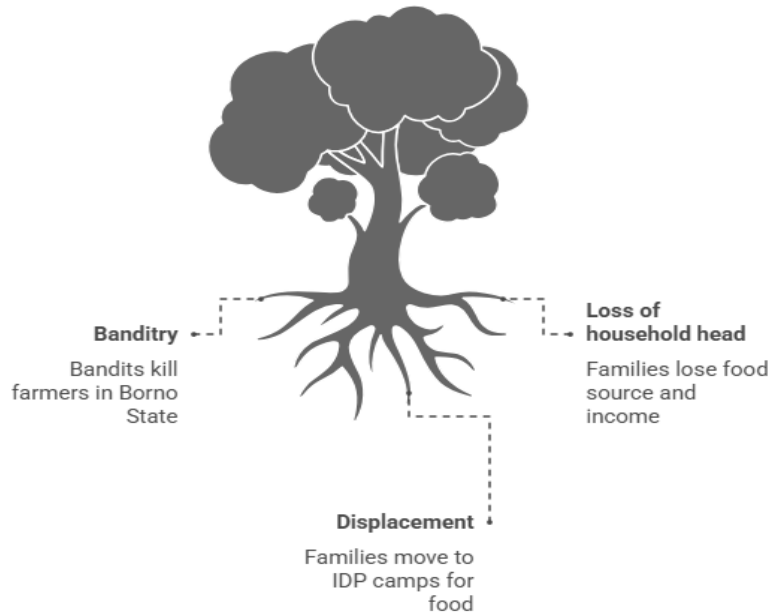
Security is defined as the protection and the safety of a country's secrets and its citizens. UNDP (1994) defines the concept of human security as the safety from chronic threats of hunger, diseases, and repression. It also entails the protection from hurtful and disruptive patterns of daily life. Kerr (2007), further pointed out that human security is the protection of individuals and communities from war and other forms of violence. Human security means the absence of insecurity and threats.

Food security According to Bourne, (2014), it is the security of physical and economic access to food supply and protection from famine and thus integrates threats arising from economics, environment, and politics and so on. Food production, whether at home or in the food industry, is the process of creating food by transforming raw materials into ready-to-eat food items.

Effects of Banditry on food production in Borno South Senatorial District. The activities of banditry in the north east have impacted negatively on food production especially in Southern Borno in the following areas.

### **Killing of farmers**

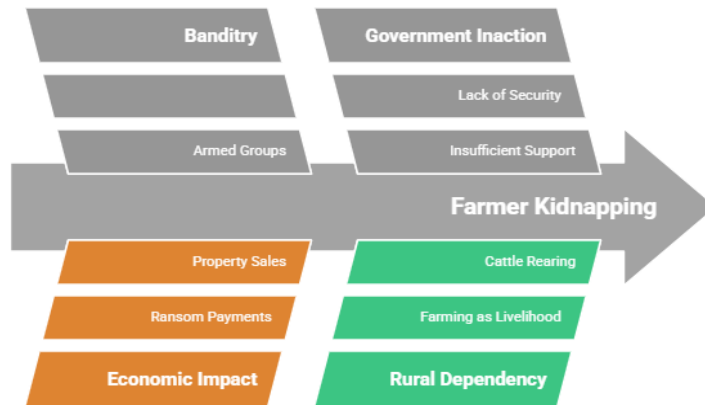
This is one of the most devastating effects of banditry in Borno State, where farmers are killed by the bandits (Balogun et al., 2024). Most families experience food insecurity when the heads of the households are dead (Nwankpa, 2024). These farmers are heads of households who are married with children, and their deaths adversely affect the other family members in terms of food supply (Oyewole & Utibe, 2024). An example of the killing of farmers by bandits took place in the village of Debiro when, on 10th July 2020, farmers were on the farm working after an overnight rain. The bandits, numbering over 100, shot sporadically, killing 15 farmers and injuring several others (Lekan et al., 2022). On 10th September 2021, three farmers were also killed by bandits in Bama LGA, one of the most agrarian areas in the state (Usman & Singh, 2021). In fact, most of the people killed by the bandits in the villages of the local government sampled for the study are either farmers or cattle rearers, whose death means their families and dependents suffer from food shortages at the family level (Ojewale et al., 2024). In some cases, the families of the deceased farmers or cattle rearers have no option but to move to internally displaced persons' camps, where their source of food could be guaranteed for some time by the government (Ladan & Matawalli, 2021). The displacement caused by banditry disrupts established farming practices and erodes the communal support structures crucial for resilience in the face of adversity (Ajiboye, 2023). The impact of banditry on food security has been widely documented, emphasizing how violent conflicts in agrarian areas lead to disruptions in agricultural production and supply chains (Olaoye & Ojo, 2023).



**Figure 1.** Farmer killings by bandits cause food insecurity

### **Kidnapping of farmers**

This is another devastating impact of banditry where farmers are kidnapped when they go to work in their farms (Balogun et al., 2024). Whenever farmers are kidnapped, they are usually taken to the forest and will not be released until ransom is paid (Oyewole & Utibe, 2024). This payment of ransom affects farmers as it impoverishes them, and in some cases, they have no option but to sell their properties, including their farmlands, to get money to pay the ransom (Lekan et al., 2022). In Damboa LGA, some of the farmers in the villages sold their farmlands to buy a house in Biu town to escape kidnapping (Usman & Singh, 2021). One of the most recent cases of kidnapping was at a village in Sabon Gari on 14th October 2019, where 22 farmers working on the farmlands were kidnapped while some managed to escape (Ajiboye, 2023). One of the farmers who narrowly escaped lamented during an interview that: “In these villages, we depend mostly on two things as sources of livelihood farming and cattle rearing. Farming has become difficult due to insecurity. Domestic animal rearing has also become difficult as bandits have rustled our cattle, and presently, they are abducting us on our farms. I am calling on the government to come to our aid as we cannot migrate to the cities since we have no job to do there, and all that we have are in the villages. Anybody that is used to village life cannot stay in the city as the city consumes wealth” (Ojewale et al., 2024).



**Figure 2.** Causes of Farmer Kidnapping in Nigeria

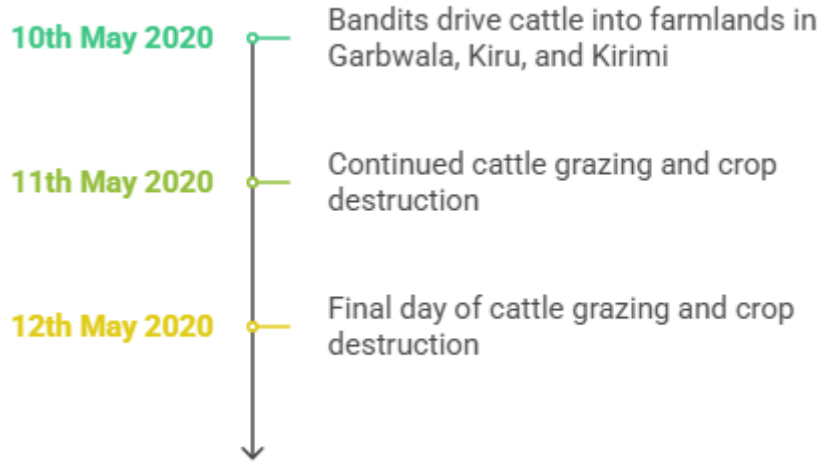
### Chasing farmers out of their farms

Bandits chase farmers out of their farms when they see them working there (Balogun et al., 2024). As the bandits are usually well armed, they run after the farmers on their motorcycles with the intention of hurting or killing, and the farmers have no option but to run since they are not armed (Oyewole & Utibe, 2024). For example, during the week of 3rd May 2020, at the outskirts of Malam Jakwa, Tashan Alade, Kwajaffa Burah, Azare, Hizhi Bwala, and Shaffa villages of Hawul LGA, some farmers were on their farmlands in preparation for the farming season when they were chased out by the bandits, telling them, “Who told you that there will be farming this season?” (Usman & Singh, 2021).

From this incident of chasing farmers out of their farmlands, other farmers became scared to begin preparation for the farming season, as the bandits even moved in broad daylight on their motorcycles to check for any evidence of farming activity to destroy it (Lekan et al., 2022). In certain instances, it was the sound of gunshots coming from the forest or gunfire in the air that chased farmers out of their farmlands (Ajiboye, 2023). This was the case outside Harang, Jibhwiwi, and some sides of Debiro in the first week of October 2022 (Ladan & Matawalli, 2021).

### Seizing of farmlands:

This happens where farmlands are located very close to the forest hideout of the bandits. It also occurs outside villages that have been completely deserted due to incessant attacks by the bandits. The bandits seize the farmlands and use them as grazing fields for the large number of cattle they acquire illegally through cattle rustling activities. In some areas where the bandits have not seized the farmlands, the bandits drive their cattle into the farmlands to eat up crops that have started to germinate after the first rains were recorded. This was the case between 10th – 12th May 2020 at farmlands located outside Garbwala, Kiru and kirimi villages of Hawul LGA.



**Figure 3.** Bandits' Cattle Rustling and Farmland Seizure Timeline

### **Cattle Rustling**

Bandits engage in theft of cattle or cattle rustling in all the Six LGAs sampled for the study. When the bandits attack villages, they shoot sporadically into the air to scare away the villagers and create an atmosphere of chaos as the villagers run for safety. The bandits then direct a group among them that specializes in cattle theft to enter houses and steal cattle from where they are kept. Besides farming, cattle rearing is another source of livelihood in the villages. Therefore, the theft of cattle deprives the villagers of their source of livelihood and halt cattle rearing activities. It deprives the villagers of source of farm labour used to make ridges to plant crops. According to the Focus Groups held on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024, in Shani the large farmlands in the LGAs were cultivated with the use of hoes, since they were rustled such large farmlands were left uncultivated. Theft of cattle also deprives the villagers of the source of manure for their farmlands. In Bayo LGA, for example, the bandits rustled 80 cows and 250 goats and sheep during series of attacks in the month of July 2020 on the village of Briyel in June and July 2020. According to interview conducted on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024 in Bayo.



**Figure 4.** Impact of Cattle Rustling on Rural Communities

**Halting of crop harvesting**

Bandits stop farmers from harvesting their crops particularly in the months of October/November during the harvesting period. In some villages of Hawul LGA bandits inspect the farms to identify areas where beans and guinea corn have grown well, they then come later to drive their cattle to eat up the crops and then move to other farms. In some villages of Kwaya Kusar LGA, the bandits impose taxes on the farmers in order to be allowed to harvest their crops. According to one of the residents during interview on the 21<sup>st</sup> December 2024, the farmers of Wandali had to collectively pay N700, 000, the farmers of Dan Choba had to pay N800, 000 and the farmers of Bargu had to pay N105, 000 before they were allowed by the bandits to harvest their crops. In villages where the farmers could not collectively pay the impose taxes, they will not be allowed to harvest their crops.



**Figure 5.** Bandits' Impact on Crop Harvesting in Nigeria

### Burning and raiding of grain silos

During large scale attacks that involve large number of bandits which lasted for some hours, the bandits engaged in the burning of local grains silos (called rumbu in Hausa language). These grain silos contain foodstuffs that were stored by the farmers which could last for many months but were burnt by the bandits which created lack of food for the villagers. In some cases, the grain silos were raided and the food stolen by the bandits creating food scarcity in the households. The bandits also burgle local shops that sell foodstuffs and steal the food items which makes foodstuffs to be scarce even in the local shops of the villages. Example here includes the attack on Debiro village of Hawul LGA on 14th February 2016. The attack on Haran in Hawul LGA on 29th May 2015 is another example of these kind of attacks. Blocking of local trade routes: These are local trade routes that are found along roads linking rural markets where buyers and sellers of foodstuffs pass through especially on market days. The bandits block such routes to intercept vehicles with the traders inside. The bandits snatch foodstuffs intended for sale at the markets, money meant for the purchase of foodstuffs or even kidnap the traders till large sums of monies are paid. For example, on Sunday 5th January 2021, the bandits blocked a section of Jibhwiwi to Dalwa road to kidnap 38 traders returning from Debiro weekly market. Also, on three consecutive days 21st, 22nd and 23rd February 2020, the bandits mounted a road block along kirmi to Garbwala road in Hawul LGA to rob travelers of their money and cell phones according to interview conducted on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024 with some resident of Hawul.

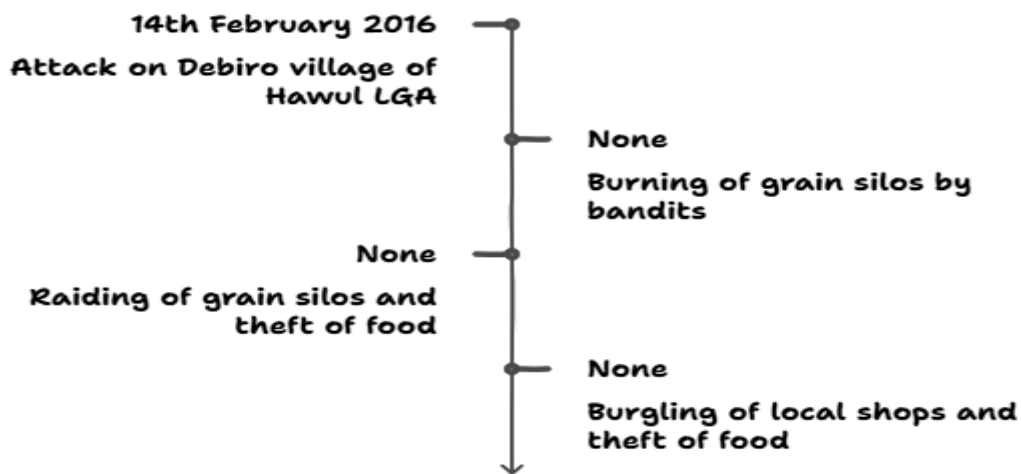


Figure 6. Bandit Attacks on Grain Silos and Shops

### Efforts of the government towards tackling banditry and improving food production in Borno South

The government at the local, state and federal levels has made efforts to tackle banditry with a view to improving food security among others.

In September 2019, the State Government initiated a dialogue session with the bandits with the State Governor himself traveling to the closest village bordering the forest hideouts of the bandits. These dialogue sessions with the bandits led to an amnesty

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programme on the bandits by the state government which brought relative peace and security for three months after which there was a resurgence of the banditry by December, 2019 which resulted to almost daily attacks in Bama LGA.

Borno State Government was among the 19 state governments that requested the Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) to deploy agro-rangers corps to the states to provide security to enable farmers, fishermen and cattle rearers carryout their activities without fear of attacks. The agro-rangers were deployed to Borno State which enabled famers to go back to their farms but only six rangers were deployed to Borno State who was inadequate to cover even one LGA in Borno State.

There were joint police and military operations that cordoned and engaged bandits in gun duels in the forest areas of the LGAs. In the process of the joint operations cows, sheep and goats in the custody of the bandits were recovered and handed back to their rightful owners (Isah, 2020).

In the month of June 2020, Nigerian Army Operation Accord on several occasions responded to distress calls when bandits attacked villages such as Debiro, Harang, Jibhwiwi in Hawul LGA. Several bandits were killed others arrested with their operational weapons and motorcycles confiscated by the army.

The Nigerian Army established a Super Camp 4 at Garkida LGA on 6th July 2020 code named "Operation Hadin Kai" with troops, weapons and operational vehicles that have responded to distress calls by villagers and engaged bandits in gun duels and also raided the forest hideouts of the bandits among other operations. From the 6th – 30th July 2020, the operation succeeded in killing 80 bandits, rescued 17 kidnapped victims, arrested bandits' informers, recovered 943 cattle and 632 sheep and goats.

Local government councils continued to assist vigilante groups in the fight against banditry in the state. For example, Gombi local government council assisted the local vigilante group headed by Sarkin Bakan Gombi Yuhanna with office accommodation, some operational materials and allowances to enable them complement the security forces in the fight against banditry in the Hawul LGA and neighboring LGAs.

The Nigerian Air Force (NAF) concluded plans in early November 2020 to construct a run way and ancillary facilities for the deployment of four unmanned Aerial Combat Vehicles (UACVs) or drones in Sambisa, the Borno State capital which was to serve the entire North East including Yobe state. This construction and deployment of UACVs was to enhance surveillance and combat abilities of the troops deployed to the North East thereby boosting the effectiveness and efficiency of air operations in the fight against banditry (NAF, 2020).

## **Theoretical framework**

### **Relative deprivation theory**

According to Gurr (1970), relative deprivation is defined as actor's perception of discrepancy between their value expectations and their value capabilities. It is the gap between that to which people believe they are rightfully entitled and to which they think they are capable of getting and keeping. In Ted Gurr's "Why Men Rebel" (1970), he said "the idea of relative deprivation has been used to measure fairness, inequality, or social

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justice, or to explain grievance, social hostility or aggression. Gurr's concern is with relative deprivation as a cause to aggression.

Relative deprivation is the foundation of multiple theories like the frustration and aggression theory. In other words, when desires become legitimate expectations and those desires are blocked by society, people feel frustrated and aggressive because they feel deprived of something. There is bound to be conflict. This theory provides explanation to the causes of violent conflict and banditry in the north east and southern Borno in particular. This is because when people or a group of people feel relatively deprived, their desires are being blocked and this may emerge from collective feelings of being denied something, this can lead to frustration and aggression which can lead to violent conflict. Furthermore, a relationship has been drawn between relative deprivation and violence. In this sense, the objective material condition is believed not to nurture violence but rather the sense of deprivation in relation to others around them, or their own past condition is believed to be responsible for violence with the intent to redress the situation. The theoretical significance of this theory is its ability to concisely explain the reasons for banditry in the north east.

## Research Method

The research adopted both primary and secondary sources. Quantitative data was largely used within the research areas.

**Table 1.** Distribution of questionnaires.

S/N	Category	Sample Size	Percentage
1.	BIU	100	20%
2.	SHANI	100	20%
3.	KWAYA KUSAR	100	20%
4.	BAYO	100	20%
5	HAWUL	100	20%
		500	100%

**Table 2.** Effects Of Banditry on Food Security In Borno State

S/No	Items	Score					Total
		5	4	3	2	1	
1	Banditry affects food production in Borno state	202	126	23	33	66	450
2	Banditry leads to loss of lives and properties	245	121	12	32	40	450
3	Banditry leads to Internally Displaced Persons IDPs	188	140	34	32	56	450
4	Banditry brings about food shortage in Borno state	236	132	24	28	30	450
5	Banditry leads to hunger and poverty in Borno state	242	120	28	25	40	450
6	Banditry prevents farmers from accessing their farms	248	121	26	26	29	450
7	Banditry affects socio-economic	244	122	24	26	34	450

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**1. Banditry affects food production in Borno state**

Disagree (D=1),66 Strongly Disagree (SD=2), 33 Undecided (UD=3), 23 Agree (A=4),126 Strongly Agree (SA=5)202. The presentation reveals that the Banditry affects food production in Borno state.

**2. Banditry leads to loss of lives and properties**

Disagree (D=1), 40 Strongly Disagree (SD=2), 32 Undecided (UD=3), 12 Agree (A=4), 121 Strongly Agree (SA=5)245. With this overwhelming score of SA and A, banditry leads to tremendous loss of live and properties in Borno state.

**3. Banditry leads to internally displaced parsons in Borno state**

Disagree (D=1), 56 Strongly Disagree (SD=2), 32 Undecided (UD=3), 34 Agree (A=4), 140 Strongly Agree (SA=5) 188. Majority agree that banditry causes internally displacements in Borno state.

**4. Banditry brings about food shortage in Borno state**

Disagree (D=1), 30 Strongly Disagree (SD=2), 28 Undecided (UD=3), 34 Agree (A=4), 132 Strongly Agree (SA=5) 236. The presentation shows that banditry brings about food shortage in Borno state.

**5. Banditry leads to hunger and poverty in Borno state**

Disagree (D=1), 40 Strongly Disagree (SD=2),25 Undecided (UD=3), 28 Agree (A=4), 120 Strongly Agree (SA=5) 242. Banditry by this causes hunger and poverty in Borno state.

**6. Banditry prevents farmers from accessing their farms**

Disagree (D=1), 29 Strongly Disagree (SD=2),26 Undecided (UD=3), 26 Agree (A=4), 121 Strongly Agree (SA=5) 248. This data agrees that banditry hinders farmers from accessing their farms.

**7. Banditry affects socio-economic activities of Borno state.**

Disagree (D=1), 34 Strongly Disagree (SD=2), 26 Undecided (UD=3),24 Agree (A=4), 122 Strongly Agree (SA=5)244. This shows that banditry affects socio-economic activities in Borno state.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**i. Burning and raiding of grain silos**

Banditry affects food production in Borno state, during large scale attacks that involve large number of bandits which lasted for some hours, the bandits engaged in the burning of local grains silos (called rumbu in Hausa language). These grain silos contain foodstuffs that were stored by the farmers which could last for many months but were burnt by the bandits which created lack of food for the villagers. In some cases, the grain silos were raided and the food stolen by the bandits creating food scarcity in the households. The bandits also burgle local shops that sell foodstuffs and steal the food items which makes foodstuffs to be scarce even in the local shops of the villages. Example here includes the attack on Debiro village of Hawul LGA on 14th February 2016.

The presentation reveals that the Banditry affects food production in Borno state. The people of the state strongly agreed with the item I, by more than 202 opinions. This corroborated with the research made by Ibrahim, about Food Insecurity among Small-Scale Farmers in Nigeria therefore banditry brings about food insecurity. Best on the item II, the result shows that overwhelming 240 score are strongly agreed, banditry leads to tremendous loss of live and properties in Borno state. Banditry leads to loss of lives and properties:

## **ii. Killing of farmers**

This is one of the most devastating effects of banditry in Borno State where farmers are killed by the bandits. Most families experience food insecurity when the heads of the households are dead. These farmers are heads of households who are married with children and their deaths adversely affect the other family members in terms of food supply. Example of killing of farmers by bandits took place at village of Debiro when on the 10th July 2020, farmers were on the farm working after an overnight rain, the bandits numbering over 100 shots sporadically killing 15 farmers and injuring several others. On 10th September, 2021, three famers were also killed by bandits in Bama LGA, one of the most agrarian areas in the state. In fact, most of the people killed by the bandits in the villages of the local government sampled for the study are either farmers or cattle rearing whose death means their families and dependents suffer from food shortage at the family level. In some cases, the families of the deceased farmers or cattle rearing have no option than to move to internally displaced person's camps where their source of food could be guaranteed for some time by the Government.

## **iii. Kidnapping of farmers**

Banditry leads to Internally Displaced Persons IDPs. This is another devastating impact of banditry where farmers are kidnapped when they go to work in their farms. Whenever famers are kidnapped, they are usually taken to the forest and will not be released until ransom are being paid. This payment of ransom affects farmers as it impoverishes them and, in some cases, they had no option but to sell their properties including their farmlands to get money to pay the ransom. In Damboa LGA some of the farmers in the villages sold their farmlands to buy a house at Biu town to escape kidnapping. One of the most recent cases of kidnapping was at a village in Sabon Gari on 14th October 2019, where 22 farmers working on the farmlands were kidnapped while some managed to escape (Ibrahim,2019).

One of the farmers that narrowly escaped lamented during interview that: "In these villages, we depend mostly on two things as source of livelihood farming and cattle rearing. Farming has become difficult due to insecurity. Domestic animal rearing has also become difficult as bandits have rustled our cattle and presently, they are abducting us on our farms. Am calling on the government to come to our aid as we cannot migrate to the cities since we have no job to do there and all that we have are in the villages. Anybody that is used to village life cannot stay in the city as the city consumes wealth". The result of item III shows that Majority agree that banditry causes internally displacements in Borno state

#### **iv. Chasing farmers out of their farms**

Bandits chase farmers out of their farms when they see them working there. As the bandits are usually well armed, they ran after the farmers on their motorcycles with the intention of hurting or killing and the farmer have no option than to run since, because they are not armed. For example, on the week of 3rd of May 2020 at the outskirts of Malam Jakwa, Tashan Alade, Kwajaffa Burah, Azare, Hizhi Bwala and Shaffa villages of Hawul LGA some farmers were on their farmlands in preparation for the farming season when they were chased out by the bandits telling them “Who told you that there will be farming this season?” From this incidence of chasing farmers out of their farmlands, other farmers became scared to begin preparation for the farming season as the bandits even moved in broad day light on their motorcycles to see if there were any evidence of farming activity to destroy it. In certain instances, it was the sound of gun shots coming from the forest or sound of gun shot in the air that chased farmers out of their farmlands. This was the instance outside Harang, Jibhwiwi and some side of Debiro in the first week of October 2022. Interviews on the 17th December ,2024. From the item IV the presentation shows that banditry brings about food shortage in Borno state. This finding is closely related to work of Jane, A., & Millicent, M. (2015). Titled “Climate Change Effects on Food Security in Kenya which has similar effects with Nigeria.

#### **v. Halting of crop harvesting**

Banditry leads to hunger and poverty in Borno state. Bandits stop farmers from harvesting their crops particularly in the months of October/November during the harvesting period. In some villages of Hawul LGA bandits inspect the farms to identify areas where beans and guinea corn have grown well, they then come later to drive their cattle to eat up the crops and then move to other farms. In some villages of Kwaya Kusar LGA, the bandits impose taxes on the farmers in order to be allowed to harvest their crops. According to one of the residents during interview on the 21<sup>st</sup> December 2024, the farmers of Wandali had to collectively pay N700, 000, the farmers of Dan Choba had to pay N800, 000 and the farmers of Bargu had to pay N105, 000 before they were allowed by the bandits to harvest their crops. In villages where the farmers could not collectively pay the impose taxes, they will not be allowed to harvest their crops. The result show that its causes hunger and poverty in Borno state with more than 240 opinions.

#### **vi. Seizing of farmlands**

The result of item VI Banditry prevents farmers from accessing their farms. This happens where farmlands are located very close to the forest hideout of the bandits. It also occurs outside villages that have been completely deserted due to incessant attacks by the bandits. The bandits seize the farmlands and use them as grazing fields for the large number of cattle they acquire illegally through cattle rustling activities. In some areas where the bandits have not seized the farmlands, the bandits drive their cattle into the farmlands to eat up crops that have started to germinate after the first rains were recorded. This was the case between 10th – 12th May 2020 at farmlands located outside Garbwala, Kiru and kirmi villages of Hawul LGA.

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## **vii. Cattle Rustling**

Banditry affects socio-economic activities of Borno state. Bandits engage in theft of cattle or cattle rustling in all the Six LGAs sampled for the study. When the bandits attack villages, they shoot sporadically into the air to scare away the villagers and create an atmosphere of chaos as the villagers run for safety. The bandits then direct a group among them that specializes in cattle theft to enter houses and steal cattle from where they are kept. Besides farming, cattle rearing is another source of livelihood in the villages. Therefore, the theft of cattle deprives the villagers of their source of livelihood and halt cattle rearing activities. It deprives the villagers of source of farm labour used to make ridges to plant crops. According to the Focus Groups held on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024, in Shani the large farmlands in the LGAs were cultivated with the use of hoes, since they were rustled such large farmlands were left uncultivated. Theft of cattle also deprives the villagers of the source of manure for their farmlands. In Bayo LGA, for example, the bandits rustled 80 cows and 250 goats and sheep during series of attacks in the month of July 2020 on the village of Briyel in June and July 2020. According to interview conducted on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024 in Bayo. Therefore, banditry affect socio economic activities of Borno state in line with findings of Abdullahi who carries out research on "Rural banditry, regional security and integration in West Africa

Furthermore, the attack on Haran in Hawul LGA on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2015 is another example of these kind of attacks. Blocking of local trade routes: These are local trade routes that are found along roads linking rural markets where buyers and sellers of foodstuffs pass through especially on market days. The bandits block such routes to intercept vehicles with the traders inside. The bandits snatch foodstuffs intended for sale at the markets, money meant for the purchase of foodstuffs or even kidnap the traders till large sums of monies are paid. For example, on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021, the bandits blocked a section of Jibhwiwi to Dalwa road to kidnap 38 traders returning from Debiro weekly market. Also, on three consecutive days 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020, the bandits mounted a road block along kirmi to Garbwala road in Hawul LGA to rob travelers of their money and cell phones according to interview conducted on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024 with some resident of Hawul. You can be ascertained from the item VII that banditry directly affects socio-economic activities in Borno state.

## **CONCLUSION**

The pervasive influence of banditry on food production is undeniably profound, casting a shadow that extends well beyond the immediate acts of violence. The adverse effects are intricately woven into the fabric of agricultural communities, disrupting the fundamental processes of cultivation, livestock management, and distribution. The most conspicuous consequence of banditry is the direct threat posed to farmers and their ability to tend to their fields. The persistent fear of violence and extortion creates an environment in which farmers are compelled to limit their agricultural activities or even abandon their lands altogether. This not only diminishes current yields but also hampers the cyclical nature of agriculture, disrupting the delicate balance necessary for

sustained productivity. Livestock, a critical component of many agricultural economies, also bear the brunt of banditry. The insecurity surrounding rural areas exposes animals to theft or harm, undermining the livelihoods of those dependent on them for sustenance and income. The intricate interplay between crops and livestock, essential for the well-being of farming communities, is disrupted, further deepening the challenges faced by those already grappling with the impacts of banditry. The displacement of communities, another fallout of banditry, compounds the issue by severing the connection between farmers and their lands. The research has the following recommendations : 1) Modern technology should be applied in various areas of military operations in combating banditry in northeast, Nigeria. Employment of modern technological equipment by the Nigerian Army is of essence, if speedy results must be achieved. Some the areas of application of modern technology includes: Intelligence gathering, Surveillance and Communications amongst others. 2) Modern technology application in surveillance can be realized in the use of cameras in form of Close-Circuit-Television (CCTV) to monitor the movement and activities of people. The surveillance camera and CCTVs have in recent times been improved to include facial recognition technology and can transmit signals to a specific place on Altimeter set of monitors. 3) Apart from the need to improve upon the capacity of the surveillance cameras installed, it is necessary to acquire more surveillance cameras for the Nigerian Army to cover the entire units and formations deployed in northeast general areas. 4) Effective communication is an essential tool for operational effectiveness in military operations (21 Century Counter Insurgency Intelligence). Newly developed communication equipment like the Secure Radio Omnisec 2051, the R3501, the R3505 and R35010 radios are essential for counter terrorism operations (Army technology.com/ comm systems and eqpt image gallery). 5) It is therefore necessary that the Nigerian Army should upgrade its means of communication in counter terrorism operations by the acquisition of the newly developed RF Booster Amplifiers and Antenas to enhance communications. 6) The development of Geo Information System (GIS) and Global Positioning System (GPS) technologies is a stride in the operational management and strategic planning capabilities. For utmost usefulness, information from Global Positioning System (GPS) are integrated with Geo Information System (GIS) which has application area and translates the longitude and latitudes into addresses. Global Positioning System (GPS) operates when a network of satellites read signal sent by a user(s) unit (which emits a radio signal).

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