



---

## Perceived Effects of Bandits Activities on Rural Farming Households Food Security Status in Kaduna State, Nigeria.

Balogun O.S, Akure C.O., Ayoola O, and Olafemi S.O

Federal College of Forestry Mechanization, P.M.B 2273, Afaka, Mondo Kaduna.

Corresponding author: baaseg2006@yahoo.com

---

### ABSTRACT

This study investigated the effects of bandits' activities on rural farming households' food security in Kaduna State as the presence and severity of banditry in the north have led to the rise in regional and food insecurity. A multi-stage sampling technique involving a combination of purposive and random sampling was used to select two hundred and five (205) farming households for the study. Data collected were analysed using descriptive statistics, food security index and Logit regression model. The study revealed a food insecurity incidence of 46.24 percent. Elderly farmers and those less than twenty-five years of age had higher incidences of food insecurity compared with farmers in their productive age. Larger households significantly plunge farmers into food insecurity with incidences ranging between 83% and 85% for households with 5-10 and greater than 10 persons. The most common bandit's activities include kidnapping and armed robbery 39.02%, and herders attack on farmers farms and crops 39.02%. Loss of farmlands, Interruption of economic activities 18%, Loss of lives, properties and kidnapping 15.02% were ranked as the most serious effects of banditry. Regression model result revealed that household size ( $\beta = 0.095$ ;  $p < 0.01$ ), frequency of attack ( $\beta = 0.141$ ;  $p < 0.01$ ), marital status ( $\beta = 0.054$ ;  $p < 0.1$ ), gender ( $\beta = -0.146$ ;  $p < 0.05$ ) and household income of farmers ( $\beta = -0.173$ ;  $p < 0.05$ ) significantly influenced the probability of been food insecure. Poor governance 30.13%, corruption 23.90%, and poverty 12.68% were identified as the primary obstacles to reducing bandit activity within the study area. The study concludes that strengthening the legal system, creating good jobs, and improving education, and birth control will reduce idling, poverty and engage young people in constructive activities to lessen their propensity for lawlessness.

**Keywords:** Bandits, Food insecurity, Insecurity index, Rural Farmers.

---

### Introduction

A bandit is a robber or an unlawful organization of gangs that operate in remote or lawless areas of a nation and use firearms to steal or rob people. Robberies and violent crimes committed in places where the rule of law has crumbled are referred to as banditry (Collins, 2020). It involves the formation of armed groups with the intention of targeting rural villages, society, businesses, government agencies, or even individual people. Being a member of these groups and taking part in their attacks is considered banditry (Collins, 2019). Banditry emerged from almost forty years

of unresolved conflicts between nomadic herding clans and sedentary cultivators who roamed the high plains of northern Nigeria, especially the North West geopolitical zone in states like Zamfara and Sokoto., The majority of bandit leaders were stationed in Kaduna and Zamfara State, which served as the hub of banditry in Northern Nigeria. From the forests of Zamfara State, the bandits would ride motorbikes to other states like Kaduna, Niger, and Katsina, where they would operate before returning to their forest dens in the forest (Farouq and Chukwu, 2020). According to Anka, (2017), banditry in Kaduna State started since



around 2009 and increased in 2011 especially after the general elections in Nigeria.

Numerous economic sectors have been affected negatively by bandits' actions, particularly agriculture, where widespread attacks on rural farming households have led to widespread food insecurity and poverty in the nation. As defined by the World Food Summit (1996), "food security exists. "When all people at all times have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active healthy life"(FAO, 2018). Food security is inevitably affected by any kind of violence that causes instability in rural areas where farmers make up most of the population. For example, the United Nations noted in September 2020 that food shortages in Mozambique will worsen throughout 2021 as a result of attacks by the Al-Shabaab rebel organization (Channels, 2020). The Federal Government of Nigeria recognized that farming communities in the country's northern regions were seriously threatened by banditry. Therefore, in April 2017, the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development in conjunction with the Minister of Interior initiated the formation of a special unit of Agro Rangers Corps to protect farmers and farming investments throughout the country (The Sun, 2017).

Nigeria takes pleasure in being the greatest economy in Africa, but sadly, it has climbed from having one of the lowest rates of poverty in the world in the 1960s to the highest rate in the world today with around 70% of her population under poverty. According to Orewa and Iyangbe (2010) and Akerele *et al.* (2013), the percentage of food insecurity in Nigeria is 71% for rural

residents and 79% for low-income urban households. According to Akinyele (2009), the Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) and Agricultural Promotion Policy (APP) programmes have not yielded significant results with the mis-targeting of interventions being primarily to blame for the poor achievements. However, identifying the most vulnerable households and gaining a deeper comprehension of the level and kind of food insecurity that people face would be crucial to achieving desired results. It is against this backdrop that the following research questions are being addressed by this study. What level of food security do farm households currently enjoy in the study area? which types of banditry attacks are most common against rural agricultural households in the research area? how do socioeconomic characteristics and banditry impact farming? are there problems and constraints to curbing and eradicating banditry and food insecurity problems in the area?

The objective of the study is to examine the perceived effects of bandits' activities on rural farming household's food security status in Kaduna state.

### **Materials and Methods.**

The Kaduna River, which runs through the state's centre, gave rise to the name Kaduna. . It lies between latitude  $10^{\circ} 37'$  N and longitude  $7^{\circ} 17'$  E and its coordinates is  $10^{\circ} 20'$  N and  $70^{\circ} 45'$  E. It has a projected population of about 8,977,855 National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and is the third largest in the Federation after Lagos and Kano (KDDBS, 2018). The state has a total land area of about 46,053 square kilometer and the density is about 131.7 square Kilo meters. The soil is mostly loamy to sandy type.

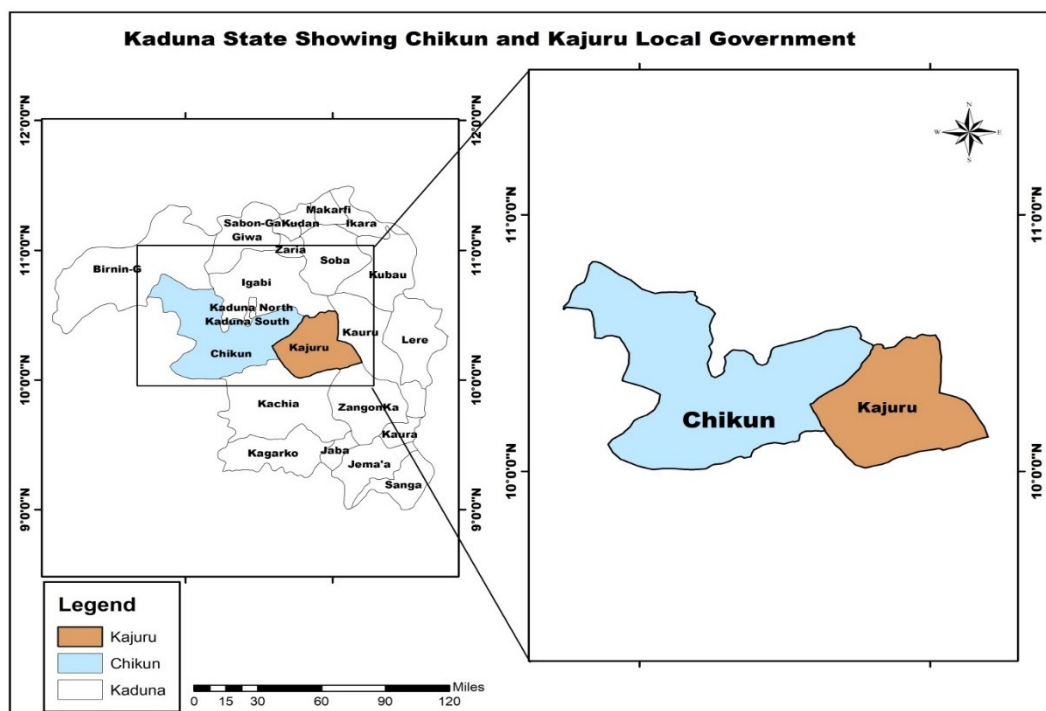


Figure 1 Map of Kaduna State Showing Local Government Areas of Kaduna State and the study area.

### Sampling Procedure and Sampling Size.

For the investigation, multistage sampling procedure was employed. The State was separated into four agricultural zones Lere, Maigana, Samaru, and Birnin-Gwarifor administrative considerations. Out of the four agricultural zones, one (Birnin-Gwari) where banditry activities were prevalent was purposefully chosen, and two Local Government Areas (L.G. As) Chikun and Kujaru from the zone were chosen due to the severity of attacks. The subsequent phase involved the purposeful selection of five out of the twelve subdivisions (wards) of Chikun, namely Kakau, Kujama, Sabon Tasha, and Sabon Gari, due to their constant vulnerability to attacks. Additionally, from Kajuru L.G.A., four (4) of the ten (10) wards viz Kajuru, Rimau, Kufana, and Kasuwan Maganiwere chosen. At this stage, the Kaduna State Agricultural Survey Structure (KSS, 2017) approach was employed. This consist of a 2-stage sampling with a simple random

sampling (SRS) of enumeration area carried out to cover each ward in each of the two LGAs which formed the primary sampling units (PSU). All the households in the selected Enumeration Areas (EAs) were listed and then stratified into farming and non-farming households. Farming households formed a frame from which secondary sampling units (SSUs) were drawn. One EA from each ward was randomly selected, giving a total number of nine (9) EAs. Twenty-four (24) farming households were drawn from the frame in each EAs totaling 216 households for the study. Only 205 questionnaires administered to the households were retrieved and used for the study.

**Method of Data Analysis.** Descriptive statistics, Food security index (FSI). Modified FGT measures of poverty, and binary logistic regression model was employed to achieve the outlined objectives.

### Food Security index.



In measuring the household food security Level; Foster, Greer and Thorbecke (1984) FGT class of poverty measures was adopted with slight modification using per capita food expenditure of households (FAO 2003a; Omonona and Agoi, 2014, Temitope and Olajide, 2019). This is defined as:

$$P_i = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^q \left[ \frac{Z - Y_i}{Z} \right] \quad 1$$

$$\text{Where, } G_i = \left[ \frac{Z - Y_i}{Z} \right] \quad 2$$

Head count ratio (H) = q/N and Z = food security line (2/3 mean per capita food expenditure), q is the number of households below the food security line, N is the total number of households in the total population,  $Y_i$  is the per capita food expenditure of household  $i$ , P is the extent at which a household is food insecure (food insecurity gap short fall index). Thus, Food poor households = 1, if per capita food expenditure < food poverty line Food non poor households = 0, if per capita food expenditure >= food poverty line.

**Logit Regression Model.** This was used to determine the effect of banditry and various socio-economic characteristics on the food security status of the farming households. Binary logistic probability model is expressed as;

$$P_i \left( Y = \frac{1}{X_i} \right) = f(Z_i) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(\alpha_0 + \alpha_i X_i + \varepsilon_i)}} \quad 3$$

Where  $P_i$  = probability that a family is food secure in the face of exogenous variables ( $X_i$ ) and  $1 > Z_i \geq 1$ , e = base of natural logarithm,  $X_i$  = vector of explanatory variable,  $\alpha_0$  and  $\alpha_i$  = parameters to be determined,  $\varepsilon_i$  = error terms. The odds and log of odds  $P_i$  (food secure) to the probability of not being food secure (1- $P_i$ ) can be expressed as

$$Z_i = \beta + \sum_{i=0}^n \alpha_i X_i + \varepsilon_i \quad 3$$

If  $Y_i^*$  is a dichotomous variable and  $Z_i$  is as previously defined, then

$$Y_i^* = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if per capita food expenditure} < \text{food poverty line} \\ 0, & \text{if per capita food expenditure} \geq \text{food poverty line} \end{cases} \quad 4$$

Where an  $i^{\text{th}}$  household is food insecure  $Y^* = 1$ ; otherwise 0 thus

Logit

$$\left( \frac{P_i}{1 - P_i} \right) = Z_i =$$

$$\alpha_0 + \alpha_1 X_1 + \alpha_2 X_2 + \alpha_3 X_3 + \alpha_4 X_4 + \dots + \alpha_n X_n \quad 5$$

Where  $Z_i$  = Food security status, 1 Food insecure; otherwise 0,  $\alpha_0 - \alpha_n$  are estimated parameters,  $X_1$  = Age (years)  $X_2$  = Sex (Male 1 otherwise 0),  $X_3$  = Marital status (Married 1, divorced 2 widow 3, widower 4)  $X_4$  = Household Size (Number of individuals in a household),  $X_5$  = Dependency ratio,  $X_6$  = Level of Education (Number of years spent in school),  $X_7$  = Annual income (₦),  $X_8$  = Primary occupation,  $X_9$  = Farm size (Ha),  $X_{10}$  = Farming experience (years),  $X_{11}$  = Frequency of banditry attack (Number of attacks per month).

## Results and Discussion

### Food Security Status of the Farmers by Socio-Economic Characteristics in the Study Area.

The selected socioeconomic characteristics of the household's head examined in this study are presented in table 1. They include age, sex, educational status, dependency ratio, religion and primary occupation of household head. Others include household size, and income. These characteristics may or may not significantly affect the quantity of food demanded by households, which





determine their food security status. Households are profiled into food secure and food insecure groups based on their per capita food expenditure. The food insecurity line is defined as two-third of the mean per capita food expenditure of the total households studied (FAO 2003a; Omonona and Agoi, 2014, Temitope and Olajide, 2019). The food insecurity line as defined is shown in the table below. Therefore, household whose per capita expenditure fall below ₦ 9,508.67 are designated food insecure while households whose mean per capita food expenditure equals or is greater are food secured. The food insecurity incidence shows the pattern of food insecurity based on these household characteristics. The food insecurity incidence for the households studied is found to be 0.4624 implying that 95 out of the two hundred and five (205) sampled households were food insecure.

**Age of household heads:** The distribution of households by age and the prevalence of food insecurity are displayed in Table 1 below. Household heads between the ages of 51 and 75 have the highest incidence of food insecurity among the household categories, whereas those between the ages of 26 and 50, who are highly productive, have the lowest incidences, at roughly 0.37. Notably, the incidence of food insecurity for heads of agricultural households under 25 years old was comparatively lower (0.52) than for those between 51 and 75 years old. This structure essentially indicates that the working population, or teaming youth, are better off, meaning they have more secure access to food. Nonetheless, Omonona and Agoi (2007) found in a related study that people in the 21–30 age range typically make up a smaller percentage of the labour force and, as a result, have relatively low incomes. This may consequently pre-expose the group to serious insecurity threats by the activities of bandits. Conversely, those within 31-50 years usually occupy peak of

their productive years with corresponding high income that could help cushion the effect of attack periods.

**Gender of Household Head:** As shown in table 1, households headed by women experience higher rate of food insecurity (0.467846). Additionally, it was determined that homes led by women are typically food insecure. This might be attributed to the death of the breadwinners, who were mostly male and had plenty of opportunities to work and earn a living for their families. The research area's predominant culture and religion have contributed to a lack of female participation in income producing activities, making female-headed households more susceptible to food insecurity. This is particularly true where women activities are restricted, this prevents them from optimizing their capacities to earn income like their male counterparts. In the female headed households, the dependency is expected to be generally lower, but they are disadvantaged in terms of acquisitions of land, capital and other facilities that could enable their productivity.

**Educational Status of Household Heads:** The data suggested that food security incidence was highest among the lowly educated farmers (primary 0.4271) and (secondary 0.4921) compared to those with comparatively high education (tertiary 0.3608). (table 1). These situations could be caused by a number of factors, including low productivity as a result of poor application of extension guide, poverty or low income, inadequate or low adoption of improved technologies and so on. Since education affects income, expenditure, investment pattern and birth control, educated people may apply their resources more wisely and, as a result, have higher levels of food security.

**Primary occupation of household heads:** Result Table 2 shows that compared



to traders and craftsmen, the incidence of food insecurity is comparatively lower among farmers and those in other professional occupations/civil servants, at 0.4019 and 0.4638, respectively. Perhaps as a result of their steady pay and ability to engage in farming, civil servants have a lower incidence rate. In times of invasion and lockdowns, the varied sources of revenue could bolster their purchasing power. A certain degree of food security may be enjoyed by farmers who have enough food stored, since some of them combine farming with other sources of revenue such as transportation. The incidence among artisans was highest (0.6875), and it was closely followed by traders (0.4886), who probably spent more time in their trade and may have to purchase food more frequently in order to support their family. According to Omonona and Agoi (2007), the high incidence may be caused by inconsistent income and spending patterns among traders and low revenue for artists.

**Household size:** In the research area, the rate of food insecurity rises as household size does. The a priori expectation is

satisfied by this. This could be explained by a rise in the dependency ratio in homes with big families. The incidence of insecurity varies from 0.2095 for families with 1–5 people to 0.8584 and 0.8356 for households with 10 members or more. even though farmers in the study area are often known to maintain big household size, recent bandit attacks have lessened the benefit of cheap labour for farming activities, which leads farmers to increase their numbers. This is since kidnappings and other life-threatening incidents keep farmers from attending to their land, putting their families at risk of food insecurity.

**Marital Status:** The frequency of food insecurity was lowest among single persons (0.4167) and married people (0.4277), and highest among widows (0.5769) and divorced people (0.5455). A comparable study conducted in 2007 by Omonona and Agoi found that when married couples share household duties, their combined effort could lower their food insecurity status. This could be the reason why the married couple's likelihood of experiencing food insecurity was lower than the study areas average.

**Table 1: Food security status of the farmers according to socioeconomic profile.**

Characteristics	Food Insecurity incidence
<b>Age</b>	
< 25	0.523810
26-50	0.374803
51-75	0.654723
<b>Gender</b>	
Male	0.453333
Female	0.467846
<b>Marital Status</b>	
Married	0.427737
Single	0.416667
Widow/Widow	0.576923
Divorced	0.545455
<b>Household Size</b>	
1-5	0.209571
6-10	0.858491
Greater than 10	0.835616



**Level of Education**

Primary	0.427083
Secondary	0.490196
Tertiary	0.360825
Primary Occupation.	
Farming	0.401914
Civil servant	0.463830
Traders	0.488636
Artisan	0.687500

**Food insecurity incidence**

Food Security line (2/3 mean expenditure per capita)	₦ 9,508.67
--	------------

**Reported Forms and Perceived effect of Bandits attacks on the farmers in the study area.**

The farmers were asked to list the common types of banditry organizations that pose threat to the communities, evaluate the effectiveness of security personnel in combating the threat, and describe the effects of the attacks on the community, as shown in table 2. Kidnapping (35, 17.07%), Armed robbery attacks (24, 11.07%), Herdsmen clashes with farmers and kidnapping (80, 39.02%), Armed robbery with herders clash (22, 10.73%), and Kidnapping, herdsmen, and armed robbers (21, 10.24%) were identified on bandits' groups/forms. According to this deduction, the most serious bandit prevailing in the study area were armed robbery with kidnapping and herders clashing (80, 39.02%) and herdsmen clashing with farmers (80, 39.02%) ranking first. Additionally, when asked how effective the security apparatus has been in combating the threat, the farmers' perceptions indicated

that the security network has been "very effective," according to (136, 66.34%) the farmers. About 29.78% thought the proactiveness had been successful, whereas 2.44% had no opinion about how successful the security measures had been.

When questioned about how the robbers' actions had affected the neighborhood, 48.78% of the farmers said that many of them had lost their farmlands, and others had lost their properties as a result of paying ransom. Forty-four percent of the farmers stated that unemployment and poverty are the main consequences of the bandit's actions. Also, it has caused significant migration as stated by 19.51% of the farmers, particularly among young people. These findings are been corroborated by those of Bashir and Mustapha, (2022) who found that armed banditry has significant negative consequences on poverty, unemployment, food security, education, health, income and the general standard of living of the people living in the Katsina state.

**Table 2: Perceived Forms and effect of Bandits attacks on the farmers in the study area.**

Attack Forms	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
<b>Forms of banditry groups threatening the communities</b>			
Kidnapping	35	17.07	3 <sup>nd</sup>
Armed robbers	24	11.70	4 <sup>rd</sup>
Herdsmen	80*	39.02	1 <sup>th</sup>
Kidnapping and armed robbers	80*	39.02	1 <sup>st</sup>
Kidnappers and herdsmen	22	10.73	5 <sup>th</sup>



Armed robbers and herdsmen	3	1.46	7 <sup>th</sup>
Kidnappers, herdsmen and armed robbers	21	10.24	6 <sup>th</sup>
<b>What is your assessment of security agents to curbing the menace</b>			
Very effective	136	66.34	1 <sup>st</sup>
Effective	59	28.78	2 <sup>nd</sup>
I do not know	5	2.44	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Not effective	5	2.44	3 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>What are the effects of the attacks on the community?</b>			
Loss of farmlands	100	48.78	1 <sup>st</sup>
Loss of properties	44	21.46	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Poverty and unemployment	44	21.46	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Unemployment	25*	12.20	5 <sup>th</sup>
Migration	40*	19.51	4 <sup>th</sup>

. \* Multiple responses

### Farmers' Level of Exposure to Bandits attacks in the Study Area

Farmers in the sample were asked to share any firsthand experiences they had with the bandits. About 77% of the farmers said that they had never personally experienced bandit attack, whereas 22.94 percent of them had at some point been the direct

victim of one. This is one of the questions posed to the farmers. Sixty-one percent of the farmers in the sample said that attacks happened infrequently. On the other hand, 11.55 percent of respondents believed that assaults were not too often in the recent past, whilst 5.3% of respondents thought that attacks were frequent.

**Table 3: Farmers Exposure to Bandits attacks in the Study Area**

Questions	
Responses	Have you had any personal encounter with bandits Attacks?
Yes	47(22.93%)
NO	158 (77.07)
Responses	How frequent do you experience banditry activity in your community
Rarely often	126(61.4%)
Often	57(28%)
Frequently	11 (5.3%)
Frequently	11 (5.5%)

### Relationships between Bandits Attack, Socio-Economic Characteristics and Food Security Status of the farming households

The results of the Logit model applied to the study is as presented in the Table 4.. The log-likelihood ratio of - 84.955371, and the LR ( $\chi^2$ ) of 91.63 indicates statistical significance at 1% level of probability, moreover, the significance of the intercept at 1% probability level imply that the overall model is well fitted to the data and the explanatory variables used in the model

adequately explained the probability of being food insecure or otherwise in the study.

The marginal effects are defined as the change in the household's risk of food insecurity relative to a unit change in the independent variables, evaluated at mean values, as shown in the table 4. The analysis of the data shows that the following factors were statistically significant in predicting whether or not a person would experience food insecurity: gender ( $\beta = 0.146$ ;  $p < 0.05$ ),





marital status ( $\beta = 0.054$ ;  $p < 0.1$ ), household size ( $\beta = 0.095$ ;  $p < 0.01$ ), households ( $\beta = -0.173$ ;  $p < 0.05$ ), and frequency of attack ( $\beta = 0.141$ ;  $p < 0.01$ ). Age, dependency ratio, religion, level of education, primary occupation, farm size and farming experience were not statistically significant in the study. However, all things being equal, the results showed that gender and marital status, significantly affect food security at ( $p < 0.05$ ) and ( $p < 0.1$ ) respectively.

The marginal effect of gender indicates that for household's food security, being male headed significantly reduces their food insecurity status by 14.6% at a 5% level. Furthermore, the marginal effects of the marital status showed that the food security status of married households is likely to significantly increase by 5.4% at 5% probability level. For household size, a unit increase in household size by the farmers increases the probability of being food insecure by 9.5% at 1% level, also a ten percent increase the frequency of bandit attack increases the probability of being food insecure by 14.1%. at 1% level.

Furthermore, the study's positive correlation and importance of household size suggests that the chance of food insecurity increases with household size. The high rates of food insecurity incidents linked to big families seen in Table 1 further support this. Culturally, farmers maintain large families for various reasons in northern Nigeria. For example, larger households reflect cheap and timely family labour on the farm which is expected to boost food production and thereby reduce food insecurity. However, because farmers were deprived from optimising their farming season as a result of fear of attacks, larger farm families became prone to severe food insecurity. Furthermore, the result also shows that a unit increase in household size will increase the likelihood of being food secured by 0.95%. On household income, the result shows a negative relationship with frequency of food insecurity implying that, the more income the household earns, the less likelihood of being food insecure. A unit increase in income increases the likelihood of being food secured by at least 17.3%.

**Table 4: Bandit Attack and Socio-economic Characteristics effect on food security Status**

Variable	Coef.	St.Err.	t-value	p-value	Marginal Effect	Z-value
Age	0.025	0.019	1.33	.183	0.003	1.350
Gender	-1.087	0.489	-2.22	.026	-0.146**	2.310
Marital status	0.401	0.237	1.69	.092	0.054*	1.720
Household size	0.709	0.159	4.47	0	0.095***	5.440
Dependency. Ratio	-0.025	0.109	-0.23	.818	-0.003	-0.230
Level of Education	0.091	0.185	0.49	.623	0.012	0.490
Household income	-0.129	0.059	-2.18	.03	-0.173**	-2.260
Primary occupation	-0.028	0.223	-0.13	.9	-0.004	-0.130
Farm size	0.111	0.123	0.90	.367	0.015	0.910
Farming Experience.	-0.044	0.035	-1.26	.207	-0.006	-1.280
Bandit attack	1.052	0.262	4.02	0	0.141***	4.660
Constant Coefficient	-9.923***	2.064	-4.81	0		
Mean dependent var		0.345	SD dependent var			0.476
Pseudo r-squared		0.350	Number of obs			205.000
Chi-square		91.629	Prob > chi2			0.000
Akaike crit. (AIC)		195.911	Bayesian crit. (BIC)			238.982

\*\*\*  $p < .01$ , \*\*  $p < .05$ , \*  $p < .1$



### Problems Associated with Banditry and Food insecurity the Study Area.

The issue of bandit attacks over the years have created problems in host communities. The farmers were asked to identify these problems. As presented in Table 5. The analysis revealed that 18% of the farmers were faced interruption of economic activities, 15.2% complained of Loss of lives, properties and kidnapping which cost victims to part with a lot of money this has led to violence and poverty as reported by 14.6% of the farmers in the study area. Some farmers (12.86%) also reported displacements and loss of their homes making it to be ranked as the 5<sup>th</sup> most serious problem in the study area. Other problems include high unemployment rate, kidnapping and rape. These problems were also reported by (Olaniyan and Yahaya, 2016; Tauna, 2016 ; Abdullahi, 2019 and Rosenje and Adeniyi, 2022), who observe that flourishing of bandit groups members were seen displaying automatic weapons, terrorising herders' settlements, farms, villages and the highways with the mission of killing people, kidnapping and raiding cows. It was reported that between October, 2013 and March, 2014, 7,000 cattle were rustled from commercial livestock farms and traditional herders in Northern Nigeria (Bashir, 2014; Tauna, 2016) while about 330 attacks were made by bandits and 1,460 deaths were recorded between January and July, 2019. In most cases, the bandits killed and maimed the people and raped the women before dispossessing them of their cows while in some instances, they also kidnapped girls or women in the process (Yusuf, 2015).As

reported by about 8.8% of the respondents, factors that promotes banditry in the study area is traceable to high unemployment rate. This idea is in line with the reports of Rosenje and Adeniyi, (2022), in their observations, the Nigeria's unemployment rate by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in 2019 was puts at 23.1%, of which youth unemployment constituted 55.4%. Similarly, the Northwest poverty index was very high, estimated at 77.7% (NBS, 2012; Rosenje and Adeniyi, 2022). These figures have continued to drastically increase yearly as Nigerian institutions keep graduating batches of youths with the prior impression of getting better jobs and opportunities after graduation (Adegoke, 2019). The anxiety from Nigerian graduates that later turn to frustration, and then to aggression on the government is what has fuelled the emergence of most of these bandit activities, attacks and security threats in the country (Mustapha, 2019).

Furthermore, as noted by Abdulkabir, (2017), the rising wave of crime in Nigeria has been blamed on the increasing level of unemployment. Thus, the idle youths tend to engage in illegal activities in order to meet up with contemporary trends. the youth's tendency to get enticed to riches as a result of the prevailing "get rich quick syndrome" that pervade the country is on the rise. Therefore, the Nigeria's high rate of unemployment, especially the increasing rate of youth's unemployment is what majorly prompts the jobless youths in the country to resort to violent crime like banditry (Adagba, Ugwu, & Eme, 2012; Epron, 2019).

**Table 5: Identified Problems Associated with Banditry and Food insecurity in the Study Area.**

Identified Problems	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
Interruption of economic activities	38*	18	1 <sup>st</sup>
Displacement of residents/loss of homes	26	12.68	4 <sup>th</sup>
Kidnapping and robbery	21	10.24	5 <sup>th</sup>



Violence and poverty	30*	14.6	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Loss of lives, properties and kidnapping	31*	15.2	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Loss of farms	13	6.34	9 <sup>th</sup>
High unemployment and poverty rate	21	8.78	6 <sup>th</sup>
Increased insecurity and armed robbery	16	7.80	8 <sup>th</sup>
Violence and kidnapping	18	8.78	7 <sup>th</sup>
Rape and killings	13	6.34	10 <sup>th</sup>

\* Multiple responses

### Constraints to Eradicating Banditry and Reducing Food Insecurity in the Study Area

Efforts have been made by stakeholders in governance to combat the identified problems but there had been serious constraints. Table 6 shows that about 30.13% ranked defective governance as the most serious constraint to eradicating banditry and reducing food insecurity in the area,

corruption and rising rate of poverty was identified by 23.9%. Other constraints include rising unemployment 4.38% this often led to inequality and consequent social vices in the society. Poor security and limited infrastructure 8%, lack of timely aid from the government in times of crises 5 which some arrogated to lack of political will and poorly implemented policies.

**Table 6: Constraints to Curbing Banditry and Reducing Food Insecurity in the L.G. As**

Attack Forms	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
Corruption	49	23.90	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Poverty	26	12.68	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Unemployment	9	4.38	5 <sup>th</sup>
Poor security system	8	4.0	6 <sup>th</sup>
Limited infrastructure and poverty	8	4.0	6 <sup>th</sup>
Defective Governance	62	30.13	1 <sup>st</sup>
Corruption and lack of security	6	2.93	9 <sup>th</sup>
Lack of Political will and governance	11	5.37	4 <sup>th</sup>
Poor security system	8	3.90	7 <sup>th</sup>
Regional instability.	8	3.90	7 <sup>th</sup>
Poverty and corruption	7	3.41	8 <sup>th</sup>
Poor implementation developmental policies	3	1.46	10 <sup>th</sup>

### Conclusion

Food insecurity incidence is highest among the farming households with large families exceeding five persons, older farmers and artisans. The binary regression results reveal that gender, marital status household size, household's income and frequency of attacks were statistically significant in explaining the probability of been food insecure or otherwise.

The bandit's activities led to interruption/distortion of economic activities, loss of lives, properties and kidnapping. It was recommended that policies aimed at fostering economic development for the region should be carefully implemented to include youth education to make them employable and reduce societal crimes induced by inequality and idling. Government and stakeholders should prioritize the provision of adequate security infrastructure, including increased



police presence, patrols and intelligence gathering, to deter banditry and protect rural farming communities.

## References

- Abbasi, N., Ghoochani, O.M., Ghanian, M., Kitterlin, M. (2016). Assessment of Households' Food Insecurity through use of a USDA questionnaire. *Advances in Plants Agricultural Research.*, 4(5),0155.
- Abdulkabir, O. S. (2017). Causes and Incisive Solutions to The Widespread of Kidnapping in Nigeria Current Administration: Under Scholastic Scrutiny. *Journal of Political Sciences and Public Affairs.* 5(2):1-6.
- Abdullahi, A. (2019). Rural Banditry, Regional Security and Integration in West Africa. *Journal of Social and Political Sciences* 2 (3): 654-664.
- Aboaba, K. O., Fadiji, D. M., Hussayn, J. A. (2020). Determinants of food security among rural households in southwestern Nigeria: USDA food security questionnaire core module approach. *Journal of Agric business and Rural Development.*, 2(56): 113–124.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.17306/J.JARD.2020.01295>
- Adagba, O., Ugwu, S. C. & Eme, O. I. (2012). Activities of Boko Haram and insecurity question in Nigeria, *Arabian Journal of Business and Management Review*, 1(9): 77- 99.
- 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.
- Agidew, A.A., Singh, K.N. (2018). Determinants of Food Insecurity in The Rural Farm Households in South Wollo Zone of Ethiopia: The Case of The Teleyayen Sub watershed. *Agric. Food Econ.*, 6, (10). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40100-018-0106-4>.
- Ahmed B.A and Ibrahim G.U (2019). Agricultural produce distribution Network and Local Market System in Kaduna State Nigeria. *Kaduna Journal of Postgraduate research.*2(2): 1-18
- Akerele, D., Momoh, S., Aromolaran, A.B., Oguntona, C.R.B. and Shittu, A.M. (2013) Food Insecurity and Coping Strategies in South-West Nigeria. Springer Science + Business Media Dordrecht and International Society for Plant Pathology, 407-414.
- Anka, A.S. (2017). Emerging Issues in Zamfara Armed Banditry and Cattle Rustling: Collapse of the Peace Deal and Resurgence of Fresh Violence. *International Journal of Innovative Research and Development*, 6(12): 161-170.
- Arene, C., Anyaeji, C. (2010). Determinants of food security among households in Nsukka metropolis of Enugu State, Nigeria. *Pakistan. Journal of Social Sciences.*, 30(1), 9–16.
- Bashir, M. (2014). Hopes for an end to cattle theft. *Daily Trust*, September 4th. Retrieved from [www.dailytrust.com.ng/daily/feature/33468-hopes-for-an-end-to-cattle-theft](http://www.dailytrust.com.ng/daily/feature/33468-hopes-for-an-end-to-cattle-theft)
- Bashir, U.F and Mustapha, M.A (2022) The Impact of Armed Banditry and Kidnapping on Socio-Economic Activities. Case Study of Selected Local Government Areas in Katsina State, Nigeria. *International Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Reviews* 12 (1): 308 – 322
- Channels TV (2020). Mozambique Insurgency will Deepen Food Insecurity into 2021 – UN. Retrieved from <https://www.channelstv.com/2020/09/22/mozambique>
- Collins, H. (2020). Social Banditry, 3rdEdition, Harper Collins Publishers. Retrieved From





- <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/banditry>. Retrieved 12/12/2023
- Farouq, U., Chukwu, I. (2020). After Several Attacks, Gov. Matawalle Concede that Bandits Still Operates in Zamfara, Desert Herald Newspaper. 15, (331), 21st – 27th July 2020 p. 2.
- Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) (2018) – Food Security Information for Action. What is Food Security Learner’s Notes? Retrieved from [fao.org/e-learning/course](http://fao.org/e-learning/course).
- Kaduna State Agricultural Development Authority (KARDA). (2015). Kaduna State Agricultural Development Plan (2016-2020).
- KSS, (2017). Kaduna state Agricultural survey structure. <https://kdbs.ng/app/uploads/2018/02/KASS-STRUCTURE-SURVEY.pdf> Retrieved 20/09/2023.
- Mustapha, U.N. (2019). Armed banditry and internal Security in Zamfara State. *International Journal of Scientific and Engineering Research*, 10(8): 1219-1226.
- National Bureau of Statistics (NBS, 2012). *The Nigerian poverty profile 2010 report* (pp.12-14). Abuja: National Bureau of Statistics.
- Obayelu, A.E. (2012). Households’ food security status and its determinants in the North-Central Nigeria. *Food Econ.*,9(4), 241–256.
- Olagunju, F.I, Akintola, L.T., Ogunniyi, L.T., Fakayode, S.B., Babatunde, R.O. (2016). A Review on The Food Security Status in Nigeria. *International. Journal of Account. Finance. Management. Research.*,6(1), –16.
- Olaniyan, Azeez and Yahaya, Aliyu (2016), Cows, Bandits, and Violent Conflicts: Understanding Cattle Rustling in Northern Nigeria, in: Africa Spectrum, 51, 3, 93–105 Retrieved 2/12/23 at <http://nbn-resolving.org/urn/resolver.pl?urn:nbn:de:gbv:18-4-9894>
- Omonona, B. T and Agoi, G.A., (2014) An Analysis of Food Security Situation Among Nigerian Urban Households: Evidence from Lagos State, Nigeria. *Journal of Central European Agriculture* 8 (3) p397-406
- Rosenje, M. O and Adeniyi, O.P (2022). The Impact of Banditry on Nigeria’s Security Inthe Fourth Republic: An Evaluation of Nigeria’s Northwest. *Zamfara Journal of Politics and Development* 2 (1):1-26
- Tarraf, D., Blanchet, D.S.R., Nana, C.P., Batal, M., Giroux, M. (2018). Prevalence and Determinants of Food Insecurity in Migrant Sub-Saharan African and Caribbean Households
- Tauna, A. (2016). We have tamed cattle rustling; we will tame kidnapping– Northern governors. *Daily Post*, January 30th. Retrieved 23/11/2023 from: <http://dailypost.ng/2016/01/30/we-have-tamed-cattle-rustling-wewill-tackle-kidnapping-northern-governors>
- The Sun (2017). Protecting Farming Communities with Agro-Rangers. Retrieved 23/11/23 from <https://www.sunnewsonline.com/protecting-farming-communities-with-agroZango> BM.
- Ubokudom, E.O., Namso, N.F., Egbe, B.E., Kesit, K.N. (2017). Household Level Food Security Status and its Determinants Among Rural Farmers in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. *Agric. Sci. Res. J.*, 7(10): 297–303.
- Uche, J. C. and Iwuamadi, C. K. (2018). Nigeria: Rural banditry and community resilience in the Nimbo community. *Conflict Studies Quarterly*, (24): 71-82.