

Combating Trans-Border Banditry and Security Issues in Katsina State, Nigeria: Challenges and Strategies

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Abstract

This research investigates the complex phenomenon of trans-border banditry and security in Katsina State, Nigeria. It contextualises the challenges posed by geographical proximity to Niger Republic, socio-economic instabilities, and institutional inadequacies. The research questions focus on evaluating the effectiveness of measures taken by government to fight the menace and identifying key impediments to their success. Objectives of the study includes; assessing security strategies and exploring socio-economic, political, and institutional factors contributing to the issue. Employing a mixed-methods methodology, the study collects quantitative data via structured questionnaires and qualitative insights through key informant interviews. Analyses reveal that while initiatives like vigilante groups and increased border patrols have achieved some successes. Thematic findings indicate that community engagement and local intelligence are pivotal, yet underutilized in combating trans-border banditry in Katsina State. Additionally, the ECOWAS free movement protocol and weak regional partnerships exacerbate border control issues. Key findings highlight the effectiveness of punitive measures such as prosecutions but reveal public skepticism toward softer approaches like bandit rehabilitation. Conclusions underscore the need for enhanced security collaboration, advanced surveillance technologies, and economic empowerment programs. Recommendations advocate for robust community policing, capacity-building for security forces, and regional agreements to address the transnational nature of the crisis. Ultimately, sustainable peace in Katsina requires addressing root causes of transborder crimes, strengthening institutional frameworks, and fostering trust between security agencies and affected communities.

Keywords: Trans-border, Banditry, Trans-border Banditry, Security, Insecurity

Introduction

Trans-border banditry and security issues in Katsina State have emerged as critical security concerns in Nigeria, largely due to its geographical location bordering Niger Republic. This proximity has facilitated the movement of armed groups, contraband goods, and illegal firearms, exacerbating insecurity in the State and the North-West region. Addressing this multifaceted issue requires understanding its historical roots, socio-economic drivers, and the challenges faced by security forces in curbing it (Usman, 2020).

Historically, Katsina State has been a commercial hub with porous borders enabling cross-border trade. However, this strategic advantage has turned into a security liability due to insufficient border control measures. The proliferation of arms and the activities of armed groups have intensified since the early 2000s, contributing to frequent violent incidents, including kidnappings, cattle rustling, and armed robberies (Ibrahim, 2021). Statistical data from the

Nigeria Security Tracker indicate that between 2019 and 2023, over 5,000 violent incidents linked to banditry were reported in the northwest, with Katsina being among the worst-hit states (Adamu, 2022).

Economic hardship and unemployment in the region have also played a significant role in fueling trans-border banditry. Youth disenfranchisement, compounded by the collapse of agricultural productivity and limited access to formal education, has created a fertile ground for recruitment into bandit groups. A study by Musa (2021) revealed that 65% of bandit recruits in Katsina were aged between 18 and 35, with limited educational backgrounds and no stable income sources. The inadequacy of security infrastructure presents another critical challenge.

Weak institutional coordination further complicates the fight against trans-border banditry. Security agencies often operate in silos, leading to delayed response times and ineffective conflict resolution mechanisms. A recent policy assessment by Abdullahi (2023) found that overlapping mandates between the Nigeria Customs Service, Immigration Service, and the Nigerian Police Force have hindered joint operations and intelligence-sharing efforts. International cooperation has also been limited despite shared security concerns with neighboring Niger Republic. Bilateral agreements signed in 2019 aimed at strengthening border patrols have yet to yield substantial results due to logistical and bureaucratic delays (Garba, 2022).

Methodology

For the purpose of this study, survey and exploratory research design was utilized. The survey aspect involved data collection on the current state of insecurity, while the exploratory aspect delved into the root causes and potential solutions. The justification for adopting a survey and explanatory research design is that, the design allows researcher to analyze data without preexisting hypotheses. The target population for this study includes individuals, community leaders, security personnel, and government officials directly affected by trans-border banditry and its attendant security issues in Jibia, Batsari, Safana, Danmusa, Kankara and Faskari Local Government Areas in Katsina State, with a projected combined population of 1, 986, 100 (One Million, Nine hundred and Eighty-Six Thousand, One Hundred).

A multi-stage sampling technique was employed to ensure a representative sample. This involved a combination of random sampling and purposive sampling techniques. The research adopted the Yamane (1967:886) formula for calculating the sample size (SS) with a finite population. The quantitative data in form of primary data was collected by survey methods. This method involved the administration of open and closed-ended questionnaire to respondents that includes; all members of the communities affected by trans-border banditry and its attendant security issues. Similarly, For the qualitative data, Purposive sampling technique was adopted to select a total of Eighteen (18) participants across the various strata of security agencies, Federal and Katsina State government officials, community leaders, civil servant, students and other members of the community as well as security and diplomatic official from Niger republic for the key informant interviews (KII). This proportional allocation ensures that the views and experiences of all relevant stakeholders are adequately represented in the study. In addition, library and internet search were used in sourcing for secondary data. In this method, information from peer reviewed journals, textbooks, newspapers, security agencies publications, published and unpublished materials were obtained.

The Yamane (1967:886) formula for calculating sample size (SS) with a finite population.

$$SS = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where;

N = Estimated Population (which is 1,986,100)

e = Margin of error (level of precision) is 5%

This means, the sample size is $n = \frac{SS = \text{Sample size}}{1 + 1,986,100 (0.05)^2} = \frac{1,986,100}{4966.25} = \frac{1,986,100}{4966.25} = 399.92 = 400$

Therefore, the questionnaires were administered to 400 respondents in the 6 local government areas under study and prorated proportionate to the population of each local government using the formula,

$$NQ = \frac{n}{N} SS$$

Where;

NQ is number of questionnaires per sampled state

n is the population of the local government

N is the total population of the 6 local governments states sampled

SS is the estimated sample size (400)

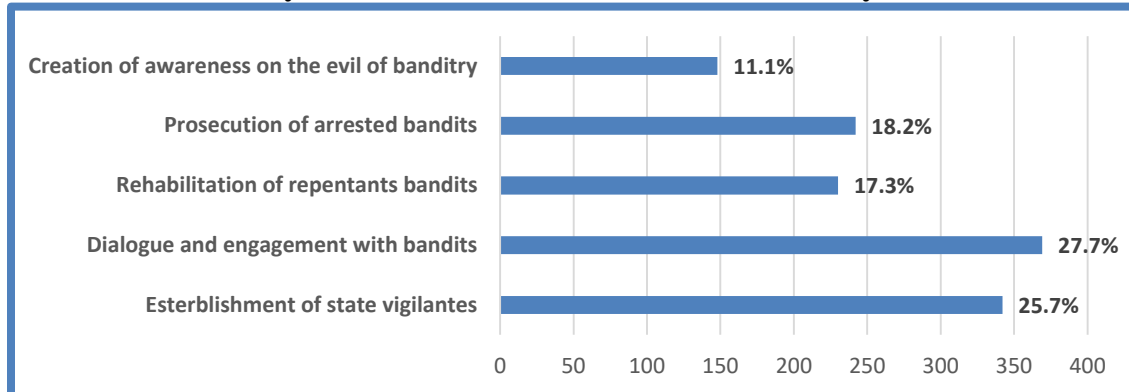
Rounding up to account for potential non-response or incomplete responses, a sample size of 400 was selected. This was distributed proportionally across the six strata of the sampling population:

Batsari LGA	$= \frac{371,500 \times 400}{1,986,100}$	$= 75$ individuals
Dam Musa LGA	$= \frac{202,300 \times 400}{1,986,100}$	$= 42$ individuals
Faskari LGA	$= \frac{347,400 \times 400}{1,986,100}$	$= 70$ individuals
Jibia LGA	$= \frac{299,200 \times 400}{1,986,100}$	$= 60$ individuals
Kankara LGA	$= \frac{434,700 \times 400}{1,986,100}$	$= 86$ individuals
Safana LGA	$= \frac{331,000 \times 400}{1,986,100}$	$= 67$ individuals
Total		= 400 individuals

The Quantitative data sourced from the questionnaire was analysed using description statistic to explore and draw meaningful insight from the data. This involved using tables, frequency and percentages with the view to facilitate interpretation and deductions. It was done using analysis tools such as Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) and Excel software. Similarly, the qualitative data sourced from the key informant interview with critical stakeholders was analysed using content and thematic analysis. The data was coded, organised into code, sub-code and thematic areas for analysis. The research made use of Nvivo and MAXQDA qualitative software to achieve this. The interpretation was guided by the research questions and objectives of the study.

Data Presentation and Analysis

Figure 1: Measure Taken by Katsina Government to Combat Banditry in the State



Source: Field Survey, September, 2024

The data reveals the various strategies adopted by the Katsina State government to combat the rising issue of banditry. The most prevalent measure is dialogue and engagement with bandits, accounting for 27.7% of responses. This suggests a preference for conflict resolution through negotiation as a means of reducing hostilities. Following this, the establishment of state vigilantes is also significant, making up 25.7%, indicating that the government has relied on local security groups to provide a supplementary response to formal security forces. Rehabilitation of repentant bandits and prosecution of arrested bandits also feature prominently at 17.3% and 18.2% respectively, highlighting efforts to reintegrate former bandits into society while ensuring that those who continue criminal activities face legal consequences.

The implications of the measures taken by the Katsina State government to combat banditry suggest a multifaceted approach, with a strong emphasis on dialogue and local enforcement through vigilantes. While this may help in managing immediate security threats, the relatively low focus on public awareness campaigns (11.1%) indicates a potential gap in long-term preventive efforts. The reliance on rehabilitation and prosecution shows that the state aims to reintegrate offenders while holding others accountable, but without adequate preventive strategies, the root causes of banditry may persist, undermining the overall effectiveness of these measures. Buttressing this assertion, a commander with the Katsina State Vigilante Group (C Watch Katsina) during Key Informant Interview (KII) emphasized the importance of dialogue and engagement with bandits as a key strategy in reducing violence. Echoing this sentiment, a Senior Officer of the Department of State Services (DSS) in Katsina highlighted that;

Engagement is a complex process. While it can lead to temporary peace, it requires vigilant monitoring and a clear framework to ensure bandits do not exploit negotiations for their benefit." The officer further pointed out that successful dialogue depends heavily on the credibility of the negotiators and the government's ability to offer realistic incentives, such as amnesty or livelihood support, to convince the bandits to abandon their criminal ways.

On the part of the Katsina State Government, a senior government official during KII stated that;

The establishment of a state vigilante group (C Watch Katsina) has been a significant step in local security efforts. These groups, composed of community

members, are tasked with monitoring their areas. They work alongside law enforcement to ensure swift responses to banditry incidents, thus restoring confidence among the citizens."

On Dialogue and Engagement with Bandits, he stated that;

Dialogue can be polarizing, but we believe engaging with certain factions of bandits, especially those expressing interest in peace, can be a logical approach. It's not about condoning their actions but about understanding their grievances and potentially finding common ground."

He further commented on Katsina State governments efforts as it relates to Prosecution of Arrested Bandits and Rehabilitation of Repentant Bandits. He stated that the government is very committed to the prosecution of arrested bandits as a deterrent. According to him, visible legal action against bandits reinforces the message that crime will not go unpunished.

Table 1: How Effective are the Measures Taken by Katsina State Government in Combating Banditry

Measures	Highly Effective	Effective	Not Sure	Highly Ineffective	Ineffective
Establishment of state vigilantes	9.36	68.42	12.28	0.00	9.94
Dialogue and engagement with bandits	0.00	7.86	11.11	5.96	75.07
Rehabilitation of repentant bandits	0.00	28.70	18.70	8.26	44.35
Prosecution of arrested bandits	0.00	70.66	9.09	0.00	20.25
Creation of awareness on the evil of banditry	0.00	50.00	21.62	0.00	28.38

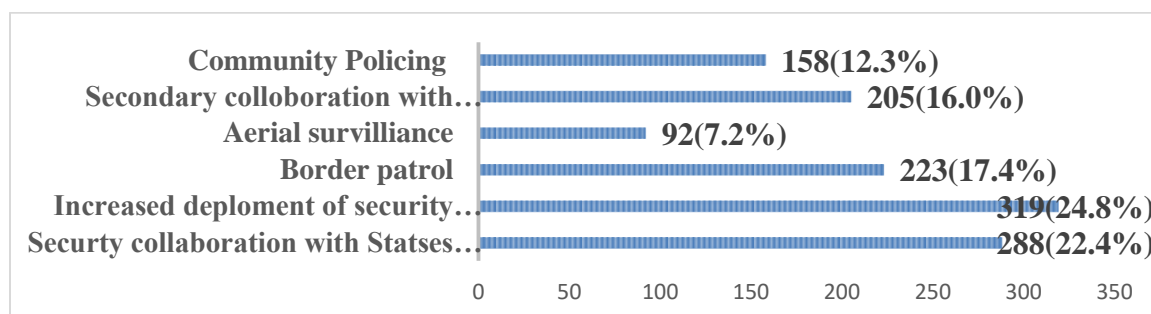
Source: Field Survey, September, 2024

The effectiveness of measures taken by the Katsina State government in combating banditry, as shown in Table 1, reveals mixed outcomes. The establishment of state vigilantes appears effective, with 68.42% of respondents agreeing on its success, while only 9.94% find it ineffective. Prosecution of arrested bandits also garners significant support, with 70.66% seeing it as effective. However, dialogue and engagement with bandits show low effectiveness, with 75.07% of respondents deeming it ineffective, indicating public skepticism about this approach. Rehabilitation of repentant bandits is similarly viewed with concern, as 44.35% find it ineffective. Awareness campaigns, though somewhat effective, still leave room for improvement, with 28.38% finding them ineffective. This suggests that while enforcement measures such as prosecution and vigilante establishment are seen as effective, softer approaches like dialogue and rehabilitation are less trusted.

In contrast, softer approaches like dialogue with bandits and rehabilitation of repentant bandits are met with skepticism, with the majority viewing them as ineffective. Corroborating this assertion, in a KII with a Senior Military Officer in Katsina, the establishment of state vigilantes

was discussed in detail. He praised the vigilantes for being a vital force in complementing the efforts of the formal military and police.

Figure 2; Measure Taken by Federal Government to Combat Banditry in the Katsina State



Source: Field Survey, September, 2024

The federal government has taken several measures to combat banditry in Katsina State, with varying levels of emphasis on different strategies. The most prominent actions include increased deployment of security personnel (military and paramilitary), which accounts for 24.8%, and security collaboration with states in the Northwest region, making up 22.4%. These approaches reflect a heavy focus on strengthening security presence and regional cooperation to address the banditry issue. Border patrols and secondary collaboration with neighboring countries also feature significantly, at 17.4% and 16.0% respectively, underscoring the importance of securing the borders to prevent cross-border criminal activities. However, less attention is given to aerial surveillance (7.2%) and community policing (12.3%), which may indicate challenges in resource allocation or strategy prioritization for these interventions.

Table 2: How effective are the Measures Taken by Federal Government in Combating Banditry in Katsina State

Measures	Highly Effective	Effective	Not Sure	Highly Ineffective	Ineffective
Security collaboration with States within the Northwest region	13.5	54.2	6.3	0.7	25.3
Increased deployment of security personnels (military and paramilitary)	2.2	72.7	3.4	3.1	18.5
Border patrol	0.0	23.3	0.0	18.8	57.8
Aerial surveillance	0.0	33.7	5.4	0.0	60.9
Secondary collaboration with neighboring countries	4.9	36.1	0.0	6.3	52.7
Community Policing	0.0	41.8	0.0	2.5	55.7

Source: Field Survey, September, 2024

The effectiveness of the measures taken by the federal government to combat trans-border banditry in Katsina State varies significantly among the strategies employed. Increased

deployment of security personnel (military and paramilitary) is perceived as the most effective approach, with 72.7% of respondents deeming it effective and only 18.5% considering it ineffective. This suggests strong public support for the military's presence in addressing the banditry crisis, indicating confidence in their ability to restore security.

In contrast, security collaboration with states in the Northwest region has received a mixed response. While 54.2% of respondents find this measure effective, a notable 25.3% view it as ineffective, highlighting some skepticism regarding the impact of inter-state cooperation on banditry issues. Border patrol measures appear to be the least effective, with 57.8% of respondents categorizing them as ineffective and none considering them highly effective. This suggests that border patrols may not be sufficiently addressing the complexities of trans-border banditry. This could be because it is not adequately utilized as seen in figure 4.10 above. This underscores the need for enhanced border patrol and surveillance, underscoring the need for a more integrated and comprehensive approach to security that goes beyond mere personnel deployment.

The data indicates that the effectiveness of federal measures to combat trans-border banditry in Katsina State varies widely, with a clear public perception that the deployment of security personnel is the most impactful strategy. The high percentage of respondents recognizing the effectiveness of military and paramilitary forces suggests that there is a strong belief in their role in enhancing security and addressing the challenges posed by banditry. However, the mixed reactions to inter-state security collaboration imply that while some see potential in cooperative efforts, others question their actual effectiveness in curbing banditry, reflecting possible issues in coordination or implementation. Additionally, the low effectiveness rating for border patrol measures suggests significant challenges in controlling the flow of bandits across porous borders. Contributing on this subject in a KII, a Senior Staff of the Nigerian Immigration Service, Katsina State Command stated that:

Border patrols have not been as effective as expected, largely due to the vast, porous borders we are tasked with securing. Our personnel and resources are stretched thin, making it difficult to monitor all points of entry. Even with the increased deployment of security personnel, the sheer size of the border and the sophisticated tactics used by bandits to evade capture make it challenging. Collaboration with neighboring countries has yielded some positive results, but much more needs to be done.

This highlights the limitations of current border security measures and the need for a more comprehensive approach.

Table 3: Challenges Affect the Fight against Trans-border Banditry in Katsina State

Challenges	SD %	A %	UD %	D %	SD %
1. Inadequate security personnel	79.7	18.2	2.1	0.00	0.00
2. Poor intelligence gathering	75.4	22.5	0.00	0.00	2.1
3. Lack of resources and updated equipment	69.0	27.0	1.9	2.1	0.00
4. Lack of cooperation of neighboring countries	50.3	43.9	5.9	0.00	0.00

5.	Poor motivation of security personnel	52.4	45.7	1.9	0.00	0.00
6.	Corruption within security agencies	52.4	39.8	7.8	0.00	0.00
7.	ECOWAS protocol on free movement of persons	32.9	40.9	24.3	1.9	0.00
8.	Porous Borders/ Poor borders control	75.4	24.6	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Economic, social factors	23.5	60.4	16.1	0.00	0.00
9.	Legal and judicial challenges	17.9	55.9	26.2	0.00	0.00
10.	Mistrust between law enforcement agencies and border community members	4.3	40.6	27.3	12.8	15.0
11.	Lack of effective coordination between federal and local security forces	4.0	39.0	25.7	18.4	12.8

Source: Field Survey, September, 2024

Keys: SA=Strongly Agree; A=Agree; UD= Undecided; D=Disagree; SD= Strongly Disagree

Table 3 identifies key challenges in combating trans-border banditry in Katsina State. The overwhelming majority of respondents strongly agree that inadequate security personnel (79.7%) and poor intelligence gathering (75.4%) are major obstacles. This indicates a significant gap in the state's ability to effectively prevent and respond to banditry. Additionally, the porous borders and poor border control are critical issues, with 75.4% of respondents strongly agreeing that the ease of cross-border movement has exacerbated the problem, allowing bandits to exploit weaknesses in security infrastructure. Other notable challenges include the lack of resources and updated equipment (69.0% strongly agree) and lack of cooperation from neighboring countries (50.3% strongly agree), which highlights the international dimension of the issue. These factors, combined with poor motivation of security personnel (52.4% strongly agree) and corruption within security agencies (52.4% strongly agree), point to internal systemic weaknesses that undermine the fight against banditry. Moreover, the ECOWAS protocol on free movement (32.9% strongly agree) complicates efforts to control borders, while legal and judicial challenges (17.9% strongly agree) limit the effective prosecution and punishment of offenders.

The implications of the findings in Table 3 reveal significant challenges that hinder the fight against trans-border banditry in Katsina State. First, the widespread agreement on issues like inadequate security personnel, poor intelligence gathering, and porous borders suggests that the state's capacity to protect its borders and respond to security threats is critically low. This not only emboldens bandits but also increases the state's vulnerability to cross-border crimes. Addressing these gaps would require substantial investment in security personnel, better border management, and intelligence sharing between security agencies and neighboring countries. Moreover, the lack of resources, poor motivation, and corruption within security agencies create an internal environment where efforts to combat banditry are not only underfunded but also mismanaged. These systemic issues could further erode public trust in the security apparatus, creating a disconnect between law enforcement and local communities. Effective solutions would require reforms in security governance, enhanced training, better equipment, and a stronger emphasis on accountability. Additionally, the legal and judicial challenges identified highlight the need for legislative reforms to ensure that law enforcement can prosecute banditry cases swiftly and efficiently.

Discussion of Findings.

Issues and Challenges in the Fight against Trans-border Banditry

Table 3 outlines the significant challenges facing the fight against trans-border banditry in Katsina State. The data reveals that the most pressing issues include inadequate security personnel and poor intelligence gathering, with 79.7% and 75.4% of respondents, respectively, strongly agreeing on their critical impact. These challenges point to a significant gap in the state's capacity to effectively respond to and prevent bandit activities, which aligns with the observations of Adeyemi (2021) that weak security infrastructure contributes to the rise of criminal networks in vulnerable regions. The porous borders and poor border control, cited by 75.4% of respondents, exacerbate the problem by allowing bandits to cross into Nigeria from neighboring countries with little resistance. This finding supports the work of Bala (2020), who highlighted the ease with which bandits exploit weak border security to evade capture, particularly along the Nigeria-Niger border. The lack of proper border management is a critical challenge in addressing the cross-border dimensions of banditry, making it more difficult for security agencies to track and intercept bandit movements.

Another major challenge is the lack of resources and updated equipment, which 69.0% of respondents strongly agree undermines efforts to combat banditry. The inadequacy of modern technology, surveillance tools, and other resources limits the effectiveness of security operations, especially in hard-to-reach areas. This is in line with the report by the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC, 2021), which called for increased investment in security infrastructure, such as drones and advanced communication systems, to improve the capacity of law enforcement agencies in monitoring bandit movements and responding to attacks. Lack of cooperation from neighboring countries, a challenge strongly agreed upon by 50.3% of respondents, underscores the international dimension of the banditry crisis. This echoes the findings of Ogunkola (2023), who argued that regional cooperation is vital for addressing trans-border crimes, as bandits often operate across multiple jurisdictions. Without robust collaboration between Nigeria and its neighbors, especially Niger, efforts to secure the borders and dismantle bandit networks will remain ineffective.

The findings also highlight internal challenges within the security apparatus. Poor motivation of security personnel (52.4%) and corruption within security agencies (52.4%) significantly hinder the effectiveness of security measures. As noted by Anjide (2023), corruption erodes public trust and undermines efforts to combat crime, creating a disconnect between law enforcement and the communities they serve. This can lead to situations where bandits exploit the weaknesses within the security forces, further complicating efforts to restore peace and stability. Additionally, the ECOWAS protocol on the free movement of persons presents another challenge, with 32.9% of respondents strongly agreeing that it complicates border control efforts. While the protocol aims to promote regional integration and ease of movement for citizens, it also provides opportunities for criminals to move freely across borders, which can hinder security efforts. This supports the argument by Ibrahim (2022) that certain regional policies may inadvertently facilitate the activities of criminal networks unless they are balanced with effective security measures.

The legal and judicial challenges identified, with 17.9% of respondents strongly agreeing, reflect the difficulties in prosecuting and punishing offenders involved in banditry. Adeyemi (2021) also pointed out that weak legal frameworks and delays in judicial processes create loopholes that allow criminals to escape justice. This underscores the need for reforms in the legal system to

ensure that bandits are swiftly prosecuted and punished, thereby deterring future criminal activities. The implications of the findings in Table 3 are clear: addressing trans-border banditry in Katsina State requires a multi-faceted approach that tackles both external and internal challenges. Improving border control, enhancing intelligence gathering, and increasing resources for security personnel are critical steps toward strengthening the state's capacity to combat banditry. Furthermore, addressing corruption within security agencies and fostering better cooperation with neighboring countries will be essential for creating a more coordinated and effective response to the crisis.

Conclusion

Combating trans-border banditry and security issues in Katsina State requires a multi-faceted, well-coordinated, and sustainable approach involving security measures, socio-economic development, institutional reforms, and international cooperation. The study reviewed that while various interventions have been implemented, persistent challenges such as porous borders, insufficient security personnel, limited resources, and institutional corruption continue to undermine efforts. The deployment of state-backed vigilante groups has proven effective in supplementing formal security agencies, especially in remote areas with limited government presence. Their deep-rooted community ties facilitate local intelligence gathering and rapid response to security threats. However, a lack of standardized training, logistical support, and proper regulation limits their operational effectiveness. Similarly, military-led operations such as "Operation Hadarin Daji" have disrupted bandit activities but faced setbacks due to logistical constraints and inadequate troop rotations. Dialogue and peace negotiations have led to temporary reductions in violence but remain controversial. Critics argue that negotiations risk enabling bandits to regroup and rearm, particularly when monitoring and enforcement mechanisms are weak. The breakdown of past peace accords highlights the need for a more robust and enforceable negotiation framework that prioritizes justice and security. Community involvement and local intelligence have been repeatedly cited as critical in combating trans-border banditry. Local communities possess intimate knowledge of the terrain, making them indispensable in detecting and reporting bandit activities. However, fostering trust between communities and security agencies remains a challenge due to past instances of misconduct and delayed government responses. Strengthening this relationship through sustained community engagement programs is vital.

Given the trans-border nature of the crisis, enhanced international cooperation is imperative. Strengthening bilateral agreements with Niger Republic, conducting joint border patrols, and improving cross-border intelligence-sharing mechanisms would bolster efforts. Additionally, reforming Nigeria's legal and judicial systems to ensure swift prosecution and adequate punishment for bandit-related crimes is essential. Finally, combating trans-border banditry for enhanced security in Katsina State requires balancing security-focused measures with socio-economic development and governance reforms. Addressing underlying drivers such as poverty, unemployment, and weak institutions is critical for long-term stability. The integration of technological innovations, increased investment in border security, and expanded international partnerships will further strengthen the state's capacity to manage insecurity. A coordinated and well-resourced strategy, built on collaboration among government agencies, local communities, and international partners, offers the best path toward reducing trans-border banditry and ensuring lasting peace and development in the region.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study on trans-border banditry and security issues in Katsina State, here are some comprehensive recommendations proffered to address the challenges posed by transborder banditry and improve security in the Katsina state:

- i. The Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) should strengthen border security and surveillance, through enhanced border patrols along the porous borders between Nigeria and Niger leveraging advanced surveillance technologies, such as drones, motion sensors, CCTV cameras, and satellite imagery to monitor the borders, track and prevent the movement of bandits and other criminal elements as well as smuggling of illegal goods.
- ii. The federal Government of Nigeria through the platform of ECOWAS and the newly formed Alliance of Sahel States (AES) should harmonize multilateral efforts, strengthen its International and Regional Collaboration with the republic of Niger and other neighboring countries towards addressing transborder security challenges.
- iii. The federal Government of Nigeria in collaboration with the AU, ECOWAS, ECCAS and other regional and sub regional bodies should seek technical and financial support from international partners to enhance security infrastructure and capacity of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), towards enhancing border security.
- iv. The Federal Government of Nigeria and the Katsina State Government should put in place policies and mechanism like Poverty Alleviation and skill acquisition programs for youths and also investing massively in socio-economic development programs to tackle poverty, unemployment, and inequality which are key drivers of banditry, especially in vulnerable border communities.
- v. The federal Government should strengthen Community-Based Security Initiatives to complement official security efforts through establishing a legal framework that will support and formalize community-based security outfits that would have proper legal backing, better training and logistics, and wields superior firepower to that of the bandits.
- vi. The Katsina State Government to leverage the Legal framework that would formalize Community Based Security Initiative to strengthen the Katsina State Community Watch Corps (C Watch Katsina) through proper training and provision of weapons.
- vii. The federal government should strengthen and foster Inter-Agency collaboration between security agencies (military, police, DSS, etc.) and enhance their capacity to gather and share intelligence for effective, rapid and coordinated responses.
- viii. The Federal Government of Nigeria and the Katsina State Governments should carry out a Judicial review that would designate all forms of banditry, illegal arms possession, kidnapping and related crimes as capital crime, punishable by death and ensure strict enforcement to serve as deterrent to bandits and other potential criminals.
- ix. The federal government of Nigeria should establish special courts to expedite the prosecution of arrested bandits and ensure justice is served swiftly.
- x. The Federal Government of Nigeria should improve the capacity of security agencies by equipping them with modern tools and enhancing inter-agency coordination to effectively combat trans-border banditry.

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