A Survey of the Proleferation of Small Arms and Cattle Rusttling in Birnin Gwari Local Government Area of Kaduna State and Its Implication to National Security

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Abstract: - This study investigates the security implication of cattle rustling in Birnin Gwari local government area of Kaduna state. The major objective of the study was thus to assess the connection between proliferation of small arms and cattle rustling and then examine the security implication on the society. To achieve this grand objective, specific objectives were outlined as thus: to highlights the factors that influence the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Birnin Gwari local government, highlight the factors that facilitates and sustain cattle rustling in Birnin Gwari local government area. The study was also interested in enumerating the obstacle that affects eradication of the phenomenon and to suggest what can be done to eradicate the phenomenon in the society. The study utilised both the primary and secondary data for its analyses. A multi stage sampling techniques was used to collect data from the respondents. The total number of respondents that participated in the study was 375. The study also used the in-depth Interview method to interview police officers who were considered as key informants for the study. The data obtained from the respondents were quantitatively and qualitatively analysed. The study found out that the proliferation of small arms and light weapons is very high in Birnin Gwari local government area. The major factor identified as facilitating the proliferation of small arms in Birnin Gwari was political thuggery, and thick vegetation of the Birnin Gwari communities was discovered to provide hide out for armed bandit hence facilitating the phenomenon of cattle rustling. It is therefore the recommendation of this study that political offices in Nigeria be made less attractive to discourage the use of thugs for election. Also s stiffer penalties and effective enforcement of laws should be embarked on. The study also suggests that the borders need to be closely monitored for what goes in and pout of the state and country. Finally the study suggests that employment opportunities be created to engage the youths who are the major perpetrators armed conflict and violence.

I. BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

The illegal possession and circulation of small arms and light weapons is known to fuel insurgency, piracy, kidnapping, communal conflict as well as exacerbate political ethno-religious tension hence posing threats to socio-economic development and security challenge. The uncontrollable use of small arms and light weapons has contributed to the alarming level of armed crime, and militancy (Ngboa waji 2011). This poses serious security challenges both internationally and locally. Yakubu, (2005) also avers that small arms and light weapons are often used to forcibly displace civilians, impede humanitarian assistance and retard socio-economic development.

Cattle rustling is one of such vices that have taken advantage of small arm and light weapons that are in circulation. In simple terms, cattle rustling refer to stealing of grazing cattle. Traditionally, cattle rustling are driven by the criminal intent to expropriate cow for meat or sale. In recent time however, the nature and extent of the activities of cattle rustlers in North-Western Nigeria has however gone beyond mere cattle theft for the aforementioned purposes. Communities in states like Zamfara, Kaduna Katsina, and Kebbi among others have experience the phenomenon of cattle rustling with its attendant effects. According to David (2016) the rustlers don’t only steal, they barricade roads; they rape and constantly harass defenceless farmers and women in the affected communities. Cattle rustling have thus attracted a lot of concern internationally and locally as their activities threatened national security and development.

Birnin Gwari is one of the worst hit communities in North Western Nigeria. The local government serve as a border community; as it connects Zamfara, Katsina and Niger state. According to Yakubu (2005), the Emir of Birnin Gwari could not hide his emotions when he revealed to the Governor when he was carrying out an impact assessments tour of the local government that “more than 60% of the local government have been taken over by rustlers”. In 2011, they attack two commercial banks in Birnin Gwari town and ran away with millions of naira. In the same year, they attacked another district; Salauwa, burnt more than 40 houses, kill four people and render more than 100 people homeless (Alkali 2015).

In a recent report in Ayodeji (2016), it was revealed that operations sharan Daji (which was primarily set up to fish out the rustlers from their hiding place in the forest) recovered over 665 cows, and 141 sheeps (Ewes and Rams), from cattle rustlers from their hiding place in the forest) recovered in a recent report in Ayodeji (2016), it was revealed that operations sharan Daji (which was primarily set up to fish out the rustlers from their hiding place in the forest) recovered over 665 cows, and 141 sheeps (Ewes and Rams), from cattle
rustlers in Birnin Gwari area of Kaduna state. According to Alemika (2014), the rustlers are very successful in their operation not just because of their level of organisation, but because they easily have access to small arms and weapons which are in circulation. A lot have been written on proliferation of small arms and light weapons. See Ebo, (2003), Odekunle (2013), Bah (2004), Adetiba (2012)Onuoha (2011), Aver et al (2015), Nte (2011), Wokocha (2012), Yecho (2006), Alubo (2006). This study will therefore try to fill the gap in literature on this subject; by conducting an empirical study to establish a connection between proliferation of small arms and cattle rustling and hence assess other factors that facilitates cattle rustling, identify obstacles that pose a challenge to eradication of cattle rustling in Nigeria, and also assess the impact of cattle rustling on security of lives and properties of people in Birnin Gwari local government area and on national security at large.

Statement of the Problem

The spread of small arms and light weapons have stimulated and encourage a lot of phenomenon that have impacted negatively on the socio-economic and security of people. The use of these weapons is known to have fuel and sustained the phenomenon of cattle rustling which often created economic and security problems in affected areas and environs. Farmers and inhabitants of Birnin Gwari (Kaduna state), Danmusa and Safana (Katsina state) find I difficult to live a normal life because of the phenomenon of cattle rustling prevalent in these areas. In some cases, armed men will take over the whole community displacing people hence humanitarian crises. In some cases, access to schools, health facilities and markets are blocked; thousands are displaced and made refugees in their own land.

Similarly, between 2010 and 2014 the number of Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in Nigeria was 3.3 million making Nigeria the highest producer of refugees in Africa and the third in the world after Syria and Colombia respectively (Voice of America 19TH May, 2014). Resources and energy are channelled towards rehabilitating displayed persons and towards rebuilding destroyed structures at the expense of other projects.

There exists a corpus of literature on the factors influencing, sources and effects of the proliferation of the small arms and light weapons in Nigeria and other parts of the world with its unique position regarding its set back on societal development. Moreover, the dominant literature on the sources and effects of the proliferation of small arms vis a vis criminal activities are not only theoretical but made very little or no connection to cattle rustling. Studies by Ebo, (2003), Odekunle (2013), Bah (2004), Adetiba (2012)Onuoha (2011), Nte (2011), Wokocha (2012), Yecho (2006), Alubo (2006), are some of the detailed works on the socio-economic implication of small arms and light on development in the society with little reference to cattle rustling in Birnin Gwari local government area of Kaduna state. Ebo, (2003) for instance wrote extensively on the effects of proliferation of the small arms and light weapons on the society especially in the hands of non-state actors. Odekunle (2013) also dwelt comprehensively on how actors used the electoral system to put arms in the hands of thugs, while Yecho (2006) identified the socio-economic effects of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria but establish little or no connection with the phenomenon of cattle rustling. This has made an empirical study into socio-economic and security implication of the phenomenon of cattle rustling influence by the availability of small arms and light weapons imperative.

Research Questions

The general research question is: what is the connection between proliferation of small arms and cattle rustling and how does this impact negatively on the security of Nigerians? The specific includes:

1. What are the factors influencing the circulation of small arms in Birnin Gwari LG?
2. What other factors facilitates and sustains the phenomenon of cattle rustling?
3. What are the obstacles towards eradication of the phenomenon of cattle rustling in North Western Nigeria?
4. What are the security implications of cattle rustling in Birnin Gwari local Government area?
5. What are the measures that will be adopted to curb the circulation of small arms and light weapons in North Western Nigeria?
6. What can be done to effectively eradicate the phenomenon of cattle rustling in North Western Nigeria?

Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study is to examine the connection between proliferation of small arms and light weapons with cattle rustling in Birnin Gwari local government area of Kaduna state and assess the security implication to Nigeria as a country. The specific questions are as follows:

1. To identify the factors influencing the proliferation of small arms in Birnin Gwari LG
2. To highlight other factors that facilitates and sustains the phenomenon of cattle rustling.
3. Identify obstacle towards eradication of the phenomenon of cattle rustling in North Western Nigeria
4. To highlight the security implication of cattle rustling in Birnin Gwari local Government area.
5. Suggest realistic measures that will be adopted to curb the circulation of small arms and light weapons in North Western Nigeria.
6. Proffer solutions that will effectively eradicate the phenomenon of cattle rustling in North Western Nigeria.


Significance of the Study

Proliferation of small arms and light weapons have become one of the most endemic problems in recent times and generally account for a greater number of violent crimes in the society today. The research is significant both theoretically and practically. Development can only take place in an atmosphere of peace and security. When farmers cannot feel secured or continue to be constantly harassed by armed men, there will decline in food supply hence food insecurity. The general aim of the study is to determine the influence of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons on cattle rustling hence insecurity in Birnin Gwari local government area of Kaduna state.

This study will therefore provide government and non-governmental organisation empirical data regarding the nature of small arms and light weapons that are in circulation and the extent of this on cattle rustling. This knowledge will thus be used to fashion out policies and strategies that will eradicate the phenomenon of cattle rustling in North Western Nigeria. This research will also contribute to the existing literature on insecurity and socio-economic development in Nigeria.

In addition, the recommendations of the study will lead to the reduction in the incessant inter-group conflict between farmers and armed bandits in Birnin Gwari Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

Finally, the study will serve as a reference material to undergraduate and post-graduate students of sociology, political science and professionals in the field of conflict resolutions and management. Moreover, other researchers who intend to undertake similar studies in this area will also find the findings of this study useful.

Scope of the Study

Though, the proposed study is restricted to Birnin Gwari Local Government Area of Kaduna State the outcome of the study will be useful in understanding and analyzing the security implication of cattle rustling in the North-Western Nigeria and by extension, Nigeria as a whole. The academic scope of the study revolves around the influence of proliferation of small arms on cattle rustling and the security implication of this on Nigeria. The time scope will cover a period ranging from 2000-2015. This is because the period represents a return to democracy in Nigeria and a period when a lot of small arms were introduce into the society. The geographical scope will cover Birnin Gwari local Government Area of Kaduna State. The reason for the choice of this area is borne out of the fact that Birnin Gwari local Government Area have for a long time being a hot spot for armed bandits and have also been reportedly being under siege by cattle rustlers for some time now.

Definition of Terms

It is paramount to clarify some key concepts used in this research. Such concepts include: Socio-economic, Proliferation, Small Arms and Light Weapon.

Proliferation

Aver, Nnorom and Ilim (2014) define proliferation as sudden increase in the number of small arms and light weapons beyond those need for legitimate national security. For this work, proliferation implies that state supplier recipient no longer exercise restraint in the production, transfer and acquisition of such small arms and light weapons beyond the number needed.

Small Arms

Fundamentally, there is no universally and internationally accepted definition for small arms. However the United Nations (UN 1997) define small arms as “those weapons designed for personal use. For this study arms like grenades, revolvers and pistols with automatic loading; rifles and carbines; machine guns; assault rifles; and light machine guns among others will be considered small arms.

Light Weapon

The United Nations (UN) (1997) defines light weapons as “those weapons designed for use by several persons serving as a crew. For this work, light weapons implies heavy machine guns, portable grenade launchers, mobile or mounted portable anti-aircraft cannons; portable anti-tank cannons, non-recoil guns; portable anti-tank missile launchers or rocket launchers; portable anti-aircraft missile launchers; and mortars with a calibre of less than 100 millimeters.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter deals with the methodology adopted in order to elicit information necessary for the study. Accordingly, it is segmented into the following subheadings: research design, the study area, population, sample size determination, sampling procedure, methods of data collection, sources and types of data, techniques of data analysis, as well as limitation of the study.

Research Design

In this study, the descriptive survey method was employed as a research design. The essence of adopting this method is based on the fact that the survey is proven to be very effective in obtaining data on people’s views/opinions, feelings, attitudes and perceptions on an issue.

The Study Area

The study area is Birnin Gwari local government area. Birnin Gwari local Government is one of the 23 Local Government areas of Kaduna State. It is local government area that has an area of 6,185km² and a population figure of 253, 363 as at 2006 census. Birnin Gwari is located at latitude 9°00.00 to 11°4.00 and longitude 6°30.05 to 900.00. It lies in the
western part of Kaduna State. 11 districts; namely Tabanni, Saulawa, Randagi, Kuyello, Kutemeshi, Kungi, Kakangi, Gayam, Dogon-Dawa and Birnin Gwari town.

The people are predominantly farmers. Most of the Fulani groups and some few Hausa people own cows and sheep. In essence, cattle rearing and crop production is the major occupation of the inhabitants of Birnin Gwari local government area. There also few traders in the main towns like Birnin Gwari town; headquarter of the local government area. the mostly cultivate food crops like Millet, Sorghum, Rice and Maize. The famers cultivate large portions of land using there animals.

It is a local government that serves as transit town and connects about three states and major towns namely; Niger state, Zamfara, Kebbi and Zaria. The local government is characterised by thick vegetation particularly in villages like Kamuku and Buruku. The forested nature of these villages have over time provided a perfect hide out for armed bandits that have continued lay siege on the villages in Birnin Gwari local government area.

Population of the Study

Population entails the number of people the researcher intends to study. Thus, the population of the study consists of all residents of Birnin Gwari local Government Area. The population of the study in this research includes the males and female who are 18 years and above in Birnin Gwari local Government Area. Other respondents for the study include the police men and members of civilian joint task force, and community leaders.

Sample Size Determination

Using Taro Yamane (1967) formula 400 respondents were selected in the Local Government Area for the study. The method of selection cut across the Birnin Gwari local Government Area of Kaduna State whose population stood at 253,363 as at 2006.

Therefore:

\[
\begin{align*}
n & = \frac{253,363}{1 + 253,363 + (0.05)^2} \\
n & = 253,363 \\
n & = \frac{253,363}{1 + 2003.375} \\
n & = 253,363, \\
n & = 634.4075 \\
n & = 399.4 \\
n & = 399
\end{align*}
\]

Sampling Procedure

Clustered sampling technique was used to divide the local government into 11 districts; namely Tabanni, Saulawa, Randagi, Kuyello, Kutemeshi, Kungi, Kakangi, Gayam, Dogon-Dawa and Birnin Gwari town which will all be consider as clustered from which the sample population will be drawn from. Thereafter, simple random sampling will be used 50 people will be selected in each of the districts of the local government area. In addition, the district head as well as the divisional police officers in each of the council wards will also be interviewed to give more depth to the study. A total of 572 questionnaires were therefore printed and administered to the respondents. However, due to the problem of non-response and non-retrieval, only 375 questionnaires returned and good enough to be included in the analyses.

Methods of Data Collection

This study made use of documentary sources, questionnaires and in-depth interview. Taylor (1998) asserts that research techniques “have to be chosen” in such a way that they fit “the purpose of the enquiry”, informed researcher’s decision to adopt two broad methods of data collection techniques in this study. The questionnaire and interview method of data collection were used to gather data for the study.

Techniques of Data Analysis

The data was analyzed both quantitatively and qualitatively. The questionnaires and socio demographic variable were analyzed quantitatively using simple percentages as well as frequency tables. While the information generated from the in-depth interview were analyzed qualitatively in line with research objectives.
Limitation of the Study

Every human conduct has its peculiar problems in nature. In the same vein, no study is devoid of one problem/limitation or the other. This was not an exception. The first major problem which the researchers encountered was the problem of language barrier; most of the respondents could not communicate effectively in English language. Thereafter, the researchers resolved this problem by using an interpreter who understands Hausa and some of the local dialects. Another problem was that of initial scepticism by the people to provide willingly provide answers to the questions. The assurance of utmost confidentiality and the purpose for which we sought information from them made the respondents to begin to respond to our question freely. Closely related to the above problem is the fact that the security officials were also not willing to cooperate. The terrain of Birnin Gwari local government was another major obstacle for effective coverage.

III. DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Introduction

This chapter presents analyses of the data that was generated for the study. The chapter begins with the presentation of socio-demographic variables, presentation and analyses of data relating to the influences proliferation of small arms on cattle rustling in Birnin Gwari and its security implication on the society.

Socio-Demographic Attributes of the Respondents

This section deals with the presentation and analyses of socio-demographic variables of the respondents particularly those that have significant influence on the result and conclusion of the study. The socio-demographic variables of respondents covered by the study include: sex, age, marital status, religious affiliations and occupation.

Table 1: Showing Socio-Demographic Attributes of the Respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Frequency (f)</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Sex</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>53.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>46.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Age</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-30</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-35</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>45.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 and above</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>43.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Marital Status</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>31.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>50.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

D: Religious Affiliation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religious Affiliation</th>
<th>Frequency (f)</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christianity</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islam</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>73.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

E: Educational Qualification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Qualification</th>
<th>Frequency (f)</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary Level</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>54.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Level</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>26.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tertiary Level</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

F: Occupation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Frequency (f)</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farmers</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>44.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traders</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>28.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil/Public Servants</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>11.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: field Survey 2017

The data on table 1 indicates the distribution of socio-demographic characteristics of respondents. Data were gathered from 375 respondents in the study area. The data revealed that 53.6% (201) respondents were men, while 46.4% (174) were women. This indicated that majority of the respondents used for this study were men. With regards to age distribution of the respondents, the table indicated that, respondents were within the age bracket of 18-30 years constituted 10.7% (40) of the sampled population. Respondents within the age bracket of 31-35 made up 45.6% (171), while those between the ages of 31 and above made up of 43.7% (164) of the sampled population. This implies that majority of those who participated in the study fall within the age bracket of 31-35 years. Also the data on the same table reveal that those who were single constituted 48.3% (181), while those who were married made up 50.7% (90) of the respondents, 1.1% (4) of the respondents were either divorced or separated divorced. It can be deduced therefore that majority of the sampled population were married.

Similarly, the data collected on religious affiliation showed that 24% (90) of the respondents were Christians, while 73.9% (277) were Muslims. Majority of the sample population were therefore Muslims. Data were also gathered
to determine the educational level of the sampled population. The data revealed that majority 54.1% of the respondents were those who have primary level of education. Those who have secondary level of education constituted 26.1% of the sampled population, while respondents with tertiary level of education constituted 8% of the sampled population. Furthermore, data regarding occupation of the respondents revealed that 16% (60) are civil and public servants, 44.5% (167) were traders, while 11.2% (42) are engaged in one form of different categories of occupation not covered by the occupations outlined above.

Factors that Influences the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons in Birnin Gwari Local Government Area of Kaduna State

This section contains presentation of data regarding the factors that influence proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Birnin Gwari local government area. The data are presented in frequency distribution table.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to the factors that Influences Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons in Birnin Gwari L.G of Kaduna State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factors that influence post-election Criminality</th>
<th>Frequencies</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural practices</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porous Borders</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>40.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political thuggery</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>49.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: field survey 2017

Table 2 above contains data regarding factors that influence proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Birnin Gwari local government area of Kaduna state. The data reveal that majority (49.1%) of the respondents perceived political thuggery as the major factor that influences proliferation of small arms in the study area. Other (40.3%) however see blame the phenomenon on unemployment, while a few (3.5%) of the respondents agree that porous borders is a contributing factor.

The views of police officers interviewed however significantly differ from those of the members of the public. The interviewed officers particularly refuse to agree that political thuggery is responsible for illegal circulation of small arms. Most of the police officers blames the porous nature of our borders as the major factors the results to proliferation of small arms and light weapons. One of the officers put it thus:

*The entire North Western region and the North Eastern part of Nigeria have been engulfed in serious inter-ethnic and communal conflict. The small arms used in such crises easily find its way into this community.*

Similarly, Ebo (2003) made a similar submission when he revealed that the leftover of weapons in conflict regions or easily find their way through clandestine networks involving rogue arms brokers, private military companies, shady airline companies and local smugglers to exacerbate on-going conflicts and facilitate the commencement of new ones in new communities.

Table 3 Distribution of respondents according to the extent of illegal circulation of small arms and light weapons in Birnin Gwari local government area of Kaduna state.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Frequencies</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very high</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>51.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>39.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not high</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: field survey 2017

Majority 194 (51.7%) of the respondents assess the extent of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Birnin Gwari within the period under review as being very high. While 148 (39.5%) of them see it as being moderate. 30 (8%) of the respondents see the situation as being normal.

Similarly, data gathered from members of the police force agreed with the views of members of the public. Majority of the police officers submitted that the rate at which individuals and group are having access to small arms is very high; which explains the extent of criminality and incessant ethnic conflict in Birnin Gwari local government.

Table 4: Distribution of other factors that facilitate and sustain cattle rustling in Birnin Gwari local government

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facilitating Factors</th>
<th>Frequencies</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>10.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical terrain</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor Security</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>17.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: field survey 2017

The data in the above table (4) concern other factors that were thought to facilitate (apart from illegal circulation of small arms) cattle rustling in Birnin Gwari local government. The data highlight physical terrain as a factor that facilitates cattle rustling in Birnin Gwari local government area. Majority (72%) of the respondents as indicated by table 4 above identified physical terrain as a facilitating factor towards cattle rustling.

The information gathered from a few traditional rulers confirm the above position. A traditional ruler in Randagi had this to say...
Most times, the security men are unable to catch the bandits because of the thick forest that surrounds our community...sometimes; they will use the forest as their base to continuously launch attack on the community for day.

Another security operative said, the forest in Kamuku have particularly made tracking of the armed bandits difficult.

By implication, cattle rustlers take advantage of the nature of vegetation in and around Birnin Gwari local government. However, interview with some of the men of operation yaki security outfit in Kaduna state revealed that:

close to 20,000 cows and sheep have been recovered from suspected rustlers in Birnin Gwari local government.

Confirming this position, Ajibola (2017) report revealed that over 200 animals were recovered from suspected cattle rustlers in Birnin Gwari local government area of Kaduna state following a raid in a forest located in Burukuvillage early in 2017. It was also further revealed that some of the cows were stolen from Niger state, Kano and some in Kaduna with the intention of being sold out.

Table 5: Distribution of respondents according to Obstacles against Eradication Cattle Rustling Birnin Gwari local government

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic Implication</th>
<th>Frequencies</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poor Intelligence gathering</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>73.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor legislation</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politics</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>22.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: field survey 2017

Majority (73.1%) of the respondents in table 5 agreed that poor intelligence gathering is a main obstacle to efforts made to eradicate the phenomenon of cattle rustling in Birnin Gwari local government area. A few (4.3%) of the respondents however, perceived poor legislation as the problem. This implies that the security agencies and along-side the civilian joint task force need to synergies and share information regarding the tactics and mode of operation to tackle the problem of cattle rustling.

Confirming the above position, a community leader in Salauwa district agreed that members of the security agencies sometimes carelessly manage information they (communities leaders) share with them regarding the tactics and time of attack by the rustlers. He submitted thus:

there was a time when we discovered that the bandits attack only at dawn, and we shared this with the security agents, they still could not handle them when they came...although I think the manpower of the police here needs to be increased too.

The police refute the concern of the traditional rulers regarding intelligence gathering. The leader of operation yaki in the local government had this to say:

If you factor the difficult terrain and stringent conditions that we operate under, you will agree with me that our presence here have drastically reduce the activities of the cattle rustlers... they use to attack twice a week and create serious security problems...moreover, a lot of animals have been recovered and since returned to the owners.

He however agreed that that their manpower needs to be increased if the must decisively end the problem of cattle rustling in this axis.

Socio-economic Implication of Cattle rustling Birnin Gwari local government Area of Kaduna State

This section deals with the presentation of data on the social and economic implication of the cattle rustling in Birnin Gwari local government are of Kaduna state. The data is presented in frequency table for easy interpretation and subsequent analyses

Table 6: Distribution of respondents according to the Economic Implication of Cattle rustling in Birnin Gwari local government

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Socio-Economic Implication</th>
<th>Frequencies</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food insecurity</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>19.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distortion Agric activities</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>77.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugee crises</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: field survey 2017

The data on table 6 above revealed that one of the major socio-economic implication of cattle rustling is distortion of agricultural activities. This is because majority (77.1%) of the respondents agreed farming activities are distorted posing the danger of food insecurity in a long run. A few (3.2%) of the respondents were however of the opinion that cattle rustling can results to refugee crises.

A traditional ruler in Kutemeshi district also confirm the above position when he revealed that the activities of armed bandits and cattle rustlers in BirninGwari local government have negatively affect farmers activities. He submitted thus:

the yearly harvest have been seriously affected since we started experiencing this cattle rustling phenomenon.

A community leader in Birnin Gwari however, decries the refugee crises that characterised his domain as a result cattle rustling. He submitted thus:

even my house looks like Internally Displaced People’s Camp because of the share number of people that seek refuge because their homes have been vandalised and destroyed by armed men.
Also expressing fears of food insecurity, another traditional ruler in Salauwa District averred thus:

*We no longer have cows now; they have all been taken...we have now been rendered handicapped and incapable of cultivating large portions of our farms. When we had our cows, we cultivated big hectares and produced tons of food, but without the cows I can guess that the produce will reduce because people will farm only one per cent of what they were doing. I cannot think of a better way of expressing our despondency,” he stated.

In an earlier study, Aver et al (2014) submitted that armed conflicts with its attendant socio-economic effects stretch the government finances in a bid to resettle displaced persons and provide food, shelter and security for them.

**Security implication of cattle rustling Birnin Gwari Local government area of Kaduna state**

This section deals with the presentation of data regarding the security implication of the proliferation of cattle rustling in Birnin Gwari local government area.

Table 7: Distribution of respondents according to the Security Implication of cattle rustling in Birnin Gwari local government

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Implication</th>
<th>Frequencies</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Armed Robbery</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>80.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidnapping</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>10.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assassination</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>9.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: field survey 2017*

The major security implication of cattle rustling in Birnin Gwari local government area is frequent occurrence of armed robbery in the local government. This is because the data on table 7 revealed armed robbery as a major security implication of the illegal circulation of small arms and light weapons. A few (9.3) of the respondents however, perceived assassination as a security implication of small arms and light weapons proliferation.

The interview with the police revealed that a serious atmosphere of insecurity in the local government in which majority of the police officers blame on the proliferation of small arms. One of the police officers interviewed revealed thus:

> it is difficult to say whether armed robbery or kidnapping is the major security challenge pose by the illegal circulation of small arms and light weapons. Generally people no longer feel safe as armed men terrorise and intimidate defenceless citizens.

Another community leader in kamuka village said, the human cost associated with the rustlers attack is immense; several herdsman and farmers have been killed. Cattle rustling have become an emerging security challenge that has continued to threatened human security and economic life of most pastoralist communities in sub-Saharan Africa.

In a related submission, Odekunle (2013) submitted that criminal elements and groups acquire small arms and light weapons and use it to terrorised people in the neighbourhood and on highways. Theft, armed robbery and raids, ambushes and other hostile acts are perpetuated these days with the aid of weapons acquired illegally.

Proliferation of small arms and light weapons have created serious security situation in Birnin Gwari local government beyond cattle rustling as explained by one of the traditional rulers:

> The have attack two banks and a police station in the past, and the banks and police stations are still in ruins. The closure of the two banks crumbled activities at the two markets, traders now move large sums of money by road. Even before the attacks, Birnin Gwari and other towns and villages under it had been held under siege by armed robbers who camped in forests around the area, wreaking havoc on them, as well as on commuters who ply the busy Kaduna-Lagos highway. The about 123 km stretch between Kaduna and Birnin Gwari is notorious for gangs that attack vehicles and dispossess passengers of their moneys and valuables. In some cases, they abduct and rape female passengers. Communities around the forest hideout of these robbers also suffer the same fate or even worse. Residents of various villages in the area revealed that all their cows had been stolen by the bandits, giving rise to a situation that they say will affect food production in the area.

**Discussion of Findings**

The primary objective of the study was to make an empirical assessment of the connection between proliferation of small arms and cattle rustling in Birnin Gwari local government area and then highlights its security implication on the society. Six specific objectives were set out; data was gathered and analyzed within the framework of the objectives of the study. This section deals with the discussion of the major findings of the study. The discussion is done according to the objectives of the study.

The first objective of the study was concern with highlighting the factors that influences the proliferation small arms and light weapons in Birnin Gwari local government area. The findings regarding this objective revealed that political thuggery has a significant influence on the proliferation of arms and light weapons (see table 2). This implies that the major factor that influence illegal circulation of small arms and light weapons in Birnin Gwari local government in thuggery. In a similar submission, Yecho (2006) asserted that political thugs that are armed during
election often retain possession of firearms even after election which they used to terrorised defenceless citizens.

The second objective was to highlight other factors (apart from illicit arms) that facilitates and sustains cattle rustling in Birnin Gwari local government area. The findings as presented in table 4 revealed that respondents identified forested vegetation of Birnin Gwari local government as a facilitating factor of cattle rustling. Conforming this, Ajibola (2017) explained that the forested nature of Birnin Gwari local government area has made life unbearable for security operatives in the area and on the other hand, provide a perfect hide out for armed bandits.

In an earlier study, Adetiba (2012) argued that the reconstruction of communities in North Eastern towns of Dambua, Potiskum and others as a result of Boko Haram activities has caused a lot of money to both the federal government and state government. Wokocha (2012) view proliferation of small arms and light weapons as harbinger of violence and sexual assault on women and children, human rights violation as well as refugee crises with their attendant challenges.

The third objective was also interested in assessing the security implication of cattle rustling in Birnin Gwari local government. The findings relating to this are found in table 7; and it reported armed robbery as the main security threat posed by cattle rustling in Birnin Gwari local government area in Kaduna state. In a related finding, majority of the interviewed police officers agreed that cattle rustling in Birnin Gwari local government have created a general atmosphere of insecurity where nobody feels safe anymore. Agreeing with these findings, Odekunle (2013) submitted that the increased number of reported cases of armed robbery on the high way as well as the number of arrest and conviction provides evidence to the fact that illegal circulation of small arms and light weapons pose a serious security threat to the people. Stressing the connection between proliferation of small arms and armed violence, Adetiba (2012) said of the 500,000 people killed every year across the world, an estimated 300,000 of them are as a result of small arms. An estimated 50% of illicit weapons that proliferate in Africa are used in internal conflicts, armed robbery and drug trafficking.

Furthermore, the study set out to also highlights the obstacles and challenges towards eradicating the phenomenon in question. The findings (see table 5) blames poor intelligence gathering and utilization as the main obstacle to fighting cattle rustling in the society. Jekada (2005) also revealed that the government remain the primary beneficiary of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, particularly during election period; thugs and ethnic militias are empowered by political parties to intimidate opponents.

Another objective was fashion out realistic measures to curb circulation illicit arms in Nigeria. Similarly, the last objective is to fashion out effective measure of eradication the phenomenon of cattle rustling in the society. The findings relating to these two objectives will be presented in the appropriate section of this work in chapter five.

IV. SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

The major concern of the research was to assessed the social, economic and security implication of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Birnin Gwari local government area of Kaduna state. This chapter contains the summary, conclusion and recommendation for the work.

Summary of Findings

The findings of the study revealed that the phenomenon of proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Birnin Gwari local government is very high and that the major factors that proliferate small arms and light weapons in Birnin Gwari local government is political thuggery. Regarding the factors that facilitates and sustains cattle rustling, the findings identified thick vegetation of Birnin Gwari environment as facilitating the phenomenon of cattle rustling. Socio-economically, the study discovered that cattle rustling punctuates farming activities and creates a refugee situation. The social implication of small arms and light weapons proliferation in Birnin Gwari local government is manifested in the frequency of conflicts between ethnic groups in Birnin Gwari local government recently. Furthermore, the study discovered that cattle rustling posed serious security threat to the society as it threatened the security of people in the area Wukari. This is because, the findings uncover armed incessant cases of robbery in Birnin Gwari local government as a midwife of cattle rustling.

To realize the objectives of the study and come out with empirical findings, the work was opened with comprehensive background to the study in the beginning. This was followed by statement of the problem, research objectives, questions and scope of the study. Furthermore, the research methodology was subsequently discussed where the study setting, study design, instrument of data collection and analyses were highlighted as well as sampling procedure and techniques of data analyses as well as limitation and field experience. Following the above is the presentation and analyses of data as well as discussion of findings; and finally, the summary, conclusion and the recommendations for the work were discussed in the last part of the report.

Conclusion

The findings of the study revealed that the phenomenon of proliferation of small arms and light weapons is high in Birnin Gwari local government. The findings were generated using questionnaires that were designed according to the objectives of the study. At the end of the day, the six specific objectives set for the study were realized. This is because the study discovered thuggery as the major factor that influence the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Birnin
Gwari local government area, regarding the second objective, the study discovered that the major facilitating factor that sustains cattle rustling in Birnin Gwari local government is the vegetation that continues to provide hide out for the armed men. The major security implication according to the study is the security threat posed by the activities of armed robbers in Birnin Gwari and environs.

There is therefore no doubt that cattle rustling have negative implication to social, economic and security implication on the society. Small arms and light weapons thus facilitate and exacerbate conflicts and promote banditry.

Recommendations

The study discovered that the major factor that facilitates the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Birnin Gwari local government is thuggery. This study thus recommends that political offices should be made less attractive. The do-or-die struggle for political power is largely because of the exceedingly lucrative nature of these offices. If the peaks of political offices are reduced and made less attractive or at least in line with the practice in other jurisdictions, it may perhaps politicians will not recruit thugs to help steal or sustain their mandate. Rather than make political offices more attractive and risk the bloody clashes and fraud in the fight for the offices, it is posited that professionals and technocrats should be encouraged and made more comfortable in their pricing and remuneration.

Relatedly, job should be created or investment atmosphere should be provided and sustained so that the youths be engaged meaningfully and consequently refrained from engaging in armed robbery and thuggery.

National security and socio-economic development should be placed over and above parochial, political and selfish interests. In this wise, state security operatives should be further equipped, retrained and given reorientation on how to go about controlling the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the society.

Furthermore, stiffer penalties should be meted out to individual or groups who are found purchasing, circulating or using illegal arms to steal animals, kidnap or kill. Cases of armed robbery, kidnapping and assassination should thus be consequently handled with all sense of seriousness and intent.

Similarly, stiffer and efficient gun control mechanism must be evolved by the government to stop proliferation of small arms and light weapons. On the strength of this view point, cross border movement and exchange must censored, customs immigration and other law enforcement agencies must empowered to execute the and enforce laws relating gun control and cross border movement.

REFERENCES

[12]. Onwuha, F. C (2011) Porous Borders and Boko Haram’s Arms Smuggling Operations in Nigeria; AlJazeeraReports, Sunday 08 September 2013 14:02 Mecca
Dear Respondent,
We the under listed are lecturers from the department of Sociology of the above named school conducting a research on *a survey of the proliferation of small arms and cattle rustling in Birnin Gwari local government area of Kaduna state and its implication of national security*. The work is purely an academic exercise and the result might also lead to formulation of policies towards eradicating the problem of illicit arms and cattle rustling, as well as improvement in the security of lives and properties in Nigeria.

We wish to assure you that all information provided will be treated in utmost confidence and used purely for the purpose of the research.

Thank you for the anticipated cooperation.

Yours faithfully,
Suleiman Amali (lead researcher)
Ilim, M.M (Research Assistant)
Olarewanju Y.O (Research Assistant)

**Instructions**: Please tick (√) in the box or space provided against the answer that is applicable to you.

**Demographic Attributes of Respondents**

Name (optional)........................................................................................................................................................................

1. Sex: Male ( ) Female ( )
2. Age: 18-30 years ( ) 31-45 years ( ) 46 years and above ( )
3. Marital status: Single ( ) Married ( ) Others ( )
4. Educational attainment: Primary ( ) Secondary ( ) Tertiary ( ) others ( )
5. Occupational Status: Farming ( ) trading ( ) Civil/public servant ( ) others ( )

Religious Affiliation: Christianity ( ) Islam ( ) Others ( )

1 Are you aware that the phenomenon of cattle rustling (cattle theft) is common in your area?
Yes ( ) No ( ) Uncertain ( )

2 If yes to the above, how often does it occur? Occasionally, ( ), Very often ( ), Not certain ( ).

3 If yes to (1) above, do the perpetrators use arms and weapons? Yes ( ), No ( ) Uncertain ( ).

4 Do you agree that the availability of small arms and light weapons facilitates cattle rustling in Birnin-Gwari Local government area?------------------------------------

5 What do you think are the other factors that facilitate the availability and circulation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria?---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

6 What do you think are the major obstacle that hinders total eradication of small arms and light weapons in the society?

7 Please highlight other factors that you think facilitate cattle rustling in Birnin Gwari local government area of Kaduna state------------------------------------

8 What are the implications of cattle rustling on the residence of Birnin Gwari local government area of Kaduna state? Food shortage ( ), punctuation of farming activities ( ), displacement of people ( )

9 What do you think is the security implication of cattle rustling in Birnin-Gwari local government area? ----

10 What do you think should be done to eradicate the phenomenon of cattle rustling in Northern Nigeria? --

11 Suggest strategies that need to be adopted to help reduce the phenomenon of cattle rustling-------------------
Interview Guide (for Community leaders and Law enforcement officers)

1. What do you think are the factors that influence or facilitate circulation of illegal arms in Nigeria?
2. How often do you receive reports regarding cattle rustling in Birnin-Gwari local government area?
3. Do you think the phenomenon of cattle rustling in Birnin Gwari local government area is influenced or facilitated by proliferation of small arms and weapons?
4. What do you think are the major challenges towards complete eradication of the phenomenon of cattle rustling?
5. Identify the major security implications of the phenomenon of cattle rustling in North-Western Nigeria.
6. What do you think are the measures that will help checkmate the circulation of small arms and light weapons in the society?
7. Suggest what can be done to eradicate the phenomenon of cattle rustling in Birnin-Gwari local government area of Kaduna state.