Banditry and Forced Migration: Implication on Children Education and Peacebuilding in Kaduna State (2017-2022)

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Abstract

Contemporary threats to national security amongst which is banditry had led to perpetration of violence and consequent forced migration of rural communities from their habitual place of residence. Insecurity had forced the closure of schools either through population displacement and utilisation of schools as forced migrant camps; despite the deployment of military personnel. The study investigated factors sustaining banditry activities; consequences of banditry on forced migration and out-of-school children; effects of forced migration and out-of-school children on peacebuilding. The study used qualitative data approach with secondary data analysis. It was revealed that, scholarly discourse indicated prevalent commonality of sustainable factors reinforcing displacement and educational inaccessibility. Government dearth of constructive response in addressing the problem of ungoverned spaces, farmers/herders dispute, poverty/unemployment, illiteracy, injustice, global/domestic sponsorship of banditry had been the catalyst worsening the situation. Banditry triggering forced migration had aggravated out-of-school children issue, with already 20 million added to 35% illiterates among adult population in Nigeria. It concluded that, national dreams of African and global power status are only attainable through addressing collective national insecurities such as illiteracy, poverty and unemployment, which are the catalyst. The study suggested the need to address commonality of factors ungoverned spaces, through relocation of security forces institutions/establishment to occupy the ungoverned spaces through increased military presence, constructive exploitation of human/material resources, training of local vigilante groups for community's resilience and effective response to violence.

Keywords: Banditry, Forced-Migration, Children-Education, Peacebuilding

Introduction

Contemporary threats to national security comprise banditry, armed robbery, kidnapping and insurgency, employed terrorism to achieved its objectives. Banditry is one major imminent danger to both physical and psychological safety humanity faced daily. Rural and semi-urban areas had borne the brunt of this menace. Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre[1] pointed out the consequences of displacement like delayed development, retardation of long-term investment gains. Capital expenditure on schools' reconstruction, expansion and rehabilitation is aimed at enrolment of school age children. Insecurity that forced the closure of these schools either through population displacement and utilisation of schools as forced migrant camps, undermined development gains.

Closure of classes due to forced migration and camping of its victims, halted government efforts towards addressing lack of school access in Nigeria. Population of out-of-school children increased at geometric progression rate. Increased banditry had exacerbated the lack of school access these kids faced[2]; [3]United Nations Children Emergency Funds (UNICEF) estimated 20 million children lacking access to learning opportunities[4]. The formal school environment provides the chances refined technical know-how.

Lack of school access results to skills underdevelopment and possible susceptibility for recruitment to perpetrate violence. [2]"Out of School Children in Nigeria: Causes, Social Implication and Way Forward."

International Journal on Integrated Education, 5, no.12, 2022 pointed out that, children who are out of school are often used to perpetrate crime and other ills in society, become deficient in skills development required for job vacancies which are only obtainable through the school system.

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[1] IDMC: *Youths and Children in Internal Displacement*. Norwegian Refugee Commission/ (2022).
[2]Ogunode, Niyi J, Adanna, Chinwuba M, and Ayoko, Victor O. "*Out of School Children in Nigeria: Causes, Social Implication and Way Forward.*" International Journal on Integrated Education, 5, no.12, 2022, 82-91
[3]Haruna, R., Ahmad., U & Abubakar, A. "*As Out-of-School Children Scourge Worsens… Nigeria Risks Losing Out on Literacy, Skilled Workforce.*" *Leadership Newspaper*, November, 2022
[4]Abdulsemiu, Monsuroh. "*Despite Alternative Intervention, Number of Out-of-School Children Keeps Rising in Nigeria.*" The Cable, Oct. 15th, 2022

With millions of out-of-school kids in society, humanitarian crises resulting from insecurity that fueled displacement of rural populace, there is a long way to addressing human suffering. Banditry enterprise have an available labour market for replenishing its depleting forces with illiterate kids in the streets. Ndanusa, Abayomi and Harada in "Examining the fragments and causes of increasing out-of-school children in Nigeria[5], stated that, the army of out-of-school children poses threat to national security if nothing is done. Human population displacement of 59.1 million, saw insecurity producing 53.2 million victims while natural disasters took 5.9 million. National insecurities particularly violent conflict had led to forced migration of 3.2 million and natural disaster had 107,000[1]. Forced residential relocation retard children educational progression. Jumare[6] asserted that in Kaduna, 1.2 million children's access to education advancement had been retarded resulting from banditry among others.

Okoh et al[7] in "Out of School Children: Enhancing Factors and Consequences for Sustainable Development in North Central Geo-Political Zone, Nigeria." declared that poverty, child labour, teenage pregnancy and distance from school triggers out-of-school crises in North Central geopolitical zone.

[5]Ndanusa, Mohammed N, Abayomi, Quadri K, and Harada, Yoshifumi. "*Examining the fragments and causes of increasing out-of-school children in Nigeria.*" Journal of Africa Studies and Development, 13, no.4, 2021, 66-73.
[6]Jumare, Dalhatu A. "*Effect of the School Feeding Program on Enrolment and Retention of Public Primary School Pupils in Selected Local Governments in Kaduna State, Nigeria* (2015-2019)." August, 2022 Available at https://www.researchgate.net/publication/3627803
[7]Okoh et al. "*Out of School Children: Enhancing Factors and Consequences for Sustainable Development in North Central Geo-Political Zone, Nigeria.*" American Journal of Educational Research, 8(10), 2020, 804-811

Olapeju and Peter[8] point out that, the factors of vast ungoverned spaces, high rate of youth unemployment resulting to poverty, arms proliferation, weak security architecture among others as the catalyst for banditry sustainability. Huge land mass with thick forest provides the needed cover for criminal operations like abductions. Maishanu[9] identifies Changes in land ownership; encroachment and sales of grazing land, and weapons to be the fueling factors for violence that threaten peaceful coexistence. Punch Editorial[10] states that, arrested bandits claimed their motivations for abductions for ransom, and trafficking in human persons and body parts to be unemployment and poverty.

Poverty and unemployment had energized utilisation of terrorism activities. Kidnappings and general insecurity due to banditry created a plethora of crises. Concerns for safety had obviate rural dwellers farming activities, housing challenges, and movement to safe areas.

These crises affect every dimension of a child's live, implications on security and education among others, pointed to educational disruption resulting learning losses and reduced social interaction for these kids in the future[1]. While paraphrasing Atubi[11] points to a weak security architecture that had sustained banditry activities that exacerbate human displacement and schools' closure[12]. Abdullahi and Mukhtar[12] also point to forced migration of citizens resulting to denial of learning opportunities.

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[8]Olapeju, Rosenje M, and Peter, Adeniyi O. "*The Impact of Banditry on Nigeria's Security in the Fourth Republic: An Evaluation of Nigeria's Northwest*." Zamfara Journal of Politics and Development, 2, no.1, 2021, 1-26

[9]Abubakar, M. "*The Causes and Consequences of Armed Banditry, Kidnapping and Cattle Rustling in Some Selected Communities in Zamfara State*." Bakolori Journal of General Studies, 12, no.2, 2021, 3604-3629

[10]Punch Editorial. "*Addressing the Root Causes of Banditry, Terrorism in Nigeria*." *Punch Nigeria*, 3rd June, 2023 Available at https://punchng.com/addressing-root-causes-of-banditry-terrorism-in-nigeria/

[11]Atubi, Onamrewho F. "*Banditry in North West and North Central Nigeria: Analysis of the Causal Factors and Trend*." 2022 Available at https://www.researchgate.net/publication/363093551

[12]Abdullahi, Ahmad S and Mukhtar, Jamilu I. "*Armed Banditry as a Security Challenge in Northwestern Nigeria*." African Journal of Sociological and Psychological Studies, 2, no.1, 2022, 45-62

Threat to law and order often produced twin crises of population dispersal and school access denial to children. Schools in vulnerable communities had been closed due to banditry, those in urban areas were taken to shelter displaced migrants. Brigid et al[13] perceive the implications of banditry in the form of poverty, unemployment and arms proliferation which uprooted people from their habitual residential environment to IDP Camps. Brigid et al assert that military response alone could not address the malaise but requires eliminating poverty, unemployment weak security system, fragility Nigerian state, arms proliferation and corruption[13].

Ikiyei et al[14] point out the destructive effect of population displacement on educational development of future greats could be imagined with their possible recruitment to perpetrate violence with uncontrolled weapons.

Lack of security institutions presence except for ad-hoc joint taskforces, is responsible for violence that generate forced migrations and school inaccessibility by children[15]. The school been an institution charged with training and developing children's personalities for societal advancement is not available to out-of-school children. This non-availability is a function of violence induced human forced relocation from habitual place of residence. Out-of-school situation had compounded national insecurities such as illiteracy, poverty, unemployment, and other contemporary threats, and their continuing production presented an investment that had yielded sporadic release of violence through banditry and insurgency[14].

Peacebuilding requires training the mind on conflict management, resolution and transformation. Building in the heart of men the defenses for peace through understanding that foreclose dispute relation (UNESCO Constitution, 1945). Children who could not attend school are faced with social stigma of illiteracy, lack of skills for a globalised society, exposure to violence and menial jobs[14]. If education promote human, political, social and economic security of the individual, the absence of it, potent danger to present and future peacebuilding[16].

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[13]Brigid, Ochi I, Boniface, Ortindi, and Okonkwo, Arinze E. "*Crisis of Banditry and the Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria: A Political Economy Approach*." Scholars Journal of Economics, Business and Management, 9, no.11, 2022, 247-256

[14]Ikiyei et al (2022). "*Out-of-School Children in Nigeria: A Creation by Society and its Implications for Nation Building.*" British Journal of Contemporary Education, 2, no.2, 2022, 17-32.

[15]Ogbu et al. "*Arms Proliferation and Armed Banditry in Nigeria: Challenges and Prospects for Sustainable Development.*" Studies in Politics and Society: Contemporary Nigerian Political Economy; Governance, Security and Development, 5, no.1, 2017, 1-21

[16]Onwuadi et al. "*Improving Literacy Education Provisions to Tackle National Security Challenges in Ebonyi State, Nigeria.*" Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal), 2021, 5107

Building peace requires laying foundation. This entails developing the skills for positive interactions among people in society. Leaving behind the education line, millions of people present a challenge of vulnerability to crime. Is'haq *et al*[17] believe that ineffective security is a factor to increased danger to human safety.

Therefore, lack of it will be catastrophic national peace and security[17]. The victims of a lack of school access cannot be extricated from the society: same applicable to its consequences. To achieve peacebuilding, various military, educational and social intervention had been rolled out. Though, spate of violence had only subsided but not eliminated.

Perpetration of violent actions against rural communities had been sustained for sometimes now. Most rural communities had been sacked due to increased spate of violence. Lack of access to farms engendered hunger and starvation. People had been moving to places of safety for food and accommodation. Mohammed Lere, in "Military Denies Allegation of Bias in Southern Kaduna." *Premium Times Nigeria*, May 6th, 2023 points out that Military Operation Safe Haven lack of effectiveness, had only managed but the resolution of factors for persistence of attacks on communities. Heavy presence of military and security establishments in Kaduna had not dissuade bandits from attacking private and public schools, abductions, maiming and killing of vulnerable populations., Ayitogo[18] point out the lack of political will to confront the menace, inadequate response to bandit's activities were considered the fueling factors for its sustainability.

Security and military institutions inability to halt banditry had resulted into kidnapping for ransom, cattle rustling and allegations of trafficking in human body parts. These criminal enterprises find reinforcement with arms proliferation and illiteracy. The combination of these had undermine security and emboldened these terrorists. Availability of arms and illiterates had worsened insecurity and put rural communal life under imminent danger. Government lack of political will that empowers security forces to flush these criminal gangs raised concerns as to their oath of office.

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[17]Is'haq, Bello A, Musa, Aisha, and Abdulhafiz, Zainab. *Education and Insecurity in Nigeria. Oasis Educational Consults.* (2019).
[18]Ayitogo, Nasir. Analysis: *Why Insecurity Persist in Kaduna Despite Heavy Military, Security Presence*. Premium Times Nigeria, April 17th, 2022

Lack of response to intelligence on imminent attacks on vulnerable areas had made government look suspicious and or complicit. The suspicion drew from the ground that, most unsecured areas are blessed with abundant natural resources. Insecurity provides unrestricted exploration and exploitation.

Banditry activities had exacerbated population displacement. Rural-urban migration had taken a new dimension. It is accompanied with schools' closure from point of displacement to the point of resettlement. IDP camps are mostly schools in urban centres. Faced with inadequacy of classes and the corresponding challenges of resettling rural migrants, the out-of-school situation becomes a significant problem to educational security. Dearth of effective resettlement structures for emergency situations had compounded the problems of lack of school access. This translates to dearth of education with the consequences of producing illiterates.

Peacebuilding is centred on understanding the causes of conflict, management or removal of these factors, and the possible transformation of same. Lack of education undermine significantly, the peacebuilding process. This is done through the recruitment of illiterates, armed them to commit criminal offences of national security dimensions. The national security strategies had failed to address these problems. Employing illiterates' energies destructively degenerate into violent attacks on communities with the attendant consequences on children education and communal dispersal: leading to skills underdevelopment and urban slums.

Banditry leading to forced migration reinforces lost educational opportunities. Lack of learning affects educational security, an element of national security. Educational insecurity established lack of knowledge and skills development increases the rate of unemployment. An idle mind is said to be a devil's workshop. This enhances the production of potential criminals and vulnerable groups available for recruitment into nefarious activities by disgruntled personalities. Dearth of knowledge aid conflict conflagration which threaten peace and security.

While there had been concerns with the occupation of rural forests termed ungoverned spaces. Many securities establishment and their residential accommodations are within the city centres. Military and paramilitary barracks abound in Kaduna, Zaria, and Kafanchan. Barracks accommodate security forces away from the civilian populace, especially the military.

Beside Nigerian Army School of Artillery Barracks in Kachia, most military establishment and security forces residential apartment are concentrated in the urban centres. The rural communities are for this reason, at the mercy of criminal elements occupying the ungoverned spaces.

Complains of corruption against senior military and security forces leadership which impinged on their remuneration and subsequently morale had been addressed by the government. While huge percentage of national budget had gone to internal security operations, most field operatives put on the uniform, take up arms against these criminal due to lack of alternative means of livelihood but patriotism. The incentive to fight is not because of good remuneration that encourage them to defend the state against its enemies, but to feed their homes. While huge amount is budgeted for their allowances, little gets to their pockets. Dilapidated and poor schools' infrastructures had foreclosed educational opportunities. Most schools' renovation today is carried by old student associations, which is the central responsibility of the state in its contract with the citizens. While response to distress calls by communities under attacks had been forthcoming from security forces, communities had not been empowered to defend itself against their attackers.

Objectives for the Study
The study examined the:
- Factors sustaining banditry activities.
- Consequences of banditry on forced migration and out-of-school children.
- Effects of forced migration and out-of-school children on peacebuilding.

Material used in Literature Review
A review of sustainable factors for banditry, its effects on forced migration, out-of-school children and peacebuilding; and the response measures to address population displacement and educational insecurity were carried.

Factors sustaining banditry activities
Daily Trust Editorial[19] states that, rural-urban migration is no longer a search for better life but need for survival. Farmers/herders conflict, government neglect and dearth of swift response from security agencies

constitute some of the causative factors sustaining these criminals' activities. Survival instinct pushed victims of bandit's attacks, moving from places of danger to safety. The editorial states that, socio-political and economic marginalisation of Fulani's by Hausa's due to alleged heavy compensation not commensurate to crops destruction, had turned young Fulani's from minor criminals to major highway robbers.

Dearth of effective conflict management and resolution by the village heads, police and judges had transformed minor dispute into a monster consuming everyone in its way.

These governmental institutions are responsible for dispute settlement. Ineffective dispute management and resolution had caused these young Fulanis to engage their energies destructively. Young Fulani's who are supposed to be bankers, engineers, doctors and other professionals are now occupying the forest areas, executing brutal acts against fellow citizens. They have been changed from innocent humans to brutal criminals. Communal self-help initiatives saw formation of vigilante groups to arrest bandits' situation. Whether known or suspected bandits were alleged to have been killed. This led to organisation of Fulani groups to counter the situation which had mutated to serious criminal enterprise[19]. Lack of effective coverage of rural areas by law enforcement agencies, engendered vigilante usurpation of their roles, which now threaten law and order.

Abdulsalam et al[20] state that, northwest region forestlands are vast, rugged and dangerous. Bandits employed large forest belt cover to camped their victims, exploit the knowledge of the terrain against security forces, and perpetrate abductions, cattle rustling and stage raid of village and return to safety unchallenged. Terrain gives these merchants of violence comparative advantage for arms trade, trafficking in human and body parts, and criminal mining of natural resources. Criminal collusion between Chinese corporation and highly placed Nigerians in illegal exploitation of gold, drives banditry and violent crimes in Northwest, Northcentral and Southwest regions of Nigeria. Bandits are the pawns in chess game of illegal mining operations and smuggling for global markets. Illegal mining sponsors, fund banditry and cattle rustling to cause violent conflict in resource endowed communities[21].

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[19]Dailytrust Editorial. "*Remote Causes of Banditry*." Daily trust Newspaper, July 31st, 2021
[20]Abdulsalam, Aisha A, Olayiwola, Richard A, and Akinniyi-Duyile, Praise F. "*Impact of Banditry on Rural Development in Kaduna State*." KIU Journal of Social Sciences, 8, no.2, 2022, 71-80

Ogbonnaya[21] states that, Nigeria will need to deal decisively with these criminal networks of local and international collaborators. Sponsorship of criminal enterprise requires human and material resources. Combination of illiteracy, arms and the funding of recruitment and purchase of weapons are the precondition for causing chaos, chasing away of target communities for reason of unrestricted mineral exploration. The political will to decisively halt illegal mining operations seemed paralyzed. Akinyetun[22] asserts that, government ineffective control of ungoverned spaces, weak governance, and unresolved protracted conflicts make citizens vulnerable to terrorists' groups, human traffickers and bandits to operate human trafficking, piracy, cattle rustling, and illegal mining which reinforces the sustenance of an informal economy.

Itiyonzughul, and Jonah[23] point out that the vast forest belt from Kachia, Kajuru, Chikun down to Birnin Gwari became the fortified enclaves from where bandits abduct victims and returned for negotiations with relatives. According to Ojo, Oyewole and Aina (2023), fragile security, weak border management, climate change, resource competition, informal security, jungle justice, ethno-religious cum communal factors, drug abuse are causative factors. Others are state complicity, foreign powers meddling, traditional rulers' weapons suppliers among others. Foreign sponsors and local collaborators operate freely in a chaotic atmosphere created by them. Banditry constitutes the means for mining and smuggling illegal gold to the global market.

Huge gold deposits exist in Birnin Gwari axis. Ethno-religious conflict angle exists on the southern and central parts of Kaduna state. Herders/farmers conflict had snowballed into violent attacks, population displacement, and occupation of interior rural villages by bandits.

Itiyonzughul and Jonah[23] in Hope Uzodinma, state that, banditry is aimed at bringing down the government of Muhammadu Buhari. Banditry

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[21]Ogbonnaya, Maurice. "*Illegal Mining Drives Rural Banditry and Local Conflicts*." ENACT/European Union. 2020a available at https://enactafrica.org/enact-observer/illegal-mining-drives-nigerias-rural-banditry-and-local-conflicts

[22]Akinyetun, Tope S. "Banditry in Nigeria: Insights from Situational Action and Situational Crime Prevention Theories." *ACCORD*, Mar. 15, 2022

[23]Itiyonzughul, Thaddeus T, and Jonah, Changwak E. "Dynamics and Economic Consequences of Rural Banditry in Northern Nigeria." International Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Reviews,12, no.1, 2022, 263-275

sponsorship have economic and political objectives. The economic angle sought to achieve unrestricted mining and sale of gold; the political goal is to undermine state security. Illegal funds from this criminal enterprise could recruit and finance terrorist acts that threatens national security.

Confronting the problem of unrestricted instrument of violence got south, when the military were allegedly accused of compromise. The banditry issue established a demand and supply market for arms trade. Maishanu[9] "…. Soldier Arrested supplying Ammunitions, Uniforms…") cited Zamfara State Government points out the arrest of a serving soldier and his girlfriend by the military, who supplied ammunitions and military uniform to bandits. Bashir M. Jajira, in "Security was Compromised to Allow Bandits Raid Nigerian Defence Academy, Kill Officers: DHQ." *People Gazzette*, 24th August, 2021, states that, the security architecture of the Nigerian Defence Academy was compromised early this morning by unknown gunmen who gained access into the residential areas, killing two soldiers and abducted one. An attack on the premier military academy indicated increased confidence by these criminals, but, psychological defeated the neighboring communities. Ahmad Sahabi, in "We Can't Be Distracted- Army Dismissed Claims of Being Compromised in Protecting Kaduna LGA." *The Cable*, 6th May, 2023 cited Oya James, Operation Safe Haven Spokesperson who stated that, the military cannot be distracted in their duty to protect lives and properties, with claims of compromise.

Oluwasanjo[24] citing Bashir Salisu Magashi former defence minister, states that, politicians, opinion and religious leaders had been compromised by Boko Haram and Bandits. Oluwasanjo citing Magashi added that, lack of political and traditional elites' presence in their constituencies, created a vacuum; failure of religious leaders to provide counter narrative to extremist views; lack of efficient intelligence and the will to utilised available intelligence by security forces, had emboldened insurgents and bandits to attack communities, kidnapped students and kill others. To address insecurity, government often set aside funds for unforeseen security exigency.

Security vote is an unbudgeted and unaccounted funds meant to address unexpected security challenges. Page[25] points out that, though, a military dictatorship concept, it is actually used for security, political campaigns and outright embezzlement by heads of government agencies. He cited

Transparency International estimated secret cash expenditure of N241b unaccounted for in 2018. Obinna[26] states that security funds run into billions of naira and vary based on state level of security individual states required. Fighting Boko Haram required Nigerian government coughing $1billion. while slush security vote issue persists, poor criminal justice system, ethnic profiling and criminality propelled by poverty enhanced banditry and terrorism ravaging northern Nigeria. Despite the humongous expenditure on security, banditry and other threats to national security had consumed thousands and displaced millions of victims, among them are children which put their education in danger (Adeyemi, 4th April, 2022).

Banditry, Forced Migration, and Out-of-School Children

Daily Trust Editorial[19] points out the transformation of minor criminals into armed robbers on highways, kidnapping victims for ransom and brutalisation to send a message, raiding villages and rustling cattle. village attacks displace rural dwellers from their habitual places of residence to the urban areas.

Families' relocation for safety in urban centres affect children school access. While they left their schools in the villages, poverty hinders their parent ability to pay their tuition in the cities.

Abdulsalam et al[20] state that, banditry is becoming a severe problem in Nigeria due to massive unemployment, weak security, poverty, and the porousness of the country's borders. Unemployment and poverty are product of illiteracy, which aggravate lack of school access due to ignorance and financial difficulties. Save the Children[27] states that, substantial number of displaced children lack access to safe, inclusive and quality education due to overcrowding, and schools' occupation by armed groups and displaced communities. Benhura, and Naidu[28] assert that, banditry, a form of armed conflict, uproot people from places they called home, and violates right to education. This violation translates to illiteracy and possible skills underdevelopment.

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[24]Oluwasanjo, Ahmed. "*Nigerian Security Compromise by Northerners, Agencies: Defence Minister.*" People Gazzette, 30th July, 2021. Available at https://gazettengr.com/nigerias-security-compromised-by-northerners-agencies-defence-minister/

[25]Page, Matthew T. "*Camouflaged Cash: How Security Votes Fuel Corruption in Nigeria.*" Transparency International Defence and Security, 2018 Available at https://ti-defence.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/DSP_Nigeria_Camouflage_Cash_Web2.pdf

[26]Obinna, Emelike. "*Security Votes Still Top Secret in Nigeria as Insecurity Worsen.*" BusinessDa*y,* 28th March, 2021.

[27]Safe the Children. *"Internal Displacement and Children."* 2020 Available at https://www.un.org/internal-displacement-panel/sites/www.un.org.internal-displacementpanel/files/published_save_the_children_submission.pdf

[28]Benhura, Abigail R, and Naidu, M. "Delineating Caveat for (Quality) Education During Displacement: Critiquing the Impact of Forced Migration on Access to Education." Migration Studies, 9, no.2, 2021, 260-278

Poverty and insecurity worsened rural-urban migration. Fakokunde *et al*[29] point out an alarming rate of young people moving from villages to the cities in search of greener pastures, which increases social vices, when hope for better life in their resettled areas are dashed. Rural insecurity and lack of job opportunities in urban areas, created crises between expectation and realization.

Kidnapping for ransom witnessed individual and collective fund raising of millions of Naira among victims' families. This reduced people disposable income, therefore, affecting their purchasing power and ability to fund their children education in their new environment. He added that bandits raised down schools; while fear of abduction and killings, forced teachers away from villages. Schools closure and teacher-migration adversely affected educational access and learning opportunities for an army of school age children.

Adamu Mohammed, and Muhammad Abdullahi[30], observe that, banditry, heinous and persistent criminal activities had completely destroyed rural communities' social and economic conditions. Itiyonzughul and Jonah[23] state that banditry is usually accompanied with kidnapping, terror, and death; resulting to displacement of farmers; burning and raiding of silos; cattle rustling leading to decrease livestock. This affected food production and made starvation a reality. Farmers ability to produce food and cash crops for feeding and selling to provide for their family needs, education inclusive had been obviated by internal displacement. Brigid et al[13] discover that, banditry imposes untold hardship on the people; affecting their means of livelihood and exposed them to illegal means of sustenance. Parents faced with this problem, only scrambled for means of survival rather children training.

Wakaso (2021) report that, more than 200 children from bandits ravaged communities living in Central Primary School Gwada, Shiroro LGA, were out of their homes and out-of-school. Though camped in a school, they watched other children attend school. Reasons such as never attend school before, no school presence from displaced communities, over age and expressed inferiority between urban and rural kids, were responsible for refusal to attend school.

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[29]Fakokunde et al. "*Influence of Rural to Urban Migration on Criminal Behaviour in Kaduna South, Kaduna State, Nigeria*." KIU Journal of Social Science, 6., no.3, 2020, 163-174

[30]Abdullahi, Ahmad S and Mukhtar, Jamilu I. "*Armed Banditry as a Security Challenge in Northwestern Nigeria*." African Journal of Sociological and Psychological Studies, 2, no.1, 2022, 45-62

Children going to school before, will eagerly continue their education when such opportunity present itself. Similarly, pupils share classes with people running away from communal violence[31]. Escalated attacks targeted at vulnerable groups like women and children often violates latter's educational right[32].

Forced Migration, Out-of-School Children, and Peacebuilding

Disrupting education aggravate lost learning opportunity. Benhura and Naidu[28] conceive quality education to mean the one that provides all learners with capabilities required to become economically productive. It causes them to develop sustainable livelihoods that enhances individual wellbeing. Economic productivity eliminates unemployment and built individual ability to resist recruitment into violence, therefore, entrenching societal order, and peacebuilding. Uprooting people from their ancestral homes results to lack of educational access and exacerbate vulnerabilities that undermined educational security and peace.

Cazabat[33] states that, education can help to foster security by reducing the likelihood of conflict and violence, and by increasing psychosocial stability. Adelore, and Majaro-Majesty[34] assert that illiteracy has been identified as one major factor which promotes conflict and violence in Nigeria's multiethnic communities. Foundations for peacebuilding had progressively weakened due to sporadic violent disputes. Most bandits are products of educational insecurity.

Duchi[35] states that, illiteracy had been fingered to be responsible for the increasing insecurity in Nigeria. National Commission for Mass Literacy, Adult and Non-Formal Education said, 35% of Nigeria's adult population are illiterate. They comprise a pool of possible recruits for nefarious activities due to lack of capacity.

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[31]Adebajo, Kunle. "*Displaced by Bandits 2: Sokoto School Where Pupils Share Classroom with Majesty IDP's*". *Humangle Media* Aug. 5, 2021.

[32]Ojewale, Oluwole, and Balogun, Omalara. "*Banditry Impact on Women and Children in Nigeria Needs a Policy Response*." LSE Firo Lalji Insitute for Africa. 2022 Available at https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/africaatlse/2022/01/10/banditry-impacts-on-women-children-in-nigeria-needs-policy-response-kidnappings-ssi-education/

[33]Cazabat, C. "*The Ripple Effect: Multidimensional Impact of Internal Displacement. IDMC, Geneva, Switzerland*." 2018

[34]Adelore, Omobola and Majaro-Majesty, Henry. "*Literacy Teaching Methods and Peacebuilding in Multi-Ethnic Communities of Nigeria.*" Australian Journal of Adult Learning, 48, no.1, 2008, 163-187

[35]Duchi, Elisha M. "*Emerging Issues in Peacebuilding and National Security: Perspectives on the Enforcement of the Educational Right Violation in Nigeria.*" In Peace Building and Nationalism.Edited by Iroye, Samuel O, and Ibebunjo, Basil O, 136-152. Abuja, FCT: Department of Peace and Conflict Resolution, National Open University of Nigeria, 2022.

Understanding each other's perspectives to an issue during interaction is the foundation for peace. This eliminates probable conflict conflagration, engender security and enhance peacebuilding. Ethno-religious factor of banditry results from inability to manage value-based differences among elites. The illiterates constitute the pawns in the political and economic chess game envelope in ethnicity and religion. Poverty factor enhanced vulnerabilities when disgruntled elites recruit low self-esteem persons to carry out assignments which they do not know the true picture. Dudenhoefer[36] disclosed that Victims of violence, the out-of-school kids most often turned out to be the perpetrators of violent conflict when recruited as bandits or child soldiers. The efficacy of conflict management, resolution and transformation in the peacebuilding process is therefore neutralised.

Materials and Methods
The study adopted a qualitative approach using secondary data analysis. It breaks down factors sustaining banditry activities, and its consequences on dispersal of rural communities and out-of-School children. It also analyzed effects of forced migration and lack of school access by children on peacebuilding; and the response measures to address forced migration and educational insecurity.

Abraham Maslow Hierarchy of Needs
Displacement, out-of-school, and peacebuilding constituted key needs. Safety and security are the basics for a functional living. Without the foundation for peace, there will be conflict.

This will lead to forced migration, and subsequently educational inaccessibility. Need for food, economic, health, housing, education securities are pivotal to building a creative and prosperous society. Forced migrants are faced with problem of housing insecurities, diseases, unemployment, and illiteracy. The challenge is the possible generational

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[36]Dudenhoefer, Anne-Lynn. (2016). "*Understanding the Recruitment of Child Soldiers in Africa. Conflict Trends 2016/2.*" Accord.

transfer of educational inaccessibility when out-of-school kids become adults. This present not just an individual need but societal. Providing security for all citizens is the primary purpose of government. This affirmed binding consent between the state and citizens, using government as the machinery[37].

Government responsibility is to provide the need for safety and security of communities under banditry attacks. This prevents population displacement, forestalled school inaccessibility, and enhanced individual's capacity to handle conflict, and therefore, built peace. Excruciating insecurity that uproots indigenous populations from their habitual residential areas obviate this need. Safety and security are the foundation for the physiological, love and belonging, self-esteem, and self-actualization. Humanity needs law and order for general security, food to prevent starvation, educational security to have knowledge that help resolve problems facing it, health security prevent pandemic. Education enhances individuals' self-esteem and act as the ladder to self-actualization.

Results of the Study
The study discovered that:
- Scholarly discourse indicated prevalent commonality of sustainable factors reinforcing displacement and educational inaccessibility.
- Banditry triggering forced migration had aggravated out-of-school children issue, with already 20 million added to 35% illiterates among adult population in Nigeria.
- Lack of education precludes individual understanding, which made destructive conflict inevitable.

Discussion
Government dearth of constructive response in addressing ubiquitous factors like ungoverned spaces, farmers/herders dispute, poverty/unemployment, illiteracy, injustice, global/domestic sponsorship of banditry had been the catalyst worsening the situation (Ogunode, Adanna, & Ayoko, 2022). Removing these causes provided the most effective positive steps in neutralising destructive conflict relations exacerbating insecurity which had led to citizen's forced relocation undermining education access for children. Building peace requires erecting structures that foreclose emergence of destructive conflict relations. Forced movement of young persons obviate the possibility for establishing the culture of peace education that reinforces the foundation of peacebuilding.

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[37]Ebimaro, Sampson. "*PCR422: Globalization and Peace vol.1*." Edited by Faluyi, Emmanuel K. Abuja, FCT: National Open University of Nigeria 2015

Displacing millions of children worsens national insecurities with the production of out-of-school children, who may become functional illiterates, lacked the skills for employment either by themselves or others. Akpan, Daniel A (2015) states that national insecurity is caused by the failure of national government to address the problems of its people. Such problems include hunger, poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, inequality, injustice among others. Failure to resolve these problems, brings the possibility for recruiting the illiterates and the unemployment to perpetrate violence, and therefore aggravate conflicts, which led to disruption of communal life resulting to displacement.

Illiteracy undermines people's ability to cope with technological innovation, resist manipulation and add to national development. Negative dispute relation endangered peacebuilding process. Akpan, Dominic. A (2015), adds that, illiteracy is the inability of an individual to read or write and change behaviour to conform to modern norms of the society or the inability of an individual to reason or act civilly and meet with the societal values of his age. An individual's inability to think and act within the context of societal norms, rules and regulation disrupt the normalcy of one's immediate community, which generate negative dispute relations generally, and hampers the peace of the environment in particular.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the national and indeed Africa dream of becoming a global power can only be attained through addressing collective national insecurities of which illiteracy, poverty and unemployment are the catalysts. The place of education in capacity building against violent conflict which enhance national and global security must never be relegated. The notion of ungoverned spaces made caricature of a supposed African giant, with huge population and natural resources.

Constructive exploitation and utilisation of huge mineral resource deposits to develop the human resource capacity of individual citizens is key to reclaiming global respect and power. Existence of human and material resources are in conflict with the vast forestland enhancing banditry narratives. Recruitment of youths into the armed forces and deploying them to protect national territories, is central to security and peace of urban and rural communities. Concentration of barracks in cities does not reflect its core purpose.

Recommendations

The study suggests that:

- Government should put to effect, the political will that addresses commonality of factors, through relocation of security forces institutions/establishment to occupy the ungoverned spaces.
- Constructive exploitation of human/material resources be made to eliminate individual vulnerabilities towards manipulation for violence.
- Training of local vigilante groups for community's resistance and effective response to violence.

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