



Security Management Strategies and Challenges Constraining the Mitigation of Banditry in Niger State

Abstract

This study examined the security management strategies and operational challenges constraining the mitigation of armed banditry and its impact on economic development in Niger State, Nigeria. Framed within Rational Choice Theory, the study investigated how criminal syndicates exploit institutional gaps for material gain, turning vast, unpoliced frontiers like the Allawa and Kamuku forest reserves into highly volatile enclaves. Employing a mixed-methods research design, the study utilized a sample size of 400 respondents, reducing field data from 367 retrieved questionnaires and secondary macroeconomic data. The findings revealed that while government-led kinetic measures such as military sweeps and forest-clearing operations achieved localized, temporary successes, their long-term efficacy is severely undermined by a reactive "kinetic loop" and the absence of permanent civil-military holding forces. Consequently, vital economic routes across frontline Local Government Areas specifically Shiroro, Rafi, and Munya remain highly insecure, precipitating a severe agrarian collapse and driving transport-induced headline inflation above 34%. Furthermore, the study identified critical micro-level institutional bottlenecks, including delayed responses to distress calls, acute shortages of operational surveillance equipment, and fragmented intelligence coordination between formal security agencies and local vigilantes. Soft, non-kinetic measures like early warning units remain profoundly underfunded due to fiscal disbursements favoring reactive containment lines. The study concluded that armed banditry has evolved into a structurally entrenched economy of violence that systematically drains developmental capital. It recommended an urgent architectural shift toward balancing kinetic operations with permanent border-patrol assets, real-time intelligence-sharing repositories, and state-backed socio-economic stabilization frameworks.

Keywords: Security Management, Armed Banditry, Economic Development, Rational Choice Theory, Niger State, Joint Military Operations.

Inuwa, Abdallah Magaji

Department of Political Science,
Faculty of Social Sciences, Nasarawa
State University, Keffi.

ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0000-1792-0573>

Assoc. Prof. Ruth Caleb Luka

Department of Political Science,
Faculty of Social Sciences, Nasarawa
State University, Keffi.

Dr. Aminu Ibrahim

Department of Political Science,
Faculty of Social Sciences, Nasarawa
State University, Keffi.

Assoc. Prof. Abdullahi Mohammed Abdul

Department of Political Science,
Faculty of Social Sciences, Nasarawa
State University, Keffi.

Corresponding Authors Email:

abdallah212inuwa@gmail.com

Date Received: 15th August, 2026

Date Accepted: 05th September, 2026

Introduction

The relationship between internal security management and sustainable macroeconomic growth remains a central theme in global development policy. Across industrialized and emerging economies alike, historical and contemporary evidence demonstrates

that the protection of territorial integrity, human capital, and property rights is an absolute prerequisite for fostering economic development (World Bank, 2024). When a state fails to maintain its monopoly over the legitimate use of violence, organized criminal syndicates and non-state armed actors inevitably

Security Management Strategies and Challenges Constraining the Mitigation of Banditry in Niger State

move into the governance vacuum, eroding investor confidence and destroying local markets. On a global scale, the proliferation of specialized transnational crime networks ranging from drug cartels in Latin America to maritime piracy syndicates in Southeast Asia illustrates how structural security management deficits can turn potentially lucrative economic corridors into highly volatile, ungoverned conflict zones (UNODC, 2024).

Sub-Saharan Africa faces a complex array of unconventional security challenges that directly undermine its long-term development agendas, such as the African Union's Agenda 2063. The sub-continent's security landscape has shifted from traditional interstate conflicts toward highly decentralized, asymmetric internal threats, including pastoralist-farmer clashes, violent extremism, and rural banditry (AfDB, 2025). In the West African sub-region, this crisis is exacerbated by deep-seated institutional weaknesses, high rates of youth unemployment, extreme poverty, and highly porous national borders that facilitate the trafficking of illegal small arms and light weapons (ECOWAS, 2025). This regional instability has severely disrupted cross-border supply chains, triggered mass migrations, and decimated agrarian economies. Consequently, these factors have forced states to divert scarce capital from vital public infrastructure and social welfare programs to fund reactive, expensive kinetic military operations.

Within the Nigerian Federation, this regional vulnerability manifests as a severe domestic crisis, with armed banditry emerging as a dominant threat to human survival and economic stability. Armed banditry in Nigeria characterized by mass kidnappings for ransom, village raids, the extortion of rural communities, and large-scale cattle rustling has evolved from low-level, localized thefts into a sophisticated, multi-billion naira criminal industry (Rosenje & Adeniyi, 2025). The country's security architecture has struggled to contain this threat, largely due to a lack of state presence across vast, unpoliced forests and a persistent shortage of personnel within formal law enforcement agencies. This internal insecurity has crippled Nigeria's real sector by triggering an agrarian collapse across its northern breadbasket, disrupting domestic transport networks, and creating deep regional disparities in food security and industrial production.

Niger State has become an epicenter of this crisis within the north-central geopolitical zone, presenting a unique challenge due to its vast geography and economic structure. As Nigeria's largest state by landmass, it features massive, rugged terrains and dense forest reserves such as the Allawa and Kamuku forests that share borders with volatile states like Zamfara and Kaduna, making them ideal hideouts for criminal networks (Mikail *et al.*, 2025). Indicators from early 2025 through mid-2026 highlight the growing severity of this threat. For instance, the mass abduction of over 300 students and

Security Management Strategies and Challenges Constraining the Mitigation of Banditry in Niger State

staff from a boarding school in the Papiri community highlighted the continuing vulnerability of the state's social infrastructure (Africa Defense Forum, 2026; Anyanwu, 2026).

Furthermore, data from recent security trackers reveals that between 2025 and 2026, armed attacks across volatile Local Government Areas like Shiroro, Rafi, and Munya have resulted in hundreds of civilian deaths and forced thousands of smallholder farmers into displaced person's camps (Umar et al., 2026). Because agriculture is the backbone of Niger State's economy, these attacks have caused a sharp drop in crop production, worsened food insecurity, and severely limited local economic growth (Vulegbo et al., 2026). While the state government has tried various tactics including joint military operations, local vigilante partnerships, and technology-driven surveillance the violence continues. This persistence raises critical questions about how current security strategies are designed, executed, and constrained.

Statement of the Research Problem

The ongoing breakdown of human and economic security in Niger State stems from persistent armed banditry, combined with a distinct lack of empirical research regarding how tactical and operational failures directly stall local economic development. In an ideal situation, the state's security management architecture would feature a highly proactive, intelligence-driven, and well-coordinated framework where formal forces work seamlessly with community

vigilantes to secure vast forests, protect rural agrarian hubs, and foster an environment that attracts investment. However, the current reality stands in sharp contrast to this ideal, as criminal syndicates have grown increasingly bold and sophisticated, evolving from simple livestock theft into organized kidnap-for-ransom operations and forced taxation of rural populations (Anyanwu, 2026).

To address this challenge, both state and federal authorities have made significant efforts, including deploying joint military tasks forces, expanding funding for the local Vigilante Corps, and banning cash ransom payments. Despite these continuous interventions, the problem stubbornly persists, driven heavily by "conflict entrepreneurs" who profit from illicit arms trafficking and resource extraction, and further worsened by low troop-to-population ratios, broken inter-agency intelligence sharing, and a lack of local trust in formal law enforcement (Rosenje & Adeniyi, 2025).

This persistent violence is structurally sustained by a clear gap in contemporary literature. Most existing studies focus broadly on the national or northwest regional levels, often overlooking the distinct dynamics within the north-central zone (Madubuegwu & Abah, 2023). Furthermore, current literature heavily relies on general sociopolitical or historical assessments, leaving a critical empirical shortage of recent (2025–2026) data that connects operational security management constraints such as broken inter-agency communication and

Citation:Inuwa, Abdallah M.; Luka, Ruth C.; Ibrahim, Aminu & Abdul, Abdullahi M. "Security Management Strategies and Challenges Constraining the Mitigation of Banditry in Niger State". *Journal of People and Worldviews (JPW)*, 2026: pp16-42.

intelligence leakages directly to the stagnation of specific local economic indicators (Umar et al., 2026).

This research is urgently needed to fill these analytical gaps. Without an objective study of these operational bottlenecks, security responses will remain reactive and ineffective, leaving Niger State's agrarian economy in a state of permanent decline. This investigation is therefore vital to uncover the specific operational hurdles limiting security efforts and to provide actionable, evidence-based strategies capable of restoring peace and unlocking sustainable economic development.

Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to assess the security management strategies and challenges constraining the mitigation of banditry towards fostering economic development in Niger State. The specific objectives are to:

- i. Determine the extent to which government interventions and security strategies has mitigated banditry and fostered a conducive environment for economic development in Niger State;
- ii. Analyse the issues and challenges constraining the mitigation of banditry towards fostering economic development in Niger State.

Conceptual Review

Security

According to Igbuzor (2011) security is not the absence of threats or security issues, but the ability to rise to the challenges posed by these threats with expediency and expertise. It demands safety from chronic threats and protection from harmful disruption. To Omede (2012) security is a dynamic condition which involves the relative ability of a state to counter threats to its core values and interests. Security can further be described as stability and continuity of livelihood (stable and steady income), predictability of daily life (knowing what to expect), protection from crime (feeling safe), and freedom from psychological harm (safety or protection from emotional stress which results from the assurance or knowing that one is wanted, accepted, loved and protected in one's community or neighbourhood and by people around (Nwanegbo & Odigbo, 2013).

Security embraces all measures designed to protect and safeguard the citizenry and the resources of individuals, groups, businesses and the nation against sabotage or violent occurrence (Ogunleye, Adewale, Alese, & Ogunde, 2013). It also focuses on emotional and psychological sense of belonging to a social group which can offer one protection. This description of the foregoing structured the concept of security into four dimensions. These dimensions can be woven together to give a composite

definition of security as the protection against all forms of harm whether physical, economic or psychological (Olabanji & Ese, 2014).

Security is conceived as to be secure and free from both fear of physical, psychological abuse, violence, persecution, or death and from want such as food, health and good job (Asmau & Abdulrasheed, 2020).

Banditry

Dmeller (2018) views banditry as the use of weapons by a gang of robbers or outlaws belonging to a gang, to steal or rob from the people in an isolated or lawless area of a country. This perspective does not suit the nature of banditry in Nigeria as bandits perpetrate crimes and violence in communities where the rule of law is engrained. Okoli and Okpaleke (2017) conceptualise banditry as armed violence perpetrated by criminal opportunists and syndicates in the countryside and frontiers of countries. They argue that banditry comprises acts of armed criminality targeting human lives or properties: armed robbery, kidnapping, cattle rustling and allied armed violence. The perspective of Okoli and Okpaleke (2017) suits the operationalisation of the concept of banditry in this study which sees it as violent acts perpetrated by unlawful armed groups terrorising people and state institutions, thereby necessitating response mechanisms from the FGN. Their view is, thereby, adopted for this study.

Economic Development

Economic development is thus a multivariate concept; hence there is no single satisfactory definition of it. Economic development is a process where low income national economies are transformed into modern industrial economies. It involves qualitative and quantitative improvements in a country's economy. Political and social transformations are also included in the concept of economic development in addition to economic changes. Thus, we conclude that aggregate and per capita real incomes are not sufficient indicators of economic development. Rather economic development is concerned with economic, social and institutional mechanisms that are necessary for bringing large scale improvements in the levels of living of the masses (Umar, 2024).

Empirical Review of Related Literature

Balarabe, Kirfi & Abdulsam (2021), carried out an assessment of the impact of structures and inter-institutional collaboration on the delivery of security services in the bandits-bedeveloped Zamfara and Sokoto States. The study used survey method. The population of the study is comprised of Non state actors, Security Agencies (Army, Police and NSCDC), Zamfara (affected communities) and Sokoto (Affected Communities) totaling 3019 out of which a sample size of 906 was drawn. Questionnaire was administered on respondents. Data was analyzed using simple percentage. Hypothesis was tested using simple regression. The study utilized the

Security Management Strategies and Challenges Constraining the Mitigation of Banditry in Niger State

structural functional analysis as its framework of analysis. It was observed that insecurity in North-western Nigeria especially in Zamfara and some parts of Sokoto States have become a dilemma to reckon with. Banditry is one of the disturbing atrocities desecrating the human face of the affected states viz-a-viz its depleting effect on socioeconomic development in the entire Northwest. The study however discovered that the quality of services delivery by the Security agencies during the pre and banditry era is not significantly impacted by the structures and institutional collaboration in Zamfara and Sokoto States. It was recommended that government at the state and national levels should as a matter of proficiency ensure undiluted synergy between and among security structures and institutions. The study compare data of two state (Sokoto and Zamfara) whereas the current study will use a single state data which is Niger state in its analysis.

Ugwueze & Onuoha (2020), in their study titled hard versus soft measures to security: explaining the failure of counter-terrorism strategy in Nigeria. The paper utilized qualitative and textual method of data collection and analysis respectively. The study observed that Nigeria continues to face the challenge of containing terrorism despite adopting diverse counter-terrorism measures. While extant literature has evaluated the impacts of these measures, explaining why terrorist attacks in Nigeria persist despite a robust hard approach through

the traditional use of force is still lacking. The article argued that because counter-terrorism in Nigeria is lacking in soft approach, it will be difficult for the Nigerian state to defeat Boko Haram insurgency even with military force. The paper concluded and recommended among others that to effectively address the threat posed by terrorism, Nigeria needs to take concerted efforts to address the gap between what exists on paper and what it delivers in practice. The study limited its scope contextually to the way-out of the quagmire of insurgency in Nigeria without delving its analysis into how the insurgency activities have halted the economic activities of the nation at large and Niger State in particular through the lost of FDI, decline in GDP and human capital development which will all be addressed by the current study.

Mohammed, Liman, Yusuf and Oyinloye (2023), impact of communal and government measures in combating armed banditry on human security in Niger state, Nigeria. The research is conducted by examining literature banditry, communal strategies and government intervention measures. The literature was obtained through searches in publicly available material. Literature from non-serial publications, official reports, and conferences has been included particularly if they have been cited by other references in term of banditry. The study engaged the Theory of Structural Functionalism in a thematic study to examine effects of communal and government measures in combating

Citation:Inuwa, Abdallah M.; Luka, Ruth C.; Ibrahim, Aminu & Abdul, Abdullahi M. "Security Management Strategies and Challenges Constraining the Mitigation of Banditry in Niger State". *Journal of People and Worldviews (JPW)*, 2026: pp16-42.

Security Management Strategies and Challenges Constraining the Mitigation of Banditry in Niger State

armed banditry on human security in Niger state, Nigeria. The study revealed that communal efforts have positive though marginal effects on tackling banditry in Niger State. While government efforts are largely seen as reactive and less effective at confronting banditry. Based on these findings, the study concludes that community oriented policing will go a long way in addressing banditry. The study recommended that Federal and State Government should bring security apparatus closer to the community as against warehousing security in the exclusive list. The study also recommends that government narratives to counter banditry should be the deployment of good governance as good governance will engender employment and provision of basic amenities. The study is closely related to the current study, however, the area of departure with the current study is on the second variable of investigation where the reviewed study centers on human security. Hence, the reason why the current study aimed at interrogating the variable of economic development in order to see how it has been impacted in Niger state.

Haliru (2020) in his study considered an examination of the efforts of security agencies in tackling banditry in northern Nigeria. His study utilised primary and secondary data in analysing the phenomenon. Findings from the study revealed that the response process against banditry has been excessively militarised and devoid of non-military dimensions in

dealing with similar situations. The author recommended that the FGN could strengthen arms control efforts in border areas by enhancing the organisational capacity of border security agencies through the use of modern technology to strengthen the inspection and control of cross-border trade. Haliru however did not consider the effectiveness of the government security response mechanisms in mitigating banditry and fostering a conducive environment for economic development in Niger State.

Alade (2020) examined government's security response to banditry attacks in the North West Zone of Nigeria. Adopting quantitative and qualitative research methods, his study posited that despite the institution of varied joint security operations in the North West Zone, security in the zone has deteriorated throughout the years. He noted that this was aggravated by the failure of an amnesty programme and peace deal inaugurated by the Governors of Katsina and Zamfara States. The study revealed that the two most powerful banditry groups (Buharin Daji and Dogo Gyedi) and other groups did not participate in the peace pacts. He concluded that the response mechanisms of the Nigerian government have not put an end to the recurrent banditry issues in the affected region. Alade (2020) did not however consider the mechanisms through which the response aims at curtailing banditry in Niger state have been effective towards boosting the state's economic development.

Citation:Inuwa, Abdallah M.; Luka, Ruth C.; Ibrahim, Aminu & Abdul, Abdullahi M. "Security Management Strategies and Challenges Constraining the Mitigation of Banditry in Niger State". *Journal of People and Worldviews (JPW)*, 2026: pp16-42.

Security Management Strategies and Challenges Constraining the Mitigation of Banditry in Niger State

Ezirim, Haruna, Paul and Humbe (2023), carried out a study on complicating role of bandit's informants in the fight against banditry in Zamfara State, Nigeria. The study used survey and documentary method of data collection and quantitative data were analyzed using simple descriptive techniques, while qualitative data were content analyzed. The study adopted the Queer Ladder Theory (QLT) that holds that organized crime is an instrument for social climbing or socio-economic advancement. The study observed that the security forces and several willing individuals are strategizing to combat the menace of armed bandits in Zamfara State, Nigeria. However, some criminally-minded individuals in the state are crippling the efforts by providing information and other logistics to armed bandits. This development is a threat to national security and the effort to combat banditry in Zamfara State, Nigeria. The study findings indicate that bandits-informants in Zamfara State, Nigeria supply information on security raids, attacks or counter attacks, food items, fuel, sale of stolen properties, arms and ammunitions supply, information revealing wealthy targets. The study recommended among others that traditional leaders, religious leaders, NGOs, members of the press and willing individuals should embark on awareness creation within communities in the State on the danger of being informants to bandits. The study was conducted in Zamfara state hence the need to do same in Niger state in order to unveil the complicating role of bandits

informants in the fight against banditry within the state and how such nefarious act have contributed in undermining the economic development.

Okorie, Duke, Agbo and Bassey (2023), *Porous Borders, Banditry and Insecurity in Northern Nigeria: A Human Security Perspective in the Country's Fourth Republic*. The study utilized the content analysis methodological orientation as data were mainly secondary sources: textbooks, magazines, internet materials, Journal publications, etc. the human security theory was explored. Ironically as the country journeyed into the fourth republic, the Nigerian society saw itself drowning in many trouble waters, mostly in areas of conflicts conflagration. This manifested in the Niger Delta Resources conflict, Boko haram, various ethnic cum religious conflicts, unknown, gunmen, Herdsmen, bandits, etc. The current nefarious activities of bandits in Nigeria have been a matter of serious concern due to the death toll, destruction of lives and properties, attack at military camps/bases, and carting away their weapons. It was discovered that: poor border policing, easy manipulations of youths by criminal agents, poor internal security architecture paved way for prevalent of bandits and other criminal agents. The study recommended among others effective policing and security, adequate and judiciously utilizing of security votes. The study is region specific whereas the current study is state-centric.

Citation:Inuwa, Abdallah M.; Luka, Ruth C.; Ibrahim, Aminu & Abdul, Abdullahi M. "Security Management Strategies and Challenges Constraining the Mitigation of Banditry in Niger State". *Journal of People and Worldviews (JPW)*, 2026: pp16-42.

Adegbami & Kugbayi (2024), investigated armed banditry and challenges of national development: is Nigeria's governance system failing? The study relies on researchers' observation of unfolding events in the study areas and secondary data. The study revealed that the poor quality of governance offered by the successive political leaders of Nigeria was the major inducing factor of these bandits' activities. Other factors include political and economic reasons, a high unemployment rate, and a high level of poverty. The study recommends that good governance should be instituted, this can be achieved by banning people of questionable character from holding public offices in the country, and leaders with proven integrity and emotional intelligence who will deal with the root causes of heinous activities in the country be put in place. The study interrogated the phenomena of banditry nationwide whereas the current study will focus on Niger state in north central Nigeria.

Olawale & Folasade (2023), interrogated the drivers of insurgency, armed militancy, and banditry in Nigeria: implications for national integration and security. By analyzing these drivers using secondary data archival records, the study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the root causes of insurgency, armed militancy, and banditry in Nigeria. The study unveiled that Nigeria has faced significant challenges in maintaining peace and stability due to the rise of various insurgent groups, armed militias, and

criminal bands across the country. This study suggested that addressing the drivers of insurgency, armed militancy, and banditry is crucial for promoting national integration and enhancing security in Nigeria. It highlights the importance of adopting a multifaceted approach that combines efforts in socio-economic development, political inclusivity, conflict resolution, and law enforcement. A notable shortcoming of Olawale & Folasade's study is its limited focus on its methodology. Thus, more comprehensive research is required to explore varied techniques and strategies in investigating the drivers of banditry in Niger state.

Theoretical Framework

Analysing the persistent challenge of banditry and its economic implications necessitates the application of carefully selected theoretical perspectives in order to offer valuable insights into the causes, dynamics, and economic repercussions of insecurity. In contextual alignment with the Niger State experience, this study identifies the Rational Choice Theory as the most pertinent for examination. These theoretical standpoint is discussed in detail below.

Rational Choice Theory

The Rational Choice Theory, originally proposed by John Stuart Mill in the 19th century and formalized by economists such as Gary Becker (1976), was later expanded and popularised in political science by James S. Coleman (1990) and Jon Elster (1997). This theory emerged as

a framework to explain human behaviour through calculated individual choices based on perceived costs and benefits. The theory rests on the principle that individuals act based on rational calculations intended to maximise personal benefit while minimising potential losses. Its core assumption is that human behaviour is essentially goal-oriented, and actors are presumed to weigh the costs and benefits before making decisions (Becker 2017, 14). Cornish and Clarke (2016) extended this framework into criminal decision-making, positing that offenders engage in deliberate reasoning processes before committing crimes. Therefore, criminal acts such as banditry are not random but the result of calculated decisions aimed at achieving specific objectives, particularly material gain.

Central to Rational Choice Theory is the argument that crime thrives where perceived benefits outweigh risks or penalties. As such, when enforcement is weak, and the potential reward is high, criminal activities like banditry become more attractive (Clarke 2016, 11). The theory logically connects to the issue of insecurity by asserting that internal security threats emerge from rational decisions made by actors responding to socio-economic conditions. The linkage to economic development becomes apparent as prolonged insecurity disrupts investment, weakens local markets, and deters infrastructural growth, thereby reducing productivity. The Rational Choice Theory thus implies that, if

government policies increase the cost of crime via tougher laws, surveillance, and economic inclusion; the occurrence of internal security threats such as banditry would decline, consequently promoting a more stable environment conducive to economic advancement.

Despite its explanatory strength, the Rational Choice Theory has attracted substantial criticism. Scholars such as Tilley (2018, 6) and Hayward (2020, 17) have argued that the theory oversimplifies human motivation and underestimates the influence of emotion, cultural context, peer pressure, and systemic deprivation. When applied to the context of insecurity, especially in low-income and conflict-prone environments, critics believe it fails to account for grievances, trauma, and socio-political marginalisation that drive actors into banditry. Others, such as Wikström and Treiber (2021, 19), have questioned the assumption of full rationality, especially in volatile contexts where decisions are often made under emotional distress or extreme coercion. Thus, while the theory recommends punitive deterrence and rational incentives as solutions, these may be insufficient in regions where structural poverty and social dislocation override calculative reasoning.

Nonetheless, the Rational Choice Theory remains significantly applicable for evaluating the impact of banditry on economic development in Niger State. Its explanatory scope aligns with the observable patterns of organised cattle

rustling, road ambushes, and ransom kidnapping that are often premeditated and profit-driven. The empirical interrogation by Archer and Tritter (2023) indicates that many bandit groups strategically target economic assets such as markets, highways, and farmlands, making cost-effective decisions about when and where to strike. This strategic behaviour reflects elements of rational planning, which supports the theory's suitability for this study. Moreover, the intermittent ceasefire negotiations and ransom settlements further suggest the presence of calculative interests, where actors assess their bargaining power to maximise financial benefits. In this sense, the Rational Choice Theory offers valuable insights into how economic incentives, institutional weaknesses, and security lapses interact to sustain bandit operations and undermine development progress.

Methodology

The study adopted mixed-method research design. The targeted population of the study is 103,712 which comprises of individuals drawn from both civil and military institutions actively involved in addressing banditry, as well as agencies responsible for coordinating economic development in Niger State. Additionally, traditional institutions and community-based organisations in selected high-risk LGAs, namely: Munya, Mashegu, Magama, Paikoro, and Lapai; form a vital part of the population. These groups were carefully chosen because they are positioned at the intersection of security

response, community engagement, and socio-economic planning, offering crucial perspectives relevant to the study's objectives. Yammane's (1967) statistical formula was employed to reduce the population of the study to a manageable standard of 400. The study employed both primary and secondary methods of data collection. The instruments that were used in collecting data for this study are questionnaires and secondary sources. Stratified and Random Sampling Techniques were used in selecting the respondents among different categories for the administration of questionnaire. This study made use of tables as a platform to present the research data and also analyze the data collected from the field on the subject matter using simple percentage and graphs as the case may be for the descriptive analysis. The version that was used for analyzing data for the study is SPSS 25. Content analysis was used to analyze qualitative information.

Data Analysis and Interpretation of Results

A total of 400 copies of questionnaire were distributed while 367 copies were retrieved. Therefore, the presentation and analysis was done based on the 367 retrieved copies of questionnaire. The pattern of presentation was based on the objectives of the study using frequency table (frequency, count and percentage) as well as charts. The discussion of findings then followed. This was supported with information from extant literature.

Citation:Inuwa, Abdallah M.; Luka, Ruth C.; Ibrahim, Aminu & Abdul, Abdullahi M. "Security Management Strategies and Challenges Constraining the Mitigation of Banditry in Niger State". *Journal of People and Worldviews (JPW)*, 2026: pp16-42.

Analysis on Security Management Strategies and Challenges Constraining the Mitigation of Banditry towards Fostering Economic Development in Niger Sate.

This Section dwelt on the analysis and presentation of data on security management strategies and challenges constraining the mitigation of banditry towards fostering economic development in Niger Sate. The responses were guided by the research questions and objectives and presented in Figures and Tables.

Government Interventions and Security Strategies in Mitigating Banditry and Fostering a Conducive Environment for Infrastructural Development and Poverty Reduction in Niger State

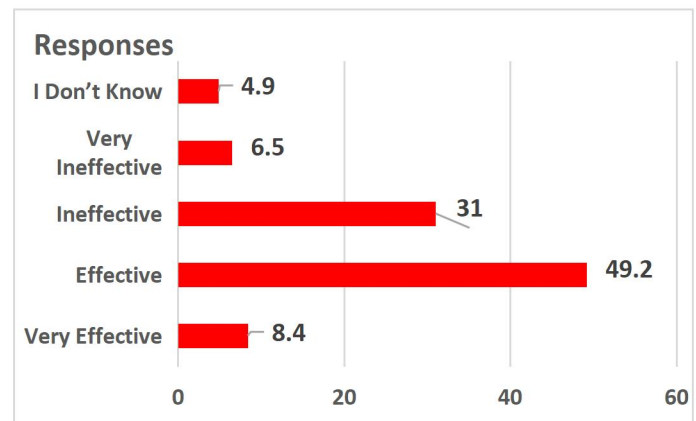
The first research question examined the extent to which government interventions and security strategies has mitigated banditry and fostered a conducive environment for infrastructural development and poverty reduction in Niger State. To address this research question, the study asked respondents appropriate questions and data generated are presented at Figures 1.1 to 1.3 and Table 1.1.

A. Assessing the Effectiveness of Military Raids and Forest-Clearing Operations in Curbing the Spread of Kidnapping and Destruction of Infrastructures in Rural Communities of Niger State.

Respondents were asked about the effectiveness of military raids and forest-clearing operations in curbing the spread

of kidnapping and destruction of infrastructures in rural communities of Niger State.

Figure 1.1: Respondents Assessment of the Effectiveness of Military Raids and Forest-Clearing Operations in Curbing the Spread of Kidnapping and Destruction of Infrastructures in Rural Communities of Niger State.



Source: Author's Field Survey, April, 2026.

Figure 1.1 depicts that a cumulative 57.6 per cent of respondents opined that the military raids and forest-clearing operations have been effective in curbing the spread of kidnapping and destruction of infrastructures in rural communities of Niger State. Another category of respondents cumulatively ranking 37.5 per cent noted that the military raids and forest-clearing operations of the anti-banditry troops was ineffective in Niger State. From the analysis, it could be surmised that the military raids and forest-clearing operations in the curtailment of banditry though is fairly effective, does not exert significant

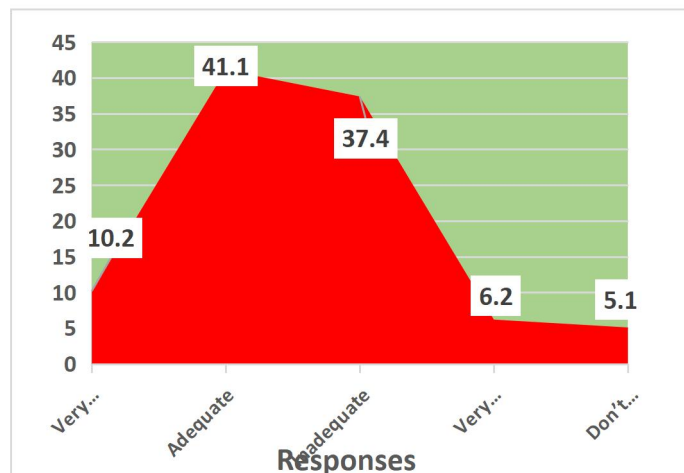
positive influence on the curtailment of banditry in Nigeria.

This analysis is buttressed by security tracking assessments from SBM Intelligence (2025), which indicate that over 1,500 security personnel have been killed in front-line operations, highlighting that purely kinetic containment frameworks lack strategic sustainability and suffer from extreme friction. Furthermore, this structural division aligns with the assertions of Rosenje a& Adeniyi (2025), who contend that Nigerian counter-banditry operations remain trapped in a reactive "kinetic loop" where short-term tactical clearances fail to translate into durable regional peace due to the failure to establish a permanent administrative and security presence in vast rural frontiers.

B. Rating the Adequacy of Current Security Strategies in Keeping Rural Roads and Economic Access Routes Open Across Affected LGAs such as Shiroro, Munya, and Rafi.

Respondents were asked to rate the adequacy of current security strategies in keeping rural roads and economic access routes open across affected LGAs such as Shiroro, Munya, and Rafi.

Figure 1.2: Respondents Rating of the Adequacy of Current Security Strategies in Keeping Rural Roads and Economic Access Routes Open Across Affected LGAs such as Shiroro, Munya, and Rafi.



Source: Author's Field Survey, April, 2026.

Figure 4.9 depicts that 10.2 per cent respondents opined that the current security strategies in keeping rural roads and economic access routes open across affected LGAs such as Shiroro, Munya, and Rafi was very adequate, while 41.1 per cent respondents rated the effect of the current security strategies in keeping rural roads and economic access routes open to be adequate. In addition, 37.4 per cent respondents indicated that the influence of current security strategies in keeping rural roads and economic access routes open across banditry affected LGAs such as Shiroro, Munya, and Rafi was inadequate. From the analysis, it could be surmised that the effect of security response mechanisms to banditry in Niger state has been partially adequate towards the enhanced curtailment of banditry and security rural roads and economic access routes open. There is, however, the need for Niger state government and FGN to strengthen the logistics support framework of the

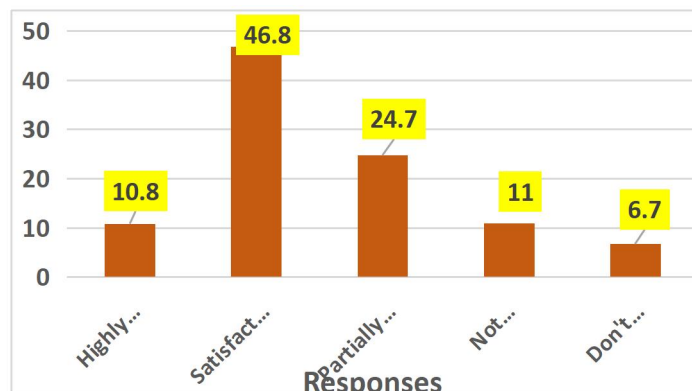
security response mechanisms for improved contributions to the curtailment of banditry across the state. The perceived partial adequacy of these route-clearing mechanisms across Shiroro, Munya, and Rafi mirrors official assessments from regional tracking platforms which note that armed groups have commercialized regional instability through an entrenched, predation-based ransom economy that collects billions in illicit levies annually, directly undermining formal state trading networks (SBM Intelligence, 2025). This logistical bottleneck is further validated by national macroeconomic indices from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS, 2026), which reveal that persistent rural security risks, road blockades, and forced protection levies continue to act as key drivers of escalating transport-related inflation across the North-Central geopolitical zone.

C. Determining the Extent to Which Security Interventions Contributed to the Reopening and Continued Operation of Public Schools in Areas Earlier Affected by Banditry.

Another question was posed to respondents in order to determine the extent to which security interventions contributed to the reopening and continued operation of public schools in areas earlier affected by banditry in Niger State.

Figure 1.3: Respondents View on Determining the Extent to Which Security Interventions Contributed to the Reopening and Continued

Operation of Public Schools in Areas Earlier Affected by Banditry.



Source: Author's Field Survey, April, (2026).

As highlighted on Figure 1.3, a cumulative 57.6 per cent respondents were of the view that the security interventions in curtailing banditry in Niger state has been satisfactory in ensuring the reopening and continued operation of public schools in areas earlier affected by banditry in Niger State. In addition, 24.7 per cent respondents opined that the security interventions and efforts has been partially satisfactory in this regard.

This community-level institutional fragility is directly corroborated by empirical data from international rights monitors and national data repositories, which confirm that the persistent threat of mass abductions across the North-Central zone continues to trigger severe contractions in rural school enrollment and the mass displacement of vital teaching personnel (Amnesty International, 2026; National Bureau of Statistics, 2025). In addition, this volatile educational context matches the assertions of Anyanwu (2026), who argues

Security Management Strategies and Challenges Constraining the Mitigation of Banditry in Niger State

that the continuous exposure of rural educational facilities to extortionist syndicates prevents the restoration of a predictable social life, thereby crippling human capital development and locking rural communities into a cycle of structural vulnerability.

D. Rating the Extent to Which the Following Government Interventions Helped Mitigate the Impact of Banditry

on Community Security and Livelihood Restoration in Niger State (2015–2024).

In order to further establish the extent to which government interventions and security strategies has mitigated banditry, respondents were asked to rate the extent the following government interventions helped in mitigating the impact of banditry on community security and livelihood restoration in Niger State.

Table 1.1: Rating the Rating the Extent to Which the Following Government Interventions Helped in Mitigating the Impact of Banditry on Community Security and Livelihood Restoration in Niger State (2015–2024).

Government Interventions	Effective	%	Ineffective	%	Don't Know	%
Military raids in bandit-dominated forests	241	65.7	113	30.8	13	3.5
Forest-clearing and patrol base establishment	204	55.6	142	38.7	21	5.7
Creation of local vigilante taskforces	212	57.8	137	37.3	18	4.9
Resettlement and rehabilitation programmes	147	40.1	199	54.2	21	5.7
Deployment of mobile police and military units to rural LGAs	113	30.8	225	61.3	29	7.9
Reinforcement of intelligence-gathering and surveillance	149	40.6	197	53.7	21	5.7
Government engagement with traditional rulers and local actors	174	47.4	167	45.5	26	7.1
Provision of community-level early warning and response units	70	19.1	276	75.2	21	5.7

Source: Author's Field Survey, April, 2026.

As highlighted in Table 1.1, Military raids in bandit-dominated forests operations which is a combination of security response and anti-banditry efforts in

Niger state was rated most effective as affirmed by 65.7 per cent of respondents, while creation of local vigilante taskforces (57.8 per cent), forest-clearing and patrol

Citation:Inuwa, Abdallah M.; Luka, Ruth C.; Ibrahim, Aminu & Abdul, Abdullahi M. "Security Management Strategies and Challenges Constraining the Mitigation of Banditry in Niger State". *Journal of People and Worldviews (JPW)*, 2026: pp16-42.

Security Management Strategies and Challenges Constraining the Mitigation of Banditry in Niger State

base establishment (55.6 per cent) and government engagement with traditional rulers and local actors (54.8 per cent) were equally rated fairly effective operational dimensions of the government interventions efforts in mitigating the impact of banditry on community security and livelihood restoration in Niger State.

On the contrary, the provision of community-level early warning and response units programmes of anti-banditry operations in Niger state was rated most ineffective as affirmed by 75.2 per cent of respondents, while deployment of mobile police and military units to rural LGAs (61.3 per cent) was equally rated as ineffective operational dimensions of the nature of security response mechanisms for curtailing banditry. In addition, resettlement and rehabilitation programmes (54.2 per cent) and reinforcement of intelligence-gathering and surveillance (53.7 per cent) were rated by respondents as fairly ineffective operational mechanisms of the government anti-banditry operations in mitigating the impact of banditry on community security and livelihood restoration in Niger State. Consequently, it is essential for FGN and NSG to ensure adequacy of operational components of the response mechanisms towards improving the proficiency of the anti-banditry troops in Niger state. It could be deduced from the analysis that the nature of banditry and government response includes ineffectiveness of

operational dimensions such as provision of community-level early warning and response units programmes, deployment of mobile police and military units to rural LGAs and reinforcement of intelligence-gathering and surveillance which could constrain efficient government-security response in the curtailment of banditry in Niger State.

The overwhelming ineffectiveness of soft, non-kinetic mechanisms like early warning units is validated by financial metrics from the Open Treasury Portal, which reveal that despite trillions allocated to national security institutions, less than thirty percent of capital budgets are efficiently released and disbursed to front-line field operations, starving community stabilization programs of required resources (GovSpend, 2026). This operational distortion tracks closely with economic warnings from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN, 2025), which emphasize that supply-side security shocks repress real-sector growth because vital development capital is consistently diverted away from rural stabilization initiatives to fund expensive, reactive military containment lines.

Issues and Challenges Constraining the Mitigation of Banditry towards Fostering Rural Infrastructural Development and Reducing Poverty Levels in Niger State.

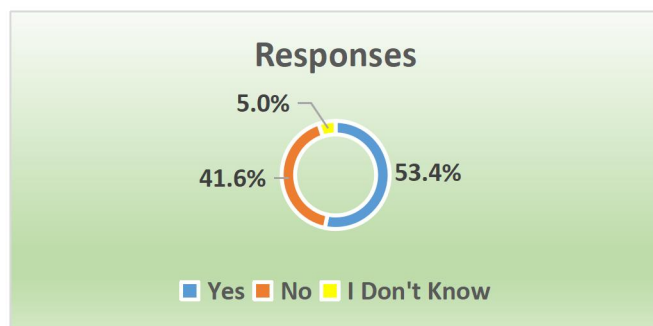
The second research question evaluated the effect of issues and challenges constraining the mitigation of banditry

towards fostering rural infrastructural development and reducing poverty levels in Niger State. To address this research question, the study asked respondents appropriate questions and data generated are presented at Figures 1.4 to 1.6 and Table 1.2.

A. Assessing Whether the Inadequate Presence of Well-Equipped Security Operatives across Forested and Rural Border Communities in Niger State Weakened Efforts to Curb Banditry since 2015.

Another question was posed to respondents to assess whether the inadequate presence of well-equipped security operatives across forested and rural border communities in Niger State weakened efforts to curb banditry since 2015.

Figure 1.4: Respondents View on Assessing Whether the Inadequate Presence of Well-Equipped Security Operatives across Forested and Rural Border Communities in Niger State Weakened Efforts to Curb Banditry since 2015.



Source: Author's Field Survey, April, 2026.

The responses on Figure 1.4 depicts that 196 (53.4 per cent) respondents were of the view that the inadequate presence of well-equipped security operatives across forested and rural border communities in Niger State weakened efforts to curb banditry since 2015. Another category of respondents ranking 153 (41.6 per cent) respondents opined that the inadequate presence of well-equipped security operatives across forested and rural border communities in Niger State do not in any way contributed in weakening the efforts to curb banditry since 2015. The analysis infers that there is need for the government to upscale the presence of well-equipped security operatives across forested and rural border communities in Niger State through improved logistics, arms and ammunitions in order to strengthen the efforts to curb banditry in the state.

This empirical insight is strongly validated by analytical tracking from SBM Intelligence (2026), which demonstrates that armed gangs systematically exploit these unpoliced forest enclaves to operate as parallel authorities, imposing formal protection taxes on rural populations. In alignment with this reality, Mikail et al. (2025) note that the vast, rugged terrains of the Allawa and Kamuku forest reserves present ideal tactical hideouts for criminal networks, allowing them to supplant state sovereignty in the absence of specialized border-patrol assets.

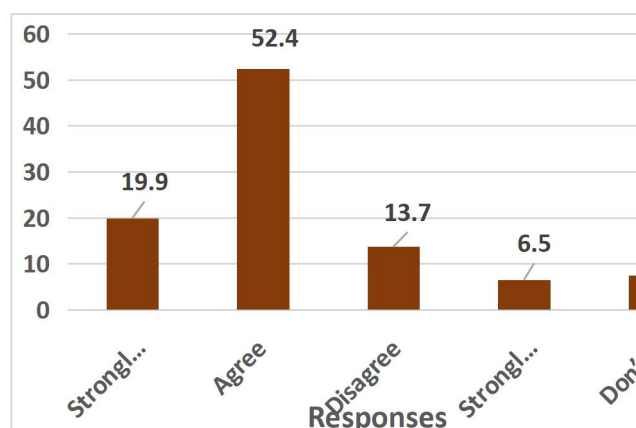
B. Ascertaining whether weak intelligence Coordination between Local

Citation:Inuwa, Abdallah M.; Luka, Ruth C.; Ibrahim, Aminu & Abdul, Abdullahi M. "Security Management Strategies and Challenges Constraining the Mitigation of Banditry in Niger State". *Journal of People and Worldviews (JPW)*, 2026: pp16-42.

Vigilantes and Formal Security Agencies has Hindered Effective Mitigation of Banditry in Niger State.

Respondents were asked ascertaining the extent of their agreement with the assertion of whether weak intelligence coordination between local vigilantes and formal security agencies has hindered effective mitigation of banditry in Niger State.

Figure 1.5: Respondents View on Ascertaining whether weak intelligence Coordination between Local Vigilantes and Formal Security Agencies has Hindered Effective Mitigation of Banditry in Niger State.



Source: Author's Field Survey, April, 2026.

As highlighted in Figure 1.5, 72.3 per cent respondents cumulatively indicated by agreeing that weak intelligence coordination between local vigilantes and formal security agencies has hindered effective mitigation of banditry in Niger State. In addition, 20.2 per cent respondents cumulatively opined that weak intelligence coordination between

local vigilantes and formal security agencies has not in any way hindered effective mitigation of banditry in Niger State. It could be surmised from the analysis that the current level of weak intelligence coordination between local vigilantes and formal security agencies has posed as a challenge for enhanced curtailment of banditry in Nigeria.

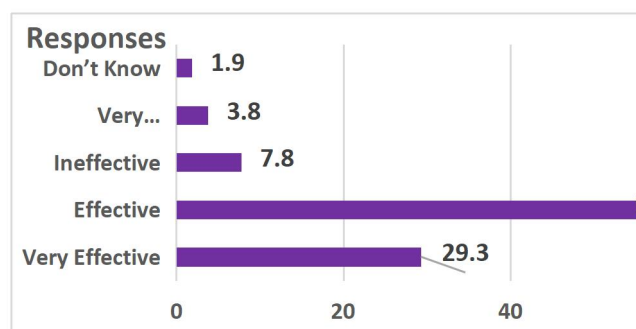
This communication breakdown is supported by institutional critiques from Dataphyte (2026), which reveal that organizational silos, transactional mistrust, and a lack of unified information repositories routinely cause strategic paralysis within the internal security architecture. This operational friction agrees with Umar et al. (2026), who contend that the inability of formal security forces to integrate community-generated intelligence lines prevents tactical maneuvers from being proactive, rendering state campaigns predominantly reactive.

C. Rating the Effectiveness of Government's Disbursement of Security Funds and Logistical Support to Security Agencies Operating in Banditry-Prone LGAs Such as Rafi, Shiroro, and Munya Aided the Curtailment of Banditry in Niger State.

Respondents were asked to rate the extent to which effective government's disbursement of security funds and logistical support to security agencies operating in banditry-prone LGAs Such as Rafi, Shiroro, and Munya aided the curtailment of banditry in Niger State.

Security Management Strategies and Challenges Constraining the Mitigation of Banditry in Niger Sate

Figure 1.6: Respondents Rating the Extent to Which Effective Government's Disbursement of Security Funds and Logistical Support to Security Agencies Operating in Banditry-Prone LGAs Such as Rafi, Shiroro, and Munya Aided the Curtailment of Banditry in Niger State.



Source: Author's Field Survey, April, 2026.

The responses in Figure 1.6 shows that majority of respondents cumulatively ranking 86.5 per cent respondents shows that the government's disbursement of security funds and logistical support to security agencies operating in banditry-prone LGAs Such as Rafi, Shiroro, and Munya has been effective in aiding the curtailment of banditry in Niger State. It could be surmised from the analysis that

effective government's disbursement of security funds and logistical support to security agencies operating in banditry-prone areas is a vital mechanism that must be sustained towards enhancing the curtailment of banditry in Niger State. This fiscal baseline is validated by macroeconomic evaluations from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN, 2026), which indicate that despite tight monetary policies designed to anchor economic expectations, persistent rural insecurity and supply shocks continue to devalue real fiscal investments. This persistent inflation keeps field operating costs extraordinarily high, effectively lowering the actual purchasing power of regional security budgets and stalling field operations.

D. Rating the following issues based on How Significantly they have constrained the Mitigation of Banditry in Niger State Between 2015 and 2024.

Respondents were further asked to rate the effectiveness of the issues that have significantly they have constrained the mitigation of banditry in Niger State between 2015 and 2024.

Table 1.2: Rating the following issues based on How Significantly they have constrained the Mitigation of Banditry in Niger State Between 2015 and 2024.

Issue	Very Significant	Significant	Less Significant	Not Significant
Infiltration of foreign armed groups through porous borders	57.8	26.2	6.6	9.4
Shortage of operational vehicles and surveillance equipment	59.7	29.3	5.8	5.2
Delayed response to distress calls by security agencies	68.5	18.3	6.3	6.9

Citation:Inuwa, Abdallah M.; Luka, Ruth C.; Ibrahim, Aminu & Abdul, Abdullahi M. "Security Management Strategies and Challenges Constraining the Mitigation of Banditry in Niger Sate". *Journal of People and Worldviews (JPW)*, 2026: pp16-42.

Security Management Strategies and Challenges Constraining the Mitigation of Banditry in Niger State

Poor inter-agency collaboration among security bodies	35.3	52.6	7.1	5.0
Displacement of communities limiting economic activities	52.4	31.9	6.9	8.8
Political interference in security appointments and operations	55.2	31.7	7.5	5.6
Non-payment or irregular payment of security allowances	58.6	28.7	6.2	6.5
Lack of formal rehabilitation and reintegration of repentant bandits	49.9	37.0	8.7	4.4

Source: Author's Field Survey, April, 2026.

The analysis on Table 12 above shows that majority of the respondents gave high ratings to most of the indices or challenges. However, the most highly rated challenges include delayed response to distress calls by security agencies (68.5 per cent), shortage of operational vehicles and surveillance equipment (59.7 per cent), non-payment or irregular payment of security allowances (58.6 per cent), infiltration of foreign armed groups through porous borders (57.8 per cent), political interference in security appointments and operations (55.2 per cent), displacement of communities limiting economic activities (52.4 per cent), lack of formal rehabilitation and reintegration of repentant bandits (49.9 per cent), as well as poor inter-agency collaboration among security bodies (35.3 per cent). It therefore suffices that FGN and NSG needs to procure and make available more night fighting capabilities, patrol vehicles and improve welfare packages for security personnel deployed for anti-banditry operations in Niger State.

Consumer Price Index (CPI) reports from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS, 2025) confirm that this unchecked security crisis has triggered a severe agrarian collapse across vulnerable local government areas, driving Niger State's headline inflation rate to one of the highest in the country at over 34%. By imposing forced harvest taxes, destroying grain stores, and driving smallholder farmers into internally displaced persons (IDP) camps, armed syndicates have severely disrupted the region's agricultural supply chain, draining financial liquidity from rural households and preventing the state from implementing sustainable development or poverty reduction programs.

Discussion of Findings

Government Interventions and Security Strategies in Mitigating Banditry and Fostering a Conducive Environment for Infrastructural Development and Poverty Reduction in Niger State.

The study established that while state military sweeps and forest-clearing operations provide immediate, localized

Citation:Inuwa, Abdallah M.; Luka, Ruth C.; Ibrahim, Aminu & Abdul, Abdullahi M. "Security Management Strategies and Challenges Constraining the Mitigation of Banditry in Niger State". *Journal of People and Worldviews (JPW)*, 2026: pp16-42.

Security Management Strategies and Challenges Constraining the Mitigation of Banditry in Niger State

disruptions against criminal networks, their long-term efficacy remains limited by the absence of permanent holding forces. Security tracking data from SBM Intelligence (2025) notes that purely kinetic containment frameworks suffer from severe structural friction, resulting in high frontline casualties and rapid bandit reoccupation of strategic voids. This aligns with Rosenje & Adeniyi (2025), who assert that operations are trapped in a reactive "kinetic loop" where short-term tactical clearances fail to yield durable peace due to an absent permanent administrative and security presence in rural frontiers.

Furthermore, the study revealed that security along rural road networks and economic corridors across Local Government Areas (LGAs) like Shiroro, Munya, and Rafi is only partially adequate, creating severe logistical bottlenecks for agricultural trade. SBM Intelligence (2025) corroborates that armed networks have commercialized this regional instability through an entrenched, multi-billion naira predation-based ransom economy. This matches data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS, 2026), indicating that persistent route closures act as primary drivers of escalating transport-related inflation across the North-Central geopolitical zone.

Additionally, although interventions have satisfactorily supported the physical reopening of public schools, these social infrastructures remain highly fragile. Empirical data from Amnesty

International (2026) and the NBS (2025) confirm that persistent threats of mass abductions continue to trigger severe contractions in rural school enrollment and mass displacement of teaching personnel. As Anyanwu (2026) points out, continuous exposure to extortionist syndicates prevents a predictable social life, crippling human capital development and locking rural communities into structural vulnerability.

Finally, a multi-variable tactical breakdown reveals a critical imbalance within the state's framework: kinetic approaches are rated as moderately useful, whereas soft, non-kinetic measures (early warning units, intelligence reinforcement, and resettlement) are overwhelmingly ineffective. Public metrics from the Open Treasury Portal reveal that less than 30% of allocated national security capital budgets are efficiently released to frontline field operations, starving stabilization programs of vital resources (GovSpend, 2026). This operational neglect tracks with Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN, 2025) warnings that supply-side security shocks repress real-sector growth, consistently diverting developmental capital away from rural stabilization into expensive, reactive military deployments.

Citation:Inuwa, Abdallah M.; Luka, Ruth C.; Ibrahim, Aminu & Abdul, Abdullahi M. "Security Management Strategies and Challenges Constraining the Mitigation of Banditry in Niger State". *Journal of People and Worldviews (JPW)*, 2026: pp16-42.

Issues and Challenges Constraining the Mitigation of Banditry towards Fostering Rural Infrastructural Development and Reducing Poverty Levels in Niger State.

The study revealed that an inadequate presence of well-equipped formal security personnel across forested border corridors and rural communities has structurally weakened anti-banditry campaigns since 2015. This security gap leaves vast territories unpoliced, enabling criminal networks to establish alternative governance structures. Analytical tracking from SBM Intelligence (2026) illustrates that armed gangs exploit these unpoliced forest enclaves to operate as parallel authorities, imposing formal protection taxes on farmers. In alignment with this, Mikail et al. (2025) note that the rugged terrains of the Allawa and Kamuku forest reserves present ideal tactical hideouts for criminal networks to supplant state sovereignty due to a lack of specialized border-patrol assets.

Furthermore, weak intelligence coordination and fragmented harmonization between local vigilantes and formal security agencies serve as primary operational barriers. This communication breakdown prevents real-time processing of actionable data, allowing mobile syndicates to evade state operations. Institutional critiques from Dataphyte (2026) reveal that organizational silos, transactional mistrust, and a lack of unified information repositories routinely cause strategic paralysis, agreeing with Umar et

al. (2026) that the inability to integrate community-generated intelligence lines keeps state campaigns predominantly reactive.

The study also noted that while funding and logistical support are highly effective when they actually reach frontline units in vulnerable LGAs, the broader framework remains heavily constrained by micro-level institutional failures. Macroeconomic evaluations from the CBN (2026) indicate that despite tight monetary policies designed to anchor economic expectations, persistent rural insecurity and supply shocks continue to devalue real fiscal investments. This inflation keeps field operating costs extraordinarily high, lowering the purchasing power of regional security budgets and stalling field operations.

Ultimately, operations are severely constrained by a combination of operational failures: delayed responses to distress calls, shortages of operational vehicles, and irregular payment of allowances alongside structural challenges like porous borders and community displacement. Consumer Price Index (CPI) reports from the NBS (2025) confirm that this security crisis has triggered a severe agrarian collapse across vulnerable LGAs, driving Niger State's headline inflation rate above 34%. By imposing forced harvest taxes, destroying grain stores, and driving smallholder farmers into IDP camps, armed syndicates have disrupted the region's agricultural supply chain, draining financial liquidity from rural

households and preventing the state from implementing sustainable development or poverty reduction programs.

Conclusion

A critical synthesis of the empirical findings and macro-institutional indicators demonstrates that armed banditry in Niger State has evolved into a structurally entrenched political economy of violence rather than a transient security friction. While state-led kinetic interventions deliver immediate, localized tactical disruptions, their strategic efficacy is fundamentally undermined by a systemic "kinetic loop" where mobile syndicates routinely reoccupy strategic vacuums due to an absent permanent administrative and security presence in rural frontiers. This structural vulnerability is further worsened by a severe tactical imbalance within the state's security architecture, which disproportionately funds reactive containment lines while starving soft, non-kinetic measures such as community early warning units, proactive intelligence repositories, and resettlement frameworks of vital capital resources, leaving critical socioeconomic spaces and trade corridors highly fragile.

From a developmental standpoint, these operational bottlenecks and geographic challenges interact to create an institutional crisis that directly impedes rural infrastructure delivery and poverty reduction frameworks. The lack of well-equipped personnel across unpoliced border corridors has allowed armed gangs to supplant formal state

sovereignty, functioning as parallel administrative authorities that extract illegal taxes from vulnerable agrarian populations. This structural collapse of the rural economy marked by mass displacements, supply-side contractions, and hyperinflation across local government areas such as Shiroro, Munya, and Rafi consistently devalues fiscal investments. Ultimately, because developmental capital is continuously diverted to fund expensive, reactive military deployments, the state's capacity to execute sustainable social investments is crippled, locking the region into a self-perpetuating cycle of structural vulnerability and poverty.

Recommendations

- i. The Niger State Government, in collaboration with federal security institutions, must restructure its security architecture to balance kinetic interventions with robust, non-kinetic stabilization strategies. This requires deploying permanent civil-military holding forces and local administrative outposts within cleared forest frontiers to prevent bandit reoccupation, while fully funding community early warning units, school protection models, and agrarian resettlement initiatives. This shift is essential to insulate social infrastructure, secure vital trade corridors (Shiroro, Munya, and Rafi), and lower transport inflation, thereby fostering a predictable environment for infrastructure delivery and poverty reduction.
- ii. To resolve critical operational bottlenecks, the Niger State Government

must establish a unified, real-time intelligence-sharing repository that bridges the communication gap between community vigilantes and formal security agencies, dismantling organizational silos to enable proactive tactical operations as well as deploy specialized, well-equipped border-patrol assets and surveillance technology to reclaim unpoliced "ungoverned spaces" within the Allawa and Kamuku forest reserves.

References

- Adegbami, A., & Kugbayi, S. O. (2024). Armed banditry and challenges of national development: Is Nigeria's governance system failing? *Journal of Administrative and Social Sciences*, 5(2), 114–128.
- Africa Defense Forum. (2026). Tactical mutations in unconventional warfare: Assessing the Papiri community school abductions in North-Central Nigeria. *Africa Defense Forum Quarterly*, 11(2), 45–52.
- African Development Bank (AfDB). (2025). *From fragility to resilience: Securing economic corridors amid asymmetric threats in Sub-Saharan Africa* (African Economic Outlook Report). AfDB Group.
- Alade, C. A. (2020). Government's security response to banditry attacks in the North West Zone of Nigeria: An appraisal of amnesty frameworks. *Journal of Conflict and Peace Studies*, 14(1), 89–104.
- Amnesty International. (2026). *Education under siege: The human cost of structural security failures in Nigeria's middle belt* (Amnesty International Research Brief). Amnesty International.
- Anyanwu, C. E. (2026). Extortionist syndicates and social infrastructure: Evaluating the political economy of rural school targeted abductions in Niger State. *Nigerian Journal of Sociology and Education*, 19(1), 74–91.
- Archer, T. L., & Tritter, M. J. (2023). Premeditated predation: The spatial economics of tactical bandit targeting on agricultural supply chains. *Journal of Economic Crime and Development*, 8(3), 201–216.
- Asmau, S., & Abdurashied, A. (2020). Conceptualizing human security: Freedom from fear and freedom from want in contemporary West Africa. *International Journal of Social Sciences and Public Policy*, 3(4), 55–67.
- Balarabe, A. M., Kirfi, M. M., & Abdulsam, I. (2021). Structures and inter-institutional collaboration in the delivery of security services: A comparative study of Zamfara and Sokoto States. *Social Sciences Review of Nigeria*, 12(2), 143–161.
- Becker, G. S. (1976). *The economic approach to human behavior*. University of Chicago Press.
- Becker, G. S. (2017). *Crime and punishment: An economic approach* (Rev. ed.). Essays in the Economics of Crime and Punishment. Columbia University Press.

Citation:Inuwa, Abdallah M.; Luka, Ruth C.; Ibrahim, Aminu & Abdul, Abdullahi M. "Security Management Strategies and Challenges Constraining the Mitigation of Banditry in Niger State". *Journal of People and Worldviews (JPW)*, 2026: pp16-42.

Security Management Strategies and Challenges Constraining the Mitigation of Banditry in Niger Sate

- Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). (2025). *Macroeconomic shocks, agricultural credit facilities, and real-sector stagnation in internal security crises* (Monetary Policy Department Working Paper Series, No. WP/2025/09). CBN.
- Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). (2026). *Annual economic report: Assessing supply-side security shocks, tight monetary baselines, and fiscal investment devaluation in volatile regions*. CBN.
- Clarke, R. V. (2016). Situational crime prevention: Theoretical foundations and rational choices. *Crime and Justice Research*, 41(2), 10–25.
- Coleman, J. S. (1990). *Foundations of social theory*. Harvard University Press.
- Cornish, D. B., & Clarke, R. V. (2016). *The reasoning criminal: Rational choice perspectives on offending*. Transaction Publishers.
- Dataphyte Research. (2026). *Organizational silos, transactional mistrust, and strategic paralysis: Deconstructing internal security allocations via the Open Treasury Portal*. Dataphyte Nigeria.
- Dmeller, K. (2018). *Outlaws and frontiers: A global history of rural banditry*. Routledge.
- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). (2025). *Small arms, light weapons, and the commercialization of cross-border smuggling networks in the Sahelian rim*. ECOWAS Commission.
- Elster, J. (1997). *More than enough: Explaining technical and choice behavior in political science*. Cambridge University Press.
- Ezirim, G. E., Haruna, M. A., Paul, O. S., & Humbe, T. T. (2023). The complicating role of bandits' informants in the fight against banditry in Zamfara State, Nigeria: A Queer Ladder perspective. *Journal of Defence and Security Studies*, 29(1), 67–85.
- GovSpend. (2026). *Capital budget implementation tracking and front-line military operational disbursements* (Open Treasury Analytical Digest). BudgIT Nigeria.
- Haliru, A. (2020). Excessively militarized responses: An examination of the efforts of security agencies in tackling banditry in Northern Nigeria. *African Security Review*, 29(3), 211–229.
- Hayward, K. J. (2020). Situating crime: Beyond the rationality assumption of situational crime prevention. *Theoretical Criminology*, 24(1), 12–31.
- Igbuzor, O. (2011). *Peace, security and sustainable development in Nigeria: Institutional imperatives*. Centre for Democracy and Development.
- Madubuegwu, C. I., & Abah, E. O. (2023). Beyond the North-West paradigm: Reconceptualizing armed banditry within Nigeria's North-Central geopolitical zone. *Journal of Political and Economic Studies*, 10(2), 112–130.
- Mathias, A., & Uwak, U. E. (2021). Armed banditry and border monitoring: Challenges for Nigeria's security,

Security Management Strategies and Challenges Constraining the Mitigation of Banditry in Niger State

- peace and sustainable development. *Journal of Human Security and Development*, 7(1), 44–61.
- Mikail, A. A., Sallau, M. B., & Ibrahim, J. K. (2025). Geography of terror: Spatial mapping of unpoliced spaces and security deficits in the Allawa and Kamuku forest reserves. *North-Central Journal of Environmental Security*, 4(1), 15–33.
- Mohammed, I., Liman, M. A., Yusuf, S. O., & Oyinloye, B. A. (2023). Impact of communal and government measures in combating armed banditry on human security in Niger State, Nigeria. *Zaria Journal of Social Sciences*, 26(2), 188–205.
- National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). (2025). *Displacement, human capital contractions, and rural school enrollment metrics in North-Central Nigeria*. Federal Secretariat, Abuja.
- National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). (2026). *Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Headline Inflation Report: Sectoral contributions to macroeconomic volatility* (NBS Statistical Bulletin, May 2026). Federal Secretariat, Abuja.
- Nwanegbo, C. J., & Odigbo, J. (2013). Security and sustainable development in Nigeria: The challenge of asymmetric internal warfare. *Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa*, 15(4), 78–92.
- Ogunleye, O. O., Adewale, O. S., Alese, B. K., & Ogunde, A. O. (2013). Digital tracking and surveillance: Protective security models for individual and corporate entities. *International Journal of Computer Applications*, 68(11), 33–42.
- Ojo, A. S. (2020). Governance vacuums and informal networks: Relying on spatial network analysis and GIS to monitor ungoverned spaces in Northern Nigeria. *Journal of Security Administration and Technology*, 17(2), 101–119.
- Okoli, A. C., & Okpaleke, F. N. (2017). Banditry and rural criminality in Nigeria's frontier spaces: The economics of predation. *Journal of Aggression, Conflict and Peace Research*, 9(4), 241–253.
- Okorie, C. O., Duke, O. O., Agbo, U. J., & Bassey, M. E. (2023). Porous borders, banditry and insecurity in Northern Nigeria: A human security perspective in the country's Fourth Republic. *Journal of Social and Political Review*, 11(3), 302–321.
- Olabanji, O. O., & Ese, C. J. (2014). Composite dimensions of physical and economic security in regional development frameworks. *Ibadan Journal of the Social Sciences*, 12(2), 85–97.
- Olawale, R. A., & Folasade, M. O. (2023). Drivers of insurgency, armed militancy, and banditry in Nigeria: Implications for national integration and security. *Nigerian Journal of Administrative Studies*, 31(1), 14–31.
- Omede, A. J. (2012). Nigeria: Analysing the security challenges of the dynamic state. *International Journal*

Security Management Strategies and Challenges Constraining the Mitigation of Banditry in Niger State

- of *Humanities and Social Science*, 2(5), 90–101.
- Rosenje, M. O., & Adeniyi, S. A. (2025). The kinetic loop: Assessing the multi-billion naira criminal industry of armed banditry and institutional paralysis in Nigeria. *Journal of Political Science and Public Policy*, 22(3), 154–173.
- SBM Intelligence. (2025). *The commercialization of regional instability: Tracking ransom economies, forced protective levies, and security personnel casualties in the North-Central axis* (SBM Geopolitical Intelligence Brief). SBM Intelligence.
- SBM Intelligence. (2026). *Ungoverned enclaves and parallel structures: Mapping illegal agrarian tax extraction networks in rural frontiers*. SBM Intelligence.
- Tilley, N. (2018). *Evaluating situational crime prevention: Restoring context and complexity to rational choice models*. Crime Science Series. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Ugwueze, M. I., & Onuoha, F. C. (2020). Hard versus soft measures to security: Explaining the failure of counter-terrorism strategy in Nigeria. *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*, 38(4), 543–561.
- Umar, F. M., Abdullahi, S. M., & Tobeckuwu, S. O. (2026). Broken inter-agency communication, intelligence leakages, and operational constraints: Explaining the stagnation of local economic indicators in Shiroro, Rafi, and Munya Local Government Areas. *Nasarawa State University Journal of Political Science*, 8(1), 41–63.
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). (2024). *Transnational organized crime networks and the exploitation of weak security administration in strategic economic corridors*. United Nations.
- Vulegbo, S. T., Isah, I. J., & Modibbo, A. S. (2026). Agrarian collapse, supply-side contractions, and local economic volatility: Empirical evidence from rural smallholders in Niger State. *Federal University Gashua Journal of Social Sciences*, 5(2), 115–134.
- Wikström, P. O. H., & Treiber, K. (2021). Beyond rational choice: Situation-based decision-making under emotional distress and systemic deprivation. *Criminology & Public Policy*, 20(1), 15–33.
- World Bank. (2024). *World development report: Security management, property rights protection, and macroeconomic stabilization in emerging markets*. World Bank Group.

Citation:Inuwa, Abdallah M.; Luka, Ruth C.; Ibrahim, Aminu & Abdul, Abdullahi M. "Security Management Strategies and Challenges Constraining the Mitigation of Banditry in Niger State". *Journal of People and Worldviews (JPW)*, 2026: pp16-42.