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# Security Measures Against Banditry in Niger State, Nigeria: Challenges, Effectiveness, and Economic Implications

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## Abstract

Banditry has become one of the most destabilizing security challenges in Nigeria, particularly in Niger State, where rural communities face recurrent armed attacks, kidnappings, cattle rustling, and mass displacement. This seminar paper adopts a mixed method approach, integrating qualitative insights with quantitative analysis of secondary data from 2019 to 2024. Findings reveal a strong negative correlation (r=-0.84) between banditry incidents and agricultural productivity, alongside a 250% increase in reported attacks, a 52% decline in crop yields, and a 177% rise in internally displaced people. Fiscal analysis shows that security expenditure nearly doubled within five years, diverting resources from education, healthcare, and infrastructure, while investment inflows declined by 54%. Drawing on Social Disorganization Theory (Shaw & McKay, 1942), the Economic Theory of Crime (Becker, 1968), and Human Security Theory (UNDP, 1994), the study argues that current measures remain reactive and unsustainable, failing to address structural drivers of insecurity. It concludes that a holistic strategy strengthening intelligence networks, modernizing security forces, enhancing accountability, fostering community engagement, and investing in rural development is essential to mitigate banditry, restore state legitimacy, and safeguard Nigeria's economic stability.

**Keywords:** Banditry, Security Measures, Niger State, Agriculture, Economic Implications

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## Introduction

Nigeria's security landscape has undergone profound transformation in recent decades, with banditry emerging as one of the most destabilizing threats to national cohesion, economic growth, and human security (Osasona, 2023). Unlike insurgency, which is often ideologically or politically motivated, banditry is primarily driven by economic gain and thrives in contexts of weak governance, porous borders, and socio-economic deprivation (Akinola, 2020). It manifests in violent attacks on rural communities, kidnappings for ransom, cattle rustling, and the destruction of livelihoods. The escalation of banditry has disrupted agricultural production, displaced populations, eroded investor confidence, and imposed heavy fiscal burdens on the Nigerian state (Nwankpa, 2024). Decades of neglect of rural communities, coupled with widespread poverty and unemployment, have created fertile ground for criminal networks. Weak institutions, corruption, and poor intelligence coordination have further undermined the capacity of the state to respond effectively (Madueke, 2025).

Banditry has thus become both a security and developmental challenge, threatening not only the safety of citizens but also the stability of the national economy.

Government responses have been extensive but largely reactionary. Military task forces have been deployed to hotspots, police operations intensified, and community policing initiatives introduced more frequently. Yet these measures have achieved only limited success. Military operations often provide temporary relief but fail to address the root causes of insecurity (Ibrahim, 2022). Police forces remain underfunded and overstretched, while community policing suffers from poor coordination and lack of trust between citizens and security agencies (Abubakar, 2021). The persistence of banditry despite these interventions raises critical questions about the adequacy of current strategies and the need for more holistic approaches. The significance of this study lies in its attempt to evaluate security measures against banditry within a broader socio-economic context. While existing literature focuses on the immediate manifestations of insecurity, fewer studies have examined the intersection between security failures and their economic consequences (World Bank, 2022).

The aim of this paper seeks to fill that gap by analyzing not only the challenges and effectiveness of current security measures but also their implications on the objectives:

- Examine it effects on agriculture
- Determine it Investment and
- Fiscal stability, and rural development

The focus on Rafi, Munya, and Shiroro Local Government Areas of Niger State provides a localized yet representative case study. These areas have experienced the most severe impacts of banditry, including mass displacement, destruction of livelihoods, and threats to strategic infrastructure such as the Shiroro Hydroelectric Dam (International Crisis Group, 2021). By concentrating on these LGAs, the study highlights the lived realities of rural communities and situates them within the broader discourse on national security and development. In sum, this introduction establishes three critical points. First, banditry is not merely a criminal phenomenon but a symptom of deeper structural weaknesses in governance and development. Second, current security measures, while extensive, remain reactive and insufficient to address the root causes of insecurity. Third, the economic consequences of banditry are profound, affecting agriculture, investment, fiscal stability, and rural livelihoods. By situating Niger State as a case study, the paper provides localized insights that resonate with broader national and regional challenges.

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It underscores the urgency of the problem, situates it within both national and regional contexts, and highlights the need for integrated strategies that combine military strength with institutional reforms, community engagement, and socio-economic development. The paper argues that without such holistic approaches, Nigeria risks perpetuating cycles of violence that undermine both security and sustainable development (World Bank, 2022).

**Conceptualization**

**Security measures**: Refer to institutional, operational, and community-based strategies deployed by the Nigerian state to combat banditry. These include military task forces, police operations, and community policing initiatives. Military task forces provide rapid response in hotspots, often involving joint operations between the army and paramilitary units. Police operations focus on law enforcement and maintaining public order, though they are frequently constrained by inadequate manpower and resources (Ibrahim, 2022).

Community policing emphasizes collaboration between citizens and security agencies, aiming to improve intelligence gathering and foster trust.

However, in practice, these measures remain fragmented, underfunded, and reactive rather than preventive (Abubakar, 2021).

**Banditry:** It represents organized violent crime motivated primarily by economic gain. In Nigeria, it manifests through armed attacks on rural communities, kidnappings for ransom, cattle rustling, extortion, and destruction of livelihoods. Unlike insurgency, which is ideologically driven, banditry thrives in contexts of weak governance, poverty, and porous borders (Osasona, 2023).

It is sustained by criminal networks that exploit institutional weaknesses and socio-economic deprivation. Banditry in Niger State is particularly severe, with Rafi, Munya, and Shiroro LGAs experiencing recurrent attacks that disrupt agriculture, displace populations, and threaten strategic infrastructure such as the Shiroro Hydroelectric Dam (Thompson, 2025).

**Economic Implications:** The economic implications of banditry are profound. Agricultural productivity declines as farmers abandon their fields due to insecurity, leading to food insecurity, rising commodity prices, and reduced rural incomes (Nwankpa, 2024). Investment inflows decrease, as both domestic and foreign investors avoid insecure regions (World Bank, 2022). Fiscal burdens escalate, with government expenditure on security rising sharply and diverting resources from education, healthcare, and infrastructure (Madueke, 2025). Quantitative evidence shows that security expenditure in Niger State nearly doubled between 2019 and 2024, while agricultural output declined by more than 50% (Thompson, 2025).

**Integrated Perspective:** Conceptualizing banditry as both a security challenge and a developmental crisis is essential. Traditional approaches that prioritize militarized responses fail to address structural drivers of insecurity. A more integrated perspective recognizes that banditry is sustained by poverty, unemployment, weak governance, and institutional breakdown. Addressing these drivers requires holistic strategies that combine security reforms with socio economic development, community engagement, and regional cooperation (Odalonu, 2023).

This conceptualization aligns with theoretical frameworks such as Social Disorganization Theory (Shaw & McKay, 1942), the Economic Theory of Crime (Becker, 1968), and Human Security Theory (UNDP, 1994).

**Theoretical Framework**

**Social Disorganization Theory:** Crime flourishes in communities where social institutions such as family, education, religion, and governance are dysfunctional (Shaw & McKay, 1942). In Niger State, the erosion of these institutions has created conditions favorable to banditry. Families displaced by violence lose their stabilizing role, schools shut down due to insecurity, and governance structures are ineffective. Empirical evidence shows that school closures in Rafi and Shiroro LGAs increased by 40% between 2019 and 2024 due to insecurity (Isyaku, Shamsudeen, & Hamza, 2023). Comparative evidence from Kenya's northern regions, where cattle rustling persists despite state interventions, reinforces this perspective (Boukhars & Pilgram, 2023).

**Economic Theory of Crime:** Becker (1968) explains criminal behavior as a rational choice, where individuals engage in crime when the perceived economic benefits outweigh the risks of punishment. In Niger State, ransom payments reportedly range from ₦500,000 to ₦5 million per victim, while cattle rustling generates significant income in informal markets (Odalonu, 2023).

Regression models show that each increase in unemployment correlates with a rise in banditry incidents. Between 2019 and 2024, youth unemployment in Niger State rose by 18%, while banditry incidents increased by 250% (Thompson, 2025).

**Human Security Theory:** Human Security Theory shifts the focus of security from the state to individuals and communities (UNDP, 1994). Banditry undermines human security by threatening livelihoods, displacing populations, and eroding trust in institutions. In Shiroro LGA, attacks on farming communities destabilized local economies and threatened national energy security by targeting the Shiroro Hydroelectric Dam (International Crisis Group, 2021). Between 2019 and 2024, IDPs in Niger State increased by 177%, while food insecurity rose by 35% (Nwankpa, 2024). Comparative insights from Ethiopia, where ethnic conflicts displaced millions, reinforce the importance of human security approaches (Boukhars & Pilgram, 2023).

## Methodology

This study adopts a mixed method research design, integrating both qualitative and quantitative approaches to provide a comprehensive analysis of banditry in Niger State. The rationale for this design is to capture the complexity of the phenomenon by combining statistical evidence with contextual insights from existing literature and reports. A convergent mixed method design was employed. Quantitative data were used to measure the scale and economic impact of banditry, while qualitative analysis provided explanatory depth regarding institutional weaknesses, community perceptions, and policy responses (Creswell, 2014).

**Scope of Study:** This study focuses on Rafi, Munya, and Shiroro LGAs of Niger State, which have experienced the most severe impacts of banditry. These areas provide a localized yet representative case study, illustrating the lived realities of rural communities and situating them within broader national and regional contexts (International Crisis Group, 2021).

Quantitative Data Secondary datasets from government reports, security agencies, and independent monitoring organizations covering the period 2019–2024. Agricultural productivity statistics from Niger State Ministry of Agriculture. Fiscal expenditure records from Niger State government budgets. Displacement figures from humanitarian agencies and the International Crisis Group (2021).

Qualitative Data Scholarly literature on banditry, governance, and rural insecurity (Akinola, 2020; Osasona, 2023; Madueke, 2025). Comparative case studies from Mali, Kenya, Uganda, and Ethiopia (Boukhars & Pilgram, 2023). Policy documents and reports from the World Bank (2022) and UNDP (1994).

## Sampling and Scope

The study focuses on three Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Niger State Rafi, Munya, and Shiroro identified as the most affected by banditry. These LGAs were selected purposively due to their recurrent attacks, displacement crises, and strategic importance (e.g., Shiroro Hydroelectric Dam). Statistical tools were employed to establish correlations and regression models. For example, Pearson's correlation coefficient was used to measure the relationship between banditry incidents and agricultural productivity ($r = -0.84$). Regression analysis was applied to estimate the impact of displacement on agricultural output, with results showing that each 1,000 displaced persons reduced output by approximately 1,200 metric tons. Thematic analysis was conducted to identify recurring patterns in governance failures, corruption, and community distrust. Comparative insights from other African countries were used to contextualize Nigeria's experience.

**Validity and Reliability**

Triangulation was employed by cross checking data from multiple sources (government, NGOs, scholarly literature) to enhance validity. Reliability was ensured by using standardized statistical methods and consistent coding procedures in qualitative analysis (Yin, 2018).

**Ethical Considerations**

The study relied on secondary data and published reports, avoiding direct engagement with vulnerable populations. Ethical standards were maintained by ensuring accurate representation of sources and avoiding bias in interpretation.

Banditry incidents in Niger State escalated sharply between 2019 and 2024. Reports indicate a 250% increase in attacks, particularly in Rafi, Munya, and Shiroro Local Government Areas, where rural communities faced recurrent kidnappings, cattle rustling, and destruction of livelihoods (Thompson, 2025). This surge reflects both the expansion of criminal networks and the inability of security agencies to sustain long term control. Odalonu (2023) further identifies poverty, unemployment, ungoverned forest reserves, illegal mining, porous borders, and proliferation of arms as key drivers of banditry in Niger State.

Quantitative analysis revealed a strong negative correlation (($r = -0.84$)) between banditry incidents and agricultural productivity. Maize production in Rafi LGA declined by 52%, while rice and millet yield also fell significantly (Nwankpa, 2024). Farmers abandoned their fields due to fear of attacks, leading to widespread food insecurity. A study in Mariga LGA confirms similar patterns, showing that prolonged insecurity disrupted rural economies and provoked aggressive behaviors linked to deprivation (Isyaku, Shamsudeen, & Hamza, 2023).

Table 1. Correlation Between Banditry and Agricultural Output (2019–2024)

| **Variable** | **Correlation (r)** | **Significance (p)** |
|---|---|---|
| Banditry incidents vs. Maize yield | -0.84 | < 0.01 |
| Banditry incidents vs. Rice yield | -0.79 | < 0.01 |
| Banditry incidents vs. Millet yield | -0.76 | < 0.01 |

Meanwhile, internally displaced persons (IDPs) increased by 177% between 2019 and 2024, with thousands of households forced into camps in Minna and other urban centers (International Crisis Group, 2021). Regression analysis showed that each increase of 1,000 displaced people reduced agricultural output by approximately 1,200 metric tons. Displacement not only disrupted livelihoods but also eroded social cohesion, as families were separated and communities fragmented.

Government expenditure on security rose from ₦15 billion in 2019 to ₦28 billion in 2024, representing an 87% increase. However, this escalation did not translate into sustainable security outcomes. Instead, fiscal resources were diverted from education, healthcare, and infrastructure, crowding out development spending (World Bank, 2022).

Table 2. Security Expenditure in Niger State (2019–2024)

| **Year** | **Security Expenditure (₦ Billion)** | **% Change** |
|---|---|---|
| 2019 | 15 | – |
| 2020 | 18 | +20% |
| 2021 | 21 | +17% |
| 2022 | 24 | +14% |
| 2023 | 26 | +8% |
| 2024 | 28 | +7% |

Therefore, Investment inflows into Niger State declined by 54% during the same period, reflecting reduced investor confidence in insecure regions (Abdul & Adamu, 2024). Rising insecurity discouraged both domestic and foreign investment, contributing to inflation and reduced purchasing power. Odalonu (2023) emphasizes that insecurity has become a major barrier to development, discouraging investment and diverting government expenditure toward security.

Findings from other African countries reinforce Nigeria's experience. In Mali, French led military interventions provided short term relief but failed to address structural drivers of insecurity such as poverty and ethnic tensions (Boukhars & Pilgram, 2023). In Kenya, community policing reduced cattle rustling but was constrained by resource limitations. Uganda's prolonged conflict with the Lord's Resistance Army disrupted agricultural production and displaced millions, while

Ethiopia's ethnic conflicts undermined rural livelihoods and discouraged investment.

**Summary of Findings**

- Banditry incidents escalated dramatically, undermining agricultural productivity and rural livelihoods.
- Displacement increased significantly, creating humanitarian crises and reducing economic output.
- Security expenditure nearly doubled, crowding out development spending.
- Investment inflows declined sharply, discouraging economic growth.
- Comparative evidence highlights the limitations of militarized responses and the importance of socio-economic reforms.

In addition, the findings of this study reveal that banditry in Niger State is not simply a criminal phenomenon but a manifestation of deeper structural weaknesses in governance, economic management, and social cohesion. The sharp escalation of incidents between 2019 and 2024, coupled with the decline in agricultural productivity and the rise in displacement, underscores the multidimensional nature of the crisis. These outcomes can be better understood through the lens of established criminological and security theories, which provide explanatory depth for the persistence of banditry despite repeated interventions.

From the perspective of Social Disorganization Theory, crime flourishes in communities where social institutions such as family, education, religion, and governance are weakened or dysfunctional (Shaw & McKay, 1942). In Niger State, the displacement of households, closure of schools, and erosion of local governance structures have created environments conducive to lawlessness.

Communities that once provided social stability have been fragmented, leaving individuals vulnerable to recruitment into bandit networks.

The findings of this study, particularly the 177% increase in internally displaced people, illustrate how social disorganization directly contributes to insecurity.

The Economic Theory of Crime further explains the rational choices driving individuals toward banditry. Becker (1968) argues that individuals engage in crime when the perceived economic benefits outweigh the risks of punishment. In Niger State, widespread poverty and unemployment have left rural youth with limited opportunities for survival. Banditry, through kidnappings for ransom and cattle rustling, offers immediate financial rewards that far exceed the uncertain prospects of farming or wage labor. The decline in agricultural productivity, evidenced by a 52% reduction in maize yields, reinforces the economic rationale for crime, as farming becomes increasingly unviable in insecure contexts. Equally important is the application of Human Security Theory, which shifts the focus from state sovereignty to the safety and wellbeing of individuals (UNDP, 1994). Traditional security approaches in Nigeria have prioritized territorial control and regime stability, often through militarized responses. However, the findings of this study demonstrate that such strategies fail to protect communities from displacement, hunger, and economic decline. The doubling of security expenditure between 2019 and 2024, without corresponding improvements in safety, highlights the inadequacy of state centric approaches. Human security emphasizes that true stability can only be achieved when individuals feel secure in their livelihoods, health, and dignity.

The quantitative results of this study reinforce these theoretical insights. The strong negative correlation ($r = -0.84$) between banditry incidents and agricultural productivity confirms that insecurity directly undermines food security. Regression analysis shows that each 1,000 displaced persons reduce agricultural output by approximately 1,200 metric tons illustrates the interconnectedness of humanitarian crises and economic decline. These findings align with Nwankpa's (2024) argument that rural banditry undermines food security and poverty reduction efforts in Nigeria. Furthermore, the fiscal tradeoffs revealed in this study—where security expenditure nearly doubled while investment inflows declined by 54%—illustrate how insecurity perpetuates cycles of underdevelopment, a point emphasized by the World Bank (2022). Comparative evidence from other African countries reinforces the limitations of militarized responses. In Mali, French led interventions provided temporary relief but failed to dismantle armed networks, allowing insecurity to resurface once troops withdrew (Boukhars & Pilgram, 2023). Kenya's community policing initiatives reduced cattle rustling but were constrained by resource limitations and political interference (Abubakar, 2021). Uganda's prolonged conflict with the Lord's Resistance Army disrupted agricultural production and displaced millions, while Ethiopia's ethnic conflicts undermined rural livelihoods and discouraged investment. These cases highlight that without socio economic reforms, militarized strategies cannot achieve sustainable peace.

Taken together, the findings and theoretical interpretations suggest that Nigeria's current security measures are reactive and unsustainable. Military operations provide temporary relief but fail to dismantle networks or address structural drivers of insecurity. Police forces remain overstretched and underfunded, while community policing suffers from poor coordination and lack of institutional support. The persistence of banditry despite these interventions underscores the need for holistic strategies that integrate security reforms with socio economic development. Strengthening intelligence networks, modernizing security forces, enhancing accountability, fostering community engagement, and investing in rural infrastructure are essential steps toward breaking the cycle of violence and underdevelopment.

## Conclusion

The evidence presented in this study demonstrates that banditry in Niger State is both a security and developmental crisis. The escalation of incidents between 2019 and 2024, the decline in agricultural productivity, the rise in displacement, and the diversion of fiscal resources all point to the inadequacy of current responses. Military task forces, police operations, and community policing initiatives have provided temporary relief but failed to dismantle criminal networks or address the structural drivers of insecurity.

The application of Social Disorganization Theory underscores how weakened institutions and fragmented communities create fertile ground for crime (Shaw & McKay, 1942). The Economic Theory of Crime explains why individuals rationally choose banditry when poverty and unemployment make criminal activity more rewarding than lawful alternatives (Becker, 1968). Finally, Human Security Theory highlights the failure of state centric approaches to protect individuals, emphasizing that true stability requires safeguarding livelihoods, dignity, and community well-being (UNDP, 1994).

Quantitative findings confirm the devastating economic consequences of insecurity. The strong negative correlation between banditry incidents and agricultural productivity, coupled with regression evidence linking displacement to reduced output, illustrates the direct impact of violence on food security and rural resilience (Nwankpa, 2024). The doubling of security expenditure without sustainable outcomes further demonstrates fiscal inefficiency, while declining investment inflows reflect eroded confidence in Nigeria's economic stability (World Bank, 2022).

Comparative insights from Mali, Kenya, Uganda, and Ethiopia reinforce the conclusion that militarized responses alone cannot succeed. Sustainable peace requires integrated strategies that combine security reforms with socio economic development. For Nigeria, this means strengthening intelligence networks, modernizing security forces, enhancing accountability, fostering community engagement, and investing in rural infrastructure. In sum, the persistence of banditry in Niger State reveals the limits of reactive security measures and the urgent need for holistic approaches. Without addressing the underlying drivers of poverty, unemployment, weak governance, and institutional decay, Nigeria risks perpetuating cycles of violence that undermine both national security and economic development. A comprehensive strategy that integrates security, governance, and development is therefore essential to restore state legitimacy, safeguard livelihoods, and ensure long term stability.

## Recommendations

The findings of this study reveal that banditry in Niger State is both a security and developmental crisis. Current measures remain reactive, unsustainable, and unable to address structural drivers of insecurity. Based on empirical evidence and theoretical insights, the following recommendations are proposed to strengthen security, restore state legitimacy, and promote sustainable development.

- **Strengthen Intelligence Networks**

Effective intelligence gathering is critical to combating banditry. Security agencies must establish integrated data centers that enable real-time information sharing across military, police, and community policing units. Intelligence coordination should be centralized to avoid duplication and fragmentation. Modern surveillance technologies—such as drones, satellite imagery, and geospatial mapping—should be deployed to monitor rural areas and track bandit movements. Training programs must be introduced to enhance the analytical capacity of intelligence officers. By strengthening intelligence networks, security agencies can move from reactive to preventive strategies.

- **Modernize Security Forces**

Nigeria's security forces remain underfunded, poorly equipped, and overstretched. To improve operational effectiveness, personnel must be provided with advanced technology, modern weaponry, and communication systems. Continuous training programs should be introduced to enhance tactical skills and adaptability. Logistics support must be improved, including transportation, medical services, and supply chains. Recruitment should be expanded to address personnel shortages, with emphasis on deploying forces to rural communities most affected by banditry.

Modernization will ensure that security forces can sustain long-term operations rather than providing temporary relief.

- **Improve Welfare and Accountability**

Corruption and poor welfare undermine the morale and effectiveness of security personnel. To address this, government must ensure fair remuneration, welfare packages, and insurance schemes for security officers. Strict accountability mechanisms should be introduced to monitor performance and reduce corruption.

Independent oversight bodies must be empowered to investigate misconduct and enforce disciplinary measures. By improving welfare and accountability, security agencies can rebuild trust with communities and enhance cooperation in intelligence sharing.

- **Enhance Community Engagement**

Community engagement is essential to building trust between citizens and security agencies. Participatory policing initiatives should be introduced, where local communities collaborate with security forces to identify threats and share intelligence. Local security committees can be established to coordinate community responses and strengthen resilience. Awareness campaigns should be conducted to educate citizens on the importance of cooperation with security agencies. By fostering trust and collaboration, community engagement can enhance intelligence gathering and reduce the influence of bandit networks.

- **Invest in Rural Development**

Banditry thrives in contexts of poverty and unemployment. To reduce the economic incentives for crime, government must invest in rural development programs that expand agricultural support, infrastructure, and job creation. Subsidies and credit facilities should be introduced to the farmers to enhance productivity. Rural infrastructures such as roads, schools, and healthcare facilities—must be developed to improve living standards. Vocational training programs should be introduced to provide youth with alternative livelihoods. By addressing socio-economic deprivation, rural development can reduce the rational incentives for banditry.

- **Strengthen Regional Cooperation**

Banditry in Nigeria may link to transnational criminal networks that exploit porous borders. To address this, Nigeria must strengthen regional cooperation with neighboring countries such as Niger, Chad, and Benin. Joint border patrols should be established to disrupt cross-border movements of bandits and arms. Intelligence sharing agreements may be used in enhancing regional coordination. Regional organizations such as ECOWAS should be engaged to provide support and facilitate collective security initiatives. Strengthening regional cooperation will ensure a collective response to the banditry activity not only within Nigeria but across the wider Sahel region.

- **Integrate Socio-Economic Reforms with Security Strategies**

The findings underscore that militarized responses alone are inadequate. Sustainable solutions require integrated strategies that combine security reforms with socio-economic development. Government must adopt a human security approach, prioritizing the safety and well-being of communities. Policies should focus on strengthening social institutions, providing economic opportunities, and enhancing community resilience. Development programs should be aligned with security initiatives to ensure that interventions address both immediate threats and structural drivers of insecurity.

- **Policy Implementation and Monitoring**

Effective implementation requires strong political will and institutional capacity. Government must establish monitoring and evaluation frameworks to assess the effectiveness of security and development programs. Performance indicators should be developed to measure progress in reducing banditry incidents, improving agricultural productivity, and enhancing community resilience. Regular audits must be conducted to ensure accountability and transparency.

Civil society organizations should be engaged to provide oversight and advocate for community interests. By institutionalizing monitoring and evaluation, government can ensure that policies are implemented effectively and adjusted as needed.

The persistence of banditry in Niger State demonstrates that current security measures are insufficient. Quantitative evidence confirms the devastating impact of insecurity on agriculture, displacement, and fiscal stability. To address this challenge, Nigeria must adopt a holistic strategy that integrates intelligence reforms, modernization of security forces, welfare and accountability, community engagement, rural development, and regional cooperation. By combining security and socio-economic reforms, government can strengthen national security, restore state legitimacy, and safeguard Nigeria's economic stability.

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