

Nigeria's Internal Security- Food Security Nexus: Understanding the Challenges and Proffering Solutions

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Abstract

The most populous nation in Africa, Nigeria, faces a complicated and interrelated series of issues that could jeopardize its food and internal security. Internal conflicts, such as Boko haram, banditry and food insecurity, have weakened the nation's internal security and caused massive displacement, infrastructure devastation, and disruptions to food systems. At the same time, issues including soil erosion, climate change, selfish and greedy interests of farmers and other citizens, and poor agricultural infrastructure have led to lower agricultural production, higher food costs, and widespread hunger, endangering Nigeria's food security. In order to comprehend the difficulties and suggest answers, this study looks at the relationship between food security and internal security in Nigeria. Also, it proposes solutions to solve the menace of food insecurity in the country through qualitative and descriptive procedures. Hence, the study reveals that the achievement of food security would be impossible unless the citizens, farmers as well as governments take on their responsibilities upon themselves and act

Keywords: Nigerian, Internal Security, Food Security, Insecurity, Climate Change, Human Security Governance

Introduction

One of the most effective ways of enhancing patriotism is the ability of the country through the leaders in providing citizens' basic needs which include food, good water and shelter. Other needs include an uninterrupted supply of electricity, a good road network, affordable healthcare, and education. These needs, especially food, water and shelter, are paramount and must be provided to ensure a productive, peaceful and developed society. Despite the necessity of food as one of the basic human needs, it has not always been readily available to the satisfaction of all citizens, and this has caused economic hardship and retardation to many nations, including Nigeria. For instance, the dearth of bread partly helped to topple France's centuries-old monarchy in the revolution of 1789. The Russian Revolution in 1917 as contended in some quarters, was not really for social change but for bread, land and peace (Onucheyo, 1998). One of the advantages that the United States of America (USA) had over the Soviet Union at the end of World War II in 1945 was that the USA ensured a consistent and abundant food supply for its citizenry (Onucheyo, 1998). Another instance of national crisis associated with food includes acute shortages of food as a result of drought in the Sahelian region in the late 1960s and early 1970s, which affected countries like Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan and Chad (McMillan, 1986).

Rogers, (2001), on the contrary, opined that famine or dependence on food donation could also put a nation in a precarious state of insecurity. Communities have for a while been concerned that food supply would retardate population growth and also may result in famine. One of the major causes of food scarcity is uncontrollable growth of world population which can be likened to Malthus's theory which argued that population increases geometrically while food production grows only arithmetically (Microsoft, 2001). Other causes of food scarcity include desertification, flood and erosion, sea pollution and pests menace, and inadequate storage and distribution facilities, which are all hindrances to the achievement of food security

Statement of Problem

According to Victor (2014), internal security challenges have destroyed critical agricultural infrastructure, including irrigation systems, warehouses, and markets in Nigeria. Hence, these destructions have further exacerbated the country's food security challenges. To address the challenges posed by internal security to food security in Nigeria, it is essential to adopt a holistic approach that takes into account the complex and multifaceted nature of the problem. This approach should involve the development of effective strategies for addressing the root causes of internal security challenges, as well as the provision of support to farmers and other stakeholders in the agricultural sector. Hence, there is a need for increased investment in agricultural infrastructure, including irrigation systems, warehouses, and markets. This investment will help to improve agricultural productivity, reduce post-harvest losses, and enhance the overall efficiency of the country's food system.

Therefore, this research seeks to understand Nigeria's internal security – food security nexus- and especially the challenges it faces and provide solutions. Consequently, the three major questions arising from the above situation and analysis of the problem statement are as follows:

1. What are the internal challenges of Nigeria's food security nexus?
2. What are the solutions to the challenges of Nigeria's food security nexus?
3. What are the steps taken by governments and citizens to provide solutions to the challenges of the food security nexus?

Research Method

This research paper adopted a qualitative/descriptive procedure for data collection, analysis, and reporting. It relied more on secondary data from journals, books, the Internet, and other scholarly publications to critically examine the reliability and viability of issues.

Conceptual Review

The following concepts are briefly explained below:

Food

Azeigbe (1993) defined food as the most basic of man's needs. Parker (1987) sees it as any substance taken into the body for the purpose of nourishment to provide energy, structural components, building and upgrading body tissues and to regulate body processes. Onucheyo views food as "what we eat and drink to keep us alive and well-grown, develop, work and play, to satisfy hunger and nourish the body to become productive" (Onucheyo, 1998).

Security

Security is the safety of a state's territory and population and, by extension, the policies adopted for its preservation (Encyclopedia, 2001). Casey and Salmon, in 1992, saw security as usually being the defence of a state, territorial boundaries, and protection of its core values. Ochoche asserts that security as an integrated concept is not just at the level of values but also at the levels of geopolitics and social classes.

Food Security

Food security is a critical component of national security, encompassing the availability, accessibility, affordability, and quality of food for a country's entire population (FAO, 2020). It is a multifaceted concept that ensures that all citizens have access to nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and preferences and is free from contamination and other hazards (HLPE, 2017). There are four key dimensions of food security:

Availability

The availability of sufficient food supplies, including staple crops, livestock, and other essential food items (FAO, 2020).

Accessibility

This can be defined as the ability of individuals and households to access food, including physical access, economic access, and social access (HLPE, 2017).

Affordability

Affordability is the ability of individuals and households to afford food, including the price of food, income levels, and social safety nets (Ivanic & Martin, 2018).

Quality and Safety

According to WHO (2018), the quality and safety of food include the absence of contamination, spoilage, and other hazards (WHO, 2018).

Food Security

According to IPCC, (2019); a country's food security is influenced by various factors, including agricultural production, food imports and exports, food storage and distribution, food prices and markets, climate change and natural disasters, and conflict and instability, Intergovernmental panel on climate change. To achieve food security, countries can implement various policies and strategies, such as increasing agricultural production, improving food storage and distribution, enhancing food safety and quality, supporting small-scale farmers, promoting sustainable agriculture, and addressing climate change and natural disasters (FAO, 2020). According to the World Food Summit, food security exists when all people at all times have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (Ojo, 1991).

Famine can be prevented by human tragedy that develops gradually, providing a window of opportunity for intervention (United Nations, 2020). The predictability of famine makes it possible to prevent it, and its occurrence is often a reflection of societal and governmental weaknesses (Sen, 2009). As Ayalew (2017) notes, famine can be considered a man-made disaster. Achieving food security is a critical objective for nations, implying self-sufficiency in food production, consumption, and preservation (John, 2018). Food security exists when a nation is self-reliant in food production, without dependence on imports or aid (Adeyeye, 2020). However, food security remains a challenge when a significant portion of the population lacks economic access to domestically produced food (FAO, 2020).

Theoretical Framework

Malthusian Approach

This theory, popularized by Thomas Malthus, focuses on the relationship between population growth and food production. It suggests that food production will eventually outpace population growth, leading to widespread food insecurity if not addressed (UNDP, 2003). The theory is important to this study because it suggests how food supply challenges can be solved, and if adequately followed, it will solve famine in Nigeria.

Review of Related Literature

Food Security and National Development

The relationship between food security and national development is complex and interconnected. Food security can significantly influence national development, generating

foreign exchange, stimulating economic growth, and improving living standards, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD, 2020). Inversely, sustainable national development can enhance food security by improving economic, social, and environmental conditions, United Nations Development Program (UNDP, 2020). Research has shown that socio-economic factors, such as economic growth, poverty reduction, and institutional stability, are crucial in determining a country's food security status (Olayemi, 2020). The impact of economic policies, such as structural adjustment programs, on food security has also been well-documented (Gurkan, 2020). Achieving food security requires a multifaceted approach that involves developing agro-industries, improving infrastructure, building agricultural capacity, and enhancing micro-economic management (Dinar, 2020). As McNamara (2019) aptly stated, "Security is development, and without development, there can be no security [including food security]." On the overall, food security and national development are inextricably linked. Ensuring food security requires a comprehensive approach that addresses the complex relationships between economic, social, and environmental factors.

Food Security in Nigeria

Nigeria as a country is the most populous country in Africa, and as a result, faces significant challenges in achieving food security (FAO, 2020). WHO (2018) defined Food security as the availability, accessibility, and affordability of sufficient, safe, and nutritious food for the entire population. Despite being a major agricultural producer, Nigeria's food security is threatened by insecurity and internal conflict, climate change, soil degradation, inadequate infrastructure, and high population growth rate (IPCC, 2019). The Nigerian government has implemented various programs to address food security challenges, including the Agricultural Development Project (ADP), River Basin Development Authority (RBDA), National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA), and National Food Storage Programme (NFSP) (Adeyeye, 2020). However, these programs have had limited success due to poor management, political instability, and lack of political will (Olayemi, 2020).

Nigeria's agricultural sector has the potential to be self-sufficient in food production, but it is currently underutilized (National Bureau of Statistics, 2020). The country's food security situation is further complicated by high food prices, which are exacerbated by frequent increases in petroleum prices (CBN, 2020). To achieve food security, Nigeria must address its underlying challenges, including insecurity and conflict, climate change, and inadequate infrastructure (UNDP, 2020). The government must also prioritize agricultural development, improve food storage and distribution, and enhance food safety and quality (FAO, 2020). Food security in Nigeria refers to the availability, accessibility, and affordability of sufficient, safe, and nutritious food for the entire population of Nigeria. Nigeria is Africa's most populous country, with a population of over 200 million people, and food security is a critical issue that affects the health, well-being, and productivity of its citizens.

Challenges to Food Security in Nigeria

Nigeria, despite being a major agricultural producer, faces numerous challenges to food security. These challenges include:

Insecurity and Conflict: The ongoing Boko Haram insurgency, as well as bandits in the Northern part of the country and other conflicts, has resulted in displacement, infrastructure destruction, and disruption of food systems (International Crisis Group, 2020).

Climate Change: Climate change is significantly impacting agricultural production in Nigeria, characterized by changing rainfall patterns (which often lead to floods due to a poor drainage system), increased temperature, and more frequent natural disasters (IPCC, 2019).

Soil Degradation: Soil degradation poses a significant challenge to agricultural production in Nigeria, with soil erosion, nutrient depletion, and salinization affecting crop yields food and Agricultural Organizations (FAO, 2020).

Inadequate Infrastructure: Nigeria's agricultural sector is hindered by inadequate infrastructure, including poor roads, storage facilities, and irrigation systems (World Bank, 2020).

High Population Growth Rate: Nigeria's high population growth rate puts pressure on the country's food systems, making it challenging to produce enough food to meet the needs of the growing population (UNDP, 2020).

The Nexus between Internal Security and Food Security in Nigeria

According to Nwazor et al. (2019), the renovation of the concept of national security has produced a definitive shift in its contemporary criteria as it is presently conferred with added quality and dynamism. Nwaaor (2013) has pointed out that national security now transcends the traditional frontiers of state centrism and influences man and the environment within the milieu of sustainability. Thus, with this conceptualization, national security may be viewed as a multidimensional act whose leitmotif centres on safeguarding national values, which in turn encompasses all the actions taken by the state in furtherance of its diverse policies concerning its overall security, whether symbolic, physical or psychological.

The root causes of conflict in Nigeria are deeply ingrained in the country's history, politics, and economy (International Crisis Group, 2020). The Boko Haram insurgency, for instance, is fueled by poverty, inequality, and unemployment (UNDP, 2020). Addressing these underlying factors is crucial to reducing the appeal of extremist groups and promoting peace and stability. The nexus between internal security and food security in Nigeria is complex and multifaceted. To address the challenges posed by internal security to food security, it is essential to understand the root causes of conflict, the impact of displacement on food security, and the economic implications of internal security challenges. UNDP, (2020)

Insecurity in Nigeria has had a devastating impact on food security, exacerbating food availability, access, and affordability (FAO, 2020). The Boko Haram insurgency in the North East has resulted in the loss of agricultural land, livestock, and farming equipment, reducing food availability (USAID, 2020). Displacement due to insecurity has also severely impacted food security, with Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) relying on humanitarian assistance for food (UNHCR, 2020). The prevalence of acute malnutrition among children under five in IDP

camps is 23.1%, compared to 10.8% in non-IDP areas (UNICEF, 2020). Insecurity has disrupted trade and commerce, reducing food availability and increasing prices (World Bank, 2020). The conflict in the North East has resulted in a 50% increase in food prices, further reducing access to food for vulnerable populations (NESG, 2020). Climate change has also exacerbated food insecurity in Nigeria, reducing agricultural productivity and increasing the frequency of natural disasters (IPCC, 2019). The Nigerian government has implemented various initiatives to address food insecurity, including the National Food Security Program (NFSP) and the Agricultural Development Project (ADP) (Adeyeye, 2020). However, these initiatives have had limited success due to poor management, corruption, and lack of political will (Olayemi, 2020).

Displacement due to internal security challenges has severe implications for food security in Nigeria. Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) often rely on humanitarian assistance for food, which is frequently inadequate and unreliable (UNHCR, 2020). A study by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) found that 70% of IDPs in Nigeria's North East reported reduced access to food (IRC, 2020). The economic implications of internal security challenges on food security in Nigeria are significant. The conflict in the North East has disrupted trade and commerce, reducing food availability and increasing prices (World Bank, 2020). A study by the Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG) found that the conflict in the North East has resulted in a 50% increase in food prices (NESG, 2020). The nexus between internal security and food security in Nigeria is complex and multifaceted. Addressing the root causes of conflict, providing humanitarian assistance to IDPs, supporting agricultural development, and promoting climate resilience are crucial to promoting food security in Nigeria.

To address the nexus between insecurity and food security in Nigeria, it is essential to address the root causes of conflict, including poverty, inequality, and unemployment (UNDP, 2020). Supporting agricultural development in conflict-affected areas, and providing farmers with access to inputs, credit, and markets, is also crucial (FAO, 2020). Promoting climate resilience in agricultural production, and supporting farmers to adapt to changing climate conditions, is also essential (IPCC, 2019). Humanitarian assistance, including food aid, shelter, and healthcare, must also be provided to IDPs and other vulnerable populations, United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR, 2020). Ultimately, addressing the nexus between insecurity and food security in Nigeria requires a multi-faceted approach that addresses the root causes of conflict, supports agricultural development, promotes climate resilience, and provides humanitarian assistance.

Food Security Status in Nigeria

According to recent data, insecurity significantly impacts food security, with estimates showing that around 2.33 billion people globally experience moderate or severe food insecurity (Food and Agriculture Organization, 2022). A large portion of this number is directly linked to conflict and displacement, leading to disrupted agricultural production and limited access to food in affected regions (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2022). In Nigeria alone, projections indicate that over 33 million people could face acute food insecurity by 2025, primarily driven by ongoing violence in the northeast region (Famine Early Warning Systems Network, 2023).

In addition, recent data also reveals that insecurity in Nigeria is significantly impacting food security. Projections show that around 26.5 million people are expected to face acute hunger during the 2024 lean season (June-August), a sharp rise from the 18.6 million food insecure at the end of 2023 (Relief Web, 2024). This is largely driven by ongoing conflict and insecurity, particularly in the northeast region, coupled with rising inflation and climate change effects (Nigerian Economic Summit Group, 2023).

Nigeria is among the African countries with a high level of food insecurity. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, (FAO) of the United Nations, although the government has made some progress in reducing hunger and malnutrition, significant challenges remain. Key statistics on food security in Nigeria include:

Hunger: Nigeria's hunger prevalence rate is 12.9%, exceeding the African average of 12.3% (FAO, 2020).

Malnutrition: The country has a stunting prevalence rate of 43.6% among children under five, one of the highest in Africa (WHO, 2020).

Food Availability: Nigeria's food supply is limited, and it relies heavily on imports (World Bank, 2020).

Food Access: Many Nigerians, particularly in rural areas, lack access to food due to poverty and inequality (UNDP, 2020).

Effects of Insecurity on Food Security in Nigeria

Food security is a fundamental human right, essential for human well-being, economic growth and social stability (FAO, 2020). Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, faces significant food security challenges, exacerbated by insecurity (UNDP, 2020). This essay examines the effects of insecurity on food security in Nigeria, highlighting the complex relationships between conflict, displacement, and food availability. Insecurity in Nigeria, particularly in the North East, has led to widespread displacement, destruction of infrastructure, and disruption of food systems (International Crisis Group, 2020). The Boko Haram as well as bandits insurgency has resulted in the loss of agricultural land, livestock, and farming equipment, reducing food availability and exacerbating food insecurity (USAID, 2020). According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Nigeria's food availability has declined significantly since 2015, with a 30% reduction in cereal production (FAO, 2020). Specifically:

- Maize production declined from 10.3 million metric tons in 2015 to 7.2 million metric tons in 2020 (FAO, 2020).
- Rice production decreased from 6.4 million metric tons in 2015 to 4.8 million metric tons in 2020 (FAO, 2020).
- The country's agricultural sector has lost over \$9 billion due to the conflict (USAID, 2020).

Insecurity in Nigeria has also had significant economic impacts on food security. The conflict in the North East has disrupted trade and commerce, reducing food availability and increasing prices (World Bank, 2020). A study by the Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG) found that:

1. The conflict in the North East has resulted in a 50% increase in food prices (NESG, 2020).
2. The country's agricultural sector has lost over \$9 billion due to the conflict (USAID, 2020).

Solutions to Insecurity and Food Security in Nigeria

According to Friday et al. (2012), past and present governments have raised a series of policies to tackle the problem of sustainable development and food insecurity in Nigeria, some of which will be discussed in this section, Policy of Food Storage Facilities (National Strategic Food Reserves). In Nigeria, agricultural production is seasonal. Hence, it is important to note that there are no storage facilities for highly perishable commodities. Commodities for which storage facilities exist, the same age-old contraption that entails huge losses are in use, and the situation has gone worse that during the harvest period, the market is hectic with freshly harvested commodities, resulting in glut and farmers incurring heavy losses. This unfortunate situation has led most farmers to curtail the production of these affected commodities during the next production season and scarcity would ensure. Thus, the need to provide and enforce a secure or fall-back market for farmers is of paramount importance and is becoming pressing.

In another development, the growing problem of weakening food insecurity in Nigeria has to do with price variations where no concrete action was taken for years until recently to cushion the effects of production and price variation on consumption. Recent experiences in Nigeria indicate that internal and domestic prices tend to rise, and effective demand for food tends to decline as supply shortages and fluctuations persist. The sole aim of the food storage facilities policy is to hold the nation's food security stock, thereby reducing post-harvest losses and providing the first line of food relief in times of stress. However, in Nigeria, the reverse is the case; farmers or other citizens stock/save foods for their own selfish and greedy interests. Also, there is a marketing price stabilization objective whereby the Silos or Grain Reserves act as buyers of last resort to ensure that farmers have reasonable income by operating a guaranteed minimum price scheme. In this connection, the storage scheme absorbs excess food grains that the market could not absorb during the harvest period. The program will release food grains when necessary for price stabilization, with this, it is expected that adequate and affordable food will be supplied to the citizenry at all times for sustainable development.

Policy of Mechanization and Food Production: After decades of development planning, the agriculture of Nigeria can be described as low input with rudimentary implements (Okuneye 2008). In order to advance and move forward, some very important farm operations were mechanized through the agricultural mechanization scheme that brought about the provision and introduction of tractors and other farm machineries for hire by farmers for the purpose of reducing drudgery and increasing efficiency and farm size all geared toward sustainable development (Okuneye, 2008).

Policy on Food Importation The failure of domestic agricultural production to provide adequate food for the Nigerian populace has made the country have no other option than to spend a considerable proportion of the output from other sectors of the economy to feed the teeming population through food imports. In 2008, the Federal Government of Nigeria spent N80 billion to import rice from Thailand, which has been practised even in the past (Okuneye 2008). However, this cannot be sustainable development.

Food storage policy: It should be noted that the problem of food insecurity in Nigeria may not be solved through the maintenance of large silos of grain reserves across the country. According to Friday (2012), in recent years, the government has reportedly released thousands of metric tons of grains from the National Strategic Food Reserve to bring down food prices, yet food prices have remained largely unchanged. In other words, the effects of the grains released are yet to be felt. It is also important to note the inefficiency and corruption associated with government business and the difficult logistic problems of opening and maintaining the system of buying, transporting, storing and releasing grains, the program may soon turn into another drain pipe. If food storage that places emphasis on small-scale food storage operations by farmers at the farm level and traders/processors for sustainable development is implemented, it will definitely go a long way in curbing the menace of food insecurity in the country (Okuneye (2008).

Mechanization and Food Production Policy: The majority of Nigerian citizens are smallholders and as a result, there is yet no agricultural mechanization policy in Nigeria. This brings about the conception of Wainana (1990) that the Nigerian agricultural sector remains an industry of inherent toilage, indigence, a world of hard work for losers peopled by aged and ageing Nigerians, shunned and despised by Nigerian youths who regard the peasant farmers today as dreadful-anachronism. In addition, Odigboh (2000) indicated that this state of affairs has persisted apparently because of faulty mechanization policies; there is over-dependence on foreign or alien ideas and advice and almost exclusive reliance on imported machines and equipment. In order to succeed, there is a need to channel the mechanization of Nigerian agriculture to be based mainly on indigenous engineering initiatives; thus, the slogan: appropriate technology comes into play for sustainable development in Nigeria (Friday et al, 2012).

Food Importation Policy: In the case of food importation, capital that could have been conserved or accumulated for reinvestment in the Nigerian economy to produce more goods and services or develop more social infrastructure is fritted away on food importation. It is therefore important to alert policy-makers of the great harm inflicted on the national economy by the liberal import and spendthrift policies. Rice importation, for instance, dealt a heavy or killer blow to the farms and farmers in Okpoma, Ogoja, and Abakaliki and exposed our poor farmers to uncertainties bearing in mind the balance of trade issue.

Agricultural Research Policy: The significance and impact of research on agricultural development in Nigeria would appear to be little to Okoli et al (1994), in view of the fact that farmers' yields are generally still far below yields obtained under experimental conditions in the research stations. The lack of an enabling environment has failed to create the desirable

complementarity between the agricultural research and extension systems. Today, research findings are left to gather dust on the shelves in research laboratories instead of getting to farmers. In other words, inadequate funding, staffing, and poor coordination of research activities are the order of the day. On this note, Ojo (1991) asserted that government policies and agricultural development efforts should focus on smallholders in Nigeria. The policy of establishing research institutes without adequate funding does not augur well with the situation of food insecurity in Nigeria, and development cannot be sustainable.

Discussion

A scholarly discussion on the nexus between internal security and food security in Nigeria highlights a complex, interconnected relationship where widespread insecurity, particularly in rural farming areas, significantly undermines food production and access, leading to widespread food insecurity across the country; this is further compounded by factors like banditry, farmer-herder clashes, and insurgency, which disrupt agricultural activities, displace farmers, and limit access to farmland, ultimately affecting food availability and affordability for the population. Key points are the direct impact on agricultural production, which affects farming communities as they face constant threats from armed groups, they are less likely to cultivate crops, leading to reduced yields and food shortages. The other is the displacement and migration as a result of violent conflicts which force farmers to abandon their land and migrate to urban areas, further disrupting food production and creating food insecurity among displaced populations. Furthermore, limited access to markets in which insecurity in rural areas hinders the transportation of agricultural produce to markets, limiting access to food for consumers and impacting market prices and the psychological impact, as the constant fear of violence can demotivate farmers and hinder their ability to invest in agricultural development.

The ongoing conflict in the northeast region of Nigeria, particularly in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe states, has severely disrupted agricultural activities, leading to widespread food insecurity in the area. Also, banditry in states like Katsina, Sokoto, and Kaduna has significantly affected food production by targeting farmers and disrupting access to farmland. The violent conflicts between farmers and herders in central Nigeria have resulted in significant losses of crops and livestock, contributing to food insecurity. The solution can be strengthening rural security by investing in community policing initiatives and establishing a robust security presence in vulnerable farming areas. Facilitating dialogue and peacebuilding efforts between conflicting groups to address underlying causes of violence and implementing initiatives to support farmers in affected regions, including access to inputs, technology, and market linkages.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the topic of physical insecurity and food security in Nigeria is a complex issue that requires a comprehensive approach. The discussion has highlighted the various types of physical insecurity, including violence and crime, conflict and war, natural disasters, and environmental degradation, which have significant impacts on food security. The intersection of physical insecurity and food security is particularly critical in Nigeria, where the Boko Haram insurgency has led to widespread displacement, destruction of infrastructure, and

disruption of food systems. The resulting food insecurity has exacerbated poverty, malnutrition, and health problems, particularly among vulnerable populations such as women, children, and the elderly. To address these challenges, adopting a holistic approach that incorporates physical security, food security, and sustainable development is essential. This includes addressing the root causes of conflict, improving security governance, promoting dialogue and reconciliation, supporting agricultural development, and enhancing food availability, access, and utilization. Furthermore, it is crucial to recognize the importance of physical security in ensuring food security. Physical security measures, such as access control, surveillance, and alarm systems, can help protect food systems, infrastructure, and assets from damage, theft, or destruction.

Additionally, security personnel can play a critical role in maintaining law and order, preventing conflict, and ensuring the safe transportation of food. In Nigeria, the government, humanitarian actors, and the international community must work together to address the intersection of physical insecurity and food security. This requires investing in sustainable agriculture, improving infrastructure, promoting social cohesion, and supporting conflict-sensitive programming. Ultimately, enhancing physical security and food security in Nigeria requires a long-term commitment to sustainable development, peace-building, and human security.

Recommendations

It is therefore recommended that both government and citizens strictly adhere to the policies stated above and also work unanimously together to curb the long-term menace of food insecurity in the country. This will in a long way promote integrity, enhance the attainment of success and development, and most especially promote peace in the country.

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