

Effects of Terrorism on the Growth of Nigerian Economy

¹Amadi, Kingsley
Wobilor, ²Agya, Atabani
Adi & ³Okorontah,
Chikeziem F.

^{1&2}Department of Economics,
Federal University Wukari,
Taraba State, Nigeria

³Department of Economics, Rhema
University Nigeria, Aba, Abia
State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Over two decades, Nigerian economy is ravaged with dreadful occurrence of terrorist attacks orchestrated and unleashed by dreaded Boko Haram and some upcoming terrorist organizations which have consumed thousands of lives and properties worth trillions of naira. On this premise, this study is aimed at investigating the effect of terrorism on the growth of Nigerian economy. The study adopted econometrics analytical method centered on Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) and the technique rooted on the time series data from 1990-2022. The empirical results from ARDL revealed that terrorism has a negative effect on the growth of Nigeria economy. Meanwhile, foreign direct investment has significant negative impact. Revealing that increase in terrorism in Nigeria has reduced foreign direct investment. Also, the results showed a positive and significant impact on government spending on defense and human capital, suggesting that as terrorism increases, government defense spending and humanitarian support also increases. The study recommended that government should pay more attention on improving the welfare of its citizen by creating more jobs.

Corresponding Author:

Amadi, Kingsley Wobilor

Background to the Study

Terrorism is global enemies and cankerworm infestation that have frustrated the growth and development of world economics, mostly African economy. Its devastation is highly unquantifiable and immeasurable regarding to loss of properties and lives. Despite government and nongovernmental organizations efforts around the world to mitigate this menace, the surge has not been abated. Terrorism consists of any activity planned or coordinated by individuals or group to bring fear, intimidation and harm to non-combatants via the use of violence in other to execute predetermined goal (United Nation, 2015). It includes the use of unlawful force and violence by the said individual or group to accomplish religious, political and economic goals by applying intimidation and fear (Imuetinyan & Emily, 2019).

Over the years, the world is engulfed with terrorist act which has led to massive destruction of properties and loss of lives (United Nation, 2020). Terrorism is a global occurrence, but for the past decade, the terrorist activities have increased tremendously in the Sub-Sahara African nations than other part of the world (Global Terrorism Index, 2022). This could be attributed to five major factors: resistance to neo-colonization, ethnic separation/agitation movement, internal political factors, support for external factors and ideological belief (Adebayo, 2018). Across the world, several terrorist group or organizations has emerged, among the deadly one are Taliban, Al-Qaida, Al-Shabaab, Islamic state of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), Islamic State in West Africa (ISWA) and Boko Haram. These organizations have claim responsibility for the number of deaths and attacks in several countries of the world (Igbuzor, 2011). Statistics shows that in 2021, Taliban recorded 7417 deaths due to terrorist attack worldwide, whereas Al-shabaab, ISIS, ISWA and Boko-Haram recorded 2637, 1435, 1286 and 1393 death due to terrorist attack worldwide respectively (Global Terrorism Index, 2021). The Global Terrorism Index (GTI) in the year 2021 thoroughly ranks countries of the world based on the activity of the terrorist. Afghanistan ranked as the most affected country affected by terrorism on earth surface with a score of 9.11 points. Afghanistan was documented as the most terrorist attacks in 2020 with 1722 attacks recording about 8514 fatalities from terrorist attack (GTI, 2021). Among the top 50 countries ranked by the global terrorism index in 2021, Nigeria is ranked 6th highest impact of terrorism after Syria that ranked 5th (GTI, 2021).

Surprisingly, in 2022 the Sub-Sahara Africa surfaced as the global epicenter of terrorism, accounted for 48% of global deaths (GTI, 2022). The Islamic state (IS) overtook the Taliban as the world's deathly terror group in 2021 with 15 deaths per attack in Niger Republic (GTI, 2021). Interestingly, the activity of Boko Haram organization has significantly decreased as a result of the counter insurgency introduced by the Nigerian government. The organization recorded only 64 attacks in 2021 and less than 20 attacks in 2022, death dropped by approximately 92% from 2131 in 2015 to 178 in 2021 (GTI,2022). The decline of Boko Haram activities added significantly to Nigeria recorded as the second largest reduction in terrorism death with the number decreasing by 47% to 44% in 2021 (GTI, 2022).

The effect of terrorism on food security in Nigeria cannot be underestimated. The activities of the terror groups (Boko Haram, herdsmen militias, and armed bandit/kidnappers) have significantly affected the farming communities in Nigeria, incidentally, causing food insecurity and reducing the contribution of agriculture and other sectors to the gross domestic product (GDP). Terrorism has reduced the flow of domestic and foreign investments drastically mostly, the regions that was ravaged by terrorist attack (Saidatulakmal, 2022).

Chuku, Dominic & Ima-Abasi, (2019) assert that the “risk and uncertainty associated with rising level of insecurity causes foreign direct investment (FDI) to be redirected away from countries with higher security risk to countries with lower risk”. The diversion will transmit to unemployment, reduced investment return, low human capital development as well as reducing the country capacity to attract FDI and portfolio investment.

To address this ugly incidence, government has committed its limited resources that would have been used for infrastructural development to fight terror. More so, government initiated Anti-terrorism Act in 2011 in order to curb terrorism in Nigeria. In spite of these commitments, the country is still faced with various challenges of kidnapping, banditry, herdsmen attack etc. This study is planned to empirically look at the effect of terrorism on the growth of Nigerian economy. The work tests the hypothesis that: Terrorism does not affect the growth of Nigerian economy.

Literature Review

The study attached its theoretical framework from the conflict theory put forward by Karl Max in 1847. Max's anchored its theory on dynamic struggle in the sharing and allocation of scarce resources among two competitive social classes (proletariats and bourgeoisie). The proletariats are the poor working classes who are exploited by the bourgeoisies the owners of means of production, the scenario creates class difference in the society. The imbalance status between the oppressed or subjugated majority poor working class and the influential minority class create class conflict. The minority rich (bourgeoisie) class who are the acclaim owners of means of production oppress, subjugate and impoverish the majority poor class (proletariat). Marx maintained that the poor class who work and carry out the actual production process can hardly feed and perpetually living miserable and wretched. The bourgeoisie who only invest their capital were living in affluence whereas the proletariats who provide the labour are languishing in poverty and obscured life. Linking this theory to Nigeria situation as it endeavors to explain the struggle among the social classes, how state and non-state actors fight in the distribution and allocation of common wealth to their advantage. In Nigeria the so-called politicians and power brokers employed and use the state machineries to corner the common wealth, oppress, overpower and take the advantage on the poor and vulnerable citizens for their selfish gain. The vulnerable and oppressed are left with no other options than to cry, complain and protest which at the long run led to fighting.

Empirical Literature

Studies conducted by various scholars revealed that terrorism has adverse consequences on economic growth (Chuku et al, 2019; Wen & Haseeb, 2019; Cinar, 2017). For example, Chuku et al (2019) employed annual time series data within 1985 and 2018 to investigate the effect of terrorism on growth in Nigeria using the ARDL as well as Structural Vector Auto regression (SVAR) approach. The outcome revealed that terrorism adversely influenced growth.

Muhammed and Yunusa (2020) uncovered that the monster terrorism is associated to loss of human capital, decrease in employment, loss of farmer's income and government revenue. Similarly, Muhammad, Wen and Haseeb (2019) adopted the generalized method of moment (GMM) to examine the impact of terrorism on growth in Pakistan. The study exposed that terrorism had significant adverse effect on growth. In the same vein, Ndubuisi and Anigbuogu (2019) conducted a study in Nigeria to ascertain the impact of terrorism on sustainable development using exploratory research design. Their results revealed that terrorism retard growth. Also, Adofu and Alhassan (2018) "scrutinizes the repercussion of insecurity on economic development in Nigeria using the trend analysis, descriptive statistics and Pearson correlation of failed state index, human development index and Legatum's prosperity index, the study reveal an inverse relationship between insecurity and economic development in the country. The study recommends a range of measures of limiting insecurity including "preventive community policing, human development centered growth perspective, equitable distribution of resources as well as channeling of resources to frontline sectors of the economy among others".

In the same light, Nkwatoh and Hiikyaa (2018) studied the effect of insecurity on economic growth in Nigeria applying the vector autoregressive model using quarterly data from 2009Q1 to 2016Q4 and came out with findings that "economic growth and investment activities tend to increase during periods of insecurity. Also, the rate of unemployment reduced during periods of insecurity. This implies that insecurity only threatens economic activities with no negative effect on the entire economy as conjectured by various economic theories. Thus, to continuously sustain the Nigeria's economic growth rate, the government needs to protect domestic and foreign investments by stepping up its national security". Furthermore, Abdulkarim and Saidatulakmal (2022) argued that "In spite of government counter-terrorism expenditure and efforts, the prevalence of insecurity in Nigeria appears to be rising and fast evolving into an existential crisis that is shaking the foundation of its nationhood". Employing the annual time-series data from 1980 to 2019 and the ARDL techniques to analyze the work on fiscal effects of insecurity on Nigerian economy, findings indicates that high unemployment rate, domestic capital formation, foreign direct investment, government spending on education and security are negatively affected by insecurity and consequently retarded growth in the long and short run. On the contrary, improved health services, equitable income distribution and productive use of public borrowing were positively correlated with security and, therefore, stimulated growth in the long and short run. The study suggests that good governance, provision of a safe and secured

environment for human capital development and businesses, improved access to social and economic services will curb violent tendencies, create jobs, reduce poverty, increase government revenue and engender long-term inclusive growth". In the same token, Nwagboso (2012) and Edeme and Nkanu (2019), observed that insecurity had negative effect on growth.

To buttress the effect of terrorism on growth, Wen, Muhammad and Haseeb (2019) examine the effect of terrorism in Pakistan from 1972- 2014. Their finding revealed that terrorism had significant negative effect on Pakistan economy. Aminu, Hamza and Ali (2015) studied the impact of insecurity on economic development in Nigeria from 1986 to 2012. The study employed the OLS techniques to analysis the data. Their results clearly revealed that terrorism negatively influenced growth. Furthermore, Callistar (2015) investigated the effect of insecurity in Nigeria from 1990 to 2012. The outcome of the result had shown a negative effect of terrorism on economic development in Nigeria. Also, Cinar (2017) make use of panel data for 115 less developed countries (LDCs) from 2000 to 2015 employing the ARDL model. The findings showed that terrorism negatively affected economic growth of the countries. More so, Gassebner and Luechinger (2011) evaluated the effect of terrorism in previous scholarly studies on terrorism ranging over seventy works using the bound test to examine the effect. Findings displayed that economic activity had a negative association with terrorism. In support of the view above, Shabir, Naeem and Ihtsham (2015) looked at the impact of terrorism on economic development of Pakistan from 1981 to 2012 employing co-integration and error correction method on variables used in the model. Findings revealed an adverse effect of terrorism on Pakistan economic growth. In addition, Aynur and Paul (2012) discovered a negative relationship between military expenditure and economic growth.

Methodology

The work used the Autoregressive Distribution Lag (ARDL) model developed by Pesaran, Shin and Smith (2001) and Granger causality method to analysis the work. Augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF) unit root test was employed to test for stationarity of the data. Also, the bounds test and Granger causality test were utilized to determine the presence of long-run relationship and the direction of causality among the variables respectively.

Mode Specification

For simplicity the study settled in model used by Wen, et al (2019) and some modification was made to suit the current reality.

$$GDP = f(TER, FDI, GSD, HUK) \dots\dots\dots (1)$$

Econometrically, the model in equation (1) can be re-organized as follows:

$$GDP = \beta_0 + \beta_1 TER + \beta_2 FDI + \beta_3 GSD + \beta_4 HUK + \epsilon_t \dots\dots\dots (2)$$

In reference to equation (2) the long run ARDL model is specified as:

$$\Delta \ln \text{GPD}_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \Delta \ln \text{TER}_{t-1} + \beta_2 \Delta \ln \text{FDI}_{t-1} + \beta_3 \Delta \ln \text{GSD}_{t-1} + \beta_4 \Delta \ln \text{HUK}_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t \dots \dots \dots (3)$$

The short run dynamic model is presented as thus:

$$\Delta \ln \text{GPD}_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \Delta \ln \text{TER}_{t-1} + \beta_2 \Delta \ln \text{FDI}_{t-1} + \beta_3 \Delta \ln \text{GSD}_{t-1} + \beta_4 \Delta \ln \text{HUK}_{t-1} + \beta_5 \Delta \text{ECT}_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t \dots (4)$$

Where:

- GDP = Economic growth
- TER = Terrorism index
- FDI = Foreign direct investment
- GSD = Government spending on defense
- HUK = Human capital

While, ε = Error term. β_0 is the constant and $\beta_1 - \beta_4$ are estimated coefficients.

The Granger causality equation is specified as follows:

$$Y_t = \alpha_i + \sum \alpha_i A_{t-i} + \sum \beta_j B_{t-j} + U_{1t} \quad (4)$$

$$X_t = \beta_i + \sum \lambda_i A_{t-i} + \sum \delta_j B_{t-j} + U_{2t} \quad (5)$$

Where B and A represents terrorism index and economic growth respectively. It was assumed that the disturbances U_{1t} and U_{2t} are uncorrelated. The Granger causality test can produce three outcomes. The first is bidirectional which occur when we reject both null hypotheses, which shows that terrorism index and economic growth coefficients are statistically significant. Second is the unidirectional causality which occurs when we accept one of the null hypotheses and reject other, showing that either the causality runs from terrorism and economic growth. Thirdly occurs when we accept both null hypotheses, it means that there is independence. This revealed that the coefficient of the set of the independent and dependent are not statistically significant in both regressions (Gujarati & Sangeetha, 2008)

Data Sources, Measurement and A priori Expectation

The study exploited the annual time series data from 1990 to 2022 fiscal year. The data were sourced from the National Bureau of Statistics and Central Bank of Nigeria Statistical Bulletin. Terrorism index was proxy as indicator for terrorist activities. GDP growth rate was proxy as indicator for economic growth while human capital was represented as gross fixed capital formation. Terrorism is assumed to reduce GDP growth rate, foreign direct investment as well as human capital. However, the expected signs of the coefficient of the variables are negative. In the same vein, the sign between terrorism and government expenditure on defense is expected to be positive. Meaning, a rise in terrorism results to increase in government expenditure on defense.

Estimation Procedure

The study adopted the Auto-regressive distribution lag (ARDL) method to test the existence of co-integration among variables. This technique is recommended over co-integration approaches developed by Engle and Granger 1987 and Johenson 1988 which require a large sample time and all variables to be stationary at first difference that is I(1). The methodology has the advantage of relieving the task of determining the order of integration among variables because variables are presumed to be stationary at level and first difference. Therefore testing for unit roots to determine I(0) and I(1) are not necessary for ARDL technique (Ewetan & Urhie, 2014). But according to Rahman and Islam (2020) it is necessary to conduct unit root test to ensure that no I(2) variable(s) is /are included in the model because it is assume that I(2) variable(s) may cause the system to collapse.

Results and Discussion

Stationarity Test

The study employed Augmented Dickey- Fuller (ADF) unit root test to test for the stationarity of the data. The results are displayed below:

Table 1: Stationarity Results

Variables	At Levels		At 1 st Difference		Critical Order of value integration at 5 %	Decision
	ADF statistics	Critical ADF value at 5%	statistics	statistics		
GDP	-1.683	-2.865	-9.213	-2.765	1(1)	Stationary
TER	-3.643	-2.965	—	—	1(0)	Stationary
FDI	-1.443	-2.912	-5.754	-2.954	1(1)	Stationary
GSD	-1.563	-2.965	-4.402	-2.874	1(1)	Stationary
HUK	-2.743	-2.961	-5.874	-2.954	1(1)	Stationary

Source: Author's computation (2023)

The unit root result indicates that all the variables used in the study are stationary at first difference 1(1) except TER (Terrorism index) that is stationary at level 1(0). The mixed order of integration by the variables supported the use of Autoregressive Distributed lag (ARDL) model.

ARDL Bounds Test for Co-integration

To verify if there is a long run relationship among the variables, the study employed bounds test.

Table 2: Bounds Test Co-integration Results

Test Statistics	Value	Sign Level	I(0)	I(1)
F-statistics	3.39254	10%	2.07	3.0
K	5	5%	2.39	3.38
		2.5%	2.70	3.73
		1%	3.06	4.15

Source: Author's computation (2023)

Table 2 shows the results of the bound test for co-integration and the results revealed that the calculated F- statistic is 3.39254 which is greater than the 5 percent upper bounds critical value of 3.38. This discloses that there is a long run relationship among the variables under review.

Table 3: Estimated Long-run Co-efficient
Dependent Variable: GDP

Variables	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.*
TER	-0.083562	0.044851	-1.863102	0.0418
FDI	-0.023821	0.025672	-0.927898	0.0312
GSD	-0.643578	12.26583	-0.052469	0.0032
HUK	0.621472	0.654322	0.949795	0.0918
C	212.8763	51.10984	4.165074	0.0000

R-squared	0.811231	F-statistic	8.021876
Adjusted R-squared	0.772154	Prob(F-statistic)	0.000000
Durbin-Watson stat	1.91872		

Source: Author's computation (2023)

The estimated long-run results in table 3 above revealed that terrorism (TER) exhibit a negative and significant effect on Nigerian economic growth. The coefficients of foreign direct investment and government spending on defense were found to be negative and statistically significant at 5% level. While, human capital is positive and statistically insignificant at 5% level. This result implies that one percent increase in terror activities would decrease growth by approximately 0.08 percent. The finding is in agreement with the study by Aminu, Hamza and Ali (2015) and Edeme and Nkanu (2019). The negative effect of foreign direct investment (FDI) on GDP could be associated with frequent terrorist attacks which prompted few foreign investors to fly away and unattractive for potential investors to come into the country. The result is in conformity with work by Web, et al (2019), Cinar (2017). Also, the result indicates that one percent increase in government spending on defense would decrease growth by about 0.644 percent. This implies that the resources that would have been use to provide physical and social amenities are spent on fighting terror and bandit. Over the decades government defense spending has increase astronomically with obvious consequences on social service provision, crowding-out scare fiscal resources to other growth enhancing sectors of the economy. The study is in agreement with the work of Aynur and Paul (2012) and Chuku,

Dominic and Ima-Abasi (2019). who discover a negative association of government spending on defense and economic growth. The inverse relationship between government security spending and economic growth in Nigeria can be linked to variety of factors such as the lack of transparency in military transactions, control and audits of the military budget, corruption and waste.

The R² is 0.81, showing that about 81 percent changes in the dependent variable are responsible by changes in the independent variables. The F-statistic of about 8.021 indicates that variables in the model are jointly significant. Durbin-Watson stat. of 1.9 revealed the nonexistence of autocorrelation. After the long run estimation of the coefficients, the ARDL model uses the lagged values of the variables in equation 1 (a linear combination denoted by the error-correction term (ECT) to estimate the short run models dynamics associated with long run relationship.

Table 4: Short-Run Estimated Results
Dependent Variable: GDP

Variables	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.*
D(GDP(-1))	2.816870	1.962185	1.736824	0.0333
D(TER(-1))	-0.648842	0.132210	-4.907661	0.0200
D(FDI(-1))	-0.401011	0.291765	-1.374431	0.0012
D(GSD(-1))	-0.324221	9.165183	-0.035373	0.0002
D(HUK(-1))	0.220072	0.114751	1.917822	0.1034
C	116.5434	43.76981	2.662698	0.0021
ECM(-1)	-0.223241	0.821563	-1.488919	0.0012

R-squared 0.75212 F-statistic 24.7539183
Adjusted R-squared 0.73781 Prob(F-statistic) 0.000000
Durbin-Watson stat 1.81223

Source: Author's Computation (2023)

According to table 4, the model's error correction term is highly significant and appropriately signed. The ECT has a coefficient of 0.222, implying that around 22% of the deviations from the long run growth rate in output caused by previous years shocks converge back to long run equilibrium in the present year. It was also negative, significant, and less than one, signaling that the expected coefficients from the work can be utilized to make policy statement. The result supports the presence of a long run relationship between growth and terror. The result revealed that the lagged value of TER (terrorism) is negatively related with economic growth (GDP). Suggesting that one percent rise in terrorism, economic growth will decline approximately by 0.65 percent. The result is in agreement with the work of Chuku, et al (2021); Muhammad, Wen and Haseeb (2021). Similarly, government spending on defense (GSD) on growth was negative and significant. Meaning that, a percent rise in government spending on defense decrease growth by 0.324 percent. Furthermore, the result shows that FDI impact on growth was negative. The negative effect of foreign direct investment (FDI) on GDP

could be associated with frequent terrorist attacks and various insecurity issues in country which prompted few foreign investors to fly away and unattractive for potential investors to come into the country. The result is in conformity with work done by Web, et al (2019) and Cinar (2017).

Table 5:

Tests	F-statistics	Probability
Diagnostic Tests		
Serial Correlation	0.621356	0.43543
Heteroscedasticity	2.391422	0.37650
Normality Test	4.763271	0.17234
Ramsey Test	0.131613	0.64444

Source: Author's Computation (2023)

The diagnostic test results in table 5 above revealed that the model passes serial correlation, heteroscedasticity, Ramsey and normality test. The F-statistic and matching P-values appear greater than 5 percent indicating that the model is free from heteroscedascity, autocorrelation and misspecification bias.

Table 6: Granger causality Test

Tests	obs	F-statistic	Prob.
GDP does not Granger Cause TER	37	1.05236	0.0982
TER does not Granger Cause GDP		3.02503	0.0300
GSD does not Granger Cause TER	37	2.35421	0.0663
TER does not Granger Cause GSD		2.33322	0.2201
FDI does not Granger Cause TER	37	4.52134	0.0011
TER does not Granger Cause FDI		5.88672	0.0054
HUK does not Granger Cause TER	37	6.01112	0.0021
TER does not Granger Cause HUK		2.11012	0.0748

Source: Author's Computation (2023)

Recommendations

1. Government should provide good governance, improve access to social and economic services and create conducive environment for doing business.
2. Government should be transparent in the distribution of common wealth that will reduce protest and complain among citizens.
3. Foreign direct investment should be a priority by the current administration in other to enhance job creation.
4. Government should deploy artificial intelligence and highly sophisticated technology for information gathering to track the terrorist resources; this will reduce terrorism to a very large extent.

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