Consequences of Terrorism and Counter Terrorism in Nigeria: An Empirical Study of Danko Wasagu Local Government of Kebbi State

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A b s t r a c t

The study examines consequences of terrorism and counterterrorism: an empirical study of Danko Wasagu Local Government, this have notable consequences on various aspect of human societies, which include frustration of fundamental human rights which was the most significant to human being globally. specifically, the study, discussed, the direct effects on terrorism and counter terrorism in Danko Wasagu which resulted total destructions of lives, properties, fear, anger, economic demolition, educational setback, political callops and many more. The study, ultimately, employed, two methods, qualitative and quantitative approaches, 499 questionnaires were distributed to three districts in Danko Wasagu, eventually, only 490 questionnaires were received from the respondents due to some curtained logical reasons, qualitative approach was carried out through the application of IDI, conducted to some selected security agencies. The study, therefore, employed frustration and aggression model, which is relatively, psychological theory that argued that, people have certain vital need, and the standard of the society has designed those models for achieving both the goal and the mean. However, individual could not meet that labeled societal standard, due to poverty and other factors. However, the study argued extensively on its findings that revealed, that, poverty, unemployment, poor governmental policies and programmes have failed the nations and individuals from achieving it goals in turns it manufacture instability and total normlessness in the state. The study employed contemporary recommendations to notes the government and other formal bodies for future assessment and social control.

Background to the Study
Terrorism is a global social phenomenon that have for years triaged socio-economic and political consequences that resulted loss of lives and properties. The direct loss of lives, properties and injection of human injuries have become significance in the rise of terrorism and counter terrorism, which resulted to massive suffering of individual and societies at large. Terrorism and counter terrorism have historic consequences on various aspect of human societies, which include frustration of fundamental human rights which is the most significant un human history. However, due to the consequences of terrorism and counter terrorism the natural rights have been fundamentally denied, such as right to life, worship, movement, and right to own properties. Significantly, violation of human rights leads to subjective detention, torture, and extrajudicial killings executed both terrorism and the government.

Terrorism and counter terrorism have contributed fundamentally, in the physical destruction, terrorism often attacks, destructions of substantial areas, devastation of infrastructural development, homes, and ultimately, public spaces, causes weighty social and structural damages. Terrorism and counter terrorism have for many years causes significant consequences to economic development, foreign investment could no longer active due to several attacks from the tourism and the government, the overall economic growth has richly affected it has also paralyzed socio- economic and political activities in Africa and west Africans Nations, since majority of the population derived their income from farming. Trade, fishing, hunting and other potential social economic activities, the threat modeled by terrorism has affected rural population revenue livelihood, inter-marriages affairs, thereby making them lingering in the near local government in several places of the Naton. (Chukwueme & Agaba, 2024). Terrorism and its consequences are not only targeting foreigners alone; every Nigerian is now a target. In fact, the safety of persons in Nigeria and their property cannot be guarantee due to the daily incidents of terrorist's attacks.

Efiezomor (2023), the criminal act of terrorism has moved towards the direction of men of God such as Catholic, Priest Islamic Scholars and their families, traditional rulers, academic scholars, politicians, developmental partners, Corp Members, universities students, and businessmen, were terrorized and some were killed. The religion institution however, is a significance spiritual organization that seek to provide effective moral values and serve as unique institution that promote sense of unity among people, ultimately, religious personalities where been terrorized and some were killed, this has severe damage in the institution.

Consequently, terrorism has triggered immense massacre, Displacement, disability, devastated livelihoods, lead to high levels of gender-based violence (GBV) and differently squeezed populations in according to age, disability, gender and location, criminal activities of termism has claimed thousands of lives and destroyed properties worth billions of naira in the state. It argued by Adebayo, (2023) that there are several villages in the North West that have witnessed the impact of cattle rustling that claimed

3,500 heads of cattle, stolen at different times from 2014 to 2019, excluding other assaults like rape, payment ransom and injuries inflicted on the people by the terrorists (Williams, Onyedinefu & Olorunsogo, 2023). Despite frequent government strategies, measures, and involvements to combat this menace, the problem persists and uncontrolled. The study further claimed that, money that could be used to create job, provide operative hospital, construct schools, create favorable environment for the people, free education and many basic social amenities for people of Danko Wasagu Local Government, yet, all those funds were used for security issues and making it increasingly difficult for the state, to absolutely enhance the lives of its people, in the region. Beside this study background for the research pursue to explore terrorism and counter terrorism and its consequences in Danko Wasagu which is very significant for mounting objective strategies for handling issues of insecurity in the area.

Statement of the Problem
The Nigerian government has responded through a mixture of dynamic and non-kinetic approaches. Military operations such as Operation Hadarin Daji, Operation Sharan Daji, and Operation Accord have tossed in various stages to defuse terror lockups and restore stability. In cycle. The persistence of terrorism and banditry in Zamfara raises questions about the effectiveness of Nigeria's counter-terrorism architecture, the coordination among its security agencies, and the political will to address the structural drivers of violence. Weak intelligence networks, limited troop deployment, insufficient equipment, and corruption within the security sector have all undermined military operations (Amnesty International, 2021). Furthermore, the lack of accountability for security forces accused of human rights abuses has led to distrust between local communities and government forces, thereby weakening civilian cooperation in intelligence gathering (HRW, 2022). The conflict in Zamfara is not merely a security problem; it is deeply rooted in poverty, marginalization, ethnic tensions, and the failure of the state to provide basic services. Many youths in the region are unemployed and susceptible to recruitment by armed groups who promise protection and economic benefits. The illegal gold mining industry in Zamfara has also become a major source of funding for terrorists and bandits, enabling them to purchase sophisticated weapons and expand their operations (Chothia, 2019). As such, any attempt to defeat terrorism in the region must go beyond military force and include sustainable development, job creation, community engagement, and improved governance.

Additionally, the transnational dimension of the crisis—such as arms smuggling across borders with Niger, Chad, and Mali—calls for regional cooperation. Nigeria has begun to work more closely with neighboring countries and regional bodies such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to strengthen border security and disrupt terrorist supply lines. However, these efforts remain insufficient without a cohesive, long-term strategy backed by political commitment and community participation.

The United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) has warned that unless urgent steps are taken, the violence in the North-West could merge with ongoing

conflicts in the Sahel and North-East, creating a corridor of insecurity stretching from the Atlantic to the Horn of Africa (UNOWAS, 2022). This scenario underscores the importance of understanding the specific nature of terrorism in Zamfara and evaluating the responses so far, particularly the role of the Nigerian military in mitigating or escalating the crisis.

In light of this, this study seeks to critically examine the counter-terrorism and military operations in Zamfara State. It aims to assess the strategies employed, analyze their effectiveness, explore the challenges encountered, and provide recommendations for more sustainable approaches. Understanding the dynamics of the conflict in Zamfara is essential for formulating policies that can bring lasting peace not only to the state but to the broader region. In summary, the security crisis in Zamfara reflects a convergence of criminality, terrorism, poor governance, and socio-economic failure. The Nigerian state's military-centric approach, while necessary, must be complemented by civilian-led development, dialogue, and justice reforms to address the underlying causes of violence. This research, therefore, positions itself within the broader discourse on internal security and counter-terrorism in fragile states, with specific focus on the Nigerian context.

Statement of the Problem
Security situation in Danko Wasagu has grasped a calamity point, noticeable by constant terrorism, particularly, armed banditry, mass kidnappings, and destruction of lives and property. Contempt numerous military operations and counter-terrorism creativities by the Nigerian government, the level of ferocity has remained troublingly high. This has elevated serious questions about the efficiency of these efforts, the tactics approved, and the long-term sustainability security procedures implemented. Over the past decade, Danko Wasagu has become one of the most unbalanced regions in Kebbi State with hundreds of lives lost and thousands displaced annually. Armed groups operate with increasing complexity, often outgunning security forces and carrying out harmonized attacks on villages, highways, schools, and markets. Many communities live in constant fear, unable to farm, trade, or send children to school. In spite of repeated military offensives such as Operations Hadarin Daji and Sharan Daji and Yansakai the terrorists' activities continues, often resurging shortly after troops withdraw from cleared areas (International Crisis Group, 2024).

One of the fundamental Problems is inability for security intelligence gathering, poor synchronization among security agencies, lack of trust between civilians and the military, and allegations of human rights abuses have hampered operations and, in some cases, worsened the security crisis (Human Rights Watch, 2023). In addition, the state government's attempts at dialogue and amnesty programs have yielded little sustainable peace, as many armed actors return.

The broad objective is to determine the socio-economic and political consequences of terrorism and counter terrorism in Nigeria with specific study from Danko Wasagu, Kebbi state.

Literature Review/Theoretical Framework
Conceptual Review Terrorism

Terrorism is one of the most multifaceted debated concepts in modern security scholarships, in several academic areas, particularly, in security and intelligent and defence studies, several years, the term has advanced, influenced by worldwide social phenomenon, terrorism encompasses the unlawful use of violence and intimidation, particularly against civilians, in the pursuit of political, religious, or ideological objectives (Schmid, 2024). It is distinct from other forms of violence due to its strategic intent to create fear, attract attention to a cause, and provoke overreactions from the state. From the above conceptualization, it was argued that, terrorism has created fear among civilian people, the literature reviewed noted that, the modern security challenges, (terrorism) has gone beyond the threat for civilian it encompasses the military, who are currently in the battles with the terrorist's organization,

Terrorism "criminal acts directed against a state and intended or calculated to create a state of terror in the minds of particular persons or a group of persons or the general public." While this definition standard the psychological effect of terrorism, it was incomplete in scope. In more recent years, the United Nations General Assembly (1994) defined terrorism as "criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public, a group of persons or particular persons for political purposes." This definition emphasizes intentionality, violence, and political motivation. However, there remains no universally accepted definition of terrorism due to its political sensitivity and contextual variation. From the above conceptualization regarding terrorism and how it affects individual and social organizations at large, it also demonstrated the ability to frustrate the existing social cohesion and solidarity.

Nigeria, terrorism has displayed in varied forms. The North-East region has skilled prolonged insurgency from Boko Haram and the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), whose objectives are to establish an Islamic caliphate and overthrow secular governance. Meanwhile, in the North-West, particularly in Zamfara State, terrorism is closely linked with armed banditry, cattle rustling, rural militancy, and organized crime (Olabamiji, 2021). While some scholars debate whether these activities fit neatly into the category of terrorism, their tactics—mass killings, kidnappings, arson, and territorial control reflect key characteristics of terrorist organizations.

Terrorism is a multifaceted and evolving phenomenon characterized by the strategic use of violence to achieve political, ideological, or religious goals. It differs from other forms of violence by its intent to instill fear and its indirect targeting of broad audiences. In Nigeria—and particularly in Zamfara State terrorism is increasingly intertwined with local criminality, state weakness, and socio-political grievances. Understanding the conceptual foundation of terrorism is essential for designing effective counter-terrorism strategies that go beyond military force to address root causes, protect civilians, and restore stability.

Counter-Terrorism

Counter-terrorism refers to the policies, strategies, tactics, and measures undertaken by governments, international organizations, and security agencies to prevent, mitigate, and respond to terrorism. It encompasses both proactive and reactive efforts aimed at reducing the occurrence of terrorist acts, neutralizing threats, and addressing the root causes that enable terrorist groups to thrive (Cronin, 2009). As terrorism has become increasingly transnational and decentralized, counter-terrorism strategies have also evolved to reflect multidimensional, inter-agency, and cross-border cooperation.

At its core, counter-terrorism is a component of national security and law enforcement policy. It includes the use of kinetic (military and police force) and non-kinetic (social, economic, diplomatic, and ideological) tools. Kinetic approaches typically involve intelligence gathering, targeted military operations, arrests, surveillance, and the disruption of terrorist networks through force. Non-kinetic approaches, on the other hand, involve de-radicalization, community engagement, political dialogue, education, socio-economic development, and addressing grievances that foster extremism (Forest, 2007). Globally, counter-terrorism has gained increased attention since the 9/11 attacks in the United States, leading to the establishment of new international legal frameworks, the proliferation of security alliances, and increased surveillance mechanisms. The United Nations, for instance, adopted the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy **in** 2006, which emphasizes four pillars: addressing conditions conducive to terrorism; preventing and combating terrorism; building states' capacity; and ensuring human rights in the fight against terrorism (UN General Assembly, 2006). These principles guide the counter-terrorism policies of member states, including Nigeria. In the Nigerian context, counter-terrorism has evolved significantly in response to growing insecurity, particularly from groups like Boko Haram in the North-East and armed bandits and terrorists in the North-West, including Zamfara State. The Nigerian government enacted the Military operations.

Military Operations

Military operations are organized efforts carried out by the armed forces of a state to achieve strategic or tactical objectives, particularly in situations involving threats to national security, sovereignty, or territorial integrity. These operations may range from conventional warfare and peacekeeping to counter-insurgency, anti-banditry, and counter-terrorism campaigns. In the context of internal security threats, such as those faced by Nigeria in Zamfara State and other regions, military operations often serve as instruments of state coercion intended to restore law and order, suppress armed groups, and reassert governmental control over contested territories (Smith, 2006).

In contemporary security discourse, military operations can be classified into kinetic and non-kinetic efforts. Kinetic operations involve the direct application of physical force to neutralize or eliminate threats, including the deployment of troops, air strikes, raids, and targeted assassinations. These are often supported by surveillance, intelligence gathering, and rapid response mechanisms. Non-kinetic operations, on the other hand,

may include psychological operations (PSYOPS), civil-military cooperation, intelligence-sharing, logistics support, and humanitarian interventions. The success of military campaigns increasingly depends on the integration of both approaches to address the complex dynamics of asymmetric warfare and civilian-militant interaction (Joint Chiefs of Staff, 2020).

In Nigeria, military operations have become a central feature of internal security management, especially in the face of insurgency, terrorism, and banditry. The Nigerian Armed Forces—comprising the Nigerian Army, Nigerian Navy, and Nigerian Air Force—have been deployed extensively across various geopolitical zones under different operation code names. In Zamfara State and other North-Western regions, operations such as Operation Hadarin Daji, Operation Accord, and Operation Sharan Daji have been launched in response to the rise in armed banditry, kidnappings, cattle rustling, and mass killings (Ugwueze & Onuoha, 2020). These operations involve coordinated efforts between the military and other security agencies like the Nigeria Police Force, Civil Defence Corps, and the Department of State Services (DSS).

Operation Hadarin Daji, established in 2019, is one of the most prominent military initiatives targeting bandit groups operating in Zamfara and neighboring states. The operation was designed to curtail banditry, dismantle criminal hideouts in forests, and protect rural communities. The strategy includes ground troop deployment, air raids by the Nigerian Air Force, and intelligence-driven ambushes. Despite achieving intermittent tactical successes—such as the rescue of hostages and the elimination of high-profile bandit leaders—these operations have struggled to deliver sustained peace in affected areas (Abdullahi, 2021).

The challenges faced by military operations in Zamfara are multifaceted. First, the terrain of the region, particularly the expansive forests and rugged topography, poses significant logistical difficulties for troop mobility and surveillance. Bandit groups exploit these natural features to evade capture, establish hidden camps, and launch surprise attacks on vulnerable communities. Second, inadequate intelligence gathering and coordination between security agencies undermine operational efficiency. In many instances, attacks occur despite the presence of military personnel, highlighting intelligence failures or poor situational awareness (Aghedo & Osumah, 2023).

Theoretical Framework
A theoretical framework is an energetic module of any academic research, as it provides the electron lens through which the study is analyzed and understood. For this study on counter-terrorism and military operations in Danko Wasagu Local Government Area, one balancing theory is implemented: *The Frustration-Aggression Theory.*

The Frustration-Aggression Theory is a psychological based model that seeks to explain and understand the underlying causes of aggressive behavior, particularly in individuals or groups who perceive that they have been denied access to desired goals or resources.

This theory was originally verbalized by Dollard, Doob, Miller, Mowrer, and Sears in 1939 and later prolonged by other scholars such as Berkowitz (1989), who advanced the theory to include cognitive and situational variables that mediate between frustration and aggression. The central premise of the theory is that when people are frustrated meaning they are blocked from achieving an expected or deserved outcome—they are more likely to exhibit aggressive behavior as a coping mechanism or as a way to express their grievances.

In the context of security and terrorism studies, the Frustration-Aggression Theory has been used to explain the behavior of marginalized individuals and groups who resort to violence as a reaction to socio-economic and political frustrations. These frustrations may stem from poverty, unemployment, political exclusion, social injustice, and perceived inequality. The theory is very relevant in the study of terrorism and counter terrorism, ultimately, the study area Danko Wasagu were there is severe socio-economic and political imbalanced between the rice and the poor, and the social inequality between Fulani and farmer. the model has fundamentally explained the consequences of terrorism and counterterrorism in the region with practical example of degree of poverty and unemployment. Despite the significant contributions of the model, yet the theory has severely criticized by number of social thinkers, they argued that, the model or theory has putted more emphases on individual rather than society.

Methodology
Research Design
This study will adopt survey research design. Research design is the structured framework or blueprint that guides the entire research process, outlining how data will be collected, measured, and analyzed to address a specific research problem or question. It provides a systematic plan that ensures the study is methodologically sound, logically consistent, and capable of producing valid and reliable results (Sacred Heart University, 2025).

Study Area
The study area focuses on Kebbi State, Nigeria. Kebbi State, "Land of Equity", is located within the North-West geo-political zone of Nigeria. It was created out of the former Sokoto State on 27th August 1991 by the military administration of General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida with Birnin Kebbi as its capital. The State has 21 Local Government Areas (LGAs) across its four Emirate Councils. Kebbi State has an estimated 923,770 km sq landmass of which 40 per cent is arable and about 10 percent of it is under-cultivated (Kebbi State Government, 2025). Kebbi State is mostly an agrarian State with high soil fertility, vast farmlands and economically viable rivers that are sheltered by fine tropical climate. Over 80 per cent of the State population engage in farming, fishing and livestock activities. The State boasts of over 3 million practicing farmers, representing about 70 per cent of the population (Mukhtarsidi, 2020). An estimated 72 per cent of the total rice produced in the country comes from the seven States of the North West of Nigeria of which Kebbi State remains the highest producer with its wet season production standing

at 2.05 million MT and dry season production standing at 1.51 million mt (Kebbi State Government, 2023).

Danko-Wasagu, LGAs in Kebbi State is primarily agrarian, with agriculture serving as the backbone of their economies. Danko-Wasagu is notable for cultivating crops such as millet, sorghum, maize, and yams, alongside livestock rearing and artisanal mining of gold and limestone. (Kebbi State Government, 2025). The economy of these LGAs have attracted criminal elements, especially bandits to disrupt their agricultural activities. Thus, the focus of this study on Danko-Wasagu, Fakai, and Zuru LGAs of Kebbi State to examine how banditry has contributed to food insecurity. The geographical location of these LGAs is depicted on the Kebbi State map (Figure 1) provided below:

Figure 1: Map Showing indicating Study Area/Population of the Study

The target population for this study is diverse and comprehensive, encompassing 655,792 individuals derived from total population of the selected villages, including those in the various communities directly impacted by terrorists. This includes households that have experienced the consequences of terrorism, agricultural agents who work closely with farmers, and farmers' unions that represent the collective interests of agricultural workers. The study also seeks to engage with community leaders and elders, whose influence and knowledge of local dynamics are crucial in understanding how communities respond to the threats of terrorism.

Table: 1: Study Population

S/NO	LGA	Population
1.	Kanya District	230,23
2.	Wasagu	169,12
3.	Bena	269,23
Total Population		655,792

Source: Kebbi State Strategic Development Plan 2020-2025

Sample Size and Sampling Technique

Calculating an exact sample size requires information about the population size, the desired precision, and the confidence level. However, considering the scope of this study and the available resources, this study seeks to choose three districts as representative of Danko Wasagu. These are Bena, Wasagu and Kanya Districts. These are chosen due to the ravaging activities of terrorism such and banditry, kidnapping for ransom, cattle rustling in the Districts Therefore, a sample size of 499 will be used. This was arrived at by applying the Cochran (1997) formula (see calculation below) to the total population of the three selected LGAs as captured in the Kebbi State Strategic Development Plan 2020-2025 as follows:

Table 2: Classes of Participants for Discussions and Engagement

S/No	Name	Components of respondents	Specialization
1.		LG Chairman	Political office holder
2.		Security Agents	Restore peace/order
5.		LGA Officials	Public servants
6.		Nigeria Police Force	Restore peace/order
7.		Department of State Services	Restore peace/order
8.		Nigerian Army	Restore peace/order
9.		Civil Defence Corps	Restore peace/order
10.		Vigilante groups	Restore peace/order

Source: Researcher's Draft, 2025.

Table 3: Presentation of Data Analysis/ Response Rate

Questionnaire Distributed (499)	Number	Percentage (%)
Returned	490	98.20
Unreturned	9	1.80
Total	499	100

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

Figure 2.

Figure 3.

Age Distribution of Respondents

Figure 4.

Primary Occupation of Respondents

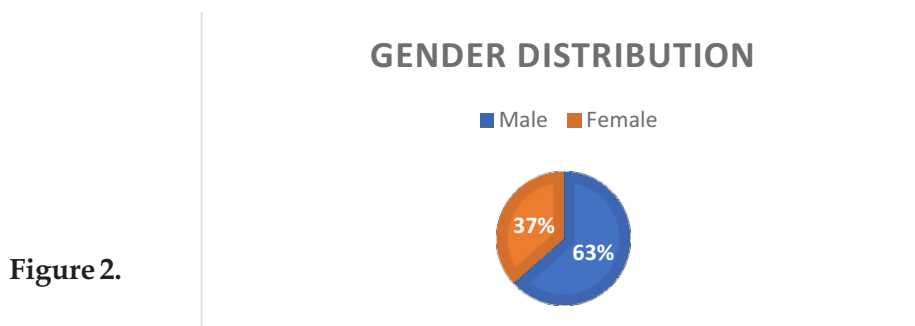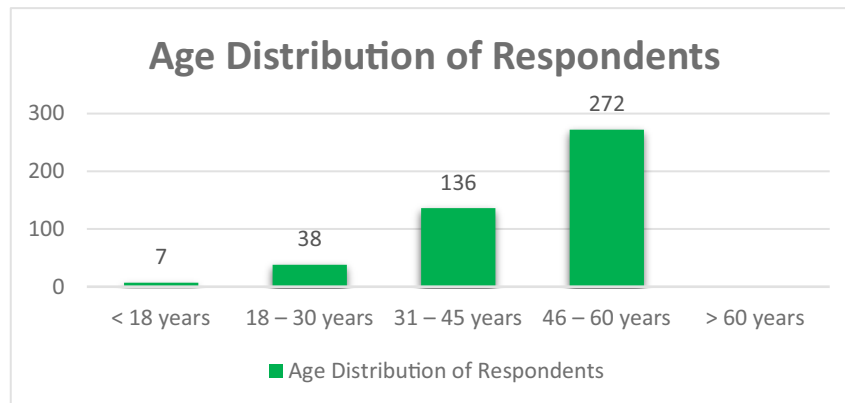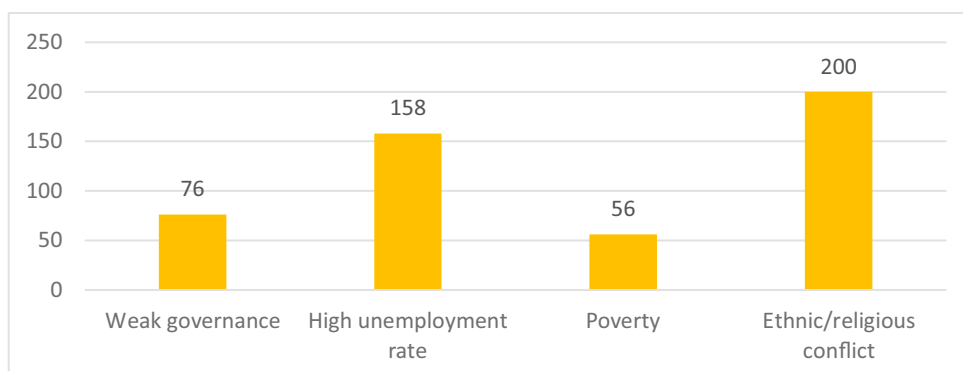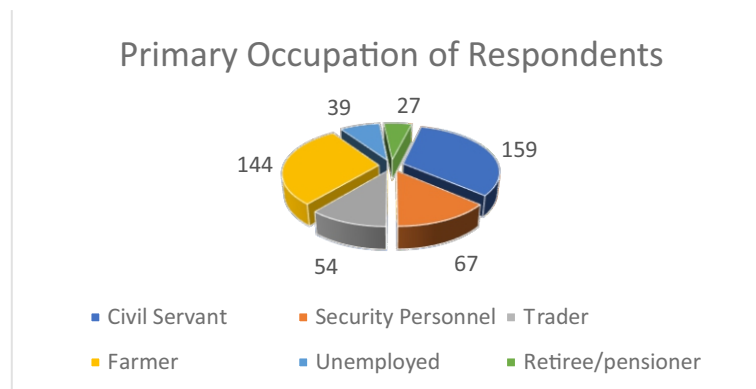**Figure 5.**

Primary causes of terrorism in the area, from the data gathered argued that, it begins from religious and ethnic classes between Fuani and Farmers, while, it also manufacture, from rate of unemployment, increasingly, it also contributed to the weak governance and finally, poverty.

Table 4: Consequences Between terrorism and Counterterrorism in Danko Wasagu

	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Agree	198	40.41
Disagree	66	13.47
Strongly Agree	193	39.39
Strongly Disagree	33	6.73
Toal	490	100

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

The survey 2025, argued that, there is strong consequences between terrorism and counterterrorism in the region, this study ultimately, discussed the fundamental correlation and how terrorism and counterterrorism have significant impact on socio-economic and political development in the region.

Table 5: Challenges of Terrorism and Counterterrorism in the Region

|	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Weak law enforcement	62	12.65
Porous borders	41	8.37
Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons	66	13.47
Poor security infrastructure	59	12.04
Lack of community cooperation	38	7.76
Inadequate resources for security operations	51	10.41
Poor cooperation between Federal and Kebbi State governments	47	9.59
All of the above	126	25.71
Total	490	100

Source: Survey, 2025.
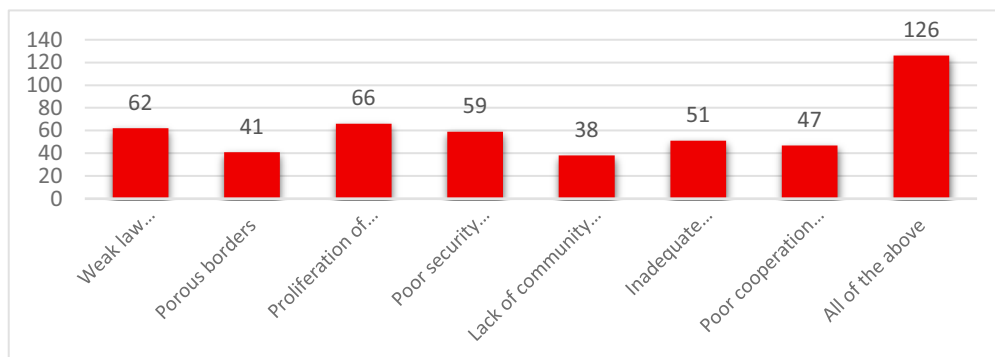
Figure 6.

Assumption 1: terrorism in Danko Wasagu is primarily caused by socio-economic factors such as poverty, unemployment, and weak law enforcement mechanisms.

Table 6: Observed Frequencies

Causes of Terrorism	Frequency
Ethnic/religious conflict	200
High unemployment rate	158
Weak governance	76
Poverty	56
Total	**490**

490 ÷ 4 = 122.5 per category
Chi-square Summary $\chi^2 = 113.07$ p-value $= 2.40 \times 10^{-24}$

Subsequently the p-value is less than 0.05, the chi-square test designates a statistically significant difference between the observed and expected frequencies, meaning that the causes of terrorism are not equally perceived among respondents. Specifically, unemployment and ethnic/religious conflict recorded the highest frequencies, suggesting that these are viewed as the most influential factors driving terrorism in Danko Wasagu. This strong skew in response patterns validates the assumption that socio-economic issues are key contributors to the crisis. Therefore, the assumption is accepted, and the findings underscore the need for targeted interventions addressing poverty, joblessness, and social tensions to mitigate rural insecurity.

Assumption 2: terrorism has a direct relationship with food insecurity in Danko Wasagu

Table 7: Observed Frequencies

Response	Frequency
Strongly Agree	193
Agree	198
Disagree	66
Strongly Disagree	33
Total	**490**

490 ÷ 4 = 122.5 per category
Chi-square Summary $\chi^2 = 178.56$ p-value $= 1.81 \times 10^{-38}$

Very small p-value, the data strongly indicates that the observed distribution is not due to random chance. The responses are deeply twisted toward agreement, showing that a popular of respondents evidently diagnose a linking between terrorism and food insecurity. This strong harmony chains the possibility that terrorism suggestively donates to food insecurity in the area.

Assumption 3: Federal and State Government strategies on management the consequences of counterterrorism.

Table 8: Observed Frequencies

Perception of Govt Strategies	Frequency
Effective	122
Ineffective	181
Very Effective	96
Effective and efficient	91
Total	**490**

$490 \div 4 = 122.5$ per category
Chi-square Summary $\chi^2 = 41.77$ p-value $= 4.49 \times 10^{-9}$

The observed incidences show a momentous eccentricity from a unvarying distribution, representing that respondents did not choose categories equally. The fact that the "ineffective" category received the highest number of responses highlights a prevailing negative public perception of government efforts. This decoration supports the assumption that Federal and State Government strategies to address the issue are inadequate. Key reasons for this insufficiency include poor implementation, lack of coordination among agencies, and inadequate funding. Consequently, the data confirms that current government responses are viewed as insufficient and ineffective by the majority of the population.

Assumption 4: Challenges of ending terrorism include corruption, lack of community involvement, climate change, inadequate security infrastructure, and socio-cultural barriers.

Table 9: Observed Frequencies

Challenges Identified	Frequency
Weak law enforcement	62
Porous borders	41
Small arms proliferation	66
Poor security infrastructure	59
Lack of community cooperation	38
Inadequate resources	51
Poor federal-state cooperation	47
All of the above	126
Total	**490**

$490 \div 8 = 61.25$ per category
Chi-square Summary $\chi^2 = 89.46$ p-value $= 1.60 \times 10^{-16}$

Significantly slant toward the "All of the above" option indicates that respondents broadly distinguish multiple, consistent factors as major challenges rather than a single

cause. This strong preference suggests that the issues are complex and multifaceted, with several contributing elements working together to create the problem. The overwhelming agreement with this option supports the assumption that no one factor alone explains the situation, but rather a combination of challenges must be addressed. Therefore, the data validates and accepts the assumption, emphasizing the need for comprehensive and integrated approaches to effectively tackle these challenges.

Discussion of Findings

The study traditionally examines the consequences of terrorism and counterterrorism in Danko Wasagu Local Government Area in Kebbi State, and findings discovered that the spectacle is deeply rooted in ethnic and religious conflicts, high unemployment, poverty, youth marginalization, and environmental degradation. Quantitative responses showed that 40.82% of respondents identified ethnic and religious tensions as the major drivers, while 32.24% pointed to unemployment. These insights align with the broader literature, including Gustafsson and Ubilava (2022), who noted that conflict in agrarian settings, such as northern Nigeria, tends to escalate during high-stakes agricultural periods, particularly post-harvest. Qualitative data, particularly from focus group discussions, further revealed that weak traditional authority structures, poor access to education (both Western and Islamic), and the absence of youth empowerment programs have significantly contributed to the emergence and persistence of rural banditry. Participants also expressed concern over the role of vigilante groups like Yan Sakai, which, although initially formed to provide community defense, have sometimes escalated violence through extrajudicial actions. This finding resonates with Okoli (2024), who warns that such informal security arrangements, while filling a vacuum, often erode trust in formal institutions and perpetuate cycles of violence.

Finally, the study identified several challenges in ending banditry and improving food security in the region. These include entrenched ethnic and religious tensions, widespread poverty, high youth unemployment, weakening traditional leadership, environmental degradation, and a general lack of institutional capacity to coordinate and sustain long-term responses. The persistence of informal security arrangements, limited development funding, and inadequate gender-responsive strategies further complicate efforts to restore stability. Despite some positive efforts, the research underscores that short-term interventions alone cannot address the systemic roots of banditry. A more holistic and integrated approach is needed one that combines security sector reform with inclusive economic development, climate adaptation, and community-led governance. Only through such a comprehensive framework can the underlying causes of conflict be addressed and sustainable food security restored in Kebbi State.

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