

EFFECTS OF TRANS-BORDER CRIMES ON NIGERIA'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.57233/gujos.v4i3.15>

Donald Tarfa Ende

Department of Sociology
Benue State University Makurdi
pascaloyoyo@gmail.com

&

Agba Paschal Paul

Department of Sociology,
Benue State University Makurdi

Abstract

Trans-border crime is a scourge whose harm is equivalent to that of Covid-19 and other related pandemics that require a national emergency response. Trans-border crimes fuel insecurity, endanger the social and mental health of the people, stunt businesses and hinder economic growth, create political instability as well as enhance the production and distribution of counterfeit goods. This paper examined the patterns and causes of trans-border crimes in Nigeria and their implications on the country's socio-economic development. Data for the study, which were collected through such secondary sources as journal articles, textbooks, research reports, conference proceedings and the internet, were analyzed qualitatively. The routine activity theory was adopted for the study. The findings of the study revealed that smuggling of illegal goods, trafficking in persons, trafficking of illicit small arms and light weapons (SLAW) and smuggling of contrabands by business men and women, rebels, combatants and criminal gangs constituted the patterns through which trans-border crimes flourish. Border porosity, poverty, corruption, price inflation, unemployment, uneven opportunities and Nigeria's geographical location, were the predisposing causes of trans-border crimes. The study recommends punitive sanctions including long term imprisonment for corrupt border patrol personnel and smugglers while the government should provide employment opportunities for the teeming population of unemployed Nigerian youths who may be lured into engaging in trans-border crimes. Technology-enabled devices such as drones, CCTV Cameras and scanners should be deployed to effectively man the country's porous land borders to stem the tide of trans-border criminality.

Keywords: Border porosity; Political instability; Trafficking in persons; Trans-border Crimes; Socio-economic development.

Introduction

The phenomenon of trans-border crimes has occupied centre stage in the discourse of security across human societies. Trans-border crimes are crimes that have actual or potential effects across national borders and can also offend the fundamental values of the international community. The term is commonly used in the law enforcement to mean crimes carried out by criminal organizations (Erring, 2019). The word, trans-border crime describes crimes that are not only international but also cut across intra-country borders. Trans-border crimes also include crimes that take place in one country, but their consequences significantly affect other countries. Trans-border crimes include human trafficking, people smuggling, smuggling/trafficking in goods such as arms trafficking, drug trafficking, and illegal animal and plant products and other goods prohibited on environmental grounds, sex slavery, terrorism, torture and apartheid (Addo, 2019).

A global study conducted by Statista Research Department (2023), on the high rate of trans-border crimes revealed that in Russia, animal offences related to illegal arms trafficking amounted to 12.3% in 2021, while in the first quarter of 2023, the figure rose to 14.2%. Terrorist acts in Russia in 2021 stood at 12.1%, while in 2023, the figure increased to 41%. In the USA, the study revealed that 29.3% of drug trafficking offenses were recorded in 2022, while in 2023, the figure increased to 54.2%. In China, trans-border fire arms crimes stood at 28.7% in 2021 but rose to 51.3% in 2023.

In Africa, instability and armed conflicts are increasingly known for transnational criminal networks. Free movement across borders creates security threats in the sub-region as smugglers, terrorists, traffickers, and armed robbers transverse the sub-regional borders without major challenge (Usman, 2021). Nigeria is a diverse and vast country covering 923,768 square kilometers with more than 35,450 kilometers of land and maritime borders and shares land borders with four countries namely, Benin Republic in the West, Chad and Niger in the North, and Cameroon in the East. It shares international water Lake Chad in the North with Niger, Chad and Cameroon and a maritime border coastline in the Gulf of Guinea or Atlantic Ocean. Along the western border, Nigeria has 770 kilometers of shared land border with the Republic of Benin, in the North, around 1,500 kilometers with Niger and 90 kilometers with Chad and in the West, 1,700 kilometers with Cameroon, along the Southern coastline.

It also shares 853 kilometers of maritime border with the Atlantic Ocean known as the Gulf of Guinea. (Okeke & Okechukwu. 2021). Nigeria which is the giant of Africa and West Africa's regional super power, continues to face serious national security challenges due to cross border or trans-border crimes such as trafficking in arms, persons, drugs, armed banditry, gun

running, vehicle theft, smuggling, fouling and dumping, illegal or silent migration, i.e. unnoticed or undocumented movements across borders (Faggae; Danguguwa & Muhammad 2021).

Nigeria continues to face serious security challenges due to cross border or trans-border criminal activities. The widespread proliferation of small arms due to the increase in trans-border criminal activities has contributed to the alarming rate of armed crimes in Nigeria (Nte, 2011). Thousands of people both civilians and combatants are killed or injured every year in Nigeria due to the availability of smuggled weapons into Nigeria. The threat and use of small arms have undermined development, prevented the delivery of humanitarian and economic aid and contributed to the increase in refugee and internally displaced persons (IDP) (Stobl and Tuttle, 2009).

Between 1999 and 2003, there were over 30 communal clashes, sectarian violence and ethno-religious conflict with each claiming hundreds of lives and property and also causing internal displacement of women and children. This was possible because armed weapons were smuggled into Nigeria and get into the hands of non-state actors who in turn, use them illegally. Ethno-religious clashes and armed robbery in Nigeria are on the increase due to free flow of weapons through the borders with little or no control, resulting in the death of more than 10,000 Nigerians, an average of 1000 per year since 1999. The majority of casualties about 66% in the Kano riot of 2004 were SALW victims, many of whom sustained permanent disabilities. Injuries due to SALW have increased as much as ten-folds in urban Nigeria because most homicides are committed using SALW (John, Mohammed, Pinto, & Nkanta, 2007).

The porous nature of these borderlines and fear of its consequences have for the past few decades made the Nigerian government to show commitment in bringing to an end the issue of porous borders and illegal activities committed through the national borders by closing the illegal borders and strengthening the security agencies charged with border control. This study was prompted by the continuous increase in smuggling of weapons across Nigerian borders and its consequences on the socio economic development of the country.

Conceptual Clarification

This section of the paper clarifies the concepts of border, trans-border or cross-border crime, patterns and implications.

Border

The concept of border has been described in different perspectives by different scholars. According to Momoh, (1989), a border can be a margin around the edge of something, such as a lawn, garden, photography and sheet of paper even a country. According to the Concise English

Dictionary (2014), border is defined as a line or narrow area that divides two countries or areas; the lands near this line. In a broad sense, borders define geographic boundaries of political entities or legal jurisdictions, such as governments, sovereign states, federated states and other sub-natural entities (Edward, 2012).

Trans-border

According to the Marriam-Webster dictionary (2023) trans-border is the process of crossing or extending across a border.

Trans-border Crimes

Erring (2019), noted that the task of defining or describing “trans-border crime” would not be an easy one, because many elements have been recognized as constituting it. However, “trans-border crime” represents a number of illegal and notorious activities carried out by individuals and groups across national and international borders, either for financial or economic benefits or also for socio-political and religious considerations. It is a set of criminal acts whose perpetrators and repercussions go beyond terrestrial borders. Sunday & Okechukwu (2014) opined that trans-border crimes include acts of human trafficking, money laundering, drug trafficking, arms smuggling or trafficking or weapons, terrorism, illegal oil bunkering, illicit trafficking in diamonds, corruption and business fraud. According to the United Nations Convention against Trans-national Organized Crime (2002) trans-border crimes are the crimes that have actual or potential effects across national borders as well as crimes that are intra-state but offend fundamental values of the international community.

Methodology

The paper utilized secondary data sourced from books, journal articles, research reports, conference proceedings and the internet. The analysis of the data is descriptive in nature.

Theoretical Framework

Routine Activity Theory

The Routine Activity Theory (RAT) was developed by Cohen and Felson in 1979. The theory emphasizes that crime occurs when three elements converge: (1) a motivated offender, (2) a suitable target and (3) the absence of capable guardianship. This theory includes the routine activities of both the offender and the victim. An offender may routinely walk through specific neighborhoods looking for homes that appear as easy targets for burglary or into buildings in a commercial area to seek opportunities for theft. A capable guardian can be ordinary people who can intervene or serve as witnesses, or police or security officers at their duty posts in strategic

locations in the community and/or on patrol. The suitable targets include innocent Nigerians who move about looking for what to do to eke out honest living.

The convergence in time and space of the three elements (motivated offenders, suitable targets and the absence of capable guardianship) appears useful for understanding trans-border crimes. In other words, the routine activity theory (RAT) proposes that victimization occurs when there is a convergence in space and time of a motivated offender, a suitable target and the absence of a capable guardian (Sasse, 2005). This motivation may come from a variety of factors, including appearance of the victim and the valuable property they carry and/or the intention of the criminal. Such factors influence victim selection and are related to offender motivation. A targeted victim is the primary object of the offense and results directly from the offender's motive for committing the crime. The offender may also intentionally target a victim because the victim has information, items, or valuables sought by the offender. The victim is selected based on availability and must be vulnerable; mostly because the location lacks suitable guardianship and /or security. Location and vulnerability are related to time and place.

The weak security system or lack of guardians at night hours around Nigeria's borders makes it easy for criminals to successfully operate. The RAT is useful for this study as it raises the issue of control. The lack of suitable guardianship (security control and /or surveillance) makes trans-border criminals to freely operate without the possibility of being apprehended.

The theory was adopted to assess trans-border crimes and its effects on the socio economic development of Nigeria. The explanatory value of the theory lies in the fact that the porous nature of Nigeria's land borders characterized by the absence of guardians could be caused by corruption or shortage of personnel thereby paving the way for criminals to infiltrate the country with illicit items or contrabands. Furthermore, criminals who trade in drugs, human parts, and arms as well as small and light weapons, gain unfettered access into Nigeria due to lack of proper security checks. This has affected the political, economic and social stability of the country as such illegal items are used to threaten the peace of the country.

The collapsed community and lax security checks occasioned by the corrupt activities of security personnel have also contributed to trans-border crimes in Nigeria. Visible economic difficulties occasioned by poor economic policies by the government is also making a lot of youth within or without border areas to find border related crime irresistible. This has immensely contributed to the rise in trans-border related crimes.

Discussion

Causes of Trans-border Crimes

Trans-border crimes are possible due to the poor condition of people especially those on the lower ladder of the economic stratum. The living condition of people in most countries is not conducive due to lack of equity in revenue sharing, leading to an increase in poverty rate. The rich are getting richer and the poor are always at the receiving end (Adeniji, 2017). According to Mukhtar (2021), the major factor for the persistence of trans-border crimes in Nigeria is the country's deepening poverty. Mukhtar noted that the North Eastern part of the Nigerian border which has the highest concentration of border communities can be listed as the most backward due to its difficult terrain, low level of literacy and high poverty and unemployment rates. For Gyong (2023), lack of sensitization and enlightenment of border security operatives is also a fundamentally responsible for the high rate of trans-border crimes. Carr (2007), on his part, blamed corruption for the underdevelopment of Nigeria and Africa as a whole, noting that it has spread all around Nigeria and beyond. It is evident among the elite and privileged security officers who amass wealth for themselves through dubious trans-border activities thereby further compounding the nation's economic crisis.

What is more, resources are not evenly distributed. For instance, the Federal character principle is not adhered to during employment and grants are given based on political leanings, while appointments are considered based on ethnic, religious and political factors. Therefore, in order for the citizens to survive, some of them engage in some trans-border crimes such as drug trafficking, trafficking in persons and other border-related crimes. Poor welfare packages and lack of frequent and adequate training also aggravate trans-border crimes among many Nigerians (Carr, 2007).

In addition, trans-border crimes are facilitated by greed. The rate of greed amongst the rich in the country which fueled by pride, and the get-rich-quick syndrome contributes to fostering criminal acts particularly the trafficking in drugs, persons and cybercrime. The quest for primitive acquisition can make people accept any offer thrown at them to improve their economic wellbeing (Osimen et al, 2017). Mobolaji & Alabi (2017), argued that the absence of institutional framework is responsible for the menace of trans-border crimes. They maintained that the ECOWAS protocol on free movement of persons, goods and services was established by ECOWAS to allow free passage of citizens of member states into one another's territory. They identified the protocol as one of the major contributors to the upsurge in trans- border crimes.

Blum (2014) posits that the geographical location of Nigeria coupled with the forces of globalization have placed the country in such a strategic position in the region. For instance,

Nigeria has a good number of Fulani population which are scattered in Niger, Chad, and Cameroon. Blum (2014) explained how Nigeria's borderline with Benin Republic facilitates trans-border crimes, tracing it to the Berlin declaration which separated the hitherto ethno-cultural and homogenous Yorubas into Nigeria and Benin Republic.

Nigeria has also been a victim of trans-border crimes perpetrated by criminals from her immediate neighbors, while trans-border criminals of Nigeria origin have equally been involved in the illicit trade across Nigerian borders with her immediate neighbors. Onuoha (2013) maintained that the porosity of the borders also ensures that people from other neighboring countries can easily infiltrate the borders and transact their business with little or no restriction. Akinyemi (2013) noted that criminal gangs and business men and women behind some of these activities bribe and corrupt border officials as well as high ranking government or political officials to facilitate and perpetuate their nefarious criminal activities.

According to Onuoha (2013), Nigeria's border problem which is traceable to her colonial history, has been exacerbated by the failure of successive governments to properly administer these borders. Organized crime syndicates have relied on total protection from high profile government officials and high ranking political figures. Ahmed (2017), and Solis and Aravena (2009), posited that organized crime thrives and prospers as a result of the corruption of the state, which has eaten deep into the fabric of the society. Corruption is considered the most powerful driver of trans-border crimes as trans-border criminal groups corrupt government officials such as the police, customs and immigration as well as the judiciary. Mcdermott, (2017) also argued that inadequate training and poor welfare packages contribute to the high rate of crimes in Nigeria's land borders.

Mustapha (2004) maintained that the difficult terrain of Nigeria's land borders with Chad in the northeast, Benin Republic in the west, Niger in the north and Cameroon in the east, makes effective border monitoring extremely challenging as most of the border locations are either in the bush or on rocky terrains. These geographical features make it difficult to establish and maintain proper surveillance along the borders. Additionally, the remote and rugged terrain further contributes to trans-border crimes as it serves as a sanctuary for smuggling activities.

Patterns/Dimensions of Trans-border Crimes in Nigeria

The patterns/dimensions through which trans-border crimes occur have attracted attention of stakeholders over the years. These patterns are as follows:

Drug Trafficking

Drug trafficking is one of the prominent trans-border crimes along Nigeria's borders with her immediate neighbours. It is important to note that cannabis sativa (Indian hemp) is an internationally controlled hard drug produced in Nigeria after its seedlings were brought into Nigeria from Myanmar by soldiers returning from the second World War in the 1940s (NDLEA, 2009). Its cultivation and growth have spread widely owing to Nigeria's favourable climatic and soil conditions. The other form of controlled hard drug include narcotic substances such as cocaine and heroin. These and other forms of hard drug are smuggled into Nigeria on enroute Europe, North America, Asia and the Middle East, taking advantage of Nigeria's link with many transit and consumer countries.

According to a 2017 NDLEA report, a total of 10,009 suspected drug traffickers were arrested across the country in 2017, out of which 9,387 were males and 622 were females. The North West led with 2,882 arrests while the South East recorded the lowest cases with 882 arrests. The agency also secured 1,621 convictions in 2017, and 2,256 and 1,690 convictions in 2016 and 2015 respectively. Edo (45,339kg), Ondo (32,729kg) and Kano (18,654kg) in that order took the lead in the quantity of drugs seized in 2017. A total of 309,356kg of drugs was seized in 2017 with cannabis and cocaine being the most smuggled drugs. The highest quantity of seized drugs was in the South West with 164,936kg and South East was the lowest at 3,192kg. In addition, Nigeria recorded the highest destination of drugs, above South Africa and Qatar. The inflow of drugs into Nigeria was about 34% in 2017 compared to 49% in 2016, whereas the outward movement of couriers was about 66% in 2017 compared to 51% in 2016.

Nigeria's vast porous land borders and acts of sabotage on the part of its neighbours make entry and exit of hard drugs into the country by land relatively easy. According to the NDLEA (2009), a combination of these two factors constituted one of the greatest challenges confronting the anti-drug agency in its fight against drug smugglers along the country's land borders. The implication of drug trafficking on the wellbeing of Nigeria as a country is enormous. The 2009 National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) report noted that activities pertaining to the production and distribution of illicit drugs constitute personal and national security hazards.

Trafficking or Smuggling of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW).

The trafficking or smuggling of small arms and light weapons (SALW) is another disturbing transnational crime in Nigeria which poses serious threat to her national security and corporate survival. Following the end of the Cold War and the escalation of intra-state conflicts

(including coups and countercoups) from the 1990s, West Africa saw the massive proliferation of arms and weapons to the region. Several SALW found their way into developing countries in West Africa, and Nigeria in particular, apparently to prosecute several intra-state conflicts, and sometimes violent-ridden elections in the region. These smuggled weapons are also used by ethnic, religious and political groups to settle their differences.

Apart from the SALW manufactured in Nigeria and illegally distributed to different parts of the country, some actually found their way into other parts of West Africa. In the same vein, SALW produced outside the country also found their way into Nigeria through Benin Republic described by Asare (2014) as a transit point. There is no doubt that the current spate of ritual killing, kidnapping, banditry and farmer-herder clashes in different parts of Nigeria are direct consequences of small arms and light weapons' proliferation. Premium Times (2017) reported that the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) intercepted 470 pump action rifles imported from Turkey at the Tin-Can Island port in Lagos on September 21, 2017, just few days after it intercepted another 1,100 rifles on September 11. Not long ago, 73 locally manufactured guns and 891 cartridges were intercepted at Yauri, Zamare waterside in Kebbi. Moreover, investigations by the Nigerian Tribune revealed that a total of 21,548,608 arms and ammunition were shipped into Nigeria.

The more the security personnel intercept and confiscate these weapons, the more they are smuggled into Nigerian. The Boko Haram terrorist organization in Northeast Nigeria has been a beneficiary of arms proliferation. Most of the arms the terrorist organization used to engage the Nigerian military, were smuggled into the country from Libya, Chad and Sudan through her porous Northern borders with the Republic of Chad, Cameroon, and Niger (Onuoha, 2011, cited in Asare, 2014).

Trafficking in Persons

Nigeria remains a source, transit and destination country when it comes to human trafficking. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) defines trafficking in persons as the acquisition of people by improper means such as force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them. Trafficking in persons (children, women and adults) is another prevalent transnational crime along Nigeria's borders with her immediate neighbours. Nigeria and Benin Republic are believed to be the origin, transit and destination countries for trafficked children, and origin country for trafficked women. This is evident in the number of women and children repatriated to Nigeria from the Middle East, Europe and North America where they have been trafficked into slavery, child labour, prostitution and sexual exploitation.

Data from the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons, NAPTIP, reveal that 75% of those who are trafficked in Nigeria are moved across states, while 23% are trafficked within states. Only 2% of those who are trafficked are trafficked outside the country (NAPTIP, 2016). In 2019, 203 cases of human trafficking were reported and investigated by the NAPTIP in Nigeria. A total of 701 suspects were arrested but only 25 traffickers were actually convicted. Despite the low number of reported cases and the even lower number of convictions, 1,152 victims of human trafficking were rescued in 2019. Of those victims, only 18.4% were rescued from outside the country, 80.6% were female and half of them were minors. Equally, between July 2003 and December 2019, the NAPTIP rescued 14,688 victims of human trafficking, and of the 7,487 reported cases, 3,935 were investigated and 332 convictions were made (NAPTIP, 2020).

The UNODC (2006) provided a comprehensive list of factors responsible for trafficking in persons to include ignorance, poverty, large family size, lack of educational opportunities and lack of employment. Other contributory factors to trafficking in persons in the region include porous borders, corrupt government officials, involvement of international organized crime groups or networks, limited capacity of or commitment by immigration and law enforcement officers to control trafficking at the borders and lack of political will or desire to enforce existing legislation or mandates.

It is important to add, therefore, that Nigeria is equally home to many trafficked children from Benin, Togo, Cote d'Ivoire and Niger, usually for domestic services, street hawking, plantation or construction works and other exploitative conditions, while some are engaged in petty crimes including drug peddling.

Effects of Trans-border Crimes on Socio Economic Development of Nigeria

It is observed that trans-border crime has had serious implications on Nigeria's socio-economic development. It fuels corruption and insecurity, endangers the people's social and mental health, stunts businesses and hinders economic growth. The availability of weapons into the hands of non-state actors has increased robbery, resulting to indiscriminate killings of citizens. It has also contributed to the increase in insecurity, thereby injecting fear into business people and discouraging potential investors in Nigeria. The increase in trans-border crime has consequently given rise to the increase in financial spending of the government. It has also affected peace and development as people run for their dear lives rather than engage in useful ventures. This explains why Opanike (2015) posited that security of lives and properties has

taken flight in Nigeria because arms, weapons and resources are readily available through smuggling which often easily gets into the wrong hands.

Moreover, insecurity in Nigeria is further compounded trans-border crimes which pose serious threats to lives and property as communities and towns around the borders are especially regular victims and casualties of fierce exchange of gun battles between criminals and state (security) agencies. In a bid to protect themselves, the communities, sometimes, resort to attacking both the smugglers and security agents. The border communities are at times guilty of aiding and abetting the commission of trans-border crimes, usually by shielding the perpetrator or smuggled item(s). The level of insecurity in Nigeria today, especially the frequent infiltration of the country with guns and other weapons used by bandits, killer herdsmen and terrorist attacks across Nigeria cannot be divorced from trans-border criminals who made the weapons available to the undeserved. Peterside (2018) posited that about 30,000 to 50,000 people have been reportedly killed in the country by non-state actors with illegal access to these weapons. This figure has reached an estimated 70,000 deaths by the end of 2020 according to Nigeria Security Tracker (2022).

This ugly phenomenon invariably leads to increased crime rate and political instability. Criminal activities tend to increase daily in every part of the country as a direct consequence of trans-border criminal activities related to smuggling and use of arms and light weapons, hard drugs and prohibited goods for personal gains. The unrestricted intake of hard drugs by an increasing number of youths and the immoral pursuit of wealth and crass materialism at all cost, including drug trafficking and internet fraud, do not only raise moral questions but also increase the crime rate in the country. This assertion aligns with the view of Adetula (2015) who noted that such acts encourage corruption in high places and undermine the capacity of state agencies to respond appropriately to the challenges posed by trans-border criminals. The smuggled items pose a threat to the survival of existing local business ventures thereby and huge revenue losses to the government and business operators. This has also caused a drastic reduction in the gross domestic product of Nigeria (GDP).

Trans-border crimes equally have tremendous effect on the country's economy, which is largely dependent on importation of all manner of finished goods. The smuggling of illicit goods into or out of Nigeria circumvents the payment of taxes, levies or tariffs, thereby denying the government revenue accruable from importation or exportation. The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) has confirmed that the country's economy lost N2 billion daily in 2019 to fuel smuggling (The Guardian, 2019). Equally, the then Comptroller General of Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Hameed Ali, was quoted as saying that Nigeria's economy lost

billions of naira annually to smuggling of cars through the nation's land borders in a bid to evade the car duty and levy payable at the ports, thus, causing loss of more than 5,000 direct and indirect jobs at the affected ports (The Guardian, 2019).

Also, contrabands are smuggled in and out of the country for selfish economic gains which is capable of endangering the nation's economy. Smuggled goods also sell at a cheaper prize, thus, they command higher patronage than 'certified goods', thereby destroying the local market. Flowing from the above, it apparent that trans-border crimes lead to increase in substandard goods and products that are not only inimical to a country's economic development but also risky to human health. According to Dr. Ayoola Oduntan, the former National President, Poultry Association of Nigeria, in 2015, over 80% of the poultry products imported by Benin (frozen chicken and turkey) found their way into the Nigerian Market causing a loss of over \$2.5 billion and over 1 million job loss.

Goods, especially drugs that are not certified fit for human consumption – including fake and expired drugs – are illegally smuggled into the country, thereby subjecting unsuspecting consumers, health hazards and other harmful complications.

Conclusion

There is no doubt that trans-border crimes constitute serious security threats to Nigeria in particular and Africa in general. The implications for national security and socioeconomic development are grave for both the developing and developed countries. Globalization, which has turned the world into a global village, makes transnational crime a global and recurrent phenomenon. In fact, the idea of collective action against transnational crimes was affirmed at the United Nations' Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in Palermo, Italy, in December, 2000, where the need to combat the scourge through with a global response was duly emphasized and acknowledged. In particular, increased arm smuggling and drug trafficking across the country's borders constitute a dire security challenge for Nigeria. This is evident in the upsurge in banditry, kidnapping and other forms of criminality in Nigeria. Successive governments' attempts at tackling the menace have remained largely ineffectual owing to factors not unconnected with corruption, poverty, unemployment and the porous nature of the country's land borders.

Recommendations

- i. Findings of the study revealed that the living condition of majority of Nigerian is parlous as the rich are getting richer and the poor are always at the receiving end of poor economic policies and leadership deficits. The paper therefore recommends that national and

subnational governments should provide employment and employ poverty alleviation programs by setting up skills training zones to take the minds of the teeming unemployed youths away from crimes. The National Orientation Agency should sensitize the youths on the evils of trans-border crimes. This will assist in discouraging the youths from indulging in illegal business to earn a living.

- ii. The study revealed that some corrupt political elites and security operatives are hand in gloves with criminals operating at the borders. The study therefore recommends that stringent sanctions should be imposed on those found complicit in the illegal smuggling of goods into the country.
- iii. It was further revealed in the study that the poor welfare of the security agencies encourages the acceptance of bribe from drugs cartels. The paper therefore recommends that security operatives manning the nation's borders should be properly motivated through robust welfare packages, bonds and allowances to boost their morale and discourage the resort to corrupt means of livelihood by some of them.
- iv. The findings of the study identified the porous nature of Nigeria's land borders as part of the triggers of illegal immigration and smuggling of contrabands into the country. To this end, it is recommended that the government should prioritize the borders, through the procurement and installation of technology-enabled devices such as CCTV cameras and scanners to aid crime detection and
- v. The ECOWAS protocol on free movement of persons, goods and services among member states has been implicated for high rate of products smuggling in the region. The study therefore recommends member nations of the ECOWAs should join forces to ensure proper border checks before citizens of member countries are allowed into other countries.
- vi. Findings of the study revealed that border security operatives are lagging behind in terms of training and enlightenment. The Government should ensure regular training and retraining exercises for border patrol operatives to enable them improve on border security.

References

- Addo, P. (2019). *Cross-border criminal activities in West Africa: Options for effective responses*. Retrieved from <https://www.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:946690/FULLTEXT01.pdf> on July 15, 2021.
- Adeniji, A. (2017). "Combating light weapons proliferation in West Africa". A Vines. *Royal*. Retrieved from: *Journal of the Institute of International Affairs*. 81(2), 66-86.
- Adetula, V. A. (2015). Nigeria's response to transactional organized crime and jihadist activities in West Africa. Discussion paper: No. x. Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung. Retrieved from <https://www.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:9466901/FULLTEXT01.pdf> July, 2021/.
- Ahmed, N. (2017). Transnational Organized Crimes (TOCS) – Causes, effects and challenges: The Perspective of Latin America, Asia. Retrieved from *Pacific Journal of Advanced Business and Social Studies* 3(1), 357-366. URL: www.apiar.org.au.
- Aravena, J (2009). Towards Understanding Africa's International Criminal Organizations as an Emerging Industry in a Globalizing World. *African Journal of Criminology and Justice Studies*, 6(1). 21-30
- Akinyemi, O. (2013). *Globalization and Nigeria border security: Issues and Challenges*. Retrieved from *International Affairs and Global Strategy*, 1 (7): <https://www.iiste.org/globalisation-and-nigeria.border-security-issues-and-challenge> July 15, 2021.
- Asare, S.O. (2014). Trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW) in West Africa: Routes and illegal arms caches between Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria. Abuja: Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung.
- Blum, C. (2014). Cross-border flows between Nigeria and Benin: What are the challenges for (human) security. Retrieved from *Canadian Social Science*, 12(12), 1-11. <https://doi.org/10.3968/8974>
- Caparini, M. (2022). *Transnational organized crime: A threat to global public goods*. Retrieved from: <https://www.sipri-org/commentary/topical-backgroundunder/2022/transnational-organised-crime-threat-global-public-goods>.
- Carr, I. (2007). Fighting Corruption through Regional and International Conventions: A satisfactory Solution? *European Journal of Crime, Criminal Law and Criminal Justice*. 4(5) 207-250 doi: 10.1163/092895607X209120
- Erring, S. O. (2019). Trans-border crimes and its socio-economic impact on Developing Economics. Retrieved from *Journal of Sociology and Anthropology*, 2(2), 78-82.
- Gyong, J.E. (2023). Patterns of trans-border crimes in Nigeria Retrieved from: *KIU Journal of Humanities*, 6(2), 111-120.
- Guardians, N. T. (2016). *Different Shades of Crime in Nigerian Borders*. Retrieved from <http://new.telegraphonline.com/insight/different-shades-crimes-nigerian-borders/>

- Edward, A (2012). The ebbing Mexican wave: The world's biggest migration has gone into reverse. *The Economist*. Retrieved from <<http://www.economist.com/news/specialreport/21566781-worlds-biggest-migration-has-gone-reverse-ebbing-mexican-wave>>.
- English learners dictionary (2014) *Definition and translation of terms*, Retrieved from: <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionary.com>
- Faggae, M. M. (2021). Trans border crime and implications on Nigeria's National Security and Sustainable Development. Retrieved from: *Africa Scholars Journal of Africa Sustainable Development (JASD-2)*. 21(2) 173-188.
- IDMC/NRC (2010). Briefing Paper by the Norwegian Refugee Council's Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre on Forced Displacement in Mexico due to Drug Cartel Violence. Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre. *Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities*, 1(1) 6-20.
- John, I. A. Mohammed, A. Z. Pinto, A. D. & Nkanta, C. A. (2007). "Gun violence in Nigeria: A Focus on Ethno-religious conflict in Kano" Retrieved from: *Journal of public Health policy* 28(6), 420-43.
- National Security tracker. (2022). *Strategy to Combat Transnational Organized Crime: Addressing Converging Threats to National Security*. Retrieved from www.state.gov/documents/organization/635662.pdf
- NDLEA (2017). National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Annual Report on drug use survey/report. Accessed at: www.ndlea.gov.ng on July 15, 2021.
- NAPTIP (2016). 2015 data analysis. Research and Programme Development Department. Accessed at: <https://www.naptip.gov.ng/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/2019-DataAnalysis.pdf> on July 15, 2015.
- Marriam-Webster, (2023). *Meaning of Trans border*. Retrieved from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/transborder>
- McDermott, J. (2017). *Lain America organized crime: what to expect in 2015, insight crime*. Retrieved from: <http://www.insightcrime.org/news-analysis/organized-what-to-expect-in-2005> on July 15, 2021.
- Miraglia, P., Ochoa, R., & Briscoe, I. (2012). Transnational organized crime and fragile States. *Global Journal of Human-Social Science: Political Science*, 17(2), 10-21.
- Momoh, C. S. (1989). Border studies: The state of the art in Europe. In: *Borderlands in Africa*. <https://www.borderlands.gov.ng/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/2019-DataAnalysis.pdf> on July 15, 2021.
- Mukhtar. O. (2021). Cross Border Crimes in West Sub-Region: Implication for Nigeria's National Security and External Relations. *Global Journal of Human-social Science: F Political Science*, 14(3).
- Mustapha, M. (2004). Globalization and trans-border Crimes: Nigeria's Security dilemma. Retrieved from: *Civil and Legal Science*, 4(3). <https://doi.org/10.4172/21690170.1000154>

- Mbolaji L.G., & Alabi, O. (2017). The political and Security Implications of Cross Border Migration between Nigeria and her Francophone Neighbors. *International Journal of Social Science Tomorrow*, 1(3), 7. Retrieved from www.ajsih.org/index.php/ajsih/article/download/102/102&SA.
- Nte, N. D. (2011). The Changing Patterns of Small and Light Weapons (SALW). Proliferation and the Challenges of National Security in Nigeria” Retrieved from: *Global Journal of Africa Studies* 1(1), 5-23.
- National drugs laws enforcement agency (NDLEA, 2009). Combating Transnational Crime in Africa: Problems and Perspectives. *Journal of African law*, 50(2). School of Oriental and African Studies, 50(2). Retrieved from www.jstor.org/stable/27607969
- Okeke, V. O. S. & Okechukwu, R. (2021). Cross border crimes in West African sub-region: Implications for Nigeria’s National Security and External Relations. Retrieved from *Global Journal of Human-Social Science: F. Political Science*. 14(3), 45-56.
- Onuoha, F. (2013). *Porous Borders and Boko Harams Arms Smuggling operation in Nigeria*. Retrieved from: <http://studies.alzazeer.net/mritems/documents>.
- Opanike V (2015) *ECOWAS protocol on free movement and trans-border security in West Africa*. Retrieved from: *Civil and Legal Science*, 4(3). <https://doi.org/10.4172/21690.170.1000154>.
- Osimen, G. U., Anegbode, E. J., Akinde, C. A. & Oyewole, O. O. (2017). The borders-border and internal security challenges in Nigeria. Retrieved from *International Journal Science (IJPS)*. 3(3), 17-27. doi:<http://doi.org/10.20431/2454-9452.0303003>.
- Oxford learners dictionary (2023) *meanings and definitions of words with pronunciation and translation* Retrieved from: <https://en.m.wikipedia.com>
- Petersite, Z. B. (2018). The impacts of proliferation of small arms and light weapons on the quest for national security in Nigeria. Retrieved from *Saudi Journal of Humanities and social sciences*, 3(7), 680-852.
- Premium Times (2017). Nigeria Customs intercepts 470 pump-action rifles at Lagos Port. Sept. 21. Accessed at: <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/243828-nigeriacustoms-intercepts-470-pump-action-rifles-lagos-port.html> on March 10, 2020.
- Robles, G., Calderón, G., & Magaloni, B. (2014). The Economic Consequences of Drug Trafficking Violence in Mexico. *Poverty and Governance*, pp.1-38.
- Statista Research Department (2023). *Number of crimes involving the use of firearms, gas weapons, ammunition, explosives and explosive devices in Russia from 2015-2021*. Retrieved from: www.statista.com/statistics/10454/Russia-number-of-crimes-involving-use-of-fire-ams-and-explosive/.
- Stohl, R. & Tuttle, D. (2009). The challenges of small arms and light weapons in Africa. Retrieved from: <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/243828-nigeriacustoms-intercepts-470-pump-action-rifles-lagos-port.html> on March 10, 2020
- Sunday, O. V. O. & Okechukwu, O. R. (2014). Cross Border Crimes in West African Sub-Region: Implications for Nigeria’s National Security and External Relations. Retrieved from *Global Journal of Human and Social Science* 14(3), 45-57.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (2006). Measures to combat trafficking in human beings in Benin, Nigeria and Togo. New York: United Nations.

Usman, A.R. (2021). Armed banditry in Northern Nigeria: causes and implications. *Journal of Peace Science and Conflict Management*, 1(2) 1-14.

WHO, (2015). Medical products in developing countries is substandard or falsified? Retrieved from: <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/28-11-2017-1-20-medical-products-in-developing-countries-is-sibstandard-orfalsified>.

Yourdictionary.com (2023). Pattern Definition. Retrieved from <https://www.yourdictionary.com/pattern>.