

Effects of Insecurity on the Socio-Political and Economic Development of Nigeria's Rural Environment: An Appraisal.

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Abstract.

The study presents the effects of insecurity on the socio-political and economic development of Nigeria's rural environment. Through its catalogue of security breaches in various rural settings, it showcased the heavy impact of insecurity in rural areas earlier characterised by peace, tranquillity and peaceful coexistence among residents of diverse religious, and cultural backgrounds, as well as political affiliations before the rampant cases of attacks on innocent residents. Sadly, insecurity has hindered food production and crippled socio-economic activities, thus increasing the rate of unemployment in the country as a whole. The article argues that if insecurity is not urgently addressed in our rural setting, it could result in massive starvation which could lead to citizens revolt, resulting in a monumental impact. Through its presentations of various attacks, it succeeded in showcasing the volume of damage caused by insecurity in the lives, and economy of rural dwellers as well as the negative impact on governance. In achieving this, the paper adopted a secondary method of data collection as its methodology. It also relied on human needs and frustration-aggression theories to explain the reasons for the causes of insecurity and its effect on rural socio-political and economic development. As part of the discoveries, the farmers can no longer go to their farms to cultivate crops for fear of possible attacks while cultivating their farmlands; neither are they emotionally stable to participate in political affairs. Finally, the paper recommended among others, use of locals as security agents, an inter-agency collaboration, setting up of a hub for information gathering and multi-level policing as ways to deal with cases of insecurity in rural areas.

Key Words: *Insecurity, Socio-political, Economic, Development, Rural, Environment.*

INTRODUCTION.

National security is a precondition for economic and social-political development of a nation. The attainment of a peaceful and secure environment is a precursor to citizens participation in political activities as well as economic growth and development as investors and entrepreneurs require an enabling environment to reap returns on their environments. This of course explains why many countries around the world strive to maintain peace and security within and beyond their borders (Amana et al. 2020). Increased levels of insecurity reduce investment returns, reduce a developing country's capacity to attract foreign direct and portfolio investments (Chuku et al. 2019). Nigeria especially her rural setting has been ravaged by insecurity which has made the country not only unsafe for Nigerians but to

foreign investors. In the 2020 Global Terrorism Index, Nigeria was named the third most affected by terrorism, trailing only Iraq and Afghanistan (GTI, 2021). From the rural villages of Chibok in Borno State, Agatu and Apa in Benue State, Nimbo in Enugu State, to Kardoka in Nasarawa State among others, the disturbing story is the same. Rising of insecurity is on the verge of being Nigeria's heritage as no single day goes by without acts of insecurity (Zubairu, 2022). Insecurity reduces the capital stock of a country by destroying human and physical capital (Abdulkarim & Mohammed, 2022). This undoubtedly has rendered the economy unappealing to local and foreign investors, who have become apprehensive of investing and putting their hard-earned resources in profitable investment in Nigeria (Chuku et al 2019). The lack of security continues to deter prospective investors from engaging in business activities in these areas, leading to a stagnation of commercial operations. Consequently, many companies and businesses in Northern Nigeria have stopped operations due to the scourge of lingering insurgency (Ibukunlolu, 2024). Nigeria's myriads of security concerns are becoming rather too complex for the country's armed forces to manage, and overcoming them would require a comprehensive response. Insurgency, banditry, organised kidnapping and other forms of criminality in our rural areas have created a thriving trade in small arms, light weapons and other illicit trafficking. The proliferation of weaponry has increased insecurity in the country, resulting in over 80,000 deaths and 3 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) despite the fact that the country is not at war (United Nations refugee agency and the Council on Foreign Relations 2021). This no doubt has made participation in democratic exercises impossible for the internally displaced persons as the loss of loved ones, means of livelihood and displacement from ancestral home kept them emotionally traumatised with feeling of dehumanisation. The number of small arms and light weapons in the hands of non-state actors and civilians in Nigeria is estimated to be around 6,145,000, compared to 586,600 firearms in the hands of the armed forces and law enforcement agencies (The Institute for Security Studies, 2021). It is therefore safe to say that the protection of a people and property from local and international dangers is critical for the functioning of markets and the incentives to invest and innovate thus, Nigeria must strive towards that. This study is thus aimed at achieving this.

EMPIRICAL REVIEW

Adebisi et al. (2017), carried out a study on an appraisal of Boko Harams insurgency on the

agricultural sector of rural communities in Nigeria. They adopted the time series data analysis research method, while descriptive statistics and t-test were used to analyse the secondary data before and during the insurgency. The result of their findings showed that agricultural value added to the GDP was high before Boko Haram disruption and has reduced during the period of insurgency. Based on their findings, the study recommends that government should take legal and justifiable action to ensure that the ills caused by Boko Haram to the agricultural sector are addressed and farmers encouraged with better incentives to go back to farm.

Ojogho and Egware (2015), also carried out a study on the impact of insurgency on agricultural development in Nigeria. Using secondary time-series data they collected on Nigerian agricultural share of GDP, infant mortality rate, CO₂ emission from fuel combustion and level of food production as proxies for agricultural transformation for the years, 1960-2011 the Nigerian civil war, Boko-Haram, Niger-Delta, Fulani herdsmen insurgences were used as proxies for insurgency. The data were analyzed using the Vector Error Correction Model (VECM) after testing for stationarity, co-integration and lag selection using the Augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF), Johansen and the Schwarz's Bayesian Information Criterion (SBIC) statistics respectively. They were able to discover from the result that the VECM had a unit decrease in previous year food production level would increase the share of agriculture to GDP by 4.26% the following year while a shift from non-insurgence to insurgency in any year by Boko-Haram, Niger-Delta and Fulani herdsmen reduced the share of agricultural contribution to GDP by 17.56%, 19.45% and 17.47% respectively. A similar shift from non-insurgence to insurgency in any year by Boko Haram and Fulani herdsmen insurgences reduced food production level, on average, by 10.21 and 4.69 tonnes respectively while a shift from non-insurgence to insurgency in any year by Niger-Delta crisis and Fulani herdsmen increased CO₂ emission, on average, by about 5% and 8% respectively. They also inferred from the result that agricultural development should be all-embracing since its component elements have a long-run equilibrium relationship, that insurgency indirectly impact on agricultural development through its effect on the change in food production level, the share of agriculture to GDP, CO₂ emission from fuel combustion and infant mortality, and that attempt at ignoring the insurgency by any sect from any region, whether religious, cultural, or communal, were also a threat to agricultural development.

CONCEPTUAL AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Conceptualizing Security

It is natural for people to be hostile in reacting to a number of issues that upset or threaten their normal way of life. To this, a good number of mainstream writers have defined security as a state's capabilities to protect life and properties, as well as, defend its territorial integrity from either actual or imagined threats through the country's security apparatuses. Undoubtedly, the sovereignty of a nation state is largely determined by their capacity to safeguard citizens and her resources against any attack, weather from within or outside the state territory (Nkwatoh and Nathaniel 2018). Therefore, security is the ability of state security mechanisms, which involve state and non-state actors, to prevent and/or manage anxiety, uncertainty and harm that has the capacity to distort serenity and development.

There is a broad agreement in published studies that security is critical for national stability, peace and long-term economic growth. The failure of most developing nations' economic growth to produce associated common benefits and contribute to solving issues such as unemployment, deprivation, inequality, starvation, low literacy rates and increasing violent acts and armed conflicts prompted the innovative thoughts at redefining growth from a productivity expansion to an all-inclusive outlook of sustainable growth (Mazumdar and Bhattacharjee 2019). Consequently, this study conceptually defined insecurity as a collapse in growth and development caused by historical, religious, ethno-regional, civic, social, economic, or political factors that contributes to recurring conflicts and results in systematic destruction of lives and property.

Theoretical Framework

The study is anchored on Human Needs Theory by John Burton (1990). Frustration aggression theory is equally used as a supporting theory. The main assumption of Human Needs Theory is that all humans have basic needs which they seek to fulfil and that the denial and frustration of these needs by other groups or individuals could affect them immediately or later, thereby leading to conflict. Highlighting on this using frustration aggression theory, Dowse and Hughes (1982) believe that violence is an instrument of survival under difficult circumstances. To them, the obstruction of efforts by the individuals intended to achieve desired ends such as power, wealth, social status, security, equality and freedom leads to frustration that breeds violence. According to Gurr's (1970) relative deprivation theory, insecurity stems from a collective discontent induced by a sense of economic and social

deprivation. Three ideas, each concentrating on a different component of deprivation, lend support to the concept that deprivation is likely to lead to violence. First, there is the notion of frustration and aggression, which states that frustration generates aggressive behaviour (Hogg 2016). Second, there is the expectation theory, which holds that failure to achieve an expected outcome will result in violence (Ozdamar 2008). Third, the reactance thesis proposes that the removal of behavioural freedom, which causes the arousal of reactance, may lead to violence (Baumeister et al. 2002). These three ideas emphasize the fact that different types of insecurity in Nigeria may be the result of varying levels of impoverishment.

Data and Methodology

There are several means through which insecurity can affect negatively the socio-political and economic development of Nigeria's rural environment. These can occur through the disruption of private and public investments. Insecurity also reduces the generation of government revenue which can alter government expenditure. In addition to their effects on real activities, prolonged insecurity can destroy part of the tax base and weaken the efficiency of tax administration (Gupta et al. 2004). Above all, increase in defence budget can affect the composition and pattern of public expenditure by lowering the expenses on productive and growth-enhancing sectors of the economy such as education and health (Edeme and Nkaku 2019). Besides the destruction of physical infrastructure and human capital, insecurity have a lagged effect on investment, which ultimately reduces the fiscal position of a country. These fiscal imbalances may have ripple effects on economic growth and socio-political development of the rural dwellers.

Descriptive qualitative analysis was used to explain the data gathered for this study. This analysis, according to Azika (2005), is used to summarise the information generated in research. It is theoretical with in-depth explanatory and illustrative description, producing results that give meaning, experience and views. As Nigatu (2009) puts it, it is a range of processes and procedures whereby we move from the qualitative data that have been collected for a study into some form of explanation, understanding, or interpretation of the situations being investigated.

Using such descriptive qualitative analysis therefore and data from secondary sources, I analysed the effect of insecurity (the dependent variable) on some economic and socio-political parameters (explanatory variables) and established the direction of such effects. I sought to do this by utilising tables, and percentages.

The study draws on data from various sources namely, Global Terrorism Database (GTD), UNHCR, Central Bank of Nigeria, National Bureau of Statistics and Newspaper reports, using the desk survey approach. The macroeconomic variables on which data were analysed included the Foreign Direct Investment inflow as a percentage of GDP, Effect of insecurity on the population, Agriculture, Unemployment, and Government revenue.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Effect on Foreign Investment

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) are investments targeted at building new factories or investing in actual production activities which create jobs. Achumba et al, (2013) noted that Insecurity discourages investment as it makes investment unattractive to business people. This is because it increases the cost of doing business either through direct loss of goods and properties or the cost of taking precautions against business risks and uncertainty. These costs could have a negative impact on business development and progress.

Table 1

Nature (\$B)	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
FDI – other capital	254,439.30	67,858.63	30,065.76	13,028.87	4,210.41
FDI – equity	1,498,906.15	1,979,333.15	1,646,108.03	2,292,466.24	1,469,093.41
Portfolio investment equity	3,691,505.55	11,655,835.94	16,865,724.28	11,448,160.95	4,691,540.41
	5,444,851.84	13,703,027.72	18,541,898.07	13,753,656.06	6,164,844.04

Source: CBN Annual Report, 2015

from the table above, it is evident that there has been a decline in foreign direct investment to Nigeria. FDI (other capital) continued to fall from a high of 254,439.3 billion dollars to 4,210.41 billion dollars representing over 100% fall in FDI-other capital during the period. Further, FDI equity fell by 56% in 2015 compared to its position in 2014 in addition to portfolio investments that fell by 144% in 2015. This can be attributed to the state of insecurity in the country (social, economic and political instability) besides the issue of lack of regular electricity supply, which itself is a source of economic insecurity in the country.

Effect on Unemployment

Insecurity definitely results in the shutdown of businesses and the relocation of companies from unsafe to safe havens. Whereas the labour force continued to increase drastically but to

77.0 million in 2015, from 73.0 million in 2014, representing an increase of 5.5 per cent, employment generation has not kept pace with that increase. Hence, the period witnessed continued increase in the number of unemployed. As shown below, the number of unemployed in the labour force increased to 10.4 percent, compared to 7.8 per cent in 2014, representing an increase of 2.6 percentage points.

Table 2

Year	Labour force (Millions)	Unemployment (%)
2011	67,256,090	6.0
2012	69,105,775	10.6
2013	71,105,800	10.0
2014	72,931,608	7.8
2015	76,957,923	10.4

Source: CBN Annual Report 2014

Table 3**Effects of Kidnapping and loss of lives**

Year	Kidnapping
2008	309
2009	703
2010	738
2011	Na
2012	600
2013	574
Total	2,924

Source: NBS, Annual Abstract of Statistics, 2016

From the above information, kidnapping was on increase from 2008 till 2012 and 2013 when it appeared to record a decline. It however, took a disgusting turn from 2015. Around 4,962 people were reported kidnapped between May 2015 and May 2021 (Ibekwe et al, 2021). Aside these, NLM report 2023 stated that through statistical techniques, they estimated that some 490,900 people died as a result of this insecurity during 2016 to 2019, with death rates in 2016 to 2017 more than twice Nigeria's national average. Further to this, data collated by

the ICIR have shown that between January and October 2023, 7,046 people were killed in violent attacks across Nigeria. According to the data, the states with the highest killings within the ten months are Zamfara (672 deaths), Niger (544 deaths), Benue (454 deaths) and Plateau (362 deaths). The states with the lowest reported cases of death are Ekiti, Gombe, and Jigawa, with five, three, and two deaths, respectively. In addition to these, HumAngle report of 2022 has it that at least 10,398 persons were killed across the country between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2021. Among the fatalities were 4,835 civilians and 890 security personnel. Though it acknowledged that rates of kidnapping similarly dropped between 2015 and 2016, with the number of victims falling from 926 to 347. But, ever since, it has grown at an alarming rate annually, from 532 in 2017 to 994, 1,441, and 2,879 in the next three years. In 2020, the figure nearly doubled again as 5,287 people were reported abducted, the report stated.

Effect on Agriculture

The agricultural sector was never spared during uprising but particularly badly hit, especially as people were forced to move in the course of the insecurity. For instance, due to herdsmen's clashes in parts of Benue, Kogi and Enugu State that resulted in destruction of farmlands, farm produce in those areas were low, causing an increase in the prices of food items during the period. Furthermore, agricultural activities were brought to a complete halt in Borno State since the beginning of Boko Haram disturbances in that area. This is so because the people in some areas of the State have since relocated from their homes and farmland to internally displaced persons (IDP) camps for safety.

Effect on government revenue.

Insecurity in Nigeria has produced hundreds of thousands of within border refugees as people have been made to vote with their feet for safety. In effect, an estimated 40% of IDPs live in 309 camps and camp-like settings and 60% live in 2,072 host communities (UNCHR, 2021). The report went further to state that, about 2.2 million IDPs (531,000 women, 423,000 men, 677,000 girls, and 569,000 boys), were displaced in the North East alone as of December 2021. Painfully enough, the burden for the provision of food items, clothing, shelter, medicals and other basic necessities of life fall on the government thus, taking away money which would have been channeled into other productive ventures. To this, Aborishade (2020) reported that Nigerian government spends five billion naira (₦5b) monthly on IDPs. According to him, government asserts that it was still not enough to cater for over 2.7million IDPs.

EFFECTS OF INSECURITY IN RURAL AREAS OF NIGERIA

It is no longer news that insecurity has reached its peak in Nigeria, considering the number of persons that have either lost their lives or have been displaced from their ancestral homes on a daily basis. Kidnapping now takes place in rural Nigeria more than ever. When the jobless youths who are into kidnapping discovered that parents whose children are rich are in the villages, they swung into kidnapping. The former Minister of Finance, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo Iwelas mother was kidnapped in Ogwuashi-ukwu village in Delta State (Aljazeera news, 2012). The father of the prolific writer, Chimmanda Adichie was kidnapped in Abba village in Anambra State (Ogbeche, 2016). Sampson Siasias mother was also kidnapped for the second time in Odoni village in Bayelsa State (Ogundipe, 2019). As a result of increased kidnapping in rural communities, young men and women turned to take their parents to the cities where they reside, still the city is not safe. Other crimes in the village include cult crises, ritual killings, armed robbery, banditry and political violence. These crimes have been on the rise on a daily basis. Hardly a day passes without a report in the media of heinous crimes in rural areas. According to Ibukunolun, (2024), abduction for ransom is now the new money-making venture for Kidnappers as average of 13 persons were abducted daily in Nigeria in the first half of 2021 such that within six months, the number turned to a disgusting 2,371 individual. Continuing he said, in 2024 also, over a hundred abduction cases have been recorded by the police. The effect is that the local economy has been crippled since those who engage in small scale businesses are target of criminality and participation in democratic exercise lost for fear of kidnapping and attacks by political thugs. Local investors in rural areas are finding it difficult to invest in rural areas. For instance, Gusau (2024), reported that no fewer than eighty (80) communities were sacked by bandits in Zurmi Local Government Area of Zamfara State. This led the Federal government to suspend all gold mining activities in the areas. In the same vein, Daily Trust in her headline reported that as at March 1 2022, about one hundred and forty-five (145) villages were sacked by bandits in six (6) Local Governments of Southern Kaduna (Daily Trust, March 12, 2022). Omorogbe (2022) reported that over 205 Communities in Birnin Gwari and other six local government areas of Southern Kaduna were sacked in last one year. Away from Kaduna, John (2024) stated that bandits descended on about 9 communities in Apa Local Government Area of Benue State. The report further has it that 95% of the villages became desolate as a result of the activities of these criminal elements. In Niger State, another report has it that 3630 villagers were displaced as bandits sack them from their ancestral homes in two Local Governments of Rafi

and Shiroro (Dipo, 2019). Away from the two local governments, Adams (2021) reported that armed bandits in their numbers on Monday morning of Nov 15th 2021 invaded Munya Local Government of Niger State and sacked over 300 people from their homes. In faraway Bauchi State, a report stated how bandits sacked villagers, killed 20 people, burnt houses, looted stores and grains (Ishola,2023). Presenting a paper titled Challenges of Leadership and good governance at the inaugural lecture organised for Katsina State Governor-elect, Dr Umar Dikko Radda and Deputy, as part of their activities for the May 29th 2023 transition, Prof Mohammad Abubakar revealed that no fewer than 75,003 were killed in banditry attacks between 2018 and 2021 across Northwest States of Nigeria. Going further, he said that the activities of banditry within the period under review had sacked 682 villages, adding that 13,838 cattle, 11,088 sheep, and goats including 2244 motorcycles were stolen as a result of the widespread armed banditry (Mohammed, 2023). As a result of insecurity in the country, many businesses and companies are closing down operations and relocating to other African countries for fear of loss of lives and properties. Dunlop, Micheline, Evans Medicals, GlaxoSmithline Nigeria, Procter and Gamle(P&G), among others have all left Nigeria. At present, Guinness Nigeria, Microsoft Nigeria and Kimblarly-Clark corporation have all announced their readiness to leave Nigeria. In contrast, the few remaining companies operate on a skeletal basis while being apprehensive about their lives and properties. The incessant kidnappings have affected foreign direct investments, interstate travel, and transportation of goods and services from the hither land to the cities and from one state to another. The resulting loss of income and economic opportunities further compounds the challenges faced by the affected population. Aside from these, governments at both the Federal and State now enter into expensive negotiations with people who commit crime by giving them huge amounts. The money spent for negotiations by the government would have been used for infrastructural development or human capital development or other forms of development that can make life meaningful for the rural people. To further state the effect of insecurity in the rural areas, it is worth noting that the image of Nigeria in the global community is at stake. It placed Nigeria and Nigerians in a bad light, hence the unfavourable treatment meted on Nigerians when they travel abroad.

CAUSES OF INSECURITY IN RURAL ENVIRONMENT.

1. Unemployment and Poverty

Today in Nigeria, hundreds of graduates are yearly produced who unfortunately do not have hope of employment opportunities nor have skills to keep them afloat. This unemployment invariably causes poverty which at its extreme level, leads to crime as the people have become so frustrated and thus, willing tools for criminal activities such as kidnapping, militancy, thuggery among others.

2. Porous border

Nigeria is characterised by unstable frontiers, where human movements remain untracked. This no doubt has led to an increase in Nigeria's level of insecurity at rural areas as that is the first port of call for the illegal immigrants. This porous borders also turns to be an easy route for smuggling in of small Arms and Light Weapons and this has enabled militancy and crime in Nigeria. Edeko (2011) has reported that Nigeria hosts over 70% of about 8million illegal weapons that have been used to create a security crisis in West Africa.

3. Marginalisation And Inequalities In The Country

Nigeria's current government has been strongly charged with ethnic disparity, and the marginalisation of some sections of the country in the provision of basic infrastructure, and these have significantly compounded Nigeria's security (Nwadiakor, 2011). Vast population of the Nigerian public have a sense of deprivation, oppression and suppression. They voice out their disillusionment against the state by any means possible. Consequences of this is going insecurity (Onuoha, 2011).

4. Bad governance and poor Leadership

The fundamental duty of any government anywhere is protection of lives and properties alongside with provision of basic services such as water, electricity, good road network, quality education, and general infrastructure.

Ironically, these basic things are not there in Nigeria and the people, in general, are frustrated and demoralised. Demoralization and anger logically provide a strong fertile ground for aggression and general insecurity. The scarcity of these basic amenities in Nigeria is embarrassingly not due to a shortage of funds but rather to corruption at the highest level of leadership structure. This is a reality articulated by Hazen and Horner (2007), of a wealthy nation with poor people in the majority. This is indeed the case with Nigeria.

5. Corruption.

This indeed is the bane of Nigeria and the most potent factor in causing insecurity. The level of corruption among the rank and file of the Security agencies is stinking to high heavens. Insider reports have shown that the men entrusted with our security are the ones who instigate

some of these crises for the purposes of having large allocation for security matters with less concern of the loss of human life and property.

FINDINGS

Nigeria has long been regarded as one of Africa's economic powerhouses due to its abundant resources and diversified populace. At present, there is a high level of insecurity in the country, particularly in the rural areas where banditry, Boko Haram, herdsmen, Kidnappers among other criminal elements have become threats to business activities. Given the region's predominant reliance on agriculture as the cornerstone of its economy, the presence of bandits has disrupted agricultural activities, as farmers are now afraid to cultivate their fields due to the risk of attacks. This disruption has led to a decline in food production thus causing rise in the cost of food items and as well threatening food security for millions of people. Banditry has also forced many people to flee their homes, abandoning businesses and livelihoods. The economic displacement of individuals and communities has created a ripple effect, affecting local markets, small businesses, and overall economic productivity.

The prevailing insecurity as observed discourages both domestic and foreign investments, and the lack of a secure environment undermines the implementation of developmental projects that could otherwise contribute to the rural economic upliftment.

Government on her own has also allocated huge resources toward attending to victims of Insecurity. Consequently, funds that could have been utilised for developmental projects, infrastructure, and poverty alleviation are redirected towards security threats and its attendant consequences. This diversion limits the country's financial capacity to address other pressing needs.

CONCLUSION.

States exist to provide certain public goods to those living within their borders. The most important of these is the creation of a safe and favourable environment that ensures lives, livelihoods and investment and exercise of civic rights are guaranteed. There is no doubt that insecurity has reached frightening proportions in Nigeria's rural setting. Day after day, lives are lost, the population is depleted, businesses are paralysed, small scale investments are plummeting, and the citizenry terrified and acutely impoverished. Clearly, this represents a severe threat to socio-political and economic development of Nigeria's rural environment. To this, efforts should go beyond the traditional military response to various myriads of attacks.

And unless a more robust counter strategy involving kinetic and non-kinetic means is implemented, every effort to curb insecurity in our rural setting will end a pipe dream. The study, therefore, suggests that policy makers should, in order to prevent or combat insecurity in rural areas, multi-level policing among other recommendations involving locals should be adopted. Although the current study provides remarkable insights on the effect of insecurity on the socio-political and economic development of the Nigerian rural environment, it is susceptible to significant limitations, mostly related to data availability and safety of traversing the nooks and crannies of Nigeria. Future research could look into a comparative assessment of the effects of insecurity on agricultural output and food security in Nigeria's various geopolitical zones rural environments using additional variables.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

To tackle insecurity comprehensively in rural areas, it is essential to establish an efficient network of intelligence gathering to among other things coordinate efforts between the various government agencies, support interagency collaboration, engage information-gathering communities, use technology for surveillance and data analysis, invest in human intelligence agents, strengthen international cooperation, and develop risk assessment frameworks to ensure accountability and oversight. Keeping in mind that most security threats are within the hinterlands, the government should establish, empower, and fund community policing initiatives and engender partnerships between law enforcement agencies and citizens to engage local communities in security efforts. Community members can provide useful information, help prevent crime, and identify and arrest offenders who operate within their territories.

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