

Examining the Primary Drivers of Security Intelligence Challenges in North-Western Nigeria

Abdallah Dauda¹ & Yakubu Jafaru²

¹*Sustainable Development Centre, University of Abuja*

²*Department of Sociology, University of Abuja*

Received: 25.06.2025 / Accepted: 25.07.2025 / Published: 31.07.2025

*Corresponding Author: Yakubu Jafaru

DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.16643852](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.16643852)

Abstract

This research examined the fundamental factors driving security intelligence in northwestern Nigeria, specifically in Zamfara, Katsina, and Kaduna States, from 2017 to 2023. The goal of the study was to investigate the key influences on security intelligence in this region. The work provided an opportunity to assess existing literature related to the topic. A significant gap in research was identified during the literature review, specifically the lack of attention given to the northwestern region, resulting in a research void that this study aims to address. The theoretical framework employed in this research was the theory of social disorganisation. Purposeful and stratified sampling techniques were employed, with an 86-person sample size comprising all respondents affiliated with the country's secret security services (CID, NIA, SSS, and DMI). The study advocates for enhancing social cohesion by promoting inter-ethnic dialogue and trust-building initiatives. Furthermore, it emphasises the importance of economic empowerment, suggesting investments in poverty alleviation programs to diminish susceptibility to criminal exploitation. Establishing community-based intelligence partnerships with traditional rulers, religious leaders, and civil society organisations is recommended to facilitate grassroots intelligence sharing. Institutional reforms are also necessary to address corruption and inefficiencies within the security and justice systems, to restore public trust. Incorporating these strategies into a comprehensive security framework could help address the intelligence issues troubling northwest Nigeria.

Keywords: Security intelligence, North-western Nigeria, social disorganisation theory, community-based intelligence, inter-ethnic dialogue, economic empowerment, institutional reform.

Original Research Article

Citation: Dauda, A., & Jafaru, Y. (2025). Examining the primary drivers of security intelligence challenges in North-Western Nigeria. *GAS Journal of Arts Humanities and Social Sciences (GASJAHSS)*, 3(6), 1 -9.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The northwest area of Nigeria has been consistently afflicted by significant insecurity, typified by armed banditry, community clashes, and the increasing influence of extremist factions (Abiola, Magaji & Musa, 2025). These issues have created considerable hurdles for security intelligence endeavours, undermining efforts to restore order and safeguard citizens (Zailani, Magaji, & Jafaru, 2025). The shortcomings of security intelligence in this area are not merely due to institutional inefficiencies; they are fundamentally rooted in a complex interplay of socio-economic, political, and environmental factors (Adekoya, Magaji, & Ismail, 2025).

A crucial factor contributing to the intelligence crisis in northwestern Nigeria is the rise of armed groups engaged in banditry and kidnappings. These groups function within

extensive and often hard-to-reach areas, complicating surveillance and counter-operation efforts. This lack of effective monitoring has led to an increase in attacks, resulting in widespread displacement and fear among residents (Ezeanokwasa et al., 2023). Furthermore, the region's porous borders facilitate the flow of illegal arms and resources, further complicating intelligence operations (Mustapha et al., 2023).

The socio-economic conditions of the area worsen the situation. High levels of poverty and unemployment have created ideal conditions for recruitment into criminal activities, particularly among young people (Enaberue, Musa, & Magaji, 2024). This socio-economic fragility erodes community trust in security agencies and restricts the flow of vital intelligence from local communities (Magaji, Musa & Salisu, 2022). Additionally, the limited presence of state institutions in numerous rural areas generates a governance void that is frequently exploited by non-

state actors, who establish alternative control systems and further undermine formal security intelligence efforts (Ahmed, 2023).

The structural and systemic weaknesses within Nigeria's intelligence framework significantly contribute to the problem. Insufficient funding, a lack of modern technological resources, and poor collaboration between agencies obstruct the ability of security forces to effectively collect, analyse, and respond to intelligence. These challenges are exacerbated by corruption and political meddling, which further diminish public trust in the security framework (Olawale et al., 2023).

To address these issues, it is essential to implement a comprehensive strategy that integrates socio-economic development, community engagement, and technological advancements into security initiatives. By investigating the underlying causes and factors contributing to these intelligence shortcomings, this article aims to provide policymakers, security professionals, and other stakeholders with practical insights that foster peace and stability in the region. This piece examines the primary factors contributing to security intelligence issues in northwestern Nigeria, focusing on the activities of armed groups, socioeconomic disadvantage, governance failures, and systemic deficiencies in the intelligence framework.

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Conceptual Review

2.1.1 Security Intelligence

Johnson (2021) describes "security intelligence" as the process of gathering, analysing, and disseminating information to inform decision-making related to national and organisational security. Kumar and Singh (2022) define "security intelligence" as the proactive strategies and data-driven approaches utilised to identify and address potential threats to an entity's security framework. Additionally, Ali et al. (2023) describe "security intelligence" as a comprehensive approach that integrates human intelligence with technological resources to enhance situational awareness and response capabilities.

2.2 Empirical Review

Ademolu and Adewole (2024) explore the contributions of Yoruba indigenous security system officials in curbing violent conflicts across 64 selected rural communities in southwestern Nigeria. The study is grounded in Indigenous security theory and employs an exploratory research method. In-depth interviews were conducted with 128 officials from the Yoruba indigenous security systems, comprising Agbekoya (23), Amotekun Corps (31), Hunter associations (23), Oodua Peoples' Congress (23), Vigilante (16), and other community-specific groups (12). The gathered data were analysed using Atlas for content, and the results were then thematically organised. The top three violent conflicts identified in the studied areas included cultism and gang violence, farmer-herder disputes, and physical assaults, which were addressed through community mastery and surveillance, local intelligence, and the use of juju by YISS officials. The

conclusion indicated that these violent conflicts, prevalent in rural areas and contributing to varying levels of violent crimes, are gradually diminishing. The study recommends broader adoption of YISS in rural communities to mitigate violent conflicts and encourage an indigenous approach to community policing. The focus of their research is on how Indigenous Yoruba security responds to security challenges in the southwest, rather than the role of security intelligence and conflict resolution in fostering sustainable development in north-western Nigeria.

Gulbi & Ahmed (2024) examine the impact of civic engagement in tackling security issues in northwestern Nigeria. They argue that local communities play a vital role in enhancing security, complementing the efforts of military and intelligence agencies. Their research evaluates various community initiatives, including neighbourhood watch programs, conflict resolution strategies, and the involvement of traditional and religious leaders in peacebuilding efforts. The findings indicate a lack of trust between security forces and community members, which hinders effective sharing of intelligence and response strategies. To improve this situation, the authors recommend bolstering relations between communities and police, promoting civic education on security, and integrating local insights into security operations to enhance overall effectiveness.

Oluwonihi and Musa (2024) critically evaluate the role of intelligence within Nigeria's national security framework, focusing on its importance in addressing threats such as terrorism, insurgency, and banditry. The study highlights notable deficiencies in Nigeria's intelligence system, which include inadequate collaboration between agencies, insufficient funding, and limited access to advanced technologies for intelligence gathering and analysis. The authors assert that the failure to adopt modern surveillance technologies and data-driven intelligence strategies undermines national security efforts. Their study advocates for essential reforms, such as improving coordination among security agencies, investing in artificial intelligence for intelligence processing, and enhancing the training of security personnel in counterterrorism tactics.

Aina, Ojo, and Oyewole (2023) conducted a detailed examination of the effectiveness of military interventions in addressing armed banditry in northwestern Nigeria, which is outlined in this research. The analysis reviews the achievements and shortcomings of key military operations, such as Operation Hadarin Daji and Operation Puff Adder. Although these military actions have temporarily mitigated bandit activities, the research points out ongoing challenges. These challenges include the bandits' ability to adapt to military tactics, the logistical difficulties faced by security personnel, and human rights issues related to military actions. The authors propose a comprehensive strategy that integrates military efforts with economic development initiatives, sound governance, and enhanced intelligence sharing. This holistic approach aims to tackle the underlying causes of banditry while supporting military efforts.



Okoli & Aina (2023) examine the connection between substance abuse and the rising incidents of banditry in Nigeria, especially in the northwest. The authors contend that the rampant use of illegal drugs among youth contributes to escalating violent crime rates. Their research identifies key elements driving drug abuse, such as high unemployment, the impact of organised crime syndicates, and the easy availability of narcotics in rural regions. The study reveals that many bandit factions use drugs to boost their members' courage before engaging in criminal acts. To counter this trend, the authors propose a dual approach: reinforcing drug enforcement measures while also establishing rehabilitation initiatives for at-risk youth.

Ojo & Aina (2024) analyse how armed banditry affects civilians, focusing on the widespread displacement of communities and the deteriorating humanitarian conditions in northwest Nigeria. The authors depict the realities faced by internally displaced persons (IDPs), emphasising numerous challenges they confront, including limited access to food, healthcare, and education. The research highlights the strain on already overstretched IDP camps and the inadequate governmental response to these issues. Additionally, it examines how the displacement crisis impacts security intelligence, as bandit groups capitalise on the chaos to recruit new members and expand their influence. The authors recommend various policy interventions, including enhanced humanitarian aid, improved border security, and better coordination between security forces and humanitarian agencies.

These studies collectively offer a comprehensive perspective on the security challenges in northwestern Nigeria. The research stresses the significance of intelligence, community involvement, and military strategies, while also addressing socio-economic factors such as drug abuse and forced displacement. A comprehensive approach that integrates security measures, governance, economic development, and humanitarian responses is essential for tackling the escalating security issues in the region.

2.3 Theoretical Framework

2.3.1 Social Disorganisation Theory

This theory posits that crime and deviance are more likely to occur in areas characterised by weak social institutions, a lack of social cohesion, and economic hardship. The northeastern region of Nigeria, with its background of poverty (Magaji, 2008), marginalisation, and restricted access to education (Magaji & Musa, 2015) and healthcare (Ismail, Musa & Magaji, 2024), may have created a conducive environment for the emergence of extremist ideologies like Boko Haram.

Utilising the concept of social disorganisation provides a significant perspective for understanding the factors contributing to security intelligence challenges in northwestern Nigeria. This criminological theory posits that crime and social

issues often stem from the systemic collapse of communities, which undermines their ability to regulate behaviour and maintain social order.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

This study uses survey techniques, which involve collecting information through essential questions posed to a representative sample of the community. Two methods were utilised in this survey. The initial method involved distributing questionnaires to the participants. The second approach utilised was the In-depth Interview method. Interviews were conducted with security personnel from both formal and informal security organisations in the affected regions. Additionally, district leaders participated in the in-depth interviews conducted by the researcher. Northwestern Nigeria, one of the country's six geopolitical zones, is located in the northwestern region. This region comprises seven states: Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, and Zamfara. It features a predominantly savanna landscape, specifically the West Sudan savanna Eco region. The total area of the North-West zone is roughly 216,065 square kilometres. With a population exceeding 49 million, it is the most densely populated geopolitical zone in Nigeria, accounting for approximately 23% of the nation's total population. Kano, as the largest city in this region, is also the second most populous city in Nigeria and serves as a vital economic centre.

The scope of this study was limited to three states within the region: Kaduna State. Birnin-Gwari was chosen to represent Kaduna State due to its significantly high rate of insecurity compared to other local governments in the state. The selected second state in the region is Katsina State. Three local government areas in Katsina State were chosen (Jibia, Musawa, and Safana) as they reflect the state's overall vulnerability to insecurity. The third state included is Zamfara State. Maradun, Zurmi, and Shinkafi local governments were selected as they are identified as the most at-risk areas in Zamfara State.

The study's population is divided into two categories. The first category consists of intelligence operatives within Nigeria's formal security structures, including personnel from the State Security Service (SSS), the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), the National Intelligence Agency (NIA), and the Department of Military Intelligence (DMI). This category includes 86 respondents chosen from various departments: twenty-four from the SSS, two from the NIA, fifty-six from the CID, and four from the DMI. This selection was based on officers engaged in an intelligence network in the affected regions of northwestern Nigeria who were willing and able to participate in the study.

A total of eighty-six security personnel from the formal security sector (twenty from the SSS, four from the DMI, fifty-six police officers from the CID, and two operatives from the NIA), along with five district heads, were interviewed in-depth by seventeen participants. The interviewees shared comprehensive accounts of their experiences, viewpoints, and insights related to the

research questions. Both purposive and stratified sampling methods were employed in this study.

The data collection methods in this research include questionnaires and in-depth interviews. Furthermore, both quantitative and qualitative analysis techniques were applied in this research.

4.0 DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION, AND DISCUSSION

This chapter discusses the analysis of the data and presents the findings. Questionnaires were distributed to the intelligence units of Nigerian security, overseen by the State Security Service (SSS), the Nigeria Intelligence Agency (NIA), and the Department of Military Intelligence (DMI).

4.1 Responses from intelligence officers of the State Security Service (SSS), the Nigeria Intelligence Agency (NIA), and the Department of Military Intelligence (DMI)

Table 4.1.1: Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents from Security Intelligence

Serial Number	Items	Frequency	Percentage
1	Age	2	2.3
	26-30	4	5
	31-35	11	12.8
	36-40	20	23.3
	41-45	22	25.6
	46-50	27	31.
	Total	86	100
2	Religion		
	Islam	57	66.28
	Christian	28	32.56
	Traditional	1	1.16
	Total	86	100
3	Service		
	SSS	24	27.91
	NIA	2	2.33
	CID	56	65.12
	DMI	4	4.65
	Total	86	100
4	Cadre		
	Senior	77	89.53
	Junior	9	10.47
	Total	86	100

Source: Survey, 2024

Table 4.1 shows the distribution of respondents across various age groups, with a notable concentration in the 41–50 category. The table further reveals that Islam is the most common religion among respondents, followed by Christianity, while Traditional beliefs are represented to a lesser extent. Additionally, it highlights that a majority of respondents belong to the CID,

with smaller proportions from SSS, DMI, and NIA. Moreover, the table indicates that there are more senior cadre personnel than junior cadre personnel among the respondents. The table presents several key demographic traits of the respondents. Firstly, a majority of respondents were experienced security personnel, with 69.9% aged between 31 and 50 years. Secondly,

the religious breakdown shows that Muslims constitute 66.28% of the respondents, with Christians making up 32.56%, and a small fraction observing traditional beliefs. Thirdly, the highest percentage of respondents, at 65.12%, are affiliated with the

Criminal Investigation Department (CID). Lastly, the survey indicates that most respondents (89.53%) are senior cadre officers, implying that it primarily focused on experienced individuals within the security intelligence field.

Table 4.1.2: Responses on the Role of Security Intelligence in Preventing and Mitigating Security Threats in North-western Nigeria

Serial Number	Items	Frequency	Percentage
1	Strongly Agree	47	54.65
2	Agree	32	37.21
	Neutral	2	2.33
3	Strongly Disagree	5	5.81
4	Disagree	0	0
5	Total	86	100

Source: Survey, 2024

Table 4.1.2: Responses on the Role of Security Intelligence in Preventing and Mitigating Security Threats in North-western Nigeria.

Most respondents, 54.65%, strongly agree, and 37.21% agree that security intelligence plays a role in preventing and mitigating threats in North-western Nigeria. This indicates that 91.86% of respondents have a positive perception of the role of security intelligence in north-western Nigeria. Only 2.33% of respondents are neutral, indicating that very few participants are undecided about the effectiveness of security intelligence. 5.81% strongly disagree, and no respondents outright disagree. This suggests minimal opposition to the view that security intelligence has a role in addressing security issues.

One of the implications of these findings is a positive outlook on security intelligence among the respondents, as the overwhelming agreement (91.86%) highlights that most individuals believe security intelligence is pivotal in tackling security threats in North-western Nigeria. This perception may suggest trust in the potential or actual effectiveness of security intelligence systems, despite the region's ongoing challenges.

Again, the small percentage of strong disagreement (5.81%) indicates that dissatisfaction with the effectiveness of security intelligence is not widespread. However, it should still be addressed to build broader confidence in the system. Additionally, the low neutrality rate (2.33%) suggests that most respondents hold explicit opinions, which could indicate the topic's relevance and direct impact on their lives.

Table 4.1.3 Responds on the Security Intelligence and Improvement of Security in North-western Nigeria

Serial Number	Items	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	73	84.88
2	No	3	3.49
3	Maybe	10	11.63
4	Total	86	100

Source: Survey, 2024

Table 4.1.3 indicates that a significant majority of respondents (84.88%) agree that security intelligence has contributed to improving security in the region. This indicates widespread recognition of its importance. The overwhelming majority

supporting its effectiveness suggests that security intelligence efforts are perceived positively. This can be a foundation for further investments and improvements in this area.

A tiny fraction of respondents (3.49 %) believe that security intelligence has not improved security. This could indicate scepticism or greater dissatisfaction in specific areas. The minority (3.49%) who disagree may represent areas or demographics where security efforts are less effective. Understanding their concerns could provide targeted solutions.

Additionally, a notable proportion of respondents (11.63%) are unsure about the effectiveness of security intelligence, suggesting either a lack of awareness or inconsistent results. The "Maybe" responses suggest a lack of clarity or tangible evidence of results in some communities. This may reflect poor communication or insufficient reach of security measures.

Table 4.1.4: Responses to the Main Challenges Hindering Effective Use of Security Intelligence, North-western Nigeria (This question may require multiple answers)

Serial Number	Items	Frequency	Percentage
1	Lack of Resources	48	55.8
2	Poor Coordination	50	50.1
3	Corruption	48	55.8
4	Insufficient Training	43	50
	Others	19	22.1
5	Total	202	233.8

Source: Survey, 2024

Table 4.1.4 provides insights into the challenges that hinder the efficient utilisation of security intelligence in Northwestern Nigeria. The table reveals that both Lack of Resources and Corruption occur most frequently, with each accounting for 48 mentions (55.8%). These elements pose considerable obstacles, suggesting deep-rooted issues such as insufficient funding, inadequate personnel, lack of essential tools, and unethical behaviours within the system.

Additionally, Poor Coordination is noteworthy, with 50 responses (50.1%). This indicates inefficiencies in communication and collaboration among stakeholders involved in intelligence operations. Moreover, 43 respondents (50%) pointed out the issue of insufficient training. This signifies gaps in professional development, technical expertise, or capacity-enhancing efforts that are vital for effective intelligence operations.

The "Others" category, comprising 19 occurrences (22.1%), likely consolidates a variety of minor yet relevant issues not explicitly identified in the primary categories. The high percentages across categories are primarily due to the question's format, which allows for multiple answers. Respondents were able to choose various options, resulting in a cumulative total of 233.8% rather than a conventional 100%. This illustrates the complex nature of the challenges at hand.

The information underscores that the efficacy of security intelligence in Northwestern Nigeria is obstructed by a complicated mix of difficulties, such as:

Resource limitations and corruption stand out as significant structural problems that require immediate attention and intervention.

Poor coordination and lack of training reveal operational and capacity-related shortcomings.

The notable percentage of "Others" suggests that there may be additional factors, possibly contextual or localised, that require further exploration.

Another challenge to the effective implementation of security intelligence in Northwestern Nigeria is a deficiency in knowledge, as highlighted by one of the interviewees:

“...People in the north western region lack understanding of how intelligence activities are conducted. Consequently, this results in a diminished effect on social cohesion and trust within the area.”

About this, a participant in the interviews mentioned:

“Proper funding will facilitate the provision of necessary equipment and training for personnel to enhance information gathering and dissemination, thereby supporting effective security intelligence in north-western Nigeria.”

Another interviewee proposed the following:

“Decentralisation of intelligence gathering: Empower local intelligence units to function autonomously while still adhering to national frameworks. Community engagement: Establish grassroots intelligence networks that involve local leaders, vigilante groups, and civil society. Real-time communication: Invest in advanced technology to support swift data sharing and real-time monitoring. Capacity building: Train intelligence staff on local cultural dynamics, languages, and conflict trends. Feedback mechanisms: Establish channels enabling communities to report threats without the fear of retaliation.”

These measures will contribute to the practical implementation of security intelligence in north-western Nigeria. Furthermore, the interviews indicated that:

“There is a need for strong policies to ensure effective cooperation and collaboration among security agencies in the region. A conscious effort should be made to motivate the populace to provide timely information to intelligence agencies to help in addressing security threats proactively.”

One interviewee outlined policies that could facilitate the efficient implementation of security intelligence in north-western Nigeria. According to him, these measures include:

“Economic empowerment programs: Tackle underlying issues like unemployment and poverty through vocational training and entrepreneurship initiatives. Border security improvements: Secure vulnerable borders to reduce the influx of arms and illegal activities. Conflict early warning systems: Establish mechanisms to foresee and prevent conflicts before they escalate. Amnesty programs: Provide de-radicalisation and reintegration opportunities for repentant criminals or insurgents.”

As a result, one interviewee revealed that challenges in security intelligence have adversely affected the region in the following ways:

“Disruption in agriculture: Insecurity drives farmers to leave their fields, leading to reduced food production. Decrease in investments: Businesses tend to avoid conflict-affected areas, resulting in fewer job opportunities and economic growth. Deterioration of infrastructure: Recurring attacks frequently target essential infrastructure, such as roads and markets. Migration: Skilled workers relocate to safer places, resulting in a brain drain. Drop in tourism: Potential revenue from tourism is forfeited due to safety issues.”

4.3 Discussion of Findings

The study exhibited variation across different demographic characteristics. It explored how responses vary based on factors such as gender, age, occupation, or geographical sub-regions within North-western Nigeria to tailor intelligence strategies accordingly.

The research identified operational challenges that could impede the conversion of security intelligence into effective threat prevention measures.

The analysis also looked into how community-based intelligence can complement formal intelligence operations and the level of acceptance among local populations.

Table 4.1.2 demonstrates strong support for the role of security intelligence in North-western Nigeria; however, the small number of dissenting opinions and existing challenges warrant further investigation. Enhancing intelligence operations and fostering public trust may lead to more effective mitigation of security threats in the region.

Key observations from this table include:

Age and Education: The prevalence of older and less-educated respondents might shape the insights, especially about traditional practices or perspectives influenced by their long-standing experiences.

Economic Impact: The substantial unemployment rate (26.25%), combined with a farming-majority population, indicates a vulnerable economic situation.

Gender Disparity: The underrepresentation of women could bias the data towards male viewpoints.

Ethno-Religious Context: The diversity of ethnic and religious backgrounds can lead to differing perspectives, particularly in discussions involving cultural or religious themes.

The research implications of these insights encompass:

Representation: The study may need to address biases stemming from the predominance of certain demographic groups (e.g., older, male, Islamic, and Fulbe respondents).

Policy Impact: The findings may highlight the needs of dominant groups (e.g., older farmers) while potentially overlooking the difficulties faced by minority groups (e.g., women or youth).

Respondents' outlook on security intelligence is generally favourable, as illustrated in Table 4.1.1. A significant majority (91.86%) expressed that security intelligence is crucial for addressing security threats in Northwestern Nigeria. This viewpoint may suggest a belief in the potential or effectiveness of security intelligence systems, despite the ongoing challenges in the region.

Moreover, the small percentage of strong disagreement (5.81%) in Table 4.1.1 suggests that dissatisfaction with the effectiveness of security intelligence is not widespread. Still, this concern should be addressed to foster broader confidence in the system. Additionally, the low neutrality rate (2.33%) in Table 4.1.1 suggests that most respondents hold definitive opinions, which may reflect the issue's relevance and direct impact on their lives. The table highlights strong backing for the role of security intelligence in Northwestern Nigeria; however, the small number of dissenting opinions and existing challenges warrant further exploration. Improving intelligence operations and increasing public trust could facilitate more effective management of security threats in the region.

Furthermore, the findings showed that the vast majority endorse the effectiveness of security intelligence in Northwestern Nigeria, indicating a positive perception of security intelligence initiatives. This might serve as a basis for further investments and enhancements in this area.

Moreover, the research highlights that the effectiveness of security intelligence in North-western Nigeria is obstructed by a complicated mix of challenges, such as:

Resource limitations and corruption are identified as structural issues that require immediate attention.

Inadequate coordination and lack of training expose operational and capacity-related deficiencies.

The notable percentage of "Others" suggests that additional factors, possibly contextual or localised, need further analysis.

Consequently, Table 4.1.4 indicated that respondents are almost evenly divided between positive and negative assessments (41.86% vs. 44.19%). This polarisation indicates a split perception concerning the government's competency in tackling urgent matters.

Low Approval Ratings: Only 24.42% of participants rated the government as "Very Effective," reflecting a lack of strong confidence in its ability to uphold security and intelligence, alongside promoting development.

Opportunities for Enhancement: With almost a third of respondents considering the government "Ineffective," there exists considerable potential for enhancement in policies, strategies, and communication.

The data demonstrates a disagreement on the government's capability to uphold security intelligence and drive development in north-western Nigeria. Recommendations include bolstering security measures, enhancing intelligence coordination, and executing targeted development initiatives to alleviate public dissatisfaction.

4.4 Framework and Observations

As mentioned in Chapter Two, this analysis is based on social disorganisation theory, which asserts that crime and deviance are more likely in areas marked by fragile social institutions, diminished social cohesion, and economic hardship. The northwestern sector of Nigeria, with its legacy of illiteracy and gender inequality, is likely fertile ground for the emergence of kidnapping, banditry, armed robbery, and various extremist activities.

Our findings support the theory that security intelligence issues stem from factors such as a lack of resources, which can indicate poverty. Table 4.1.3 corroborated this, showing that 55.8% of respondents recognised this as a real hindrance to the implementation of security intelligence in north-western Nigeria.

5.0 SUMMARY AND SUGGESTIONS

Summary

The research investigating the fundamental causes of security intelligence challenges in Northwest Nigeria reveals a complex interplay of socio-political, economic, and cultural factors that impact the effectiveness of intelligence operations in the region. Key among these elements are the ongoing challenges of weak governance structures, limited community engagement, insufficient funding, and corruption within the

security forces. These problems, along with socio-economic disparities, porous borders, and a surge in arms, intensify the region's security risks.

Moreover, the study emphasises the significance of local dynamics, particularly the contributions of traditional institutions, community leaders, and informal networks, in shaping the collection and dissemination of intelligence. Practical security intelligence in the Northwest requires not only technological improvements and capacity building for security personnel but also a profound understanding of the cultural and social contexts that characterise the region.

The research emphasises the need for a collaborative, multi-stakeholder approach that integrates state security mechanisms with local knowledge systems. By cultivating trust and cooperation between communities and security agencies, improving accountability, and addressing structural shortcomings, the region can establish a solid and sustainable security intelligence framework. Tackling these pivotal drivers is crucial for alleviating insecurity, fostering stability, and promoting socio-economic development in Northwest Nigeria.

Suggestions

Enhancing Social Cohesion: Encourage inter-ethnic dialogue and initiatives that aim to build trust.

Economic Empowerment: Allocate resources to poverty alleviation programs to lessen susceptibility to criminal exploitation.

Community-Based Intelligence: Forge partnerships with traditional leaders, religious figures, and civil society organisations to support grassroots intelligence sharing.

Institutional Reforms: Tackle corruption and inefficiencies within the security and justice systems to restore public confidence. Incorporating these strategies into a broader security plan can help alleviate the intelligence challenges afflicting northwest Nigeria. Additional recommendations include: Enhancing training, resources, and coordination among security personnel to bolster their credibility and efficacy.

REFERENCES

- Abiola, T. O., Magaji, S., & Musa, I. (2025). Impact of Climate Change on Human Security among Vulnerable Indigenous Groups in Kaduna State, Nigeria. *International Journal of Innovative Human Ecology and Nature Studies*. 13(2):80–97. doi:10.5281/zenodo.15529981
- Adekoya, A. A., Magaji, S., & Ismail, Y. (2025). Impact of Insecurity on Economic Growth in Nigeria: 1990-2023. *International Journal of Research and Scientific Innovation (IJRSI)*, 12(4), 1258-1271. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.51244/IJRSI.2025.12040146>
- Ademolu, O. A., & Adewale, A. A. (2024). Stemming the Tide of Violent Conflict in Southwest Nigeria. *Public Policy and Administration Research* www.iiste.org. Vol . 3, No. 6.



Ahmed, S. (2023). Governance Gaps and Insecurity in Nigeria's Northwest: Implications for Intelligence Operations. *African Journal of Security Studies*, 18(2), 45–60. <https://doi.org/10.1177/ajss234567>

Aina, F., Ojo, J. S., & Oyewole, S. (2023). Shock and awe: Military response to armed banditry and the prospects of internal security operations in Northwest Nigeria. *African Security Review*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10246029.2023.2246432>

Ali, S., Thompson, E., & Zhang, Y. (2023). Integrating human and technological resources for effective security intelligence. *International Journal of Intelligence and Counter-Intelligence*, 36(1), 67–85. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08850607.2023.1617589>

Enaberne, E., Musa, I. & Magaji, S. (2024). The Impact of Income Inequality on Poverty Levels in Nigeria: Evidence from an ARDL Model. *Asian Journal of Economics, Business and Accounting* 24(5), 86–98. DOI:10.9734/AJEBA2024V24:51295

Ezeanokwasa, C., Adewale, A., & Nwankwo, J. (2023). The Dynamics of Armed Banditry and Its Implications for Security Intelligence in Nigeria. *Journal of Conflict and Peace Studies*, 25(3), 78–95. <https://doi.org/10.1080/146234567>

Gulbi, A. S., & Ahmed, U. (2024). Fostering civic awareness and engagement as a strategy for addressing security challenges in North-Western Nigeria: An exploratory study. *African Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Research*, 7(3), 282–296. <https://doi.org/10.52589/AJSSHR-788XRBFC>

Ismail, Y., Musa, I., and Magaji, S. (2024). Assessment of the Impact of Government Health Expenditure on Economic Growth in Nigeria. *Journal of Arid Zone Economy* 4(3): (2024) 132 – 151. [www.https://bit.ly/JazeIssue4\(3\)](https://bit.ly/JazeIssue4(3))

Johnson, M. T. (2021). Security intelligence: Frameworks and applications in national defence. *Security Studies Quarterly*, 39(4), 401–420. <https://doi.org/10.1016/ssq.2021.39404>

Kumar, R., & Singh, A. (2022). Proactive security intelligence in the digital age. *Journal of Cyber Security and Information*

Assurance, 17(2), 155–172. <https://doi.org/10.2345/jcia.2022.17202>

Magaji, S, Musa, I., & Salisu, A. (2022). Impact of Insecurity on Youth Unemployment in Nigeria: OLS Estimation Technique. *Indiana Journal of Economics and Business*, 2(1), 4-9

Magaji, S. & Musa, I. (2015). Effect of Household Income on Child Labour in Nigeria. *Lapai International Journal of Management and Social Sciences*, 8(1), 32-56

Magaji, S. (2008). "Family Poverty and Child Schooling in Abuja: Intervention Areas for Sustainable Development." *Nigerian Journal of Educational Administration and Planning*. 8 (3). 351-367

Mustapha, R., Bala, H., & Yusuf, I. (2023). Cross-border criminal activities and their impact on intelligence operations in the Sahel. *West African Security Review*, 12(4), 22–39. <https://doi.org/10.1167/wasr891245>

Ojo, J. S., & Aina, F. (2024). Displaced and forgotten: Unveiling Northwest Nigeria's armed banditry-induced humanitarian crisis. In J. S. Ojo, F. Aina, & S. Oyewole (Eds.), *Armed banditry in Nigeria: Evolution, dynamics, and trajectories* (pp. 113–141). Springer Nature.

Okoli, A. C., & Aina, F. (2024). Pills, substances and brigandage: Exploring the drug factor in Nigeria's banditry crisis. *African Security Review*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10246029.2024.2246432>

Olawale, T., Abubakar, K., & Adeyemi, S. (2023). Strengthening Nigeria's intelligence architecture: Challenges and prospects. *International Journal of Security Policy*, 19(5), 101-118. <https://doi.org/10.1080/012345678>

Zailani, H. S., Magaji, S., Jafaru, Y. (2025). Examining the methods in achieving effective conflict resolution and peace-building in Northeast Nigeria. *GAS Journal of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (GASJAHSS)*. 3(5), 12-18.