

**Insecurity: A Major Challenge against the Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals
in Nigeria**
Ishaku Hamidu

Department of Political Science
Federal University of Kashere, Gombe State, Nigeria
Corresponding author: ishakuhamidu1041@fukashere.edu.ng

Abstract

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as an international socioeconomic programme, was initiated by the United Nations to meet the yearnings and boost the livelihood of the global population domiciled in various countries by the year 2030. Nigeria, like other countries across the globe have domesticated the 17 SDGs and put machinery in place to that effect. Paradoxically however, this study disclose that there are traditional factors and various forms of insecurity serving as major impediments against sustaining the SDGs, with lots of implications on the country. The study recommends that authorities are to awake and ensure that lasting security is provided in the country. This will provide the enabling environment for food production, overcoming hunger/starvation and making educational system to flourish and the citizens will be mentally and socially healthy as envisioned in the SDGs programme.

Keywords: Insecurity, SDGs, Nigeria, Development, and Socioeconomic Activities.

Introduction

Maintaining global peace and security was one of the rationales for the formation of the United Nations Organizations (UNO) in 1945. The UNO was also able to observe that human beings are suffering from other non-violent incidences like diseases, hunger, famine, poverty, draughts, and other natural or artificial disasters. This made her to come up with programmes that would be acceptable and adopted by each sovereign member nation-states for pragmatic and maximum impacts. The UNO in recent times for instance introduced and sponsored Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) from 2000-2015

The essence of the programme was to have direct bearing on global population as they exist or are domiciled in various countries. Since the United Nations (UN) cannot do it alone, she therefore incorporated and partner with the heads of governments/leaders of sovereign member nation-states because they have definite territory and populations under their custody. The UN casted the MDGs vision and then supported nation-states to key into and actualizes the visions.

Such partnership has kept some states leaders totally committed and accountable. Similarly, it assisted in improving the lives, health, economy and social well-being of the respective states' citizens and by extension, affecting the global populations. It was based on the foregoing successes or achievements recorded under the MDGs, that Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was envisioned and casted for nation-states to key into and ensure that human beings in each member nation-stations, as well as global population are impacted. Nigeria for instance, being one of the members of the United Nations, also aligned with both the MDGs and SDGs respectively. The state and its leadership have accepted and domesticated these UN programmes and expended resources on them. Such synergy and commitment recorded some levels of successes, without which nobody would be talking about sustaining it.

While SDGs maybe succeeding in others countries; in Nigeria however, the story is not too encouraging as there are both traditional and current insecurity factors affecting it efficacy. This paper therefore gives background and successes of MDGs and SDGs; mentioned some of the traditional challenges; and thereafter explain how insecurity and its implications are serving as the current impediment towards attaining the sustenance of SDGs in the country and offer recommendations.

Background to SDGs

Prior to the current Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), there was the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that was instituted by United Nations Organizations (UNOs) in September, 2000 and was adopted by member nations. The eight cardinal objectives of the MDGs then were anchored on: Eradication, reducing extreme poverty and hunger; Achieving of Universal Primary Education; Promotion of gender equality and women empowerment; Reducing child mortality; Improving maternal health; Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; Ensuring environmental sustainability; and Developing global partnership for development.

The aforementioned development goals were pursued rigorously with both national and international commitments, within a fifteen years' time frame. There were numbers of successes and challenges in the implementation of the MDGs. As an indication of some levels of successes, the UN summits on 25-27th September, 2015 came up with 'Transforming our world- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'. That summit gave birth to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which was also adopted by member countries. Coming up with the above agenda was a proof that MDGs recorded some tangible goals that are worthy of being sustained. Consequently, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) replaced Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in order to maintain and improve on the initial gains.

SDG's Mandate

Both MDGs and SDGs were UN initiatives. Unlike the MDGs with only eight goals, SDGs have seventeen core values or cardinal objectives to pursue and achieve. The SDGs agenda include:

1. End Poverty in all forms everywhere
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health and Well-Being
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality
6. Clean Water and Sanitation
7. Affordable and Clean Energy
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
10. Reduced Inequalities
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
12. Responsible Consumption and Production
13. Climate Action
14. Life below Water

15. Life on Land
16. Peace, Justice, and strong Institutions, and,
17. Partnerships for the goals

Traditional Challenges against past programmes in Nigeria

Before the current SDGs, there were other national as well as international programmes in Nigeria like Operation Feed the Nation, Green Revolution, Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructures, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), among others. The aforementioned programmes were short lived due to some traditional challenges, peculiar to, or in Nigerian system. Some of such challenges are also manifesting under SDGs, hence the need to mention them. For instance, as good as the SDGs were and the structures put in place at all levels, the programme seem to be limited by some conspicuous traditional factors or issues peculiar to the Nigerian state. These include but not limited to: frequent change in and of government at all levels, or changing of head of units/departments or managing directors (MDs) of or in various programmes. Secondly, there is the lack of government commitments to the actualization of the SDGs owing to other internal conflicting issues or uncertainties in the nation. Thirdly, there are over reliance on oil proceeds in the country. This made the authorities to put more resources and commitment to oil sector as against other vital non-oil sectors of the economy. Consequently, importation of goods and services remain solid without developing other sectors of the economy to assist in meeting the socioeconomic and other agricultural needs of the country.

Fourthly, Nigeria is indebtedness to many foreign countries and transnational institutions with huge collateral implications. This made the country not to have money to meet some of the vital need of the SDGs, hence, this make it difficult for authorities to pay their counterpart funding towards achieving the SDGs. Fifthly, there are corruption in appointing, supervising, financing and sitting SDGs projects and structures in the country. Sixthly, there was poor orientation or education of the populace/citizens on the 17 SDGs, on how they can support, cooperate and protect the SDGs projects and structures for maximum output and assistance from or by the citizens. Seventhly, the bureaucratic bottle neck before decision are made and implemented or before funds are released are also threatening the funding and quick positive action for the survival of the programmes in various states and local government councils in the country. Eighthly, there is the poor supervision of all projects in the various locations. These and many factors threatened the existence and survival of MDGs and other programmes in the past and the current SDGs in Nigeria.

Insecurity as modern and current challenges against SDGs

Besides the aforementioned traditional factors, insecurity is the current and more critical impediment in sustaining the SDGs in the Nigerian state. Insecurity in this study is conceived as the presence of threats, fears, anxiety, uncertainties in the daily affairs of an individual, community and the nation at large. Hamidu, (2021:269) described insecurity as ‘the apprehension of or for potential dangers that might cause injuries, loss of lives, property, or threat to political and socioeconomic stability and development in the community, nation and at global scale’. This definition seems be an all-encompassing as far as the insecurity in the

Nigerian state is concern, which are also acknowledged by members of the international community (Ujah, 2016).

Forms of Insecurity in Nigeria

Various forms of insecurity manifest in Nigeria and they affect both national and international programmes, socioeconomic activities and the polity itself for over a decade now. Among the notable ones in the country are:

Religious threat/insecurity: Religious threat to lives and property is a common feature in Nigeria, affecting both the urban and rural areas. For instance, in some states in north-eastern Nigeria, there was an alien religious movement which has threatened peaceful coexistence and socioeconomic development in most states and the nation at large. Jama'at al-Muhammadiyah, popularly known as 'Boko Haram', was a religious movement. The objective of the sect was the preaching and teaching on how to practice Islam in the way the prophet handed it over to his disciples, (base on the group's understandings). However, the sect's clash with security operatives in Maiduguri, led to the death of Mohammed Yusuf, being the sect's leader then; arrest of some of their members and demolition of some of their property in Maiduguri metropolis. This prompted the group to resort to insurgency in Borno and later to other states in north east Nigeria. They went about attacking police and other security operatives; schools; places of worships; banks; commuters and other government buildings as revealed by Ibrahim, (2013) and Maiangwa (2014). Boko Haram sect later had a breakaway faction, called the Islamic States in West Africa Province (ISWAP). These two armed groups wreak havoc on the Nigerian state, and this constitutes one of the major religious insecurity which has claimed several lives and property (Hamidu, 2020).

Craft and ethnic threats/insecurity: Another dimension of insecurity in Nigeria is the farmers-herders' clashes. This clash is both a craft and ethnic clashes over resources like land, grazing spot and waters. Farmers versus Herders or pastoralists (who are predominantly from Fulani ethnic group) have clashed in several states in Nigeria. This prompted Aderayo (2018:147&148) to states that:

'Nigeria has also been experiencing incessant conflicts between the pastoralists and farmers apart from ethnic, religious, communal and political conflicts, which have threatened the corporate existence of the country. The conflict has become pandemic leading to loss of lives, destruction of property and massive displacement of people. There have been reported and documented cases of such clashes in Benue, Nasarawa, Plateau, Kwara, Taraba, Kaduna, Delta, Edo, Enugu, Oyo, Ekiti, Ondo, Ogun, Adamawa and Borno states of Nigeria. The conflict spread to the other parts of the country as the pastoralists move from the arid North to the Savannah and forest region in South in search of pasture. Conflict between crop farmers and pastoralists accounted for 35% of all reported violent conflicts.

Farmers-Herders/pastoralists (popularly tagged as Fulani herdsmen) conflict has created monumental insecurity and apprehensions in the Nigerian states as revealed by Tenuche (2009) and Olabode & Ajibade, (2010). Travelers, farmers and other business men/women have had clashes with the pastoralists (suspected to be Fulani herdsmen) in several parts of the country,

with lot of damages; constituting insecurity in not only the affected places, but in other parts of Nigeria. Because of their physical characteristics and vocations, many people see the herders/pastoralist as Fulanis, hence giving an ethnic coloration to the craft/vocation, as well as the conflict.

Kidnapping and Banditry: Kidnapping and armed banditry is another major insecurity that is rampant in Nigeria. To Turner (1998), kidnapping applies to ‘all situations where persons are forcibly seized and transported to a destination where they are held hostage against their will in unlawful confinement’. It can also be seen as the seizing and holding of someone or persons as prisoner illegally, usually demanding for ransom before his/her or their releases. John (2020) for instance reported that gun men attacked and abducted Chief Clement Uhembe at his residence in Lafiya on October 7th 2020, demanding #3 million naira. The mentioned incident was confirmed by the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) Asp. Ramhan Nansel. In another incident, kidnappers invaded Pegi, in Kuje Area Council, Abuja and took away two persons (Akinbodade, 2020).

Also in Borno state, no fewer than five of states’ officials were also kidnapped and ransom demanded by the ISWAP armed group (Omirin, 2020). Holding of fire-arms by criminals or armed bandits for kidnapping purposes and getting the ransom they demanded without the military and para-military forces apprehending them makes this new criminal business lucrative and buoyant for the perpetrators. Noah, Yakubu & Ikwuba (2017) concur that kidnapping and armed banditry caused insecurity in several states in Nigeria. Owing to the unprecedented wave and spate of violent crimes in the form of kidnapping and armed banditry in several parts of Nigeria, USA department of State warns it citizens against travelling to twenty states in Nigeria (Ujah, 2016). Many roads in the country, especially Kaduna-Abuja, Nasarawa-Abuja, some villages/towns or local government areas in states like Sokoto, Katsina, Zamfara, Lagos, Kogi, Niger, Plateau, Kaduna, etc recorded monumental cases of kidnapping and armed banditry issues.

Quest for secession: Another form of insecurity is the quest for secession and some militant activities which manifested from some states in the southern part of Nigeria. Known secessionists and militant groups include but not limited to, Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB); Biafra Zionist Movement (BZM); Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB); and the Niger-Delta Avengers. Some activities of the aforementioned groups in South-East and South-South regions of Nigeria, like the sit-down at home enforced by Eastern Security Network (ESN), created insecurity and pose a major threat to lives and socioeconomic activities in that part of Nigeria (Ozeh and Ofodum, 2018).

Impacts/effects of insecurity on SDGs in Nigeria

The aforementioned forms of insecurity have negative impacts/effects on the various SDGs in Nigeria. For example, the core goals one and second of the SDGs were to ‘End Poverty in all forms everywhere’ and ‘Zero Hunger’. These two goals are threatened by insecurity in Nigeria. For instance, poverty was mentioned as one of the likely causes of insecurity, particularly in north east Nigeria (Hamidu, 2020). Activities of the insurgents and terrorists also exacerbate poverty and hunger in the north east and other geopolitical zones of Nigeria through, among other things attacking agricultural activities, destroying crops, farm lands, and other water ways.

These were corroborated by numerous scholars and studies (Hamidu, 2023; Cheri, Kaku, & Kele, 2018; Adetayo & Idowu, 2015 and Pottier, 1999).

Corroborating the above, National Bureau of Statistics has disclosed that 133 million Nigerians are multi-dimensionally poor. That 63 percent of Nigerians are poor due to lack of access to health, education, living standard, employment and security. The 133 poor Nigerians record exceed the World Bank projection for Nigeria in 2022. In 2023, poverty reached 46 percent, representing 104 million Nigerians (Tunji, 2022)

As a result of insecurity which manifest through kidnapping, armed banditry, many farmers were apprehended, ransom money collected and some Nigerians abandoned their businesses and crafts. This made it difficult for such people to get food to eat, money to meet their immediate needs, etc as noted by Yerima and Hamidu (2020). Markets were closed; road network and other financial institutions were attacked and then closed for security reasons. These increase poverty and hunger on the people in Nigeria.

Goals three, four and five of the SDGs which were: ‘Good Health’ and Well-Being’, ‘Quality Education’ and ‘Gender Equality’ are also under serious threat in Nigeria due to insecurity. In several attacks in north east and other parts of Nigeria, hospitals and dispensaries were attacked and drugs stolen or evacuated and some medical personnel were either taken hostage or killed by the attackers. These were confirmed by Relief Web report thus:

Incidents were reported throughout 2022 and continued to be widespread, occurring in 19 of Nigeria’s 36 states. Most incidents affected health workers working for the national health structure, while four were reported as directly affecting LNGOs and INGOs. High numbers were reported in Borno state, where the looting of medical supplies from health centers was frequently reported, as was the case in 2021. In contrast to the looting of medical supplies, which is concentrated in the north of the country, health worker kidnappings and killings were widespread across the country. Elsewhere, incidents doubled in Zamfara state in 2022 from two in 2021 to four. ISWAP fighters were frequently named as perpetrators of incidents in Borno and Yobe states, with one attributed to Boko Haram in Borno. Nigerian Armed Forces personnel were named as perpetrators of two incidents that involved the arrest of a health worker for treating a ‘bandits’ leader with gunshot injuries in Sokoto state and the fatal stabbing of a female INGO health worker by an intoxicated Nigerian soldier in Borno.¹ Members of the Eastern Security Network, a paramilitary organization of the Indigenous People of Biafra separatist group, kidnapped a nurse outside her pharmacy in Enugu in October.² Other perpetrators of attacks were not identified. In most cases, perpetrators were armed with firearms. The exceptions were four incidents involving health facilities and ambulances being set on fire by ISWAP fighters in Borno, Kaduna, and Yobe (<https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/nigeria> 2020).

The aforementioned created fear in the hearts of medical personnel posted to stay in the rural areas or in some vulnerable states in Nigeria (Ibrahim, 2020). So, the population in most rural areas in Nigeria and other vulnerable places have no access to medical facilities and personnel as

at when due. Consequently, the medical, health, and mental well-being of the people in those places will hardly be met as envisioned by SDGs (Afolabi, 2022). Therefore, some people may resort to other non-conventional means to cure themselves against medical advice. Similarly, the frequent attacks on schools and kidnapping of students and their teachers/lecturers as experienced in several states in northern Nigeria is a threat to 'quality education' as envisioned in SDGs. Many educational facilities were damaged, students abducted as well as their tutors. This affects students' enrolments in schools; the serenity of the academic environment for positive teaching, learning and researches are also compromised (Hamidu, 2021). Furthermore, some educational experts are relocating from vulnerable areas or leaving some areas in north east Nigeria to other parts or places of the country that seem to be peaceful or safer for them to live (Nwolise, 2009).

Kidnappers or abductors in Nigeria have captured and carried away women who were equally seeking western education that would make them to be academically and intellectually sound and productive in the labour markets for national developments. Such attacks send strong fears in the hearts of parents and members of the feminine gender, making them to minimize seeking for education or not to go to school again as confirmed by Ibrahim, (2020). Some of the religious attackers like Boko Haram/ISWAP are critical of women being seen outside the home and intermingling with their male counterparts. Through such strict and conservative ideology, the quest for 'gender equality' as desired by SDGs has and will remain a mirage in northern Nigeria and beyond.

Insecurity is also a treat to the sixth SDGs for 'Clean Water and Sanitation'. Attacks by terrorists, ethno-religious conflicts, etc sometimes records much causality that was buried in mass graves. Some of the graves were shallow and not too far from human habitation. These affect the environment and sources of water which the people in that areas use. There were instances where the people killed were dumped in rivers, wells and streams, etc, thereby affecting the waters and the environment (Yerima & Hamidu, 2020). Similarly, due to insecurity, government find it hard to visit rural areas to sink bore-holes or when the ones sunk eventually got spoiled, water engineers become afraid or sometimes refuse going to the interior to repair those affected water sources for fear of being abducted or killed by armed men. In some occasions, the solar panel and other cables on some water sources were stolen due to insecurity. These made people not to have access to clean water or enjoy sanitation in their environments.

Another goal of the SDGs was 'Decent Work and Economic Growth'. As good as this goals were, insecurity in Nigeria have affected the psyche, morale and productivities of workers. Also many workers were displaced, some died or were killed and several offices and other equipments vandalized. These made many working places not to be decent; hence it affected economic growth and development negatively. Owing to attacks in many places, some business premises were also closed, some businessmen and women have relocated and others lost their capitals, thereby becoming poorer than before.

Insecurity affects the 'Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure' goals of SDG in Nigeria. Owing to insecurity in several parts of Nigeria, many industries have collapsed, their workers/staff members killed and others abducted (Ibrahim, 2020). For instance, Odifa (2023) mentioned that Mayor Biscuits Company Limited, Louis Carter Industries, Moak Enterprises, Tower Aluminum, GlaxoSmithKline Nigeria, Technoflex Company Limited, Evans Medicals, among others, have

left Nigeria due to insecurity. News of such relocation will send fear and threat in the hearts of other owners/ managers of industries or would-be investors. Destructions of infrastructures affect innovations and productivities in various ways. Private and government owned companies, industries, plants, workshops, etc were attacked and destroyed by militants, ethno-religious fighters in both rural and urban centers in Nigeria.

Reduced Inequalities' between and among the global citizens or across gender line in many countries are some of the goals of SDGs. In Nigeria however, insecurity has made the inequality in terms of income, sources of food, educations, wealth, etc, to increase geometrically. The rich have money to buy and eat, while the poor don't have such power. The rich are well protected by security personnel, while the poor are vulnerable. The male have avenue to get food, but the female and children don't have, etc. Furthermore, gender inequalities in terms of political, job, educational opportunities and appointments have exacerbated in Nigeria due to insecurity, lack of political will, poverty or gender insensitivity (Afolabi, 2022).

Sustainable Cities and Communities' is also one of the SDGs. Unfortunate in Nigeria, cities that are believed to have more security personnel and other good facilities are also experiencing insecurity. Notable among those cities include but not limited to Abuja, Yola, Maiduguri, Damaturu, Kaduna, Jos, etc. The same thing applies to numerous rural areas in the aforementioned places and beyond (Aguolu, 2023). No parts of Nigeria are safe; as there is insecurity like kidnapping, bomb blast, sporadic gunshots, banditry, ethno-religious clashes, etc, almost on daily basis. These affected human settlements and socioeconomic activities in several rural and urban areas in Nigeria.

Responsible Consumption and Production are also one of the desire/goals of SDGs is also under threat. This is because Nigerians due to insecurity are finding it difficult to get quality food and water to eat and drink (Cheri and Kaka, 2018). Some of the citizens are displaced, hence they have no access to farm; others are kept in refugee camps or schools, living at the expense of sympathizers or faith-based organizations (Robertson, 1990). The consumption here will never be responsible and balance in anyway. In this regard, insecurity has and is affecting these SDGs negatively.

Climate Action', as another SDGs goal is also under threat. Insecurity led to displacement in some communities, where the inhabitants ran away for their lives and their house burnt. This affects the planting and maintaining of trees, grasses and other vegetations, the ecology, etc. Consequently, it leads to desertification and other activities of man that may cause gas emissions. Similarly, in the quest to give security to its citizens, the government of Nigeria will overlook climate change issues and focus on security. This will give desert encroachment a field day in some villages or communities in Nigeria as noted by Aguolu (2023).

Life below Water and life on Land', being also SDGs are also not free from insecurity. Insecurity in Nigeria affects both human beings and other aquatic animals and creatures. For instances, the digging of trances by the security operatives for security purposes, the burying of land mine by the terrorists, the capture of Sambisa Forest and Lake Chad waters by the terrorists and the frequent exchange of heavy weaponry by the two warlords are affecting life of both human being and other creatures both in the water, on the land and in the air negatively (Yerima and Hamidu, 2020). Odeniyi (2024) reported that:

Nigeria has been grappling with armed conflicts such as terrorism, banditry, and clashes between farmers and herders, among other issues, resulting in the loss of

numerous lives. However, speaking during an event organized by FordMarx Nigeria Limited in collaboration with the Ministry of Water Resources to commemorate World Water Day in Abuja, the Head of the UNESCO office in Nigeria, Abdourahamane Diallo, said Nigeria was already facing a water crisis, adding that the ongoing conflicts in many parts of the country could compound the situation if not urgently addressed. He said, “Conflict can exacerbate the existing water crisis in the country. The linkages between water and armed conflict are complex. Sustainable water management leads to prosperity and peace depending on the decisions taken by the government.

Peace, Justice and strong Institutions’ as sixteenth SDGs is also under serious threat. Insecurity in Nigeria has not given room for peace, justice and strong institutions to be seen, provided or formed. Even some of the few institutions that were on ground are not existing or functioning to capacity due to lack of peace in most parts of the country. Some institutions are closed, some have relieved their staffers and other relocated to others safer places. Insecurity has deprived people in Nigeria to see and enjoy social, economic, political justices at all levels as expected by SDGs. Government institutions like the court systems and others are also threatened by insecurity, hence affecting justice delivery in the nation.

The SDGs quest for ‘Partnerships’ that would make the SDGs to thrive in Nigeria maximally, is already affected by the various forms of insecurity. This is because insecurity in Nigeria has not given room for attracting supporting partners to invest or support the achievements and sustaining of the SDGs. No partner will come to stay in the country or be willing to put his/her hard earned money and see their investments being destroyed. Insecurity is a major setback to all SDGs in Nigeria as many partners are afraid of losing their wealth, lives and property in Nigeria due to insecurity. Development partners and supporters expected to visit and see things for they are apprehensive of being abducted killed by terrorists and through other forms of insecurity. United State government for instance warned its citizens and other foreigners against visiting some parts of Nigeria (Ujah, 2016; Iheancho, 2018 and Okechukwu (2018).

Implications of Insecurity on SDGs in Nigeria

The insecurity described above have the under-listed implications on SDGs in Nigeria thus:

- a) Expatriates from other countries will be avoiding or will not be willing to come to Nigeria either for supervision or to stay in the country and give some technical aids/assistances on how to achieve SDGs, especially in most rural areas.
- b) SDGs goals will only be pursued, implemented and managed in the few peaceful areas, states or geopolitical zones at the detriment of the entire Nigerian nation-state. This is because there are some no-go-areas in Nigeria due to insecurity.
- c) Hunger, famine, starvation will increase or may not be tackled as expected or designed by the SDGs, because many farmers and families are displaced from their ancestral location/farmlands by either terrorists or kidnappers.
- d) There shall be scarcity of food, meat (beef, goat, fish, etc). because the farmers and hunters or breeders of such vital food requirements are either displaced, kidnapped or killed by the terrorists, bandits, etc

- e) There shall be inflation of the few available agricultural materials. This will make life difficult for the poor families or low income earners.
- f) There shall be malnutrition due non availability of easily accessible classes of food for human consumptions.
- g) Many schools will remain empty due fear of not being attacked and abducted by terrorists, kidnappers, etc.
- h) Gender equality and balance will remain a mirage due to kidnapping/abductions of women and girl-child, impoverishments of the women folks, etc.
- i) Families will be poor as their sources of income (farmers, herders, and business premises) are attacked and destroyed by terrorists and bandits.
- j) The Nigerian ecology and environment will be badly affected due to some land mines, bombs, and other chemical discharged used in the armed conflicts between the warring factions, ethno-religious rivalries/crisis.
- k) Citizens (male and female) craft men and women, ethnic nationalities will continue to armed themselves and be ready to revenge at the slightest provocation.
- l) Nigeria will continue to lose it citizens (male, female, children and adults) due to ethno-religious clashes, banditry, terrorism, etc.
- m) Nigeria will have to expend more on security personnel and gadgets for security purposes at the detriments of other vital sectors of the Nigerian economy and against actualizing the SDGs,
- n) Nigeria will be politically, economically, socially unstable for good governance and any meaningful development, and,
- o) Nigeria and Nigerians will continue to depend on foreign aids, suffer shortages of foreign exchange earnings, and resort to increase in importation of basic food and other agricultural items because her agricultural, educational and other social institutions are malfunctioning, ill developed or destroyed due to insecurity in the country.

Conclusion

From the discourse above, one can clearly note that SDGs were well conceived by UN and if fully implemented by all member nations including Nigeria. Nigerians will truly experience socioeconomic growth and development. Similarly, Nigerians will be physically, mentally and economically sound as part of global citizens. However, the various forms of insecurity in many parts of the country are posing a monumental threat and challenges to the full implementations and operations of SDGs as it was corroborated by Abdullahi (2022). This goes to say, insecurity is a current major threat to actualizing the SDGs in Nigeria, come 2030, as we are only six years to the terminal period.

Recommendations

Base on the negative effects and implications of insecurity on SDGs in Nigeria, the under-listed are recommended:

1. Authorities in Nigeria must put all hands on deck to ensure lasting solutions to insecurity in the country are provided. This can be done by pragmatic re-invigoration of the various security agencies to awake and synergize, so as to halt and quench insecurity in all parts of the nation.

2. Craft men and women should be well educated and informed to live in peace, respect each other and any defaulter should be punished accordingly to serve as deterrence to others.
3. There should be pragmatic national campaign and enlightenment of Nigerians on the philosophy, core values or visions of the SDGs on individual, geopolitical, national and international benefits so as to get appreciable support and cooperation from all citizens.
4. There should be scholarship and other incentives to boost girl-child education, and other remunerations or incentives to assist women to get employed, engage in agriculture and other businesses.
5. National and international supporters and partners of SDGs should ensure resources are available; projects are well sponsored and supervised for maximum output or productivity. Any corrupt person(s) should be apprehended and prosecuted accordingly.
6. Any macro-states or micro-states that performed well in achieving and sustaining the SDGs, should be recommended and given some token to make them do more, thereby creating a competition among other member states on attaining the SDGs.
7. International organizations should come to the aid of Nigeria to tackle and end insecurity for both national and international socioeconomic development and the sustenance of SDGs in the nation.

References

- Abdullahi, M. (2022, 21, Sep) 'CISLAC: Insecurity affecting actualization of SDGs in Nigeria' <https://www.thecable.ng> Accessed February 8, 2024
- Aderayo, A. A. (2018) The role of non-governmental organizations in stemming pastoralists-farmers conflicts in ijebu north local government area of ogun state in Ibrahim, Saliu & Okolie (ed) Elections, Security Challenges and African Development. Nigeria; TIMEX, Enugu
- Adetayo, O. & Idowu, K. (2015, 3, Jun.) Suicide bomber kills 50 after shouting sai buhari www.punchng.com Accessed February 4 2020
- Afolabi, C.Y. (2022) Women and insecurity in nigeria: The way forward. National Library of Medicine. <https://www.ncbi.nih.gov> Accessed February 8, 2024
- Aguolu, K.C. (2023, 18, Jul) An overview of sustainability issues in Nigeria. [linkedin.com/pulse/](https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/) Accessed February 8, 2024
- Akinboade, L. (2020, 9, Oct.) Gun men invade abuja, kidnap two in pegi, kuje Daily Assets News paper: pp.18
- Cheri, L & Kaku, M. (2018) Komadugu yobe river management in the face of humanitarian crisis: Challenges and prospects. Unpublished paper presented at first NPSA Conference organized by Nigerian Political Science Association, 25-27th April 2018, Gombe State
- Cheri, L, Kaku, M. & Kele, A. (2018) Recurring insurgency: A threat to food security in yobe

state, Nigeria. Unpublished paper, presented at North-East Zonal Conference, organized by Nigerian Political Science Association, 25-27th April 2018, Gombe State

Hamidu, I. (2021) The challenges of insecurity in Nigeria's fourth republic in Bello, K (ed) *Book of Readings on Nigeria's Fourth Republic*. Nigeria, GI Nwaeze Printing and Publishing Limited, Keffi

----- (2020) Fallacy: A Major Cause for the Unending Boko Haram Terrorism in North-Eastern Nigeria. *Journal of Social Sciences and Public Policy*, Volume 12, Number 1, Pages 1-21

----- (2023) Impact of gun trafficking on the political economy of Nigeria' in, Eller, J.D (ed) *Gun Violence, and Prevention-Connections, Cultures and Consequences* IntechOpen Publications

Iheanacho, E.N. (2018) Boko haram insurgency and economic development in Nigeria in Ibrahim, S; Hassan, S. and Okolie A.M (eds) *Elections, Security Challenges and African Development*. Nigeria, TIMEX, Enugu

Ibrahim, I. Y. (2013) *Boko haram insurgency and its implication for Nigeria foreign Policy* (Unpublished) A paper presented at Al-Hikimah University, Ilorin

Ibrahim, J. (2020, 6, Oct.) Bandits abduct 22 farmers in Katsina' *Daily Trust News Paper* pp.4

John, B. (2020, 9/10) Gun men abduct Nasarawa ex-commissioner, demand #30m. *Daily Assets News Paper* pp.5

Maiangwa, J.S. (2014) *The Concept of Terrorism in Africa*. Nigeria, Pyla-Mak Publishers, Kaduna

Nwolise O.B. (2009). *Peace and security in*, Albert, I.O. (Ed.) *Praxis of Political Concepts and Clinches in Nigeria's Fourth Republic*, Essay in Honour of Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu,. Bookcraft, Ibadan.

Noah, A.L Abubakar, Y & Ikwuba, A.A. (2017) *Kidnapping and Socioeconomic Development in Nigeria*. Yar'Adua University *Journal of Social and Management Sciences*. Vol.1(3)

Odeniyi, S. (2024, Mar, 23) *Insecurity can worsen Nigeria's water crisis –UNESCO*. www.punchng.com Accessed 1/5/2024

Odifa, D. (2023) 'Seven Companies that shutdown over worsening economy' <https://businessday.ng> Accessed February 8, 2024

Okechukwu, O. G. (2018) *Ethnic antagonism, political instability and socio-*

- economic backwardness of nigeria: A Critical Evaluation in Ibrahim, Saliu & Okolie (ed) Elections, Security Challenges and African Development. Nigeria; TIMEX, Enugu
- Olabode, A.D & Ajibade, L.T. (2010) Environment Induced Conflict and Sustainable Development: A Case of Fulani-Famers Conflict in Oke-Ero Local Government Area, Kwara State, Nigeria. *Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa. Vol.12 (5)*
- Omirin, O. (2020, 6, Oct.) Five abducted borno officials freed Daily Trust News Paper pp. 4
- Ozeh, C.C. & Ofudum, C. M. (2018) National integration and self determination: diagnosing the IPOB's secession bids for therapy, in Ibrahim, Saliu & Okolie (ed) Elections, Security Challenges and African Development. Nigeria; TIMEX, Enugu
- Pottier, J. (1999) *Anthropology of Food: The Social Dynamics of Food Security*, Cambridge: Polity Press
- <https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/nigeria-violence-against-health-care-conflict-2022>. Google search 1/5/2024
- Robertson, R. E. (1990) *The Right to Food: Canada's Broken Covenant*, Canadian Human Rights Year book.
- Tenuche, F. (2009) Resource Conflict Among Farmers and Fulani Herdsmen: Implications for Resource Sustainability. *Africa Journal of Political Science and International Relations. Vol.3(;9)*
- Tunji, S. (2022, 18 Nov) Nigeria's poverty exceed world bank projection, five states lead <https://punchng.com> Accessed February 8, 2024
- Turner, M. (1998) Kidnapping and Politics. *International Journal of the Sociology of Law. Vol. 2,(6)*
- Ujah, E. (2016, 5, Aug.) US warns citizens against travelling to 20 nigerian states Vanguard News paper
- Yerima, J. E & Hamidu, I. (2020) Impact of insurgency on environment resources in north-east Nigeria'', in Jacinta A. Opara (eds), *Our Changing Environment and Development*. Metropolitan International University Press