Effects of Insecurity on Community Development Projects in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni and Ahoada East Local Government Areas of Rivers State, Nigeria

Adekola, G., PhD   Enyiche, C. C
Department of Adult & Non-Formal Education, Faculty of Education
University of Port Harcourt, Choba, Rivers State, Nigeria

Abstract
The study examined the effects of insecurity on community development projects in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni and Ahoada East Local Government Areas of Rivers State, Nigeria. The study was guided by two research questions and one null hypothesis. The study adopted a descriptive survey design with a population of 3,211 members of various Community Based Organizations in the study areas. A sample of 682 members of various CBOs was selected using the random and proportionate-stratified sampling techniques. Data for this study were collected with the use of a self-designed questionnaire titled "Effects of Insecurity on Community Development Projects Questionnaire (EICDPQ). A correlation index of 0.81 was obtained to determine the reliability of the instrument. Responses to the questionnaire items were analysed with the mean statistics and the hypothesis were tested using the chi square statistics at 0.05 level of significance. The result of the analysed data revealed that the causes of insecurity in the study areas are cult clashes, conflicting political factions, poor distribution of resources, violent resistance to exploitation by government and corporate organizations and neglect of the people. The study therefore, recommended that Government in collaboration with companies operating in this crisis prone areas should engage stakeholders (community leaders, youth leaders and other leaders of Community Based Organizations) in town hall meetings and collectively come up with lasting solutions to these insecurity issues that impede their development.
Keywords: Insecurity, Community Development, Projects,

Introduction
No nation can develop when there is high level of insecurity in the society. The far reaching effects of insecurity are evident in most communities in Nigeria. Most of the communities in Nigeria and especially in Rivers State are less developed and backward. This is because insecurity in recent times has been one of the major issues bedeviling majority of the Nigeria communities as evidenced in communities in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area and Ahoada East Local Government Area of Rivers State. The 2014 Global Report on security indicated that Nigeria is one of the crime ravaging countries in the world. The report rated Nigeria high on the following critical variables: unlawful possession of arms, forgery, receiving stolen properties, false pretenses, burglary, theft, Boko Haram, armed robbery, kidnapping, attempted murder cases, manslaughter etc. (Amirize, 2009).

In the words of Garga (2015), socio-political and economic landscape in Nigeria has been blighted by the endemic twin evil of crime and violence. The abysmal failure of successive administrations in Nigeria to address challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequitable distribution of wealth among ethnic nationalities, ultimately resulted to anger, agitation and violent crimes against the Nigerian state by some individuals and groups. Such crimes include militancy, kidnapping, bombing, armed robbery, destruction of government properties, among others. These activities of various militia groups consequently resulted in low income for government from oil revenue, moderating the Gross Domestic Product growth rate, low participation of local and foreign investors in economic development and insecurity of lives and properties of the citizens.

Insecurity situation is created when there is conflict or crisis in a community. Conflict according to Imhabekhai (2009) connotes disagreement, imbalance or distortion in beliefs, values and situations within, between or among individuals, persons, groups, communities, states, tribes and countries. Conflicts result from changes in perception and subsequent reactions to such changes depending on which side of the divide the individual or group falls.

The spate of insecurity in communities in Rivers State has literally halted community development efforts and projects in recent years. Notably, the incessant killings, kidnapping, armed robbery, cultist activities and electoral violence recorded in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area has left this area in desolation as most of the community members have fled the community for fear of losing their lives. This situation has also resulted in the abandonment of projects carried out by the people. For example, the building of a youth centre in Obohia Road in Omoku which was initiated by the community to promote youth activities has been abandoned half way due to consistent violence perpetrated by the youths in this area.

Similarly, the Omoku market in Egbeda Road was also abandoned due to consistent killing and

factional political violence. In the same line, insecurity issues in Ahoada East Local Government Area especially violence and killings emanating from clashes of rival cult groups and politically motivated killings have affected development efforts in this LGA to a great extent.

The effects of insecurity to community development were clearly highlighted by Imhabekhai (2009) when he asserted that no meaningful development can take place in a crises prone community. This is because development can only thrive in a peaceful environment. Also, energy and resources of the community would be dissipated towards crises management. Resources that should have been used in providing the much needed goods and services for the people are used in fighting insecurity situations. Cooperation, highly desirable in community development is often absent among the people since hatred, mistrust, and hostility reign in the community. It is against this background that the study examined the effects of insecurity on community development in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni and Ahoada East Local Government Areas of Rivers State with the aim of proffering measures to get out of this mess.

Insecurity and Community Development
Insecurity generally disrupts development of nations and societies. Denney (2013) observed that the relationship between insecurity and underdevelopment is much stronger than the relationship between peace and development. That is, where there is conflict there is often underdevelopment. This view was shared by Dike (2013) when he asserted that lack of security of lives and property of citizens is a major hindrance to meaningful development. A climate of fear frightens domestic and foreign agencies interested in carrying out development programmes or investment and it also limits people's ability to develop economically.

Similarly, Ugwu (2013) in highlighting the effect of insecurity on community development noted that many communities cannot benefit from any development project because of unresolved age-long conflicts. This is because it is difficult to mobilize members of such community to get involved in development process since workers cannot enter conflict prone communities for fear of hostility, Imobighein in Ugwu (2013) observed that: in conflict prone areas, unemployment rises, financial and banking systems become in-operative as investors have no confidence anymore and move to more secure areas. Ugwu (2008:105) further observed that:

> During conflicts, there is inadequate cooperation among community members, absence of outside support, destruction of completed projects, inadequate participation in community development process, difficulty in need identification, lack of fund among others which impact negatively on community development.

These far reaching effects of insecurity in most cases put a halt on development in affected communities and retrogression sets in. Children and youths are more vulnerable to conflict through the indirect impact of a weak state and social system, loss of parents or caregivers and often play roles as participants in armies. As they struggle with their own identity, they watch the social fabric collapse around them. The breakdown of social structures can be detrimental to the development of children and youths in their most important years (Ugwu, 2013).

Furthermore, according to Imobighe (2003) Nigeria's security challenges have great effect on the economic growth and development in the country. This was supported by Eme and Anthony in Dantala (2014) when he summarized the effect of insecurity on development in Nigeria in the following ways:

i.   Social dislocation and population displacement
ii.   Social tensions and new pattern of settlements which encourages Muslims/Christians or members of an ethnic group moving to Muslim/Christian dominated enclaves.
iii. Heightens citizenship question and encourages hostility between "indigenes" and "settlers".
iv.   Dislocation and disruption of family and communal life.
v.   General atmosphere of mistrust, fear, anxiety and frenzy
vi.   Dehumanization of women, children, and men especially in areas where rape, child abuse and neglect are used as instruments of war.
vii. Deepening of hunger and poverty in the polity
viii. Atmosphere of political insecurity and instability including declining confidence in the political leadership and apprehension about the system.
ix.   Governance deficit as a result of security agencies inefficiency and corruption.
x.   Loss of man hours due to shortened working hours by banks and commercial institutions and the unprecedented loss of man hours or closure of businesses by those who work at night due to the curfew consequent on the declaration of state of emergency on some states. This has affected the informal but widespread sector of the local economy such as suya, shayi, kosai vendors who make out their living on day to day basis (Shettima, 2012).

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are to:

1. Find out the causes of insecurity in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni and Ahoada East Local Government Areas.
2. Ascertain the extent to which insecurity has promoted disunity among community members in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni and Ahoada East Local Government Areas.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided this study:

1. What are the causes of insecurity in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni and Ahoada East LGAs?
2. To what extent has insecurity promote disunity among community members in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni and Ahoada East LGAs?

Hypothesis

The null hypothesis below was tested at 0.05 level of significance:

Ho_1: There is no significant relationship between the causes of insecurity and the promotion of disunity among community members in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni and Ahoada East Local Government Areas.

Methodology

The study which examined the effects of insecurity on community development projects in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni and Ahoada East Local Government Areas of Rivers State, adopted a descriptive survey research design with a population of 3,211 members of various Community Based Organizations (CBOs) in the study areas. A sample of 682 members of various CBOs was selected using the random and proportionate-stratified sampling techniques. Data for this study were collected with the use of a self-designed questionnaire titled "Effects of Insecurity on Community Development Projects Questionnaire (EICDPQ). A correlation index of 0.81 was obtained to determine the reliability of the instrument. Responses to the questionnaire items from the 682 completed and retrieved collated questionnaire were analysed with the mean statistics and the hypothesis were tested using the chi square statistics at 0.05 level of significance.

Results

The results are presented and interpreted in the tables below.

Research Question 1: What are the causes of insecurity in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni and Ahoada East LGAs?

Table 1: Mean Responses of Respondents on the Causes of Insecurity in   Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni and Ahoada East LGA

S/N	STATEMENT	SA 4	A 3	D 2	SD 1	TOTAL	$\overline{X}$	DECISION
1	Clashes between rival cult groups is a major cause of insecurity in the ONELGA and Ahoada East LGA	400 (1600)	150 (450)	67 (134)	65 (65)	682 (2249)	3.29	Agree
2	Conflicting political factions also cause insecurity in the study area	300 (1200)	220 (660)	100 (200)	62 (62)	682 (2122)	3.11	Agree
3	Poor distribution of resources within a community or among communities in ONELGA and AHOLGA generates violent agitations that lead to insecurity in the communities.	296 (1184)	189 (567)	110 (220)	87 (87)	682 (2058)	3.02	Agree
4	Violent resistance to exploitation by government and oil companies is a cause of insecurity in my community.	240 (960)	260 (780)	123 (246)	59 (59)	682 (2045)	2.99	Agree
5	Election activities are major cause of insecurity in my community.	199 (796)	300 (900)	100 (200)	83 (83)	682 (1979)	2.90	Agree
	Grand Mean						**3.06**	

Note: Figures in bracket are weighted values

Data from table 1 above revealed that items 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 were all accepted. This shows that majority of the respondents agreed that clashes between rival cult groups is a major cause of insecurity in the study areas ($\overline{X}$ =3.29), conflicting political factions also cause insecurity in the study area ($\overline{X}$=3.11), poor distribution of resources generates violence ($\overline{X}$=3.02), violent resistance to exploitation by government and corporate organizations operating in communities causes insecurity ($\overline{X}$ =2.99), and neglect of the needs of the people by the government and political class causes conflict ($\overline{X}$ =2.90).

With a grand mean of 3.06, it is confirmed that the causes of insecurity in the study area are cult clashes,

Journal of Education and Practice
ISSN 2222-1735 (Paper)   ISSN 2222-288X (Online)
Vol.8, No.14, 2017
www.iiste.org
IISTE

conflicting political factions, poor distribution of resources, violent resistance to exploitation by government and corporate organizations and neglect of the people.

Research Question 2: To what extent has insecurity promoted disunity among community members in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni and Ahoada East LGAs?

Table 2: Mean Responses of Respondents on the Extenttowhich Insecurity has Promoted Disunity among Community Members in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni and Ahoada East LGA

S/N	STATEMENT	VHE 4	HE 3	LE 2	VLE 1	TOTAL	$\overline{X}$	DECISION
6	Community members in the study area are now divided along political lines	319 (1276)	223 (699)	90 (180)	50 (50)	682 (2205)	3.23	High Extent
7	Community members in the study area have lost confidence in the ability of their leaders to protect them.	356 (1424)	240 (720)	50 (100)	36 (36)	682 (2280)	3.34	High Extent
8	Some village ceremonies in the study area that bring community members together have been put aside due to insecurity.	288 (1152)	208 (624)	90 (180)	96 (96)	682 (2052)	3.01	High Extent
9	Some community members evade town hall meetings for fear of insecurity	400 (1600)	189 (567)	43 (86)	50 (50)	682 (2303)	3.38	High Extent
	Grand Mean						**3.24**	

Note: Figures in bracket are weighted values

Data from table 2 revealed that responses to items 6, 7, 8 and 9 indicated high extent. This means that majority of the respondents agreed that community members in the study areas are now divided along political lines to a high extent ($\overline{X}$ =3.23), community members in the study areas have to a high extent lost confidence in the ability of their leaders to protect them ($\overline{X}$=3.34), some village ceremonies in the study area that bring community members together have been put aside due to insecurity.($\overline{X}$=3.01) and some community members to a high extent evade town hall meetings for fear of insecurity ($\overline{X}$ =3.38). With a grand mean of 3.24 therefore, it is confirmed that insecurity has promoted disunity among community members in the study areas to a large extent and this has affected development projects in the areas.

Test of Hypothesis

Ho$_1$: There is no significant relationship between the causes of insecurity and the promotion of disunity among community members in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni and Ahoada East Local Government Areas.

Table 3: Chi-Square Analysis of the Relationship between the Causes of Insecurity and the Promotion of Disunity among Community Members

O	E	O-E	$(O-E)^2$	$(O-E)^2/E$	X^2_{cal}	df	X^2_{crit}
83	55.54	27.46	754.31	13.58			
78	62.83	15.17	230.07	3.66			
82	77.43	4.57	20.93	0.27			
98	80.67	17.33	300.40	3.72			
23	55.15	-32.15	1033.51	18.74			
44	62.39	-18.39	338.34	5.42			
83	76.89	6.11	37.39	0.49			
65	80.11	-15.11	228.19	2.85	66.678	9	16.919
23	15.67	7.33	53.67	3.42			
21	17.73	3.27	10.67	0.60			
11	21.85	-10.85	117.76	5.39			
13	22.77	-9.77	95.39	4.19			
8	10.64	-2.64	6.98	0.66			
12	12.04	-0.04	0.00	0.00			
15	14.84	0.16	0.03	0.00			
23	15.46	7.54	56.87	3.68			

See details of the contingency tables in Appendix

The analyzed data in table 3 revealed that the calculated value (X^2_{cal}) was 66.678, while the critical table value (X^2 crit) was 16.919 at 0.05 level of significance and 9 degree of Freedom (df). Since the X^2_{cal} (66.678) was greater than X^2_{crit} (16.919) at 0.05 level of significance and 9 degree of freedom, the null hypothesis was rejected and the alternative accepted. This implied that there is a significant relationship between the causes of insecurity and the promotion of disunity among community members in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni and Ahoada East Local

Government Areas.

Discussion of Findings

Finding for research question one revealed that the causes of insecurity in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni and Ahoada East Local Government Areas are cult clashes, conflicting political factions, poor distribution of resources among community members, community members' violent resistance to exploitation by government and corporate organizations operating in their communities and neglect of the people by the government and corporate organizations. This finding supported a report in the Tide Newspaper of May 8th, 2011, which revealed that living in Ogba community in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area is fast becoming a nightmarish experience because of the rising wave of violence which many blame on factors such as inexplicable rivalry between cult groups. Another study by Beland (2005) further identified the cause of insecurity to include poverty, money and politics, small arms proliferation, rise of armed cult groups, election fraud and Oil and Gas exploration.

Result from research question two revealed that insecurity has promoted disunity among community members in the study area to a large extent. This is because majority of the respondents agreed that community members in the study area are now divided along political lines because of insecurity. Community members in the study areas have lost confidence in the ability of their leaders to protect them because they feel they instigate some of this violence. Some village ceremonies in communities in the study area that bring community members together have been put aside due to insecurity and some community members to a high extent evade town hall meetings for fear of insecurity. This findings supported Ugwu (2008) when she observed that during conflicts, there is inadequate cooperation among community members, absence of outside support, destruction of completed projects, inadequate participation in community development process, difficulty in need identification, lack of fund among others which impact negatively on community development.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, it was concluded that there has been consistent killing of people, destruction of property worth thousands and millions of naira, repeated cases of kidnapping and other related forms of violence in the study area. These various forms of insecurity are caused by cult clashes, factional politics, violent resistance to exploitation by the government and other corporate organizations. The effects of insecurity in the study area include promotion of disunity among community members, energy and resources for development are used to manage crises. These had led to abandonment of community development projects in the study area and people who would have contributed to community development have deserted the communities due to insecurity.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended that:

1. Community leaders should shun factional politics and take unbiased stand in using some traditional institutions and methods in uniting the people they lead.

2. Government should deploy security agents to communities where there are cult groups and frequent kidnapping to ensure such groups are completely dealt with.

3. Government in collaboration with companies operating in these crisis prone areas should engage stakeholders (community leaders, youth leaders and other leaders of Community Based Organizations) in a town hall meeting and collectively come up with lasting solutions to these insecurity issues that impede their development.

References

Amirize, B. (2009). *Community Education in Contemporary Nigeria.* Port Harcourt: Fio Press.

Beland, A. B. (2005). The Political Construction of collective insecurity: From moral panic to blame avoidance and organized irresponsibility. *Center for European Studies Working Paper Series 126.*

Dantala, D. P. (2014). Insecurity and the challenges of development in Nigeria. *Journal of Developing Country Studies,* 4(22), 50-52.

Denney, L. (2013) Insecurity disrupts development but peace doesn't drive it. Retrieved from www.thebrokenonline.eu/Blogs on 30th June, 2016

Dike, A. B. (2010). On the measurement of income inequality. *Journal of Economic Theory.* 2, 244-263.

Garga, E. (2015). The effects of insecurity and poverty on human development at the municipal level in the Northern Nigeria. *Journal of Emerging Trends in Economic and Management Sciences (JETTEMS)*, 6 (7), 268-276.

Imhabekhai, C. I. (2009). Management of community development programs and projects. Benin: Uniben Press.

Imobighe, T. A (2003). *The OAU (AU) and OAS in regional conflict management. a comparative assessment.* Ibadan: Spectrum Books Ltd.

Shettima, K. (2012). The Imperative of Peace and Development: The Challenges of Insecurity in Borno State. A

paper presented at the occasion of international security summit on terrorism and other related crimes. Organiized by Sun Newspaper Limited Held at Transcorp Hilton Abuja from 17th -19th April, 2012.

The Tide Newspaper (2011). Ogba Community and Insecurity. Online news of May 8th 2011. Retrieved from www.thetidenewsonline.com accessed on the 3rd of May, 2016.

Ugwu, A.N (2008). Conflict management for sustainable community development in selected Local Government Areas in Rivers State. Unpublished PhD Thesis.

Ugwu, A. N. (2013). Conflict management for sustainable community development in Nigeria in the 21st Century. in B. A, Eheazu, C. N. Barikor, and I.S., Nzeneri, (Eds). Readings in adult and non formal education. Port Harcourt. University of Port Harcourt Press. (1) 199-211.