

Research Article

## CONSEQUENCES OF LOCKDOWN (COVID19) ON SECURITY AND LIFE OF NORTHERN NIGERIAN

JAMIL HASSAN ABDULKARIM<sup>1</sup>, IBRAHIM FRIDAY SULE<sup>2</sup> AND TAMIZHAZHAGAN V<sup>3\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Environmental Health, New Gate College of Health Technology, Minna Niger State, Nigeria

<sup>2</sup>Department of Biological science ATBU Bauchi, Nigeria

<sup>3</sup>Department of Zoology, Syed Ammal Arts and Science College. Ramanathapuram, India

\*Email: tamilzoon@gmail.com

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### ABSTRACT

**Purpose:** The study was aimed at ascertaining death recorded during COVID19 lock down, from March to June 2020, lock down which was, imposed with the view to contain the spread of COVID19 in the in northern Nigeria, this resulted to increase in banditry and boko haram attack on civilian

**Methodology:** the research employed both qualitative and quantitative method and the research work on primary and secondary data.

**Result:** the research result reveal the death recorded from banditry boko haram attack as a result of insecurity during the period of lockdown was slightly below death recorded as a result COVID 19 pandemic

**Conclusion:** Nigeria is currently working hard to contain the spread in the country as the case of COVID19 is above 21,000,thousand, however banditry and boko haram attack has increase in the months under review in the northern Nigeria with increase in mortality, morbidity leaving number of children without parent(orphan) and number of women without husband(widow) leading to psychological trauma among the victim as this increase public health burden as well disease burden, it is high time Nigerian government go back to drawing board and address the issues of insecurity in the northern Nigeria. As matter of urgency.

**Keywords:** COVID-19, Banditry, Boko Haram, Northern Nigeria

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### INTRODUCTION

**Banditry** is a type of organized crime committed by outlaws typically involving the threat or use of violence. A person who engages in **banditry** is known as a **bandit** and primarily commits crimes such as extortion, robbery, and murder, either as an individual or in groups. Banditry is a vague concept of criminality. (Oxford English Dictionary). (1).

**Boko Haram**, a militant Islamic group working out of Nigeria, whose purpose is to institute Sharia, or Islamic law. Facts: In the local Hausa dialect, **Boko Haram means** "Western education is forbidden." CNN, (2014). Although, the causal factors for banditry and terrorism differ, both phenomenon locally thrived on exploiting the fragile or weak State capacity evident in human rights abuses, inequality, poor service provision and

unemployment.(3) While banditry, predominantly in the North-West contrasts the predominance of violent extremism in the North-East, both constitute a common thread of the overlapping nature and characteristics of organized crime as well as its mirrored impact on peace and human security in the affected States, WANEP, (2019).(4)

Banditry brutality has influenced populaces living in Nigeria's Zamfara, Kaduna, Niger, Sokoto, Kebbi and Katsina states in the northwest. Around 21 million individuals living in these states have been presented to uncertainty from exercises of outlaws. Detached to the Boko Haram rebellion in the upper east, the banditry brutality started as a rancher/herder struggle in 2011 and strengthened between 2017 to 2018 to incorporate cows stirring, grabbing for recover, sexual savagery and

killings. The savagery has influenced around 35 out of 92 neighborhood government regions in the 4 states. The disclosure of gold mines and the exercises of illicit excavators going after the control of gold stores have served to additionally increase the presence and exercises of outfitted gatherings in the northwest. By March 2020, in excess of 210,000 individuals have been inside uprooted.(5) In excess of 35,000 evacuees have crossed collective lines to Maradi in Niger Republic by the start of March 2020. These outcasts are facilitated in Madaou in Tahoua locale, Dan DadjiMakaou, Garin Kaka and GuidanRoumdji.\Acaps, (March, 2020) (6)

Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 disease in Nigeria, late February, the various governments took various measures to combat the plague. It started with lock-down of Lagos State, the epicentre of the disease in Nigeria, Ogun State and Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory, FCT for two weeks. (7) The lock-down was further extended by two weeks. Now, the lock-down has been eased but there is restriction of inter-state movement across the country and curfew from 8pm to 6am. Some other states have adopted various restrictive measures. However other states of north west and central and north east follow suit to contain the spread of COVID19 in their state meanwhile this bring about bridge of security in those states. Vanguard (23 may, 2020) (8)

#### **Consequences of lock down on security and life of people of Northern Nigeria**

On the 27th of February 2020, Nigeria affirmed its first instance of Covid illness (COVID-19). 100 days after, the Nigeria Center for Disease Control (NCDC) has announced 11,844 affirmed cases and 333 passings. Also, 3,696 individuals have been dealt with and released effectively. The COVID-19 pandemic has influenced more than 100 nations across the world. More than 6 million individuals have been influenced, and the quantity of passings has surpassed 300,000 as at the sixth of June 2020. (9)

As Nigeria's Public Health Institute, NCDC keeps on working close by different offices under the management of the Federal Ministry of Health, in driving the general wellbeing reaction to the episode. Likewise, the organization has assumed a vital part in the multi-sectoral reaction, inside the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 (PTF-COVID-19), set up by President Muhammadu Buhari.(10)

Notwithstanding similarly as the Covid pandemic keeps on guaranteeing a huge number of lives across the world, criminals working in pieces of northern Nigeria, particularly in the North-West, seem, by all accounts, to be holding a celebration of passings among the troubled inhabitants. (11) Unknown, maybe, to most Nigerians and obviously, the Federal Government, which is as of now occupied with a battle to contain the spread of the Covid, the setbacks recorded from assaults completed by these scoundrels may overwhelm the COVID-19 fatalities in the country inside the most recent couple of months. (12).

#### **Implication of Lock down on Life and Property of Northern Nigeria**

In view of the recent development of COVID 19 outbreak in the country which resulted to the effort taken by the federal government and various state government to the contain further spread of the COVID19 outbreak, their attention was tilted toward controlling the disease which left other sectors like security not receiving require attention, this give birth to resurgent of banditry and book haram activities which lead to the following in the northern Nigeria (13)

1. Mortality
2. Morbidity
3. Loss of Property
4. Depression

**Mortality:** death is being on increase in recent time due insecurity experience in some part of northern Nigerian as the result of lock down imposed with view the contain the spread of COVID19 in the country however this further lead increase in attack lunch by bandit and boko haram which claim many life of innocent civilian, furthermore this resulted to women and children becoming widow and orphan respectively, this further created serious socio-economic problem and public health burden, leading to humanitarian disaster thereby increase the number of internally displace person in view of fear of attack from the attack from the attack by bandit or boko haram. "According to a 2019 report issued by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Nigerian Government, over 200,000 persons were internally displaced in several communities of Zamfara, Katsina and Sokoto States between January-August 2019. Majority of these IDPs were women, children and the elderly taking refuge in neighbouring Republic of Niger, Cameroun and Chad" UNHCR (2019) (14).

"Reports obtained from the Zamfara State Government revealed that banditry led to an estimated 22,000 widows and 44, 000 orphans in Zamfara State since 2011". ZamfaraState. (2019)

**Morbidity:** morbidity refer to illness however banditry and boko haram activities in some part of northern Nigeria due to lock down as result of COVID19 has resulted to a lot of morbidity from rape, various degree of injury sustains in course of attack thereby increasing disease burden which major public health concern. (14).

**Loss of property:** in view of the recent attack by bandit and boko haram resulted in the loss of property whereby some house is being set on, cattle are being rustle, money and other material has destroyed and take away respectively by the bandit and boko haram during the period of lock down in view to contain the spread of COVID19 pandemic in the region. In related the literature.

"The flow of illicit firearms in communities of North-West region is also a cause for security concern. Apart from fatalities recorded, bandits' attacks on

communities increased social risks, discouraged investment and triggered economic crises for individuals and communities. The conflict is causing a spillover effect on other neighboring communities and local government areas of Niger State in the North-Central region, hindering inter-communal and inter-state trade”WANEP (2019). (14.)

**Depression:** the recent activities of banditry and bokoharam in the course of lock down in the northern Nigeria which have left number of people killed, rape and brutally injured, subjected children to orphan and married women to widow, this may only effect social-economic but rather lead to psychological trauma among the children, widow and survival among men, furthermore this result mental problem thereby increase public health burden in the region. (14).

**METHODOLOGY**

The study employ both qualitative and qualitative approach with the view to ascertain number of mortality from banditry and book haram in the northern Nigeria during the months of lock down, Nigerian violence that is both causal and symptomatic of Nigeria’s political instability and citizen alienation. The data are based on monthly surveys of Nigerian, international media and report from united nation and relevant agency.The data start with March 1, 2020, the research work covered only four months from march to June 2020. (15).

Relying on press reports of banditry and book haram insurgency in north west, central and north east respectively, methodological limitations. There is a dearth of accurate reporting across certain regions, death tolls are imprecise, and accounts of incidents vary. There is the potential for political manipulation of media. Given these limitations, the study makes every effort to collect information from multiple sources. Nevertheless, the statistics should be viewed as indicative rather than definitive. (15).

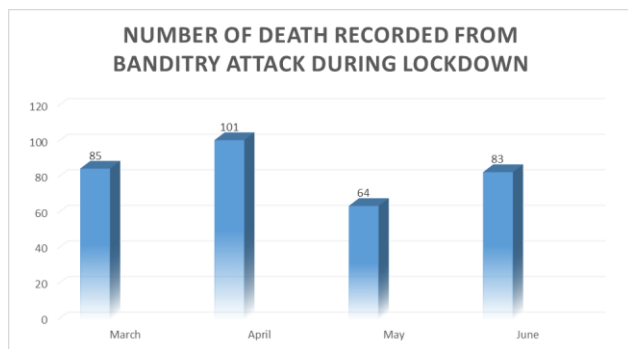


Figure 1: Source: Vanguard and Punch (Nigerian Newspaper)

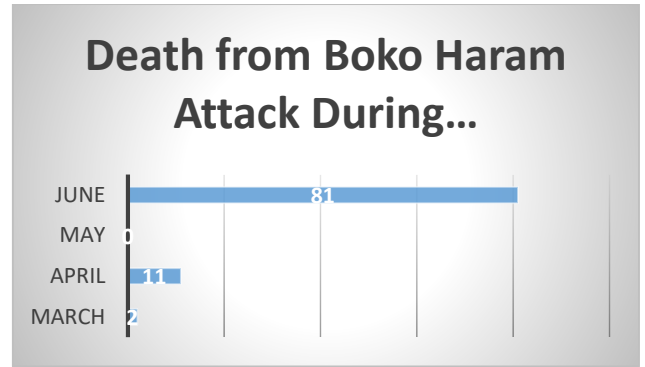


Figure 2. Source: Vanguard and Punch (Nigerian Newspaper)

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Northern Nigeria in recent time continue facing insecurity problems ranging from banditry, boko haram, kidnapping. This chapter will discuss the study findings from the various attack of bandit and book haram on civilian in northern Nigeria during the period of lock down from march to June. (16)

The above figure reveal the number of innocent civilian killed by bandit in the northern Nigeria from the month of March to June, furthermore figure reveal that in month of March the number mortality from the banditry activities are 85, in the month of April, the figure reveal that there was high number of mortality which account for 101 civilians been killed by bandit in northern Nigeria while the month May and June represent 64 and 83respectively. (16).

The above figure reveals the number of mortality from boko haram in the northern Nigeria from the month of March to June within the period of lockdown, furthermore in the month of march the study reveal that two (2) civilianwere killed by bokoharam, in the month of April the study reveal that 11 people were killed in the northern Nigeria while 81 people have so far lost their life in the month of June, however no any death were recorded in the month of May from boko haram attack. (16).

The statistic from the both attack of bandit and boko haram in the northern Nigeria respectively reveal that number of mortality from activities of bandit and boko haram almost reach the mortality record from COVID 19 in Nigeria, as of 25 June 2020 the mortality from COVID19 stand at 525 with death from tool bandtrtry and boko haram attack stand at 427,its indeed the insecurity in the northern Nigeria is of great concern to public health. (16).

**CONCLUSION**

Nigeria is currently working hard to contain the spread in the country as the case of COVID19 is above 21,000, thousand, with however banditry and boko haram attack has increase in months under review in the

northern Nigeria with increase in mortality, morbidity leaving number of children without parent(orphan) and number of women without husband(widow), leading to psychological trauma among the victims as this increase public health burden as well disease burden, its high time Nigerian government go back to drawing board and address the issues of insecurity in the northern Nigeria as matter of urgency.(17).

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