

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE AND WELFARE OF THE COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY BANDITRY IN THE NORTHWESTERN NIGERIA

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Abstract

The main objective of the paper is to examine the extent to which international humanitarian response could enhance the welfare of the communities affected by the recent banditry in the northwestern Nigeria. The study has primarily focused on the use of the secondary source of data with emphasis on the online materials. Descriptive method of analysis is basically employed in the presentation and analysis of the data. The paper has found that there are considerable international humanitarian supports to Nigeria but they are grossly inadequate compared to the number of the neediest. Also, the federal government has mostly prioritized the disbursement of the materials to the northeast and north-central to the detriment of the northwest that aggravate the problem in the area. Some of the recommendation are: the federal government has to procure modern arms and embark on the offensive attacks against the bandits, when it weaken them, then to disarm and encourage negotiated settlements between the bandits and communities, etc.

Keywords: *International Humanatarian Response, Banditry, Affected Communities, Nort-West*

Introduction

The global humanitarian needs are growing faster over the year with the increase of manmade and natural disasters, distractions, and displacement of people. The United Nations has a longstanding mandate to coordinate humanitarian relief for communities overwhelmed by conflict and disasters. This role is grounded in the UN Charter, which seeks to “achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character.” (United Nation, Undated). United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) coordinates international humanitarian response efforts, ensuring rapid and effective assistance to people affected by crises. The office also, brings together governments, NGOs, and UN agencies to assess needs, mobilize resources, and streamline emergency responses. It also advocates for humanitarian principles and works to improve crisis preparedness and risk reduction worldwide (OCHA 2025).

The Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2025 shows a humanitarian sector entering financial crisis. Cuts in international humanitarian funding by many of the top government donors. Countries experiencing protracted crisis are more vulnerable than ever; humanitarian

assistance has overtaken development assistance as their dominant source of external concessional support, and the average protracted crisis pays double the amount in debt payments compared to a decade ago. This leaves serious questions about how they can find sustainable pathways out of crisis. A 'humanitarian reset' announced by the United Nations' Emergency Relief Coordinator reflects a sector facing up to this new and unprecedented challenge (OCHA, 2025).

Africa remains the epicenter of some of the world's most severe humanitarian crises, driven by conflict, climate shocks, economic fragility and large-scale displacement. The continent accounts for roughly 40 per cent of global humanitarian needs (OCHA (2026). Millions across the continent face acute food insecurity, displacement and limited access to basic services, while recurrent droughts, floods and cyclones continue to erode livelihoods (OCHA, 2026).

Nigeria continues to face staggering levels of humanitarian needs driven by protracted conflict, insecurity, climate-induced disasters, and epidemic. In 2026, escalating violence and attacks continue to drive forced displacement, affecting millions of Nigerians and killing thousands. 4 million forcibly displaced Nigerians live scattered across 3,900 settlements and in camps (European civil protection and humanitarian aid operation 2026).

The 2026 figure of people in need of humanitarian assistance stands at 5.9 million, down from 7.8 million in 2025. (Humanitarian action 2026). Food security and malnutrition are widespread, with over 27 million people facing crisis or emergency levels of food insecurity and 6.4 million under-5s expected to suffer from acute malnutrition in 2026 across the country (European civil protection and humanitarian aid operation 2026).

Nigeria's North West, is one of the country's six geopolitical zones and comprises seven of the country's 36 states. They are Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto and Zamfara. It covers an area of 216,065 sq. km or 25.75 per cent of the country's total land mass. Its major ethnic groups are Hausa and Fulani, who historically share strong cultural ties and are very much intermixed, with other smaller groups. The region has estimated population of 33 million (based on figures from the contentious 2006 census) and is predominantly Muslim. Most of the population (about 80 per cent) are farmers, pastoralists, agro-pastoralists or small-scale entrepreneurs. (International Crises Group, 2020).

The region is the most poorest in the country with the growing competition over land, food and water that shattered over years by the country's so-called 'farmer-herder conflict' that drives repeated cycles of violence and retaliation. The conflict has been driven by several interconnected factors, including farmer-herder resource conflicts along ethno-linguistic lines, banditry, the proliferation of small arms, and ungoverned spaces difficult to access even by the state (Bryant et al, 2024). Fleeing from this violence, much of which is carried out by armed groups referred to as 'bandits', has become a survival strategy for many (Bryant et al, 2024 and UN OCHA, 2023b).

The violence has deeply unsettled the economy. The agriculture, on which about 80 per cent of the population depends for livelihoods, has been particularly devastated. For several years, farmers in the affected areas have abandoned their fields for fear of attack or kidnapping. Huge numbers of livestock have similarly been missing. These disruptions have impoverished farmers and herders alike, created food shortages and aggravated immense internally displaced persons (IDP) in the region (See International Crises Group, 2020). As of 2024, in the three main states where the devastation was much in the region, there were around 95,000 displaced in Sokoto, 160,000 in Zamfara, and 232,000 in Katsina – almost half a million people in total.

By 2025 there were over 640, 000 people displaced across the region. Yet compounded huge humanitarian needs in the area (Bryant et al, 2024 and Sida 2025).

The national emergency management agency (NEMA) whose responsible for the coordination of the humanitarian response in Nigeria is officially receiving support from the office for the coordination of humanitarian affairs (OCHA) of the United Nations (Sida, 2025). Also, many nations and non-governmental organizations have been responding to the Nigerian humanitarian needs as it's an obligation for the international community to respond to it in the globe. (INSO, 2025). With many humanitarian organizations already overstretched by the demands in Nigeria's northeast, the overall humanitarian response in the northwest remains patchy and grossly inadequate thereby leaving the welfare of the affected communities as casualty (See International Crises Group, 2020). Base on this development, therefore, this paper examined the extent to which international humanitarian response could enhance the welfare of the communities affected by the recent banditry in northwestern Nigeria.

Objective of the paper

The general objective of the paper is to examine the extent to which international humanitarian response can enhance the welfare of the communities affected by the recent banditry in northwestern Nigeria.

The specific objectives are:

- to examine the effect of banditry on the humanitarian needs in the affected communities,
- to examine the magnitude of the humanitarian needs in the area,
- to examine the international response to the humanitarian needs in the area

Methodology

The study has primarily focused on the use of the secondary source of data with much emphasis on the online materials. It utilizes some the available and relevant information found in both published and unpublished materials. From the published materials it made use of available information found in books, journal articles, and seminar and conference papers, among others. From the unpublished materials it utilizes information found in periodicals, magazines, working papers, governments and corporation reports, press release as well as the publications of humanitarian agencies, international NGOs and student's dissertations, among others. Descriptive method of data analysis is basically employed in the presentation and analysis of the data found from the two sources of information mentioned above.

Theoretical framework

The human security theory is a modern approach to security that shifts attention from protecting the state to protecting the human beings. According to the United Nations, human security is defined as the protection of the vital core of all human lives in ways that enhance human freedoms and fulfilment. Human security shifts its focus from the security of the state to the security of individuals, emphasizing freedom from fear, freedom from want, and the freedom to live in dignity (Assam, 2024).

The 1994 Human Development Report defined human security as people's "safety from chronic threats and protection from sudden hurtful disruptions in the patterns of daily life." Seven types of security were listed as components of human security: economic security; food security;

health security; environmental security; personal (physical) security; community security; and political security (Dorn, 2021).

In the human security domain, where the sanctity of human life is paramount, the pressing need was to find effective means and mechanisms to protect human beings, especially the many innocent victims of armed attacks. This humanitarian action was to be complemented by an active effort at both conflict prevention and post-war recovery, that is, through the entire timeline of conflict (Dorn, 2021).

Nigeria, the most populous nation in Africa, has been in clear defiance of nearly every human security. The nation's economy has continued to decline, exacerbating food insecurity, poverty, and unemployment. Security challenges, ranging from insurgency and banditry in the North to separatist movements in the South, have led to significant loss of lives and widespread displacement of people (Assam, 2024).

Thus, the human security theory is highly applicable to the situation in northwestern Nigeria because the region faces multidimensional insecurity that affects not only the state but also the daily survival and welfare of individuals and communities. The theory also helps explain how banditry and armed violence in the northwestern Nigeria threaten human lives, personnel safety, livelihoods and social welfare.

Banditry and Welfare of the Affected Communities

Northwestern Nigeria has a very long history of armed banditry which can be traced to a precolonial period. As it was a major hub of precolonial international trade and migration. Kano and Katshina were well placed in the trans-Saharan routes for the trade and tourism, with further connection to Sokoto in the West, Borno and others in the East and Benin Empire in the South. Amidst these, armed bandits inhabited these routes, and constituted major threats to caravan trading, tourism, political stability, and territorial integrity of the precolonial states and societies in the region (Ojo et al, 2023).

The situation persisted in the colonial period but the colonial order reinforced the capacity of the area and suppressed the activities of the bandits with considerable success. The new order came with Atlantic-oriented trade and socioeconomic system, Westphalia state structure and related policing and defense programs. These among others drove armed bandits to the underworld and minimized their threats in the late colonial and early post-colonial Nigeria (Ojo et al, 2023).

However, political violence, ethnicity, militarization of the society, inadequate policy attention for human development and climate change, and weak institutional capacity of the state in governance and security increased the opportunities and motivations for the armed resistance and criminal violence in post-colonial Nigeria. Amidst these, armed bandit groups proliferate across the country, with surge of armed robbery and ethno-communal clashes from 1980s (Ojo et al, 2023).

In the period, northwest has witnessed waves of violence including sectarian clashes, Islamist militancy and electoral violence. From 1980 to 2010, it saw numerous Christian-Muslim and intra-Muslim riots (International Crises Group, 2020). There was the inception of an insurgent group popularly known as the Boko Haram in around 2009. The group originated from the city of Maidugri, the Borno State capital of north-eastern Nigeria and later spread many northern Nigerian states including north-western region. Between 2011 and 2015, Kaduna and Kano states have suffered many Boko Haram bombings and shootings most notably that of the 20th

January 2012 in Kano city that led to the killing of about 185 people in that single attack (Okpanage, 2012) and (Hassan 2015).

Yet, 2011 can be considered as a landmark in the contemporary reemergence of armed banditry in the north-west Nigeria. As armed groups commanded by the Fulanis Kundu and Buharin Daji emerged. They named the group *Kungiyar gayu*, the young guys' association. However, the group is known to the public as "*Kungiyar Barayin Shanu*" (the cattle rustlers' association). They engaged in a series of cattle rustling and other terror attacks against the predominantly Hausa farming communities in the area (Ojo et al, 2023).

Violence which was said to have rooted in competition over resources between the predominantly Fulani herders and mostly Hausa farmers. Apart from cattle rustling the violence later escalated to more organized crime that include kidnapping for ransom and village raids. Jihadist groups have later stepped in to take advantage of the security lapses in the area. Having originated in Zamfara state, the bandits and their violence spread to other north-western states, namely Kaduna, Katsina, Sokoto and Kebbi among others (International Crises Group, 2020). The continued insecurity has uprooted many families and generated immense humanitarian need. Violence, displacement of people, high levels of malnutrition and food insecurity as well as the lack of basic services and protections (UN OCHA, 2023a) and (USAID, 2017).

The former Governor of Zamfara state, Abdulaziz Yari, is reportedly to have said that: 'nearly five hundred villages and thirteen thousand hectares of land have been devastated so far. Also, some reports put the number of children orphaned as a result of such attacks at forty four thousand since 2010. In Anka Local Government Area of the state, over sixteen thousand people have been internally displaced. The violence has had a far-reaching humanitarian and economic impact on the area that devastated the welfare of the people (UN OCHA, 2023a) and (USAID, 2017).

The violence has deeply unsettled the economy. Agriculture, on which about 80 per cent of the population depends for livelihoods, has been particularly devastated. For several years, farmers in the affected areas have been abandoning their fields for fear of attack or kidnapping. Huge numbers of livestock have similarly been missing. These disruptions have impoverished farmers and herders alike, created food shortages and aggravated malnutrition particularly among children (International Crises Group, 2020).

kidnappings for ransom, extortion, forced taxations, forced labour, cattle rustling and attacks on civilians in the northwest has recently reached endemic level. Bandits hold territory and demand payment not only from the families of those they kidnap but also for farmers to access their own land to cultivate. Being forced to pay high rates of 'taxation' has driven many to destitution and displacement. For the over 487,000 people displaced in the northwest so far, survey respondents list 'armed banditry and kidnapping' as the main reason for fleeing their homes, with 100% of respondents in Zamfara, 84% in Katsina and 77% in Sokoto saying so (INSO, 2025).

Commerce has been similarly disrupted with thousands of shops and other businesses are in ruins or have shut down due to direct attacks and kidnappings of businessmen, which have fed rising fears of insecurity. Significant private property has been lost. With road travel hazardous, local traders are afraid to transport farm produce to markets. Investor confidence has also evaporated (International Crises Group, 2020). The disposable income of relatively wealthy families in the area has also declined: in Zamfara for instance, the number of people who can

afford to go on pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina dropped from an average of about 4,500 in previous years to 1,500 in 2019 (International Crises Group, 2020).

The crisis has had gender-differentiated effects on the area's population. Thousands of men and boys have been kidnapped or killed, as well as robbed of their cattle and other possessions, leaving thousands of women as both widows and sole breadwinners. The crises also led to the death of tens of thousands of people with many hundreds of thousands have fled to the neighboring states for refuge. Livestock and crops have been decimated, further depressing human livelihood indices that were already at the countries lowest (International Crises Group, 2020) and (UN OCHA, 2023, a).

The federal government's response to the conflict in the northwest has primarily been a military one, including Operation Hadarin Daji, launched in 2019, as well as the establishment of various 'Special Vigilante Corps' of state-backed militias – that have themselves been accused of extrajudicial killings in the Nigerian media, as well as exacerbating the ethnic dimension of the conflict. Grievances over the actions of these groups were raised as part of a series of attempted peace-building approaches throughout the 2010s, including gun amnesties in exchange for livestock and other deals that successfully facilitated the release of thousands of kidnapped people (Bryant et al, 2024).

Unlike the northeastern Nigeria, where the state established armed and restoration humanitarian intervention. The military there already had counter-insurgency operations to rout out the insurgents and efforts made in the areas of rehabilitation and resettlement of the victims. This is not the case in the northwest. The region only experience armed humanitarian intervention bereft of relief materials distribution and resettlement efforts. In order to prosecute the war against armed banditry in northwest. Despite the military operations, insecurity fester in the region (UN OCHA, 2023, a).

Violence has had a far-reaching humanitarian and economic impact in the affected communities and created a domino effect of security problems. Over the last decade, tens of thousands of people have been killed, mainly in Zamfara state – with over half a million people internally displaced and tens of thousands fleeing into Neighboring countries. The violence also aggravated other security challenges. In the three most affected states of the northwest there are around 95,000 displaced in Sokoto, 160,000 in Zamfara, and 232,000 in Katsina – almost half a million people in total. Yet banditry, and the humanitarian needs it compounds, have been characterized as symptoms of underlying crises in the region. By 2025 there were over 640, 000 displaced individuals across the region (Bryant et al, 2024) and (Sida 2025).

International Humanitarian Response and Welfare of the Effected Communities

The humanitarian response in Nigeria has been managed and harmonized at the federal government level, the line ministries relevant for the humanitarian response are the ministry of finance budget and national planning and the ministry of humanitarian affairs and poverty alleviations. The national emergency management agency (NEMA) coordinates the humanitarian response officially and receives support from the office of the coordination of humanitarian affairs (OCHA) of the United Nations (UN OCHA, 2023a) and (Sida, 2025).

Apart from the United Nation Organization many nations and non-governmental organizations have been responding in one way or the other to the Nigerian humanitarian needs as it's an obligation for the international community to respond to any humanitarian needs across the globe. In this respect European Commission (ECHO), USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian

Assistance (BHA), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), among others, have participated immensely in the humanitarian response in the country (INSO, 2025).

According to the UN, during 2024, USA represented more than 50% of the total Humanitarian response planning funding while United Kingdom, ECHO, Sweden and Germany were subsequently top donors representing approximately 30% of the HRP funding together. (Sida, 2025). For 2025 the European commission and United Kingdom are the far and largest donors representing approximately 40%. Despite the cutbacks, the US is the third largest donor followed by Germany and Sweden. The global freeze and scale – back of its humanitarian funding announces in January 2025 has done much consequences on aid operations in the country (Sida, 2025).

Although humanitarian needs in the northwestern Nigeria remained severe and protracted, the region was not included in the Nigeria Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) until in 2023 when the northwest operational response plan (ORP) was launched to deliver a coordinated, multi-sector humanitarian response relevant to the specific needs of the region (NIF and UNICEF, 2025). Many international organizations operated in the northwest among which is MSF and it's prominent in the region that frequently cited by interviewees as present and struggling to meet high healthcare needs. There is also a 'growing coalition' of organizations recognizing the extent of needs in the northwest, helped in part by a multi-sector needs assessment carried out in the region since 2022, but humanitarian activities then was happening outside the conventional system (Bryant et al, 2024).

International NGO safety organization (INSO) which mostly operating in the northeastern Nigeria since 2016, has successfully expanded its programs in the northwest since April 2024. This expansion marks a new chapter both for INSO and the wider response, providing a platform that enables NGOs to make informed, strategic decisions regarding their operations, significantly improving the safety and ultimately the effectiveness of humanitarian efforts in the northwest region (INSO, 2025).

As it's the highest donor in terms of humanitarian assistance across the globe, United States and Nigeria have enjoyed a strong security partnership and friendship for almost 50 years before the recent insecurity in the northwestern Nigeria. The United States of America works closely with Nigeria both bilaterally and through regional and multilateral fora. Particularly in the area of humanitarian assistance to the affected communities across the country (Bureau of Political Military Affairs, 2022).

From this development, however, several humanitarian assistance projects have been initiated and implemented either directly by the American government agencies or in conjunctions with other organizations. The aids are multifaceted, particularly in the areas of food support programs, donations of health facilities as well as other materials needed by the displaced people such as health outreach services, psychosocial support services and integrated gender-based violence and child protection support. Others are clean and safe water supply programs, and improved sanitation and hygiene practices. As well as activities to improve acute malnutrition and infant and young child feeding in emergencies for pregnant and lactating women and children across all the affected communities including the northwestern part among (UN OCHA, 2023b) and (USAID, 2021).

Other US funding is determined to support the UN world food program and provided critical food assistance, nutritional support and assistance to the communities to return to their

agricultural livelihoods where security allows (See, Punch, 2016). However, the humanitarian needs in the northwest are deepening and increasing, particularly those related to food insecurity and malnutrition coincides with the increase in the number of the victims. By December 2023, an approximate of 4.4 million people across the northwest have faced food insecurity and the number is quietly increasing. There by pushing more people to ‘catastrophe’ conditions, in which starvation, destitution and death are common (UN OCHA, 2023, b).

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Office of the Foreign Disaster Assistance in conjunction with FHI 360 was also said to have provided vital health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene services in the affected areas. The organization also works with the community volunteers to construct and repair key sanitation infrastructure, such as drainage system, latrines, and showers, and deliver messages that promote healthy hygiene practices to reduce the spread of communicable diseases in the displacement sites and host communities (USAID, 2017). However, recent research shows that the internally displaced persons (IDPs) living conditions across the northwest region are appalling, characterized by irregular and inadequate food distribution, crude shelters, and poor health and sanitation services. Their plight is also compounded by the near absence of any humanitarian actor (International Crises Group, 2020).

In another projects funded by FHI 360 in conjunction with USAID is that on the increasing access to primary health care services for thousands of people by training clinical health care workers to deliver services, conduct malnutrition screenings, and refer cases to specialist care. To help safeguard survivors of gender- based violence. The program is also establishing safe spaces, where vulnerable women and girls receive critical psychosocial support, and conducting community outreach sessions on gender- based violence (USAID, Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance Duration, 2021).

Contrarily, another research has shown that, out of the current number of the displaced persons, across northern region over 80 percent of them are women and children who have faced an increased risks of violence, abduction, rape and abuse. During conflict, children, girls, women and people with disabilities are the most affected groups. They require additional attention through enhanced access to protection and quality of basic health, nutrition, water, sanitation, hygiene and learning services. Millions of people are still going hungry after years of attacks disrupted farming and supplies of daily needed goods and services (The Punch, 2023) and (UN OCHA, 2023b).

In an interview conducted among the displaced persons in the northwest sub-region, majority of the respondents have indicated that they rarely received any aid. What assistance was recorded was also more basic, primarily being food, and longer-term interventions were reported as rare. Pressing needs were reported variously as food, cash, livelihoods and security. These findings are consistent with those of other studies, which suggest that despite the substantial humanitarian funds deployed to the affected communities, 89% of households have never received any humanitarian assistance in Zamfara, Katsina and Sokoto states (Bryant et al, 2024). The latest estimate from UNICEF indicate that approximately 3.5 million children suffer from acute malnutrition in the country with 2.5m residing in just six states across the northeast and northwest area (Sida, 2025)

The northwest scores are higher on multidimensional poverty indices than anywhere else in the country and, when faced with a complex series of armed groups with ambiguous identities and motivation, is presented more as a context of ‘lawlessness’ than a clear conflict, despite

comparable impacts. Such a framing of ‘underdevelopment’ likely contributes to dissuading humanitarian programming despite the region’s now acute needs (Bryant et al, 2024). (Sida, 2025) (INSO, 2025).

(NIF and UNICEF, 2025). (Reliefweb, 2026)

Despite the fact that Nigeria is a low middle income country however most of its economic policies aggravate the situation of the communities affected with banditry and other insecurity issues including that of the northwest region. The government fuel subsidy was removed in 2023, for instance, have a serious negative impact on the economy as well as the resilience among the Nigerian population which approximately 87 % lived below the poverty line. Inflation rate has skyrocketed to about 33.8 % as of October 2024 limiting people’s purchasing power. Access to livelihood opportunities and basic services particularly in the northwest like hospitals and education has been severely damaged due to armed conflict. Targeted abduction and attacks on civilians especially where civilians seek livelihoods opportunities are common and restricted freedom of movement and commercial activities. Thus, has rendered many humanitarian support useless and unable to reach people in the remote places (Reliefweb, 2026) and (Sida, 2025).

In what seems an effort to come up with a workable solution to the humanitarian problems in the northwestern region, the federal government of Nigeria has launched, the North-West Operational Response Plan (ORP) implemented between August 2025 and July 2026. The plan represents a locally led and integrated approach grounded in the principles of the UN Humanitarian Reset and the Humanitarian–Development–Peace (HDP) nexus. By prioritizing life-saving assistance while aligning with long-term development and peace-building efforts. The ORP seeks to strengthen local systems, empower communities, and promote inclusive governance (NIF and UNICEF, 2025) and (Reliefweb, 2026).

It reflects a collective commitment to shift power to frontline actors, bridge humanitarian and development divides, and foster durable solutions that address the root causes of vulnerability. Through this seemingly over ambitious plan the federal government commits to protecting lives, restoring dignity, and advancing a sustainable pathway from crisis to recovery, resilience, and peace. The plan will also strengthens the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus in the 7 North–West States -Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, and Zamfara, by promoting early recovery, resilience-building, and sustainable solutions to reduce long-term vulnerabilities. (Reliefweb, 2026) and (NIF and UNICEF, 2025).

Based on these development therefore, the paper has finally founded that there are laudable programs of humanitarian assistance provided by the international community to the Nigerian government, particularly those provided by the United Nations agencies and United States of American but the federal government mostly prioritized the disbursement of the supports material to the northeast and north-central parts of the country whereby neglecting the northwestern part. Similarly, the humanitarian assistance are mostly relief materials like food items, drugs, sanitation materials as well as temporary shelters among others, however they are grossly inadequate to the extent that majority of the displaced individuals in the northwest have not received any aid and are left totally destitute living in the IDP camps or roaming along the streets of major cities struggling for survival. (Bryant et al, 2024), (Sida, 2025) (INSO, 2025), (NIF and UNICEF, 2025) and (Reliefweb, 2026)

Conclusion

The paper has critically examined the extent to which international humanitarian response could enhance the welfare of the communities affected by the recent banditry in the northwestern Nigeria. The study has witness the destruction that banditry imposed on the welfare of the affected communities. Kidnaping for ransom, loss of cattle and other belongings, destructions of commercial activities, suspension of government services delivery, displacement and massacre of people, among others, there by generating immense humanitarian needs in the effected states in the region (See International Crises Group, 2020, Bryant et al, 2024, Sida 2025 and NIF and UNICEF, 2025).

Development that resulted to the international humanitarian response in the country by UN agencies, nations and even the nongovernmental organizations. Particularly the European and American agencies, United Nation's commissions and some international nongovernmental organizations have been studied and analyzed (Punch, 2016, USAID, 2021, USAID, Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance Duration, 2021, USAID, 2021 and OCHA, 2023).

Based on this development, therefore, the paper has finally concluded that there are laudable programs of humanitarian assistance provided by the international community to Nigeria, particularly that of the United Nations agencies and United States of American but the federal government of Nigeria mostly prioritized the disbursement of the supports material to the northeast and north-central parts of the country to the detriment of the northwest region. Similarly, the supports are mostly relief materials like food items, drugs, sanitation materials as well as temporary shelters among others, however they are grossly inadequate to the extent that majority of the displaced individuals have not received any aid and left unreservedly destitute living in the IDP camps or roaming along the streets of major cities struggling for survival. (Bryant et al, 2024), (Sida, 2025) (INSO, 2025), (NIF and UNICEF, 2025) and (Reliefweb, 2026).

Recommendations

- Federal government has to procure modern arms and embark on the offensive attacks against the bandits.
- As it weaken the bandits, then governments have to encourage negotiated settlements between the bandits and communities and to disarm, rehabilitate and reintegrate them back to the communities.
- Government has to fully implement the North-West Operational Response Plan (ORP) but shouldn't be restricted to the life-serving assistance alone, it should include all and sundry.
- Federal, states and local governments at the affected area should harmonized their support under one umbrella and to make sure that the support reach the needed individuals.
- In the long run, international development organizations, such as the World Bank, various UN agencies, African Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank and European Commission among others, should offer or sustain support for development programs in the region.

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