

# Factors Contributing to Insecurity in Sub Saharah Africa

Akintunde Thomas Bolanle, Adelana Joel Oluwasogo, Adeyemi Olabisi Omowumi

*Department of Urban and Regional Planning, School of Environmental Studies, The Federal Polytechnic Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria*

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**Abstract:** Insecurity have increased, posing serious problems for the neighbourhood and having an effect on the lives and livelihoods of citizens in Sub-Sahara Africa. This study seeks to pinpoint the underlying reasons of these problems by undertaking a thorough examination. It is hypothesized that a number of variables, including socioeconomic inequalities, unemployment, ineffective law enforcement, and porous border controls, contribute to the persistence of insecurity in the study area. A mixed-method of approach will be used for the study, combining qualitative and quantitative data collection techniques such surveys, interviews, and data analysis. The results of this research will be invaluable in helping to understand the underlying causes of insecurity in Sub-Saharah Africa, which will guide the creation of targeted strategies and interventions to address these issues and bring back safety and stability.

## I. Introduction

Sub-Saharah Africa is currently facing considerable difficulties as a result of abduction problems and general insecurity. Residents, local officials, and the government are all concerned about the prevalence of these crimes as they work to identify the underlying causes of such instances. In order to understand the underlying causes of insecurity in the study area, it is essential to look at the particular dynamics of the area.

## Objectives

- 1: to identify the socio-economic factors that contribute to insecurity in the study area
- 2: to examine the role of law enforcement and security measures in addressing insecurity in the study area
- 3: to explore the impact of border control and transnational networks on insecurity in the study area

## II. Literature Review

There are several factors that contribute to insecurity in Sub Sahara Africa, these among those factors are:

**Poverty and Unemployment:** Numerous studies have highlighted the strong correlation between poverty, unemployment, and the occurrence of insecurity. In Sub Saharah Africa, a significant portion of the population faces economic hardships, leading to limited access to basic amenities and a lack of employment opportunities. Nnam, M. (2014). Desperation and financial strain push individuals towards engaging in criminal activities, as a means of obtaining financial gain. The existence of socio-economic disparities, characterized by high poverty rates and unemployment, creates an environment conducive to criminality and heightens the overall insecurity in the study area Ibrahim, Y., & Ahmad, A. (2020).

**Limited Economic Opportunities:** The limited availability of economic opportunities in Sub Saharah Africa contributes to the occurrence of insecurity. The lack of industries, inadequate infrastructure, and the absence of viable livelihood options force many individuals, particularly the youth, into idleness and frustration. This situation makes them susceptible to criminal influences and involvement in kidnapping activities. Addressing the dearth of economic opportunities through investment in industries, agriculture, and entrepreneurship is essential to mitigate the socio-economic factors contributing to insecurity. Saba, 2020.

**Social Inequality and Marginalization:** The presence of social inequalities and marginalization plays a significant role in exacerbating kidnapping and insecurity Sub Saharah Africa. The unequal distribution of resources, coupled with limited access to education and healthcare, perpetuates a sense of exclusion and injustice. This social divide fosters discontentment and can drive individuals towards criminal activities as a means of expressing grievances or seeking redress. Addressing social inequality and ensuring inclusivity through equitable resource allocation and social welfare programs are crucial steps towards reducing kidnapping incidents and enhancing overall security (Barton-Crosby, & Hirtenlehner, 2020).

**Cultural Practices and Conflicts:** Cultural practices and inter-communal conflicts contribute to the occurrence of kidnapping in Sub Saharah Africa. Land disputes, rivalry, and conflicts between different factions create a fertile ground for criminal activities,

including kidnapping. These conflicts often escalate into violence, and criminal networks exploit the chaos and disorder to carry out their illegal activities. Resolving cultural disputes and promoting peaceful conflict resolution mechanisms can help address these underlying factors and reduce kidnapping incidents in the study area. Otu, & Nnam, 2018.

**Weak Law Enforcement and Governance:** The breakdown of law and order, as well as the inadequate presence of law enforcement agencies, significantly contribute to the overall insecurity in Sub Saharrah Africa. Insufficient police personnel, limited resources, and a lack of effective security infrastructure create an environment where criminals can operate with impunity. This weak enforcement of the law undermines public confidence and emboldens criminals to engage in kidnapping and other criminal activities. Strengthening law enforcement agencies, enhancing their capacity, and promoting community-oriented policing strategies are vital to combating kidnapping and improving overall security (Aydin-Aitchison, & Mermutluoğlu, 2020).

### III. The Study Area

Ibarapa North Local Government area is situated in Oyo state, Southwest Nigeria and has its headquarters in the town of Ayete. Several towns and villages make up Ibarapa North LGA and these include Tapa, Igangan, Alapala, Adeagbo, Tobalogun, Kongo, Elegbeda, and Akoya. Ibarapa North LGA is bordered by Egbado North, Ibarapa east, Iseyin LGAs and by parts of the Benin Republic. The estimated population of Ibarapa North LGA is 41,840 inhabitants with the predominant tribe in the area being the Yoruba ethnic affiliation. The Yoruba language is commonly spoken in the LGA with the most practiced religions in the area being Christianity and Islam. Notable landmarks in Ibarapa north LGA include the Igangan Microfinance Bank.

#### Geography of Ibarapa North

Ibarapa north LGA covers a total area of 1,218 square kilometres and witnesses two distinct seasons which are the dry and the rainy seasons. The average temperature of the LGA is 28 degrees centigrade while the area has an average humidity level of 60 percent. Average wind speed in Ibarapa north LGA is 9 km/h.

#### Economy of Ibarapa North

Farming is a critical aspect of the economy of Ibarapa North LGA with crops such as melon, maize, and vegetables grown in the area. Trade also booms in the area with the LGA hosting a number of markets such as the Obada, Konko, and Ajise markets. Other important economic enterprises engaged in by the people of Ibarapa North LGA include textile dyeing and woodwork.

### IV. Theoretical Frame work

**Social process:** It is a cluster of many theories. Jones, (2008) saw the strength of this theory in the proposition that criminality is a function of individual's socialization and thus can be reduced through right and proper socialization. Family relations, educational experience, peer relations and institutional involvement and belief have effect in inducing people into crime or not. By necessity therefore, to avoid crime in people, the proper type of orientation and relationship pattern is required in all human social institutions and agencies since we are persuaded that nurture possess a greater sway on human conduct generally and crime specifically especially kidnapping. (Costello, & Zozula, 2018).

Institutional involvement and belief are an aspect of social process theories. It sees the moral fiber of a person as emanating from the level of commitment one maintains with a belief system. Therefore, the people who hold high moral values and attend religious services would learn to distinguish right from wrong and eschew crime and other antisocial behaviour. This view holds water in contemporary societies as church attendance has a positive effect on youth's involvement on crime.

Social control or bond theory is another aspect among the social process theories. The trust of this theory is based on the assumption that all people are all potential criminals and as such can violate the law once the opportunity avails itself, especially as the excitement, reward and gratification makes the act a repeated one. According to Jones, 2008 social control theorist argues that people obey the law because their behaviour and passions are controlled by internal and external forces. These forces may include self-control, commitment to conformity among others. Thus, this throw light on outer or external forces when he asserts that it prepares the individual for self-discipline by supervision and punishment when they go wrong.

**Social conflict theory:** This is another sociological explanation for crime causation in societies. A number of figures and perspectives have been developed on this area. In all, Marx is a major proponent of this orientation. Ene, 2018. opined that the aim of social conflict theories is to explain the cause of crime from the economic and social context. Similarly, Daramola and Basorun, 2019 affirms that the basic tenet of this perspective is that conflict is fundamental aspect of social life itself; as such it cannot be fully resolved. Ene,2018. further opined that in social conflict perspective crime is: the natural consequence of economic and other social inequalities the stresses which arise between and within social groups as they compete with one another for resources and survival. The social forces which result are viewed as major deterrents of group and individual behaviour, including crime.

However, Fink, & Pingle. 2012 brought a greater clarity to Marxist social theory, when he posits that crime is an outcome of poverty from the poor and unemployed in capitalist-oriented societies and as such he concludes that such societies are by their structure criminogenic. Forest, 2012 enthused that with an increasing gap between the rich and poor that creates people at the two extremes, the poor result to stealing from the rich to survive.

**Peace-making Criminology:** Peacemaking is an aspect of conflict perspective, a part of sociological theories of crime causation. Ibrahim, & Mukhtar, 2017. has it that the earliest theorists that wrote on this perspective were Tiftt and Surlivan. Later theorist of social conflict like Barton-Crosby, & Hirtenlehner, 2020 saw crime control as only possible through peacemaking and restorative justice. Os, 2017 threw light on restorative justice when he asserts that it involves using humanistic non-punitive strategies to right wrongs and restore social justice through the agents of crime control and members of the society at large.

**Economic Theories:** The Marxist perspective is fundamental to the economic theories of crime causation. Barton-Crosby, & Hirtenlehner, 2020 enthused that crimes are of entirely low class phenomenal on to people who want to meet the basic needs of life. Ngutu, 2014 throws more light on this view when he stated that people at the lowest rungs of the social structure have the greatest incentive to commit crimes. In a similar note, Yusuf, Balogun, & Falegbe, 2015 sees these basic needs of food, shelter and clothing as the propelling force that drive men to ignore the legitimate means of livelihood for unethical, immoral and of course illegitimate ways to satisfy their basic needs.

As a primary orientation, poverty is seen as the driving force for involvement in criminal activities. Ugwu, 2010 had this in mind when he opined that people are basically “motivated to engage in crime because of economic precariousness or other economic self-interest”. Tzanelli, 2006 argues that greed, self-interest and hostility generated by the capitalist system, are motivating factors to crimes at all levels of society. Bonger in Otu, & Nnam, 2018 sees capitalism as the “facilitating environmental condition” for crime. Okoli, & Agada, 2014 concludes that “it is generally assumed that poor people are potential criminals because of their desperate economic condition” in societies. On a dialectic note, Nnam, 2014 admits that not all considered to be poor with whatever standard are engaged in crime. This is essentially true because crime as we observe it today seem a human tendency that cut across all social class and status, with the rich involved in all manner of dubious criminal activities often in their sphere of influence or comfort zone or place of work.

**Developmental Theories:** Perspectives under this theory are oriented towards controlling crimes through developmental designs or measures. Otu, & Nnam, 2018 disclosed that development theorist believes that the proper control of developmental factors which encapsulate the cause and continuation of criminal careers, will help in the control of crimes in society.

## V. Ken’s Booth Theory of security

The qualitative empiric of this study present therein in line with Ken’s Booth Theory of world security with a focus on emancipation of security, disentangles the approach on the conventional (world view on security, even when it is debated on) and approached the issue of kidnapping on a regional/state level on how issue concerning kidnapping security issues can be addressed.

**‘Theory of World Security,** Ken Booth (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007), Booth describes *Theory of World Security* as the culmination of a thirty-year project. Indeed, it is a work of truly impressive scope, aiming to “explain and advance a case for a particular theoretical framework with which to explore and engage with the security of real people in real places”. The theoretical framework, the “theory of world security” of the title, is informed by the “emancipatory realism” that Booth has been developing for more than a decade (heretofore labelled “utopian realism”), and is applied in the text to the broad sweep of contemporary world politics. Booth aims to illuminate a “New Twenty Years’ Crisis” that global society is now entering , and which he feels will culminate in the “Great Reckoning” a concatenation of profound challenges to world politics. His central thesis is that to respond to that crisis we need a critical theory of world security, as only emancipation can produce true security. In much of his ambition, Booth is successful. Theoretically, it delivers a more extensive version of the elements of a critical security theory than Booth outlined in his 2005 edited volume, *Critical Security Studies and World Politics*. Empirically, there are few if any contemporary problems not considered in his wide-ranging review of the present world.

Based on the Findings, beliefs and suggested ways of addressing the challenges of kidnapping from respondents, it shows that, when the International world view of security on traditional/military security does not cover a lot of security issues which has already been argued by human security advocates and scholars; then for Nigerian state, the politics of meaning and security adopted will be fruitful when the political leaders think about security alternatively coupled with the traditions supportive to addressing security in state are consulted and probably with fusion for the best result.

Arguably, the Nigerian government and its citizens going back to pre-colonial period see and knows how to address situations of kidnapping but probably may not want to bring traditional practices in place due to ‘democracy’ practiced in Nigeria and will cause religious quagmire among its citizens, but even so, an agreement can be reached if the government really want to make curb and

the issues of insecurity such as kidnapping and human sacrifice kidnapping. Therefore, for Booth’s emancipation of security, it fails to point out that there will be issues conforming to an alternative security at the beginning and might even be frowned at internationally unless this emancipation is effective and provides positive results.

Table 1.1 Average monthly income of the respondents

Average monthly income	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
#10,000-17,000	110	36.66%
18,000-25,000	95	31.6%
#26,000-33,000	45	15%
#34,000-41,000	27	9%
#42,000 above	23	7.66%
Total		

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Table 1.1: reveal the financial status of the respondents, 36.66% of the sampled population stated that 10-#17,000 is their average monthly income. Closely followed by another higher percentage 31.6% of the respondents who earn 18-#25,000 per month. Only 15% of the respondents were identified as people earning 26-#33,000 monthly. Just few people earn 41and #42,000 above in a month, 9 and 7.66% respectively. The reason is not farfetched, due to the incessant kidnapping and insecurity in the study area, people were afraid to disclose their financial status. Because numerous people have been kidnapped and have paid a very huge amount of money for ransom, even some are brutally murdered by their abductors.

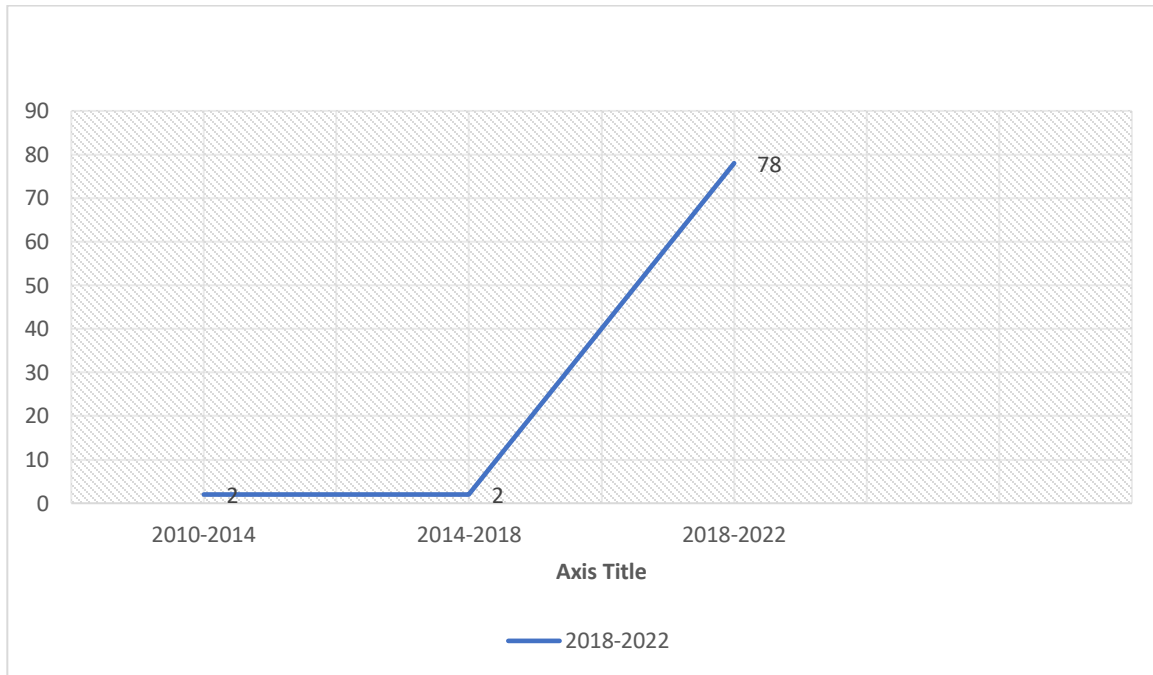
Table 1.2: Causes of kidnapping and insecurity

Options	Agree	Disagree	Undecided	Total %
Unemployment	195 (65%)	95 (31.66%)	10 (3.33%)	300 (99.99%)
killing of farmers and destruction of their crops by the herdsmen's	295 (98.33%)	00	00	300 (98.33%)
poverty among the people of the communities	37 (12.33%)	260 (86.66%)	03 (1%)	300 (99.99%)
Community indigenous partnership with herdsmen in cattle rearing business.	288 (96%)	08 (2.66%)	04 (1.33%)	300 (99.99%)
Corruption among the security agencies	188 (62.66%)	80 (26.66%)	32 (10.66%)	300 (99.98%)
others specify	00	00	00	00

Field Survey, 2022

From the responses obtained as expressed in the table 1.2: the respondents constituting 65% agree to unemployment as one of the causes of insecurity and kidnapping in the study area. While 31.66% disagree and 33.3% were undecided. It could be deduced that unemployment is one of the main factors responsible for kidnapping in the study area. Almost every respondent agreed that killing of farmers and destruction of their crops by herdsmen is the causes of insecurity, with highest percentage of 98.33%. While none of them disagree. 96% of the respondents also agreed that partnership of community indigene in animal rearing business constitute to incessant kidnapping in the study area, 2.66% disagree and 1.33% is undecided. Unarguably, the pastoralist Fulani's were using influence of their partners among the community indigene to source for information, thereby using them as spy for rich people in order to abduct them easily. 62.66% of the sampled population agreed that corruption among the security agencies is major causes of kidnapping and insecurity in the study area. Just few people disagree with this assertion, this constitutes 26.66% of the sampled population. It could be deduced that corruption is ravaging amidst the security agencies in the study area. This might be the reason that gave herdsmen effrontery, to kill one of the police officers mercilessly like a rat years ago over a malicious damage of farm.

**Table 1.3: TRENDS OF INSECURITY OCCURENCE IN THE STUDY AREA**



From the survey conducted, it was ascertained that, Fulani herdsmen's and the inhabitants of Ibarapa North Local Government Oyo state has been living in peace and harmony till year 2010 before the pastoralist (Fulani's) started showing themselves as a wicked and merciless by committing series of havoc in the community and it's environ. These series of havoc ranges from destruction of farmland, robbery occurrences, sexual harassment, macheting of farmers, killing by firearms (guns and sophisticated weapon) and later resulted to kidnapping among others. The chart unveil the level at which cases has been recorded yearly, 2010-2014 have the least record of cases follow by 2014-2018 and lastly 2018-2022 have the highest rate of cases recorded.

## VI. Conclusion

In conclusion, the causes of insecurity in Ibarapa North Local Government, Oyo State, are complex and call for an all-encompassing strategy to successfully address them. It is clear from the examination of the numerous variables that a variety of socioeconomic, governmental, and law enforcement difficulties have a role in the region's ongoing security challenges.

The high percentage of unemployment and poverty in Ibarapa North is a significant element in kidnapping and insecurity. Many people turn to illegal activity as a method of survival because there are few genuine economic possibilities. It is essential to address these socioeconomic problems in order to offer alternatives and lessen the motivation for participating in criminal activity.

Inadequate governance frameworks and ineffective law enforcement organizations are further contributing factors. To strengthen intelligence gathering, monitoring, and an effective response to security threats, there is a need for enhanced coordination and collaboration between security services, local government authorities, and community leaders. They will be able to do their tasks more successfully if law enforcement institutions are strengthened, training programs are improved, and the required resources are made available.

In addition, the absence of sufficient security troops and inadequate infrastructure in some parts of Ibarapa North foster criminal activity. The government should give improving communication and road networks first priority, and it should also make sure that sufficient security personnel are stationed in susceptible locations. Establishing community policing programs that include locals in security initiatives can also contribute to the reduction of crime.

## VII. Recommendations

The following suggestions are put out in response to an analysis of the elements that contribute to insecurity in Ibarapa North Local Government, Oyo State, Nigeria.

- 1. Improve socio-economic development:** The government should place a high priority on initiatives to reduce poverty and create jobs. To provide sustainable economic options for the local population, this could entail supporting entrepreneurship, increasing investment in agriculture, and offering skill-acquisition programs.
- 2. Enhancement of law enforcement:** To better equip and train law enforcement to fight crime, the government should make investments in these organizations. The improvement of intelligence collecting, forensic methods, and neighborhood policing tactics are all part of this. To maintain professionalism and responsibility, it is also important to regularly evaluate and supervise law enforcement employees.
3. The government should place an urgency on enhancing the infrastructure, particularly the road networks, communication systems, and the availability of electricity. This will boost security operations and the general quality of life for the locals. In order to dissuade criminals and quickly address security issues, it is also necessary to expand the deployment of security officers in sensitive regions.
4. Foster a close partnership between the community and security services by encouraging community involvement and awareness. By forming neighborhood-based security organizations, urging residents to report any suspicious activity, and running awareness campaigns.
- 5. Improve judicial procedures:** The government should make sure that offenders involved in abduction and other security-related offenses are efficiently and effectively prosecuted. This entails giving the judiciary access to sufficient resources, enhancing investigative and prosecutorial capabilities, and setting up specialized courts to speed up the trial procedures.

A comprehensive and multifaceted strategy is needed to address the issues causing insecurity in Ibarapa North. The restoration of peace, security, and development in the region can be facilitated by the execution of these proposals together with ongoing efforts, dedication, and cooperation among pertinent parties.

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