

ANALYSING THE TRAJECTORIES OF RURAL BANDITRY, HUMAN DISPLACEMENT AND HUMANITARIAN CRISES IN NIGERIA'S NORTHWEST REGION

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Abstract

An environment bestowed with peace and tranquility is usually conducive for harmonious social interaction and economic development. Rural banditry in Nigeria's Northwest has brought untold hardship on people resulting in massive human displacement and humanitarian crisis of serious magnitude. This paper investigated the trajectories of rural banditry, human displacement and humanitarian crisis in Nigeria's Northwest region. It adopted descriptive research method, extracted information using secondary sources of data and used human needs theory as its theoretical framework of analysis. The paper revealed that rural banditry in the northwest region of Nigeria is accentuated by weak nature of state institutions, availability of ungoverned spaces, porous nature of Nigeria's borders, proliferation of arms, poor leadership, corruption, unemployment, widespread poverty and the discovery of gold reserves that prompted illegal mining activities in the region. The paper disclosed that the persistent incidence of rural banditry in this region has occasioned increased poverty, food insecurity, poor social facilities like water supply and economy crash, which had resulted in immense humanitarian crisis, that threatened the education of the children, dislocated family members and claimed many lives in the region. It revealed that most efforts made by stakeholders in the region to rescue the situation of human displacement and humanitarian crisis as occasioned by rural banditry in the region yielded minimal results. Thus, it was concluded that rural banditry had enormously prompted human displacement and humanitarian crisis in the northwest region. The paper thus recommended, among others, that the government should holistically tackle the incessant rural banditry activities by providing basic social amenities, better security for the local communities and tame spiraling unemployment that pervade the region. Government should also strengthen the security personnel by adequately equipping them with sophisticated weapons, modern surveillance gadgets like drones, satellite and GPS, communication gadget and logistics to enhance their fight against rural banditry and other criminalities.

Keywords: Human displacement, Humanitarian crisis, Northwest Nigeria, Rural banditry.