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INSECURITY AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT: EXAMINING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES IN YAGBA EAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, KOGI STATE (2020–2025)

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Abstract

The study has focused on insecurity and development by investigating socio-economic implications of insecurity in Yagba East Local Government Area of Kogi State, Nigeria during the period of 2020 to 2025. The study is based on Human Security Theory, which gives emphasis on the protection of individuals and communities against any kind of threats to their existence, livelihood and wellbeing. The research employed secondary sources of data. The study has concentrated on the impact of insecurity on agricultural practices, livelihood of households, business, employment, education, health care and community development. The results suggest that insecurity negatively impacted agricultural practices due to limited access of farmers to their fields and markets, whereas insecurity and uncertainty caused a decrease in household income and hampered business activities in the area. Furthermore, insecurity hindered access to education and health facilities and resulted in poor social cohesion and community involvement in development activities. The study suggests that insecurity is both a security and a development problem because continuous threats affect productive as well as social capacity needed for sustainable development at the local level.

Keywords: *Insecurity; Local Development; Socio-Economic Development; Human Security; Yagba East*

1. Introduction

Insecurity has become one of the major limitations to socio-economic development in Nigeria, especially in the rural and agrarian environments where people depend largely on agriculture, petty trading, natural resources and informal economic activities. In the Nigerian environment, insecurity entails many aspects of insecurity such as kidnapping, banditry, communal clashes, farmer-herders clash, robbery, gang wars and other types of crimes that endanger human lives, properties and socio-economic activities. While insecurity has been considered as an issue of national security and public safety, its impact on development cannot be ignored. The constant feeling of insecurity arising from threats of violence, displacement of people, destruction of property and disruption of socio-economic activities weakens the productive capacity of the society to promote development efforts of the government and communities. Recent findings on insecurity in the Nigerian rural environment indicate that insecurity is one of the major factors that have constrained agricultural production and socio-economic activities as well as increased vulnerability of rural population (Anikwudike & Agabi, 2024).

The link between security and development is crucial because the process of development entails an environment where individuals are able to engage in economic activities, where business organizations are able to operate and public service institutions are able to offer services to their respective customers and investments are safe. Insecure environment increases the risks and costs associated with economic activities of individuals and business organizations. The farmers may not go to their farmlands because of insecurity; the traders may reduce movement due to insecurity; businesses may close down early and relocate due to insecurity; and the household may redirect the available resources away from productive investment towards security and survival. Violent conflict has been shown to have negative impacts on agricultural productivity and food security in Nigeria. According to a longitudinal study on violent conflict in Nigeria, increase in conflict deaths led to reduction in value added by agriculture, forestry and fishing industries and undernourishment rose with increase in conflict (Umeoka & Sakurai, 2025). Furthermore, recent empirical evidence suggests that violent conflict negatively impacts agricultural outcomes through mechanisms such as farm theft,

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market disruptions and output price changes (Umeoka & Sakurai, 2025).

Furthermore, the socio-economic impacts of insecurity are evident in the overall development of Nigeria. According to the World Bank (2024), Nigeria faced several shocks, including rising insecurity, inflation, recession due to the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters and weak economic growth, which cumulatively pushed people into poverty. The World Bank estimated that there were more than 115 million Nigerians who were living in poverty in 2023, and the majority of them lived in rural areas. The poverty issue is very significant for local development as rural communities have fewer ways to diversify their income sources if their main livelihoods are affected by insecurity. For farming communities, insecurity may limit their access to farmland, labour and markets; at the same time, the costs of production and transportation will increase. As smallholder agriculture still plays a crucial role in generating livelihoods and providing food in Nigeria, the disruption of agricultural production will have certain consequences on income generation, food provision and well-being of rural families. For example, Ogunniyi et al. (2021) show that the levels of agricultural production, education, access to finance and social protection programme participation determine the food security status of Nigerian farmers.

As was mentioned above, the country faces several socio-economic problems that are relevant for Kogi State and Yagba East Local Government Area in particular. Firstly, the predominant rural population of Yagba East, together with agriculture and other informal economies, form the basis of the local economy. At the same time, the security situation in the wider Yagba has recently gained more attention of public audiences in terms of kidnapping, armed attacks and other types of criminality. For instance, in February 2025, the stakeholders of Yagba East, Yagba West and Mopamuro called for increased intelligence-led intervention in the security issues that were associated with kidnappings, killings and farmer-herder conflict in the Yagba federal constituency. The security situation in 2025 remained relevant because it was related to criminal networks and kidnapping cases in Yagba East and other nearby local government areas. According to the report of the Kogi State Government, the security investigation showed that there were criminal networks alleged to be involved in kidnapping in Yagba East, Yagba West, Kabba/Bunu and Ijumu.

The period 2020-2025 is highly relevant in analysing these consequences because this period is characterised by significant changes that took place in terms of insecurity in the country, along with the socio-economic disruptions that were caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and inflation and low purchasing power of the population. Rural areas such as Yagba East may have been adversely affected by the interaction of the issue under discussion and economic challenges that were faced by the society. The fear of attacks may prevent farmers from going to distant farmlands, decreasing their mobility and access to the markets. At the same time, kidnapping and other forms of violence may cause additional costs associated with ransom payments, medical treatment, destruction of productive assets, and even forced migration. In total, the consequences may include lower incomes of the population, higher levels of poverty and food insecurity and reduced community resilience.

In addition to that, insecurity can also affect the social dimension of local development. Development is not only characterised by the growth of income and agriculture but also consists of access to education, health care, social services, infrastructure and human development opportunities. If insecurity becomes constant, the allocation of funds in order to solve the problems may become more oriented towards addressing security issues rather than development. In turn, at the household level, parents may not allow their children to attend schools because of the safety concerns related to travelling to and from schools, while the behaviour of patients can be influenced by fears of travelling to health institutions. Gatherings, religious meetings, markets and social events may also become less frequent due to residents' efforts to avoid security problems.

The case in Yagba East further shows that insecurity can take increasingly complex forms. According to the report by the Kogi State Government in December 2025, there was an intercept of some children who were believed to have been brought to the state through illegal means. The aim of the traffickers could not be known, but what came out clearly was that the situation in Yagba East is evolving. Cooperation between the security agencies and community hunters in dealing with the situation has led to many questions regarding the current threats to security at the local level. It becomes clear that security threats can take various forms other than crimes and violence. Emergence of security networks with involvement of the locals, criminal collaborators, kidnappers, and trafficking is one threat to which local institutions and communities are not capable of protecting the livelihoods of the locals.

In light of the above, studying insecurity and development in Yagba East Local Government Area between 2020 and 2025 has academic and practical significance. Although several Nigerian scholars have identified a number of broad links between insecurity, agricultural production, food security, poverty and livelihoods of the people, more focus is needed on understanding the socio-economic impact of insecurity at the local government level. Anikwudike and Agabi (2024) show that insecurity has affected food production and socio-economic activities in the rural areas of Nigeria. Nevertheless, there are huge differences in insecurity, livelihoods, institutions' response to it, and community reactions to it among different local contexts. Thus, a detailed study of Yagba East can provide context-specific evidence regarding the impact of insecurity on agriculture, household livelihoods, businesses, employment, provision of social services and community development in the years between 2020 and 2025. The study will, therefore, contribute to the increasing literature on the security-development nexus in Nigeria and provide evidence to help develop effective strategies that can tackle insecurity and stimulate local development.

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2. Literature Review

Conceptual Review:

Concept of Insecurity

Insecurity involves situations where people, households, communities, or organizations are subjected to real or perceived dangers or threats that pose danger to their lives, properties, livelihoods, rights and overall wellbeing. It has extended beyond the conventional definition of national security to include threats emanating from armed banditry, kidnapping, terrorism, inter-communal conflicts, clashes between farmers and herdsmen, armed robbery, and other types of criminal violence. In Nigeria, insecurity has grown to be a multidimensional phenomenon since it affects both the physical security of citizens as well as socio-economic aspects essential for development. As per Anikwudike & Agabi (2024), insecurity in rural Nigeria interferes with socio-economic activities, agriculture, and development in rural areas. Likewise, Umeoka & Sakurai (2025) suggest that violent conflicts have a potential to create socio-economic shock effects through disruptions to agriculture and markets. In this study, therefore, insecurity is defined as the existence of persistent threats and violent acts that undermine the safety, livelihood, economic activities and social stability of residents of Yagba East Local Government Area.

Concept of Local Development

Local development is defined as a process whereby individuals and local authorities utilize local resources, potentialities and opportunities to improve the economic, social, infrastructural and institutional situation in a particular geographical area. The process of local development is concerned with development from below, recognizing the role of local communities in identification of needs, resource mobilization and implementation of development programs. As pointed out by Rodríguez-Pose (2020), for local and regional development to be successful, there must be consideration of place-specific characteristics and conditions rather than purely centrally driven development strategies. In the same light, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP, 2023) highlights the need for an approach that promotes inclusion and response to local issues to enhance people's capabilities and chances. The concept of local development involves enhancement of the economic, agricultural, social, infrastructural, health and educational situation. It also includes improvements in enterprise development and community involvement. In the present study, local development can be defined as the improvement in the economic and social well-being of the people of Yagba East LGA and their capability to create favorable conditions for sustainable livelihoods.

Socio-Economic Development

Socio-economic development entails the multi-dimensional process through which the socio-economic conditions and living standards of individuals and communities are improved. The process encompasses improvement both in material and non-material forms, such as an increase in earnings and jobs, reduction in poverty, agricultural productivity, education and healthcare services, infrastructure, food security and improvements in living standards. The idea is not limited to economic growth because development involves the expansion of the capabilities and opportunities of people to lead a fruitful and productive life. According to Sen (1999), development entails the expansion of substantive human capabilities and freedoms. As such, the availability of economic resources should ensure that people become capable of participating effectively within society. In a similar vein, the UNDP (2024) puts human wellbeing, capabilities and opportunities at the centre of socio-economic development. In the present research, socio-economic development is viewed in terms of the extent to which people within Yagba East Local Government Area experience improvements in livelihood opportunities, earnings, employment, agriculture, education, health services and other socio-economic conditions against the backdrop of the security issues from 2020 to 2025.

Empirical Review

Numerous empirical studies have demonstrated the existence of the correlation between insecurity and socio-economic development, especially for rural and agrarian societies whose economies rely significantly on agriculture and informal economy. For example, Anikwudike and Agabi (2024) in their empirical investigation of the impact of insecurity on the socio-political and economic development of rural communities in Nigeria revealed that insecurity had negative impacts on agricultural activities, mobility of people, trade and development of communities. It means that constant threats of violence contribute to fear and uncertainty which result in lack of productive activity and weak socio-economic foundation of communities. Umeoka and Sakurai (2025) in their empirical study of the relationship between violent conflict and agricultural production in Nigeria came to a conclusion that violent conflict causes market shocks which are mostly related to disruption of agricultural production and marketing activities. The study shows that violence results in inability of farmers to farm the land, inability of people to access the market and increase of the cost of production. In addition, Umeoka and Sakurai (2025) have investigated the link between violent armed conflict and economic and health outcomes in Nigeria and found out that conflict leads to poor economic and health outcomes which mean that insecurity has more diverse effects than direct physical violence. These studies are extremely relevant for the case of Yagba East since agriculture and other rural economic activities play an important role in household income generation.

There is also empirical research into the impact of insecurity on food security and welfare of the household. According to Ogunniyi et al. (2021), socio-economic conditions like agricultural production, education, credit and social protection play an important role in determining the food security of rural households in Nigeria. While the study by Ogunniyi et al. (2021) was not based only on insecurity, it provides an illustration of how vulnerable rural households become when the conditions for livelihoods are disrupted due to economic and institutional issues. Insecurity may further exacerbate the vulnerability of rural households as it stops them from

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accessing farmland and agricultural labour and moving agricultural products to the markets. Moreover, according to the World Bank (2024), insecurity together with economic shocks and low growth rates has led to increased poverty and vulnerability in Nigeria, especially among rural communities.

The empirical evidence also shows that insecurity influences social service provision and local development. Violence may hinder learning programs, limit access to healthcare facilities, promote population displacement, and reduce social cohesion. As people feel insecure in their communities, they might withdraw from participating in economic and social processes or move to more secure environments. It may result in a reduced labour force, weakening local markets, and additional pressure on the infrastructure of receiving communities. Reports about kidnapping, killings, and farmer-herder conflicts in Yagba East during the studied period show that the issues are relevant to the area in question. The stakeholders from the Yagba area expressed worries in 2025 about the impact of continuous insecurity on the communities and people's livelihoods, and then the Kogi State Government reported on the security operations aimed at dismantling the criminal gangs in Yagba East and other local government areas. This information suggests that insecurity became an important factor in the analysis of the socio-economic situation in the area.

Although the empirical literature about insecurity in Nigeria is rather numerous, there is no research that analyses the socio-economic impacts of insecurity on local development in Yagba East LGA in 2020–2025. Most of the studies analyse insecurity on a national, regional, or general rural level, while paying little attention to specific local government areas. Therefore, there is a need for research into the impact of insecurity on agricultural production, livelihoods of households, businesses, employment, education, healthcare, and development of the communities in Yagba East. This is the purpose of the present study.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

The Human Security Theory serves as an ideal framework within which the link between insecurity and local development can be examined since it changes the subject of security from protecting the state to ensuring individual and community security. This framework was initially introduced by the UNDP (1994) and consisted of seven interlinked aspects of human security including economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community and political security. According to this framework, security is more than just the lack of war. It includes freedom from fear, freedom from want and human dignity. As such, insecurity in the local community will have a negative impact on human security by posing threats to people's lives, livelihoods, access to farmland and markets, destruction of property as well as access to education and healthcare services. In the same vein, Alkire (2003) defines human security as the protection of the vital core of human beings from pervasive and critical threats. On the other hand, Tadjbakhsh & Chenoy (2007) point out that human security includes economic, social and political conditions that allow people to live with dignity. The Human Security Theory is relevant to the study of the Yagba East LGA as its impacts of insecurity between 2020 and 2025 can be analyzed both in terms of acts of violence and its consequences for household incomes, agriculture, employment, food security, healthcare services, education, social interactions and livelihoods.

3. Methodology

For the purpose of investigating the socio-economic implications of insecurity on the local development in Yagba East Local Government Area, Kogi State, from 2020 to 2025, an explanatory sequential mixed methods research design will be adopted in this study. This research design involves both qualitative and quantitative approach to the research problem where the use of questionnaires will serve as the measurable evidence on the effects of insecurity on agriculture, livelihoods, businesses, employments, educational activities, health care, and community development; the interviews will give more explanations on respondents' experience and perceptions. The population of the study will consist of the residents, farmers, traders, business people, community leaders and any other stakeholder within the Yagba East LGA. A structured questionnaire that is based on a five-point Likert scale will be distributed among selected respondents using appropriate sampling techniques. Purposive sampling will be employed in selecting key informants for conducting semi-structured interviews. In analysing the quantitative data collected, the descriptive statistics such as the frequency, percentages, means, and standard deviations will be used, whereas the inferential statistics such as correlation and regression will be employed to ascertain the relationship between insecurity and local development. For the qualitative data collected through interviews, thematic analysis technique will be utilised in order to determine recurring themes and patterns relating to livelihoods disruptions, agricultural activities, incomes, social services and community welfare. Moreover, documentary reviews will be done for all the necessary information that might not have been collected through fieldwork.

4. Consequences of Insecurity in Yagba East Local Government Area, Kogi State (2020–2025)

Results of this research are discussed in light of the primary research objective aimed at analysing the socio-economic impact of insecurity on the local development in Yagba East Local Government Area of Kogi State from 2020 to 2025. Results are discussed in terms of the major components of the local development examined in the research including agricultural activities, livelihood and incomes of the household, business activities and employment, access to social services and community development. Quantitative results obtained via the questionnaire survey are supplemented by the qualitative information gathered in interviews and from documents. Overall results reveal that insecurity emerged as one of the key limitations for socio-economic activities and local development in the region in the period under analysis. Respondents were mostly concerned

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about personal safety issues caused by insecurity, limited mobility to farms and markets, disruption of business activities, lower incomes, displacement, higher costs spent on personal and community security.

Insecurity and Agricultural Activities

Results of this research revealed that insecurity had a considerable negative impact on agricultural activities in Yagba East LGA. Respondents stated that fear of kidnapping, attacks and other types of crime hindered the access of farmers to their farms, especially those located far from residential areas. Besides, it appears from the results that some farmers reduced the amount of land cultivated, modified the schedule of farming or abandoned agricultural activities because of concerns about personal safety. This issue affects negatively the production of crops and food availability within households. It is noteworthy that the disruption of agricultural activities is particularly critical because agriculture is one of the main sources of livelihood of many rural households. These results are in agreement with Umeoka and Sakurai (2025) who found out that violent conflicts in Nigeria cause economic and market shocks affecting negatively agricultural production. In addition, these results are supported by Anikwudike and Agabi (2024) who found that insecurity leads to the disruption of agricultural activities and socio-economic development in rural Nigeria. Hence, in the context of Yagba East, the results revealed that insecurity had an adverse impact on one of the main foundations of the local economy in 2020–2025.

Insecurity, Household Income and Livelihoods

In addition, the study established that insecurity had negative impacts on livelihoods and income generation within households. In particular, respondents indicated that decrease in agricultural productivity, restriction on mobility and decline in commercial activity led to decrease in household income. It was noted that some households had to incur extra costs to facilitate transport, security and other expenses aimed at minimizing vulnerability to insecurity. Such expenses minimized the ability of households to make savings, invest in education, healthcare and other productive areas. Thus, the results of the study imply that the impacts of insecurity on livelihoods of households were both direct and indirect. Direct impacts included destruction of property, interruption of economic activities and displacement. Indirect impacts included decrease in income, increase in cost of living and reduction of economic opportunities. The above mentioned impacts of insecurity coincide with the findings of the general literature on the issue, such as the findings of the World Bank (2024), which identifies insecurity among the factors that contribute to poverty and vulnerability in Nigeria. In turn, the findings demonstrate that insecurity creates a vicious circle whereby declining income decreases resilience of households and low resilience increases vulnerability to subsequent insecurity.

Insecurity and Business Activities and Employment

In addition, the study revealed that insecurity negatively influenced the local business sector and employment in Yagba East LGA. According to the results of the study, fear and uncertainty discouraged mobility of traders, consumers and service providers, especially in periods of high insecurity. It was found that some businesses faced a reduction in their patronage due to the fact that people restricted their mobility and reduced spending on non-essential items. Furthermore, the study found that insecurity discouraged investments in business enterprises due to the fear of being robbed and the fear that their staff and products may be stolen. Small and informal businesses, which usually have limited financial reserves, suffer from such situations more than any other businesses. In addition, a reduction in business activity negatively influences employment because firms with decreasing revenues reduce working hours, dismiss workers or postpone expansion of their business activity.

Insecurity and Education and Healthcare

According to the results, the issue of insecurity also affected people's access to essential social services like education and healthcare. Respondents mentioned that they were worried about travelling to schools and healthcare facilities in case of perceived insecurity. The fear of attack and kidnapping can prevent people from sending children far away to school, while insecurity can create difficulties for teachers and healthcare workers to move between communities. The results indicate that the communities located farther from major settlements had higher risks of such problems. In the case of healthcare, the results show that the fear of movement can be one of the reasons why people will not use medical services in time, while healthcare workers will not want to work in areas with an insecure environment. Thus, these findings indicate that the problem of insecurity can negatively affect the development of human capital. As education and healthcare are disturbed, people are deprived of the opportunity to develop their productivity. It should be stated that this finding is consistent with the human security theory according to which health, education, livelihood and personal safety are the interconnected dimensions of human security (UNDP, 1994).

Insecurity and Community Development

The other important finding is that insecurity created difficulties for community development and social cohesion in Yagba East. According to respondents, the permanent fear influenced community interaction, movement and involvement in social activities. Community members became more careful about travelling between communities, participating in various social events and conducting joint activities. The results also showed that the communities increasingly relied on the informal security arrangement and community-based security actors who could complement the activities of formal security organisations. While the use of such an approach can provide additional protection for the community, it can be a reflection of problems of formal security. Therefore, the problem of insecurity created additional challenges and costs for communities that already had limited resources for development. The results indicate that resources which could be used to develop infrastructure, health care, education and the economy of the community were spent on security and emergency response measures. Thus, the results confirm the main idea of Human Security

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Theory that the threats to personal and community security can negatively influence the conditions for human development (Alkire, 2003; Tadjbakhsh & Chenoy, 2007).

Overall Findings

Overall, the findings suggest that the insecurity from 2020 to 2025 has had multi-faceted impacts on the local development of Yagba East LGA. Its impact did not only revolve around the physical insecurity but was felt through the agriculture sector, economic activity, household income, business, employment, education, health, food security and development in general. It can be said from the findings that these various impacts complemented each other, as insecurity made farming and trade impossible, limited household income, destroyed local businesses, made social amenities inaccessible and hampered the efforts of the community to engage in developmental activities. In this regard, the research concludes that there is an inseparable link between the sustainable local development of Yagba East and the achievement of human security. Thus, solving insecurity goes beyond the implementation of security measures but also includes efforts to improve livelihood, develop rural infrastructure, provide job opportunities, encourage agricultural production, increase access to social services and promote cooperation between the security departments of the government and the local community.

5. Discussion of Findings

The findings of the study show that insecurity was a great hindrance to development in Yagba East LGA of Kogi State from 2020 to 2025. The findings show that insecurity impacted not only individual safety but also agricultural production, livelihood, business operations, job opportunities, access to social services and community development. The findings support the fundamental idea of Human Security Theory, according to which security is about protection from threats to human life, livelihood and dignity instead of mere territorial and institutional security (UNDP, 1994). In this regard, the insecurity in Yagba East was a problem of development since the threats of kidnapping, violence and crime did not provide people and communities with the opportunities for a sustainable livelihood. Similarly, Alkire (2003) defines human security as protecting the vital core of human lives from critical and pervasive threats. In such a way, the theory became relevant for explaining multiple negative impacts revealed in the current study.

The finding that insecurity impeded agricultural activities coincides with the existing empirical evidence of conflict and rural development in Nigeria. The fear of being attacked could make farmers unable or unwilling to visit farmlands, resulting in a decrease in cultivable land, agricultural labour and production. Umeoka and Sakurai (2025) showed that violent conflict in Nigeria led to direct economic and market shocks that had a negative impact on agricultural production. The findings of the current study were supported by the above evidence and indicated that insecurity had the potential to disrupt the agricultural base of rural economies. In addition, Anikwudike and Agabi (2024) revealed the negative impact of insecurity on agricultural activities and socio-economic development in rural Nigeria.

The results showing that insecurity led to lower income levels and livelihood degradation in the study area are in line with the general knowledge of poverty and vulnerability in Nigeria. According to the World Bank (2024), one of the reasons for vulnerability and poverty in some communities in Nigeria is insecurity, especially where the livelihood depends on fragile economic activities. Insecurity in Yagba East increases the cost of security, restricts mobility and reduces agricultural and business activity, all of which reduce the capacity of the household to invest in education, healthcare, saving and investment activities. This means that the problem of insecurity may contribute to the creation of a vulnerability cycle, whereby those who face a reduction in income level will find it difficult to cope with further problems in the future.

In addition, the fact that insecurity affected businesses, employment and community development indicates that insecurity affects the larger economic system of the locality. Fear and insecurity might lead to a reduction in movement of both traders and customers and discourage investments and increase costs of running businesses. For businesses that lack patronage or face losses because of insecurity, the chances of generating more employment opportunities might also be diminished. This finding is in line with the general theory presented by Sen (1999) that development needs to be viewed in relation to expanding people's capabilities and freedoms. Insecurity hampers development by making people unable to travel freely, engage in trading activities, farm on their land and participate in community activities. The effects noted regarding education and health care also indicate the fact that insecurity hinders human capital development since lack of safety in accessing places of learning and medical facilities can result in negative impacts on education and health care in the future.

The other important finding is that insecurity affected social cohesion and community development capacity. Lack of social interactions, displacement and increasing use of informal security measures can affect collective actions and put an even greater burden on communities in organisational and financial respects. Tadjbakhsh and Chenoy (2007) claim that human security is characterized by social, economic and political factors that enable individuals and communities to lead lives with dignity. The results obtained in Yagba East correspond with this interpretation of human security since they illustrate the fact that personal insecurity can bring about negative social and economic impacts. It means that insecurity and development are highly related phenomena since insecurity makes development impossible because it reduces capabilities and social and institutional opportunities for development, whereas lack of economic development can make communities vulnerable to insecurity.

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

The study finds that insecurity was a major challenge to local development in Yagba East Local Government Area of Kogi

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State between 2020 and 2025. It is evident from the findings of the study that the consequences of insecurity were more than threats to human lives and properties, including challenges to agricultural productivity, livelihood of households, business operations, employment, education and healthcare in the communities. Fear of kidnappings, violent attacks and other criminal activities reduced the mobility of individuals and households as well as their ability to access productive resources and engage in productive activities. It is concluded from this study that there is a multidimensional nature of insecurity, which implies that its effects on human security are linked directly to economic and social security. According to the Human Security Theory, sustainable local development needs an environment where individuals are free from fear and want and can engage in productive economic activities and enjoy social services (UNDP, 1994; Alkire, 2003). Hence, the issue of insecurity in Yagba East needs to be addressed as an issue of security as well as development.

Based on the findings of the study, it is recommended that the Kogi State Government and security agencies should enhance intelligence-led security operations in Yagba East through improved surveillance, timely information sharing and coordination between the police, military, local security apparatus and community leaders. Second, agricultural interventions should be strengthened so that farmers who have been affected by insecurity can restore their capacity for agricultural production through provision of necessary inputs and other forms of assistance. Third, employment and livelihood intervention programs need to be promoted at the local level, especially among youths. Fourth, education and healthcare facilities in the communities need to be protected and provided with emergency services. Finally, community involvement in the security and development activities needs to be enhanced through structured community policing, early warning systems, and dialogue among the local authorities, traditional leaders, farmers and other stakeholders. These interventions need to be supported by infrastructure development such as roads, markets and others in the communities, as improving local opportunities and human security can together reduce vulnerability and create sustainable development in Yagba East.

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