



IMPACT OF CONFLICTS ON HOUSEHOLD WELFARE IN NORTH-WESTERN NIGERIA

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Abstract This paper examines question of welfare within the context of armed conflict in Northwest-Nigeria, and argued that conflicts worsen household welfare, however bad governance and ineffective community resilience exacerbate consequences of conflict.

Objectives

- 1 Examine the effect of conflict on household welfare.
- 2 Investigate the extent at which various community mitigation strategies adopted by households have improved their resilience to conflict impacts.
- 3 Examine the institutional mediating role of governance and Community resilience on household welfare during conflict.
- 4 Analyze the effect of public welfare policy and programmes on households' vulnerability/resilience to conflict.

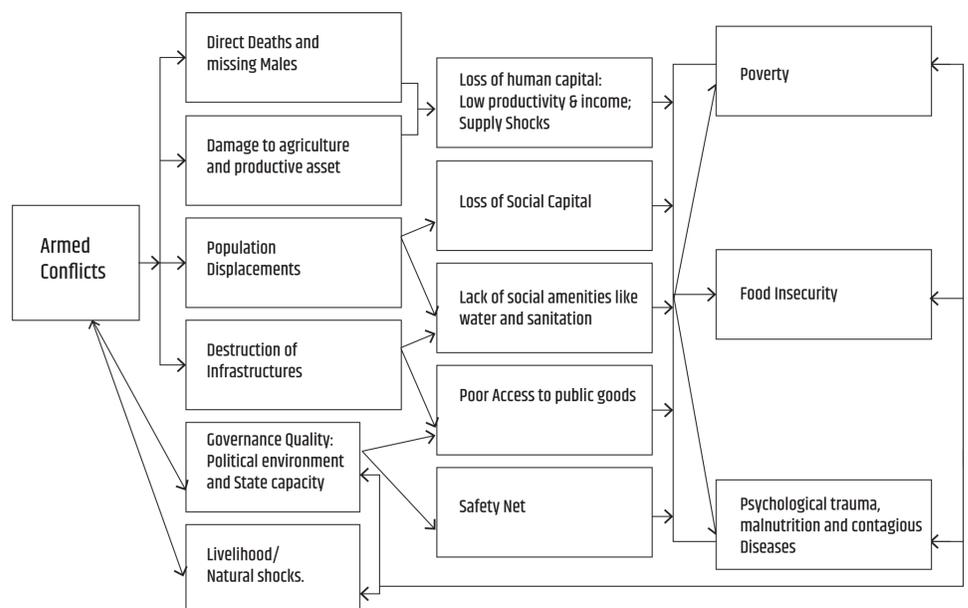
Materials and Methods:

The study adopted GHS panel data collected in four waves from 2010-2019 and ACLED (2021) as sources of data. PCA was used to construct index for some variables, while fixed effects (within estimator) was adopted as technique of data analysis.

Findings

- i. Conflict measured both in aggregate and disaggregated forms negatively impacts households' welfare.
- ii. Government welfare policy further increased household vulnerability to poverty proxied by consumption expenditure, while it has a significant positive effect using food security as the outcome variable.
- iii. Quality of governance and community resilience strategies has an insignificant positive effect on welfare.
- iv. The interacting term used in examining the mediating role of governance and community resilience strategy between conflict and welfare indicated that both variables have further exacerbated the worsening impact of conflicts on household's consumption expenditure.
- v. However, using food security as outcome variable, Community resilience strategy has significantly cushioned the negative impact of conflict on welfare.

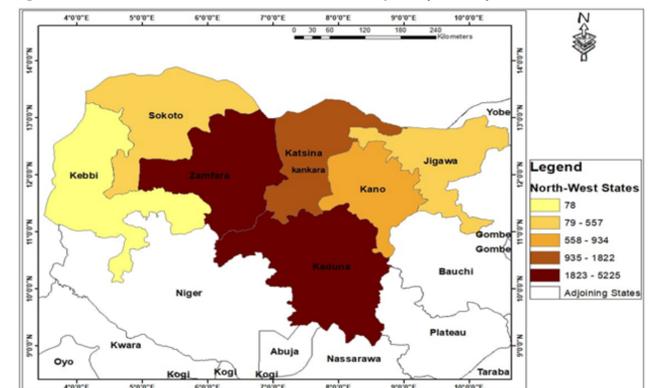
Figure 1: Conflict-Welfare Dynamics



Conclusions

- The study concludes that there is interwoven relationship between governance, household welfare and armed conflict, in that the poor nature of governance not only triggers conflict, it also destroys existing welfare provision of household.
- Government welfare policy (safety net) interventions are grossly ineffective due to weak institution and bad political environment thereby worsened the welfare status of household affected by conflict.
- The negative impact of conflict on average consumption expenditure and food security could be attributed to acts of banditry and kidnapping such as payments of ransoms for kidnapping, cattle rustling, missing males, destruction of farm land and produce, outmigration and injuries to heads of household.
- The community based security operatives as a major conflict resilience strategy adopted by communities has further exposed the households to destruction of productive assets and deaths with serious negative implications on household productive capacity and income.
- The uniform adoption of the community based security operatives among communities in the Northwest as a resilience strategy implicates the shortage of security personnel at grass roots and the need for a state based well-coordinated security agency to further strengthen the existing federal security outfits.

Figure 3: Conflicts most affected States in Northwest based Fatality Rates (2011-2020).



References

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