

**SECURITY CHALLENGES IN BORDER SETTLEMENTS
IN OGUN STATE**

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Abstract

This paper examines the security challenges facing the border settlements in Ogun State. The research is very important due to the activities in border areas. The present situation as shown in the activities relating to smuggling, illegal migration, trafficking of small arms and human trafficking contributed major challenges to security framework of the area. The study covers Obele and Ohunbe in Yewa North Local Government Area of Ogun State. The questionnaire is structure to obtained information from border patrol agent's agents and heads of households on issues related to border security challenges within the areas. Border patrol agents comprises of Nigerian police, custom and Immigration. A total number of six questionnaires were distributed to border patrol agents and thirty seven (37) questionnaires to household heads in the two settlements. One questionnaire each to patrol agents in the two communities, twenty two (22) questionnaires was distributed to household in Ohunbe while fifteen (15) questionnaires were also distributed to household in Obele. Secondary data were obtained from literatures; both descriptive statistics were employed to analyses the obtained data. Therefore, the research concludes that the border should considered as a place of opportunities rather than threat to socio-economic development of the country and the border patrol agents needs to be strengthened in area of facilities to combat border vices

Keywords: Border, security, Challenges, Settlement.

Introduction

Nigerian towns along the Nigeria-Benin Republic border are growing at an alarming rate. The consequences are evident in the way developments are springing up in these towns. Most of the available literature on border towns addresses the issues of border crime, cross-border migration, border markets, smuggling and refugees. Less attention is given to the security of life of the residents in relation to border patrol agents and planning standards required for a conducive environment. Ogun State border areas differ significantly from other borders across Nigeria because of the high commercial activities taking place there and their porosity that impedes the compliance with law and order (Blum, 2014). The porosity of borders contributes to cross border crimes and physical development activities in the areas, making it difficult for border operatives to perform their duties, which include patrolling and monitoring of crime. Porosity of the borders is due to the way the areas have evolved. Settlement are determined by many factors such as physical configuration, land policy, socioeconomic activities, ethnicity and religion (Linard, Gilbert, Snow, Noor & Tatem, 2012). Physical development along the border towns has increased problems in terms of crime increase in socioeconomic activities and the presence of government parastatals. Border management problems relating to physical planning are limited in developed countries, as a result of adequate and effective responses of government agencies in charge of border management to satisfy immediate needs of the citizens. However, in developing

countries due to uncontrolled population densities, limited planning activities and lack of public awareness on planning regulations, it is more difficult to carry out adequate patrol activities. Therefore, existing settlements along the border are thickly populated and are developing arbitrarily towards the boundary line (Sarkar, 2010). Provision for necessary basic facilities such as adequate road network is often not made. Consequently, effective movement within such areas is hampered. Moreover, such environments create conducive hide outs for hoodlums and this poses a serious challenge for security operatives charged with the responsibility for border patrol and security. This has become very worrisome in view of the high incidences of border crimes such as smuggling, kidnapping and human trafficking.

Literature review

Challenges of Border Settlements

Akinyemi (2013) identified challenges of border areas to include: porosity, corruption, inadequate manpower and logistic support, poorly patterned, institutional framework, lack of provision of basic amenities political instability and economic crisis in neighbouring countries, further concluded that challenges pose danger on transborder activities. The challenges of border regions are critical in nature and attributed to the physical, socio-cultural and commercial characteristics of the area. Aluko, (2012) perceived the situation of border communities based on partitioning of Africa that took place in November, 1884 which was purely a European affair as there was neither Africans interest involvement nor participation. The result was that conflicting and incompatible ethno-cultural groups were forced on one another while, some other ones were mutilated, and consequently, the border regions have remained boiling spots.

The expansion of settlement at the edge is a component of the cross-border exchange and is an indicator for communities to see the border as an opportunity rather than problem (USAID/Mexico, 2013).

Security Architecture in Border Settlement

In Africa, cross border crimes have an inseparable link to the inherited colonial borders and its governance during the period (Sosuh, 2011). Crime can be seen as an infraction of both the fundamental standards of peace and the humanized conduct (Chinwokwu, 2014). Current worldwide patterns develop a relationship among states and the opening of outskirts that exist nearby; financial, social, legitimate and political imbalances encourage the exercises of

transborder wrong doing (Ering, 2011). The advantages of globalization speed cross-border development and innovative advancement add to the operations of criminal activities (Polner, 2011). Migration administration in Ethiopia must fight with various difficulties like border porosity from neighbouring nations to prevent inflow (ICMPD, 2008). Border towns, in terms of size and social entity, regard it as peripheral but the location encourages high rate in crime perpetration. Disregarding endeavours to enhance relations between Nigeria and Republic of Benin, the reality remains that the Republic of Benin is a French range of authority in West-Africa. This issue remains a significant source of security concern in Nigeria-Benin relations (Omede, 2006).

Akinyemi (2013) described activities in border towns as a threat to global and national security that affects the socio-economic development. Sosuh (2011) described border environment as an area of conflicting interests for policy makers. The topography of border areas promotes activities such as smuggling, terrorism and other criminal offenses (DAI, 2005). In Nigeria, the three major ports were located in the southern part of Nigeria and transportation of goods and services undergone through different terrains, therefore, the topography in most border towns in the southwest is mountainous, across rivers and landlocked (Purokayo & Soon, 2014). The use of unauthorized route and rugged terrain contributed to insecurity and smuggling activities. Border security and measures encompass socio-economic and political functions.

Border security has come to assume that globalization increases criminal activities (Akinyemi, 2013). Development and security are two major principles in the spatial planning in border areas (Akhgar, ShakerArdekani, & Zabihi, 2014). Handling cross-border crimes through enforcement and enactment of regulations will not be adequate to ensure sustainable development because the underlying causes of nearly all cross-border violations have connections to monetary divergence, awful governance, and poverty.

Methodology

This section described methods adopted to address the issues associated with security challenges in border settlement in Ogun state. Ogun state has twenty local government areas, only three (3) local government areas share boundary with Republic of Benin, therefore, one local government was purposively selected which Yewa North local government. It forms the

case study for the research. The two towns were chosen due to location and government activities, the two towns are Ohunbe and Obele.

A total number of six questionnaires were distributed to border patrol agents and thirty seven (37) questionnaires to household heads in the two settlements. One questionnaire each to patrol agents in the two communities, twenty two (22) questionnaires was distributed to household in Ohunbe while fifteen (15) questionnaires were also distributed to household in Obele. Secondary data were obtained from literatures; both descriptive and inferential statistics were employed to analyses the obtained data.

Data presentation and Discussion

Table 1: Rate of Crime Occurrence

SN	Nature of Crime	VR		R		NS		RR		NR	
		Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
1	Armed Robbery	8	21.6	3	8.1	-	-	12	32.4	14	37.8
2	Burglary	19	51.4	7	18.9	2	5.4	6	16.2	3	8.1
3	Kidnapping	1	2.7	5	13.5	5	13.5	14	37.8	12	32.4
4	Rape	8	21.6	2	5.4	4	10.8	9	24.3	14	37.8
5	Assault	11	29.7	6	16.2	2	5.4	7	18.9	11	29.7
6	Murder	3	8.1	4	10.8	7	18.9	13	35.1	10	27.0
7	Smuggling	24	64.9	11	29.7	-	-	2	5.4	-	-
8	Stealing/Theft	7	18.9	14	37.8	3	8.1	9	24.3	4	10.8
9	Cattle Rustling	5	13.5	13	35.1	2	5.4	11	29.7	6	16.2
10	Auto Theft	14	37.8	10	27.0	1	2.7	7	18.9	5	13.5
11	Vandalisation	2	5.4	5	13.3	3	8.1	9	24.3	19	51.4

Note: VR = Very Rampant, R = Rampant, NS = Not Sure, RR = Rarely Rampant, NR = Not Rampant

Table 2: Reason behind Criminal Activities

S/ N	Reason for Crime Activities	SD	D	UC	A	SA	SWV ($\sum X_1 Y_1$)	CII	Mean Deviation
		WV(1)	WV(2)	WV(3)	WV(4)	WV(5)			CII ⁻
1	Poverty	15	9	3	4	6	61	1.65	-1.2
2	Inadequate Security	6	6	4	13	8	122	3.30	0.45
3	Negligence of the Government	6	4	2	15	10	130	3.51	0.66
4	Non-challant attitude of the residence	9	7	-	9	12	119	3.21	0.36
5	Cross border transaction	7	14	3	9	4	100	2.70	-0.15
6	Poor defined road network	3	5	5	1	14	138	3.73	0.88
7	Neighbourhood harboring criminals	19	10	4	2	2	69	1.84	-1.01
								$\sum 19.94$	

$$\frac{\sum CII}{N} = \frac{19.94}{7} = 2.85$$

Note: SD = Strongly Disagree, D = Disagree, UC = Uncertain, A = Agree, CII = Crime Induced Index

$$SWV = \sum X_1 Y_1 \dots\dots\dots \text{Equation (1)}$$

SWV = Summation Weight Value

X₁ = Respondents Rating of a particular variable influencing crime activities

Y₁ = Weight Value assigned to each variable

The Crime Induced Index (CII) for each variable influence is arrived at by dividing the summation of weight value by the addition of the five rating.

This is expressed mathematically as

$$CII = \frac{SMV}{\sum 1^5 = 1P_1 \dots\dots\dots \text{Equation (2)}}$$

It could be established from the analysis presented in table 2 that the highest CII was 3.51 while the least was 1.65. The average CII for the study area was 2.85. Therefore the deviations around the mean of the highest and lowest CII were -1.2 and 0.61 respectively. The variables with positive deviations about the CII were variables considered by the respondents as the leading factors that induced crime activities in the area. These variables

were; poorly defined road network (0.88), negligence of the government (0.66), inadequate security (0.45) and non- challant attitude of the residents.

The variables with negative deviation around the mean were the residents showed lower level of agreement on, considered not to be principal factors influencing crime activities. Such variables include: poverty (-1.2), neighbourhood providing hiding places for the criminals (1.01) and cross border transactions (-0.15).

Table 3: Challenges Associated with Effective Crime Patrol

SN	Challenges	SD	D	UC	A	SA	SWV ($\sum X_1 Y_1$)	AAI	Mean Deviation
		WV(1)	WV(2)	WV(3)	WV(4)	WV(5)			AAI -
1	Inadequate Personnel	-	-	-	4	2	26	4.33	0.94
2	Insufficient Fund	3	2	-	1	-	13	2.17	-1.22
3	Lack of Patrol Vehicle	-	1	-	3	3	29	4.83	1.44
4	Inadequate Offices	2	1	-	3	-	16	2.67	-0.72
5	Hostility of the Residence	-	2	-	1	3	23	3.83	0.44
6	Large areas of Jurisdiction	2	1	1	2	-	15	2.5	-0.89
								$\sum 20.33$	

$$\frac{\sum AAI}{N} = \frac{20.33}{6} = 3.39$$

Note: SD = Strongly Disagree, D = Disagree, UC = Uncertain, A = Agree, AAI = Agency Agreement Index

SWV = $\sum X_1 Y_1$ Equation (1)

SWV = Summation Weight Value

X_1 = Respondents Rating of a particular variable influencing crime activities

Y_1 = Weight Value assigned to each variable

The Agencies Agreement Index (AAI) for each variable influence is arrived at by dividing the summation of weight value by the addition of the five rating.

This is expressed mathematically as

AAI = $\frac{SMV}{N}$

$\sum_{i=1}^5 = \sum_{i=1}^5 P_i$Equation (2)

The Challenges associated with effective patrol system in the area were assessed through Agencies Agreement Index (AAI) as presented in table 3 for this study, six (6) variables that could hindered effective patrol system were identified. It is believed that the level of agreement of the security personnel in the study area would indicate the level of influence these variables have on effective patrol system in the selected settlements. A cursory look at table 3 revealed that the security personnel considered factors like inadequate personnel (0.94), hostility of the residence (0.44) and lack of patrol vehicle (1.44) as dominant factors inhibiting effective patrol system in the area while large areas of jurisdiction (-0.89), inadequate offices (-0,72) and insufficient funds were considered as insignificant factors that prevent effective patrol system.

Conclusion and Recommendation

Conclusion

The Security issues along the border communities have an adverse effect on the population and physical development. The increase in population as a result of social economic activities, this prompt the increase in population though migration from both countries. The activities pose challenges to security architecture of the area, the various unpoliced route was encourage by type of vegetation in the study. Unclear demarcation and overlapping in governmental responsibilities contributed to the high rate of smuggling and other vices associated with border settlements.

Recommendation

The followings are recommended:-

- There should be efficient and adequate information for government through public participation to promote better border management.
- Government needs to increase number of border patrol agents through regular deployment of the personnel.
- Sufficient ammunition and patrol vehicle should be provided to replace existing worn-out.
- Due to large expanse on land, adequate partitioning of the area into unit to increase effective monitoring.
- There should be adequate setback from boundary line to various structures to make the agents see from afar.
- Adequate lighting also required from border line to nearest structures.

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