

The Impact of Peace deal in Mitigating Armed Banditry in Communities of Katsina State, Nigeria**Ahmed Rufa'i Usman¹, Zakariyya Muhammad², Sani Jalige Kumo¹**

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arusman2015@gmail.com**Abstract**

Armed banditry continues to ravage communities in Katsina State affecting socioeconomic activities. This motivated the local communities and traditional institutions with indirect support from the government to sign peace deal with the bandits. The paper examines the impact of peace deal in mitigating armed banditry in communities of Katsina State, Nigeria. The paper adopted Co-operative Approach Theory (CAT). The study was conducted in Safana, Danmusa, Matazu, Faskari local government areas of Katsina State that signed peace deal with the armed bandits. Purposive sampling was adopted in drawing the participants across communities of Safana, Danmusa, Matazu, Faskari. The participants include: community leaders, youth organisations and informal security such as vigilante group and Katsina State Community Watch Corps (C-Watch). The study adopted qualitative technique using in-depth interviews as the source of data. For data analysis, analytical and interpretive discussion of the responses were carried out thematically. Findings of the study revealed that peace deal has impact on the community that signed the agreements with the bandits. But the bandits attack occasionally and kill members of the community. The study recommends that, Local and State government should empower the community leaders who are closer to the community on how to improve the peace deal. This will help in maintaining peace and development in the affected communities.

Keywords: Armed banditry, Impact, Insecurity, Peace deal, Mitigate**INTRODUCTION**

Security is necessary requirement for socio-economic development of any nation. Security provides enabling environment for citizens to live and work for social, economic and political development. Northern Nigeria faces different security challenges disrupting peace and socioeconomic activities in the region. Section 24(e) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) provides that: "it shall be the duty of every citizen to render assistance to appropriate and lawful agencies in the maintenance of law and order". Some states in the north established community security outfit to working along with formal security agents to counter armed banditry and insecurity. This include: Katsina State Community Watch Corps (C-Watch), Zamfara State Community Protection Guard (ZSCPG), Sokoto Community Guard Corps, Kaduna State Community Vigilance Squad (KSCVS), Kebbi State Community Guard Watch and

Kano Security Neighbourhood Watch. In some States facing armed banditry, some of these security outfits are involved in peace deal with the armed bandits (Usman *et al.*, 2026).

Recently some communities in northern Nigeria signed peace deal with armed bandits for peace to prevail in their communities. According to Abdulyakeen and Aliyu (2025), peace deal is an approach to addressing the root causes of any conflict in society aimed at ensuring peace and development. Peace deal becomes accepted in most communities involving stakeholders in government, traditional institution, religious leaders and civil society to address the root causes of violence and insecurity with aim of finding lasting peace in the community. In peace deal, violent conflicts are put at low level with prospect for developmental initiatives, while efforts and intervention aimed at addressing the root causes of the conflicts are examining surrounding individual and group relations especially the economic and political power relations in the society. The objective of peace deal is to ceasefire, respect human rights, respect each party and devoid any act that is injurious to the members of the society.

For Amnesty International (2025), peace deal is guided by the underlining parties and interests involved which conditioned the prospects of achieving peace deal or otherwise. Peace deal is a conciliatory measures initiated by governments or stakeholders to open channels of dialogue with armed groups. These initiatives limit the use of force by the security forces. Peace deal requires negotiation, conciliation and compromise. It usually includes mediation by neutral actors, confidence-building measures, or temporary ceasefires designed to reduce hostilities with aim of allowing peace to prevail.

From the foregoing, armed banditry continues to ravage communities in Katsina State affecting socioeconomic activities. This motivated the local communities and traditional institutions with indirect support from the government to sign peace deal with the bandits. In Katsina State, communities initiated peace deal with bandits through dialogues facilitated by community leaders in order to ceasefires and encourage armed bandits to disarm. The use of force or coercion against the bandits failed to yield any impact as communities enter peace deal with them through institutional support, and mutual trust between communities and armed bandits.

According to Usman *et al.*, (2026) about 20 out of the 34 local government in Katsina State have entered into community-driven peace deal with armed bandits. The traditional leaders are

backbone behind the peace deal in the frontline areas affected by armed banditry. Some of the local governments that signed peace deal and negotiations with armed bandits include: Danmusa, Jibia, Batsari, Safana, Kankara, Kurfi, Musawa, Faskari, Sabuwa, and Dandum, Bakori, Kafur, Malumfashi, Funtua, Kankiya, Danja, Charanchi, Dutsinma, Matazu, and Batagarawa. The agreements typically stipulate that, bandits cease attacks on communities and release abducted victims. In exchange, the bandits are granted safe passage to access town markets and basic goods without interference. The peace deal continue to be a source of peace in some of these communities, while in some communities, the bandits violate the peace deal and continue to attacks. Against this background, the study examined the impact of peace deal in mitigating armed banditry in communities of Katsina State, Nigeria.

Objectives of the Study

The study examines the impact of peace deal in mitigating armed banditry in communities of Katsina State, Nigeria. The specific objectives are:

- i. To find out the driving forces leading to peace deal with armed bandits in communities of Katsina State, Nigeria.
- ii. To investigate the impact peace deal in communities of Katsina State, Nigeria.
- iii. To find out party violating the peace deal in communities of Katsina State, Nigeria.
- iv. To identify the community strategies in monitoring peace deal in communities of Katsina State, Nigeria.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Armed banditry: is an act of attacking individuals or a group of persons in an organized manner using simple or sophisticated weapons. It goes along with violent criminal acts such as kidnapping for ransom, cattle rustling, armed robbery, rape, raiding communities and setting them ablaze, extortion, killing innocent persons etc.

Peace deal: is a conciliatory measures initiated by governments or stakeholders to open channels of dialogue with armed groups. Peace deal requires negotiation, conciliation and compromise. It usually includes mediation by neutral actors, confidence-building measures, or temporary ceasefires designed to reduce hostilities with aim of allowing peace to prevail.

Mitigation: this is an act of limiting the consequences of an act in order to make it less severe, less painful and harmful. Peace deal aimed at mitigating the devastating nature of armed banditry across communities that signed the peace deal. This allowed the local communities to engage into various socioeconomic activities such as farming, business and other source of livelihood.

Driving Forces Leading to peace deal with Armed Bandits

The major reason for the peace deal with the armed bandits is to have peace and allow members of the community to engage into their socioeconomic activities without threat from the bandits. Neglect from the government also motivated the communities to engage in peace deal. Different stakeholders such as traditional leaders, religious leaders, informal security outfit, the members of the community, local government chairmen and local government and chieftaincy affairs are behind the peace deal. Though, indirectly government is involved in the peace deal. The bandits and their leaders attended the gathering for peace talk, usually coordinated by the traditional leaders. Armed banditry is one of the security challenges affecting Northern Nigeria. Armed bandit groups are heavily armed, mobile and organized across ungoverned spaces. The bandits engage in killings, kidnappings for ransom, cattle rustling, raiding villages and displacement of rural populations. Armed banditry in northern Nigeria affects the livelihoods, undermining agricultural productivity and local economies, this become a threat to the survival of people in the affected communities. The repercussions of armed banditry call for some local communities across Sokoto, Zamfara and Katsina states to negotiate and signed peace deal with the armed bandits in their communities. The aim of the peace deal is for peace and development of the affected communities (Usman *et al.*, 2026).

According to Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (2025), initially, armed bandits engaged in cattle rustling, but gradually transitioned into kidnapping in the affected communities. Between 2019 and 2024, armed bandits intensify kidnapping and targeting affluent rural farmers and businessmen, collecting millions of naira in ransom payments. Many farmers and businessmen were targeted multiple times by bandits, extorting money through repeated ransom payments. Many communities relocated and lost their lives for failure to pay ransom. In Zamfara, Katsina, Kaduna, individuals and organisations have paid ransoms to armed bandits. The variations and fluctuations in patterns of kidnappings are shaped by different factors, including changes in levels and locations of military operations, cash scarcity resulting from the naira

redesign policy, shifts in the geographic scope of armed bandit activities and the displacement of local populations. There have been mass abductions in the first quarter of 2024 in Zamfara, Katsina, Kaduna and Niger.

According to International Crisis Group (2025), the attacks by the bandits result in destruction of lives and properties and a state of insecurity. The bandits attack day and night in large numbers using motorbikes and escape immediately before the arrival of the security agents. In some cases, they fire sporadically, steal livestock, rape women, kidnap for ransom and set houses ablaze. As banditry persists, particularly in rural areas, agriculture, as the dominant occupation became affected. Farmers migrate to safer environment; the displacement affects their livelihood. Economic activities in Northern Nigeria become affected by insecurity. This affects food production, marketing and the gross domestic product in the region.

The Impact Peace deal

The peace deal has impact as peace is prevailing in the communities. Many people attend farm without fear of attacks from the bandits. People are into business and engage in different activities without any threat. People move freely without any fear of attacks, bandits also come to town, interact with the community, purchase goods and leave without attacking anyone. Earlier before the peace deal, members of the community are attack day and night, loot property, set houses ablaze, destroy properties and raid the entire community. Before the peace talk, some communities in Katsina, Zamfara and Sokoto states were warned by the bandits of going to farm. They promise to kill any one seeing in the farmland, this affect food production in that season. The major occupation of people in rural communities affected by the bandit is agricultural production. The peace deal now allowed members of the community to farm without any threat. People can go to farm, sleep well and move freely in their communities (International Crisis Group, 2025).

According to Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (2025), before the peace deal in the affected communities, the illegitimate taxation is enforced prior to planting and a subsequent levy is demanded during the harvest period. However, even members of the communities that comply with the levies are not safe from bandit violence, some still fall victim to kidnappings, forcing their relatives selling the entire harvest to meet ransom demands. The levies from farming communities serve as a significant revenue for armed bandits, as many

communities in the affected states pay heavy taxes. Non-compliance with these levies results in being denied access to farmlands for agricultural activities.

According to West Africa Early Warning and Response Network (2023), armed bandits killed over 1,058 people in Zamfara, Kaduna, Katsina, Sokoto and Niger between January and December in 2019. About 4,983 women were widowed, 25,050 orphaned and 190,340 others internally displaced between June 2011 and May 2019 in Zamfara state. Also, over 10,000 cattle were lost, while 2,688 hectares of farmlands and 10,000 houses destroyed from 2011 and mid-2018 in Zamfara state. In Katsina state, over 500 communities were destroyed and 330,000 people displaced. In November, 2019, an estimated 4,000 people were internally displaced in Shiroro local government, Niger state.

The United Nations High Commission for Refugee (2024), revealed that, over 2.5 million persons were internally displaced in several communities in Zamfara, Katsina, Niger and Sokoto states between January-August, 2019. Majority of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are women, children and the aged taking refuge in safer environments and Niger Republic. Armed bandits displaced many families to various neighboring villages and states across Nigeria. Banditry has created a miserable condition where the number of orphans, widows, destitute, and emotionally unstable grow more than any other time in the history of Northern Nigeria.

Violation of the Peace deal

The bandits commit lot of atrocities against the affected communities. Violation of human rights become pervasive. The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended), Chapter four protect human rights against any inhumane and degrading treatment to humanity. But the bandits killed, displaced, raid villages and injured members of the community. The bandits usually violate the peace deal. This is because they are expected to devoid from committing atrocities and have no money with them as they have through kidnapping and ransom. Most of the bandits that violate the peace deal does so without the consent of their leaders. Some time when the community reported such atrocities to head of bandits, they punish and sometime even kill those who violate the peace deal. Most of the bandits that are not in support of the peace deal change to other camps that don't support the peace deal. This is because some of them are not accessing money and other things, this affect the bandits and resort to some atrocities (Amnesty International, 2025).

According to the West Africa Network for Peace Building WANEP (2025), the consequences of armed banditry become a major factor to peace deal in some communities. The peace deal along with bandits in some communities of northern Nigeria involved dialogue, declarations of amnesty, and promises of reintegration for individuals who surrendered their arms. Peace deal include provisions for disarmament and assurances of non-prosecution, while traditional leaders and religious clerics were enlisted to mediate between State authorities and bandit groups. The government framed these initiatives as pragmatic alternatives to prolonged military campaigns, which had proven both costly and largely ineffective in combating rural armed banditry. Peace deal with the bandits facilitated dialogue and temporarily reduced attacks. The sustainability is undermined by poor monitoring, insufficient reintegration mechanisms and the perception among communities that amnesty legitimized criminality. Government representative in disguise attempts to negotiate peace with armed bandits, offering a valuable case for understanding the complexities and limitations of non-military responses and air strike. Continues and renewed bandits' attacks indicated that the initiatives had failed to achieve durable stability. In some communities the peace deal is ad hoc bargaining with armed bandit groups.

According to Usman *et al.*, (2026), in signing peace deal leaders from the armed bandits and community leaders engages in discussion. The *Kachalla* from the side of the bandits is a leader and oversees the general operations of the group. He takes strategic decisions (including which bandit group to collaborate with) and assigns tasks to teams and individuals within the group. The *Kachalla* has overall control over the group and strategic decision-making. Informants and other members of the group advise on potential targets but the *Kachalla* has the final say that he does not reveal to anyone. This withholding of information until the last minute helped the bandits keep secret against security informants and rival armed groups. The deputy to *Kachalla*, work directly under the *Kachalla*, as the deputy. The deputy takes orders from the *Kachalla*, coordinates and leads operations, takes tactical decisions. The deputy is allowed to lead operations and make tactical decisions. He usually succeeds the *Kachalla* if dies. Other subordinate like head logistics and head intelligence work along with the deputy *Kachalla* to ensure missions are achieved. Therefore, on peace deal, the *Kachalla* and his deputy have the final decision on the content of the agreements reached in the peace talk with the affected communities.

From the foregoing, armed banditry has threatened security in many States in northern Nigeria. Different bandit groups have led to the displacement of many people in the affected states. The displaced communities have become dislocated from their families. The activities of bandits have led to loss of thousands of lives and many became incapacitated, in addition to various degrees of human injury. Women were raped, injured, while others suffer from sickness and psychological incapacitation. This have rendered thousands of people dead and homeless. This become a source of signing peace deal between armed bandits and the affected communities. The aim of the peace talk is for the affected communities to return to their homes and embrace peace for socioeconomic development.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The paper adopted Co-operative Approach Theory (CAT) to conflict resolution by Morton Deutsch. According to Deutsch (2000), individuals or parties enter into a negotiation process to resolve conflict and bring a certain orientation to the table in their effort to settle the conflict. A cooperative approach aligns with the process of interest-based or integrative bargaining which leads parties to seek win-win solutions. Disputants work cooperatively to negotiate a solution are more likely to develop a relationship of trust and come up with mutually beneficial options for settlement. The aim of negotiation is for settlement, cease fire and maintain peace among the parties in conflict. Cooperation for settlement bring mutual gains and the parties sign negotiation for peace and harmony. The parties identify the problems resulting to in win-win outcomes. Negotiation is an agreement binding the parties in addressing their common problems.

The Co-operative Approach become relevant in explaining peace deal with armed bandits in Katsina state. The peace deal typically stipulate that, bandits cease attacks on communities and release abducted victims. In exchange, the bandits are granted safe passage to access town markets and basic goods without interference. The peace deal continue to be a source of peace in some of the affected communities. The affected communities in Katsina State signed peace deal with the armed bandits through negotiation and identifying major areas affecting humanity. The affected communities and the bandits negotiates for a win-win relationship. Through this, the bandits are expected to eschew from attacking, raiding communities, cattle rustling, kidnapping and torturing members of the communities. This revealed that, the negotiation through the peace deal must be signed, accepted and guide the parties to the problem.

METHODOLOGY

The study examined the impact of peace deal in mitigating armed banditry in selected communities of Katsina State, Nigeria. The study was conducted in local governments areas of Katsina State affected with armed banditry and signed peace deal with the armed bandits in their communities. The population of the study include: community leaders, youth organisations and informal security outfit. One participant was selected in each of the local government given a total of four participants. The paper adopted qualitative technique using in-depth interviews. Purposive sampling was adopted in drawing the participants across communities of Safana, Danmusa, Matazu, Faskari. Respondents were selected based on their experience regarding peace deal in the affected communities. One participant was selected in each of the local government given a total of four participants. For data analysis, analytical and interpretive discussion of the responses were carried out thematically in relation with the four objectives of the study.

FINDINGS

The analysis covers the objectives of the study including driving forces leading to peace deal, the impact of the peace deal, party violating the peace deal and the community strategies in monitoring the peace deal.

Driving Forces Responsible for the Peace deal with Armed Bandits

The Members of the communities were interviewed on the factors that forced them to enter into peace deal with the bandits. The community expressed that, security and peace are affected in most of the communities, the bandits attack day and night with no support from the security forces. Sometime the bandits collect tax from the members of the communities. Many were extorted by the bandits, food items were taken away and livestock were rustled. These necessitated different communities contacted the heads of bandits to come for negotiation and sign a peace deal in the communities. They further stated that, indiscriminate attacks and denial to cultivate and harvest at the end of raining season always call for peace deal.

The major reason for the peace deal with the armed bandits is to have peace and allow members of the community to engage into their socioeconomic activities without threat from the bandits. Neglect from the government also motivated the communities to engage in peace deal. Different stakeholders such as traditional leaders, religious leaders, informal security outfit, the members of

the community, local government chairmen and local government and chieftaincy affairs are behind the peace deal. Though, indirectly government is involved in the peace deal. The bandits and their leaders attended the gathering for peace talk, usually coordinated by the traditional leaders. In an in-depth interview with a community leader on driving forces responsible for peace deal with the armed bandits revealed that:

Armed banditry is affecting all spheres of human endeavours. Farming and other socioeconomic activities are affected. People are displaced, some loss their lives and many are injured. Insecurity is the major reason that motivated the community to engage the armed bandits for peace deal. Peace deal become necessary and imperative as government neglected most of the rural communities affected by armed banditry. We engaged the bandits for peace deal in order to enjoy security, peace and socioeconomic development (IDI with Community Leader, Safana, Katsina State, 2026).

Impact of the Peace deal with Armed Bandits

Members of the communities were interviewed on the impact of the peace deal signed with the armed bandits. They revealed that, the peace deal has impact as peace is prevailing in the communities. Many people are now going to farm without fear of attacks from the bandits. People are into business and engage in different activities without any threat. People move freely without any fear of attacks, bandits also come to town, interact with the community, purchase goods and leave without attacking anyone. Earlier before the peace deal, members of the community are attack day and night, loot property, set houses ablaze, destroy properties and raid the entire community.

Before the peace talk, some communities in Katsina state were warned by the bandits of going to farm. They promise to kill any one seeing in the farmland, this affect food production in that season. The major occupation of people in rural communities affected by the bandit is agricultural production. The peace deal now allowed members of the community to farm without any threat. People can go to farm, sleep well and move freely in their communities. The peace deal has impact especially in improving agricultural activities in most communities of Katsina state. In an in-depth interview with a community leader on the impact of peace deal revealed that:

Peace deal is a blessing to most communities in Katsina State. The community negotiate with the bandits to desist from attacking our

communities. People are now enjoying peace, go to farm and engage in socioeconomic activities without fair. We record significant achievement after signing the peace deal with the bandits. Farming is the major economic activities in this community, with peace deal farming is progressing. Earlier before the peace deal, the bandits raid communities, set houses ablaze and displaced communities. Peace deal impacted on the lives of the people. Bandits are not attacking our communities as before (IDI with Community Leader, Danmusa, Katsina State, 2026).

Party Violating the Signed Peace deal

The members of the communities were interviewed on the party found to violate the peace deal, which is between the bandits and members of the community. The members of the community expressed that, the bandits are usually the ones that violate the peace deal. This is because they are expected to be devoid of committing atrocities and have no money with them as they have through kidnapping and ransom. Most of the bandits that violate the peace deal do so without the consent of their leaders. In some instances, when the community reports such atrocities to the head of the bandits, the violators of the peace deal are punished and sometimes even killed.

Because of the peace deal, bandits come to town and move freely. Community members don't touch them as part of the peace deal, in most instances, the bandits are the ones that violate the peace deal in most of the communities. Most of the bandits that are not in support of the peace deal change to other camps that don't support the peace deal. This is because some of the bandits do not access money and other things, these affect the bandits thereby making them resort to some other kinds of atrocities. Members of the community always welcome the peace deal; it is an advantage to the communities. In an in-depth interview with a youth leader on the party violating the peace deal revealed that:

The community is ensuring that law and order is maintained after signing the peace deal. There are different camps where the bandits come from. Most of those who sign the peace deal hardly attack the community. Those who are not in support of the peace deal change to another camp. Some of the camps that signed the peace deal attacks our communities, the bandits sometime come and attacks, rob people of money. We monitor and report to the leaders who signed the peace deal. Those who violate the peace deal are usually punished. Members of the community respect the peace deal, while the bandits violate the provision of the peace deal (IDI with Youth Leader, Matazu, Katsina State, 2026).

Community Strategies in Monitoring the Peace Deal

Members of the communities were interviewed the strategies of monitoring the peace deal. The community expressed that, the traditional leaders, religious leaders, local government and chieftaincy affairs, local government chairmen, informal security outfit, retired security personnel and youth leaders are among those monitoring the success or failure of the peace deal with the bandits. The community watch the activities and movement of the bandits, some time they move in cluster and pass through communities. Members of the communities don't intimidate them; the bandits too are expected to respect the peace deal. If a member of the community is kidnapped or the community is attacked, the community report to the heads of the bandits. The heads will ascertain the camp that committed the atrocities and take action on that. Community leaders and heads of bandits keep monitoring the bandits and their activities. This is to ensure they don't violate the peace deal signed. In an in-depth interview with a community leader on the community strategies in monitoring the peace deal revealed that:

Members of the community, security, community leaders monitor the activities of the bandits. The community leaders usually receive reports across communities from their subjects on the activities of the bandits. They caution the leaders and report any strange activity in the community. Through this, the bandits are monitored, their movement and activities across the communities that sign peace deal with the bandits. Monitoring the peace deal is the responsibility of all stakeholders in the community (IDI with Vigilante Commandant Vigilante Group, Faskari, Katsina State, 2026).

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Findings revealed that the major reason for the peace deal with the armed bandits is to have peace and allow members of the community to engage into their socioeconomic activities without threat from the bandits. Neglect from the government also motivated the communities to engage in peace deal. Different stakeholders such as traditional leaders, religious leaders, informal security outfit, the members of the community, local government chairmen and local government and chieftaincy affairs are behind the peace deal. Though, indirectly government is involved in the peace deal. The bandits and their leaders attended the gathering for peace talk, usually coordinated by the traditional leaders. This is in line with the work of the West Africa Network for Peace Building WANEP (2025), the peace deal along with bandits in some communities of northern Nigeria

involved dialogue, declarations of amnesty, and promises of reintegration for individuals who surrendered their arms. Peace deal include provisions for disarmament and assurances of non-prosecution, while traditional leaders and religious clerics were enlisted to mediate between state authorities and bandit groups. The government framed these initiatives as pragmatic alternatives to prolonged military campaigns, which had proven both costly and largely ineffective in combating rural armed banditry.

Findings also revealed that, the peace deal has impact on the lives of the community that signed peace deal with the bandits. Members of the community are now going to farm and engage in other activities peacefully. This is in line with the work of Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (2025), the illegitimate taxation is enforced prior to planting and a subsequent levy is demanded during the harvest period. However, even members of the communities that comply with the levies are not safe from bandit violence, some still fall victim to kidnappings, forcing their relatives selling the entire harvest to meet ransom demands. But with peace deal communities are becoming safe and socioeconomic activities improved. Members of the community can access to farmlands for agricultural activities after the peace deal agreements.

Findings also revealed that, the bandits are usually the ones that violate the peace deal. This is because they are expected to devoid from committing atrocities and have no money with them as they have through kidnapping and ransom. Most of the bandits that violate the peace deal does so without the consent of their leaders. Some time when the community reported such atrocities to head of bandits, they punish and sometime even kill those who violate the peace deal. Members of the community always welcome the peace deal; it is an advantage to the communities. This is in line with the work of Usman, Bashir and Ribah (2026), in signing peace deal leaders from the armed bandits and community leaders engages in discussion. The *Kachalla* from the side of the bandits is a leader and oversees the general operations of the group. The bandits usually transgress the arbiytation between them with the affected communities, this continue to affect the peace talk and violate human rights by the bandits.

CONCLUSION

Security is affected in most of the communities due to bandits' attack day and night with no support from the security forces. Sometime the bandits collect tax from the members of the communities. Many were extorted by the bandits, food items were taken away and livestock were rustled. These

necessitated different communities contacted the heads of bandits to come for negotiation and sign a peace deal in the communities. Neglect from the government also motivated the communities to engage in peace deal. Different stakeholders such as traditional leaders, religious leaders, informal security outfit, the members of the community, local government chairmen and local government and chieftaincy affairs are behind the peace deal. Members of the communities are now going to farm without fear of attacks from the bandits. People are into business and engage in different activities without any threat. People move freely without any fear of attacks, bandits also come to town, interact with the community, purchase goods and leave without attacking anyone. Most of the bandits that are not in support of the peace deal change to other camps that don't support the peace deal. This is because some of them are not accessing money and other things, this affect the bandits and resort to some atrocities. Members of the community always welcome the peace deal; it is an advantage to the communities. Community leaders and heads of bandits keep monitoring the bandits and their activities. This is to ensure they don't violate the peace deal signed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The study proffers the following recommendations:

- i. Findings of the study revealed that, the major reason for the peace deal with the armed bandits is to have peace and allow members of the community to engage into their socioeconomic activities without threat from the bandits. Neglect from the government also motivated the communities to engage in peace deal. The study recommends that, the state and federal governments should work out effective modalities to tighten up border security. The government should provide avenues for the monitoring of uncontrolled arms particularly around the borders. Security agencies should be vigilant in checkmating the proliferation of arms.
- ii. Findings of the study revealed that, peace deal has impact as peace is prevailing in the communities. Many people are now going to farm without fear of attacks from the bandits. People are into business and engage in different activities without any threat. Earlier before the peace deal, members of the community are attack day and night, loot property, set houses ablaze, destroy properties and raid the entire community. The study recommends that, the Katsina state government should formally engage the bandit into peace-talk because many of

the communities engaged in peace deal are making progress. Formal discussion with government can address the routine security challenges in the affected communities.

- iii. Findings of the study revealed that peace deal has impact on the community that signed the agreements with the bandits. But the bandits attack occasionally and kill members of the community. The study recommends that, local and state government should empower the community leaders who are closer to the community on how to improve the peace deal. This will help in maintaining peace and development in the affected communities.
- iv. Findings of the study revealed that traditional institutions are at the forefront in negotiating with bandits. Most of them lacked skills on negotiation, conciliation and mediation. The study recommends that; formal training should be given to the community leaders who negotiate with bandits. This will help in accommodating the interest of the affected communities across Katsina State.

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