Insecurity and Sustainable Development Goals: A Public Perception Study in Kaduna Metropolis

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Abstract

This study seeks to assess the public perception of insecurity and four sustainable development goals (1, 2, 8 and 10). Data was collected through SDG documents, questionnaires and interviews. Systematic sampling was used to select the 11 wards out of 34 in the study area. Random sampling was used to administer the 400 copies of the questionnaire and the data collection was concluded by interviewing the 11 community leaders. Table, frequency and percentage were used to analyze and present the results. Additionally, a likert scale was used to present the public perception of insecurity and the four SDGs. Findings revealed the presence of hunger in the study area with a relative index 3.2, which was closely followed by weak economic growth and indecent jobs with a relative index of 3.1. Inequality had 3.07 as the relative index, while insecurity and poverty were 3.0 and 2.8 relative indexes respectively. The study concluded that hyper-inflation has multiplier effects in the study area as it affects food security and increases the poverty level. It was recommended that the social protection programs should cover all categories of people, male or female, adult or children and without any affiliations consideration to (political, religious, tribal, and regional) among other recommendations.

Keywords: Insecurity, Public Perception, Sustainable Development Goals,

INTRODUCTION

Recent economic shocks and crises have derailed some 30 years of progress in eradicating poverty (Yusuf, 2023). Millions more have fallen back into poverty due to uninsured exposure to illness, lack of social protection, missed education and higher cost of living. If current trends continue, the world will fall significantly short of achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1 (No Poverty) and 2 (Zero Hunger). Moreover, the situation regarding SDG 10 (Reducing Inequality) is alarming worse than in 2015, with inequalities within countries steadily increasing and global inequality starting to rise again since 2020, undoing decades of progress.

As if it is not enough, Nigeria has a high rate of multi-dimensional poverty, affecting 63% of its population (133 million people) (NBS, 2022). The national Multi-dimensional Poverty Index

(MPI) stands at 0.257, indicating that poor individual experience over a quarter of all possible deprivations. Poverty is more prevalent in the North (65%) than in the South (35%), with significant variations across states –ranging from 27% in Ondo State to 91% in Sokoto State (NBS, 2022; NASSCO, 2022; UNDP, 2022; UNICEF, 2022; OPHI, 2022). A majority of the population relies on primitive energy sources like dung, wood or charcoal for cooking. Deprivations are widespread in sanitation, access to health care, food security, and housing. Multi-dimensional poverty is more pronounced in rural areas (72%) than in urban areas (42%). Furthermore, two- thirds of children (67.5%) experience multi-dimensional poverty, with half of all poor people being children. Child poverty is more prevalent in the North (90%) than in the South (65.1%), with a significant variation across states (NBS, 2022).

Additionally, Nigeria is ranked 145 out of 180 countries and scored only 25 out of 100 points in the recently launched 2023 Corruption Perception Index [CPI] (Transparency International, 2023). This represents a rise of five places above the previous ranking in 2022 CPI, where Nigeria placed 150 out of 180 countries, and scored only 24 out of 100 points. Corruption is a serious menace to the creation of decent jobs and economic growth. (Transparency International Nigeria, 2023).

Furthermore, Nigeria, a country with a vast resources and diverse population, faces numerous security challenges that hinder its economic growth and stability. Insurgency, banditry, kidnapping have become major concerns, particularly in the northern region where Boko Haram's activities have disrupted business operations and led to a decline in food production (OECD, 2024). The lack of security has deterred investors and many companies have closed down or relocated to other countries. The economic impact is far-reaching, with effects on employment, trade balance, poverty, inequality and defence expenditure. The government's response to security threats has diverted funds from developmental projects, infrastructure and poverty alleviation. These negative developments are serious threat to achieving SDG 8 (Economic Growth and Decent Jobs) (OECD, 2024).

Although the government has taken a harsh decision to avoid fiscal crisis by implementing key reforms, the decision has aggravated poverty, inequality; poor access to quality education and health care. The new administration has made significant policy decisions, resulting in price increases, inflation and exchange rate adjustments. Inflation remains high, 34.5% on manufactured goods and 41% on foodstuffs (NBS, 2024). Despite being over a year into the reforms, tangible outcomes remain elusive.

There was the elimination of fuel subsidy, an increase in electricity tariffs and FX market reforms, which are crucial for restoring macroeconomic stability and growth. These reforms are expected to boost Nigeria's growth to 3.3% in 2023, 3.7% in 2024 and 4.1% in 2025 (NBS, 2024). However, the economic growth is insignificant and inflation remains high. People are suffering and that led to the 2024 end of bad governance protests that turned violent in many northern cities like Kano, Kaduna, Zaria, Maiduguri, Dutse, Azare, Jos and a host of others (BBC Pidgin Radio, 2024).

On education, health and well-being, the high number of out-of-school children in Nigeria especially in the north poses a significant threat to the country's future security and health. With over 20 million children not attending school, Nigeria has the highest number of out-of-school children worldwide (UNICEF, 2023; UNESCO; 2023). Many of these children engage in petty crimes or assist their parents in trading or farming, while others are at risk of being abducted or recruited into criminal activities. It is noted that one-third of these children are

not in any formal learning program, and up to 35% have never entered a classroom (UNICEF, 2023).

Additional reasons for the education crises are also insecurity, high costs associated with education, cultural norms and inadequate infrastructure. The Boko Haram insurgency, banditry and kidnapping have disrupted education significantly and nomadic communities face unique challenges in accessing education. The lack of investment in education affects the quality of schools and accessibility (UNICEF, 2023).

Being out of school has severe health consequences, including increased risk of communicable diseases, accidents and injuries. Schools play a crucial role in teaching healthy habits, hygiene and wellness and provide essential health services like vaccinations and mental health support. Efforts to address these challenges are critical to ensuring every child has access to quality education and a brighter future (OECD, 2024).

With only six years left to achieve the SDGs by 2030, Kaduna metropolis, a pivotal city in northern Nigeria, is grappling with a myriad of challenges that hinder progress towards these goals. The city's struggles with poverty, inequality, insecurity, inadequate infrastructure and environmental degradation among others, underscore the urgent need for accelerated efforts and collective action to bridge the development gaps. This study seeks to shed light on the pressing challenges facing Kaduna metropolis, emphasizing the imperative for swift and sustainable solutions to ensure a brighter future for its citizens.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Area
Kaduna metropolis is located between latitude $10^0 25'0''$N to $10^0 35'30''$ N of the Equator and longitude $7^0 22'30''$ E to $7^0 30'30''$ E of the Greenwich Meridian. The study area stretches across Kaduna North Local Government Area and Kaduna South as well as parts of Igabi and Chikun Local Government Areas. Kaduna metropolis served as the capital and seat of Kaduna State Government (Katuka, 2024). Figure 1.
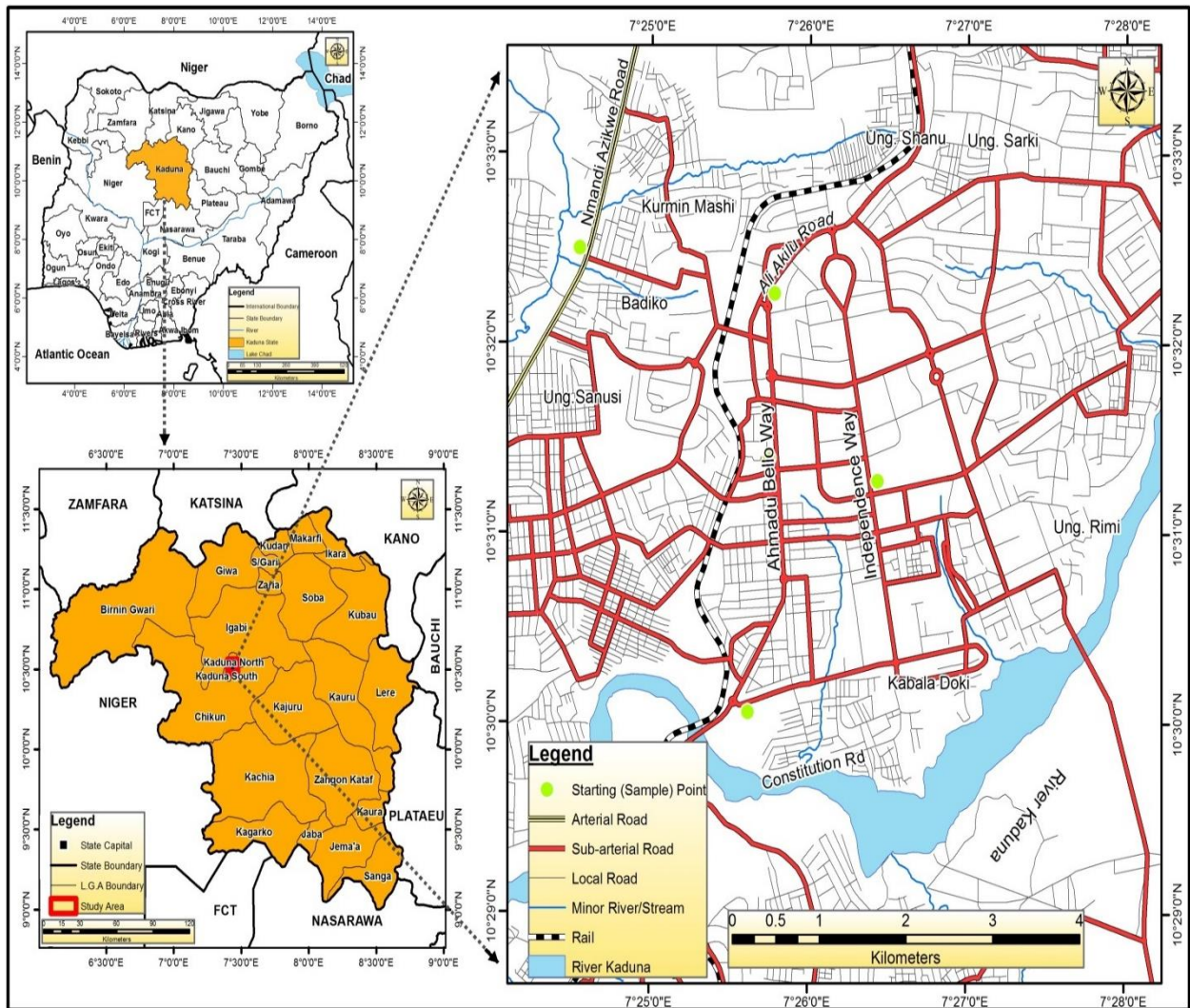
Figure 1: Part of Kaduna Metropolis
Source: Author and adopted from Administrative Map of Kaduna

The activities in Kaduna metropolis reflect the commercial, services, administrative, industrial, transport and professional needs of the state and northern Nigeria and make the city one of the most populous in the country (Aliyu & Suleiman, 2016). There are many infrastructures including the airport, these infrastructures were the backbone of the establishment of industries like; textile mills, bottling companies, flour mills, motor assembly plants, to mention a few. These have attracted many, especially the youths, to seek for employment and share in the economic development of the town. These industrial growth and high rate of urbanisation has attracted both national and international business men, and has make Kaduna metropolis one of the strongest commercial centres in northern Nigeria and the country at large (Musa & Adamu, 2020).

Types of data used
Indicators for achieving SDGs 1, 2, 8 and 10.
Socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents
Public perception of SDG achievements

Sources of data used
SDG and government documents
Questionnaire, Interview and Field Observation

Questionnaire administration, interview and field observation
Sample size and sampling techniques
The residents of Kaduna metropolis constitute the population from which the sample size of the study was drawn. Since there is no available record of the targeted population, the census figure of 1991 was projected and adopted for the study using Equation 1. This put it at 1,913,526 by the year 2023. The 1991 census figure was used because it gives data at both local government and ward levels as against the 2006 census figure that provides data at the local government level only. (Table 1). Yamane (1967) provides a simplified formula to calculate sample size with a 95% confidence level and a 5% sampling error assumption, Equation 2. The study used it to obtain a total of 400 sample size for questionnaire administration. The description is as follows:
P1= P0 $e$rn…………………………..………..…… ……...Equation 1

Where P1= project of the current time
P0= Base year population (2006)
e = exponential
r= Growth rate=3.18% =0.0318
n= Number of years projected 32

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)\,2}$$ …………………………………………. Equation 2

Where: n= sample size
N= NPC Estimated population figure
e=level of significance (set at 0.05 for this study)
A systematic sampling technique where two wards were skipped and then one selected was adopted in selecting the wards for the study. Thus, all the 34 wards (population) in the four LGAs were put together and listed alphabetically (Table 1). Interval (Equation 3) determination, a sample of eleven (11) wards was drawn at kth (3) interval (Table 1). Furthermore, equation 4 was used to determine the proportion of respondents to be sampled for respondents' selection (Table 2). Table 1 presents the names of the wards, and their population distribution based on 1991 estimated and 2023 projected population figures. Table 2 further reflects the 11 chosen elements from the sample frame based on population distribution by wards, proportion of samples and percentage of samples.

$$K = \frac{n}{N}$$ ………………………………..………..…… Equation 3

Where: k= sampling interval,
      N= sample size = 11
      n= population size =34
      Hence, K ≈ 3
      Pp. = …………………………………..……..… Equation 4
Where Pp= proportion of respondents
n=Population of each ward
N=Total population figure of wards.

Table 1: List of all Wards and Projected Population

S/N	Ward	2023 Projected Population
1	Afaka	52980
2	BirninYero	45634
3	Badarawa	161541
4	Badiko	66715
5	Barnawa	63885
6	Dadi Riba	6723
7	Hayin Banki	104195
8	Kakurin Gwari	32616
9	Kakurin Hausa	28376
10	Kabala	45312
11	Kakau	38221
12	Kawo	103039
13	Maiburji	11696
14	Makera	92513
15	Narayi	51,102
16	Nassarawa	18129
17	Rido	47152
18	Rigachikun	101692
19	Rigasa	153891
20	Sabon Gari North	69460
21	Sabon Gari South	32774
22	Sabon Tasha	99579
23	Sardauna	6723
24	Shaba	12895
25	Tudun Nupawa	70673
26	TudunWada North	37229
27	Tudun Wada South	49704
28	Television	29340
29	Unguwar Sanusi	44670
30	Unguwar Dosa	21365
31	Unguwar Rimi	43853
32	Unguwar Sarki	36853
33	Unguwar Shanu	66535
34	Yelwa	66461
	Total	1,913,526

Source: Author's Compilation, 2024

Table 2: List of Selected Wards

SN	Ward Name	Selected Population	Sample Proportion	Percentage of Samples
1	Badarawa	161541	102	25.4
2	Dadi Riba	6723	4	1.1
3	Kakuri	28376	18	4.5
4	Kawo	103039	65	16.2
5	Narayi	51,102	32	8.0
6	Rigachikun	101692	64	16.0
7	Sabon Gari South	32774	21	5.2
8	Shaba	12895	8	2.0
9	Tudun Wada South	49704	31	7.8
10	Unguwar Dosa	21365	13	3.4
11	Unguwar Shanu	66535	42	10.5
	Total	635746	400	100.0

Source: Author's computation, 2024

Questionnaire Administration

In selecting the respondents, random sampling was employed and individual from 18 years and above formed the sample population. 400 copies of the questionnaire were administered and 384, representing 96% were returned. Interview was conducted with the 11 community heads to validate some of the responses by the respondents.

Table 3: SDGs Key Indicators of Achievements

SDG	No of Indicators	Key indicator 1	Key indicator 2	Key indicator 3
No Poverty	There are seven indicators	Proportion of population below international poverty line	Proportion of population below national poverty line	Proportion of population living in all dimensions of poverty
Zero Hunger	There 14 indicators	Prevalence of undernourishment	Prevalence of stunted growth among children under 5 years	Prevalence of malnutrition (wasting)
Economic growth and decent job	There are 17 indicators	Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita	Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person	Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sector and sex
Reduced inequality	There are 11 indicators	Percentage of households with incomes below 50% of median income	Percentage of all people (men & women) with rights to land, property and natural resources	Percentage of eligible population covered by social security programs

Source: SDG Document cited by Yu & Kun-Huang (2024).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 4: Educational Status of the Respondents

Highest Educational level	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Education	21	5.5
Non-Formal Education	35	9.0
Primary School	36	9.5
Secondary	163	42.5
Tertiary	129	33.5
Total	384	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 4 revealed the educational level of respondents. The results indicated a highly literate population with only 21 respondents representing a mere 6% without education. The results revealed a whopping 129 respondents representing about 34% attaining tertiary education. Those respondents that attended secondary schools were 163 representing about 43%. Apparently, those who attended tertiary and secondary education were the majority. This corroborates with Katuka (2024) in his study of infrastructure and economic development of Kaduna metropolis where he found that respondents with secondary and tertiary education in the study area were the majority. The results also agree with the UNESCO 2024 data where 86% of the world population can read and write as against 68% in 1979. Those respondents acquired education whether formally or non-formally to keep up with the UNESCO definition of literacy and education.

Table 5: Occupation of Respondents

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Civil servant	93	24.3
Farmer	51	13.3
Petty Trader	110	28.6
Unemployed	76	19.8
Artisan	54	14.0
Total	384	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 5 revealed the occupation of the respondents. Kaduna being the capital of Kaduna State has many secondary and tertiary economic activities which is the reason only 51 respondents representing 13% were farmers. A whopping 93 respondents representing 24% were civil servants with trading taking 110, the biggest number of the respondents representing about 29%. The traders include: hawkers and menial jobs, small business owners, shopkeepers and retailers. Unemployed respondents were 76 representing about 20%. Having unemployed respondents up to this number is worrisome and that escalate the poverty level and further insecurity in the study area. Artisans may offer a different perspective for 54 respondents representing 14% is significant enough to stimulate the economic growth. Thus, the menial jobs although might not be decent or desirable but still spur the economic growth. A similar finding was reported by (Habila & Salami, 2020).

Table 6: Monthly Income

Income	Frequency	Percentage (%)
<30,000	107	28.0
31,000-70,000	91	23.8
71,000-90,000	71	18.4
91,000-120,000	58	15.0
>121,000	57	14.8
Total	384	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 6 revealed the monthly income of the respondents; the findings highlight a diverse range of income groups within the study area. As Nigerian commodity inflation reached 34% and foodstuffs reached an alarming 41% inflation rate according to NBS (2024), this income is not enough for a family of four except for those receiving above N120, 000 monthly which was dismal with only 57 respondents, representing barely 15%. According to the United Nations, $2.15 is the minimum poverty line, and more than half of the respondents live below $2.15

with a dollar to a naira trading at N1600-N1700. Thus, little change to the income level might occur if both tiers of government and the private sectors implement the N70, 000 minimum wage. Many economists are apprehensive that downsizing of the workforce is imminent to the dismay of unemployed, because it will aggravate their woes in poverty and hunger. The findings are consistent with that of (Alabi et al., 2021) who reported a similar situation in Kaduna State.

Table 7: Five Rating Likert Scale of the Perception of the Public on SDGs 1, 2, 8 and 10 and Insecurity

Variable	Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Strongly Agree		RI
	Frq	%	Frq	%	Frq	%	Frq	%	Frq	%	
No Poverty	82	21	90	23	34	9	158	40	69	17	2.8
Zero Hunger	89	22	102	26	45	11	108	27	56	14	3.2
Eco growth & decent job	78	20	121	30	32	8	111	28	58	15	3.1
Reduced Inequality	87	22	89	22	56	14	101	25	67	17	3.07
Security	81	20	86	22	43	11	117	29	73	18	3.0

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 7 revealed the perception of the public on insecurity and whether SDGs 1, 2, 8 and 10 were achieved or not. The five-Likert rating scale of 5 points Strongly Disagree, 4 points Disagree, 3 points Neutral, 2 points Agree and 1 point Strongly Agree. 5+4+3+2+1=15. 15/5=3. Thus, any result above 2.5 which is half of 5, indicates an acceptance and any result below 2.5 indicates a rejection. The findings revealed a strong agreement on the presence of hunger in the study area with a 3.2 relative index. There was a strong agreement of indecent job and weak economic growth as supported by a 3.1 relative index. Reduced inequality, insecurity presence and poverty have relative indexes of 3.07, 3.0 and 2.8 respectively. This is to say all the five variables with respect to SGGs, are far from being achieved.

CONCLUSION

This study explored the insecurity situation and whether the four SDGs are achieved or not in Kaduna metropolis. The unprecedented inflation is a reason enough to make it difficult to eradicate hunger and this has significantly affect purchasing power and plunged more people into poverty, as the presence of many menial jobs indicates indecent jobs and weak economic growth. The low income of most of the respondents indicates a high poverty level in the study area. There were pockets of insecurity especially kidnapping for ransom as stated by community leaders during interviews.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The social protection programs should cover all categories of people, male or female, adult or children and without any affiliation's consideration (political, religious, tribal, regional, and so on).
2. Micro, small and medium enterprises should be trained a free of charge and be given loans at 1-digit interest rate.
3. Civil servants should be paid adequately to ensure free hunger society and to eliminate multidimensional poverty
4. The public should be conscious and vigilant with their neighbors and anybody they come in contact with and the government should provide security cameras and modern security equipment to security agencies.

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