

## The Impact of Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons on Nigeria's National Security: A Case Study of Kogi State (2015-2018)

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**Abstract.** This study examined the impact of proliferation of small arms and light weapons on Nigeria's National security, with specific focus on Kogi State (2015-2018). This study investigated the impact of proliferation of small arms and light weapons on security wellbeing of Kogi State. Survey research design was used for this study. Both primary and secondary sources were used for the collection of data. Simple percentage and frequency were used for the presentation and analysis of data collected from the field. The article argued that the availability and use of illegal arms increases the frequency of violence in Kogi State of Nigeria which results in the destruction of lives and properties. It is important for the government to check the spate of conflicts in the state or else street gangs, lawlessness individuals would create condition for anarchy in Nigeria. Government's monopoly of arms and the security forces would be overwhelmed and unorganized groups and armed militias will constitute threat to the development of citizens of not only Kogi State But Nigeria as a whole.

**Keywords:** Small Arms, Light Weapons, Proliferation, National Security

### 1. Introduction

Possession of small arms and light weapons has posed a serious threat to National security and especially Kogi State of Nigeria. There is no reliable and accurate data on the number of arms

and weapons in the country, security experts reckon that there is a large quantity of infantry weapons and civilian style rifles including pistols and revolvers in the hands of private citizens which are used during elections. States in Africa, Asia and Latin America, have been experiencing the challenge of illicit transfer of small arms and light weapons (SALW). Nigeria faces security challenges linked to the proliferation of illicit small arms. Abiodun, Ayo-Adeyekun, Ifeoluwa and Nwannenaya (2018) observed that even though, there is no accurate data on the quantity of small arms in Nigeria, reports have shown that out of 10 million illicit small arms in West Africa one to three million are in circulation in Nigeria. Bashir (2014) has reported that, over 70 percent of the total illegal small arms in West Africa are in Nigeria and that the regular interception of illegal small arms trafficking within and across the border by security agencies in Nigeria was worrisome.

The relationship between small arms and light weapons and insecurity has remained a contentious debate among scholars. They have generally agreed that the proliferation of small arms and light weapons poses serious challenge to national security. It was also agreed that the availability of small arms have direct influence on the escalation of insecurity. This was further brought to the fore in his famous year 2000 millennium report to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) by the then Secretary General, Kofi Annan who asserted that the death

toll from small arms dwarfs that of all other weapons systems and in most years greatly exceeds the toll of atomic bombs that devastated Hiroshima and Nagasaki (Okeke and Oji, 2014).

The proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) is of strategic concern to most societies as the acquisition of SALW by non-state actors always facilitates violent conflict and in some instances renders the state powerless due to the efficacy of the non-state actors. The availability of these weapons is bolstered by the presence of existing and new stock of weapons in the global market as armed brokers shift these weapons to existing and emerging markets. Weapons proliferation is a signature of post-cold-war African phenomenon that led to the difficult choice of weapons transfer in form of patron-client network that saw to the proliferation of weapons in most parts of Africa which gradually led to state collapse as experienced in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Libya, Mali to mention a few (Bashir, 2014).

Kogi State faces serious security threat because of proliferation of small arms and light weapons. This is seen in the high rate of robbery, kidnapping, assassinations and political thuggery experienced in the state. The inflow of small arms and light weapons has caused a lot of havoc to the people of Kogi State. It made the state to persistently experience ethno-religious conflicts, armed banditry, kidnapping and political violence. When crisis break out and spread they are given religious or ethnic interpretation which usually generates hatred between the adherents of two major religions (Islam and Christianity). It is against this background that this study examines the impact of proliferation of small arms and light weapons on Nigeria's National security, with specific focus on Kogi State (2015-2018).

### 1.1 Research Questions

The following research question will guide the study:

- What are the factors that embolden the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Kogi State?

- In what ways are small arms and light weapons threat to national security and particularly to Kogi State?
- What is the role of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the escalation of diverse security threats to Nigeria and Kogi State in particular?

### 1.2 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this research are:

- To investigate the factors that encourages the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Kogi State
- To examine the ways in which small arms and light weapons are threats to national security and particularly to Kogi State
- To identify the role of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the escalation of diverse security threats to Nigeria and Kogi State in particular.

### 1.3 Research Hypotheses

This research work will be guided by the following propositions:

- Small arms proliferation constitutes security threat to Kogi State
- Small are and light weapons proliferation escalates fragile security atmosphere experienced in Kogi State.
- Small arms and light weapons proliferation hamper socio-economic development of Kogi State.

## 2. Review of Related ILterature

### 2.1 Concept of Small Arms and Light Weapons

There is no generally accepted definition of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). According to Wezeman (2003) small arms are broadly categorised as those weapons intended for use by an individual; they are weapons designed for personal use. Small arms are those weapons used by one person that are particularly firearms and other destructive devices such as

incendiary bombs, gas bombs, and landmines that include pistols, machine guns, light machine guns and rifles (Gerald and Caleb, 2015). Riviere (2016) sees small arms as anything from pistol to light machine guns, classified as weapons of choice for criminal activities, suicide, and a constant motivator to violence and crimes. According to the United Nations Panel of Experts on Small Arms (cited in Anna, 1997), small arms include revolvers and self-loading pistols, rifles and carbines, sub machine guns, assault rifles and light machine guns. While light weapons on the other hand include heavy machine guns, hand-held under barrel and mounted grenade launchers, portable anti-aircraft guns, portable anti-tank guns, recoilless rifles (sometimes mounted), portable launchers of anti-aircraft missile systems (sometimes mounted), and mortars of caliber less than 100 mm. Ammunition and explosives includes cartridges (rounds) for small arms, shells and missiles for light weapons mobile containers with missiles or shells for single-action anti-aircraft and anti-tank systems, anti-personnel and anti-tank hand grenades, landmines and explosives. This article adopts the definition of the UN panel.

## 2.2 Concept of National Security

National security is seen as freedom from actual and potential threats to national life that may arise as a result of human actions or inactions, or from disaster such as flood, earthquake, famine, drought, disease and other natural calamities resulting in deaths, human suffering and material damage. The emphasis on national security stems from three fundamental convictions; the sanctity and inviolability of human life, the universality and dignity of human life, and the existential imperatives of the value for individual safety in a world full of multifarious threats. National security is rooted in three basic instincts of self-preservation, self-extension and self-fulfillment. Small arms and light weapons contribution lead to the disruption of the pattern of daily life at the individual, community and societal levels. It plays important role in denying people entitlement to the three core national values that are central to the notion of national security. The United Nations Development

Programme (2002), posits that human security (an aspect of national security) refers to freedom of individuals from fear, want, safety from chronic threats such as hunger, disease, and having freedom from repression. It is also protection from sudden and harmful disruptions in the patterns of daily life, be it in homes, jobs or communities (Peterside, 2018).

## 2.3 Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons

Proliferation of arms and weapons is defined as a method in which arms and weapons are sold to private citizens especially in the conflict zones (Kofi Annan cited in Aver, Nnorom and Ilim, 2014). Hazan and Horner (2007) defined proliferation as the growth or numerous multiplications of illegal arms and weapons in the country. In the context of this paper arms proliferation is defined as sudden increase in the number of arms and weapons beyond those need for legitimate national security. This means when state supplier recipient, does not exercise restraint in the production, transfer and acquisition of such arms and weapons beyond those needed. This act was committed by unidentified groups either for economic or political purposes. These arms and weapons easily get into the hands of private individuals especially politicians and their thugs.

The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria provides citizens with the right to change their government peacefully through periodic, free, and fair elections held on the basis of universal suffrage. Politicians however, abridge citizens' right through elections that were conducted amid widespread fraud and numerous incidents of violence (Bureau of Democracy Human Rights Practices 2009, Ohanele, 2011). In Nigeria, election victory is not usually determined by the number of votes received by the political parties and their candidates, but by the ability of the political party to acquire, use small arms and light weapons to intimidate opponents and rig elections. Adeyemi and Adeyemi (2003) observed that during the ward congress of the Peoples' Democratic Party's, many politicians went to the congress venue armed with assault

rifles and acid containers for possible use on opponents. This act was also witnessed at the federal, state, and local primary elections. For instance, there were bloody clashes in many parts of the country in 2011 general elections. There was massive loss of lives and property across the Country Nigeria. Ten National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) members employed as ad-hoc staff by Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to conduct election exercise lost their lives in Bauchi State (Abdullahi and Rauf 2012).

Support Human Rights (2007) also asserted that Nigeria's security services were involved in the underdevelopment of democracy in the country. For instance, police officials were widely accused of failing to do enough to protect voters from violence and safeguard the integrity of the process. In Gombe local government area of Gombe State Independence National Electoral Commission office, three police officers watched while People's Democratic Party agents intimidated an Independence National Electoral Commission official into changing a result sheet. A People's Democratic Party cabinet member of the state government assaulted a candidate of the All Nigerian People's Party while in a police station in Deba, Gombe State and the policemen/officers present simply watched. The country's human rights record remains disastrous, fueled in large measure by the near-total impunity enjoyed by those in political offices and in the security forces. The acts of killing normally resort to wide spread distrust, fear and apathy to the democratic process in Nigeria. On a whole, arms and weapons proliferation have destroyed human lives and physical assets and reduced social welfare of Nigerians. Small arms and light weapons proliferation do not only make the development of democracy difficult, but also polarizes communal groups and leads to the erosion of respect for human rights and dignity.

#### **2.4 The Nigerian Dynamics: Issues of Small Arms and Light Weapons**

One of the security challenges to individuals and communities in Nigeria is the proliferation of illegal small arms. In Nigeria, high circulation

and illicit use of small arms endangers individual lives and the communities, leading to the massive death, injury and the loss of property worst millions of Naira during conflicts and even in the aftermath of the conflict. On this light, Onuoha (2012) revealed that, the presence of small arms in ethno-religious conflict in Jos has caused serious devastation on human and properties. The Nigeria's challenge of small arms is not new but, its increasing availability has helped in fueling ethno-religious conflict, banditry, kidnapping, armed robbery and other violent crimes (Onuoha, 2012; Edeko 2011). Availability of these forms of arms, prolongs conflict, facilitates internal displacement, disrupts social peace, devastates economic livelihood of individuals and it creates fear (Onuoha 2012; Munir 2011; Boutwell and Klare 2000; Ero and Ndinga-Muvumba 2004).

The consequences of small arms proliferation have been extensive. In spite of its evident threat to the security of people and the community, the consequences of illegal use of small arms have also been felt directly by the people. It is clear to state that, the possession and use of small arms in crimes commitment has increased and becoming a threat to the security of individuals and their communities. The most dangerous and most serious problem is the use of small arms by criminal groups and gangsters which among other things, is associated with a greater incident of violent crimes such as armed robbery, kidnapping, hostage taken and rape.

The circulation of small arms threatens human survival; it intimidates people and poses threat to their freedom of movement in economic activities. However, besides the deaths and injuries, the threat of small arms also caused financial and property losses due to the several incidences of violent conflict and armed crimes in the state. Onuoha (2012) revealed that, substantial amount of money that indeed, could be used in providing basic social services that promotes human lives and development that include clean water, education and healthcare services among others were duly spent on security by the government.

The insecurity caused by the proliferation of illicit small arms also limits health care services, which prevents adequate care for preventable and treatable conditions and diseases. Moreover, conflicts fueled by small arms hinders educational opportunities as schools may not open during the situation of insecurity or cannot reopen after conflicts because of the death or other loss of teachers, the loss of equipment and lack of students who might flee during violence.

The circulation of small arms is a rising problem to community, causes and intensifies insecurity. This perception is in line with the statement made by Banerjee and Muggar (2002) who expressed that, small arms are the major source of insecurity and serves as massive impediment to sustainable development. Uwa and Anthony (2015) argued that since 1999, more than 10,000, (an average of 1000 people) usually get killed annually in Nigeria due to the proliferation and use of small arms. The proliferation and illicit use of small arms becomes a major threat to human life and socio-economic activities (Adetiba, 2012).

However, in Nigeria, since 1999, substantial numbers of people have been killed as a result of the availability and use of small arms in violent conflict and crimes. It has been noted that the occurrence of ethno-religious armed violence in the northern region has led to extensive killings and material destruction (Ginifer and Ismail, 2005). Similarly, Uwa and Anthony (2015) explicated that, in urban areas of the country, injuries due to small arms have increased as much as ten-fold because, small arms are used in committing most homicides. It has been revealed that, possession and use of small arms are associated with greater incidences of violent crimes, murder, armed robbery and cattle rustling (Emanuel and Ndimbuwa, 2013).

For Small Arms Survey (2002), the possession and use of small arms contributes to a series of humanitarian effects, including forced displacement, declining access to basic needs and increase the scale and pace of killing. Moreover, small arms contribute to deaths and injuries; killing hundreds of thousands and injuring thousands more every year (Stohl and

Hogendoom, 2010). Hence, it has been reported that, due to the proliferation of small arms in Nigeria, there are millions of people that are internally displaced (Onuoha, 2012). Furthermore, Hagendoom (2010) stressed that, in addition to death and injuries, small arms contribute to the forceful separation of families and also undermines traditional family structures, and support systems. Small arms are used in carrying out forced disappearance, torture, sexual violence (particularly rape) and forced prostitution.

## **2.5 Challenges to Effective Control of Small Arms and Light weapons in Nigeria**

There are several factors that contributed to the proliferation of small arms in the region, these includes the nature of small arms and light weapons, internal factors, as well as structural factors. In the first place, there is a general lack of transparency around the arms trade. Most Sub-Saharan African states consider their arms policies to be secret, which makes them hard to assess. Similarly, arms dealers promote corruption by involving some African states in illegal activity. Insecurity in the region also makes it easy for small arms to enter illicit circulation through theft, leakage or re-sale (Okafor, Okeke and Aniche, 2015).

Secondly, small arms and light weapons by virtue of their several characteristics make them very attractive to paramilitary and irregular forces and even untrained civilians thereby assisting in their proliferation. Apart from governments increased their demand for small arms and light weapons to counter political insurgency and suppress domestic opposition movements, a number of different factors account for their high desirability on the region. Their simplicity makes them easy to operate even by people who have had very little or no military training (Florquin and Berman, 2015).

The failure in governance to provide the needed security was a factor that compelled citizens to look for an alternative. Studies indicates that lack of confidence in security forces, understaffing or sometimes simply the inability of security agencies to carry out their duty

effectively in many African countries informed the strong need by citizens to acquire arms in order to protect themselves and their property from armed violence. The crude nature of Nigerian politics is one key factor driving the process of small arms and light weapons proliferation. Electoral politics in Nigeria is perceived by politicians as a warfare. The stakes in politics are incredibly high, making politicians desperate in the struggle to win elective positions. Many of them recruit specialists of violence, cultists, gangs and thugs for the attainment and to retain political power (Onuaha, 2014).

The failure to provide basics of life, effective and justly sharing of resources ensuring human security were also responsible for the explosion of small arms and escalation of violence. The mismanagement of public resources, as well as abuse of public trust resulted in far reaching and devastating impact ensuing rising poverty level, high unemployment and poor/failed delivery of basic services, not least security. Due to frustration and deprivation, many have taken to criminal activities such as piracy, armed robbery, kidnapping and militancy, which contribute to the demand side of arms penetration and circulation (Nathan, 2014). The vicious cycle of low salaries and corruption creates breeding grounds for the proliferation of small arms and light weapons among the civilian population. Customs officers are bribed by weapons dealers, while soldiers, police officers and security forces are known to have sold government weapons to criminals (Ayissi and Sall, 2015).

The challenge of porous borders is another factor. Nigeria has 770 km of shared land border with the Republic of Benin to the west, about 1500 km with Niger to the north, 1700 km with Cameroon to the east, 90 km with the Republic of Chad to the north-east and 850 km maritime border on the Atlantic Ocean. The border is about 4910 km and has to be secured. Each of these entry points, along with the airports, has been used to smuggle arms into the country. The porous borders made it easy for weapons to be smuggled into inflaming and protracting violence (Ngang, 2017).

The forces of globalization bring along opportunities and challenges, the elimination of state enforced restrictions on exchanges across borders and the increasingly integrated and complex global system of production and exchange that has emerge as a result further complicate the challenge of containing small arms and light weapons proliferation. The idea of globalization and its advocate for free market forces with minimum economic barriers and open trade for world development provides ground for illicit trade in arms by minimizing custom regulations and border control, trafficking of small arms becomes easier.

Malhotra (2015), stressed that, a miniscule percent of container ships have cargo checks, therefore making arms movement smooth. Faking documents, bribing officials and concealing arms as humanitarian aids are common practices. Malhotra (2015) identified globalization as one of the factors that facilitate proliferation of illicit trade in arms: (a) Political and economic integration are coupled with lesser restrictions in migration and human movement. This helps the arms dealers to fortify their present business connections and tap new ones. Dealers migrate to various regions, motivated by business expansion or reduced operational risks. (b) Banking reforms and capital mobility have aided the black market to spread its trade internationally, utilizing every angle of the well linked financial market. This also gives rise to offshore markets and tax shelters. An illustration of banking innovation is E-money. Banks have introduced cards bearing microchips, which are able to store large sums of money. These cards are portable outside conventional channels or can be easily bartered among individuals. (c) The linkage of banks with the internet has posed a new challenge in combating illegitimate activities in the financial sector. E-banking has digitized money making it prone to criminality. Even though, it has numerous benefits for the world at large, it is misused for money laundering, credit card scams and check-kiting (Nathan, 2014). In addition, economic integration among regions helped arm brokers with more opportunities to shelter their money, by investing in different stock exchanges. Numerous other illegal practices are a by-

product of a deregulated financial sector, but money laundering is at the apex. Money Laundering or cleansing of money is an unlawful practice of concealing the point of origin, identity or destination of the funds, when performing a particular financial transaction. The criminals maneuver money across borders gaining from banks in countries with lax anti-laundering policies. (d) Profound expansion of commercial airline and freight industry (making transport cheaper and easier) are instrumental in increased penetration of arms in conflict zones. Global merger of airline companies, supply chains, shipping firms make it tough to supervise unlawful practices in air and water. (e) The growth of global communication in the past two decades has been unfathomable. This has enhanced the ability of arms dealers to communicate internationally through the web at a cheap rate (Ocheche, 2015).

In April 2018, several lives were lost in Kogi state following attacks by yet to be identified gunmen in Kpanche community of Bassa local government area of Kogi state. The Nigerian Customs Services said recently that it had seized arms and ammunitions imported into the country from the United States and Europe on 17 different occasions at various points of entry between 2012 and 2016. In October, 2016, another round of heavy weaponry was harvested in Rivers State when 22,430 militants, agitators, criminals, cultists and sundry characters embraced the amnesty offer of the state government and surrendered 1,000 fire arms, 7661 rounds of ammunition, and 147 explosives (Peterside, 2018).

## 2.6 Theoretical Framework

There are a number of theories that explain the origin of proliferation of small arms and light weapons. This study adopted conflict theory. Conflict theory emphasizes the role of coercion and power in producing social order. This perspective is derived from the works of Karl Marx (1818-1883) who saw society as fragment of groups that compete for social and economic resources. Social order is maintained by domination. Power is always in the hands of those in control of political, economic, and

social resources. When consensus exists, it is attributable to people being united around common interests, often in opposition to other groups. Inequality exists because those in control of a disproportionate share of society's resources actively defend their privileges. The masses are not bound to society by their shared values, but by coercion in the hands of those in power (Anderson and Taylor, 2009). This perspective emphasizes social control, not consensus and conformity. Groups and individuals advance their own interests, struggling over control of societal resources. Those with the most resources exercise power over others with inequality and power struggles resulting. There is great attention paid to class, race, and gender in this perspective because they are seen as the grounds of the most pertinent and enduring struggles in society.

In Mill's view, social structures are created through conflict between people with differing interests and resources. Individuals and resources in turn, are influenced by these structures and by the distribution of resources and power in the society (which are not done equally). The powerful elite in society have emerged through the fusion of the corporate elite, the military industrial complex and the executive arm of government. Mills argued that the interests of these elite were opposed to those of the people. He theorized that the policies of the power elite would result in scaling up of conflict, paying more attention on the manufacture of arms and weapons for the purpose of mass destruction, and extinction of the humans from the surface of the earth (Knapp, 1994).

Sears (2008) posits that conflict theorists believed that societies are defined by inequalities that create conflict, rather than those that establish order and consensus. These conflicts based on inequality can only be resolved through a fundamental transformation of the existing relations in the society, and is a product of new social relations. The disadvantaged have structural interests that run counter to the status quo, which, once they are assumed, will lead to social change. Thus, they

are viewed as agents of change rather than objects one should have sympathy for.

Representation of disadvantaged groups in democratic processes may cultivate the notion of full participation, but this is an illusion. Inequality on a global level is characterized by the purposeful underdevelopment of Developing Countries like Nigeria, both during colonization and after national independence. The global system (i.e., development agencies such as World Bank and International Monetary Fund) benefits the most powerful countries and multinational corporations, rather than the subjects of development, through economic, political, and military actions. Today, conflict theorists find social conflict between any groups in which the potential for inequality exists (racial, gender, religious, political, economic, and so on). Conflict theorists note that unequal groups usually have conflicting values and agenda, causing them to compete against one another. This constant competition between groups forms the basis for the ever-changing nature of society. Power provides the mechanism for the violent control of the rest of the population. In the course of the struggles, politicians use money to acquire arms and weapons and at the same time buy the agents of the social control such as police, prosecutors, judges and other agencies of social control in order to allow them use the arms and weapons during electoral process.

Critics of the conflict perspective point to its overly negative view of society. The theory ultimately attributes humanitarian efforts, altruism, democracy, civil rights, and other positive aspects of society to capitalistic designs to control the masses, not to inherent interests in preserving society and social order. However, the strength of this theory lies in its recognition that arms and weapons proliferation is a violent crime against democracy and humanity generally. It hinders the effective utilization of human capital for national development. Based on the foregoing assumptions the theory has been adopted as a theoretical guide for the study.

From the above theoretical perspective, conflict theory is of the view that politicians are regarded as enemy of progress in the society. democracy

in Nigeria has become multidimensional to the extent that the right people are not allowed to take part in the system. This situation makes the control of the menace of light arms and small weapons proliferation a very difficult task by the appropriate authority. Members of the public cannot understand the complex nature of arms and weapons proliferation as such they do not give the needed vital information to the appropriate authority saddled with the responsibility of controlling the phenomenon. Politicians can muster enough resources not only to bribe the appropriate law enforcement agencies but also to frustrate their investigation aimed at curbing the menace in the society. Similarly, the organized social structure in Nigeria which attaches more importance to wealth acquisition with less attention given to the approved means of acquiring such wealth by the society provide grounds for increase in electoral violence in the country Nigeria.

### 3. Research methodology

#### 3.1 Research design

Survey research design was used for this study. It investigated the opinion and perception of security personnel and other Kogi State citizens on the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and its threat to security of lives and properties.

The population of Kogi State according to the 2006 census was 3,314,043. The state comprise of 21 Local Government Areas which include Adavi, Ajaokuta, Ankpa, Bassa, Dekina, Ibaji, Idah, Igalamela-Odolu, Ijumu, Kabba/Bunu, Koton Karfe, Lokoja, Mopa-Muro, Ofu, Ogori/Magongo, Okehi, Okene, Olamaboro, Omala, Yagba East and Yagba West

The study used Yamen formula for calculating sample size to draw the sample size for the study. The formula is stated as below;

$$n = \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2}$$

Where n = Sample size

N = Population

e = Level of significance

3 = Constant

$n = ?$ ,  $N = 195,261$  and  $e = 0.05$

Substituting the above values into the formula, we have;

$$n = \frac{3314043}{1+3314043(0.05)^2} = 399.997951470332$$

Therefore,  $n \approx 400$

Thus, equal number of questionnaires will be distributed across the 21 local government areas in the study area.

### 3.2 Instrument for Data Collection

The instrument used for collecting data in the study was a structured questionnaire. The structure questionnaire was divided into four parts, part A seek the respondent information and part B,C, and D contain research questions aimed to provide answer to the questions considered for the study. The instrument for data collection was structured using the Five rating scale thus:

- Strongly Agreed (SA) 5 points
- Agreed (A) 4 points
- Undecided (UD) 3 points
- Disagreed (D) 2 points
- Strongly Disagreed (SD) 1 point.

The analysis of data for the research questions was done using frequency counts and mean. Mean, was use to answer the research questions.

### 4. Data Presentation and Analysis

This section encompasses presentation, analysis and interpretation of the results from the data collected through the questionnaire. The research questions raised and the objectives stated at the beginning of the work were answered through the analysis of the responses to the questionnaire. For accuracy and convenience, the results obtained are presented in tables, the frequency tables illustrate the character and level of responses received during the survey. The presentation and analysis of the results are reflective of the objectives of the study.

Two hundred (400) copies of questionnaires were administered to the respondents, out of which 378 were properly filled and returned, while 217 were not returned and 5 were not

valid. Thus, the analysis will be done based on the valid number of questionnaires retrieved.

**Table 1:** Age of Respondents

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
18 – 25	62	16
26 -35	152	41
36– 45	60	16
46 -55	58	15
56 -65	26	7
66 and above	20	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Work, 2019*

Table 1 above shows the age bracket of the respondents. Information on the table indicates that 62 of the respondents representing 16% are between 18-25 years of age, 152 of the respondents representing 40 are between 26-35 years of age, 60 of the respondents representing 16% are between the age group of 36-45 years, 58 of the respondents representing 15% are between the age group of 46-55. Still on the same table, 26 of the respondents representing 7% are between the age group of 56-65 years, while 20 respondents representing 5% are 65 years and above. This implies that the respondents are between different age categories.

**Table 2:** Gender of the Respondents

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	196	52
Female	182	48
<b>Total</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Work, 2019*

Information in Table 2 reveals that 196 of the respondents representing 52% are male, while 182 of the respondents representing 48% are female. This implies that majority of the respondents are males.

**Table 3:** Respondents Educational Level

Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
None Formal Education	16	4
Primary Education	46	12
Secondary Education	76	20
Tertiary Education	240	64
<b>Total</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Work, 2019*

Table 3 reveals that 16 of the respondents representing 4% have no formal education, 46 of

the respondents representing 12% have primary education, 76 of the respondents representing 20% have secondary education, while 240 of the respondents 63% have tertiary education. This shows that majority of the respondents have qualifications such as ND, NCE, HND and B.Sc. respectively.

**Table 4:** Occupation of the Respondents

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Farming	58	15
Civil Servant	224	60
Student	26	8
Trading	58	15
Unemployed	10	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Work, 2019.*

Table 4.4 above shows that 58 of the respondents representing 15% are farmers, 224 of the respondents representing 60% are civil servants, 26 of the respondents representing 8%

are students. Still on table, 58 of the respondents representing 15% are traders, 10 representing 2% are unemployed. This indicates that majority of the respondents are civil servants.

**Table 5:** Marital Status of the Respondents

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Single	64	17
Married	232	61
Divorced	34	9
Widowed	48	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Work, 2019*

Table 5 shows the marital status of the respondents. Information in the table indicates that 64 of the respondents representing 17% are single, 232 of the respondents representing 61% are married, 34 of the respondents representing 9% are divorced, while 48 of the respondents representing 13% are widowed. This implies that majority of the respondents are married.

**Table 6:** What are the factors that embolden the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Kogi State?

Opinion							
	Items	SA 5	A 4	UD 3	D 2	SD 1	TL
1	There are illegal small arms in Kogi State	126 31.5%	248 62.0%	12 2.5%	10 1.5%	4 1.5%	378 100%
2	Politicians are the source of small arms and light weapons proliferation	168 42.0%	164 41.0%	28 7.0%	38 9.5%	2 0.5%	378 100%
3	Religious groups are the source of small arms and light weapons proliferation in Kogi State	88 22.0%	142 35.5%	52 13.0%	78 19.5%	40 10.0%	378 100%
4	Ethnic groups are the source of small arms and light weapons proliferation in Kogi State	31 15.5%	72 36.0%	24 12.0%	41 20.5%	32 16.0%	378 100%
5	Military returnees from peace keeping are the source of small arms and light weapons proliferation in Kogi State	70 17.5%	72 36.0%	78 19.5%	78 19.5%	30 7.5%	189 100%
6	Security Operatives sell small arms and light weapons proliferation in Kogi State	82 20.5%	190 47.5%	62 15.5%	50 12.5%	16 4.0%	378 100%
7	Theft of arms from security operatives is the source of small arms and light weapons proliferation in Kogi State	49 24.5%	102 51.0%	24 12.9%	19 9.5%	6 3.0%	378 100%
8	Smuggling from neighboring states/countries is the source of small arms and light weapons proliferation	168 42.0%	174 43.5%	28 7.0%	12 3.0%	6 1.5%	378 100%
9	Arms dealers are the sources of small arms and light weapons proliferation in Kogi State	106 26.5%	100 50.0%	27 13.5%	28 7.0%	12 3.0%	378 100%
10	Defiance Industry Corporation of Nigeria(DICON) is the source of small arms and light weapons proliferation in Kogi State	17 8.5%	49 24.5%	48 24.0%	54 27.0%	32 16.0%	378 100%
11	Local manufacturers (Black smiths) are the sources of small arms and light weapons proliferation in Kogi State	53 26.5%	104 52.0%	44 11.0%	30 7.5%	6 3.0%	378 100%

*Source: Field Work, 2019*

On the sources of small arms and light weapons proliferation in Kogi State, the table above shows that 83% of the respondents strongly agreed that politicians often supply these illegal arms in circulation

against 21% of the respondents who disagreed. This may be so because, Nigerian political history has been characterized by use of thugs by politicians to either intimidate their opponents or redress their failures. About 57% identified religious groups as the source of small arms in Kogi State, while 29.5% disagreed.

Also, 5 (1.5%) respondents identified ethnic groups against 36.5% who disagreed. These revelations may not be unconnected with the fact that most of the crises in Kogi State have both ethnic and religious connotations. However, 53.5% respondents indicated military returnees as against 27.0% who disagreed, 68.0% respondents indicated sales by security agents as against 16.5% who disagreed, 75.5% reported theft of security forces weapons as another source as against 12.5% who disagreed. This information may be so because many soldiers and police have often been implicated in illegal small arms transactions across the country.

Other sources as shown in the table indicate that, overwhelming majority 85.5% identified smuggling from neighbouring States and countries as against 7.5% respondents who disagreed, 76.5% identified arms dealers as against 10.0% who disagreed. These may be as a result of the porous nature of our borders, security check-points and lapses on the part of security agents, coupled with the fact that Kaduna State is close to other crises endemic States, such as Plateau and Kano. While 78.5% identified local manufacturers (Black smiths) as other source of illegal small arms in the metropolis, only 10.5% of the respondents disagreed. Given the above findings, we can therefore consider all the items listed as the major sources of small arms and light weapons proliferation in Kogi State.

**Table 7:** In what ways are small arms and light weapons threat to national security and particularly to Kogi State?

Opinion							
	Items	SA 5	A 4	UD 3	D 2	SD 1	TL
12	Proliferation of illegal small arms	126 31.5%	248 62.0%	12 3.0%	10 2.5%	4 1.5%	378 100%
13	Encouragements violent use of arms	132 33.0%	162 40.5%	42 10.0%	50 12.5%	14 3.5%	378 100%
14	Loss of lives	206 51.5%	152 38.0%	16 4.0%	18 4.5%	8 0.2%	378 100%
15	Destruction of properties	198 39.5%	189 45.5%	6 1.5%	6 1.5%	10 2.5%	378 100%
16	Cause injuries and maiming	182 45.5%	182 45.5%	22 5.5%	10 2.5%	4 1.5%	378 100%
17	Displacement of people	148 37.0%	196 49.0%	26 6.5%	16 4.0%	14 3.5%	378 100%
18	Create general sense of insecurity	168 42.0%	175 49.0%	16 4.0%	10 2.5%	10 2.5%	378 100%

*Source: Field Work, 2019*

The data presented in table 7 revealed several impacts of small arms and light weapon proliferation on security challenges in Kogi State. Out of the 189 respondents, overwhelming majority of 93.0% reported that frequent small arms and light weapon proliferation has led to the insecurity in Kogi State, while insignificant number of 11.0% disagreed. This information implies that little provocation or peaceful protest can easily become violent if large pile of illegal small arms exist in a crises endemic society. Also, about 73.5% agreed that small arms and light weapon proliferation encourages violent use of small arms, 16.0% disagreed. While 91.0% of the respondents agreed that availability of illegal small arms in crises endemic area creates general sense of insecurity and only 5.0% who disagreed. This is closely related to the above. It implies that when there are no crises, these arms may be used to carry out other crimes such as armed robbery and assassination.

**Table 8:** Way of combating small arms and light weapons proliferation in Kogi State

Opinion							
	Items	SA 5	A 4	UD 3	D 2	SD 1	TL
19	Combating corruption to seal smuggling	126 31.5%	248 62.0%	12 3.0%	10 2.5%	4 1.5%	378 100%
20	Improve the border control measures by sealing the borders	132 33.0%	162 40.5%	84 10.0%	100 12.5%	14 3.5%	378 100%
21	Deploy adequate police officers in areas prone to clashes	206 51.5%	152 38.0%	32 4.0%	18 4.5%	4 0.2%	378 100%
22	Review the legislation in regard to SALW.	180 39.5%	198 45.5%	6 1.5%	6 1.5%	5 2.5%	378 100%
23	Improve infrastructure to enhance accessibility of security personnel	182 45.5%	182 45.5%	22 5.5%	10 2.5%	2 1.0%	378 100%

*Source: Field Work, 2019*

The data presented in table.8 revealed several way of combating small arms and light weapons proliferation in Kogi State. Out of the 189 respondents, overwhelming majority of 93.0% reported that combating corruption to seal smuggling will curb small arms and light weapons proliferation in Kogi State, while insignificant number of 11.0% disagreed. Also, about 73.5% agreed that improve the border control measures by sealing the borders will curb small arms and light weapon proliferation, 16.0% disagreed. While 91.0% of the respondents agreed that deploy adequate police officers in areas prone to clashes 5.0% who disagreed.

### 5. Findings

This study examines the impact of proliferation of small arms and light weapons on Nigeria’s National Security, with specific focus on Kogi State (2015-2018). Findings from the study revealed that:

- Small arms proliferation constitutes security threat to Kogi State.
- Small and light arms proliferation is a major constraint to security of Kogi State
- The impact of small arms and light arms proliferation is averse to National territory defence especially in Kogi State.
- Combating corruption to seal smuggling, improving the border control measures by sealing the borders and

deploy adequate police officers in areas prone to clashes are the ways the government can curb proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Kogi State.

Analysis from this study showed that the proliferation of small arms and light weapons affects security challenges in Kogi State, that ethno-religious conflicts, Theft of arms from security operatives, arms dealers and local manufacturers are factors that encourages the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Kogi State and that combating corruption to seal smuggling, improving the border control measures by sealing the borders and deploy adequate police officers in areas prone to clashes are the ways the government can curb proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Kogi State.

### 6. Conclusion

From the foregoing, this study reached the following conclusions: the sources of illegal small arms and light weapons in Kogi State cannot be completely detached from the sources in the country. During conflicts, the availability and use of illegal arms increase cases of violence, resulting in destruction of lives and properties. It is therefore imperative to quickly bring the spate of conflicts under control, else in the nearest future, Nigeria as a whole, will become a country of street gangs, lawlessness and anarchy, where organized and unorganized groups and armed militias will erode and

undermine government's monopoly of arms, and even the relevance of security forces.

## 7. Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made:

- Nigeria 's borders are porous and the security agents are poorly equipped to face the challenges. Therefore, as an urgent measure to combat smuggling, the government should take steps to ensure proper security of these borders and seaports. To this end, the police and other security agencies should be well funded. Similarly, there is the need to overhaul the security apparatus and personnel as a whole with the overall aim of improving their efficiency and effectiveness.
- Granting of licenses to arms dealers for the importation of small arms should be seriously controlled since some of these arms are often diverted for illegal use. To this extent, the Defense Industry Corporation of Nigeria (DICON) be properly equipped to modern standard and empowered to be the only producer and distributor of small arms and ammunition in the country and their activities closely monitored by relevant authorities to prevent any lapses on their. This will reduce cases of illegal diversion of arms imported legally.
- In addition, government should develop proper programmes for raising public awareness and control of illegal small arms. It should use its media organizations and other informal measures to educate the public on the dangers of illegal use of small arms. To achieve this, engaging civil society organizations and other relevant bodies and agencies to sensitize the public on the implications of imbibing culture of violence is imperative.
- As measure to check the easy loss of arms, security agencies keeping stockpiles of small arms should build more secure armories and develop

effective internal systems to ensure regular and accurate accounting for all weapons in their custody and those issued for use to reduce theft and recycling of arms by corrupt officials.

- Some of the arms found to be used during the crises were manufactured locally. To check the increasing production and use of arms, activities of the local manufacturers should be closely monitored. Only credible people who cannot compromise their integrity should be licensed to produce local weapons. Since the workshops of these manufacturers are located in the hinterland, the government should collaborate with community leaders to achieve this.
- States should lead the development of a legally binding arms trade treaty that would establish common international standards at the highest level on the export of conventional weapons, including small arms. The creation and implementation of a clear and coherent national policy on SALW proliferation control should be done through the organization of national conferences bringing together all different levels of society such as governmental representatives, community-based organizations, NGOs and decision-makers. A broad participation would enable the development of integrated and comprehensive policies in tackling SALW proliferation at various levels and through various approaches.

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