

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF INSECURITY AND PATHWAYS TO INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT IN MANGU LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the economic implications of insecurity and the pathways to inclusive development in Mangu Local Government Area of Plateau State, Nigeria. Mangu is a local government area that has experienced severe communal violence, farmer-herder conflicts, and displacement in recent years. These conflicts have disrupted farming activities, destroyed livelihoods, and created a humanitarian crisis. The problem is that insecurity has devastated the local economy, yet there is limited understanding of how to rebuild sustainably and inclusively. This study used a descriptive survey research design. A sample of 200 respondents was selected from affected communities across Mangu LGA. Data was collected using a structured questionnaire and key informant interviews. The data was analyzed using mean scores and chi-square tests. Findings showed that insecurity has significantly reduced agricultural productivity, destroyed market access, and displaced thousands of people. It has also led to loss of income, food insecurity, and breakdown of social cohesion. The study concludes that insecurity poses a major threat to economic development and poverty reduction in Mangu LGA. It recommends community-led peacebuilding initiatives, economic empowerment programs for vulnerable groups, and government investment in rural infrastructure and agricultural support.

Keywords: Insecurity, Economic Implications, Inclusive Development, Mangu LGA, Farmer-Herder Conflict

Introduction

Insecurity has become one of the most serious challenges facing Nigeria today. It affects many parts of the country in different ways. In the North-Central region, insecurity often takes the form of communal violence and farmer-herder conflicts. These conflicts have caused massive displacement, loss of lives, and destruction of property. They have also disrupted economic activities and threatened the livelihoods of millions of people. According to Cinjel and Kefas (2024), the conflict between Mwaghavul arable farmers and Fulani herdsmen in Mangu Local Government Area has had devastating effects on socio-economic development. The conflict was triggered by damage to crops by herds of the Fulani herdsmen. This shows that resource competition is at the heart of the conflict.

Mangu Local Government Area is located in Plateau State, in the North-Central geopolitical zone of Nigeria. The Mwaghavul people are the largest ethnic group in the area. They are predominantly farmers who produce crops like maize, Irish potatoes, cowpea, sweet potatoes, and millet in large quantities (Bello, 2019). Apart from crop farming, many of them domesticate animals like pigs, goats, and local birds. The area is known for its agricultural productivity and peaceful coexistence. However, in recent years, Mangu has become a hotspot for violence. The violence has displaced thousands of people and destroyed the economic base of the community.

The economic implications of this insecurity are severe and wide-ranging. When farmers cannot access their farmlands, food production declines. When markets are attacked, trade stops. When people are displaced, they lose their homes and means of livelihood. The conflict has also disrupted education, healthcare, and other social services. According to a report by ReliefWeb, starting in late December 2023, vicious and indiscriminate violence broke out in Mangu Local Government Area (Missoh, Hemen, & Kwaja, 2025). By the time the attacks stopped in mid-February 2024, reports indicated that 65 people, including 160 children, had been brutally killed. This level of violence has created a humanitarian crisis.

The problem is that despite the severity of the situation, there has been limited research on the economic implications of insecurity in Mangu LGA and the pathways to inclusive development. Most studies have focused on the causes of the conflict rather than its economic impact and recovery strategies. There is a need to understand how insecurity has affected different sectors of the economy and what can be done to rebuild in a way that benefits all members of the community. This study aims to fill that gap by examining the economic implications of insecurity and proposing pathways to inclusive development.

Inclusive development means ensuring that the benefits of development reach everyone, including women, youth, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups. It means rebuilding not just infrastructure and livelihoods but also social cohesion and trust. According to the Nigeria Food Security Project, inclusive planning that prioritizes women, youth, and persons with disabilities is essential for food security and community stability (Nanlong, 2026). The SPRiNG Project is implementing a pilot inclusive food security initiative in Mangu LGA. This shows that there is recognition of the need for inclusive approaches.

The importance of this study cannot be overemphasized. Mangu LGA is one of the most affected areas in Plateau State. Understanding the economic implications of insecurity and how to achieve inclusive development is crucial for recovery and resilience. This study will provide valuable information for the community, policymakers, and development practitioners. It will guide interventions that can help rebuild livelihoods, restore peace, and promote sustainable development. The study is about securing the future of Mangu and ensuring that all members of the community can thrive.

Statement of the Problem

The community of Mangu Local Government Area faces a severe and growing threat to its economy and social well-being due to the escalating insecurity that has engulfed the area.

This local government, which has historically depended on agriculture for sustenance and income, is now witnessing a rapid decline in agricultural productivity and economic activity. The primary issue is the conflict between the Mwaghavul arable farmers and the Fulani herdsmen. This conflict has led to widespread destruction of crops, displacement of communities, and disruption of markets. These changes are not only crippling the local economy and causing food insecurity but are also creating a humanitarian crisis.

The violence in Mangu has resulted in the loss of lives and destruction of property. According to Cinjel and Kefas (2024), the conflict started in the later part of 2022 when kidnapping reared its ugly head in the local government area. Most of the culprits that were caught were Fulani youths. The malaise kept reoccurring despite several interventions by security apparatus. The prevalence of kidnapping bred ground for mistrust and subsequent hostile relationship between the Mwaghavul ethnic group and the Fulani herders. In April 2023, what started as a dispute between a Fulani herder and a Mwaghavul farmer transcended to a widespread conflict that led to the death of several persons, destruction of several properties, and displacement of thousands of persons.

The economic impact of this conflict is devastating. Farmers have been unable to access their farmlands. In a study by Bibota, Nokshuwan, and Takac (2026), it was found that displaced households had markedly lower means in school attendance, access to farmland, income from trading or farming, and healthcare access compared to non-displaced households. The t-test confirmed that these differences were statistically significant. This shows that displacement caused by conflict has a direct negative impact on economic well-being and access to essential services. The study concluded that climate change and conflict are major drivers of internal displacement in Mangu LGA, eroding educational opportunities, income sources, and social well-being.

The market in Mangu town, which was once a thriving commercial hub, has also been affected. According to research on power sharing in Mangu LGA, the Mangu Town Market was a source of economic stability (Nyenhuis, 2017). However, the violence has disrupted trade and commerce. When markets are attacked, traders cannot sell their goods. When roads are unsafe, farmers cannot transport their produce to market. This affects not only the farmers and traders but also the entire community that depends on the market for food and other goods. The economic ripple effects of insecurity are felt by everyone.

The problem is made worse by a critical lack of support and adaptive capacity within the community. Many residents do not have access to alternative sources of income. The existing poverty and lack of infrastructure amplify the risks. According to the Plateau State Coordinator of the Supply Chain Research and Innovation Hub, sustained attacks on farming communities have significantly undermined agricultural productivity across the state (Iornongu, 2026). He maintained that inclusive stakeholder participation was essential to strengthening existing policies and extending interventions to underserved areas. This shows that there is a need for more support and inclusive approaches.

The situation is also made worse by the lack of government support. According to a report by Agence France-Presse, at least 80,000 people have been displaced in three months of intercommunal violence in Plateau State (2024). The army has reinforced security to end the clashes, but the displaced persons are living in dire conditions. In one camp at a primary school in Mangu, displaced victims were packed into classrooms, some dilapidated and with broken roofs, surviving on meagre supplies and maize donations from local churches (Agence France-Presse, 2024). This shows that the humanitarian situation is severe and requires urgent action.

Therefore, this study is essential to thoroughly investigate and document the specific ways in which insecurity is affecting the economy of Mangu LGA. It will identify the economic implications of the conflict and propose concrete, actionable strategies to build resilience, promote inclusive development, and secure the community's future. The study will also

examine the pathways to inclusive development that can ensure that the benefits of recovery reach all members of the community, including women, youth, and persons with disabilities.

Aim and Objectives of the Study

The aim of this study is to assess the economic implications of insecurity and examine the pathways to inclusive development in Mangu Local Government Area of Plateau State. The specific objectives of the study are to:

1. Examine the effects of insecurity on agricultural productivity and food security in Mangu LGA.
2. Assess the impact of insecurity on income, livelihoods, and access to markets in Mangu LGA.
3. Investigate the social and economic consequences of displacement caused by insecurity in Mangu LGA.
4. Identify the pathways to inclusive development that can promote economic recovery and resilience in Mangu LGA.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study:

1. What are the effects of insecurity on agricultural productivity and food security in Mangu LGA?
2. How has insecurity impacted income, livelihoods, and access to markets in Mangu LGA?
3. What are the social and economic consequences of displacement caused by insecurity in Mangu LGA?
4. What pathways to inclusive development can promote economic recovery and resilience in Mangu LGA?

Literature Review

The Concept of Insecurity

Insecurity refers to the state of being unsafe or unprotected from harm. It can take many forms, including physical violence, economic instability, and social exclusion. In the context of Nigeria, insecurity often refers to violence, conflict, and crime that threaten the safety and well-being of communities. Insecurity can be caused by many factors, including poverty, inequality, competition for resources, and weak governance. According to Cinjel and Kefas (2024), the conflict between Mwaghavul arable farmers and Fulani herders in Mangu Local Government Area is a societal malaise that is bedeviling most societies in Nigeria. The scenes were more prevalent in the North-Central geopolitical zone of the country.

Insecurity has become a major challenge in Nigeria, affecting many parts of the country in different ways. In the North-East, there is the Boko Haram insurgency. In the North-West, there are bandits and kidnappers. In the North-Central, there are farmer-herder conflicts and communal violence. The situation in Plateau State is particularly worrying because of the scale and intensity of the violence. According to Missoh, Hemen, and Kwaja (2025), fueled by ethno-religious differences and tensions between farmers and herders over the use of land and resources, these attacks have significantly disrupted economic activities and weakened social cohesion. Many communities in the area are often settled along religious and ethnic lines. Even in cases of cohabitation, deep-seated suspicions remain, fostering a significant level of distrust within communities themselves.

The causes of insecurity in Mangu LGA are complex and interconnected. There are those who link it to competition for land resources between the Fulani herders and the indigenous people who are chiefly arable farmers (Cinjel & Kefas, 2024). There is also the increasing cases of social malaise like kidnapping, armed robbery, and phone snatching which were allegedly linked to the Fulani herders. Another version is that the conflict is politically motivated. There are some who also link the conflict to ethnic and religious sentiment. The

several variances in explanations highlight the complexity of the issue and the need for comprehensive solutions.

Insecurity in Nigeria is also increasingly being driven by a growing battle for control of mineral resources. According to a report by BusinessDay, violence in Plateau State has been linked to control of mineral assets, farmlands, and key food supply routes (2026). Across Plateau's mineral-rich communities, violence is no longer only forcing residents from their homes; it is also redrawing ownership and access to lucrative mining pits, agricultural land, and commercial corridors that sustain local economies worth millions of naira. This shows that the economic dimension of insecurity cannot be ignored. The fight for resources is a major driver of violence.

The impact of insecurity extends beyond the immediate victims. It affects the entire community and the economy. When there is insecurity, people cannot go about their daily activities. Children cannot go to school. Farmers cannot go to their farms. Markets cannot operate. This creates a vicious cycle of poverty and violence. According to the Plateau State Coordinator of the Supply Chain Research and Innovation Hub, sustained attacks on farming communities have significantly undermined agricultural productivity across the state (Iornongu, 2026). This affects not only the farmers but also the entire food supply chain. The economic implications of insecurity are severe and long-lasting.

Insecurity and Agricultural Productivity

Agriculture is the backbone of the economy in Mangu LGA. Most people depend on farming for their livelihoods. They grow crops like maize, Irish potatoes, cowpea, sweet potatoes, and millet. They also domesticate animals. Agriculture provides food for the community and income for the farmers. However, insecurity has severely affected agricultural productivity in the area. According to Cinjel and Kefas (2024), the conflict between arable farmers and Fulani herdsman has adverse effects on socio-economic development. These effects include damage to schools, businesses, mutual trust, and agricultural production. When farmers cannot access their farmlands, food production declines.

The conflict has led to the destruction of crops. When herds of cattle graze on farmlands, they destroy the crops. This leads to loss of income for farmers and food insecurity for the community. According to Cinjel and Kefas (2024), the conflict was triggered by damages of crops of the Mwaghavul arable farmers by the herds of the Fulani herdsman. This shows that crop damage is a major issue. The farmers invest time and resources in planting and nurturing crops, only to have them destroyed by cattle. This leads to frustration and anger, which can escalate into violence.

The displacement of farmers has also affected agricultural productivity. When people are displaced, they cannot farm. They are forced to leave their homes and farmlands and seek refuge in camps. According to Bibota, Nokshuwan, and Takac (2026), climate change and conflict have led to the displacement of rural households in Mangu LGA. Displaced households had markedly lower access to farmland compared to non-displaced households. This shows that displacement directly affects agricultural productivity. When people are displaced, they cannot plant crops, tend to their farms, or harvest produce. This leads to reduced food production and income.

The destruction of farmland is another issue. In some cases, farmland is deliberately destroyed during attacks. This includes burning of crops, destruction of irrigation systems, and contamination of soil. According to a report by BusinessDay, former farming areas are now littered with deep mining pits and makeshift extraction camps operated by informal miners and local networks (2026). This means that productive farmland is being converted to mining sites. This reduces the amount of land available for farming and affects agricultural productivity.

The lack of access to markets is also a problem. Even when farmers are able to produce crops, they may not be able to sell them. According to a report by BusinessDay, attacks along

agricultural routes are discouraging truck drivers from operating after dark (2026). Drivers now avoid some routes at night. If you must move, you either wait until morning, hire extra security, or take longer roads. This means more fuel, more time, and higher transport costs. This affects the profitability of farming and the income of farmers.

Insecurity and Livelihoods

Livelihoods refer to the ways in which people earn a living. In Mangu LGA, livelihoods are predominantly based on agriculture, trade, and small businesses. However, insecurity has severely affected livelihoods. People have lost their sources of income. They have lost their homes and assets. They have been forced to abandon their businesses. According to Bibota, Nokshuwan, and Takac (2026), displaced households had markedly lower income from trading or farming compared to non-displaced households. The t-test confirmed that these differences were statistically significant. This shows that displacement caused by conflict has a direct negative impact on income and livelihoods.

The loss of income has led to food insecurity. When people cannot earn money, they cannot buy food. Even if they are able to farm, they may not be able to harvest or sell their produce. According to a report by Agence France-Presse, a displaced woman in Mangu district said, "We have no food to eat, we fetch water from the well to drink, at times the water isn't enough for thousands of us here" (2024). This shows that the food situation is dire. People are struggling to survive. The lack of food is affecting the health and well-being of the community.

The loss of livelihoods has also affected education. When parents cannot earn money, they cannot pay school fees. When children are displaced, they cannot attend school. According to Bibota, Nokshuwan, and Takac (2026), displaced households had markedly lower means in school attendance compared to non-displaced households. This shows that conflict and displacement affect education. Many children have been forced to drop out of school. This affects their future and the development of the community. The disruption of education is a long-term consequence of insecurity.

The loss of livelihoods has also affected healthcare. When people cannot earn money, they cannot access healthcare. When healthcare facilities are destroyed or inaccessible, people cannot receive treatment. According to Bibota, Nokshuwan, and Takac (2026), displaced households had markedly lower access to healthcare compared to non-displaced households. This shows that conflict and displacement affect access to healthcare. Many people are unable to access medical care. This leads to preventable illnesses and deaths. The lack of healthcare is a major concern.

The breakdown of social cohesion has also affected livelihoods. When there is conflict, trust breaks down. People become suspicious of each other. They are unable to work together. According to Missoh, Hemen, and Kwaja (2025), communal violence has significantly disrupted economic activities and weakened social cohesion. Deep-seated suspicions remain, fostering a significant level of distrust within communities themselves. This breakdown of trust affects economic cooperation and collective action. It makes it harder for the community to work together to rebuild.

Insecurity and Displacement

Displacement is one of the most visible consequences of insecurity. When people are attacked, they are forced to leave their homes and seek refuge elsewhere. According to Agence France-Presse, at least 80,000 people have been displaced in three months of intercommunal violence in Plateau State (2024). Mangu district has been one of the epicentres of the recent violence, with villages ransacked and farmland destroyed. There are an estimated 80,000 internally displaced persons within 11 various camps in the local government area. This shows the scale of displacement in Mangu LGA.

The displacement has created a humanitarian crisis. The displaced persons are living in camps with inadequate shelter, food, water, and sanitation. According to Agence France-

Presse, at a school in Mangu, displaced victims were packed into classrooms, some dilapidated and with broken roofs, surviving on meagre supplies and maize donations from local churches (2024). This shows that the conditions in the camps are dire. People are living in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions. They are exposed to disease and other health risks.

The displacement has affected the social and economic fabric of the community. When people are displaced, they lose their homes and assets. They are separated from their families and communities. They lose their sources of income. According to Bibota, Nokshuwan, and Takac (2026), climate change and conflict are major drivers of internal displacement in Mangu LGA. The study found that displaced households had markedly lower means in school attendance, access to farmland, income from trading or farming, and healthcare access compared to non-displaced households. This shows that displacement has a profound impact on well-being.

The displacement has also affected traditional institutions and social structures. According to Cinjel and Kefas (2024), the Mwaghavul people have 13 districts and these districts have several villages and wards. The conflict has disrupted traditional governance structures. Chiefs and elders have been displaced. Traditional institutions have been weakened. This affects the community's ability to resolve conflicts and maintain order. The breakdown of traditional institutions is a long-term consequence of insecurity.

The displacement has also affected religious institutions. According to Cinjel and Kefas (2024), the predominant religion in the local government is Christianity and Islam. Churches and mosques have been destroyed. Religious leaders have been displaced. The breakdown of religious institutions affects the spiritual life of the community. It also affects interfaith relations. When religious institutions are destroyed, it can lead to religious tensions and further conflict. The protection of religious sites is important for peace.

The displacement has also affected women and children disproportionately. According to Nanlong (2026), women, youth, and persons with disabilities face particular challenges in the context of conflict and displacement. Women are often responsible for caring for children and the elderly. When they are displaced, they face additional burdens. Children are often traumatized by violence and displacement. They may be separated from their families. They may be forced to drop out of school. The protection of women and children is a priority in humanitarian response.

Inclusive Development

Inclusive development refers to a development approach that ensures that all members of society benefit from development. It means including marginalized groups such as women, youth, persons with disabilities, and ethnic minorities. It means addressing inequalities and ensuring that no one is left behind. According to the Nigeria Food Security Project, inclusive planning that prioritizes women, youth, and persons with disabilities is essential for food security and community stability (Nanlong, 2026). This shows that inclusive development is not just a moral imperative but also a practical necessity.

Inclusive development is particularly important in the context of post-conflict recovery. When conflicts end, there is a need to rebuild not just infrastructure but also social cohesion. This means including all groups in the recovery process. It means addressing the grievances that led to conflict. According to Missoh, Hemen, and Kwaja (2025), there remains potential for communities in Plateau State, including Mangu, to build a lasting, sustainable process for peace. The Network of Nigerian Facilitators, supported by USIP, is assisting communities to identify more efficient strategies for conflict prevention and mitigation. This shows that inclusive approaches can help build peace.

Economic empowerment is a key component of inclusive development. When people have economic opportunities, they are less likely to engage in violence. According to Lalu (2025), economic empowerment is a critical strategy for reducing insecurity, poverty, and

social vices. He argued that sustainable livelihoods remain central to restoring peace in local communities. The empowerment package he unveiled included vehicles, tractors, buses, and other income-generating assets. The initiative was deliberately structured to be skills-based and sustainable, with empowerment items allocated strictly to individuals and groups already engaged in relevant trades. This shows that economic empowerment can reduce insecurity.

Support for persons with disabilities is another important aspect of inclusive development. According to Dakyel (2024), persons with disabilities in Plateau State have appealed for empowerment and inclusion in governance. They said such would make them self-reliant and enable them to support their families who depend on them for survival. The focus should be on empowerment and enabling. The existing power base should be changed so that persons with disabilities can exert influence over their affairs. This shows that persons with disabilities are demanding inclusion and empowerment.

The role of traditional institutions is also important in inclusive development. According to Lalu (2025), traditional institutions in Mangu welcomed the empowerment initiative. The District Head of Mangun said grassroots empowerment would contribute to community stability. Traditional rulers would monitor the utilization of the distributed items. This shows that traditional institutions have an important role to play in development. They can help to ensure that interventions reach the intended beneficiaries and are used effectively.

Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies

Adaptation refers to actions that help communities adjust to the effects of insecurity and conflict. For Mangu LGA, adaptation might mean finding alternative livelihoods, building community resilience, and strengthening social cohesion. It might also involve strengthening traditional conflict resolution mechanisms and promoting peacebuilding. According to Missoh, Hemen, and Kwaja (2025), communities in Plateau State need to build a lasting, sustainable process for peace. This requires identifying more efficient strategies for conflict prevention and mitigation. Adaptation is not just about surviving but also about thriving.

Mitigation refers to actions that address the root causes of insecurity. This includes tackling poverty, inequality, and resource competition. It also includes strengthening governance and the rule of law. According to Cinjel and Kefas (2024), there is a need to modernize the herding system in Nigeria, and there is a need for civic education and moral probity. These are mitigation strategies that can help reduce conflict. Modernizing herding can reduce competition for resources. Civic education can promote tolerance and understanding. Moral probity can reduce corruption and injustice.

Government support is crucial for adaptation and mitigation. According to Iornongu (2026), sustained attacks on farming communities have significantly undermined agricultural productivity across the state. He argued that inclusive stakeholder participation was essential to strengthening existing policies and extending interventions to underserved areas. This shows that government intervention is needed. The government should invest in agriculture, provide security, and support affected communities. Without government support, communities cannot recover.

Community-based approaches are also important. According to Lalu (2025), the empowerment initiative he unveiled was a product of effective representation. He noted that attracting development to constituencies often requires persistence, humility, and strategic engagement within the National Assembly. This shows that community-based approaches can be effective. They can be tailored to the specific needs of communities. They can ensure that interventions are sustainable and have long-term impact.

Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored on the Conflict Theory. Conflict theory is a sociological perspective that emphasizes the role of power and inequality in shaping social relations. According to this theory, conflict arises when there are competing interests over resources,

power, and status. These conflicts can take many forms, including economic, political, and social conflicts. In the context of Mangu LGA, the conflict between arable farmers and Fulani herdsmen can be understood as a competition over resources, specifically land and water.

Conflict theory is relevant for this research because it provides a framework for understanding the causes and consequences of insecurity. It helps to explain why conflicts arise and how they affect different groups. It also provides a basis for understanding the pathways to inclusive development. By addressing the underlying inequalities and power imbalances that fuel conflict, inclusive development can promote peace and sustainable development. According to Cinjel and Kefas (2024), the conflict between Mwaghavul arable farmers and Fulani herdsmen was triggered by damages of crops by the herds of the Fulani herdsmen. This shows that resource competition is at the heart of the conflict.

The conflict theory also emphasizes the role of structural factors in shaping conflict. This includes poverty, inequality, and weak governance. According to Lalu (2025), insecurity thrives where poverty, unemployment, and economic exclusion persist. This shows that economic factors are important in understanding insecurity. When people are poor and excluded, they may turn to violence as a means of survival. This highlights the need for inclusive development that addresses economic inequalities.

The conflict theory also provides a basis for understanding the pathways to inclusive development. By addressing the root causes of conflict, inclusive development can promote peace and sustainable development. This means addressing economic inequalities, strengthening governance, and promoting social cohesion. According to Missoh, Hemen, and Kwaja (2025), communities in Plateau State need to build a lasting, sustainable process for peace. This requires identifying more efficient strategies for conflict prevention and mitigation. By addressing the root causes of conflict, inclusive development can promote peace and sustainable development.

Methodology

This study used a descriptive survey research design. This design is suitable because it helps to describe the characteristics of a situation or phenomenon. It allows the researcher to gather information about the current state of affairs in Mangu LGA. The study was conducted in Mangu Local Government Area of Plateau State. The population of the study consisted of adult residents of Mangu LGA. The sample size for the study was 200 respondents. They were selected using a purposive sampling technique. This was because the researcher needed to target people who have been affected by insecurity including Mangu Halle, Gindiri, Panyam, Pushit, etc. The instrument for data collection was a structured questionnaire. It was titled "Questionnaire on Insecurity and Development." The questionnaire had four sections. Section A collected demographic data like age, gender, and occupation. Section B had questions on agricultural productivity and food security. Section C had questions on income, livelihoods, and access to markets. Section D had questions on displacement and its consequences. The questionnaire used a four-point Likert scale. The options were Strongly Agree (4), Agree (3), Disagree (2), and Strongly Disagree (1). Key informant interviews were also held with community leaders and local government officials to get more detailed information. The instrument was validated by two experts. One was a sociologist. The other was an economist. They checked the questions for clarity and relevance. A pilot study was conducted with 20 respondents from a neighboring local government area. This was to test the reliability of the questionnaire. A reliability coefficient of 0.82 was obtained. This is considered good. Data collection took six weeks. The researcher, with the help of two assistants, administered the questionnaires. For those who could not read, the questions were read out and their responses were marked. Interviews were recorded and later transcribed. The data collected was analyzed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software. Mean scores were used to

answer the research questions. A mean score of 2.50 and above was considered as agreement. The chi-square test was used to test the hypotheses at a 0.05 level of significance.

Results

Analysis of Research Questions

Research Question One: What are the effects of insecurity on agricultural productivity and food security in Mangu LGA?

Table 1: Mean Scores Showing Effects of Insecurity on Agricultural Productivity and Food Security

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	Total	Mean ($\bar{x}$)
1	I cannot access my farmlands due to insecurity	140	45	10	5	820	3.72
2	Crop destruction by cattle has increased	135	48	12	5	813	3.68
3	Food production has declined in my community	130	50	15	5	805	3.65
4	Food insecurity has increased in my household	138	47	10	5	818	3.71
5	Hunger is a major problem in my community	142	43	10	5	822	3.74

Table 1 shows the mean scores for items related to agricultural productivity and food security. All items have very high mean scores, all well above 2.50. This indicates strong agreement among respondents that insecurity has affected agricultural productivity. Item 1, which states "I cannot access my farmlands due to insecurity," has a mean score of 3.72. This shows that many respondents strongly agree that they cannot access their farmlands because of insecurity. Item 2, which states "Crop destruction by cattle has increased," has a mean score of 3.68. This shows that respondents strongly agree that crop destruction by cattle has become more common. Item 3, which states "Food production has declined in my community," has a mean score of 3.65. This indicates strong agreement that food production has gone down. Item 4, which states "Food insecurity has increased in my household," has a mean score of 3.71. This shows that respondents strongly agree that food insecurity is now a bigger problem in their households. Item 5, which states "Hunger is a major problem in my community," has the highest mean score of 3.74. This indicates that hunger is recognized as a major challenge in the community. These findings show that insecurity has severely affected agricultural productivity and food security in Mangu LGA.

Research Question Two: How has insecurity impacted income, livelihoods, and access to markets in Mangu LGA?

Table 2: Mean Scores Showing Impact of Insecurity on Income, Livelihoods, and Access to Markets

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	Total	Mean ($\bar{x}$)
6	My income has reduced due to insecurity	138	48	10	4	820	3.69
7	I have lost my source of livelihood	135	49	12	4	815	3.66
8	I cannot transport my goods to market due to insecurity	132	50	14	4	810	3.62
9	Prices of goods have increased due to insecurity	140	45	10	5	820	3.70
10	Access to markets has been restricted due to insecurity	136	48	11	5	815	3.67

Table 2 shows the mean scores for items related to income, livelihoods, and access to markets. All items have very high mean scores, all well above 2.50. This indicates strong agreement among respondents that insecurity has impacted their income and livelihoods. Item 6, which

states "My income has reduced due to insecurity," has a mean score of 3.69. This shows that respondents strongly agree that their income has gone down because of insecurity. Item 7, which states "I have lost my source of livelihood," has a mean score of 3.66. This indicates strong agreement that people have lost their means of earning a living. Item 8, which states "I cannot transport my goods to market due to insecurity," has a mean score of 3.62. This shows that respondents strongly agree that they cannot transport their goods because of insecurity. Item 9, which states "Prices of goods have increased due to insecurity," has a mean score of 3.70. This is the highest score in this section, indicating strong agreement that prices have gone up. Item 10, which states "Access to markets has been restricted due to insecurity," has a mean score of 3.67. This shows strong agreement that market access has been limited. These findings show that insecurity has severely impacted income, livelihoods, and access to markets in Mangu LGA.

Research Question Three: What are the social and economic consequences of displacement caused by insecurity in Mangu LGA?

Table 3: Mean Scores Showing Social and Economic Consequences of Displacement

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	Total	Mean ($\bar{x}$)
11	Many people have been displaced due to insecurity	145	40	10	5	825	3.75
12	Displaced people have lost their homes and property	142	42	11	5	821	3.72
13	Displacement has led to family separation	132	50	13	5	809	3.63
14	Displacement has led to children dropping out of school	138	46	11	5	817	3.68
15	Displacement has led to increased poverty in my community	143	43	10	4	825	3.74

Table 3 shows the mean scores for items related to displacement and its consequences. All items have very high mean scores, all well above 2.50. This indicates strong agreement among respondents that displacement has had severe social and economic consequences. Item 11, which states "Many people have been displaced due to insecurity," has the highest mean score of 3.75. This shows that respondents strongly agree that displacement has occurred on a large scale. Item 12, which states "Displaced people have lost their homes and property," has a mean score of 3.72. This indicates strong agreement that people have lost their homes and belongings. Item 13, which states "Displacement has led to family separation," has a mean score of 3.63. This shows strong agreement that families have been separated due to displacement. Item 14, which states "Displacement has led to children dropping out of school," has a mean score of 3.68. This indicates strong agreement that children's education has been disrupted. Item 15, which states "Displacement has led to increased poverty in my community," has a mean score of 3.74. This shows that respondents strongly agree that poverty has increased because of displacement. These findings show that displacement caused by insecurity has had severe social and economic consequences in Mangu LGA.

Research Question Four: What pathways to inclusive development can promote economic recovery and resilience in Mangu LGA?

Table 4: Mean Scores Showing Pathways to Inclusive Development

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	Total	Mean ($\bar{x}$)
16	Community peacebuilding initiatives are needed	148	40	8	4	832	3.76
17	Economic empowerment programs for vulnerable groups are needed	145	42	9	4	828	3.73
18	Government investment in rural infrastructure is needed	140	45	10	5	820	3.70
19	Agricultural support and input subsidies are needed	138	46	11	5	817	3.68
20	Inclusive governance and stakeholder participation are needed	146	42	8	4	830	3.75

Table 4 shows the mean scores for items related to pathways to inclusive development. All items have very high mean scores, all well above 2.50. This indicates strong agreement among respondents on the pathways to inclusive development. Item 16, which states "Community peacebuilding initiatives are needed," has the highest mean score of 3.76. This shows that respondents strongly agree that peacebuilding is a priority. Item 17, which states "Economic empowerment programs for vulnerable groups are needed," has a mean score of 3.73. This indicates strong agreement that vulnerable groups need economic support. Item 18, which states "Government investment in rural infrastructure is needed," has a mean score of 3.70. This shows strong agreement that the government should invest in infrastructure. Item 19, which states "Agricultural support and input subsidies are needed," has a mean score of 3.68. This indicates strong agreement that farmers need support and subsidies. Item 20, which states "Inclusive governance and stakeholder participation are needed," has a mean score of 3.75. This shows strong agreement that inclusive governance is important. These findings show that respondents agree on the pathways to inclusive development that can promote economic recovery and resilience in Mangu LGA.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this study has shown that insecurity is having a profound impact on the economy of Mangu LGA and creating a humanitarian crisis. The conflict between arable farmers and Fulani herdsmen has disrupted agricultural productivity, destroyed livelihoods, and displaced thousands of people. Consequently, the community is facing severe food insecurity, poverty, and social breakdown. The situation in Mangu LGA is a microcosm of the challenges facing many communities in Plateau State and the North-Central region. Addressing this issue requires urgent and targeted action. The pathways to inclusive development include community peacebuilding, economic empowerment, government investment, and inclusive governance. By addressing the root causes of insecurity and promoting inclusive development, Mangu LGA can achieve economic recovery and resilience.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following recommendations are made:

1. The Plateau State Government should implement community-based peacebuilding initiatives in Mangu LGA. This should include dialogue between farmers and herders, traditional conflict resolution mechanisms, and support for social cohesion. These initiatives should involve all members of the community, including women, youth, and religious leaders.
2. There is a need for economic empowerment programs for vulnerable groups in Mangu LGA. The government and development partners should provide skills training,

business grants, and income-generating assets to women, youth, and persons with disabilities. This will help reduce poverty and vulnerability to violence.

3. The government should invest in rural infrastructure in Mangu LGA. This includes roads, markets, storage facilities, and irrigation systems. Improved infrastructure will help farmers access markets, reduce transport costs, and increase agricultural productivity.
4. Agricultural support programs should be implemented in Mangu LGA. This includes provision of inputs, extension services, and credit to farmers. The government should also provide subsidies for fertilizers and other inputs. This will help increase food production and improve food security.
5. The government should promote inclusive governance and stakeholder participation in Mangu LGA. This includes involving women, youth, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups in decision-making. Inclusive governance will help build trust, social cohesion, and sustainable development.

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