



National Drug Law Enforcement Agency And National Security

PERSPECTIVES ON DRUGS, CRIME AND HUMAN SECURITY



VOLUME 1

EDITORS

**ADEJOH SUNDAY
BASHIR BELLO
BIOLA SHOTUNDE**

NATIONAL DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY AND NATIONAL SECURITY:

**PERSPECTIVES ON DRUGS, CRIME AND
HUMAN SECURITY**

VOLUME I

Editors

Sunday Adejoh

Bashir Bello

Biola Shotunde

© *Sunday Adejoh, Bashir Bello, & Biola Shotunde, 2023*

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a system or transmitted in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, electrostatic, magnetic tape, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

ISBN:

Published by

Nigerian Defence Academy Press

Printed and Bound in Nigeria

Using environmentally sustainable paper materials

By Pyla-Mak Printing Press,

Kaduna, Nigeria.

Tel: 08023633763

Dedication

To Brigadier General Mohammed Buba Marwa(rtd) and all staff of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) who continue to give their all in the fight against substance abuse and related crime in Nigeria

Contents

Dedication	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	iii
Foreword	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	iv
Preface	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	viii
Acknowledgements		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
Note on contributors		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	xi
Chapter 1: Perspective on the Human Security Paradigm									
<i>Gabriel Tyoyila Akwen, PhD</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Chapter 2: Contemporary National Security Threats and Challenges in Nigeria									
<i>Yahaya Muhammad Ibrahim & Abubakar Zaki Abubakar</i>		-							23
Chapter 3: Conceptual and Theoretical Exploration of the Concept of Security: Traditional and Contemporary Views									
<i>Hassan Abbas Otakey & Bashir Bello PhD</i>		-	-						51
Chapter 4: Contemporary National Security Threats and Challenges in Nigeria: Perspectives on the Role of National Drug Law Enforcement Agency									
<i>Akiniyi Praise & Adejoh Sunday PhD</i>		-	-	-	-				79
Chapter 5: Local Government, Community Policing and Insecurity in Nigeria									
<i>Anyanwu, Christiantus Izuchukwu PhD</i>		-	-	-	-				103
Chapter 6: Drug, Organized Crime, and Violent Extremism									
<i>Ayodele, Segun Moses & Oladipo, Glory Oluwayimika</i>		-							115
Chapter 7: Nigerian Cities and the Phenomenon of Unplanned Settlements: Implications for the Proliferation of Drugs and Public Safety									
<i>Habeeb Abdulrauf Salihu</i>		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	151

Chapter 8: Drug Abuse and it Rising Threats to Human Security in Katsina State, Nigeria <i>Augustine Ogbaji Ogoh PhD, Dimas Garba, Alexander Wancelous Avong</i>	-	-	-	-	-	173
Chapter 9: Migration and Trans-Border Crimes across Nigeria's Borders <i>Dr. Abdullahi Garba Kangiwa</i>	-	-	-	-	-	199
Chapter 10: The Political Economy and Sociology of Drug Abuse in Nigeria <i>Wanan Cornelius Terzungwe PhD & Adejoh Sunday PhD</i>	-	-	-	-	-	237
Chapter 11: Illicit Drugs Trafficking, Institutional Frameworks and Sustainable Development <i>Dolapo Michael Oyedokun & Martin Abimbola Ogunbanjo</i>	-	-	-	-	-	263
Chapter 12: Illicit Drug Trafficking-Patronage Effect on Human Security in Nigeria and the Implications for International Image Building <i>Shaibu, M. T., & Anum Victoria</i>	-	-	-	-	-	287
Chapter 13: Reflexes on Drug Abuse and Political Thuggery: The Democratic Dispensation in Nigeria <i>Fadeyi, Taofiq James Bashir Bello, PhD.</i>	-	-	-	-	-	317
Chapter 14: Causes and Consequences of Drug Abuse in Nigeria <i>Anchovur, Timothy Tyowase</i>	-	-	-	-	-	337
Chapter 15: Impacts, Implications and Consequences of Drug Abuse <i>Abdullahi Garba Kangiwa, PhD</i>	-	-	-	-	-	353
Chapter 16: Impact of Drug Abuse on Families in Nigerian Society: Insight from Social Studies Education <i>Sule Muhammad</i>	-	-	-	-	-	379

Chapter 17: Recruitment Strategies for Drug Use and Abuse among Nigerian Youths <i>Akeem Olalekan , Elizabeth Njo Obimbua and Yusuf Bala Ribah</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	405
Chapter 18: Ungoverned Spaces: A Threat to National Security in Nigeria <i>Ahmed Rufa'i Usman & Yusuf Bala Ribah</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	435
Chapter 19: Drug Abuse in the Context of Globalisation: An Accelerando of Insecurity Conundrum in Nigeria <i>Taofiki Aminu, Ph.D, Umar Alhassan, Ph.D & Ahmed Ibrahim</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	455
Chapter 20: Covid-19 Lockdown, Gender and the Changing Pattern of Drug Paraphernalia and Abuse in Bosso Community in Niger State <i>Dr. Ibrahim Mohammed Nasiru, Hassan Abbas Otakey, Usman Baba Abdulmalik, & Ndaguye Mohammed Nma</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	477
Chapter 21: Drugs Trafficking and Related Offences in Nigeria (A Study of Jos North Local Government Area, Plateau State) <i>Abdulrasheed Abdulyakeen & Hassan Abdulmajid Kak</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	497
Chapter 22: The Prevalence of Methamphetamine (Mkpuru-Mmiri) and Clandestine Laboratories in Nigeria: A Threat to National Security <i>Abdullahi Musa, Ph.D & Nnadim Leonard Chinagorom</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	535
Chapter 23: Controlling Drug Abuse in Nigeria: The Role of Social Institutions <i>Onuh Eyianmanu Maria</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	557
Index	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	583

Chapter 07

Nigerian Cities and the Phenomenon of Unplanned Settlements: Implications for the Proliferation of Drugs and Public Safety

Habeeb Abdulrauf Salihu

Introduction

Despite the commendable efforts of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA)¹ to curb illicit drugs and related crimes in Nigeria, trafficking of drugs and abuse of outlawed substances remain among the major challenges facing Nigeria as a nation (Sunday et al., 2021). More than ever, illicit drugs are gaining great use among Nigerians and Nigerian communities are now flooded with different kinds of drug-related activities. Like in other countries around the world where drug trafficking and abuse are widespread, substance dependency in Nigeria cuts across all the social strata- age group, gender, status and religious group (Okafor, 2020). The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's (UNODC) 2018 survey estimated that Nigeria has around 14.3 million drug users across all social groups and around 3 million of these people

¹ The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency of Nigeria is a federal agency empowered by Decree No. 48 of 1989 to among other functions coordinate and enforce all drug laws in Nigeria; adopt measures to identify, trace, freeze, confiscate or seize proceeds derived from drug-related offences or property whose value corresponds to such proceeds; adopt appropriate measures to eradicate illicit cultivation of narcotic plants and to eliminate illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances with a view to reducing human suffering and eliminating financial incentives for illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and; enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement to suppress illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The establishment of the agency was to respond to the surge in the trafficking of and demand for narcotic drugs and other illicit substances in Nigeria in the 1980s (see CAP 30, Part I, Section 3 of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Act, 1989).

experience some form of drug-related disorders. These figures qualify Nigeria to be among the countries with the highest rate of substance abuse in the world (UNODC, 2021). Besides, with the current rate of proliferation and access to drugs in Nigerian communities, the UNODC (2021) projected that by the year 2030, around 20 million people will be acute drug addicts in Nigeria. Hence, given the enormous effects of drug abuse the country is currently witnessing, particularly the increasing rate of people with mental health disorders and criminality, this projection is a pointer that there are impending public health and security challenges Nigeria would encounter in the nearest future if drastic measures are not taken.

The increasing rate of drug proliferation and abuse in Nigeria, to some scholars and analysts, is credited to the inability of the anti-drug agency- NDLEA to successfully dislodge the large drug distribution channels, apprehend and convict drug peddlers, trace or locate some production and processing sites, eradicate the trading among smaller vendors, and displace some users' enclaves within communities in the country (Dike, 2021; Mahmoud & Jospeh, 2020; Moshood et al., 2018). These deficiencies are not unconnected with some internal challenges facing the agency. The challenges include limited manpower, scarce resources, and sabotage by unscrupulous officers (Dike, 2021). Other identified problems include poor synergy of operations between the NDLEA operatives and other law enforcement agencies (particularly the police) and scarce intelligence reports from the public due to the strained relationship between the law enforcement agencies and the people (Adeniyi et al., 2019; Moshood et al., 2018).

While these elements have significantly hindered the operations of the NDLEA, another undefined problem is also playing out. Specifically, the impacts of the unplanned layout of some Nigerian communities, particularly where the activities of drug lords and substance abuse are widespread seem to be discounted in the war against drugs. It is apparent that many communities in semi-urban and urban centres in Nigeria are inaccessible to the NDLEA operatives due to the unplanned layout design of the areas thereby making it difficult to monitor the illegal operations of

drug peddlers (Jatau et al., 2021). Most of these communities are often overpopulated, clumsy and unorganised as buildings are entwined in manners that would aid crime and clandestine activities, and perhaps serve as an escape route for perpetrators of crime (Ezeh et al., 2017). The environments are often muddy as there are dumps all over the place and the roads linking the communities are not motor able (Aluko, 2012).

The unplanned layout arrangement of these communities, as (Ezeh et al., 2017) have described, promotes lawbreaking of various degrees and harbours the perpetrators. Reliable evidence indicates that the transaction of illicit substances is widespread in these areas because drug peddlers deliberately set up their channels there and distribute them to other places (including zones with good layouts) (Jatau et al., 2021; Musa et al., 2022). In other words, drug dealers have capitalised on the poor layout design of these areas, which has made it practically impossible for the NDLEA to swiftly operate, set up their businesses and distribute to other parts of the city. Several attempts by the operatives of the NDLEA to clampdown drug activities in some of these areas was met with resistance and consequently resulted in the exchange of gun fire that led to the death of innocent lives and destruction of properties (Ugwukwu et al., 2012). Thus, poor layout and inaccessibility of places where drug lords operate or substance abuse are widespread in Nigeria does not only hinder the effective operation of NDLEA in the war against drug trafficking and abuse, it also poses a serious threat to the existence and safety of other residents in those communities.

It is important to note, however, that this challenge is not peculiar to NDLEA alone; it abounds in all the law enforcement agencies in Nigeria. For instance, it is a common problem experienced by the Nigeria Police Force in handling crimes, enforcing the law and maintenance of law and order during crises in these areas (Madueke & Vermeulen, 2020). Similarly, the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps also face this challenge when dealing with the vandalization of pipelines and oil theft (Johnson, 2019). In the same way, the Nigerian Customs Service encounter a similar challenge when dealing with smugglers (Aluko, 2012). However, this notable phenomenon has not received the considerable attention it

requires from the academic world, perhaps due to the possible challenges researchers may encounter in obtaining data from such neighbourhoods.

Further, it is uncertain whether the NDLEA authority and other law enforcement agencies have conspicuously profiled and/or identified and red-flagged all urban communities with inaccessible layouts and strategized workable ways to ease the operations of personnel in these areas. The uncertainty stems from the evidence that the transaction of illicit drugs in most of these communities is no longer concealed as it was in the previous times; it is now done openly and in the broad daylight (Jatau et al., 2021). Likewise, smoking marijuana, use of injection drugs and sniffing locally made substances are now done openly without any restraints (Ahmed et al., 2021). To this end, it is of great importance that this phenomenon is critically examined with the view of formulating practicable policy that will not only eradicate unfettered transactions and abuse of substances but will also find a lasting solution to the issue of illegal and unlicensed settlements and safety other residents of these communities.

This study forms a part of academic literature that examines the impacts of community layout on drug trafficking, substance abuse and public safety in Nigeria. It lays emphasis on how the poorly designed or inaccessible communities in Nigeria have aided drug trafficking, eased access to and abuse of substances, and hindered human safety using Defensible Space theory. The central argument is that the poor design of most communities in (semi-urban and urban centres) Nigeria has promoted drug-related activities- including proliferation and widespread substance abuse, contributed to the ineffectual eradication of drug trafficking by the NDLEA, and more importantly, posed a serious threat to public safety. Further, it provides guidelines for effective operations of NDLEA and other law enforcement agencies in navigating zones with poor layouts and addressing criminalities in the areas.

Methodically, the study adopts a thorough desktop research technique with reliance on secondary data gathered from both printed and online sources. This includes books, journals, official surveys and international documents. The materials were comprehensively gathered

and systematically reviewed and revised so as to comprehend and identify the fundamental contents that best describe the subject matter and place it within the context of the purpose of the study and effective implementation of the policy recommendations. Additionally, this study comprises four sections including the introduction, urban design and public wellbeing, unplanned built environment, criminality and public safety: the theoretical and empirical underpinning, Nigeria cities and the phenomenon of unplanned designs, implications for war on drugs and public safety, and conclusion.

Urban design and public wellbeing

The term urban design is generally used by architects and town planners to describe the layout and physical design of settlements, communities, streets, spaces and cities. It involves a concerted process of restructuring, shaping and re-shaping the physical setting of places which includes the design and placement of buildings, traffic routes and landscapes, and the establishment of frameworks and procedures that guide the activities of users. Cai and Wang (2009) define it as a process of enhancing the physical structure and layout of urban, suburban and rural areas with aim of improving the living condition and well-being of the people. Urban design encompasses a range of developmental elements such as adding value or bringing changes to residential areas and neighbourhoods, industrial estates, transportation systems, drainages and towns and city centres as a whole (Geis, 2000). In addition, urban design specifically defines the type and grouping of structures required in a particular location and specifies the spaces between them and lay down rules on how the design should work out (American Planning Association, 2006).

Additionally, urban design inspires drawing up masterplans for cities, towns and villages through the construction of new buildings and/or reconstruction of existing ones, road networks, traffic and street lights, and positioning of relaxation centres and public spaces among others to make the city more attractive and valuable by adding economic, social and environmental value, and make life better for the people (Geis,

2000). A good community design inspires more friendly community relations which makes residents to have control over their environment (Geis, 2000). The field of urban design is much more concerned with public safety in terms of access to a quality space environment and the well-being of the residents remains the basic goal and success of urban designers. As Cai and Wang (2009) have observed, urban layout or the manner in which inner cities are designed has a significant impact on the increase and/or decrease in public safety. It determines the extent to which disasters such as floods, earthquakes, pandemic diseases, pollution and traffic accidents affect people.

In the same way, it limits and explodes public security in terms of the concentration and degree of crime and threat of victimisation. For instance, a community with prearrangement of built environment, reasonable perimeters, inner road network, drainages, access to emergency services, and controlled population enhances proper coordination of the various urban components, improves both economic and social relationships, and protects or lessens the harms of various safety threats that may have grievous impacts on the people and environment, and vice versa (Cai & Wang, 2009). A number of cities in Europe, America and Asia (including the Middle East) placed much consideration on natural disasters, military requirements and the need to make the flow of criminal activities difficult in the design and construction of most of their urban communities. For instance, countries like Russia, Vietnam, Israel, China and North Korea based the design of most of their cities on military requirements and free from harbouring criminals and that has created a sense of safety precautions which has improved the defence capabilities against external attacks and halted criminal activities within (Cai & Wang, 2009).

On the whole, a well-planned urban infrastructure (through the construction and reconstruction of districts and residential environments, and the creation of quality access to emergency services and facilities) seeks to improve the living environment through an improved hygienic space environment, reduce the effects of disasters and control and management of criminality (American Planning Association, 2006). Even

though the safety of urban space is predicated on a number of factors including composition, dominant culture, residents' mindset and behaviours and activeness of the early settlers (native); nevertheless, urban space design is more crucial to the overall sense of neighbourhood safety, wellbeing and harmonious development of the society at large (Geis, 2000).

The nexus between unplanned built environment, criminality and public safety: the theoretical underpinning

Crime is an inevitable part of every human society. However, its occurrence differs in terms of time, culture, and community. In fact, the degree of occurrence may even differ within one community (Apel & Nagin, 2011). That is to say, crime does not occur equally and in the same way in all places; it concentrates in some places more than others. Among the reasons identified for these variations include but are not limited to the effectiveness of law and enforcement modalities, citizens' education, poverty and employment opportunities (Ghani, 2017). However, environmental criminologists have emphasised greatly on the impending effects of the built environment or city design on crime and public safety in some violent-prone areas. There is a common notion that crimes are facilitated by different kinds of environments. For instance, picking pockets, snatching, and shoplifting are common in public and crowded places such as environments with high streets and markets. Similarly, burglary is common in an isolated and serene environment (Kuo & Sullivan, 2001). Hence, the priority of a designed city environment is to make it difficult for criminals to operate.

This study adopts the defensible space theory, on the one hand, to describe the significance of community layout in preventing crimes and criminality and easing the operations of law enforcement agencies in eradicating criminal activities. On the other hand, to demonstrate how an unplanned layout may encourage criminality, hinder the efforts of law enforcement agencies, and endanger public safety. The defensible space perspective is a theory that emphasis on the impacts of environmental layout designs on safer neighbourhoods. It was introduced in the early

1970s by Oscar Newman, an American architect and city planner. In his book titled 'Defensible Space', Newman (1972) extensively debated the connection between effective social control, prevention of crime, and neighbourhood wellbeing in relation to community design. To Newman (1972), the architectural layout and environmental design of a city or community plays a vital role in increasing or reducing crime and criminality. He describes the defensible space as a socio-physical phenomenon where residential settings have certain physical characteristics including building design and site layout which permit residents to play a significant role in ensuring the security of their neighbourhoods.

Newman's (1972) idea incorporates an environmental-oriented crime prevention approach which aligns with the perspective of one of his contemporary environmental criminologists- Ray Jeffery (1971) who coined the term Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design. To Newman, a well-designed residential environment can create and promote a nonviolent neighbourhood; equally, a residential area without a meaningful layout gives unlimited access to outlaws thereby creating an unsafe environment for the inhabitants. Like Jeffery (1977), Newman (1972) emphasised that strategic designs and efficient use of the built environment removes the opportunity for lawbreaking because such an environment allows legitimate residents to engage in positive interaction that will aid the activities of law enforcement agents in identifying possible threats. Thus, the occurrence of crime would decrease.

According to Newman, criminals, particularly drug traffickers prefer congested environments or areas that appear overpopulated (such as shantytowns) and where their activities will be concealed and difficult for police to track. Such an environment, according to Newman, allows the criminals to create the kind of desirable anonymity to access victims and make it practically impossible for the residents to have control over their own environment. Thus, it is important for policymakers to give adequate consideration to a decent city layout in articulating practicable measures that go beyond the installation of cameras, street lights, restricted access through fingerprints and searches in reducing crime. Newman emphasises

that if authorities adopt environmental designs or layouts that provide unrestrained surveillance access (in terms of navigation) for the police to patrol and apprehend lawbreakers, opportunities for crime and disorder will be reduced and communities will be safer. In other words, there is the likelihood that crime will be less in low-density or less populated environments with controlled access to strangers.

Reinforcing Newman's defensible space perspective, Brantingham and Brantingham's (1975) research outcome established that unplanned blocks and disorganised neighbourhoods substantially result in an unsafe environment with a high occurrence of crime and overwhelmed by burglars, armed robbers and unrestrained activities of drug merchants and users of drugs. Police roles in such an environment will be irrelevant as there are loopholes and escape route for perpetrators of crime to evade arrest and attack agents of the state who seeks to disrupt their unlawful dealings. In the same way, Luedtke (1970) observed that majority of his sample reported being victimized to the police and they were from residential units with poor layouts and unstructured built environments where outcomes of police operations were fruitless in terms of arrest and reduction of crime. Duffala (1976) also asserted in his study that convenient illicit drug vendors or outlets and users' enclaves are common in enclosed environments that create unintended escape routes through their unstructured layout and where law enforcement agents could not operate optimally. Drug vendors become more established and create information channels that will expose police strategies to invade or launch attacks on the terrain. Further, Molumby (1976) like Tabrizi and Madanipour (2006) reported that widespread criminality and police inaccessibility in residential areas are a reflection of population congestion, inappropriate apartment building and street designs, and neighbouring environment.

Nigeria cities and the phenomenon of unplanned designs

Like in other parts of the world, cities in Nigeria comprise different parts which are coordinated to function as a whole in order to attain a positive impact. Different areas are set up for specific purposes. For

instance, certain areas are for residential purposes, where designed houses with open space are built and facilities placed to ease the living conditions. Others are meant for industries, commercial activities such as markets and businesses and other services. This structural design and the viable opportunities that come with it demonstrate the incredible economic structure and strength of Nigerian cities (Ijaiya, 2000). Based on this, cities in Nigeria generally serve as centres of production and consumption and these coupled with other factors have attracted a large number of (both skilled and unskilled) individuals from rural areas (Bukar et al., 2021).

The consequential effects of rural-urban migration in Nigeria are enormous, especially in the past few years. They are evident in the accelerated growth and expansion of cities beyond their capacity (in terms of housing, resources, public infrastructure and basic services) to cater for the growing population (Yahuza et al., 2021). This, in effect, has resulted in the widespread encroachment of unused lands and the growth of unrestrained informal settlements (Bukar et al., 2021). Physical projects such as residential houses, factories, markets, motor parks and waste dumping sites among others in these areas are entwined. They were done without regard to cities' masterplan designs and environmental implications (Ezeani & Elekwa, 2001). For instance, most of the buildings and terrain do not have a clear or specific design in terms of style and arrangement, access for vehicular movement or traffic routes, and proper drainage and ventilation system among others. Residential apartments are constricted in a rather small space that is often overcrowded and bloated (Esin & Afahakan, 2017).

The phenomenon of unplanned layout design has been a major problem causing serious health issues and environmental hazards such as congestion, pollution (of the land, air and water), flooding, fire eruption, and the outbreak of diseases (such as meningitis, cholera and tuberculosis) in urban centres in Nigeria (Esin & Afahakan, 2017; Ezeani & Elekwa, 2001). Other problems, as Ibrahim and Mai (2020) have observed, include but are not limited to lack of employment opportunities, increased poverty, homelessness, substandard and deteriorating buildings, low productivity, increased mortality, rising crime and juvenile delinquency,

and growing insecurity. Further, the unkempt and inaccessible nature of these communities, according to Adelekan (2020) has hindered governments' efforts to extend socio-economic development programs such as educational facilities and provision of basic amenities- drinking water, electricity, road networks, and waste collection services to the areas. Examples of communities with unplanned layouts in some selected states from the six geopolitical zones of Nigerian include Ajegunle, Amukoko, Bariga (in Lagos State), Oginigba, (in Cross River), Akwuke, Ugwuagi (in Enugu), Mpape, Kududuma, Mabushi (in FCT Abuja), Gwallameji (in Bauchi), Kurna, Asabe, and Jakara (in Kano State).²

Eneh (2020) likens these communities to a slum environment where there are no specific built designs and the presence of a high rate of criminality ranging from gangsterism, trafficking and abuse of illicit substances and drugs, and thuggery. Ezeh et al. (2017) noted that most houses in such areas are built in an unimaginable form; some are made of ordinary woods or tarpaulin and others are made of bricks with no meaningful roofs. They are jam-packed or arranged in a way that it is easier or convenient to jump from one house to another either through the windows, walls or even roofs thereby creating a convenient escape route for lawbreakers or deserters. These environments create unimageable opportunities for people to move around and engage in all kinds of activities unlawful to survive (Elem and Azibasuum, 2021). According to Ezeh et al. (2017), the poor layout designs significantly facilitate crimes, provide a boundless avenue for the outlaws to operate conveniently, and shield them through the various routes available to escape. In addition, Madueke and Vermeulen (2020) and Musa et al. (2022) observed that the

² In order to present a perfect example of communities with the identified characteristics in Nigeria, this study selects one major city from each of the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria using some criteria derived from previous academic literature. The criteria include population congestion, the record of drug-related crimes, widespread unplanned settlements, violence and gangsterism, and environmental health-related problems including pollution (Eneh, 2020; Elem and Azibasuum, 2021; Esin and Afahakan, 2017). For instance, FCT Abuja was selected in the North-Central, Kano in the North-West, Bauchi in North-East, Lagos in South-West, Cross River in South-South and Enugu in South-East regions. Further, the same criteria were used in identifying and selecting some communities from each state.

absence of or inactive security forces in such communities has increased lawlessness and made criminality thrive. For instance, drug dealers create channels through which drugs are trafficked and distributed in both small and large quantities. Different outlets are being operated by local vendors who sell drugs of various kinds including psychoactive and prescription drugs to people regardless of their age (Jatau et al., 2021). These have contributed enormously to the proliferation and ease of access to drugs in Nigerian communities (Elem and Azibasuan, 2021). Thus, going by the prepositions of defensible space theorists, the poor layout condition of most communities in Nigeria cities, as Newman (1972) suggests, has undoubtedly promoted and encouraged disorderliness manifesting in all sorts of criminalities and posing an immense threat to the neighbourhoods making the environment unsafe for other residents.

Implications for war on drugs and public safety

Without fear of contradiction, one can say that the NDLEA has made tremendous efforts to control and eradicate drug trafficking, abuse and related illegalities in Nigeria (Jatau et al., 2021). The relentless efforts of the agency have resulted in a number of positive outcomes including successful confiscation and destruction of illicit drugs, apprehension and prosecution of some culprits, rehabilitation and reintegration of drug addicts, enlightenment and sensitization of people across the country using all kinds of medium, and partnership with traditional and religious leaders in the various communities among others (Dike, 2021; Okafor, 2020). Nonetheless, as the agency advances in its anti-drug techniques so do perpetrators advance. Hence, the country continues to experience the menace of drug trafficking and abuse in some notable parts (Jatau et al., 2021). Along with the various elements scholars have highlighted, this study contends that the inability of the NDLEA personnel to effectively operate in some communities with unstructured layout environments where the activities of drug peddlers and abusers are widespread is also a key factor militating against the war on drugs in Nigeria. This contention is centred on the point that the agency has not been able to penetrate and crack down these zones due to the poor layout designs of the areas which

in most cases harbour and provide convenient escape routes for the perpetrators.

Given the prevalent drug-related activities and occurrence of criminality in most communities with poor layouts in Nigeria cities in recent times, it is evident that the areas have become more dangerous and unsafe, and seem unattainable for the NDLEA operatives thereby making the war on drugs appear unwinnable. The unfettered illegal drug activities in these communities need to be critically examined as they remain the major distribution channels to other places and are a threat to public safety. Thus, failure to proffer an everlasting solution may have grievous implications for the country at large. The implications analysed below are imminent.

Nigeria is presently faced with myriads of problems including kidnapping, banditry, ritualism, cultism, insurgency and other security challenges. There is hardly a day without the occurrence of violence against some individuals or communities in the various cities in the country. Reports of insecurity are a common headline in the news and usually form the daily public discourse. Some scholars have linked the occurrence of most of these gory incidents to the proliferation of and ease of access to drugs in most of our communities. The abuse of these drugs or substances often alters the body's functioning system and makes people misbehave or do what they would not have done ordinarily (Salihu et al., 2019). From this standpoint, it is, therefore, indisputable that the consequential effects of the unrestrained activities of drug barons in Nigerian communities are already manifesting. Thus, allowing them to continue with their operations, particularly in the identified communities is an indication that the country will be prone to more violence and criminalities which would make people feel more unsafe in their homes and communities. Besides, the fact that lawbreakers reside in communities without proper layouts because they believe such areas are unapproachable to law enforcement operatives, this particular impression may be valued and adopted by other terror groups who might seek refuge in those communities from where they will come out to launch attacks against citizens and retreat.

Additionally, the proliferation of and ease of access to drugs in communities with unplanned layout designs will not only expose and make young children vulnerable to abuse drugs but there are also possibilities that drug barons would make use of or involve them (if they have not already) in the distribution of drugs thereby making the dispersal process easier and coverage wider. In this way, a generation of young drug peddlers is being built and there will be a high rate of threat, violence and contest for local control among them. Moreover, there is a possibility that many young people who are considered the leaders of tomorrow will depend on drugs and Nigeria would attain the status of countries like Mexico, Colombia, Puerto Rico, and Peru among others where drug abuse is a way of life and addicted young people are used by drug lords as frontline fighters against state's law enforcement agencies (Clark et al., 2012).

In time, the UNODC's 2030 projection of 20 million (or even double) people becoming drug addicts in Nigeria will come to pass and Nigerian communities will have to cope with more drug addicts and people with mental health disorders who will need rehabilitation and treatment thereby increasing government expenditures on their treatment and fighting drug trafficking. Also, given the unfriendly and unsympathetic attitudes of most Nigerians toward people with mental health problems, Nigeria's streets would be crowded with homeless drug addicts thereby adding to the number of the existing ones already wandering around. This would make Nigerian communities unsafe and inhabitable. Further, it will be a matter of time before drugs would play a key role in the both economic and political affairs of the country as is currently being witnessed in Colombia and Mexico (UNODC, 2021). In addition, the law enforcement personnel would have more drug barons and addicts to tail around and this would make them more exposed to dangers and a riskier environment. Finally, the image of the country in the international environment will further be battered.

Policy recommendations

While the unplanned community design remains a booster of drug trafficking and proliferation and a major threat to public safety in Nigerian cities, a combative crackdown on communities in question, like the previous efforts of law enforcement, will result in serious casualties of innocent citizens. In the same way, reorganisation of the communities, in terms of destruction and reconstruction of houses with the aim of restructuring the layout and eradicating drug-related activities will have huge social, economic and financial implications for both the inhabitants and the government. However, this study recommends that the NDLEA should adopt a soft but drastic measure that combines both community or inclusive approach and the use of technology. Before these measures can be effectively implemented, the NDLEA needs to identify and profile all communities with inaccessible layouts and where drug activities are widespread.

The community or inclusive strategy is what the author described as a non-combative measure that would embrace public sensitisation, rejection and sanitisation. The fact that drug users and vendors are members of the community, the locals should take the front role in achieving this goal. With regards to the first approach- sensitization, the NDLEA has done remarkably well in this aspect as a strategy for fighting drug abuse in the country. However, the agency should conduct a mass sensitisation that would engage all the traditional and religious leaders and involve every household in all communities in Nigeria, particularly in areas identified as inaccessible and dangerous. In particular, women (and mothers) in every household should lead this crusade. Relative to the existing sensitisation programs of the agency, this approach should adopt a more flexible and friendly method that would induce people to join or participate voluntarily without much stress. For instance, organising a continuous sports competition such as football matches, tennis, ludo and wrestling would ordinarily fascinate young people to come around and participate. The opening address speech of the competition should systematically present the objective of the event and this should be reiterated at the beginning of each game. Through these, the agency would

attract peoples' attention and subsequently manage to pass the required message to them, systematically identify and profile drug users for effective rehabilitation, and locate small vendors and the main distributors. Also, the strategy would reduce or eradicate any possible threat against the officials of the agency.

Gradually, people would have a better understanding of the NDLEA's mandates and the destructive effects of drugs and be eager to work with the agency to address the problem of drugs. In time, community members would begin to see the war on drugs as a collective effort and be ready to reject or condemn any drug-related activities, particularly by users and small vendors in their neighbourhoods. The rejection aspect of the approach would be to take a bold step towards 'saying no' to all kinds of substance abuse and related criminalities in neighbourhoods. This strategy would steadily and systematically eradicate open display and use or abuse of drugs and eventually push away the major distributors out or at least desist from an open operation. Empirical evidence suggests that collective activism is a powerful tool against any behaviour considered indecent by members of a community (Salihu et al., 2022). That is, when there is a collective rise against criminality and drug-related activities in the identified communities, there is a strong inclination that drug users and vendors would vacate or relocate. Hence, this response would result in the sanitisation of the communities from drug-related activities.

In addition to these, the authority should adopt a 'report and reward' approach by creating both anonymous and open whistleblowing channels where anyone with valuable information can report and protection and reward for whistle-blowers should be guaranteed. The adoption of whistleblowing approach would make drug users and traders, and perpetrators of other crimes uncomfortable to operate. Besides, intelligence provided by whistle-blowers would allow the operatives of the NDLEA to engage in surgical crackdowns. Additionally, there is a need to install NDLEA satellite units outside the identified communities. This would enhance a quick intervention or response of the agency to any reported emergence. Finally, to ease the operations of the agency, there is a

need to deploy small technological devices such as drones to monitor, track and detect illicit activities of drug peddlers.

Conclusion

In spite of the positive developments, urbanisation has brought to Nigeria, the rapid growth of cities has also resulted in a number of problems including population congestion, deterioration of urban amenities, environmental degradation, and the emergence of unplanned squatters that have become criminal enclaves and uncontrollable or out of reach for the law enforcement agencies. This study examined how the unfettered operations of outlaws, particularly drug peddlers have been largely enhanced and promoted by unplanned layout designs of some communities in Nigeria. Following from the reviewed literature and propositions of Newman's defensible space perspective, it can be inferred, without fear of contradiction, that the poor layout designs and unrestrained nature of some communities in most urban cities in Nigeria have given boundless opportunities to all kinds of criminals to operate. Specifically, due to the nature of housing arrangement that provides convenient and unimaginable escape routes for criminals, these communities have become inaccessible to the NDLEA operatives to monitor and eradicate drug-related activities. Hence, the areas have become the core domains of drug traffickers (and abusers), and drug distribution centres, and a major threat to the well-being of other residents in the areas and the larger city within where they are located.

References

- Adelekan, I., O. (2020). Urban dynamics, everyday hazards and disaster risks in Ibadan, Nigeria. *Environment and Urbanization*, 31(2), 213–232.
<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1177/0956247819844738>
- Adeniyi, E., K., Eneji, R., I., and Okpa, J., T. (2019). Unemployment and drug trafficking among suspects in custody of the national drug law enforcement agency, Cross River State command, Nigeria. *European Scientific Journal*, 15(1), 191–202.
- Ahmed, M., T., Egado, A., H., and Abanimebon, A., C. (2021). Associated Crimes and Illicit Drugs among Women in Kano Metropolis: Dilemma and Salient Issues. *African Journal for the Psychological Studies of Social Issues*, 24(1), 63–71.
- Aluko, O. (2012). Trans-Border Communities Planning and the Problems of Arms Smuggling in the West African Sub-Region: The Case Study of Nigeria-Benin Border Development. *International Journal of Asian Social Sciences*, 2(1), 71–80.
- American Planning Association. (2006). *Planning and Urban Design Standard*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc.,.
- Apel, R., & Nagin, D., S. (2011). General deterrence: A review of recent evidence. In M. Tonry (Ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Crime and Criminal Justice* (pp. 179–206). Oxford University Press.
- Brantingham, P., L., and Brantingham, P., J. (1975). Residential burglary and urban form. *Urban Studies*, 12(3), 273–284.
- Bukar, H., M., Mohammed, H., I., & Ngada, B., J. (2021). Causes and consequences of rural-urban migration in Damaturu, Yobe State, Nigeria. *International Journal of Management Studies and Social Science Research*, 3(3), 282–287.
- Cai, K., and Wang, J. (2009). Urban design based on public safety—Discussion on safety-based urban design. *Frontiers of Architecture and Civil Engineering in China*, 3(2), 219–227.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11709-009-0023-4>

- Clark, H. K., Shamblen, S. R., Ringwalt, C. L., & Hanley, S. (2012). Predicting High-Risk Adolescents' Substance Use Over Time: The Role of Parental Monitoring. *The Journal of Primary Prevention*, 33(2-3), 67-77. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10935-012-0266-z>
- Dike, F., U. (2021). Achievements and failure of the NDLEA in curbing drug issues in Nigeria, from 1989-2015. *Journal of African Studies and Sustainable Development*, 4(2), 40-55.
- Duffala, D., C. (1976). Convenience stores, armed robbery, and physical environmental features. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 20(2), 227-245.
- Elem, M., and Azibasuum, A., A. (2021). Informal Settlement and Teenage Prostitution in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, Nigeria. *GSC Advanced Research and Reviews*, 6(3), 011-018.
<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.30574/gscarr.2021.6.3.0033>
- Eneh, O., C. (2020). Abuja slums: development, causes, waste-related health challenges, government response and way-forward. *Environment, Development and Sustainability*, 26(3), 9379-9396.
<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1007/s10668-020-01030-3>
- Esin, J., O., and Afahakan, M., E. (2017). Spatial-temporal analysis of noise pollution from vehicular traffic in Uyo metropolis Nigeria. *Sustainable Human Development Review*, 9(2), 5-23.
- Ezeani, E., O., and Elekwa, N., N. (2001). *Issues in Urbanization and Urban Administration in Nigeria*. Jamoe Enterprise.
- Ezeh, A., Oyeboode, O., Satterthwaite, D., Chen, Y.,-F., Ndugwa, R., Sartori, J. (2017). The history, geography and sociology of slums and the health problems of people who live in slums. *The Lancet*, 389(10068), 547-558.
- Geis, D., E. (2000). By design: the disaster resistant and quality-of-life community. *The Journal of Natural Hazards Review*, 3(1), 1-23.
- Ghani, Z. A. (2017). A comparative study of urban crime between Malaysia and Nigeria. *Journal of Urban Management*, 6(1), 19-29.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jum.2017.03.001>
- Ibrahim, S., K., and Mai, M., M. (2020). Effect of Contraventions of Building Regulations on the Quality of Built Environment in

- Nigeria's Urban Centers: Case Study of Kano Metropolis. *LAUTECH Journal of Civil and Environmental Studies*, 4(1), 143–151.
- Ijaiya, G., T. (2000). Urban poverty incidence in Nigeria: A case study of Ilorin Metropolis. *The Nigerian Journal of Economic and Social Studies*, 42(3), 411–426.
- Jatau, A., I., Sha'aban, A., Gulma, K., A., Shitu, Z., Khalid, G., M., Isa, A., and Mustapha, M. (2021). The Burden of Drug Abuse in Nigeria: A Scoping Review of Epidemiological Studies and Drug Laws. *Public Health Review*, 42(1), 1–11.
<https://doi.org/10.3389/phrs.2021.1603960>
- Jeffery, C., R. (1977). *Crime prevention through environmental design*. Sage Publications.
- Johnson, I. (2019). The Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps and Internal Security Management in Nigeria. In Oshita, O., Alumona, I., Onuoha, F. (Ed.), *Internal Security Management in Nigeria*. Palgrave Macmillan.
https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-13-8215-4_21
- Kuo, F., E., and Sullivan, W., C. (2001). Environment and Crime in the Inner City: Does Vegetation Reduce Crime? *Environment and Behavior*, 33(3), 343–367.
<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1177/0013916501333002>
- Luedtke, G. (1970). *Crime and the Physical City*. Detroit.
- Madueke, K., L., and Vermeulen, F. (2020). Micro formations of hybrid security governance in ethnic riots: Mapping the interworkings of state forces, vigilantes, residents, thugs, and armed mobs in the violent slums of Jos, Nigeria. In R. Santini R., H., Polese, A., and Kevlihan (Ed.), *Limited Statehood and Informal Governance in the Middle East and Africa* (1st ed., p. 21). Routledge.
<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429504570>
- Mahmoud, A., T., and Jospheh, D. (2020). Drug Abuse and Challenges of the Illicit Trafficking in Contemporary Nigeria: Issues, Problems and Solutions. *Fuwukari International Journal of Sociology and Development*, 2(1), 13–20.

- Molumby, T. (1976). Patterns of crime in a university housing project. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 20(2), 247–259.
- Moshood, I., Amali, S., E., Abraham, O., & Olabisi, Y., R. (2018). The role of the national drug law enforcement agency in the curtailment of youth involvement in drug abuse in Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria. *Acta Criminologica: African Journal of Criminology & Victimology*, 31(1), 184–205.
- Musa, S., Ibrahim, Z., U., Isah, I., A., and Abdulsalam, K. (2022). Pattern of substance abuse in Northwestern Nigeria: A laboratory survey in an urban community. *Nigerian Journal of Basic and Clinical Sciences*, 19(1), 48–52.
- Newman, O. (1972). *Defensible space*. Macmillan.
- Okafor, I., P. (2020). Causes and consequences of drug abuse among youth in Kwara state, Nigeria. *Canadian Journal of Family and Youth/Le Journal Canadien de Famille et de La Jeunesse*, 12(1), 147–162.
- Salihu, H., A., Abdulbaqi, S., Z., and Shodunke, S., O. (2022). ‘No More on Our Streets and Not in Our Neighbourhoods’: Exploring Community Activism Against Sex Work. *UKH Journal of Social Sciences*, 6(1), 32–41.
- Salihu, H. A., Isiaka, M., Ibrahim, A. K. and Balogun, O. S. (2019). Misuse of Prescription Drugs as Cognitive Enhancement among Iranian University Students: Evidence from an Empirical Investigation. *Rangsit Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities (RJSH)*, Vol. 6(2), 31-44.
- Sunday, U., U., Uranta, I., B., and Ngbuelo, L., I. (2021). Transnational Drug Trafficking and Nigeria’s Image in the Contemporary International System (2011-2019). *American Journal of Social and Humanitarian Research*, 2(5), 121–134.
- Tabrizi, L., R., and Madanipour, A. (2006). Crime and the city: Domestic burglary and the built environment in Tehran. *Habitat International*, 30(4), 932–944.
- Ugwukwu, V., O., Onwukwe, V., & Ifeanchi, M., I. (2012). Indian Hemp trafficking and Violent Crime against Officers of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency in Nigeria. *The Nigerian Journal of*

Sociology and Anthropology, 10(1), 121–136.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). (2021). *UNODC World Drug Report 2021: pandemic effects ramp up drug risks, as youth underestimate cannabis dangers*. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

https://www.unodc.org/nigeria/en/unodc-world-drug-report-2021_-pandemic-effects-ramp-up-drug-risks--as-youth-underestimate-cannabis-dangers.html

Yahuza, M., S., Asilsoy, B., Gücel, S., and Özden, Ö. (2021). The impact of rural-urban migration and its effects on urbanisation in Kano State, Nigeria. *International Journal of Global Environmental Issues*, 20(4), 222–240.