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STRATEGIES FOR CURTAILING INTERSTATE CRIMES IN NIGERIA: STRENGTHENING BORDER SECURITY, INTELLIGENCE SHARING AND COMMUNITY-BASED CRIME PREVENTION

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ABSTRACT

Interstate crime has become an important security challenge in Nigeria because criminal activities increasingly operate across state and national boundaries. Such crimes include kidnapping, banditry, human trafficking, drug trafficking, arms trafficking, vehicle theft, cyber-enabled crime and other forms of organized criminal activity. The magnitude of crime in Nigeria remains a major concern. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) reported that an estimated 51,887,032 crime incidents were experienced by households in Nigeria during the 12-month period covered by its 2024 Crime Experience and Security Perception Survey, while 15.3 million households experienced at least one crime incident. The reported household crime incidence was higher in rural areas (40.1%) than in urban areas (29.9%) (National Bureau of Statistics [NBS], 2024). The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has also identified porous borders, weak coordination among law-enforcement agencies, youth unemployment, poverty and weaknesses in the criminal-justice system as factors facilitating organized crime in Nigeria (UNODC, 2023). This paper therefore discusses strategies for curtailing interstate crimes in Nigeria. The strategies include strengthening border management and surveillance, improving intelligence sharing and inter-agency cooperation, expanding regional and international security cooperation, disrupting criminal finances, addressing youth unemployment and poverty, strengthening community policing, developing integrated crime databases, and improving accountability within security institutions. The paper concludes that interstate crime cannot be effectively controlled through military and policing operations alone. A coordinated approach involving security agencies, government institutions, communities, regional organizations and international partners is required.

Keywords: Interstate crime, organized crime, crime rate, border security, intelligence sharing.

Introduction

Crime remains one of the major challenges affecting Nigeria's security, economic development and social stability. Criminal activities occur in virtually all parts of the country, although their nature, frequency and intensity vary across geographical locations. Contemporary criminality increasingly goes beyond the boundaries of individual states because criminals exploit transportation networks, communication technologies, porous borders and weaknesses in law-enforcement coordination. Consequently, crimes that originate in one state may be

planned in another, financed from another location and executed across several states or countries. The scale of crime experienced by Nigerian households demonstrates the seriousness of the problem. The National Bureau of Statistics' Crime Experience and Security Perception Survey 2024 estimated 51,887,032 household crime incidents during the reference period. The survey further indicated that approximately 15.3 million households, representing 34.3% of households, experienced at least one crime incident. Livestock theft was the most prevalent reported crime, followed by crop theft. The survey also found that crime incidence was higher among rural households (40.1%) than urban households (29.9%) (NBS, 2024).

These statistics should, however, be interpreted carefully. Official crime figures generally reflect reported or measured incidents and may not represent the complete volume of criminal activity because some victims do not report crimes to the police. The NBS survey reported that only about 25.7% of households that experienced at least one crime reported the incident to the police, illustrating the problem of under-reporting. Therefore, crime statistics should be complemented with victimization surveys, police records and other reliable sources when assessing the overall crime situation in Nigeria. The problem becomes more complicated when crime operates across state or national boundaries. Interstate criminal networks can move victims, weapons, drugs, stolen vehicles and criminal proceeds from one jurisdiction to another. Such movements make detection, investigation and prosecution more difficult because individual security agencies may have jurisdiction over only part of the criminal operation. The UNODC's Organized Crime in Nigeria: A Threat Assessment identifies Nigeria's strategic geographical position, porous borders, youth unemployment, poverty, governance gaps, insecurity and poor synergy among law-enforcement agencies as factors that create favourable conditions for organized criminal groups.

Interstate crime should therefore be understood as more than ordinary criminal activity occurring near state boundaries. It includes organized criminal operations whose planning, movement, financing, execution or consequences involve multiple jurisdictions. This makes interstate crime a complex security issue requiring cooperation between states, federal security agencies and, where international borders are involved, neighbouring countries and international organizations. Nigeria has already begun strengthening its capacity to manage criminal intelligence. The Ministry of Police Affairs reported the development of the National Criminal Data Fusion Centre and the upgrading of the Nigeria Police Crime and Incident Database Centre. The Ministry stated that these systems are intended to facilitate the collection, analysis and sharing of criminal information among relevant security agencies and improve cooperation with INTERPOL.

The need for comprehensive strategies is further supported by UNODC's assessment that organized crime in Nigeria has serious consequences for political stability, economic activity and national development. The organization notes that crime and

security were identified by respondents in the 2022 Afrobarometer survey as among the most important problems requiring government attention. Against this background, this paper focuses on strategies for curtailing interstate crimes in Nigeria. The aim is to examine practical approaches through which government and relevant stakeholders can reduce the movement and activities of criminal networks across state and national boundaries. Particular attention is given to border management, intelligence sharing, inter-agency cooperation, regional collaboration, financial investigation, employment creation, community policing, criminal databases and institutional accountability.

Conceptual Terms

Inter-state crime refers to criminal activities that extend across the territorial boundaries of two or more states or countries. The term is closely related to transnational crime, particularly where criminal activities are planned, committed, directed, or produce significant effects across national borders. In contemporary society, improved transportation, communication technologies, financial networks and international trade have created opportunities for criminals to operate beyond the jurisdiction of a single country. Crimes such as human trafficking, drug trafficking, migrant smuggling, arms trafficking, cybercrime, money laundering and vehicle trafficking may involve several countries at different stages of the criminal process (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [UNODC], 2024).

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) provides an important international framework for understanding the cross-border nature of serious criminal activities. Article 3(2) identifies an offence as transnational when it is committed in more than one state; when substantial preparation, planning, direction or control takes place in another state; when an organized criminal group operating in more than one state is involved; or when the crime committed in one state has substantial effects in another state (United Nations, 2000). Inter-state crime can be defined as criminal activity whose commission, preparation, organization, movement, financing, control or consequences involve two or more sovereign states. It therefore differs from an ordinary domestic crime because its activities or consequences extend beyond the jurisdiction of one state. UNODC explains that transnational organized crime encompasses serious profit-motivated criminal activities of an international nature in which more than one country is involved, including drug trafficking, migrant smuggling, human trafficking, money laundering, firearms trafficking and some forms of cybercrime (UNODC, n.d.).

The legal understanding of transnationality is broader than simply physically crossing an international border. According to UNODC's interpretation of Article 3 of the UNTOC, a crime can be transnational even when it occurs entirely within one country if substantial planning or control occurs in another country, if the offenders belong to a criminal group operating in several countries, or if the crime produces substantial effects in another country (UNODC, 2026). In the Nigerian context, inter-state or transnational

crime is particularly significant because Nigeria shares land borders with Benin, Cameroon, Chad and Niger and occupies an important geographical position between West Africa and the Sahel. INTERPOL notes that Nigeria's geographical location, population movement and border connectivity expose the country to criminal activities that frequently extend beyond national boundaries (INTERPOL, 2026).

Features of Inter-State Crime

Cross-Border Dimension

The most important feature of inter-state crime is its cross-border character. The crime may be committed in one country and completed in another, or different stages of the criminal operation may occur in different countries. For example, drugs may be produced in one country, transported through another and sold in a third country. Article 3(2) of the UNTOC expressly recognizes crimes committed in more than one state as transnational in nature (United Nations, 2000).

Involvement of Multiple Jurisdictions

Inter-state crimes commonly involve two or more legal jurisdictions. Each country has its own laws, law-enforcement institutions, courts and procedures. Criminals can exploit differences between these legal systems to avoid detection or prosecution. UNODC observes that combating transnational organized crime requires cooperation among countries because criminal networks operate across national jurisdictions (UNODC, n.d.).

Organized Criminal Networks

A major feature of many inter-state crimes is the participation of organized criminal networks. Under the UNTOC, an organized criminal group consists of three or more persons who operate together for a period of time with the purpose of committing serious offences to obtain financial or material benefits (United Nations, 2000).

INTERPOL further explains that organized criminal networks may have operating models, long-term strategies, hierarchies and strategic alliances similar to legitimate businesses. Such networks may coordinate traffickers, recruiters, financiers, distributors and corrupt officials across countries (INTERPOL, n.d.).

Profit Motivation

Inter-state crime is frequently motivated by financial or material gain. Criminal organizations engage in activities such as drug trafficking, human trafficking, arms trafficking, migrant smuggling, counterfeiting and money laundering because these activities can generate substantial illegal profits. The UNTOC specifically identifies financial or other material benefit as a defining purpose of an organized criminal group (United Nations, 2000).

Use of Porous Borders

Inter-state criminals often exploit weakly controlled or porous borders to move people, drugs, firearms, stolen goods and other illicit commodities. In West Africa, the movement of people and goods across extensive land borders can create opportunities for criminal networks. INTERPOL identifies porous borders, complex population flows and illicit financial opportunities as factors that criminal groups exploit in Nigeria and the wider region (INTERPOL, 2026).

Sophisticated Communication and Technology

Modern inter-state crime increasingly makes use of information and communication technologies. Criminals can communicate across countries, transfer money electronically, recruit victims online, coordinate illegal activities and conceal their identities. UNODC recognizes that cybercrime can have a transnational dimension and that technology has created additional avenues for cross-border criminal activities (UNODC, 2022).

Complex Financial Transactions

Money generated from inter-state criminal activities often moves through different countries and financial systems. Money laundering enables criminals to disguise the origin of illegal proceeds and integrate them into legitimate economic activities. UNODC identifies money laundering as one of the major forms of transnational organized crime and notes that the enormous financial resources generated by organized crime can undermine legitimate economies and governance (UNODC, n.d.).

Difficulty of Investigation and Prosecution

Inter-state crimes are difficult to investigate because evidence, suspects, victims, witnesses and financial records may be located in different countries. Law-enforcement agencies may therefore require international cooperation, information sharing, extradition arrangements and mutual legal assistance. INTERPOL emphasizes the importance of exchanging operational data and intelligence among national and international enforcement bodies to identify and dismantle transnational criminal networks (INTERPOL, n.d.).

Adaptability and Flexibility

Another important feature is the ability of criminal networks to adapt. Criminal groups can change routes, methods, technologies and organizational structures when law-enforcement agencies disrupt their activities. UNODC describes transnational organized crime as an evolving phenomenon that adapts to new markets and creates new forms of criminal activity (UNODC, n.d.).

Multiple Forms of Criminal Activity

Inter-state crime does not refer to one particular offence. It covers a broad range of criminal activities, including drug trafficking, human trafficking, migrant smuggling, firearms trafficking, money laundering, counterfeiting, wildlife trafficking, trafficking in cultural property and some forms of cybercrime (UNODC, n.d.).

Significant Effects Beyond the Country of Origin

A crime committed in one country can have substantial consequences in another country. This is expressly recognized in Article 3(2)(d) of the UNTOC. For example, criminal proceeds generated in one country may finance criminal activities elsewhere, while weapons or narcotics transported through one country may contribute to violence or insecurity in another (United Nations, 2000).

Requirement for International Cooperation

Because inter-state crime transcends national boundaries, international and regional cooperation is essential for effective prevention and control. Countries need to share intelligence, coordinate border management, investigate criminal networks jointly and strengthen judicial cooperation. The UNTOC was established specifically to promote cooperation among states in preventing and combating transnational organized crime (United Nations, 2000).

Theoretical Framework: Routine Activity Theory

Routine Activity Theory (RAT) is suitable for the paper because it explains how crime occurs when motivated offenders encounter suitable targets in situations where effective guardianship is absent. The theory is particularly relevant to interstate crimes because weak border surveillance, inadequate policing, unmonitored transportation routes and poor community vigilance can create opportunities for criminals. Routine Activity Theory was developed by Lawrence E. Cohen and Marcus Felson in 1979. They introduced the theory in their influential article, Social Change and Crime Rate Trends: A Routine Activity Approach (Cohen & Felson, 1979).

Main Features of the Theory

1) Motivated offender: Crime requires an individual or group willing and able to commit an offence.
2) Suitable target: Criminals select people, goods, locations or institutions that are vulnerable or attractive.
3) Absence of capable guardianship: Crime becomes more likely when effective policing, surveillance, community monitoring or other forms of protection are absent.
4) Opportunity: The convergence of the three elements creates an opportunity for crime to occur.

Environmental influence: Changes in people's movements, transportation, technology and daily activities can create new opportunities for criminal behaviour.

Cohen and Felson (1979) argue that changes in routine activities can influence crime rates by affecting the convergence of motivated offenders, suitable targets and the absence of capable guardianship.

Application to the Study

Routine Activity Theory provides a useful framework for explaining interstate crimes in Nigeria. Criminals can exploit porous borders, poorly monitored routes, inadequate surveillance and weak inter-agency cooperation as opportunities for crime. For example, criminals transporting illicit goods or kidnapped persons may exploit areas where security presence and surveillance are inadequate. Similarly, vulnerable individuals, vehicles, farms, markets and communities may become suitable targets.

The theory therefore supports the strategies discussed in this study. Strengthening border surveillance, improving intelligence sharing, promoting community policing, establishing integrated crime databases and increasing security presence can improve capable guardianship and reduce opportunities available to interstate criminal networks. Addressing youth unemployment and poverty may also reduce the pool of motivated offenders, although Routine

Activity Theory primarily focuses on the circumstances that facilitate crime rather than the deeper causes of criminal motivation.

Relevance to the Study

The theory is appropriate because the study seeks to identify strategies for curtailing interstate crimes in Nigeria. Its central proposition suggests that reducing opportunities for offenders through stronger guardianship, surveillance and coordinated security operations can reduce criminal activities across jurisdictions.

Result and Discussion on Strategies to Curtail Interstate Crimes in Nigeria

Interstate crime refers to criminal activities whose planning, execution, movement, financing or consequences extend across the boundaries of two or more states or countries. In Nigeria, such crimes include human trafficking, drug trafficking, arms trafficking, migrant smuggling, kidnapping networks, cyber-enabled fraud, money laundering and the movement of stolen vehicles. Because these crimes frequently involve more than one jurisdiction, they cannot be effectively controlled by one law-enforcement agency or one country acting alone. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has identified weak cross-border cooperation, limited joint investigations and information-sharing gaps as important challenges to disrupting Nigerian criminal networks operating across borders (UNODC, 2025).

The following strategies can therefore help Nigeria reduce interstate and cross-border criminal activities.

Strengthening Border Management and Surveillance

Nigeria should strengthen border management through modern surveillance technology, biometric identification, improved documentation systems and effective screening of people, vehicles and goods. Border-control agencies should be adequately equipped to identify suspicious movements and detect forged travel documents, trafficked persons, stolen vehicles, weapons and illicit commodities. INTERPOL emphasizes that effective border security is essential to combating transnational crime and recommends screening people, travel documents and vehicles against international databases. Its Integrated Border Management Task Force also promotes biometric identification, frontline database access, training and coordinated operations at land, sea and air borders (INTERPOL, n.d.). For Nigeria, particular attention should be given to vulnerable land-border corridors and informal crossing points. Border surveillance should not depend exclusively on physical checkpoints; intelligence-led patrols, cameras, biometric systems, mobile screening devices and risk-based inspection can improve the ability of security agencies to identify criminals and suspicious movements. Evidence from INTERPOL's 2024 West African Operation Screen demonstrates the value of technology: participating officers conducted more than 1.3 million real-time checks against INTERPOL databases and made 45 arrests while seizing illicit commodities and stolen vehicles (INTERPOL, 2025).

Improving Intelligence Sharing and Inter-Agency Cooperation

Nigeria should establish stronger and faster mechanisms for sharing criminal intelligence among the Nigeria Police Force, Nigeria Immigration Service, Nigeria Customs Service, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, Department of State Services and other relevant security institutions. Criminal networks frequently exploit gaps between agencies; therefore, information collected by one institution should be rapidly accessible to other authorized agencies. This strategy is supported by Nigeria's recent experience. In a 2024 operation involving 12 Nigerian law-enforcement agencies, supported by INTERPOL and AFRIPOL, coordinated intelligence analysis, database cross-checking, border checks and targeted raids contributed to 36 arrests and the seizure of assets valued at about US$3 million. INTERPOL reported that the operation demonstrated the importance of sustained multi-agency collaboration in disrupting organized criminal networks (INTERPOL, 2025). Nigeria should consequently strengthen centralized criminal-intelligence systems, establish permanent inter-agency intelligence platforms and conduct regular joint risk assessments. Intelligence sharing should also extend beyond Nigeria to neighbouring countries because criminal networks frequently move from one jurisdiction to another when law-enforcement pressure increases. INTERPOL's Project ENACT similarly emphasizes criminal-intelligence analysis, information exchange and regional cooperation as important tools for combating organized crime in Africa (INTERPOL, n.d.).

Strengthening Regional and International Law-Enforcement Cooperation

Nigeria should deepen cooperation with neighbouring countries and regional organizations such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), as well as international policing organizations such as INTERPOL. Interstate criminals can easily exploit jurisdictional boundaries when neighbouring countries do not coordinate investigations, arrests and prosecutions. Joint border operations, intelligence exchange, coordinated investigations, extradition arrangements and mutual legal assistance can make it more difficult for criminals to escape justice by crossing into another country. UNODC's assessment of trafficking and smuggling networks connected to Nigeria identifies weak cross-border cooperation and limited capacity for joint investigations as factors that hinder effective disruption of organized criminal networks (UNODC, 2025). The practical value of regional cooperation is demonstrated by INTERPOL's Operation Screen West Africa 2024, which brought together law-enforcement agencies from 12 West African countries to strengthen border security and disrupt transnational organized crime networks (INTERPOL, 2025). Nigeria should therefore institutionalize regular joint operations with Benin, Niger, Chad and Cameroon, while also strengthening cooperation with other ECOWAS countries along major trafficking routes.

Disrupting Criminal Finances and Strengthening Investigation and Prosecution

Nigeria should focus not only on arresting criminals but also on following the money

generated from interstate criminal activities. Criminal organizations require financial resources to recruit members, purchase weapons, transport illicit goods, bribe officials and maintain their operations. Tracing, freezing and confiscating criminal assets can therefore weaken the organizational capacity of criminal networks. INTERPOL identifies illicit financial flows and criminal assets as a major target in the fight against organized crime, emphasizing the importance of tracing, freezing and confiscating proceeds connected to criminal networks (INTERPOL, 2025). Nigeria should consequently strengthen cooperation among the Nigeria Financial Intelligence Unit, law-enforcement agencies, financial institutions and relevant international partners to detect suspicious transactions and trace proceeds moved across borders. At the same time, investigations should be followed by effective prosecution. Specialized investigators and prosecutors should receive training in financial investigation, digital evidence, trafficking cases, document fraud and transnational investigations. Where evidence or suspects are located outside Nigeria, judicial cooperation should be activated promptly. This is particularly important because UNODC has identified limitations in cross-border investigations, information sharing and judicial cooperation as obstacles to prosecuting Nigerian trafficking networks operating internationally (UNODC, 2025).

Addressing Youth Unemployment and Poverty

The Nigerian government should intensify programmes that create employment opportunities, vocational training, entrepreneurship support and sustainable livelihoods for young people, particularly in communities vulnerable to organized and interstate crime. Poverty and lack of economic opportunities can increase the vulnerability of individuals to recruitment by criminal networks. UNODC's threat assessment of organized crime in Nigeria identifies youth unemployment, underemployment, multidimensional poverty and lack of economic opportunities among factors that facilitate organized crime in the country (UNODC, 2023). Therefore, crime prevention should not depend exclusively on policing and military operations. Federal and state governments should complement security interventions with skills-acquisition programmes, support for small businesses, agricultural employment, technical education and youth empowerment initiatives. Providing legitimate sources of income can reduce the attractiveness of criminal activities and weaken the recruitment base available to criminal organizations.

Strengthening Community Policing and Public Participation

Community policing should be strengthened across Nigerian states and border communities. Security agencies cannot effectively identify interstate criminal networks without cooperation from residents who understand local movements, suspicious activities and changes in criminal patterns. Community members can provide early information about unfamiliar persons, trafficking activities, illegal arms movement, kidnapping networks and other criminal activities. UNODC's assessment of organized crime in Nigeria specifically recommends community-oriented policing that reinforces

public trust in law-enforcement and security agencies, together with community-based and community-owned crime-prevention initiatives (UNODC, 2023). The strategy should involve regular engagement between security agencies, traditional rulers, religious leaders, transport unions, youth organizations, market associations and residents of border communities. Confidential reporting mechanisms should also be established to protect informants from retaliation. Stronger community-security relationships can improve early warning, intelligence collection and rapid response to interstate criminal activities.

Establishing Integrated National Crime and Criminal Intelligence Databases

Nigeria should develop and maintain integrated national databases containing information on suspects, criminal cases, stolen vehicles, firearms, identity documents, victims, warrants and other relevant criminal intelligence. Such systems would allow authorized law-enforcement agencies to identify links between crimes occurring in different states and across international borders. UNODC's threat assessment recommends the creation of a national crime database for systematic and standardized recording of crimes reported, investigated and prosecuted by relevant criminal-justice agencies. The report also recommends improved collection, analysis and dissemination of crime trends and patterns (UNODC, 2023). Regional information-sharing should complement Nigeria's national database. INTERPOL's West Africa Police Information System (WAPIS), for example, is designed to improve information exchange among law-enforcement agencies by enabling officers to access relevant criminal information from national and regional databases. The system can include information on criminal cases, suspects, victims, witnesses, weapons, vehicles and identity documents (INTERPOL, n.d.). Nigeria should therefore expand digital connectivity among the Nigeria Police Force, Nigeria Immigration Service, Nigeria Customs Service, NDLEA, NAPTIP, EFCC and other relevant agencies while ensuring appropriate safeguards for personal data and lawful access.

Strengthening Anti-Corruption Measures and Accountability in Security Institutions

Nigeria should strengthen mechanisms for detecting and prosecuting corruption among officials involved in border management, policing, customs, immigration and criminal justice. Corruption can undermine otherwise effective security measures when officials facilitate the movement of illicit goods, provide information to criminal groups, accept bribes or deliberately ignore illegal activities. UNODC's Strategic Vision for Nigeria identifies widespread corruption and a weak criminal-justice system among factors that have hindered effective responses to transnational organized crime. It also calls for stronger legal, institutional and operational capacities and greater domestic and international cooperation to combat organized crime (UNODC, 2024). Anti-corruption measures should include transparent recruitment and deployment procedures, regular integrity checks, effective disciplinary mechanisms, independent investigation of allegations, asset-declaration enforcement and protection for whistle-blowers. Border officials and

other security personnel should also receive regular professional and ethics training. Accountability is particularly important because interstate criminal networks may attempt to compromise officials in order to obtain safe passage or protection.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Interstate crime constitutes a significant threat to Nigeria's security, development and social stability. The large volume of crime experienced by Nigerian households, together with the activities of organized criminal networks, demonstrates that crime prevention requires sustained national attention. The NBS crime survey provides evidence of the substantial scale of crime experienced by households, while UNODC identifies porous borders, poverty, unemployment, governance weaknesses and inadequate coordination among law-enforcement agencies as important conditions that facilitate organized crime in Nigeria.

The discussion establishes that no single security institution can successfully eliminate interstate crime. Criminal networks are adaptive and can exploit gaps between states, agencies and national borders. Consequently, Nigeria needs a coordinated strategy that combines effective border management, intelligence-led policing, integrated criminal databases, inter-agency cooperation, community participation, regional security collaboration and financial investigation. Crime prevention should address the social and economic conditions that make individuals vulnerable to criminal recruitment. Employment creation, poverty reduction, youth empowerment and improved access to legitimate economic opportunities should complement law-enforcement measures. At the institutional level, corruption should be reduced and security agencies should be adequately funded, trained and equipped. Based on the findings, the study recommends the following:

1) Strengthen border surveillance: The Federal Government should provide modern surveillance equipment, biometric systems, communication facilities and adequate personnel for effective monitoring of formal and informal border routes.
2) Improve inter-agency intelligence sharing: Security agencies should establish seamless mechanisms for sharing intelligence on suspects, criminal networks, stolen vehicles, firearms, trafficking routes and other criminal activities.
3) Expand the national criminal database: The National Criminal Data Fusion Centre and related police databases should be continuously strengthened and connected to relevant security institutions to facilitate rapid identification and tracking of criminals.
4) Promote community policing: Security agencies should establish stronger relationships with traditional rulers, community leaders, transport organizations, youth groups and residents so that communities can provide timely information about suspicious activities.
5) Strengthen regional cooperation: Nigeria should intensify security cooperation with neighbouring countries and ECOWAS member states through joint border operations, intelligence exchange and coordinated investigations.

6) Follow and confiscate criminal proceeds: Financial intelligence agencies should strengthen mechanisms for tracing, freezing and confiscating proceeds derived from kidnapping, trafficking, drug crimes, fraud and other organized criminal activities.

7) Create employment opportunities for young people: Government should expand vocational education, entrepreneurship programmes, agricultural employment and other legitimate livelihood opportunities, particularly in communities vulnerable to recruitment by criminal groups.

8) Strengthen accountability in security institutions: Government should establish effective mechanisms for investigating corruption, misconduct and collusion among security personnel and other officials who facilitate criminal activities.

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