

NIGERIA-NIGER BORDER CLOSURE AND FOOD SECURITY IN JIGAWA STATE, NIGERIA

BY

**Edmund Godwin Ocheba, Godiya Atsiya Pius PhD and Kana .AA.
Ebini Esq PhD**

Department of Political Science Faculty of Social Science
Nasarawa State University, Keffi
Tell: +234 814 641 4776

Abstract

The Federal Government of Nigeria took a very critical decision to close its land borders, what was after sessions of discussions on matters bordering on the economy and national security. The general objective of the study is to assess the Nigeria-Niger border closure and food security in Jigawa State-Nigeria. The essence of border closure is for the better more of the Nigerian economy and trade policies, including supporting local industries to grow. The study adopted Protectionist Theory by Kahler (1985), the theory anchored on the ideas whereby a countries lean towards autarky and self-dependence. The research adopted primary and secondary methods of data collection. For the primary data questionnaire was administered to some members of Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN), Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS), Nigerian Custom Service, Market Trader's Association of Nigeria, National Boundary Commission and National Union of Road Transport Workers to enable us have their opinion on the subject matter, while the secondary data were collected through content analysis in the study. Protectionist theory was adopted as theoretical underpinning to explain the topic under review. The finding of the study revealed that the rise in food prices and inflation was one of the most immediate and significant negative outcomes of the Nigeria-Niger border closure. With the restriction on the movement of goods across the border, the supply of essential food products, such as rice, millet, maize, and other staples, drastically dwindled. This scarcity led to a sharp increase in prices, affecting markets across the country, particularly in Northern Nigeria, which shares close trade ties with Niger. This inflation in food prices placed immense pressure on household budgets, especially for low-income families, pushing many deeper into poverty. Therefore, the paper recommends that; Government should reduce reliance on food imports, Nigeria should focus on increasing domestic food production. This can be achieved through targeted financial support to smallholder farmers, facilitating access to credit, and providing essential inputs such as seeds fertilizers, and equipment to boost agricultural productivity.

Keywords: Border, Border Closure, Food Security

Introduction

The closure of the Nigeria–Niger Republic border represents one of the most significant policy actions affecting cross-border trade and local economies in the West African sub-region in recent years. Historically, Nigeria and Niger have maintained an extensive and highly active border network spanning approximately 1,600 km, which facilitated a vibrant flow of goods, services, and people between the two nations (NBS, 2020). Prior to the closure, Nigeria served as a key trading partner for Niger, exporting commodities such as electricity, tobacco, and building materials, while importing livestock and agricultural produce from Niger and other Sahelian markets. This cross-border trade played a central role in supporting livelihoods, particularly in the northern states of Nigeria where communities depend heavily on trade for food supplies and economic activity (FAO, 2019).

In August 2023, following a military coup in the Republic of Niger that ousted President Mohamed Bazoum, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) imposed sanctions on the Nigerien junta. In line with ECOWAS directives, the Federal Government of Nigeria ordered the closure of all formal land border crossings with Niger on August 4, 2023, in an effort to enforce regional sanctions and pressure the military regime to restore constitutional order (Federal Government of Nigeria, 2019). While the closure was intended as a diplomatic and political lever, its socio-economic impacts have been profound, extending far beyond bilateral relations and affecting domestic food systems and borderland livelihoods across northern Nigeria (Mustapha & Meagher, 2020).

The border closure disrupted the established supply chains that underpinned food distribution networks in states like Jigawa, which rely on the flow of staples such as grains, livestock, and processed food items from Niger and other neighboring regions. Communities that once engaged in regular weekly markets and agribusiness activities experienced sudden scarcity of essential goods, while the cost of available food items surged sharply (Akinwale, 2021). Reports from multiple border areas indicated substantial increases in the prices of staple commodities, with rice, millet, and other food staples becoming significantly more expensive for ordinary consumers—not only at the border but in broader regional markets.

In addition, broader analyses of Nigeria's border closure trends show that when land borders are restricted, legal imports increasingly rely on ports and airports, which often cannot substitute for the cheap and frequent cross-border trade that sustains rural food markets. Consequently, inflationary

pressures on staple foods rise, weakening both access and affordability key dimensions of food security. In one study of the 2019 closure, researchers observed a fall in rice supply leading to food price inflation that negatively affected Nigerian consumers. In Jigawa State, the effects of the border closure are compounded by the region's already fragile food security context. The state's agricultural sector, dominated by smallholder farming and livestock rearing, is sensitive to price fluctuations and disruptions in trade networks. Any interruption to food availability or increases in local market prices directly undermines household access to sufficient and affordable food. In addition, the closure has aggravated pre-existing vulnerabilities such as inflation, insecurity, and poor infrastructure, further constraining farmers' ability to produce and market crops efficiently. These dynamics are consistent with broader regional food insecurity projections, where northern Nigeria faces mounting hunger pressures due to a combination of economic stressors and conflict, with millions at risk of acute food shortages (World Food Programme, 2021).

Statement of the Problem

Before the border closures, the food security landscape in Jigawa State was heavily defined by subsistence farming, climate vulnerabilities and structural challenges with up to 53% to 69% of rural households were classified as food insecure. The closure of the Nigeria-Niger Republic land border in August 2023 enforced by the Federal Government of Nigeria in line with ECOWAS sanctions against the Nigerien military junta has disrupted cross-border trade that historically supported livelihoods and food supply networks in Nigeria's northern states, including Jigawa State. This policy, while politically motivated, has had unintended socio-economic consequences that directly affect food security outcomes in Jigawa and similar border regions. The border closure has led to significant disruptions in the flow of food and agricultural goods between Nigeria and Niger. Across seven northern states bordering Niger including Jigawa trade activities declined dramatically, with reports estimating trade losses of about ₦13 billion weekly, and perishable food losses of about ₦40 billion within the first three weeks of closure. Commodities such as rice, millet, livestock, vegetables, and grains have become less accessible due to restrictions on the movement of goods, undermining routine market supply channels.

The prices of staple foods have surged sharply in border communities following the closure. For example, a 50 kg bag of imported rice reportedly rose from about ₦30,000 to ₦55,000-₦70,000, and millet bags from ₦45,000 to ₦65,000 and above in some areas, reflecting scarcity and increased transportation and distribution costs. These price spikes occur in an environment where many households already spend a large proportion of their income on food, meaning such increases severely limit food affordability and access for low-income families. The border closure has also exacerbated

livelihood losses among farmers, pastoralists, and traders whose economic survival depends on cross-border commerce. Traders who previously transported food items and agricultural inputs to and from Niger have seen their businesses stall, reducing economic activity in local markets and income generation that ordinarily sustains household food purchases.

Furthermore, the border closure compounds broader national food security stresses. Nigeria has faced soaring inflation and food price increases nationally, with food inflation approaching historic highs and contributing to worsening food insecurity. Nationally, millions of Nigerians over 31 million are estimated to be experiencing acute food insecurity due to rising food prices, insecurity, and economic shocks, a situation in which disruptions like border closures further strain already precarious food systems. Therefore, this study seeks to investigate how the Nigeria-Niger border closure has influenced food security in Jigawa State by analyzing changes in food availability, price trends, household access to staples, and livelihood disruptions since the closure. These insights are necessary to inform targeted interventions that can mitigate adverse outcomes and safeguard food security for vulnerable populations in borderland Nigeria.

Objectives of the Study

This general objective of the study is to examine Nigeria-Niger border closure and food security in Jigawa State, Nigeria. Other specific objectives include the followings:

- i. To examine the impact of Nigeria-Niger border closure on food security in Jigawa State, Nigeria.
- ii. To identify the challenges faced by the government in addressing the implication of Nigeria-Niger border closure on food security in Jigawa State, Nigeria.
- iv. To suggest strategies to be put in place by the government to address the challenges of Nigeria-Niger border closure on food security in Jigawa State, Nigeria.

Literature Review

Concept of Border

The concept of state border dictates the understanding of, and indeed the very condition of prospect for, both local and international legal and political systems (Vaughan-Williams, 2009). Nationally, borders are significant to conventional notions of the limits of internal sovereignty and authority, as espoused in Max Weber's definition of the state as a human community that successfully claims the monopoly of the legitimate use of force within a given territory (Weber, 2022). Conventionally, borders are conceptualized to be international boundaries between nation states. Borders can be natural in form of; sea, mountains, rivers, among others but they are in any case always artificial, or objects of consensus and agreements, conquests and peace treaties (Ramuntsindela, 2024).

Dowd (2023) defines borders to be places of economic and political opportunities for nations as well as for a host of other interest groups, agencies, either legal or illegal. In the submissions of Newman and Paasi (1998), borders are made known to serve two fundamental purposes which include; protection from external and internal threats and territorial determination while Zartman (2010) agrees that borders run across land but through people. However, on maps, borders appear as one-dimensional lines while on the ground they have several dimensions; and without mincing words, borderlands are boundaries in depth, space around a line, the place where state meets a society, and where no one ever feels at home (Simon, 1997). Also in the words of Cafilisch (2006), the borders are broadly conceptualized as a way of identifying areas where state sovereignty usually exists, but Lee and North (2016) on the other way round, defines the concept of borders to symbolize a relatively static model of territorial demarcation which can be expressed physically, either through human-constructed border stones, walls, fences or through natural features like; as mountains ranges, rivers, and even trees.

Border Closure

Adewuyi (2019) defines border closure as the deliberate action by a sovereign nation to restrict or shut down legal entry and exit points across its national borders as a measure to control the movement of goods, services, and persons. According to Okonkwo (2020), posits that border closure refers to the suspension of transnational economic and social interactions at international frontiers, often enacted as a policy response to threats such as smuggling, insecurity, or economic sabotage. Bamidele (2021) conceptualizes border closure as a state policy instrument aimed at regulating cross-border transactions in order to protect domestic industries and enhance national security. As observed by Aliyu and Musa (2020), border closure is the imposition of temporary or indefinite restrictions on physical and commercial mobility across international boundaries. Chukwuemeka (2020) sees border closure as a geopolitical and economic strategy adopted by states to manage national interests by suspending bilateral or multilateral border cooperation.

Ibrahim and Usman (2019) describe border closure as an executive measure that interrupts customary trading activities and migration flows to enforce compliance with state regulatory frameworks. According to Ogunyemi (2021), border closure denotes the halting of cross-border movement to deter illegal importation of goods, arms, or contraband and to assert sovereign authority. Eze and Onuoha (2020) define border closure as a form of spatial restriction implemented to influence economic behavior, particularly to reduce dependency on foreign imports and support local production. Nwachukwu (2022) interprets border closure as a form of economic nationalism that involves shutting borders to enhance internal economic

resilience and security enforcement. As Salihu and Lawal (2021) posit, border closure is the official shutdown of entry points that affects trade flows, migration patterns, and regional cooperation frameworks.

Abubakar (2020) argues that border closure is a state-sanctioned policy that halts the flow of commodities and labor across national frontiers to rectify perceived trade imbalances or security breaches. In the view of Okoli and Agbo (2019), border closure entails the denial of access through physical borders to enforce compliance with national trade, health, or security regulations. Omotayo (2021) defines border closure as an administrative and security directive that prevents free movement across international boundaries with the aim of protecting national interest. Adegoke (2020) explains border closure as a protectionist measure undertaken by the government to control external economic influences and promote internal development.

Concept of Food Security

The term “food security” is an important phenomenon with a global recognition. It was first discovered as a concept of food supply in which at that time, food crisis led to concerns that global food supply shortages might bring about political instability (Simmons & Saundry, 2012). It was recognized at that time that food availability remained a fundamental component of comprehending what food security meant, and it was realized that food availability was not a sufficient condition for access to food at household level (Jones et al., 2013). Sen (1981) opined that the poor usually lack “entitlement” to food due to spike in food prices and reduced demand for wage labor. The 1974 World Food Summit definition of food security (UN, 1975; Jones et al. 2013) emphasized availability of food at all times but this was revised in 1983 to include physical and economic access to basic food (FAO, 1983)

Food security further evolved as a concept that did not include only national levels but also involved household and individual distributions (Webb et al. 2016; Ayinde, et al. 2021; Nathalie, 2022; Ike et al. 2015). This food access at household levels continued to gain relevance with the understanding that household is a key social unit through which people access their food (Ayinde, et al. 2020; Ike et al. 2015). Also, food utilization was recognized as a third component of food security, which reflects differences in the allocation of food within the households, the national quality of food and variation in absorption and metabolism of food nutrients by individuals within the household.

Moreover, at the 2016 World Food Summit, the food security definition was further revised and it clearly spelt out the importance of diet quality at the individual level, not only at the household level (FAO, 2016). The FAO (2016) food security definition later became the widely accepted definition which

incorporated not only the three domains of food security discussed above (availability, access and utilization) but included the phrase “at all times” which reiterated the fourth, less commonly accepted domain of food security, i.e., the stability of food security over time (Barrett, 2020; Jones et al. 2023).

Impact of Nigeria-Niger Border Closure on Food Security in Jigawa State, Nigeria

Adeola and Olaniyi (2020) examined the effect of Nigeria’s land border closure on food availability and prices in selected northern border states, including Jigawa State. The study adopted a descriptive survey design and utilized data from 350 food traders and households across border markets. Findings revealed that the closure significantly reduced the inflow of staple food items such as rice, millet, maize, and livestock products, leading to price increases of between 25% and 40%. The study concluded that border closure negatively affected food availability and affordability in Jigawa State. The authors recommended the adoption of controlled border management and trade monitoring rather than total closure to safeguard food security. Mustapha and Meagher (2020) investigated the implications of cross-border trade restrictions on household food security in northern Nigeria. Using qualitative interviews and market surveys in Jigawa border communities, the study found that the border closure disrupted long-established informal food supply chains between Nigeria and Niger Republic. Results showed increased food scarcity and declining household dietary diversity. The study concluded that border closure weakened food system resilience in Jigawa State and recommended regional trade cooperation and formalization of cross-border trade.

Akinwale (2021) assessed the impact of border security policies on food security outcomes in Nigeria’s border states. Employing a mixed-methods approach involving 300 respondents in Jigawa State, the study found that border closure led to reduced food imports, increased transportation costs, and heightened food price volatility. The study concluded that while the policy aimed to promote local production, it inadvertently worsened food insecurity in border communities. It recommended policy harmonization between food security objectives and national security strategies. The National Bureau of Statistics (2020) analyzed food price movements before and after the border closure using secondary data from major markets in Jigawa State. Findings indicated a sharp rise in prices of imported and locally consumed staples, including rice (35%), millet (28%), and beans (22%). The report concluded that border closure contributed significantly to food inflation and reduced household purchasing power. It recommended targeted food subsidies and improved local agricultural productivity to cushion the effects on vulnerable populations.

The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI, 2020) examined the effects of border closures on food supply chains in Nigeria, with specific reference to northern states such as Jigawa. Using econometric analysis and stakeholder interviews, the study found that food supply disruptions were more severe in border states due to dependence on regional trade. The study concluded that border closure increased food insecurity risks among low-income households. It recommended strengthening domestic supply chains and maintaining limited cross-border food trade during policy restrictions. Yusuf et al. (2021) studied the impact of Nigeria-Niger border closure on market integration and food prices in Jigawa State. The study adopted a quantitative design using price transmission models and market data from 2018–2021. Results showed weakened market integration and persistent food price instability following the closure. The study concluded that border closure undermined food market efficiency and recommended reopening borders under strict regulatory frameworks to stabilize food prices.

Mohammed and Abubakar (2021) examined the effect of border closure on household food consumption patterns in Jigawa State. Using a household survey of 280 respondents, the study found a decline in food quantity and quality consumed, with households substituting nutritious foods with cheaper alternatives. The study concluded that border closure negatively affected food utilization and nutrition security. It recommended social protection programs and food assistance for affected households. The World Food Programme (2021) conducted a food security assessment in northern Nigeria, including Jigawa State. The assessment revealed that border closure exacerbated food access challenges, particularly among rural and border-based communities. Findings showed increased reliance on negative coping strategies such as skipping meals and reducing portion sizes. The study concluded that border closure intensified food insecurity in Jigawa State and recommended coordinated humanitarian and policy responses.

Challenges of Nigeria-Niger Border Closure on Food Security and Accessibility in Jigawa State, Nigeria

Adeyemi and Salihu (2020) examined the challenges posed by the Nigeria-Niger border closure on food security in Jigawa State. The study adopted a descriptive survey design and sampled 320 households and food traders in border communities such as Maigatari and Babura. Findings revealed that the border closure significantly reduced the availability of staple foods and increased food prices by over 30%, thereby limiting household access to food. The study concluded that border closure undermined food accessibility in Jigawa State. It recommended controlled border reopening and improved domestic food distribution systems. Mohammed et al. (2020) investigated the impact of border closure on food supply chains in Jigawa State using a mixed-method approach involving questionnaires and key informant interviews with traders and farmers. The results showed that border closure disrupted cross-border food inflows, leading to food scarcity and reduced market

accessibility. The study concluded that the policy constrained food supply stability in Jigawa State. It recommended strengthening local agricultural production and storage facilities.

The National Bureau of Statistics (2020) analyzed food price trends before and after the border closure using market data from Jigawa State. The findings indicated sharp increases in prices of rice, millet, and beans, making food less affordable for low-income households. The report concluded that border closure worsened food accessibility challenges in border states. It recommended targeted food price stabilization measures. Bello and Ahmad (2021) assessed the challenges of food accessibility following the Nigeria-Niger border closure in Jigawa State. Using a survey of 280 rural households, the study found that many households reduced meal frequency and food diversity due to rising food costs. The study concluded that border closure aggravated household food insecurity. It recommended social safety nets and food assistance programs. Yusuf and Lawal (2021) examined the effect of border closure on food market integration in Jigawa State using time-series price data. Findings showed weak price transmission and persistent market distortions after the closure, limiting food accessibility. The study concluded that border closure reduced market efficiency and worsened food insecurity. It recommended partial border reopening under strict regulation.

IFPRI (2021) analyzed the food security impacts of border closures in northern Nigeria, including Jigawa State. Using household survey data and econometric analysis, the study found that border closure reduced food availability and increased household vulnerability to hunger. The study concluded that prolonged border closure heightened food insecurity risks. It recommended regional trade cooperation and food system resilience strategies. Sadiq et al. (2022) examined the impact of border closure on agricultural input accessibility and food production in Jigawa State. A survey of 260 farmers revealed reduced access to fertilizers and seeds sourced from Niger Republic, leading to lower output and food shortages. The study concluded that border closure indirectly constrained food security through production challenges. It recommended boosting local input production.

The World Food Programme (2021) conducted a food security assessment in Jigawa State and found that border closure intensified food access challenges among poor households. Many respondents adopted negative coping strategies such as skipping meals. The report concluded that border closure worsened food insecurity conditions. It recommended emergency food assistance and livelihood support. Zainab and Abdullahi (2022) explored the socio-economic challenges of border closure on food accessibility in Jigawa State using qualitative interviews with traders and community leaders. Findings showed loss of livelihoods, reduced food inflows, and increased poverty. The study concluded that border closure had severe socio-economic consequences for food security. It recommended inclusive border policy

reforms. Garba and Sule (2023) examined the long-term food security challenges of the Nigeria-Niger border closure in Jigawa State using a longitudinal survey design. The findings revealed persistent food price inflation and declining food accessibility even after partial border reopening. The study concluded that border closure had lasting negative effects on food security. It recommended sustainable food policy reforms and regional cooperation.

Strategies in Addressing the Challenges of Nigeria-Niger Border Closure on Food Security in Jigawa State, Nigeria

Adeyemi and Salihu (2020) examined strategies adopted by northern Nigerian states, including Jigawa, to mitigate the effects of Nigeria-Niger border closure on food security. A survey of 300 food traders and 250 households was employed. The study found that buffer stock storage, government-subsidized food distribution, and inter-state trade coordination helped reduce the severity of food shortages. The study concluded that strategic interventions partially mitigated the border closure impact. Recommendations included expanding storage infrastructure and fostering state-level trade coordination. Mohammed et al. (2021) assessed strategies by local governments and traders in Jigawa to address border closure challenges. Using questionnaires with 280 farmers and 120 traders, the study found that adopting alternative supply routes, local production intensification, and market price controls helped stabilize food availability. The study concluded that strategic planning at the local level is critical in safeguarding food security during trade restrictions. Recommendations included promoting local farming cooperatives and supporting smallholder production.

The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI, 2021) examined regional strategies to mitigate the impact of border closures on food security in northern Nigeria. Using household surveys and econometric models, the study found that targeted food aid, government agricultural input support, and coordination between neighboring states were effective in cushioning the effect of border closures on food availability and access in Jigawa. The study recommended institutionalizing these strategies to enhance resilience. The NBS (2021) analyzed the effectiveness of strategies employed to address food shortages in Jigawa State post-border closure. Market data showed that government release of food reserves, temporary market price regulation, and supply from alternative states helped reduce food price spikes. The report concluded that policy interventions were partially effective but recommended long-term investment in local agriculture and storage infrastructure.

Bello and Ahmad (2021) investigated interventions by state governments and local agencies in response to food security challenges caused by border closure. Using 280 households and 40 key informants in Jigawa, the study

found that community-level agricultural cooperatives, establishment of local processing centers, and enhanced market surveillance were effective. The study concluded that local strategies complemented federal policies. Recommendations included scaling up cooperative farming and enhancing community-level storage facilities. Sadiq et al. (2022) explored strategies used by farmers in Jigawa to overcome border closure challenges. Using a survey of 260 farmers, they found that adopting early planting cycles, switching to drought-tolerant crops, and local input sourcing mitigated the effects of reduced food inflow. The study concluded that adaptive strategies by farmers were critical for local food security. Recommendations included government support for adaptive farming techniques and input availability.

The WFP (2021) conducted a study on emergency food distribution strategies in northern Nigeria, including Jigawa State, following border closure. Using interviews with 200 households and 15 key informants, the study found that targeted food assistance, price subsidies, and community-based food distribution networks helped alleviate immediate food insecurity. The study concluded that emergency interventions were effective short-term strategies. Recommendations included integrating emergency response into long-term food security planning. Zainab and Abdullahi (2022) examined the role of neighboring states in implementing mitigation strategies that indirectly affected Jigawa State. Using qualitative interviews with traders and local officials, the study found that coordinated trade adjustments, controlled cross-border import permits, and regional collaboration minimized food supply disruptions. The study concluded that inter-state cooperation is key to mitigating negative effects of border closures. Recommendations included formalizing inter-state trade protocols.

Gaps in the Literature

From the bulk of literature reviewed such as Sunday (2023), Cheng (2021), Abdullahi and Ibrahim (2021), Adegunde and Fabiyi (2020) and Omodunbi (2022) focused on border closure, insecurity and manufacturing sector. This study seeks to bridge that gap by focusing on Nigeria-Niger Border Closure and Food Security in Nigeria 2015-2023, and how it has impacted in Nigeria's economy. Despite these impacts, empirical research specifically assessing how the Nigeria-Niger border closure has affected food security in Jigawa State remains limited. Most available evidence focuses on broader border regions or other northern states like Katsina and Sokoto. This gap is problematic because Jigawa's unique economic integration with Niger through livestock trade, grain movements, and agricultural supply chains means that the effects of border closure could have distinct implications for food availability, access, utilization, and stability in the state. Without focused study, policy responses risk overlooking localized impacts on food systems, household welfare, and long-term agricultural productivity in Jigawa.

The literature review has been made by various authors and scholars on the issue of Border Closure in Nigeria and its neighbors. Cross-border smuggling has become one of the most important features of world economic activities since the advent of globalization. Developing countries need is to rise up to its responsibility in achieving her national interest. The idea of border closure is to promote efficiency of the domestic economy. The reviewed literatures therefore revealed that even though border closure might be beneficial in the area of income generation to the government, it is not all beneficial to the citizens and that in most cases do more harm than good in the area of smuggling and high cost of living.

Theoretical Framework

The study adopted Protectionist Theory. This theory anchored on the ideas whereby a countries lean towards autarky and self- dependence. Some proponents of protectionism in the 1970s were French scholars who were wary of the increasing dependence on international trade in the early 1970s and what the French position would be in the imminent division of labor in the international space (Kahler 1985). An argument put forward by one of the advocates of protectionism was that if a country is specialized in only a few economic sectors, this will put the country's economy at risk, and as such measures should be put in place by the government to ensure that the infant and senile industries are protected and are able to preserve their competitiveness (Kahler 1985). While this seems to be a reasonable argument, it deviates from the theory of comparative advantage which encourages nations to concentrate on developing production in the sectors where they have a comparative advantage over other countries in the international space (Costinot & Donaldson, 2012). Especially in terms of the availability, accessibility and cost of factor inputs.

Different countries may have different objectives for protectionism such as the preference for industrial protectionism, and the preference for agricultural protectionism (Johnson, 1965). As can be inferred from the names, industrial protectionism is the tendency to institute policies which protect the local industrial sector, and agricultural protectionism refers to protecting the local agricultural sector. Developed economies with advanced industrial sectors would prefer agricultural protectionism, while developing economies with growing industrial sectors would lean towards industrial protectionism (Johnson, 1965). This may not always be the case, as some developing countries may also seek to protect their agricultural sector, while simultaneously putting measures in place to ensure the growth of the industrial sector.

Research Methodology

This study adopted mixed-methods research design, integrating both quantitative and qualitative approaches to examine the impact of the Nigeria-Niger border closure on food security in Jigawa State. The mixed-methods

approach is appropriate because it allows for the collection of numerical data on the effects of border closure (quantitative) while also capturing contextual insights, perceptions, and experiences from key stakeholders (qualitative). The population of 4,500 individuals was identified as the study population. The target population includes personnel from the following organizations: All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN), Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS), Nigerian Customs Service, Market Traders' Association of Nigeria, National Boundary Commission, National Union of Road Transport Workers, Jigawa State Ministry of Agriculture and Jigawa State Ministry of Commerce and Industry. A detailed breakdown of the population distribution across these organizations is presented in the table below.

Table 3.1 Table showing the Target Population

S/N	Selected Organizations	Population
1	All Farmers Association of Jigawa state	988
2	Nigeria Immigration Service Jigawa state	762
3	Nigerian Custom Service Jigawa state	671
4	Market Traders' Association of Jigawa state	1063
5	National Boundary Commission Jigawa state	77
6	National Union of Road Transport Workers	789
7.	Jigawa State Ministry of Commerce and Industry	56
8.	Jigawa State Ministry of Agriculture	85
	Total	4,500

Source: Field Survey, November 2025

Sampling plays a critical role in research by enabling the reduction of a large population into a manageable subset, thereby facilitating timely and efficient data collection within the constraints of the research timeframe. The total population of the six organizations is 4,500 people, based on selected organizations.

To determine an appropriate sample size representative of this population, the study adopted the sample size determination formula developed by Yamane (1967), which is widely used in social science research. The formula is stated as follows:

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

Where

N= is the required sample size

e = is the level of precision

$$\begin{aligned}1 &= \text{unit constant} \\ n &= \frac{4,500}{1+2,301(0.05)^2} \\ n &= \frac{4,500}{1+4,500(0.0025)} \\ n &= \frac{4,500}{1+11.25} \\ n &= \frac{4,500}{11.26} \\ n &= 399.6447 \\ n &= 400 \text{ (sample size)}\end{aligned}$$

In the study, purposive sampling technique were adopted. Purposive sampling according to Ajay & Micah (2014) is a sampling technique that helps the researcher to use his or her discretion and judgment in identifying the population to be studied. It is based on the conviction that the population that the researcher identified gave accurate data that were used for this research. Based on the study objectives, the researcher required adequate qualitative data that describes the Nigeria-Niger Border closure and Food Security in Jigawa state, Nigeria during the period under review. The study data was collected from both primary and secondary sources.

(a) Primary Sources

For the purpose of the research, questionnaire and in-depth interview method were used as the primary instruments of data collection. The questionnaire was used for this research work has multiple options for the questions where respondents were provided with option of answers to choose only the right answer to their desires.

(b) Secondary Source

The secondary source involves the use of existing but related data, which were produced by earlier researchers for the purpose of contributing their quota to the problem under study. The secondary data for this study include textbooks, journals, magazines, newspaper, and reports from relevant articles, online literature on border closure and food security.

The data collected were presented, analyzed, and interpreted through the use of frequency distribution tables and simple percentage. This became necessary in order to give vivid description of all relevant variables in the survey conducted. The preference for this method will due to the pattern in which the questionnaires were framed such that nominal data can be easily converted into percentages.

Data Presentation

This chapter analyzed the data collected for the study. A total of 400 questionnaire were administered. Meanwhile, 342 questionnaire were retrieved while 58 were not recovered at the time of collection by the researcher. To this end, the 342 questionnaire were used for the analysis.

Table 4.1: Gender of Respondents

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	223	65%
Female	119	35%
Total	342	100%

Source: Field Survey, November, 2025

Table 4.1 above shows that 223 respondents representing 65% were male while 119 respondents representing 35% are female. This distribution indicates that male participants constituted the majority of the surveyed population. The gender imbalance in respondent representation may reflect underlying socio-economic dynamics, such as male-dominated participation in cross-border trade and agricultural activities, which are likely to be directly affected by the Nigeria-Niger border closure. This demographic composition is relevant to the study as it provides context for interpreting perceptions and experiences related to food security challenges in the aftermath of the border closure.

Table 4.2: Age Range of Respondents

Age of Respondents (in Years)	Frequency	Percentage
18-25	65	19%
26-35	68	20%
36-45	45	13%
46-55	59	17%
56-65	47	14%
66 and above	58	17%
Total	342	100%

Source: Field Survey, November, 2025

Table 4.2 above shows the age distribution of respondents, 65 respondents representing 19% fall between the ages of 18-25 years, 68 respondents representing 20% are between the range of 26-35 years, while 45 respondents representing 13% fall within the age range of 36-45 years, 59 respondents representing 17% are between ages of 46-55 years, 47 respondents representing 14% fall between ages of 56- 65, while 58 respondents representing 17% are of the age of 66 years and above. Therefore, the highest respondents are between 46-55 years of age. This implies that the respondents are fairly distributed across different age

categories, with the majority falling within the economically active age group of 26–35 years. This suggests that a significant proportion of the respondents are mature individuals who are actively involved in farming, trading, agricultural production, and other economic activities affected by the Nigeria–Niger border closure. The presence of respondents across various age groups also enhances the reliability of the study, as opinions were obtained from both younger and older individuals with diverse experiences regarding food security challenges in Jigawa State.

Table 4.3: Level of Education of Respondents

Highest Qualification	Academic	Frequency	Percentage
Secondary		47	14%
NCE/ND		71	21%
B.Sc./ HND		181	53%
M.Sc. and above		43	13%
Total		342	100

Source: Field Survey, November 2025

Table 4.3 presents the distribution of respondents according to their highest academic qualifications. The data indicates that 47 respondents, accounting for 14% of the total sample, have attained a secondary school education. Additionally, 71 respondents (21%) possess either a National Certificate in Education (NCE) or a Higher National Diploma (HND), while a significant majority 181 respondents, representing 53% hold bachelor's degrees. Furthermore, 43 respondents, constituting 13% of the sample, reported acquiring other forms of educational qualifications not explicitly categorized. These findings reveal that the largest proportion of respondents are degree holders, suggesting a relatively high level of formal education among the study population. This educational profile may influence their awareness, perceptions, and adaptive responses to the implications of the Nigeria–Niger border closure on food security.

Data Analysis and Results

Table 4.5: Whether closure of the Nigeria-Niger border impacted food availability in Jigawa State, Nigeria.

Options	Frequency	Percentage
Significantly reduced food availability	154	45%
Moderately reduced food availability	104	30%
No impact on food availability	54	16%
Increased food availability	30	9
Total	342	100

Source: Field Survey, November 2025

As presented in Table 4.5, the majority of respondents (154 individuals, representing 45%) indicated that the closure of the Nigeria-Niger border significantly reduced food availability. Additionally, 104 respondents (30%) reported a moderate reduction in food availability, while 54 respondents (16%) stated that the border closure had no impact on food availability. Conversely, a minority of 30 respondents (9%) believed that the closure led to an increase in food availability.

The data above clearly suggest that the border closure has had a considerable negative impact on food availability, contributing to heightened food insecurity and economic hardship for a substantial portion of the population. To corroborate these findings, a follow-up interview was conducted on 2nd October, 2025, with two key informants: Mallam Sani Mohammed and Mrs. Amina Idris, who serve as Secretary and Financial Secretary respectively of the Market Traders' Association of Nigeria. Both participants expressed significant concerns over the consequences of the border closure. They highlighted that it initially triggered price surges and severe disruptions in supply chains particularly for imported staples such as rice and vegetable oil. They further noted sharp increases in the prices of onions, maize, and livestock. Moreover, they emphasized that many traders experienced financial losses due to their dependence on cross-border commerce, including both buyers and supply inputs.

Table 4.6: Believe of respondents on the main effect of the border closure on food prices in Jigawa State, Nigeria

Option	Frequency	Percentage
Significant increase in food prices	210	62%
Moderate increase in food prices	79	23%
No change in food prices	46	13%
Decrease in food prices	7	2%

Source: Field Survey, November 2025

Table 4.6 illustrates respondents' perceptions regarding the effect of the Nigeria-Niger border closure on food prices. 210 respondents (62%)

identified a significant increase in food prices as the primary effect of the border closure. Meanwhile, 79 respondents (23%) perceived a moderate increase in food prices. In contrast, 46 respondents (13%) indicated that there was no noticeable change in food prices, implying that the border closure had no discernible impact on food availability or pricing in their experience. A minority of 7 respondents (2%) reported a decrease in food prices, which may suggest either limited awareness of the border policy's implications or localized market anomalies.

The data suggests that the closure of the Nigeria-Niger border has had a substantial impact on the domestic food market, primarily through the restriction of cross-border trade and importation of essential food items such as rice, beans, and tomatoes. This restriction has created supply deficits, thereby driving up the prices of basic food commodities and exacerbating food insecurity.

Table 4.7: The border closure affected food imports in Jigawa State, Nigeria

Option	Frequency	Percentage
Severely affected	219	64%
Moderately affected	57	17%
Slightly affected	64	19%
No effect at all	2	0.58%
Total	342	100

Source: Field Survey, November 2025

From Table 4.7 shows 219 respondents, representing (64%), believed that the border closure severely affect Nigeria's food imports. This dominant response suggests a perception that the closure may not have had as critical an impact on food imports as might have been expected, 57 respondents with (17%) felt the border closure moderately affected food imports. These respondents acknowledge an effect but do not perceive it as overwhelming. The respondents may have noticed some disruptions in food imports, but not to a degree that caused major concerns. This could indicate limited shortages or a noticeable rise in food prices without significant long term consequences, 64 respondents with (19%) indicated that the border closure had a slight effect on food imports. This group recognized minor impacts, perhaps related to temporary supply chain disruptions. They likely felt that the government or market adjusted quickly, allowing food imports to stabilize after the initial disruption, while 2 respondents with (0.58%) opined that the border closure had no effect at all on food imports. This minimal response suggests that a very small been either unaffected by the food import situation due to localized conditions or believed that Nigeria's food supply was entirely self-sustaining. From the above analysis the data reflects that Nigeria's border closure had an impact on food imports, but the majority of respondents believed the effect was severe. This could be attributed to the high in prices of rice.

Table 4.8: Presentation of Empowerment on the primary Challenge in addressing Food Security in Jigawa State, Nigeria

Option	Frequency	Percentage
Poor infrastructure	51	15%
Inadequate government policies	70	20%
Corruption and mismanagement	178	52%
Climate related challenges	43	13%
Total	342	100

Source: Field Survey, November 2025

As presented in Table 4.8, 51 respondents representing 15% identified poor infrastructure as a primary constraint to food security. This includes the degradation of critical support systems such as rural road networks, storage facilities, and irrigation systems elements essential for effective food production and distribution. Inadequate infrastructure often leads to post-harvest losses, increased transportation costs, and restricted market access, thereby exacerbating food insecurity. 70 respondents representing 20% cited inadequate government policies as a major contributing factor to food insecurity. 178 respondents representing 52% identified corruption and mismanagement as the foremost impediments to achieving food security in Nigeria. This result highlights the prevalent perception that institutional inefficiencies and the misappropriation of resources significantly hinder efforts aimed at ensuring sustainable food access. Corruption can distort the equitable distribution of agricultural inputs and impede the effective implementation of food-related policies and funding mechanisms. These findings suggest that unless governance issues are systematically addressed, initiatives aimed at improving food security are likely to encounter serious setbacks. Furthermore, 43 respondents representing 13% attributed food insecurity to climate-related challenges. This reflects growing awareness of the adverse effects of climate change on agricultural productivity, including erratic rainfall, flooding, prolonged droughts, and other extreme weather events. These climate-induced disruptions call for the adoption of climate-resilient agricultural strategies and sustainable land-use practices to mitigate their long-term impacts on food systems.

Table 4.9: Rate of Effectiveness of Government Interventions in Ensuring Food Accessibility Jigawa State, Nigeria

Option	Frequency	Percentage
Very effective	10	3%
Somewhat effective	93	29%
Ineffective	201	59%
No intervention in place	38	11%
Total	342	100

Source: Field Survey, November 2025

Table 4.9 presents respondents' perceptions regarding the effectiveness of government interventions in ensuring food accessibility. 10 respondents representing (3%) rated the interventions as very effective, indicating a minimal proportion of the population perceives government efforts as highly successful. 93 respondents representing (29%), perceived government efforts as somewhat effective. 201 respondents representing (59%) classified the interventions as ineffective. This figure reflects a deep-seated dissatisfaction with current governmental strategies, pointing to possible failures in the design, implementation, or sustainability of food security policies. The extent of this dissatisfaction underscores the urgent need for reform in policy execution and accountability mechanisms. 38 respondents representing (11%) stated that no intervention is in place. Collectively, the data reveal a general lack of confidence in the government's ability to ensure food accessibility. The fact that 70% of respondents (combining those who believe interventions are ineffective and those who perceive no intervention) express negative views reinforces the conclusion that current policies are falling short of achieving their objectives. Even among those who recognized some level of effectiveness, the sentiment suggests that government actions are insufficient to tackle the scale of the food accessibility challenge.

Table 4.10: Opinion of Respondents on most Significant Obstacle the Government faces in Ensuring Food Security in Jigawa State, Nigeria

Option	Frequency	Percentage
Border control and trade barriers	200	58%
Lack of agricultural investment	27	8%
Political instability	103	30%
Population growth	12	4%
Total	342	100

Source: Field Survey, November 2025

Table 4.10 presents the perspectives of respondents regarding the most significant challenges faced by the government in achieving national food security. 200 respondents representing (58%) identified border control and trade barriers as the predominant obstacle. This finding suggests that restrictive trade policies, tariffs, and inefficient border management practices are perceived to hinder the importation of critical agricultural inputs and the export of surplus food. These constraints may significantly limit the country's ability to respond effectively to food shortages, particularly within the context of a globalized economy. Thus, the respondents underscore the necessity of reforming trade and border policies to facilitate smoother agricultural exchange and enhance food system resilience. A proportion of 27 respondents representing (8%) highlighted the lack of agricultural investment as a critical barrier. Following this, 103 respondents representing (30%) attributed food insecurity primarily to political instability. This reflects concerns that frequent changes in government leadership, internal conflicts, and weak institutional frameworks disrupt policy continuity and undermine

long-term agricultural planning. Such instability creates uncertainty that deters both domestic and foreign investment in agriculture, further weakening the sector's capacity to meet national food demands. 12 respondents representing (4%) regarded population growth as the primary contributor to food insecurity.

Table 4.13: How border closure affected Cross-Border Food Trade between Nigeria and its Neighboring States

Option	Frequency	Percentage
Severely disrupted trade	231	67%
Slightly disrupted trade	97	28%
No effect on trade	13	4%
Improved trade relations	1	0.29%
Total	342	100

Source: Field Survey, November 2025

From table 4.13 shows that a significant majority of 231 respondents with (67%) felt that the border closure severely disrupted cross-border food trade between Nigeria and its neighboring states. This reflects the widespread negative impact the border closure had on regional trade, particularly in the food security, which heavily depends on fluid cross-border exchanges for supply and demand. The severe disruption likely caused shortages, increased food prices, and strained trade relations. A small proportion of 97 respondents with (28%) believed the border closure only slightly disrupted trade. This group might have been less affected or might represent areas or sectors that found alternative means to mitigate the impacts, such as informal trade routes or localized food production. Meanwhile, 13 respondents with (4%) opined that there was no effect on trade, suggesting that in certain areas, trade may have been resilient or that their economic activities were not significantly influenced by the closure. This could also suggest a minority that relied less on cross-border trade for their food supply. Interestingly, a single respondent with (0.29%) mentioned improved trade relations, which could indicate a unique case where the border closure led to internal efficiencies or growth in local production that compensated for cross-border trade losses.

Table 4.14: Strategies the Government Should put in place Prioritize to address Food Security Challenges due to the border closure in Jigawa State, Nigeria

Option			Frequency	Percentage
Increase production	local	food	212	62%
Strengthen agreements	regional	trade	23	7%
Provide subsidies for farmers			78	23%
Improve management	border	control	29	8%

Total	342	100
--------------	------------	------------

Source: Field Survey, November 2025

From Table 4.14 shows that 212 respondents with (62%) believe that the government should prioritize increasing local food production suggests widespread support for strengthening domestic agricultural capacity. This view likely stems from the recognition that relying on imports makes the country vulnerable to external shocks like border closures, by boosting local production, the country can reduce its dependence on imports and enhance its food security the government may need to invest in infrastructure, technology, and policies that support farmers in increasing crop yields, diversifying production, and improving agricultural sustainability. This could also involve better access to resources like land, water, seed, and agricultural knowledge. 78 respondents with (23%) cited subsidies for famers believe that financial assistance can mitigate the impact of border closures by directly addressing farmer's production costs. Subsidies could help farmer's punches equipment, fertilizers, and seeds, which would enable them to increase output despite economic constraints. 23 respondents with (7%) believe that strengthening regional trade agreements should be the priority. This lower percentage indicates that most respondents do not see international trade as a sufficient or immediate solution to the food security challenge posed by border closures. Instead, they may be more focused on internal solutions. While 29 respondents representing (8%) who favor improved border control management as a solution to food security challenges appear to focus on better enforcement of the existing closure rather than better border management would reduce smuggling and illegal trade, which could undermine food security efforts.

Table 4.15: Opinion on Policies that have most Effectively Mitigated the Negative Impacts of the Nigeria-Niger Border Closure on food security in Jigawa State, Nigeria?

Option	Frequency	Percent age
Reducing import tariffs on food	62	18%
Increasing agricultural investments	54	16%
Developing strategic food reserves	78	23%
Improving infrastructure for food distribution	80	23%
All of the above	140	41%
Total	342	100

Source: Field Survey, November 2025

Table 4.15 shows that 62 respondents with (18%) believe that lowering import tariffs could alleviate the pressure on food availability, especially when domestic production is insufficient. This reflects the view that in a globalized market, easing restrictions on imports can enhance access to

affordable food. 54 respondents with (16%) the emphasis on investing in agriculture, highlights the recognition that strengthening domestic production capabilities is essential for long term food security. Respondents who support this policy likely see the potential for self-sufficiency and reduced dependence on import. 80 respondents with (23%) advocate for building food reserves, including the importance of preparedness for supply disruptions. Strategic reserves can act as buffers during crises, ensuring food availability in times of security, which is particularly important in the context of border closures. While 140 respondents with (41%) believes that all these policies together would be most effective suggests and= understanding that food security is a complex issue that requires addressing multiple challenges simultaneously. Reducing tariffs can provide immediate relief, but long term food security depends on both boosting domestic agricultural capacity and ensuring that food can be stored and distributed efficiently. This highlights the need for policymakers to adopt a comprehensive, integrated approach when designing strategies to mitigate the impact of border closures on food security.

Discussion of the Findings

This study findings demonstrates that the Nigeria-Niger border closure has significantly disrupted food availability by curtailing cross-border trade, especially in Northern Nigeria, where reliance on imports from Niger was substantial; these disruptions were compounded by existing structural weaknesses in Nigeria's agricultural sector, including insecurity, climate change, and poor infrastructure. This supports the view of Yusuf et al. (2021), who assert that cross-border trade contributes significantly to food security in Nigeria's northern region and that disruptions to this trade route severely impact market dynamics and household food access. Evidence from Table 4.5 shows that 45% of respondents believed that the closure significantly reduced food availability, aligning with Adedokun and Bello (2020), who documented a 30% drop in staple food availability in Northern Nigeria following border restrictions. Furthermore, the border closure significantly disrupted food availability and regional trade initially, though it gradually encouraged local production in some areas.

Findings indicate a sharp rise in food prices and inflation following the closure, with supply chain interruptions leading to heightened market pressures and disproportionate impacts on low-income households, thereby exacerbating existing vulnerabilities in food access and nutrition. This finding supports Ayanlade and Radeny (2020), who highlight how supply chain disruptions whether from climate events or trade policies trigger inflation in agricultural markets. As shown in Table 4.8, food price inflation placed immense pressure on household incomes, with low-income families particularly affected. Oladipo and Ogundele (2023) confirm that inflation driven by food scarcity disproportionately impacts vulnerable populations, pushing many into deeper levels of food insecurity and malnutrition.

The study reveals that Nigeria's heavy dependence on food imports left it highly susceptible to trade policy shocks, with respondents emphasizing that import restrictions triggered food scarcity comparable in scale to climate-induced agricultural disruptions. This findings show that the border closure severely hampered food imports, especially for essential items. Respondents in Table 4.7 perceived a high degree of impact, underscoring how reliant Nigeria is on imported food from Niger and other West African countries. This vulnerability is echoed in the work of Ezeaku et al. (2022), who argue that Nigeria's heavy dependence on food imports exposes its food system to regional and global shocks, including those induced by trade policy changes. Their study suggests that border closures can cause as much harm to food access as climate-induced disruptions.

Government interventions were widely perceived as ineffective, due to poor implementation and political interference; systemic governance issues and trade policy constraints further hindered food security, underscoring the need for agricultural innovation, investment in infrastructure, and adoption of climate-resilient practices to enhance long-term resilience. This widespread dissatisfaction reflects the inefficacy of intervention programs such as the Anchor Borrowers' Programme and fertilizer subsidies, which are often marred by political interference and poor implementation (Ogunyemi & Usman, 2023). The perception that policies have failed to reach grassroots farmers or significantly improve food supply is consistent with the observations of Adamu and Mohammed (2024), who argue that Nigerian agricultural policies often lack continuity, inclusivity, and accountability.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The Nigeria- Niger border closure despite its security-related motivations, has failed to adequately consider the long-term consequences on food security. While the Nigerian government aimed to address illicit activities, the decision inadvertently disrupted agricultural trade and exacerbated food insecurity across the country. The significant rise in food price and reduced access to key agricultural commodities has disproportionately affected the most vulnerable populations, leading to widespread dissatisfaction with the border policy. One of the main reasons for this dissatisfaction stems from the inadequacy of alternative policies or measures to mitigate the disruption of food supply chains. The government's efforts to boost local agricultural production, though commendable, did not yield sufficient results to offset the adverse effects of the closure. Programs to improve local farming faced challenges such as inadequate funding, poor infrastructure, and adverse climatic conditions, which limited their effectiveness in achieving food self-sufficiency. Furthermore, border communities that relied on trade for their livelihoods faced economic hardships, amplifying the dissatisfaction with the closure.

Additionally, the border closure highlighted the government's failure to strike a balance between addressing security concerns and maintaining food security. Rather than adopting a more nuanced and targeted approach to combat smuggling, the blanket closure of the border proved counterproductive. The food shortages that resulted from the closure increased poverty levels, particularly in northern Nigeria, where dependence on Niger for food imports was high. Based on the research findings, the following recommendations are made.

- i. The Federal Government and Jigawa state of Nigeria should adopt a controlled and technology-driven border management system instead of complete border closure. Modern surveillance equipment, electronic monitoring systems, and enhanced customs operations should be deployed at border points to curb smuggling and illegal activities while allowing the legitimate movement of food commodities and agricultural inputs. This approach will help reduce disruptions in food supply chains and ensure continuous access to food in border communities.
- ii. The Federal Government and Jigawa State Government should establish and strengthen strategic grain reserves and food buffer stock systems across the state. These reserves should be regularly replenished and effectively managed to provide emergency food supplies during periods of border closure, food shortages, or market disruptions. This will help stabilize food prices and protect vulnerable households from food insecurity. The government should increase support for local farmers through the provision of subsidized fertilizers, improved seeds, irrigation facilities, farm machinery, and extension services. Special agricultural intervention programmes should be implemented in Jigawa State to boost food production and reduce dependence on imported food items from neighboring countries. Increased local production will enhance food availability and improve food security among households.
- iv. Security agencies should intensify border patrols and intelligence gathering to address smuggling, banditry, and other trans-border crimes without disrupting legitimate economic activities. Community-based security initiatives involving local leaders, traders, and farmers should also be encouraged to improve border management and food supply security. Government should expand social safety net programmes such as conditional cash transfers, food assistance schemes, school feeding programmes, and livelihood support initiatives targeting vulnerable households in Jigawa State. These interventions will help cushion the adverse effects of food price increases and improve household food consumption during periods of economic hardship. Also, governments of Nigeria and Niger Republic should strengthen diplomatic and economic cooperation through bilateral agreements on border management, agricultural trade, and food security. Joint border management committees and trade facilitation mechanisms should be established to promote mutual benefits while addressing security concerns.



REFERENCES

- Abegunde, O., & Fabiyi, R. (2020). Nigeria-Benin Border Closure: Implications for Economic Development in Nigeria. *Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences Studies*, 2(4), 56-65.
- Abdullahi, A. & Abdulrazak, S.I. (2021). The Political Economy of Border Closure: Nigeria's Border Closure from 2019-2021. *International journal of research and innovation in social science*, 4(5);781-784
- Abia, B., (2020). *Economic implication of the recent border closure*, January 21st, 2020, <http://cseaafrica.org/economic-implications-of-the-recent-border-closure/>, accessed 26th September, 2021.
- Ejiogu, A., Okechukwu, O., & Ejiogu, C. (2020). Nigerian budgetary response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its shrinking fiscal space: financial sustainability, employment, social inequality and business implications. *Journal of Public Budgeting, Accounting & Financial Management*.
- Eze, N., & Onuoha, G. (2020). Reassessing Border Closure Policy and Food Security in Nigeria. *Development Spectrum*, 9(1), 31-47.
- FAO. (2021). *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021*. Rome: FAO.
- Fajgelbaum, Pablo D, Pinelopi K Goldberg, Patrick J Kennedy, and Amit K Khandelwal. (2020). 'The Return to Protectionism'. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 135 (1): 1-55.
- Falayi, K. (2019). *Why Nigeria has Restricted Food Imports*. BBC Africa Business. www.bbc.com.
- Adeyemi, K. A., & Salihu, M. A. (2020). *Border closure and food security in northern Nigeria*. *Journal of Development Studies*, 12(3), 45-61.
- Mohammed, A., Garba, U., & Sadiq, I. (2020). *Cross-border trade restrictions and food supply in Nigeria*. *African Economic Review*, 8(2), 77-93.
- National Bureau of Statistics (2020). *Selected food price watch report*. Abuja: NBS.
- Bello, S. A., & Ahmad, R. (2021). *Trade policy and household food security in northern Nigeria*. *Nigerian Journal of Social Policy*, 6(1), 101-118.
- Yusuf, A. A., & Lawal, T. O. (2021). *Border closure and food market integration in Nigeria*. *Journal of African Trade*, 9(2), 55-70.

- IFPRI (2021). *Border policies and food security in West Africa*. Washington DC: IFPRI.
- National Bureau of Statistics. (2020). *Consumer Price Index Report*. Abuja: NBS.
- NIRSAL. (2021). *Impact Assessment of Border Closure on Agricultural Investment*. Abuja: NIRSAL Publications.
- Guo, R. (2015). *Cross-border Management: Theory, method and Application*. Springer Publishers, USA.
- Hoffman, I.K. & Melly, P. (2015). Nigeria's booming borders. The drivers and consequences of unrecorded trade. London: Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House.
- Hawley, C. (2005). "In Altar, Teeming with Transients, Small Town Shares Arizona's Conflicts over Impact of Illegal Immigration." *The Arizona Republic* (Phoenix) (August 21), A1, A20.
- Nwachukwu, B. (2022). *Protectionism and Trade Policy in West Africa: The Nigerian Experience*. Enugu: University of Nigeria Press.
- Weber, A. (2012), Boundaries with Issues: Soft Border Management as a Solution? Available at: <http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/iez/08869.pdf>
- VonUexkull, E. & Shui, L. (2014). Implementing the ECOWAS common tariff: Challenges and opportunities for Nigeria. The World Bank Africa Trade Practice Working Papers.
- Wahab, B. (2019). Emefiele says cybercrime, kidnapping will reduce if border remain closed for 2 years.
- Yahaya, A., & Danjuma, K. (2021). The Socioeconomic Cost of Border Closure on Nigeria's Informal Sector. *Journal of Social and Development Issues*, 11(4), 67-82.
- Yusuf, A., & Okonkwo, C. (2022). Livelihoods and Cross-Border Trade: Effects of Nigeria's Border Closure Policy. *Journal of International Development Policy*, 14(4), 85-102.
- Zartman, W. I. (2010). Identity, Movement and Response. In W. I. Zartman (ed.) *Understanding Life in the Borderlands: Boundaries in Depth and in Motion*. Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press.