



EVALUATING THE EFFICACY OF SECURITY INITIATIVES: A STUDY OF THE LAGOS STATE SECURITY TRUST FUND IN CRIME REDUCTION AND SECURITY INVESTMENT

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Abstract

The increasing inadequacy of state institutions to ensure public security globally has necessitated exploring alternative crime-prevention strategies. This study focuses on the Security Trust Fund (STF) introduced in Lagos State, Nigeria, in 2007. The STF aims to enhance public safety through investments in modern security equipment and fostering collaboration between state and community efforts. This paper examines the effectiveness of the STF in the Lagos East Senatorial District, addressing its impact on crime control and investment in security equipment. A survey design and quantitative research methods were employed, targeting residents aged 18 and above in Lagos East Senatorial District. A sample of 222 respondents was selected using purposive, convenience, and simple random sampling techniques. Data was collected through structured questionnaires and interviews, with regression and chi-square analysis. The regression analysis revealed a significant relationship between the STF and the reduction of insecurity, with an R-value of 0.062 and a significant F-ratio of 8.827. The chi-square analysis indicated that the STF significantly improved investment in security equipment, with a calculated X^2 of 22.534. The STF has significantly enhanced crime control and investment in security equipment in Lagos East Senatorial District. By fostering collaboration between state and community efforts, this community-based strategy offers a sustainable and resilient approach to crime prevention, suggesting its potential applicability in regions with similar security challenges.

Keywords: Security Trust Fund, crime control, investment in security equipment, Lagos, Efficacy.

Introduction

The bustling metropolis of Lagos, Nigeria's economic powerhouse, is a testament to urban development and security challenges, resulting in High rates of crime and insecurity. From armed robbery and kidnapping to cultism and ritual killings, the region has become a hotbed of criminal activity that threatens the safety and well-being of its residents. As crime continues to evolve in complexity and scope, the establishment of the Security Trust Fund has emerged as a pivotal initiative in the fight against criminal activities.

Table 1: Crime Statistics for Lagos

S/N	Crime Rate Statistics 2017 to 2020	Percentage
1	home burglary and theft	62.10
2	Mugging	68.71
3	Car theft	60.42
4	Theft from parked cars	65.41
5	Attacks and communal clashes	60.78
6	Homophobic, religious and ethnic attacks	47.28
7	Drug addiction	64.49
8	property crimes such as vandalism and theft	69.64
9	assault and armed robbery	72.45
10	corruption and bribery	87.66
11	Homicide	38.32

Source: NUMBEO (2020).

The capacity of state institutions to prevent these crimes and ensure public security is increasingly overstretched and inadequate globally (Achumba, Ighomereho & Kpo-Robaro, 2013). This has necessitated the exploration of alternative or complementary crime-prevention approaches. One promising alternative is the promotion of community-based crime-prevention strategies (Fennelly & Perry, 2018). While it may seem unconventional, leveraging community efforts alongside state measures can provide a more effective and comprehensive approach to crime prevention. This collaborative effort is often more sustainable and resilient, particularly in regions where state capacity is limited.

In Africa, where state capacity has historically been insufficient, communities have developed robust mechanisms to cope with and recover from conflicts (Nubani, L., Fierke-Gmazel, H., Madill, H., & De Biasi, A. (2023); Vanguard News Nigeria, 2024). For instance, Nigerian communities affected by the Boko Haram insurgency and Acholi communities in northern Uganda, devastated by a 20-year war, have demonstrated remarkable resilience and determination to rebuild. These experiences suggest that community-based strategies can play a critical role in crime prevention and recovery in contexts where state interventions alone are inadequate (Trojanowicz, Trojanowicz, & Moss, 1975; Nwagboso, 2012).

The prevalence of crime globally undermines social cohesion and the sense of safety, impacting societies economically, socially, physically, and psychologically. In Nigeria, the rising crime rates have exposed the weaknesses of the centrally controlled security apparatus. Despite various initiatives, crime prevention strategies have often been ineffective, leading to a state of helplessness and calls for alternative solutions such as the establishment of state police and Security Trust Funds (Akinyetun, Ebonine & Ambrose, 2023).

This study focuses on the Security Trust Fund (STF) introduced in Lagos State, Nigeria, in 2007 as a novel approach to crime control. The STF aims to enhance public safety by investing in modern security equipment and fostering collaboration between state and community efforts (Vanguard News Nigeria, 2024).

This paper examines the effectiveness of the STF in Lagos East Senatorial District, specifically addressing the following research questions.

Understanding the practical impact of the STF is crucial, as crime significantly affects local and foreign investments, quality of life, social capital, and the relationship between citizens and the state. Filling the knowledge gap on the efficacy of such community-based interventions is essential for informing policy and enhancing crime-prevention strategies in contexts with limited state capacity. This study aims to provide valuable insights into the potential of the Security Trust Fund to improve security outcomes in Lagos East Senatorial District, contributing to broader discussions on innovative crime-prevention mechanisms in Nigeria and beyond.

Objective of the study

The general objective of this study is to examine the Security Trust Fund and Crime Control in Lagos East Senatorial District of Lagos State, Nigeria. Specifically, this study seeks to:

1. Examine the Security Trust Fund and insecurity reduction in Lagos East senatorial district.
2. Determine if the Security Trust Fund improves investment in security equipment in the Lagos East senatorial district.

Hypothesis of the study

The study is, however, guided by the following hypotheses

1. Ho: There is no significant relationship between the Security Trust Fund and insecurity reduction
2. Ho: There is no significant relationship between the Security Trust Fund and improvement investment in security equipment.

Theoretical framework

Structural-functionalist of Radcliff-Brown

Alfred Radcliffe-Brown existed between January 17th, 1881 and October 24th, 1955. He was an English social anthropologist who developed the theory of Structural Functionalism.

Radcliffe-Brown focused attention on social structure. He suggested that a society is a system of relationships maintaining itself through cybernetic feedback, while institutions are orderly sets of relationships whose function is to maintain the society as a system. Radcliffe-Brown, following Auguste Comte, believed that the social constituted a separate "level" of reality distinct from those of biological forms and inorganic material. Furthermore, he believed that explanations of social phenomena had to be constructed within the social level. He believed that individuals were replaceable, transient occupants of social roles (Goldschmidt 1996).

He investigated what principles account for different structures which in turn leads to function which is to investigate how structures maintain society. For him, function is the role of structure in social continuity. He stated that the social system (society) has a functional unity: All parts work together well enough to maintain society. (Turner, 1991). Functional analysis provided a novel alternative; Analyze structures such as kinship or activities such as rituals in terms of their functions for maintaining the society. It was Radcliffe-Brown who sustained the Durkheimian

tradition by emphasizing the importance of integrative needs and then analyzing how structures operate to meet such integrative requisites.

However, the crux of this theory is that social structure is an abstraction based on social relationships with which the society can be analyzed into three main levels individuals, institutions and sub-systems. Like society, in applying this assumption to security and crime prevention, the agency was established as part of the social system of structure to mitigate crime as it affects individuals in the social system which is seen as a functional, structural whole with different parts. This implies that aspects of the funds aid significantly through a network of sub-systems to report and invest in security equipment that will in turn cause individuals to be subject to the norms, values, and folkways which are integral parts of the institutional system of crime and social control and other behavioural patterns (Adetula. Adutula & Fatusin. 2010).

Materials and Methods

This research employed a survey design, complemented by a quantitative research method. It focused on the Lagos East Senatorial District, which comprises five Local Government Areas: Ikorodu, Ibeju-Lekki, Epe, Kosofe, & Somolu. The study aimed to assess the perceptions and attitudes of residents aged 18 and above in this area. The population of Lagos East, using projected data from the Lagos Bureau of Statistics for 2019 at a Growth rate of 3.2% is 4,626,483. The population of interest for this study was residents aged 18 and above in the Lagos East Senatorial District. However, due to the unavailability of age-specific data, the study sample comprised 222 persons. The total sample size for the study stands at two hundred and twenty-two (222). This was derived from using the Survey Monkey sample size determinant technique at a 95 per cent confidence level and a margin of error of 6 per cent. The sampling technique uses a sample formula and computer software for easy access and reduced error, the researcher made use of the computer software. Out of the 267 questionnaires sent out, 222 amounting to an 87% return rate, were returned and subsequently used for analysis. To select the sample, a combination of purposive, convenience, and simple random sampling techniques was employed. The sample was purposively selected from two Local Government Areas within the Lagos East Senatorial District. This approach ensured that the selected participants were representative of the diverse demographic characteristics and perspectives within the district. Convenience sampling was also used to select participants who were easily accessible and willing to participate in the study. Additionally, a simple random sampling technique was employed to further enhance the representativeness of the sample.

The research instruments used for data collection included structured questionnaires and interviews. These instruments were designed to gather information on the participants' perceptions, attitudes, and behaviours related to the study topic. The data collected were analyzed using statistical techniques such as descriptive statistics, regression and chi-square analyses to conclude the population of interest.

Result

To examine the relationship between the Security Trust Fund and crime control in the Lagos East Senatorial District of Lagos State. The regression model statistics, as detailed in Table 1 (a, b, and e), were used to assess this relationship. The model summary revealed an R-value of 0.062,

indicating a significant relationship between the Security Trust Fund and the reduction of insecurity (crime control). The adjusted R square value of 0.000 suggests that the Security Trust Fund is a predictor of varying degrees of importance in curbing the crime rate in Lagos East Senatorial District. Further analysis using the ANOVA model demonstrated a significant F-ratio of 8.827, compared to a critical F-ratio of 3.053 at a 0.05 level of significance and 1 degree of freedom. This significant F-ratio indicates that the model is a good fit for the data. Additionally, the model coefficients showed a t-value of 14.428. Since the calculated values exceeded the tabulated values, it implies that the Security Trust Fund has a significant impact on crime control in the Lagos East Senatorial District of Lagos State, Nigeria.

Table 1 Regression analysis for the security Trust fund and insecurity reduction

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.062 ^a	.004	-.001	.35759

a. Predictors: (Constant), Security Trust Fund

b. Dependent Variable: reduction of insecurity (crime control)

ANOVA^a

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	.106	1	.106	8.827	.364 ^b
	Residual	27.109	212	.128		
	Total	27.215	213			

a. Dependent Variable: reduction of insecurity

b. Predictors: (Constant), Security Trust Fund

coefficients^a

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients			t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	1.085	.075		14.428	.000
Security Trust Fund	.032	.035	.062	.909	.364

a. Dependent Variable: reduction of insecurity

We employed chi-square analysis to check the relationship between the security Trust Fund and improved investment in security equipment in the Lagos East senatorial district of Lagos state. Accept the analysis if the critical value is greater than the calculated value at 0.05 level of significance and 1 degree of freedom. Since the calculated X^2 of 22.534 is greater than the essential X^2 of 3.84 we hereby reject the H_0 and accept the H_1 , therefore implies that the Security Trust Fund significantly improves investment in security equipment in Lagos East senatorial district of Lagos state, through the provision of batons, customized patrol vehicles, Car Trackers, Pen Recorders, CCTV and provision of Uniforms.

Table 2: Chi-square Analysis of Security Trust Fund and investment in security equipment * Security Trust Fund Cross tabulation

		Security Trust Fund			Total	
		Yes	No	Indifferent		
Investment in security equipment	Provision of batons	OF	21	49	27	97
		EF	21.8	48.5	26.7	97.0
	Security vehicles	OF	4	9	12	25
		EF	5.6	12.5	6.9	25.0
	Car trackers	OF	3	12	2	17
		EF	3.8	8.5	4.7	17.0
	Pen recorder	OF	9	9	0	18
		EF	4.0	9.0	5.0	18.0
	CCTV	OF	7	12	18	37
		EF	8.3	18.5	10.2	37.0
	Provision of uniforms	OF	4	16	0	20
		EF	4.5	10.0	5.5	20.0
	Total	OF	49	107	59	214
		EF	48.0	107.0	59.0	214.0

Discussion of findings

From the two hypotheses tested, the result revealed that there is a significant relationship between funding and crime control in the Lagos East senatorial district. These findings agree with the earlier studies done by Dambazau, (2007) who observed that it is preposterous that in Nigeria, there is no adequate will and genuine intention by any government to rid the society of criminal tendencies and manifestations, as people in the leadership positions are also guilty of corruption and crime. The establishment of the Security Trust Fund in Lagos state has been a potent measure that has in recent times helped to reduce insecurity in the state.

It is also the anticipation, recognition and appraisal of crime risk and the initiation of some action by the Trust Fund to reduce criminal activities or acts that promote security."(Robert, 2003). Crime control involves the idea of solving crime problems, arresting suspects, prosecuting and incapacitating offenders (Okunola, 2002). The control of crime, therefore through Security Trust Funds, deals with the immediate situation and rests on the discovery of past criminal behaviour. Okunola (2002) further observed that the capacity of the police and other security agencies in Nigeria to effectively prevent and control crime has often been called into question. Many have lost faith in security agencies because of the incessant increase in the crime rate. According to Okunola (2002), crime prevention involves the disruption of mechanisms, which cause crime events. In other words, the central question to crime prevention is how to disrupt the causes of crime. Through the network system created by the security trust fund, crime prevention was necessitated. Findings highlight the critical role of the Security Trust Fund (STF) in enhancing crime control and improving investment in security equipment within the Lagos East Senatorial District. The results of the regression analysis indicate a significant relationship between the STF and the reduction of insecurity, suggesting that the STF is an effective tool in curbing crime in this region. The adjusted R square value, although modest, points to the STF's varying degrees of

importance as a predictor of crime reduction, which is further substantiated by the significant F-ratio and model coefficients. These statistical indicators confirm that the STF has a notable impact on improving public safety and security in Lagos East.

Moreover, the chi-square analysis reveals that the STF significantly enhances investment in security equipment. The provision of modern security tools such as batons, customized patrol vehicles, car trackers, pen recorders, CCTV cameras, and uniforms has been significantly boosted by the STF. This investment in security infrastructure is critical in addressing the logistical and operational needs of security agencies, thereby enhancing their capacity to prevent and control crime effectively.

In the context of Lagos State, the STF has been instrumental in addressing the unique security challenges faced by the Lagos East Senatorial District. Lagos State, with its status as Nigeria's economic hub, faces distinct security issues, including high rates of violent crime, property crime, and urban gang activities. The implementation of the STF in 2007 was a strategic move to bolster the state's crime prevention efforts amidst growing concerns over the inadequacy of the centrally controlled security apparatus. Adegoke (2016) argued that the establishment of the STF as part of Lagos State's response to rising crime was long overdue because it would be an effective means to reduce the crime rate in Lagos.

The success of the STF in Lagos East can be attributed to its focus on fostering collaboration between state and community efforts. By engaging local communities in security initiatives, the STF has harnessed local knowledge and resources, thereby creating a more resilient and sustainable approach to crime prevention. Ogbari et al. (2022), emphasize the role of trust and community ownership in fostering the success of any government endeavour, especially in business and security. Shittu, et al (2023) emphasize the need for active participation of local Government, civic and business leaders, and public and private agencies in the security apparatus of a community. This collaborative model not only enhances trust between the public and security agencies but also promotes community ownership of security initiatives, which is crucial in regions with limited state capacity.

The investment in modern security equipment funded by the STF has been pivotal in modernizing the security infrastructure in Lagos East. The availability of advanced tools and technologies has improved the efficiency and effectiveness of security operations, leading to better crime detection, response, and prevention. For instance, the deployment of CCTV cameras and car trackers has enhanced surveillance capabilities, while the provision of customized patrol vehicles has improved mobility and response times for security personnel. This is supported by Ambali, and Araba(2020) and Adama(2017), who reported that investment in modern equipment by the Lagos State Security Trust fund has been crucial in modernizing the security infrastructure of Lagos State. This has helped in improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the Nigerian police in Lagos State.

The positive outcomes observed in Lagos East suggest that the STF model could be replicated in other regions facing similar security challenges. By leveraging community-based strategies

alongside state interventions, it is possible to create a more comprehensive and effective approach to crime prevention.

Study Implications

The findings of this study have significant implications for policy and practice in the realm of crime prevention and public security in Lagos and potentially other regions of Nigeria facing similar challenges.

The success of the Security Trust Fund (STF) in Lagos State underscores the need for the government to consider expanding this model to other regions within Nigeria. Policymakers can draw valuable insights from the STF's implementation, especially its focus on collaboration between state and community efforts.

The positive outcomes observed in Lagos suggest that the STF model can be replicated in other regions with similar security challenges. Policymakers and security agencies should consider scaling this model to enhance public safety and crime prevention efforts across Nigeria.

The significant impact of STF on crime reduction and investment in security equipment highlights the importance of continuous funding and support for such initiatives. This calls for sustained governmental and private sector investment to ensure the effectiveness and longevity of the STF and similar programs.

The STF's success highlights the potential benefits of collaboration between the public and private sectors in addressing security challenges. Policies that encourage private sector involvement in funding and supporting security initiatives can lead to more comprehensive and sustainable crime prevention strategies.

Conclusion

This study has provided an in-depth evaluation of the Lagos State Security Trust Fund (LSSTF) in reducing crime and promoting security investment in Lagos State. Findings suggest that the LSSTF has been effective in reducing crime rates in the state, particularly in areas such as kidnapping, armed robbery, and cultism. The fund's security infrastructure, training, and equipment investment has also improved security outcomes.

Our analysis highlights the significance of the LSSTF in promoting security effectiveness through concrete partnerships with critical stakeholders, especially the private sector.

The study further shows that targeted actions may result in increased safety and community trust in law enforcement, highlighting the Lagos State Security Trust Fund's substantial influence on crime reduction and the efficacy of security spending. In the end, the results highlight how crucial strategic financing is to creating a safe atmosphere.

Recommendations

From the analysis above, the following recommendations are made.

1. To have a crime-free society, the government needs to increase its funding or ensure public and private partnerships with security operatives so that modern and adequate equipment to combat crime can be acquired.
2. The government as a matter of urgency should speedily address the bill on security trust funds with the National Assembly.
3. If crime is to be reduced to the barest minimum, the government must take proactive measures towards poverty alleviation.
4. Intelligence gathering is a veritable tool for crime prevention and control. Members of the public should be willing and ready to give information to support intelligence gathering

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