Conflict and Food Insecurity: An Exploration of the Situation in Bunkpurugu-Yunyoo District of Northern Ghana

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Abstract

Food insecurity has been a major problem confronting developing nations including Ghana as it results in considerable health, social and psychological consequences, which invariably undermine human security. This study sought to explore how inter-ethnic conflicts affect household food security in the Bunkpurugu-Yunyoo District in the Northern Region of Ghana, which in contemporary times has witnessed occasional destructive conflicts notably between the Konkombas and the Bimobas. Given the objective of the study, both purposive and quota sampling techniques were used in selecting 107 respondents from four conflict prone communities namely Bimbagu, Jimbale, Kpemale and Nankpanduri. Data gathered through semi-structured interview between June, 2015 and December, 2015 in an exploratory study revealed that food insecurity in the study locality has been partly facilitated by the burning of farms, including food stock, food thefts, and insecurity and induced migration resulting in low economic activities. This paper therefore advocates for continuous dialogue, swift intervention into conflict situations by the police, as well as periodic education and training for traditional and opinion leaders in conflict detection and management as a way of managing disagreements among the various (ethnic) groups in the study locality without the recourse to violence.

Keywords: Bunkpurugu-Yunyoo District, Inter-ethnic conflict, Conflict resolution, Household, Food security.