
The Management of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Camps and the Socio-Economic Development of IDPs in Benue North-West District of Benue State, Nigeria

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Abstract

This paper examined the management of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camps and the socio-economic development of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Benue North-West District of Benue State, Nigeria. Related literature were reviewed and the Emergency Management Theory was adopted. The study relied on questionnaire and interview to elicit information from respondents while secondary data was collected from textbooks, journals, documentaries and other related documents. A total of 270 respondents from both the IDPs and camp officials was earmarked for the study. 250 questionnaires were administered to Internally Displaced Persons while four (4) camp officials from five different IDPs camps were interviewed. The respondents were purposively selected from five (5) official IDPs camps within the study area. The data collected from the both methods were analyzed using frequency, mean and standard deviation. The study found out that farmers/herder's crisis is the major cause of displacement of persons in the study area. It was also revealed that there is reduction in cases of sexual abuse as well as violation of women and girl-child across IDPs camps. It was also established that Starvation and malnutrition are highly experienced by the IDPs. Other findings of the study include; the lack of adequate and befitting accommodations, only primary schools are made available, poor basic services and sanitation facilities such as clean water, toilets, handwashing stations and waste management, the absence of business opportunities for IDPs, lack of exposure to social activities such as games, dance competitions, drama and other social engagements, no provision of security personnel and surveillance systems in the IDPs camps, no livelihood

support to IDPs, lack of provision for social amenities such as electricity, pipe borne water, viewing centers, schools and shelter to Internally Displaced Persons in IDPs Camps in Benue North-West District. However, there is intervention by government and humanitarian agencies to IDPs camps in the area. The government has also put in place programmes to provide food and nutritional needs of the Internally Displaced Persons in IDPs Camps as well as long-term measures put in place by the government for IDPs return and reintegration into the society in Benue North-West District. On challenges faced in the management of IDPs, the study revealed that limited resources, overcrowding, hostile host communities, health issues and absence of security personnel are challenges to the effective management of IDPs Camps in Benue North-West District. Deriving from the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made; government should always respond to the socio-economic needs of the IDPs, there should be proper monitoring team for routine check of the activities of camp officials for enhanced accountability, the organizing of sensitization campaigns for host communities on the need to be accommodating to IDPs to give them a sense of belonging and the government should explore all avenues that will warrant the safe and secured return of the IDPs back to their homes of origin.

Keywords: Management, Internal Displacement, Internally Displaced Persons, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Camps, Socio-Economic Development, Benue North-West District

Introduction

Nigeria has over the years been caught in the web of security challenges. This security depletion in the country is orchestrated by an array of ugly factors ranging from; rising wave of terrorism, militancy, kidnapping, banditry, herders/farmers clashes and communal conflicts among others. It is in the light of this that Omoraka, Ogoh & Yusufu (2022, p.3) submits that, “the alarming rate of insecurity in Nigeria especially the Northern region of the country has increased the crime rate and terrorist attacks on different parts of the country leaving people in the North in a deplorable situation”. This scenario has led to the displacement of victims of such attacks from their homes with attendant exposure to vulnerable conditions together with corresponding consequences to it. Thus, the desire of every individual is to achieve for oneself a better living condition. This quest is a life expectancy that covers spheres such as political, social, economic and other areas that are capable of guaranteeing better life for man.

However, the ever-increasing security challenges in Nigeria informed by the issues mentioned, have rendered a good number of citizens homeless and without permanent base for stability and pursuit of their development desires. This ugly development has led to the creation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camps across designated areas in the country. Hence, an indication of Governments response to the plight of its citizens who are victims of high degree of attacks that lead to their displacement from their permanent homes. The socio-economic development of the individuals of such camps becomes an issue of concern, as, despite governments registration of concern through agencies such as the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) which is the body tasked with the responsibility of managing emergency situations of such nature in Nigeria with the various States Government establishing State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMA), to do same at the state level.

Benue State has been one among the states in Nigeria that is hit with high wave of internal displacement of persons as a result of security challenges emanating out of herders/farmers conflicts, communal conflicts, kidnappings, banditry and other natural disasters such as flood,

etc. This is why Bassey and Nta (2022) averred that, the complex nature of crisis has led to corresponding increase in the number of IDPs camps in Benue State thereby necessitating humanitarian interventions by both government and humanitarian organizations. Such camps created by the government for as long as the displaced persons live there becomes their temporary homes and another starting point for their development in all spheres of life. Thus, Eweka & Olusegun (2016) noted that Internally Displaced Persons, upon arrival at new but temporary locations, have basic needs such as shelter, food, portable water, health care, education, security, clothing and information among others which must be met in order to survive. According to the Benue State Emergency Management Agency (2023), the number of those displaced in the state stand at over 427,814 people. The victims who suffer most are from vulnerable groups such as children, the aged and women who are exposed to various severe socio-economic challenges of varying degree.

Although, the Benue State Government through the State Emergency Management Agency and humanitarian organizations have made concerted effort in addressing the plight of the internally displaced persons through the provision of camps and relief materials, there are still alleged challenges in these camps such as over-crowding, poor sanitation, rape cases, joblessness, poor social engagements, poor economic standings and insecurity which sometimes gets the IDPs traumatized and lead to even death. This is an indication that, it is not just by series of interventions by SEMA and humanitarian bodies that the socio-economic development of such individuals can be achieved, but how effective the camps are managed to meet the desires of the internally displaced.

The socio-economic development of the individuals of such camps becomes an issue of concern, as the IDPs have continued to experience the disproportionate volume of socio-economic challenges like starvation, illness, lack of access to education and even morality among others. All these bows down to how effective the concerned authorities respond to these challenges. Thus, a pointer to the thematic preoccupation of this study with the focus on IDPs camps in Benue North-West District of Benue State-Nigeria.

It is against this background that, the study seeks to do an assessment of management's disposition in the management of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) for enhanced socio-economic development in Benue North-West District.

Objectives of the study

The general objective of this research is to assess the management of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Camps and Socio-economic Development of Internally Displaced Persons in Benue North-West District of Benue State.

More specifically, the study pursues the following objectives:

1. To determine the cause(s) of internal displacement of persons in Benue North-West district
2. To identify the socio-economic challenges faced by Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Benue North-West District.
3. To determine the effectiveness of government in the management of IDPs Camps in the study area
4. To unfold the challenges faced in the management of IDPs camps in the study area
5. To suggest possible ways of enhancing effectiveness in the management of Internally Displaced Persons Camps (IDPs) in the study area.

Research questions

1. What are the causes of internal displacement of persons in Benue North-West district of Benue State?
2. Are there socio-economic challenges faced by Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Benue North-West District?
3. How effective is government in the management of IDPs Camps in the study area?
4. What are the challenges faced in the management of IDPs camps in the study area?
5. Identify possible ways of enhancing effectiveness in the management of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Camps in the study area.

Methodology

This study adopted descriptive Survey research design where data was quantitatively and qualitatively sourced about the study population. The target population of the study comprised all IDPs camps in Benue North-West District. A total of five (5) Camps and three hundred respondents were purposively selected for the study. 50 respondents from the IDPs category and 4 from the camp official's category totalling 54 respondents each of the five (5) camps selected from the study area constitutes the sample for the study. Data for the study were generated from both primary and secondary sources. For primary source, the researchers made use of 250 questionnaires administered on the IDPs and interview conducted on the sampled 20 camp officials to elicit information. Textbooks, Journals, Seminar papers and other related write-ups constitute the secondary sources for data collection. The data collected was analysed using frequency, mean and standard deviation.

Conceptual clarification

This section of the paper is devoted to clarification of key concepts in line with their usage in this research.

Management: Management is a pivotal activity that borders on planning organizing, leading and controlling resources for that accomplishment of earmarked goals and objectives. It is a systematic process of pursuing organizational goals through effective and efficient planning of both human and material resources. According to Kinicki & Williams (2018) cited in Kaehler & Grundei (2019, p.10), management is defined as the pursuit of organizational goals efficiently and effectively through integrating the works of people through planning, organizing, leading and controlling the organizations resources.

Internal Displacement: The African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa also known as the Kampala Convention (2009) defines internal displacement as the involuntary or forced movement, evacuation or relocation of persons or groups of persons within internationally recognized state borders. Internal displacement is any situation where people are force to leave their homes of residence.

Internally Displaced Persons: This entails a situation of forceful eviction of people from their homes of originality occasioned by violence of various sorts though still within the boundaries of the same country. Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are people or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence as a result of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border. Omoraka, Ogoh & Yusufu (2022) noted that IDPs are persons who have been compelled to desert their homes by natural disaster or violent conflicts from their homes and traditional support structure and have not crossed the borders of their countries.

They are victims of various kinds of injustices, violent attacks orchestrated by their own government or others against them.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Camps: These are temporary residence of persons who, out of insecurity are forced to desert their permanent homes. They are places of refuge and settlement relief for victims of violent attacks or natural environmental disasters. There are official and unofficial camps depending on the legal backup in the establishment of such a place. That is to say, camps established by the government are designated official camps while those where victims of displacement only seek places of accommodation at the mercy of the host communities are unofficial camps.

Socio-Economic Development: This relates to the positive transformation of the socio-economic living condition of a people. It is that qualitative improvement on the educational, social amenities, social programmes or engagements, employment openings, business opportunities and a general improvement of the economic status of the people.

Benue North-West District: Benue North-West District is one of the three geo-political delineations of Benue State. It is popularly known as zone 'B' senatorial district among zone's 'A' and 'C', and has a total of seven local government areas under it. The local government areas comprise of Buruku, Gboko, Gwer East, Gwer West, Guma, Makurdi and Tarka local government areas. All the local governments are from the Tiv axis of the State.

Literature review

Causes of Internal Displacement of Persons in Nigeria

One of the trending issues in Nigeria and other parts of the world today is that of displacement of persons from their places of originality or residence. People have had to desert their homes in the event of security breakdown or natural disaster. A plethora of reasons are held responsible for the rising wave of displacement of persons world-wide. According to Amaobi and Nukoaka (2022), the proliferation of arms and arm groups in Nigeria, violent conflicts are not unusual within the State and this situation has displaced people from their communities and houses. More precisely, Amaobi and Nukoaka (2022, pp. 2-3) submits thus, "whereas several factors could be responsible for the displacement of a people, most of the currently displaced Nigerians are displaced as a result of violence; intra-ethnic, terrorist, religion etc and a few who are confronted by flooding".

To Adamu and Abdullahi (2019), the unleash of violence on innocent rural poor by non-state actors principally forms the major causes of internal displacement of people that are camping in various camps. On their part, Iorkosu and Sadiq (2023) assert that in the past decade, an alarming number of people in Nigeria had been forced to desert their homes as a result of conflict, natural or economic disasters as well as other threats. This is quite true considering the frequent experience of security challenges that always leave people with no option than to abandon their places of residence.

Equally too, Mnguty, Alaci and Anofi (2021, p. 3) noted thus, "In Benue State for instance, intercommunal violence resulting from disputes over land for grazing and farming has been happening for years but the situation has worsened in the past two years". They further submit that the scarcity of land, population explosion and environmental changes have increased the level of violence, which has forced thousands of people to flee their villages.

Socio-economic Challenges of Internally Displaced Persons

The high rate of displacement of persons poses serious challenges on the socio-economic wellbeing of the victims. Such challenges are mostly caused by the failure to respond to the basic needs of the IDPs or activities of host communities of the IDPs camps. Whether from any or either of these factors, Internally Displaced Persons are faced with various challenges bordering on their standards of living.

In affirmation, Akawu, Adibe & Luka (2023, p. 82) asserts thus, “Over the years, IDPs in Nigeria have faced many challenges. These include poor housing in IDP camps, hunger, a gross violation of their rights, and many more challenges”.

On their part, Obaji and Eze (2019) confirmed that, the socio-economic challenges faced by the internally displaced persons range from gender and child-based hostility, separation from family, exploitation, and detention with no consideration of the rule of law. In their study, Onoja, Ogedengbe, Sanni, Abiodun, Ayorinde and Okeme (2020) cited in Omoraka, Ogoh & Yusufu (2022) interrogated the challenges facing the IDPs and found that hunger, lack of clothing regular sickness and lack of drugs are the major challenges confronting IDPs. According to Akuto (2017), the challenges facing the IDPs are insecurity, trauma, bitterness, malnutrition, hunger and starvation, deprivation of human rights and sexual transmitted diseases among others.

On their part, Odey and Ushie (2018) as cited in Amaobi and Nukoaka (2022) maintained that the internally displaced in Nigeria are exposed to several challenges among which include unhealthy environment, unavailability of regular food, clothing, poor access to healthcare, poor educational services, insecurity and several others. This view of theirs is further re-echoed by Sambo (2017) who opined that, the closure of medical facilities and the non-presence of medical doctors who left as a result of insecurity, scarcity of drugs and medical facilities has resulted to serious health challenges among Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria especially in the North. Therefore, with the increase in population of Internally Displaced Persons in camps, sanitation facilities and water have become insufficient to take care of the needs of IDPs. He further stated that, there is no waste management and a lack of provision for important utilities like drinkable water and power supply to these people. The state of poor hygiene and sanitation explains the outbreak of diseases (Sambo, 2017). As a result of these, children, women and the aged remain the most helpless as a result of gender and sexual based violence. Cases of sexual diseases, infant marriage, forced marriage; sexual harassment, rape, and uncontrolled birth occasioned by high infant and maternal mortality are evident in displaced persons camps. All of these problematic situations hamper the psychological stability of the displaced persons in camps.

The Management of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Camps

The Nigerian framework for the protection and management of the internally displaced persons is vested on the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). This is an agency established through Act 12 as amended by Act 50 of the 1999 constitution to manage disaster in Nigeria. The agency has been tackling disaster-related issues through the establishment of concrete structures. It offers material assistance to Internally Displaced Persons no matter the cause of displacement. At the state level, various states in Nigeria have established State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMA) to manage internally displaced persons in their respective States. The Nigerian government, through the National Emergency Management Agency and other State-created organizations, are responsible for caring for the need of the internally displaced persons living in camps provided by government, by giving

them access to food, shelter, healthcare, and education among other things. These agencies collaborate with international organizations to meet the needs of the internally displaced persons in their various camps.

Challenges of Internally Displaced Persons Camp Management

The task of managing the internally displaced persons camps in Nigeria is a great one. As captured by Ejiofor & Oni (2017), National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the various State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMAs) are task with the responsibility of carrying out the duty of managing the IDPs camps through the provisions of food, shelter, healthcare, and education.

However, the management of internally displaced persons camps in Nigeria has been dwarfed by certain challenges. For instance, in Benue State according to Benue State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) in 2023; those displaced were about 427,814 people. And most affected were the likes of women, children, and the aged which were exposed to severe socio-economic challenges. Even though there are concerted efforts put in place by the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), through the provision of camps in various locations of the state, the management of these IDPs camps is been faced with several challenges. These challenges include; overcrowding, poor sanitation, rape, joblessness, insecurity in the IDPs camps and to some extent death. These challenges are worrisome as to some extent; they lead to the fleeing of the internally displaced persons from their camps. In a similar vein, Obaji and Eze (2019) cited in Omoraka, Ogoh & Yusufu (2022) noted that poor funding, lack of disaster management equipment and facilities are the major challenges faced by emergencies management bodies in carrying out their disaster management functions.

Findings of the research conducted by Eweka and Olusegun (2016), revealed a number of challenges associated with IDPs management in Nigeria which are categorized into two, viz; structural and cultural challenges. The results indicate that funding (inadequate); corruption and overlapping/insufficient policies are the principal structural challenges of IDPs management while the host community is the most critical cultural challenge. To them, funding is the most critical among the challenges, followed by corruption. Funding, although IDPs management agencies get funds mainly through revenue, international aids and donations, the funds they get are more often than not insufficient to meet the increasing needs of IDPs in Nigeria. Lack or insufficiency of funds results in deficiency in manpower, commodities, infrastructure, equipment and mobility.

Corruption is equally pointed as another major challenge impeding effective management of IDPs in Nigeria. They maintained that corrupt office holders in government, and in IDPs management agencies alike, have on several occasions been found diverting funds and relief materials meant for IDPs in the camps for their personal purposes, a situation that reduces the efficiency of the agencies concerned in managing IDPs. They further found out that government aid (money/relief) got diverted and never gets to the IDPs themselves, equally traced corrupt practices to camp officials and leaders of IDPs who may also convert and sell commodities provided for IDPs thereby contravening principle 24(2) of the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

Internally Displaced Persons Camps in Benue North-West District

Benue State especially the North-West District has witnessed various forms of attacks from herdsmen, banditry, communal conflicts and chieftaincy tussle among others on different occasions. This has caused people and their family members to leave their

communities thereby settling in Internally Displaced Persons' camps at different parts of the district. These victims leave their farm lands, their houses, and other belongings to the camps for safety. IDPs camps in the district are shown below:

Table 1: SEMA report on official IDPs Camps in Benue North-West District

S/N	Names of Camp	Local Government Areas	No. of IDPs
1	Abagena camp	Makurdi Local Government Area	8,210
2	Daudu Camp 1	Guma Local Government Area	5,851
3	Daudu Camp 2	Guma Local Government Area	20,172
4	Gbajimba Camp	Guma Local Government Area	29,500
Total			63,333

Source: Benue State Emergency Management Agency, 2024

Table 2: SEMA report on unofficial Camps in Benue North-West District

S/N	Name of Camps	Local Government Area	No. of IDPs
1	Abagena community	Makurdi Local Government Area	7,691
2	Agan Camp	Makurdi Local Government Area	4,798
3	Agan Community	Makurdi Local Government Area	5,517
4	Daudu Community	Guma Local Government Area	43,344
5	FHA	Makurdi Local Government Area	4,353
6	Gbajimba Community	Guma Local Government Area	28,875
7	Gwer West Camp	Gwer West Local Government Area	60,243
8	Ichwa camp	Makurdi Local Government Area	9,587
9	LGEA NASME	Makurdi Local Government Area	23,151
10	LGEA Tyodugh	Makurdi Local Government Area	5,672
11	NEPA Quarters	Makurdi Local Government Area	8,008
12	Tionsha Camp	Makurdi Local Government Area	10,500
Total			211,739

Source: Benue State Emergency Management Agency, 2024.

Theoretical Framework

This study adopts Emergency Management Theory as its theoretical framework. The theory was developed in 2004 by an American expert, David McEntire in emergency administration. It is a theory drawn from various academic fields such as sociology, psychology, public administration, and engineering to understand the cause, effects and solutions of complex and uncertain situations. The theory as formulated by McEntire was in a bid to provide a pragmatic, proactive and reactive paradigm for the management of destructive and disruptive events in a society such as banditry, terrorism and conflicts among other related security challenges.

The theory postulates that in every society or territory, destructive and disastrous issues such as attacks, floods and earthquakes among others are inevitable and are capable of causing negative effects which will threaten its existence. It further holds that, if the human species and society do not want to be likened to the extinct animal species, then they should strategize ways which are proactive, reactive and post-emergency occurrence measures and plans which can combat disastrous emergencies and their negative effects head-on. The Emergency management theory is all about how to prevent, prepare, respond, and recover from disaster and emergencies.

The emergency management theory by McEntire as captured by Omoraka, Ogoh and Yusufu (2022, p. 7), has the following assumptions;

- i. Disastrous emergencies are inevitable in the society and have the tendency of causing unrecoverable effects unless responsible, immediate and urgent measures are taken in the dimension of preventing, responding, recovering and mitigating issues of these emergencies;
- ii. Unless these measures and strategies of executing them are put in place, the society is doomed to be marred by unrecoverable emergency situations that will threaten its existence;
- iii. If the human species and society do not want to be likened to the extinct animal species, then they should evolve proactive, reactive and post-emergency occurrence measures and plans that will combat disastrous emergencies and their effects head-on;
- iv. The measures to be adopted should be in line with the nature of the disaster and must conform to the fundamental principles such as preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation.

The theory like a coin with two sides, have been criticize by some scholars for neglecting the concept of sustainability which have to do with measures to save the present and protect the future and; the concept of vulnerability and resilience as they will help to understand and describe the true nature of emergencies.

Regardless of these criticisms meted on the emergency management theory, it has still stand tall among theoretical frameworks in the explanation of the issue under discourse. As captured by the theory, disasters whether natural or man-made are inevitable in any given society or territory (Benue North-West District inclusive), and these disasters are capable of causing damage and harm which threatened the territorial stability. These disasters if occurred and had continued to go on without an appropriate measure in the management of its devastating effects on mankind, such territory or district is bound to have a decrease in all aspect of human existence in a long-run.

The central theme of the theory is the preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation which are fundamental in the analysis of the management of internally displaced persons camps towards the socio-economic development of the IDPs in Benue North-West District. It is about the process where government agencies established, put in strategies and plans in disaster situations on how to manage them.

Thus, the agencies and institutions in Benue state charged with the responsibilities of managing disasters such as internal displacement of people are to basically formulate and execute the well-defined strategies towards efficient and effective disaster prevention, preparation, mitigation and response in order to achieve the socio-economic development of those affected, and are living in the IDPs camps as internally displaced persons. The essence

is to help the internally displaced persons return back to normal lives or better living standard with a focus on providing them with social amenities such as water, food, and good shelter as well as educational facilities. It is about efforts to rebuild them with strategies to have a sense of belonging in the society through the provision of basic necessities of life to enhance their socio-economic development.

Application of the theory to the study

From a critical analysis and assessment of the emergency management theory in the management of internally displaced persons camps and socio-economic development of the IDPs in Benue State with Benue North-West District as the study area, there is no denying the fact that, displacement of persons in Benue State is an emergency situation because it surfaces as a result of attacks meted on people in various areas of the state which have conform with the baseline of the disaster over the years. Government at various levels of Benue State are to make use of the theoretical principles and assumptions of the theory towards the management of internally displaced persons camps in the state especially in Benue North-West district with regard to areas of preparedness. An important aspect of preparedness borders on sensitization of the people on how to protect themselves and maintain safe in the camps. And the experience in Benue state due to attacks by herdsmen and armed bandits, which are some of the most prevailing security challenges that leads to displacement of people into various IDP camps.

The government of Benue state through its agency; Benue State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), need to prepared the State especially Benue North-West District on how to tackle challenges in the IDPs camps through the maintenance of essential social goods to the affected persons in camps.

In the principle of response to the management of internally displaced persons camps towards socio-economic development, Benue State Government in collaboration with non-governmental organizations needs to provide all social amenities in camps such as schools, health facilities, and adequate and befitting housing for the IDPs as it is fundamental for their social and economic development especially in Benue North West District. In the application of the principle of recovery, the government through its agencies has to embark on provision of unconditional transfer of financial resources to those in the camps as IDPs to aid their involvement in businesses so as to overcome their social and economic trauma through the income earned from the businesses. This will equally be brought about consolations and encouragement for them to manage their well-being in the IDPs camps in Benue North-West District. The theory at this phase is projecting ways to help the IDPs to be restored back to their normal state of being and have a better living condition.

In sum, the emergency management theory as propounded by David McEntire in 2004 is a theoretical framework that best suit or more apt for application in this study on “the management of internally displace persons camps and socio-economic development of IDPs in Benue North-west District” as its principles are like guides when handling disasters of such magnitude to enhance proper administration of victims to achieve socially and economically.

Presentation and analysis of results

Data were analyzed using frequency, mean and standard deviation to answer research questions. The remark on the mean is based on the range of the mean as follows: 0.01-2.49 indicates disagree while 2.50 -4.00 indicate agree.

Table 3: Socio-Demographic Analysis of Respondents.

Attributes	Frequency (N =245)	Percentage (% = 100)
Gender		
Male	121	49.39
Female	124	30.61
Age		
18-30	60	24.49
31-50	113	46.12
50 and above	72	29.39
Marital Status		
Single	48	19.6
Married	150	61.2
Divorced	9	3.7
Widow/widower	38	15.5
Educational status		
Primary	95	38.78
Secondary	95	38.78
HND/First Degree	11	4.49
Masters & above	2	0.81
None	42	17.14
Occupational Status		
Farming	165	83.67
Business	34	13.88
Civil servant	4	1.63
Others	2	0.82
Total	245	100

Source: Field survey, 2024

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Research Question 1: What are the major causes of internal displacement of persons in Benue North West District?

Table 4: *The Causes of Internal Displacement of Persons in Benue North West District (n=245)*

S/No	Source	Frequency	Percentages (%)
1	Farmer/Herders crises	237	96.73
2	Indigenous communal crises	8	3.27
3	Flood	0	0

Source: *Field survey, 2024*

Table 4 indicates that majority (96.73%) of the respondents agreed that the major cause of internal displacement of persons in Benue North West District is Farmer/Herders crises. Only a few (3.27%) opined that the major cause of internal displacement of persons in Benue North West District is indigenous communal crises with flood not considered a cause of internal displacement of persons in Benue North West District.

In an interview with camps officials across various camps in the study area, a 27-year-old respondent Mr. Azende Festus who is the camp chairman and an IDP at Abagena Camp, along Lafia road, North-Bank Makurdi who got interviewed on the 1st July, 2024, at 2:23pm-3:00pm stated that, he hails from Mbabai council ward of Guma local government area of Benue State and to him; the major cause of internal displacement is as a result of crisis emanating from the open grazing been by the Fulani herders in the state especially the north west district. He further stated that, they were at their various places, doing their farm work but, when the open grazing prohibition law was formulated and implemented, it marks the beginning of crisis between the herders and farmers. As stated by him, the herders were using force to graze on their farmland causing damage to their crops. To him, the resistance by the local communities' members and the insistence of the herders to graze on farmland is the main cause of crisis which leads to displacements of persons in Benue north-west district.

Also, a 40-year-old respondent from Abagena camp Justine Swende, who also serve as the camp youth leader in an interview on the 1st July, 2024 at about 3:01pm-3:33pm stated that, the main cause of internal displacements of persons in Benue north-west district is herders/farmers' conflict. He further emphasis that, there is high level of conspiracy regarding the conflict between the herders and farmers in the Benue north west district as security personnel are doing enough to put down an end to the crisis which have left people out of their ancestral homes for year now.

In their separate responses on the 1st of July at 3:34pm-4:00pm, at Abagena IDP camp in Makurdi, Mr. Joseph Orwough aged 34, who is a staff of State Emergency Management Agency serving at Abagena IDP camp and Jacob Nyin aged 49, an IDP at Abagena camp who also serve as the camp secretary stated that, the cause of internal displacements in Benue north west district is the issue of herders/farmers crisis.

In a similar view, a 48-year-old IDP Mr. Msuega Ubete from Mbadwem community in Guma Local Government Area, who is also the camp secretary at Ichwa IDP camp in Makurdi on 2nd July, 2024 at about 10:12am-11:00am re-echoed on the crisis between herders/farmers as the cause of internal displacements in Benue north-west district. To him, the resistance from farmers regarding the open grazing on their farmland by the herders which cause destruction on their crops is the cause of conflict which displacement of persons is the result.

In their separate reactions on the causes of internal displacements of persons in Benue North-West district, a 30 year old Ichwa camp IDP Iba Emmanuel Aondoaseer from Mbawa community in Guma local government area and Emmanuella Chagu, aged 30 years, who is a staff of State Emergency Management Agency serving as camp manager at NEPA Quarters IDP camp in Makurdi on 2nd July, 2024 at 2:55pm-4:19pm both averred that, the cause of internal displacements of persons in Benue north-west district is the crisis between herders/farmers in the district.

In the same development, some of the IDPs in Daudu camp 1 and 2, such as Terver Aondoaseer aged 34, Terwase Iortim aged 55 and John Kaase aged 43 noted on the 1st July, 2024 at 1:15pm, 2:12pm and 4:23pm that, the cause of internally displacement is as result of farmers/herders' conflict in the district which causes a lot of challenges to them. They further emphasize that; it was as a result of the enactment of anti-open grazing and prohibition law that they are experiencing the displacement in the Benue North-West District due the resistance from the marauding herders.

In a similar assertion, an IDP by name Jonathan Tarwa aged 47 from Ichwa camp on the 2nd of July, 2024 at 10:33am stated that, the cause of internal displacement is not far from herders/farmers crisis in the district which has cause their forceful eviction from their ancestral homes.

At NEPA Quarters camp, some of the respondents Mr. Hindan Tor aged 32, Vivian Kwaghbee aged 76 and Fabian Gugur aged 40, in separate interviews conducted on the 2nd of July, 2024, at 2:11pm, 2:30pm, and 4:33pm respectively opined that, the cause of internal displacements in Benue North-West District is nothing but the crisis between farmers and herders conflicts.

In the same vein, the chairman of Baka IDP camp, on the 5th July 2024, Mr. Sunday Asheke aged 43, at about 5:47pm stated that, the cause of internal displacement is as a result of farmers- herders' conflicts in various locations in the district.

Research Question 2

What are the socio-economic challenges faced by internally displaced persons in Benue North West District?

Table 5: *Socio-economic challenges Faced by Internally Displaced Persons in Benue North West District (n=245)*

S/No	Item Description	SA	A	D	SD	X	SD	Remark
1	There is high rate of sexual abuse as well as violation of women and girl-child across IDPs camps in Benue North-West District.	42	38	41	124	1.99	1.16	Disagree
2	Starvation and malnutrition are highly experienced by IDPs camps in IDPs in Benue North-West District	151	66	15	13	3.45	.83	Agree
3	There are adequate and befitting accommodation for IDPs in their camps across Benue North-West District.	18	30	163	34	2.13	.74	Disagree

4	There are schools made available for the internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Benue North-West District.	60	92	26	67	2.59	1.13	Agree
5	Government at all levels has made available adequate shelter for internally displaced persons in camps in Benue North-West District.	19	57	85	84	2.04	.94	Disagree
6	Basic services and sanitation facilities such as clean water, toilets, handwashing stations and waste management are put in place by government to ease the plight of IDPs in Benue North-West District.	68	66	74	37	2.67	1.04	Agree
7	Internally displaced persons in Benue North-West District camps are exposed to opportunities to pursue business of their choices to boost their economic status.	59	29	95	62	2.35	1.10	Disagree
8	Internally displaced persons in Benue North-West District camps are exposed to social activities as games, dance competition, drama and other social engagements.	30	54	98	63	2.21	.96	Disagree

Source: Field survey, 2024

Table 5 shows that items 2, 4 and 6 recorded Mean of 3.45, 2.59 and 2.67 and standard deviation of 0.83, 1.13 and 1.04 respectively indicating agreed while item 1, 3, 5, 7 and 8 recorded mean values of 1.99, 2.13, 2.04, 2.35 and 2.21 with standard deviation of 1.16, 0.74, 0.94, 1.10 and 0.96 which indicates disagreed. Table 2 reveals that the respondents agreed that, starvation and malnutrition are highly experienced, there are schools made available and basic services and sanitation facilities such as clean water, toilets, handwashing stations and waste management are put in place by government to ease their plight. However, the respondents disagree that there is high rate of sexual abuse as well as violation of women and girl-child, there are no adequate and befitting accommodation, government at all levels has not made available adequate shelter for internally displaced persons in camps, internally displaced persons are not exposed to opportunities to pursue business of their choices to boost their economic status and internally displaced persons in Benue North-West District camps are not exposed to social activities as games, dance competition, drama and other social engagements.

In an interview about the socio-economic challenges faced by the IDPs in Benue north-west district, Azende Festus on the 1st July, 2024 whose view were captured earlier in the presentation of interview, noted that, there are uncountable challenges facing the IDPs in the district. These challenges to him include: starvation, lack of access to formal education, shelter, health, skill acquisition and to crown it all lack of empowerment for some of the IDPs to start up a business and earn a living for themselves.

In a related view, Justine Swende aged 40, from Abagena camp at 3:12pm noted that, they have a lot of challenges such as insufficient food and lack of funds to farm which had hampered their socio-economic development in the district. He further stated that, the lack of money has made it very difficult for them to farm and became economically stable which has cause sabotage to them.

In Ichwa camp, Mr. Iba Emmanuel Aondoaseer who is 44 years old at about 10:45am stated that, the challenges faced by the IDPs in the camps are that of starvation and malnutrition, lack of educational facilities, health and clinic as well as good sanitary measures in place.

Also, another respondent Ms Emmanuella Chagu who is a SEMA staff stationed at NEPA Quarters IDPs camp while responding to the issue on the 3rd of July, 2024 at about 2:23pm avers that, the challenges faced by the IDPs in the camps especially the NEPA Quarters Camp was that of the location. She stated that, the camp is not directly accessible as compared to other camps in the district. Secondly, her emphasis was that, leaving the ancestral homes by the IDPs is another challenge to them (IDPs), again she opined that, health, education, food and good shelter is another challenge even though Benue State Government through SEMA has tried for them.

A respondent, Mr. Sunday Ashekpe aged 35 from Mbawa community in Makurdi, and a chairman of Baka IDP camp complained of the lack socio-economic activities such as; skills acquisitions, business to do and earned a living are their challenges in the camp.

In their related responses, some of the IDPs such as Joseph Orwough aged 34; and Jacob Nyin aged 49 stated that, there are a lot of challenges with respect to socio-economic development of the IDPs in the district. The challenges outlined by the duo include; lack of adequate provision of security by the government, lack of business opportunities, and formal educational facilities to vulnerable in the camps across the district.

In a related view, a respondent from NEPA Quarters camp, Mr. Hindan Tor aged 32, Vivian Kwaghbee aged 76 and Fabian Gugur aged 40 also express their challenges to include; lack of shelters, food, formal education, and medical facilities to take care of their health issues.

Another participant in the interview, Mr. Tyover Iortyom aged 29, who is also an IDP from Baka camp on the 5th July, 2024 at about 6: 22pm while commenting on the socio-economic challenges faced by them identified the lack of health facilities, access to quality education, shelter and business environment to strive and earned a living among others as the challenges been faced in the camps.

Responding to the issue under discussion, another respondent Celestine Asase aged 62 on the 6th July, 2024 at about 6:56pm from Baka IDPs camp stated that, there are a lot of socio-economic challenges facing the IDPs in the camps. To him, these challenges are lack of adequate quality education, befitting accommodations, electricity, and good sanitary system for them to be comfortable.

Other participants in the interview, Mr. Nathaniel Zever aged 46 and Mr. John Ortwav aged 54 at about 11:34am at Ichwa camp on the 2nd July, 2024 and 5th July, 2024 in their separate remarks at their different camps both noted that, there are series of socio-economic challenges faced by them with some of them ranging from lack quality education for their children, inadequate food for them, and other social amenities which are very essential for the social well-being of the IDPs in various camps.

In their interaction in an interview session, Aondowase Igboji aged 31 and John Kaase aged 43 on the 1st July, 2024 at Daudu 2 IDP camps at about 12:33pm and 3:16pm respectively, both noted that, the socio-economic challenges they face in the camps are those of lack of quality amenities such as shelter, education, electricity, sanitary among others. They further state that, the hostile relationship between the IDPs and the host communities is another problem being faced by the internally displaced persons across various camps in the district especially in the Daudu 2 IDP camp. They also averred that, there are situations where the host communities do hijack food and non-food items meant for them by government and other humanitarian agencies to ease their plights.

Research Question 3: What is the effectiveness of government and humanitarian agencies in the management of IDPs camps in Benue North West District for socio-economic development of the IDPs?

Table 6: *Assessing Effectiveness of Government and humanitarian agencies in the Management of IDPs Camps in Benue North West District for socio-economic development of the IDPs (n=245)*

S/No	Item Description	SA	A	D	SD	X	SD	Remark
9	The government has put in place programmes in collaboration with humanitarian organizations and non-governmental organizations to provide food and nutritional needs of the Internally Displaced Persons in Benue North-West IDPs camps.	49	133	19	44	2.76	.97	Agree
10	There is provision of security personnel and surveillance systems in IDP camps to prevent gender-based violence and child exploitation in Benue North-West IDPs Districts.	28	64	59	94	2.11	1.05	Disagree
11	Government has provided the livelihood support to IDPs in the camps in order to help generate income and become self-sustainable.	26	22	101	96	1.91	.95	Disagree
12	There are humanitarian interventions by various agencies to IDPs camps in Benue North West District	88	125	17	15	3.17	.81	Agree
13	There are long-term measures put in place by the government for IDPs return and reintegration into the society in Benue North West District	71	106	33	35	2.87	.99	Agree
14	Government has made adequate provision for social amenities such as electricity, pipe borne water, viewing centers, schools and shelter to Internally displaced Persons in IDPs camps in Benue North West District.	41	31	101	72	2.17	1.03	Disagree

Source: Field survey, 2024

Table 6 shows that items 9, 12 and 13 recorded mean of 2.76, 3.17 and 2.87 with standard deviation of 0.97, 0.81 and 0.99 respectively indicating agreed while items 10, 11 and 14 recorded mean values of 2.11, 1.91 and 2.17 with standard deviation of 1.05, 0.74, 0.95 and 1.03 which indicates disagreed. The table reveals that the respondents agreed that, government has put in place programmes collaboration with humanitarian organizations and non-governmental organizations to provide food and nutritional needs, there are humanitarian interventions by various agencies, there are long-term measures put in place by the government for IDPs return and reintegration into the society in Benue North West District. However, the respondents disagree that there is no provision of security personnel and surveillance systems with IDP camps to prevent gender-based violence and child exploitation, government has not provided the livelihood support to IDPs in the camps in order to help generate income and become self-sustainable and government has not made adequate provision for social amenities such as electricity, pipe borne water, viewing centers, schools and shelter to Internally displaced Persons in IDPs camps in Benue North West District.

In separate interviews over this issue, some of the respondents such as; Jacob Nyin aged 49; Justine Swende aged 40; and Msuega Ubete aged 48 in their responses at different camps noted that, the humanitarian agencies have been very helpful and instrumental to them, as they do provide food and non-food items to them in their camps. They further states that, these agencies also do provide non-food items like beds, mats, buckets, soaps, and rappers for the IDPs. To them, agencies like Action Aid and Lighted Impact Foundation are helpful in terms of providing cash and other items touch lights and solar lights to women and other IDPs in different camps across the district. Benue Acresal is also helpful to them through the provision of good water, solar lights as well as T-Shirts and caps to IDPs respectively.

In another development, Joseph Orwough aged 34, and the camp manager at Abagena; John Kaase aged 43 and Terwase Iortim aged 55 at Daudu 2 camp; and Azende Festus aged 27 and the camp president at Abagena both expressed that, the government and humanitarian agencies has been trying by providing food for the IDPs on monthly basis. They noted that, humanitarian agencies are every effective in the provision of health services and to some extent pay their health bills. For instance, bills emanating from snake bites and other related tough health bills. They both mentioned International Organization on Migration as being key in the intervention for their plights.

Equally related, Iba Emmanuel Aondoaseer aged 30 at Ichwa camp; Jonathan Tarwa aged 47 also of the same camp on the 2nd July, 2024 gave kudos to humanitarian agencies for their interventions in their plights. They noted that, they have been in the camp for more than a year before government started intervening. They averred that, initially, there were no interventions for them, it was private individuals such as Rev. Fr. Ukeryima that was helping them to ease their living. They also identify some agencies such as African Service and Save the Children as been the bodies helping in the provision of humanitarian services to them.

Ms. Emmanuella Chagu aged 30, who is a staff of SEMA at NEPA Quarters camp stated that, Benue State Government under the new SEMA boss have been trying but, it is still not enough. She further noted that, donor agencies like Medecin San Frontieres have tried for the IDPs but their contract have been terminated in Benue state. Other agencies like Save the Children, Action Aid and United Nations Department for Population (UNDP), have also tried in various ways in managing the IDPs camps in Benue North-West District.

In their own opinion on the issue raised, Sunday Ashekpe aged 35 who is the Baka camp chairman; John Ortwav aged 54; Tyover Iortyom aged 29 and Celestine Asase aged 62 at Baka camp all noted on the 5th July 2024 about 6:19 pm-7:47pm that, government under

the present administration through SEMA had tried in terms of providing item for them but, due to their population in camps, it is not enough. Other collaborator agencies like International Organization on Migration, Save the Children International, Medecin San Frontieres, Community links, Action Aid, have been trying; they have been coming to check on The IDPs. Reference was made of a time when Save the Children International came and gave about 149 persons about 120 thousand per person, and again, gave about 51 vulnerable women dignity kits. There was also a time when the Action Aid came and gave about 300 women a helping hand. There are a lot of interventions from these humanitarian agencies but the most outstanding one is that of IOM, Save the Children International and Médecins San Frontières.

Commenting on the same issue on the 1st July, 2024, Mr. Terver Aondoaseer aged 34; Hindan Tor aged 32; Vivian Kwaghbee aged 76; and Fabian Gugur who is 40 years of age all from NEPA Quarters camp on the 5th July, 2024 all agreed that, there have been series of interventions from both government and humanitarian agencies in the provision of their needs. However, they decried the hidden location of their camp as an obstacle for the interventions by the donor agencies especially the NEPA Quarter camp.

Still on the question, Mr. Nathaniel Zever aged 46 from Daudu 2; Aondowase Igboji 31 years old; and John Ortwav aged 54 both from Baka IDP camp averred that, government and humanitarian agencies are very crucial in attending to their needs through their interventions of various kinds and capacities.

Research Question 4: What are the challenges faced in the management of IDPs camps in Benue North West District?

Table 7: *Challenges Faced in the Management of IDPs Camps in Benue North West District (n=245)*

S/No	Item Description	SA	A	D	SD	X	SD	Remark
15	Limited resources are challenges to the effective management of IDPs camps in Benue North West District.	135	58	36	16	3.27	.94	Agree
16	Overcrowding is one of the problematic issues with Internally Displaced Persons Camps in Benue North West District.	157	48	19	21	3.39	.95	Agree

Source: Field survey, 2024

Table 7 reveals that all the items recorded mean rating above 2.50 which is the minimum mean response for agreeing with the challenges as item 15 has mean value of 3.27 with standard deviation of 0.94 while item 16 has mean value of 3.39 with standard deviation of 0.95. The Table therefore shows that the respondents are unanimous as regards the challenges faced in the management of IDPs camps in Benue North West District. By implication, limited resources and overcrowding are challenges to the effective management of IDPs camps in Benue North West District.

Reacting to the question on the challenges faced in the management of IDPs camps in Benue North West District, Joseph Orwough aged 34 who is a SEMA staff working as camp manager at Abagena IDP camp; Jacob Nyin aged 39 who is the Abagena camp secretary; Azende Festus aged 27 serving as Abagena camp chairman; Justine Swende who is 40 years old and serving as camp youth leader at Abagena camp on the 1st July, 2024 at 4:40pm-5:54pm stated that, there are many challenges in respect to the management of internally displaced persons camps; first, they outline shortage of food supply to the IDPs in their camps, as it's always not enough to cater for the IDPs in the camps. Secondly, they made mention of health facilities as been absent especially in the Abagena camp and emotional state of always feeling to return back to their ancestral homes. They also, complain about the challenge of lack of educational facilities for the IDPs to train their children, that the only school available is the primary school which at that; there are no teachers to train the pupils. They conclude by stating that, the teachers in the school are the ones that volunteered to render their services.

On their part from Ichwa IDPs camp on the 2nd July, 2024, Msuega Samuel Ubete aged 48; Iba Emmanuel Aondoaseer aged 44; Jonathan Tarwa aged 47; Nathaniel Zeven aged 46 at about 11:20am-1:34pm noted that, the major challenge in the management of IDPs camps is that of food. That is, it is always in short supply. Another challenge noted by them is that of befitting accommodations, houses, schools, clinic, and toilets for the IDPs in their camps. They further noted that, lack of security is another challenge been experienced in the management of the IDPs especially during the distribution of food and non-food items in the camp.

Still on the question, Mr. Terver Aondoaseer aged 34; Terwase Iortim aged 55; John Kaase who is 43 years old and Aondowase Igboji aged 31 all from Daudu 2 IDP camp on the 1st July, 2024 at about 10:22am-1:09pm averred that, there are challenges such as lack of security system to secure the camps especially the Daudu 2 camp, lack of schools especially the secondary education and above for the IDP children, no befitting accommodations for the IDPs and to crown it all, the hostility of the host community to IDPs in Daudu. They further stated that, there are situations where sometimes if items are been brought for the IDPs, the host community members will hijack them for their consumption. To them, the situation is not a healthy one for the IDPs in the camp.

At Baka IDPs camp, commenting on the issue, Sunday Ashekpe who is the camp chairman, aged 35; Tyover Iortyom aged 29; Celestine Asase aged 62; and John Ortwav who is 54 years of age on the 5th July, 2024 at about 4:33pm-6:00pm, says the challenges of managing IDP camps are many. Such challenges include; lack of quality living, funding, lack of medical facilities to treat the IDPs, there is no food for the IDPs to feed on. To them, these are the major challenges, which others have to do with lack of accommodations for the people to be comfortable at least.

In their reactions from NEPA Quarters camp, Ms. Emmanuella Chagu aged 30 who is camp manager; Vivian Kwaghbee aged 76; Fabian Gugur aged 40; and Hindan Tor who is 32 on 2nd July, 2024 at about 2:33pm-4:33pm stated that, there are challenges towards camp management such as lack of cordial relationship between the host community and the IDPs in the camp especially when food and non-food items are brought for the IDPs. They also, express sadness over the issue of insecurity in the camp and the locations of the IDP camp are another challenge especially the Baka camp. To them, these are the challenges that need to be addressed by the necessary authority.

On the possible ways of enhancing the effective management of the Internally Displaced Persons in Benue North-West District, Joseph Orwough aged 34 who is SEMA staff serving as Abagena camp manager; Jacob Nyin aged 39 who is the Abagena camp secretary; Azende Festus 27 years old who is the camp chairman; and Justine Swende, a 40 years old camp youth leader all from Abagena camp on the 1st July, 2024 in their separate remarks call for the need by government in collaboration with other humanitarian agencies to build health sector that is sound, provide adequate security in the camps, schools should be built for the IDPs to them develop themselves for their socio-economic development.

Reacting to the issue, at Ichwa IDPs camp on the 2nd July, 2024, Iba Emmanuel Aondoaseer aged 44; Msuega Samuel Ubete who is the camp secretary; Jonathan Tarwa aged 47; and Nathaniel Zeven aged 46, at about 11:46am-1:33pm all postulate for adequate security, health facilities, schools from secondary and above for the IDPs in the camps. They also, emphasized the need for training of the IDPs in skills acquisition so as to manage themselves. They concluded by stating the need for befitting accommodations for the IDPs in various camps.

At NEPA Quarters camp on the 2nd July, 2024, some respondents in the interview; Ms. Emmanuella Chagu aged 30; Vivian Kwaghbee aged 76; Hindan Tor aged 32; and Fabian Gugur aged 40 at about 3:18pm-4:50pm all seek for mega camp for the IDPs which should be built by government and to be managed by donor agencies in Benue north-west district for proper humanitarian and effective management of the IDPs.

In the same vein, on the 5th July, 2024 some of the interviewees at Baka IDP Camp such as Sunday Ashekpe who is 35 years old and the camp chairman; Celestine Asase aged 62; Tyover Iortyom aged 29 and John Ortav who is 54 years old at about 5:13pm-5:49pm agree that, government need to put in place shelters for the IDPs in the camps for a conducive living, there is also need for security of the IDPs to go back to their ancestral homes and continue with their livelihood.

In Daudu 2 IDPs camp, Terver Aondoaseer aged 34; Terwase Iortim 55 years old; John Kaase aged 43 and Aondowase Igboji aged 31 on the 1st July, 2024 at about 12:12pm-1-24pm all noted that, there is need for building of comfortable and befitting camps for the IDPs in the study area with adequate security system. They also call on the need for the government to put in mega plans for them to return back to their ancestral homes for a better living as the only way that they will be satisfy. They all concluded on the need for synergy between the host communities and the IDPs for a better living as another way for effective management of the camps.

Summary of findings

The result of the findings on research question one (1) which seeks to find out the cause of internal displacement of persons in Benue North-West district is predominantly farmers/herders clashes. A significant proportion of the respondents hold onto this singular reason.

On question two (2) that concerns the socio-economic challenges faced by the internally displaced persons in the study area, issues of adequate and befitting adequate shelter/accommodation, starvation and malnutrition, lack of opportunities to pursue business and the absence of social activities such as games, dance competition, drama and other social engagements, absence of health care centers, insufficient food, absence of security operatives

and hostile host communities are the major challenges facing the IDPs in Benue North-West district of the State.

The third research question that concerns itself with assessing the effectiveness of government and humanitarian agencies in the Management of IDPs Camps in Benue North West District for socio-economic development of the IDPs, the study found out that, the government and humanitarian agencies intervention to assist the IDPs is quite commendable as they have been making provision of most of their needs. In a mixed reaction however, other respondents gave credit to humanitarian agencies, while seeing the government not been too effective in the management of those camps especially in the areas of not been able to; provide security personnel and surveillance systems in the IDPs camps to prevent gender-based violence and child exploitation, provide the livelihood support to IDPs in the camps in order to help them generate income and become self-sustainable, make provision for adequate social amenities such as electricity, pipe borne water, viewing centers, schools and shelter to internally displaced Persons in IDPs camps within the study area.

The fourth research question on the challenges faced in the Management of IDPs Camps in Benue North West District arrived at findings such as limited resources and Overcrowding, shortage of food supply in the camps, lack of health facilities to handle cases of sickness, absence of security and accommodation.

On possible ways of enhancing the effective management of the Internally Displaced Persons IDPs camps in Benue North-West District, the result of the study proffered the following; government in collaboration with other humanitarian agencies should build health sector that is sound, provide adequate security in the camps, schools should be built for the IDPs to develop themselves, adequate security, set-up secondary and above schools for the IDPs in the camps, also call on the need for the government to put in mega plans for IDPs return back to their ancestral homes for a better living as the only way that they will be satisfy. It was also found that, there is the need for synergy between the host communities and the IDPs for a better living as another way for effective management of the camps

Conclusion

This study examined the management of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camps and the socio-economic development of Internally Displaced Persons in Benue North-West District of Benue State, Nigeria. Farmers/Herders clash is always causing increased displacement of persons in Benue State, thereby rendering the victims to untold hardships and a general socio-economic challenge. The herdsmen in search of grazing areas for their cattle tend to travel across the country from one state to another and in the course of their grazing activities trespass on different lands. In view of the trespasses on such lands, some are cultivated by farmers while some are not. It then creates tension between the herdsmen and the farmers where the lands that are cultivated are tempered with by the cattle. As a result of conflict therein, some farms tend to be destroyed by the herdsmen. This conflict therefore, leads to mass movement of these people to the camps and they become internally displaced persons (IDPs). Their lands, houses and properties which are dispossessed are sometimes possessed by the herdsmen if not completely burnt down. This takes us to suggested measures on how to resolve the conflict herein.

Recommendations

The study, on the bases of its findings made the following recommendations:

1. There is need for the government to, as a matter of importance, always respond to the socio-economic needs of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). Such needs as education, employment, social amenities and promotion of social activities in camps.
2. The government should setup effective monitoring team for routine monitoring of the activities of camp officials for enhanced accountability.
3. Government should provide conducive and befitting accommodation, security and social amenities for the IDPs
4. There should be sensitization of IDPs host communities on the need to be understanding and accommodating of IDPs to give them a sense of belonging.
5. There should be strict monitoring to ensure that relief materials meant for IDPs get to them on time and complete.
6. Government should explore all avenues that will warrant the safe and secured return of the IDPs back to their homes of origin.

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