

**ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF INTERNAL
DISPLACEMENT IN MAKURDI LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AREA, BENUE STATE, NIGERIA**

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ABSTRACT: Internal displacement has become one of the greatest human quagmires in the world today and has become a source of concern for human existence. This study examined the economic consequences of internal displacement on internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State. The specific objectives were to examine the economic consequences of internal displacement among internally displaced persons in the Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State and recommend ways of mitigating such economic consequences among internally displaced persons in Makurdi. Frustration Aggression theory was reviewed to explain the economic consequences among internally displaced persons in Makurdi LGA. The study adopted a descriptive research design. The population of the study was 164,796 IDPs living in fifteen (15) designated official and unofficial IDP camps situated in the Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State. The sample size of the study was 400 respondents, and this was determined using Taro-Yamane's sample size determination formula. The study employed a multi-stage sampling technique. The interview method and Key Informant Interview were the instruments used for data collection. Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS v.21) was used to run the data, and descriptive statistics such as percentages were used to analyse univariate data. Qualitative data was analysed in themes. The findings revealed that the economic consequences of internal displacement were: loss of farmlands (77.3%), loss of assets (96.5%), job discrimination (88.0%), drop in income (73.0%), and burnt farm produce (69.5%). The study concluded that internal displacement has had dire economic consequences on IDPs in Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State. The study recommends that the State should make policies that mandate non-governmental and donor agencies to provide essential interventions to IDPs to ameliorate their economic challenges in their respective camps and beyond.

Keywords: Internal Displacement, Economic Consequences, Lives, Internally Displaced Persons

INTRODUCTION

The problem of human population explosion and its impact on society seems most endemic in developing countries, including Nigeria, where a significant number of the population depends on farming as a means of livelihood. One of the endemic problems caused by this rising population is an increase in communal conflicts leading to human displacement. Sackey (2020), stated that human displacement has become a major concern in present-day global discourse. He avers further that more than 50 million people are displaced worldwide, with the majority of the displaced

population being from Africa and Asia. It appears that internal displacement has been on the increase, and no efforts seem to be geared towards addressing the problem.

According to the Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID, 2021), about fifty-five (55) million people globally are internally displaced. This figure, as stated in the report, is the highest record of displacement since World War II. Africa shares a significant figure of about 17.8 million internally displaced persons (Africa Report on Internal Displacement, December 2019). Nigeria is ranked third highest on the African continent, with about 5.7 million internally displaced persons (National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons Report, November 2021). Internal displacement in Nigeria is a recurrent and large-scale phenomenon that has affected the country's 36 States and FCT (National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons, 2021). According to the report, Nigeria has witnessed many waves of internal displacement, both small and large scale, caused essentially by the political economy of conflicts and generalized violence.

In Benue State, official figures of Internally Displaced Persons as reported by Benue State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA August 2021) stand at about 1.5 million. The report further traced the high number of displacements to the violent clashes from the opposing activities of the nomadic cattle herders and farmers in several parts of the State. When and wherever this kind of situation exists, the end result is that people are forced to quit their homes and take refuge in the IDP camps, in which case, humanitarian needs are immersed, and the means to satisfy those needs within the conflict zones becomes inadequate. This explain why individuals are often forced to vacate their original places of residence in search of safety, food or both to the extent that they sometimes become IDPs living in the camps where, in most cases, there is a lack of water, shelter, healthcare facilities and a host of other basic social amenities. The deficit in the management of the internally displaced persons seems to be a result of a lack of effective national policy on disaster management in Nigeria in general and Benue State in particular.

Shehu and Abba (2020) mentioned that internally displaced persons often suffer considerable economic losses, and it takes a toll on their mental and social lives, with spillover effects on food insecurity, rural-urban drift, and its attendant consequences, like high crime waves and urban congestion. On the whole, the extent of victimization suffered by the IDPs, according to Ojo and Fanto (2015), is physical, economic, social, and psychological in nature. This is a further confirmation that internal displacement has become a worrisome concern, and there is an urgent need for a solution to this ugly situation.

Odekunle, cited in Yangeve (2012), opined that any serious effort to effectively and efficiently tackle any problem in modern society must be informed by appropriate, adequate, valid, and reliable data that has been deliberately collected, collated, analysed, and interpreted with certain pre-defined objectives. A considerable level of interventions and responses had been carried out by individuals, groups, civil society organizations, local and international non-governmental organizations, and even Governments at all levels. Their roles were typically around welfare issues, medical and psycho-socio supports, legal and human rights remedies, skill development, nutritional needs and security concerns little efforts were made to generate empirical data on the economic consequences suffered by the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) as a result of their

displacement in Makurdi Local Government Area. Therefore, this study seeks to investigate the economic consequences of internal displacement on the lives of IDPs within Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State.

Statement of Problem

There has been a sharp increase in the phenomenon of internal displacement globally in recent years. Yet, efforts to tackle the problem appear not to be yielding positive results as there is very little serious and genuine effort to unravel the economic consequences of the problem on the victims and proffer solutions aimed at checkmating the trend. The Government and even individuals seem not to be interested in holistically addressing the plight of victims of these phenomena. Instead, their situation appears to be politicised by the government and advanced pretentiously for other ulterior motives. This situation exists to the extent that even in the IDP camps, these already victims are made to suffer some other forms of victimization, making it double victimization.

There seem to be enormous economic consequences faced by victims of internal displacement in Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State in particular and Nigeria in general. Such economic consequences are dehumanizing, undermining the human status of internally displaced persons and relegating them to the background. The State appears to have neglected the internally displaced persons, leaving them at their peril. Makurdi Local Government has had its own share of internal displacement, which has wreaked havoc on the socio-economic and political activities and the wellbeing of the IDPs. Yet, there are no viable measures in place to arrest the situation with a view to finding a lasting solution to the problem. It seems the efforts of the Benue State Government and the civil society groups are cursory in addressing the economic challenges faced by the victims of internal displacement.

Several studies have been conducted in other areas of the Internally Displaced Persons, but not much empirical work has been done to unravel the economic consequences of displacement among IDPs. Mngutyo et al. (2021) did a study on Planning Public Spaces for Internally Displaced Persons in Makurdi, Benue State. Ishaku et al. (2020) researched on building the Resilience of Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria. Nebe & Owolabi (2021) attempted an Assessment of Gender-based Violence on Women in the new Kuchingoro IDP camp in Abuja. Ekezie (2019), carried out an investigation of the Essential Health Services Available to Internally Displaced Populations (IDPs) in Northern Nigeria. Olanrewaju (2019), examined Insurgency and the Invisible Displaced Population in Nigeria: A Situational Analysis. These studies covered other aspects of the victimization of IDPs, such as their challenges, matching responses and interventions from critical stakeholders, human rights, and security concerns.

Furthermore, newspaper reports like the Guardian of 8th December 2020 and Vanguard of 17th September 2021 conducted journalistic and speculative reportage of the IDP situation in official and unofficial IDP camps in Benue State without empirical considerations. Victimization among internally displaced persons is an emerging phenomenon with economic implications. This phenomenon has not received adequate research attention in Makurdi LGA in particular. As such,

there is a gap in knowledge on the economic consequences of displacement on the lives of internally displaced persons in Benue State, which needs to be filled.

Consequently, what are the economic consequences of internal displacement on the lives of Internally Displaced Persons in Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State? What can be done to mitigate the effects of these economic consequences on the IDPs? It is against this background that this research is aimed at examining the economic consequences of internal displacement on the lives of IDPs in Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State and make recommendations on how to checkmate the incidence of internal displacement and mitigate its economic consequences on the people.

Conceptual Review and Theoretical Framework

This section of the study dwells on conceptual review and theoretical framework. The concepts of internal displacement, economic consequences, and internally displaced persons are reviewed while frustration aggression theory is adopted as the theoretical framework for the study.

For the purposes of this study, internal displacement is the unwarranted eviction of people from their original place of residence triggered by manmade factors or natural disasters with dire economic consequences for the victims. In the past few years, reports of internal displacement have increased around the world, bringing about a change from large-scale refugee flow to amplified internal displacement (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2019).

According to Ugwu (2021), internally displaced persons (IDPs) are persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict situation of generalized violence, violation of human rights or natural or human-made disaster, and who have not crossed an internationally recognised border. According to Ghraïne (2021), internally displaced people are those who have been forced or obliged to leave their places of habitual residence as a result of armed conflict, violence, human rights violations, or disaster but have not crossed an international border.

Frustration Aggression Theory

Frustration-Aggression Theory (FAT), also known as frustration-aggression-displacement theory, was propounded by John Dollard, Robert Sears Neal Miller, Orvar Mowrer, and Leonard Doob in 1939 and further advanced by Neal Miller and Leonard Berkowitz in 1941 and 1969, respectively. The theory as originally conceived by Dollard et al. (1939) states that “the occurrence of aggressive behaviour always presupposes the existence of frustration and, contrariwise, that the existence of frustration always leads to some form of aggression”. Frustration is “an interference with the occurrence of an instigated goal-response” (Beavers, 2019).

The thrust of the theory is that aggression results from the frustration of a person’s efforts at achieving a goal. Even though frustration stimulates a behaviour that may not necessarily be

aggressive, any aggressive behaviour results from frustration, making frustration not an adequate but an essential prerequisite for aggression (Friedman & Schustack, 2014). Frustration is the “condition which exists when a goal-response suffers interference,” while aggression is “an act whose goal-response is injurious to an organism (or an organism surrogate).” The theory says that frustration causes aggression, but when the source of frustration becomes unknown, aggression is thence projected onto a weak and unsuspecting target (Whitley & Kite, 2009). The theory claims that aggression is usually the result of frustration and that frustration is the after-effect of a relative deprivation of an anticipation that forms a gap between expectation and achievement (Bello, Abdullahi & Hassan, 2015).

FAT holds that “a group’s relative disadvantage in relation to others, which may be manifested in income inequality or hierarchical class, results in frustration which breeds grievance and aggression” (Iyekepolo, as cited in Beavers, 2019). According to this theory, when common people are marginalized and deprived of their economic, political, or social rights in society, they express frustration and retaliate through violence, aggression, and terrorism. When frustrated people are unable to confront the government, they react violently through revolution, conflict, terrorism, and insurgency. What majorly constitutes this deprivation includes unemployment, poverty, injustice, economic inequality, bad governance, and political instability (Abbasi et al., 2017).

By applying Frustration aggression theories in explaining the economic consequences of internal displacement in Makurdi Local Government Area, the study argues that internal displacement is an upshot of unabated conflicts between Fulani herders and farmers. In general, elements that could give impetus for conflicts leading to displacement are oppression, hatred, injustice, deprivation, and relegation, leading to frustration. All or any of these could be fuelled by psychological, religious, economic, political, or ideological phenomena and lead to an exhibition of violence or conflicts by an aggrieved or suppressive entity. Relatedly, some IDPs, due to the frustration of leaving their ancestral land under such circumstances and the various degrees of physical and economic losses, feel frustrated and aggressive. Like other theories that have been advanced in assessing phenomena, frustration-aggression theory does not adequately capture the explanation of internal displacement. FAT fails to explain why some people who are frustrated by socio-economic and political factors refuse to allow their frustration to lead them into aggressive acts like violent conflicts and attacking situations.

METHODOLOGY

The study adopted a descriptive research design. The study location was Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State. Makurdi is the capital of Benue State. It covers an area of 804.2 Square kilometres (16 kilometres radius) with a projected population of 426,536 in 2020 (Mngutyo, 2021). Makurdi is a multicultural Local Government Area occupied predominately by sedentary farmers who engage in the cultivation of yams, cassava, maize, and rice. Makurdi Local Government Area is presently housing the 15 IDP camps considered in this study namely; Ogiri Ajene Camp, Nepa Quarters Camp, North Bank, Abagena Camp, Tionsha Camp, IBB Camp I, Ichua, FHA Camp, Agan Host community, LGEA Tyodugh, Abagena Host Community Camp, LGEA NASME, Angwan, Ochonu, Tse Chagu, Imande Akpu, Aston Community Camp, and Anter Community Camp.

The target population of the study was internally displaced persons living in IDP camps situated in Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State. The population of this study was 164,796 persons living in fifteen (15) designated official and unofficial IDP camps within Makurdi Local Government Area (SEMA report 2022). The research considered only the adult victims who were 18 years and above in the IDP camps. The study adopted Taro-Yamane's measure for sample determination and arrived at four hundred (400) respondents. The study adopted a multi-stage sampling technique. The study area was clustered in line with the existing IDP Camps in the locality. Purposive sampling was adopted to select respondents for the study. Allocation of the sample size per sampled Camp was done as specified by Bourley's (1964) proportionate sample size allocation formula. Therefore, the sampled IDP Camps had the following samples: Ogiri Ajene Camp 23, Nepa Quarters Camp North Bank 19, Abagena Camp 20, Tionsha Camp 49, IBB Camp I Ichwa 23, FHA Camp 12, Agan Host Community 25, LGEA Tyodugh 14, Abagena Host Community Camp 19, LGEA NASME 56, Angwan Ochonu 12, Tse Chagu 14, Imande Akpu 43, Aston Community Camp 40, and Anter Community Camp 29. Total: 399 respondents.

A multistage sampling technique involving cluster, purposive, and simple random sampling techniques was used to arrive at the selection of the desired respondents, and this involved sampling in three stages. The required data for this research work was elicited through the use of a structured interview method and a Key Informant interview. The study integrated qualitative and quantitative techniques of analysis, more significantly in the presentation and analysis of the quantitative data. Qualitative data analysis was used for the interpretation of data collected in narrative form.

Economic Consequences of Internal Displacement on the Lives of IDPs

Internal displacement separates people from their land, assets, belongings, workplaces, service providers, and consumers. In their host areas, IDPs often rely wholly on interventions from their governments, individuals, corporate bodies, and donor agencies. In their new settlements, there is competition for local workers for employment, and their arrival also increases the demand for goods and services, which may push up prices and even create scarcity. These consequences have an economic as well as a human cost and a direct impact on IDPs' economic status and ability to sustain dignified livelihoods.

Alobo and Obaji (2016) argued that economic victimization suffered by IDPs has repercussions on their social life, health, education, security, housing, and infrastructure. These repercussions, in turn, ripple back to affect the situation of IDPs, their hosts, and their communities of origin. Yigzaw and Abitew (2019), posited that displaced people often lose assets when they are forced to flee their homes and land. They may also be unable to pursue their former work, leading to unemployment, underemployment, or informal work and a significant drop in their income. In agreement, Mehari (2021) submitted that Livelihood loss might lead to reduced access to food and an increase in malnutrition, makeshift shelter, negative coping strategies, and unsustainable practices in an attempt to fulfil their needs.

According to Sackey (2020), the urgency of replacing assets lost as a result of their displacement may result in overexploiting natural resources such as wood, wildlife, minerals, and agricultural

land. Over time, this may result in soil erosion, desertification, a drop in agricultural production, and the disappearance of flora and fauna, which in turn reduces their own longer-term livelihood prospects and those of their hosts. According to Olanrewaju (2019), one of the ways in which displacement disrupts livelihood is by separating those affected from their business colleagues, providers, and consumers. IDPs tend to be left facing a temporary reduction in their professional activity and sometimes have to incur start-up costs to re-establish their livelihoods. The loss of livelihoods, in turn, affects social life by reinforcing income inequalities.

There is discrimination against IDPs in terms of employment and reward systems. According to Akuto (2018), the disruption caused by internal displacement has a direct impact on IDPs' ability to secure an income. They are likely to lack connections and support to find work in their host communities and may struggle to find new business partners, providers, and consumers. Aliko (2022), argued in line with the assertion that because IDPs are disconnected from their social networks, they either struggle to find work or may suffer poor working conditions, lower pay or no pay at all. Olanrewaju (2019) asserts that employers were reluctant to hire IDPs, knowing that they were only living temporarily in the area. Again, even without discrimination, he said the host community's labour market may simply not be able to absorb a large influx of IDPs. Those living in camps far away from an urban area may have no work opportunities at all. This clearly shows that IDPs also suffer discrimination and segregation when it comes to employment and wages.

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA, 2019) reported that apart from loss of livelihood and unemployment, there is job discrimination against IDPs; they earn lower income from labour. Their Studies in various countries highlighted the fact that IDPs are paid lower wages than their counterparts in the general population. The average day rate for casual construction work in Goma, DRC, is normally \$1.80, but only \$1.20 for IDPs. Displaced Colombian men earn six to 22 per cent less than their fellow non-displaced workers, and women 17 to 37 per cent. The income per adult falls from \$826 a year before the flight to \$170 a year during the first three months of displacement and only recovers to \$410 after a year. The income gap in Georgia was found to widen over time, indicating that rather than their earnings recovering, IDPs tend to become trapped in poverty.

Izugbara (2022), avers that many IDPs are engaged in low-skilled, precarious or micro-employment, where they are paid on a task-by-task basis. According to the Global Report on Internal Displacement 2022, in North East Nigeria, almost half of the IDPs surveyed in Yobe were working as day labourers, compared with 36 percent of economic migrants and 30 percent of host community members in the same settlements. Only 30 percent of male IDPs surveyed in Borno received a monthly salary, compared with 38 percent of the men in the host community. The figures for women were zero and five percent respectively. In Benue State, the Pavilion Newspaper edition of March 2023 reports that IDPs in various camps in Makurdi are hired to undertake strenuous jobs in exchange for meals or for merger pays, which mostly go into the pockets of their handlers.

Internally displaced persons also engage in insecure and dangerous jobs. Tarsen (2022) posits that some displaced families living in camps in Abagana put themselves at great risk by commuting back and forth to conflict areas to cultivate their land. Similarly, Ayaka (2023), revealed how some

displaced children are obliged to earn an income, putting them in danger of unsafe work and reducing their chances of more secure employment through education. The Foundation for Justice, Development and Peace Commission (FJDPC) report of December 2020 shows that IDPs unable to find decent work have little choice but to resort to other less secure and sometimes dangerous income-generating activities like transactional sex, gambling, and farm produce theft to earn a living. Confirming the FJDPC position, Mohammed (2022) said that in the northeast areas where income opportunities are few, some young male IDPs have joined armed groups to perpetuate banditry, kidnapping, and robbery.

Table 1: Economic Consequences of Displacement on IDPs in Makurdi LGA

Variables	Responses with percentages			
	Accepted (F/%)	Unaccepted (F/%)	Total	% (100)
Loss of Farmlands	286 (77.3)	84(22.7)	370	100
Burnt farm produces	257 (69.5)	113(30.5)	370	100
Lost Assets	357(96.5)	13(3.5)	370	100
Drop in Income	270(73.0)	100(27.0)	370	100
Job Discrimination	325(88.0)	45 (12.0)	370	100

Source: Field Survey 2024

Data on the economic consequences of displacement on internally displaced persons in Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State indicated that the consequences of displacement varied. The variables that amounted to the economic consequences of internal displacement on IDPs in Makurdi Local Government Area were represented with percentages above 50%. These consequences included loss of farmlands, burnt farm produce, lost assets, a drop in income, and job discrimination. This data corroborated the views of the key informants. A key informant said that:

We have left all our farmlands and homes and are staying in this camp suffering. No land to do farm work, suffering from hunger and starvation. We have become beggars in our land. The life we are living now is completely different from our way of life. What have we done to deserve this? We cannot afford bathing soap (*Source: K11 18th September, Male IDP, aged 48, FHA Camp, Makurdi*).

Another key informant stated that:

Throughout my life, am not used to sitting idle. I had always worked on my farm and harvested plenty bags of maize and rice, I sell to cater for myself and family. But since we were forced out of our villages by herders, I have nothing to do since our farmlands were taken over by the Fulanis. I wake up and sit idle waiting for food from camp officials. (*Source:*

K11 18th September, Male IDP, aged 55, LGEA NASME Camp, Makurdi).

Similarly, another informant noted that:

Imagine me, who used to cultivate a lot of cassava and groundnut on my farm, now becoming an IDP, staying in camp at the mercy of people. The most unfortunate thing is that I am willing to work, but no land for me to cultivate. The communities around our camp here are not ready to give us land for farming unless you hire, and I don't even have the money. Imagine me with a vast farmland in my village can't find land to farm (*Source: K11 18th September, Male IDP, aged 40, NEPA Quarters Camp, Makurdi).*

Furthermore, another informant has this to say:

All my suffering is in vain. I had over five bags of rice in my room that I intended to sell and proceed with my education, but the Fulani men set fire to our house, and everything vanished just like that. All my plans are finished. I ended up in the camp as an IDP (*Source: K11, 18th September, Female IDP, aged 36, Ichwa Camp, Makurdi).*

Also, another key informant said that:

Before my displacement, I had a flat I built from my farm work proceeds. Every year, I sell my harvest, amounting to millions of naira. As we are speaking, I hardly sleep at night because of what this displacement has caused me. I had over 50 bags of rice I cultivated on my farm, but the day we were chased away from our community, the Fulani men set fire to my house, and all my storage was burnt, amounting to millions of Naira. (*Source: K11, 18th September, Male IDP, aged 56, Angwon Ochon Camp, Makurdi).*

In a similar vein, an interviewee stated that:

My sources of income were thwarted following our displacement by armed herders. I was a big-time farmer in my locality. The destruction of my farmland rendered my economic status low. I don't have anything to sell throughout the farming season (*Source: K11, 18th September, Male IDP aged 50, Ichwa Camp, Makurdi).*

Therefore, another informant opined that:

I had lots of things, but I lost them when I was displaced, and that has worsened my condition. In fact, I don't know where to begin to arrange my life from now. I am as empty as you are seeing me now. I have no house, no farm, even the properties I had before my displacement, I can't afford any now (*Source: K11, 18th September, Female IDP, aged 41, LGEA Tyodugh Camp, Makurdi*).

Another informant said that:

I have been battling with the question of where I will start life again when finally, we leave the IDP camp we are currently staying. I will go back to square one to buy my properties that I painstakingly acquired but that were destroyed by the Fulanis during the crisis (*Source: K11, 18th September, Female IDP, aged 47, LGEA NASME Camp, Makurdi*).

An informant positioned that:

I used to farm close to 20 bags of rice amounting to millions of naira in my village prior to my displacement, but as we speak, for over 5 years that I have been staying in this camp, I have no single rubber of rice anywhere. This has brought untold hardship for me. My income has dropped drastically (*Source: K11, 18th September, Female IDP, aged 43, Tse Chagu Camp, Makurdi*).

Another interviewee said that:

We have encountered a lot of problems, but the most disturbing one I am facing was the drastic reduction in my earnings. Some of us were workaholics, and the conflict has caused us sorrow till today. We now have no means to earn ourselves, no property anywhere. We are just dependents here (*Source: K11, 18th September, Female IDP, aged 47, Tionsha Camp, Makurdi*).

Similarly, another informant said that:

I was a petit trader in my village. I sold goods like soap, detergent, condiments, and even cooked food. I was making a reasonable profit that made me live a bit comfortably, but as a result of the crisis, I lost everything and no longer earned

anything. I wish I could go back to my business but no capital to restart it (*Source: K11, 18th September, aged 44, Abagena Camp, Makurdi*).

A key informant positioned that:

We have faced serious economic consequences as a result of our displacement. Most IDPs have become jobless because of their displacement. I have made several efforts to get employed in a primary school within our host community here as a teacher but was told that I cannot be not employed be as an IDP because I was not mentally stable to teach. (*Source: K11, 18th September, Male IDP aged 33, Angwan Ochonu Camp, Makurdi*).

Another informant noted that:

Each time I make an attempt to secure a job for myself, I am reminded of my status as an IDP. I say this because in the last job I applied for, I was told, rightly, that my duration of stay in the camp was uncertain, so I couldn't be employed (*Source: K11, 18th September, Female IDP aged 42, LGEA NASME Camp, Makurdi*).

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Findings indicated that loss of farmland was an economic consequence of displacement on the lives of IDPs in Makurdi Local Government Area. According to the findings, due to their displacement, people were forced out of their ancestral homes where their farmlands were situated. They were unable to pursue their farm work, leading to unemployment, underemployment, and significant livelihood loss, which led to reduced access to food and an increase in malnutrition, negative coping strategies, and unwholesome practices (indulgence into crime and prostitution) in an attempt to fulfil their needs.

Findings also revealed that burnt farm produce was an economic consequence of displacement on the lives of IDPs in Makurdi Local Government Area. The data revealed that farm produce that the farming communities prior to their displacement had harvested and stored in barns and compounds were set ablaze by their attackers. This included various tons of rice, maize, cassava, groundnuts, and soybeans, among other crops. This has negatively affected the IDPs. It has a tremendous impact on their life. They are now faced with hunger and starvation, reduced income, and psychological conditions as a result of this loss. The above data corroborated the responses of the key informants.

Findings established that displaced people lost assets when they were forced to flee their homes and land. Apart from farm produce, other assets were lost by the IDPs, which adversely affected

their lives. Some of these assets included their houses and buildings, domestic utensils, furniture, motorcycles and bicycles, farm implements, and other household items. This form of economic consequence suffered by IDPs has repercussions on their social life, housing, and infrastructure. These repercussions, in turn, ripple back to affect the situation of IDPs and their communities of origin.

Findings revealed that income drops were another economic consequence of displacement in Makurdi Local Government Area. According to the findings, income drops entailed a decrease in earnings by IDPs after their displacement. The above finding implied that the prior economic activities of the internally displaced persons were thwarted by their displacement, which has had negative economic consequences for the victims. With the current economic hardship in Nigeria, even those whose economic sources are viable have adopted economic coping strategies to keep their heads above the economic tide.

Findings established that internally displaced persons have experienced economic consequences by suffering job discrimination. According to the findings, internally displaced people suffer a lot of discrimination when they make efforts to secure job opportunities. The findings noted that internally displaced persons decried that there was a stigma attached to being an IDP. The above data corroborated the responses of some respondents. For example,

Conclusion

Internal displacement poses a significant challenge that will soon overwhelm the country's policymakers in the near future. A better understanding of these issues is needed to provide the necessary interventions for social and economic support and psychotherapeutic care to the displaced population. Families and communities are being forced into camps as internally displaced persons with attendant socio-economic consequences. Such consequences of internal displacement on internally displaced persons are loss of farmlands, burnt farm produce, lost assets, drop in Income, and job discrimination.

Recommendations

Arising from the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made:

- i. To address the major cause of internal displacement in Makurdi Local Government Area, ranching as a form of animal husbandry should be made compulsory for those in the business of rearing animals, especially the Fulani herders. Consequently, the study recommends the strict implementation of the Anti-Open Grazing and Ranches Establishment Law of the Benue State Government. This will go a long way in reducing the clashes that occur due to the conflicting activities of herders and farmers.
- ii. There is a need for State policies aimed at providing rehabilitation to the IDPs. Such state policies should mandate non-governmental and donor agencies to provide essential interventions to IDPs to ameliorate their economic, political, social, and psychological challenges in their respective camps and beyond.

- iii. Upon resettlement, the Government and NGOs should boost agriculture, which forms the bedrock of the Benue economy. Modern farming equipment should be provided to IDPs free or at discounted prices while loan facilities with easy repayment plans should be provided. Again, adequate security should be guaranteed by the security apparatus. This will ensure that farmers that had hitherto fled the region for fear of attacks will return and resume their farming activities to boost their economic output as well as provide employment for the teeming population.
- iv. Stakeholders like the government, non-governmental agencies, and community-based organizations should collaborate to provide vocational training and social support, which will make the IDPs self-reliant and prevent their idleness from stimulating negative innovations.

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