



Interrogating internal displacement of women and children due to insecurity in Bokkos, Barkin-Ladi and Mangu Local Government Areas, Plateau State, Nigeria

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Abstract

The objective formulated to guide this study is to find out the state of the living conditions and to determine the surviving strategies adopted by Internally Displaced Persons-IDPs as coping mechanisms with livelihood in Bokkos, Barkin-Ladi and Mangu Local Government Areas, of Plateau State, Nigeria. The study considered the use of qualitative means of eliciting relevant data through the use of KII and FGD with the IDPs, government officials, and some critical leaders of thought. Participants were selected from some of the villages in the affected LGAs, and the data obtained was analyzed using Quality Data Management-QDM software as a basic tool. This is relevant because the interest of the study is about IDPs in the study area, mainly women and children. Indeed, these persons have to go through a lot of humanitarian crisis: food insecurity, gender abuse, shelter problems, stigmatisation, and difficulty getting quality education, healthcare services, amongst others. The study finds out that the restoration of peace is key to the study area before any meaningful development would take place. The study therefore advises that government should be proactive in carrying out its primary responsibility of securing the life and properties of its people. It is again recommended that Penology on the treatment of offenders should be enhanced in line with extant laws to serve as deterrent to offenders for the violations of laws on the displacement of persons to ensure physical and human security, a just society, peaceful co-existence, national unity, prosperity and sustainable development. The study also impresses on the fact that Government should motivate the affected LGAs to always be on the lookout to provide credible and reliable intelligence reports to security agencies to assist in tackling down any security breach among others.

Keywords: Children, Displacement, IDPs, Insecurity, Livelihood, Women

1. Introduction

It is one of the myriads of characteristic alterations in this climate that affects human conditions, whereby people women and children particularly are forcefully or coercively moved from their dwelling units into internally displaced situations that pose serious humanitarian ramifications. The UN Guiding Principles, along with the special rapporteur concerned with the human rights of internally displaced

persons, considers IDPs to be persons or groups forced or coerced to leave their homes or habitual places of abode, in particular as a result of or to avoid the effects of armed conflict, generalised violence, infringement of human rights, or natural or human-made calamities, and who have not crossed an internationally recognised border (Blue Prints 2024 & UNHCR 2024). Individuals forced to flee their homes, particularly in situations



involving armed violence, usually face a heightened level of risk along various vectors. IDPs, particularly women and children experience death tolls that can be as high as six times greater as that in the general population. Moreover, they continue to face dangers of physical violence, sexual attack, and abduction although often being deprived of basic necessities such as shelter, food, and medical care (UNHCR, 2024). Internally, the persons displaced due to conflict are mostly made up of women and children, who are the primary victims of violations of rights. IDPs usually remain in areas of conflict that they have been forced to flee for their lives. Because of this fact, they may directly be affected by the fighting, serving tools during the conflict, or may be intentionally targeted as belligerent by the other party.

For instance, the Global report on Internal Displacement (EN/AR/RU/SV) 2024 states that 50% of surveyed IDPs have grown in the last five years. This has exposed millions of families and communities having their lives torn apart by conflict and have moved more than once from their originally homes. This highlights the importance of supporting IDPs in achieving durable solutions and reducing their risk of further displacement among others. Achieving durable solutions requires that the government and other development actors, work together to identify the right strategies for assisting IDPs. Onuh in 2022, cited the no evidence of government responsibility with serious social and future implications as another reason for the exit of IDPs from their comfort zone, thereby creating insecurity. The freezing environment demanded from the host community, coupled with poor governmental attention, makes IDPs susceptible to all sorts of threats or harms. IDPs depend on external help to a large extend for basic amenities, which may come from NGOs involved first hand in victimising these IDPs. These lays bare the

fundamental truths earlier laid down to prove how the government has failed in realizing the Millennium Sustainable Goals. According to Adamawa Times, 2021, the continuous displacement of human beings is among the most formidable humanitarian crisis facing the entire world community.

Where the number of IDPs nowadays is double what it was ten years ago, at the highest ever in history, with an estimated 76 million people defining the present world total of those who have lost their homes, livelihoods, social connections, and in some cases, legal identities, mainly due to a range of conflicts, Piper & Channels Television (2024) reports. This is exclusive of those that are displaced by development projects. While some of these IDPs go back to their original homes quite swiftly, others encounter tens of millions who are displaced long term. By April 2024, the total number of internally displaced persons, IDPs according to the Displacement Tracking Matrix-DTM, was 1,302,443 persons in 219,445 households across states including Benue, Kaduna, Kogi, Nasarawa, Niger, and Plateau. Precisely, it is such an appalling living condition and attendant sufferings to which they are usually exposed that worsen the grim condition of the IDPs. The IDPs are those people who fled from their abodes into other communities and neighbourhoods where they sought refuge. These displaced people are always characterised by inadequate basic social amenities.

Most of the IDPs in Nigeria today are women and children with over 50% of the total IDPs. Data collection was conducted in 1,733 locations within ten states of North-Central and North-West Nigeria starting in 2024. The IDP population was then considered in terms of IDPs in camps and camp-like settings, which were 287,790 persons or 22%, while IDPs living in host communities totalled 1,014,305 persons or 78%. This indicates a 19%



increase or 210,247 IDPs compared to what was obtained in 2023. Major reasons for this include the addition of Kogi and Niger States during the DTM rounds of assessment in the North-West, North-Central region of Nigeria.

By and large, the internally displaced population in Nigeria will continue to geometrically increase unless proactive measures are taken by the government to address the scourge of insecurity and insurgency among others. A good number of women and children from vulnerable categories in Plateau State, Nigeria, live with a lot of challenges in Bokkos, Barkin-Ladi, and Mangu Local Government Areas, Plateau state, Nigeria. These range from issues relating to poverty to psychological distress, malnutrition, diseases, and insecurity in host communities, together with not enough opportunities to access basic education. What constitutes this study is a coherent humanitarian response to the humanitarian needs of the IDPs, restoring their dignity, hopes and to the communities they emanate from, taking into consideration of the internal displacement of women and children due to insecurity and to a large extend insurgency experienced in the study areas; Hence, the following questions shall guide the study: -

- i. What are the livelihood conditions of the internally displaced persons-IDPs (Women and children) in Bokkos, Barkin-Ladi and Mangu Local Government Areas, Plateau State, Nigeria
- ii. What are the surviving strategies among the internally displaced persons-IDPs (Women and children) in Bokkos, Barkin-Ladi and Mangu Local Government Areas, Plateau State, Nigeria.

Based on the background statement and the study, the objectives formulated to guide the study are as follows: -

- i. To find out the state of the living conditions of the Internally Displaced

Persons-IDPs in Bokkos, Barkin Ladi, and Mangu Local Government Areas, Plateau State, Nigeria.

- ii. To determine the surviving strategies adopted by Internally Displaced Persons-IDPs as coping mechanisms with livelihood in Bokkos, Barkin-Ladi and Mangu Local Government Areas, Plateau State, Nigeria.

Interrogating internal displacement of Women and Children due to insecurity in Bokkos, Barkin-Ladi and Mangu Local Government Areas, Plateau State, Nigeria, stands significantly necessary to be interrogated, for this shall not only be relevant to stand useful lessons from the query raised but also serve to consolidate, sustain, and help those concerned do the needful. In a situation where insecurity and insurgency, among a host of others, have caused an unquantifiable humanitarian crisis. This study has helped unveil the myriads of problems facing IDPs in the study areas. Lasting solutions are consequently called for as proffered towards the daunting humanitarian trends. This study has therefore helped unveil some naked realities of the existence of the IDPs, where mostly women and children are the worst hit. The litany of political, socio-economic, and psychological traumas they suffer are all justified; hence, a way out will be realised. It also investigated how the IDPs could earn a living from what possible means. This, in essence, recommends more strategic approaches towards improving the quality of life of these IDPs. This will also help stakeholders in terms of policy formulation, regarding the plight of IDPs in the study area. The study will also contribute comprehensively to adding positive value to the frontiers of knowledge, especially in the areas of displacements, insecurity, livelihood, women, children, Internally Displaced Persons, which academics and other researchers researching similar subjects will find useful respectively.



2. Literature Review

Insurgency however is an acknowledged global phenomenon where the far-reaching effects are clear pointers to a full-blown humanitarian crisis. In Nigeria, the insurgency situation has generally caused gross disruptions in socio-economic activities. Faith O. Olanrewaju, Oluwafunke M. Folarin and Sheriff F. Folarin (2017) see insurgency as ambiguous concept. According to Choji (2023) insurgency is a protracted violent conflict in which one or more groups seek to overthrow or fundamentally change the political or social order in a state or region through the use of sustained violence, subversion, social disruption and political action. This position suggests that insurgent groups employ unlawful means towards achieving an end, which could be political, religious, social or even ideological among others. On the other hand, the Nigeria's National Security Strategy-NSS 2014 (maiden edition) and 2019 (revised edition) emphatically states that its overarching vision is to make Nigeria a secure, safe, just, peaceful, prosperous and strong nation; while its inherent mission is to apply all elements of national power to ensure physical and human security, a just society, peaceful co-existence, national unity, prosperity and sustainable development while promoting Nigeria's influence in regional, continental and global affairs respectively. Salis (2024) declared that the happenings in Boko, Barkin-Ladi, and Mangu Local Government Areas of Plateau State, Nigeria, all point to acute trends of insurgency that pose significant threats to its socio-political and economic structures. Bello (2024) argues that such human capital and investor flight has greatly retarded economic development in the area, where heinous and unprovoked attacks on rural communities and their agricultural lands, among other heinous crimes, have taken place. Aluko (2024) averred that many have been forced to

resettle in relatively safer communities due to displacement. The coming of IDPs as a social issue has introduced some complexities in any attempt toward economic growth and development. This is a cause for great concern, especially because many of them are family men and women or, in other words, agrarian communities that under normal situations are supposed to fend for their families but have found themselves in the most precarious situation. The fact cannot be denied that IDPs have their basic rights to livelihood and existence, food, shelter, education, security amongst others. While the demand for infrastructure is high, less attention has been paid to that area in improving its needs due to the insurgent activities. Hence, what has been going on greatly deprives the political as well as socio-economic futurities of the marginalised people living in that area. It is not an incorrect observation that a state with unexcited and unwanted clashes can be defined as a politically unstable one. This rampant problem has kept government at all levels and leaders of thought not been at rest in efforts to curb the menace in the polity. Due to the fact that insecurity and insurgency are considered sensitive, hazardous, and highly deadly, the priorities of government have now shifted towards amelioration of this very threat. It is for this reason that it has retarded the satisfactory, efficient, and effective realisation of the transformational agenda, in turn hindering national development (Bello, 2024). Basically, it is through deploying enough troops to oppose its dreaded activities and by installing adequate resources in the conflict study areas where IDPs especially women and children are been confined that both insecurity and insurgency can be tamed appropriately (Jah, 2024). Felix (2024) defines "homelessness" as a condition in which an individual or family lacks a fixed, regular, night time residence and resides in a public or private make shift



supervised residence that is not designed or intended to be a regular sleeping accommodation facility for human beings. Homelessness, poverty and sexual exploitation make the victims homeless and vulnerable to attack and sexual abuse of all kinds. The inadequacy of social services has made a large percentage of the displaced women resort to prostitution. Other displaced women have been seen sleeping in public places and market stalls; the living conditions of these women make them highly vulnerable to sexual violence, which sometimes turns them into transactional sex workers as a means of survival strategy. According to the IDMC (2014), most IDPs in Nigeria take shelter within the various host communities. This could be in the form of staying with family or friends, renting temporary accommodation, or finding refuge in makeshift camp-like quarters that are usually set up in schools, sports centres, churches, mosques, and university campuses. When none of these is available, IDPs are relegated to seeking shelter in abandoned buildings or on the streets of urban centres or at the outskirts of villages. Improvised camps often become grossly inadequate, quickly becoming crowded and uninhabitable (IDMC, OCHA, 2014). IDMC (2018; 2019; 2020 & 2021; Akuto, 2019; UNHCR, 2019) succinctly states that internal displacement has overtime, exposed IDP victims to myriads of challenges among others.

According to Kukak (1998) good governance simply means governance that is accountable, responsible and transparent in policy making and policy execution. Validating Kukah's opinion, Jega and Ibeanu (2007) declared that good governance as a required social and political process revolves around discipline, efficiency and effectiveness in tackling public and private affairs; accountability in the organisation cum utilisation of resources; responsibility and sensitivity in leadership and in government

service; selfless service to the electorates; empowerment and general participation of the people in the conduct and management of their own affairs respectively. Therefore, good governance revolves around an effective state that has stable economic and socio-political milieu for efficient distribution of state limited resources to better the living condition of displaced citizenry especially women and children in the study area. It should be noted that, the psychological effects of displacement on its own put women and children at the risk of post-traumatic stress disorder-PTSD due to the traumatic experiences during forced eviction in the areas of violent conflict or war. Goldstein (2001) cited that violence-displaced persons developed the psychological effects since they were subjected to abuse and violence, traumatic events, and made to feel intense fear, helplessness, lack of control, as well as the threat of total destruction. He agreed that traumatic and stressful events include issues such as rape and exposure to the dead and wounded, and all these bring strong symptoms which may last for a lifetime in a person.

Also, Vigaud-Walsh (2016) indicated that feeling of emotional pain caused by destruction of marital and family relationships are commonly seen among the displaced people. Brun (2003) said that the hazardous and sudden nature of traumatic events result in the development of fear, anxiety, antisocial behaviour, and avoidance reactions. The states of uncertainty and fear impregnated with strong elements of anxiety created in them characterised the lives of now displaced individuals in post-violent conflict. The tragic loss of husbands, livelihoods, belongings, and children rendered the women in question widows and childless among other hardships. One of the major challenges of the displaced children is that they may lose one or both parents, brothers and sisters, a home, and other important people. They become more exposed,



helpless, and poorer than they were at the time of displacement because of violent conflict. Even those remaining with their parents after displacement fare little better, since their parents have lost their source of livelihood in most cases, making meeting displaced children's needs very difficult, if not impossible. Hence, displacement forces children, who cannot look after themselves, to suffer deprivations in livelihoods (IDMC, 2014).

Furthermore, these children, not able to support themselves, will turn into easy target of criminal minds, or sometimes get utilised as unconscious tools from politicians, thus becoming a social problem in society. In terms of malnutrition and disease, it can be further divided into four major sub-forms including wasting, stunting, underweight, and deficiency of vitamins and minerals. Many of the displaced children die within a short period following their displacement due to a number of reasons, including diseases, malnutrition, and lack of adequate access to sanitary conditions, clean drinking water, as well as basic primary and health care services (Salt, 2024).

Dusu (2024) opined that besides, fever, malaria, respiratory diseases, and watery or bloody diarrhoea, coupled with stunted growth as a result of sustained poor nutrition was listed as some of the significant physical health issues IDPs faced in recent times, particularly women and children. Malnutrition predisposes women and children to disease and, more so, to eventual death. Ahmed Mohammed and Shuaibu S. Isiaku (2018) sees poor socialisation as a process of aligning individual with specific norms and values related to group life, moulding human organisms into social beings, and transmitting established cultural traditions. Socialisation is done in three successive stages. These include: primary, secondary, and adulthood. The first stage deals with the socialisation of a young child in the family. The second stage refers to school,

while the third or final stage is socialisation during adulthood. Poor socialisation occurs in situations where children fail to be appropriately exposed to social rules. Under-socialisation is most hurtful when one stays mislaid for a longer period. For instance, displacement destroys family structure, which is the major vehicle for socialisation among children. This means that the opportunity of adequately internalising the culturally defined standards in the community gets destroyed for the concerned children. In other cases, children become orphans through such conflict, making it impossible to raise them well enough. Because of this, victims are said by Osagioduwa and Oluwakorede 2016, to end up being vulnerable to such kinds of deviant behavior or to have problems readjusting to their communities when they finally return. Still, many of these children experience disruptions in their education during crucial stages of development among others.

Aluko (2013) sees “child labour” as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development. Bamaiyi (2024) refers to “child labour” as work that: is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children. Child labour in Nigeria means the employment of anybody less than 18 years old in a way capable of preventing or interfering with the child's attendance at school and verbal or non-verbal development according to Labour Act Policy 2004. Surely, child labour is imminent among IDPs in respect to the deplorable economic situation brought about by families' displacement. It is usually under threat because of hunger and other socio-economic deprivations; the families of IDPs may have to let their children work, hawk, or beg for alms in order to make a living when need be; they are also denied the most basic human right of a child to education and development provided for in the UNCRC.



Osagioduwa and Oluwakorede (2016) reiterated the fact that in times of violent conflict, parents die and leave their children vulnerable. In respect of that, orphans are internally displaced and seek their refuge within communities in which they don't have any blood relations. They lack psycho-emotional stability given by parents and have their needs unmet, as well as poor or no socialisation at all. Loss of identity and privileges brings confusion to such children; therefore, they are vulnerable to all manner of threats. Children whose parents have passed away, are unknown, or have permanently deserted them (Salis, 2023). This term may also refer to a child that has lost a single parent and is most commonly referred to as "fatherless" (Amoniga, 2024). Adoption as contained in this study refers to a legal process in which a child becomes a permanent member of another family.

This activity gives children who do not have parental care an opportunity to lead a caring and supportive life. Adoption also brings with it a series of benefits, including emotional, physical, and social ones for the child and the parents. It even instils some elements of social responsibility and compassion in a person. Nonetheless, the adoption process in Nigeria is a complex and murky process. The process is well regulated by numerous laws and regulations, and this differs from state to state in the country. On top of that, it faces certain challenges and issues such as a lack of awareness, scarcity of adoption agencies, the intricacies of procedural requirements, among others (Amara, 2024). As a result, intending adopters must be very well informed and sufficiently prepared before setting out to adopt any child. The National Policy on IDPs in Nigeria 2012 provides that: -

"adoption of children from such situations can be allowed under some conditions which include but not limited to: adoptive parents should ensure the child receives

full educational development comparable to that of their biological children; Child should be protected from all forms of abuse; Child is fully integrated into the family unit and accorded the same respect as other biological children; Child is entitled to receive entitlements, such as traditional titles where applicable; that the child is not discriminated due to their status as an internally displaced person (National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria 2012)".

Furthermore, it says that: -

"the child should never be reminded that he is from the Internally Displaced Persons-IDP camp and that adoption should be considered permanent, irrevocable, and renounceable (National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria 2012)".

The tendency is that the adopting parents would breach these conditions, being that there are no defined ways of ensuring they are holistically adhered to.

Overview of Bokkos, Barkin Ladi and Mangu LGA's, Plateau State, Nigeria

Plateau State is the twelfth largest state of Nigeria, and is roughly located in the centre of the country. It is geographically unique in Nigeria because its boundaries totally surround the Jos Plateau, having the Jos Plateau totally in its central and northern part. Its capital is Jos. Also known as "The Home of Peace and Tourism", it derives its name Plateau State from the Jos Plateau. It hosts approximately 3.5 million people. It holds a record for more than forty ethnolinguistic groups. The state, while lying in the tropical zone, enjoys an almost temperate climate due to its highland nature, with an average temperature of between 18 and 22°C. The Harmattan winds account for the coldest weather



between December and February. Normally, the warmest temperatures are realized in the dry season months of March and April. The mean annual rainfall ranges from 131.75 cm (52 in.) in the south to 146 cm (57 in.) on the Plateau. July and August are generally the wettest months, with rainfall most intense. The average lower temperatures in Plateau State have reduced the incidence of some tropical diseases such as malaria. The Jos, Plateau makes it the source of many rivers in northern Nigeria including the Kaduna, Gongola, Hadejia and Yobe rivers. The autochthonous ethnic groups in the study area are predominantly agrarian farming communities and have similar cultural and traditional ways of life right from inception.

People from other parts of country have come to settle in Plateau State; these include the Igbo, Yoruba, Ibibio, Annang, Efik, Ijaw, and Bini. (PICDA, 2021). Sadly, on 25th December, 2023, while the world was celebrating Christmas, people in the study areas suffered a gruesome attack that left many maimed, dead and displaced particularly women and children. It was midnight when the attacks started in Mbar village (Bokkos, LGA). The attackers, armed to the teeth with guns and machetes, burnt houses while killing a number of persons. "Some managed to escape gratefully with their family while some were not that lucky," said 45-year-old Mrs. Jumai Bulus, a resident in one of the IDP camps. On that fateful night, fleeing her home in Jing village (Mangu LGA), a 35-

year-old Mrs. Regina Besan delivered her baby at a primary school compound where she and her family now take shelter. Regina said, "I am grateful to be alive; though I am not happy that I gave birth at the camp. Feeding and taking care of the newborn baby is a challenge as we rely on donations and goodwill from people to survive." Situation of Mr. Tiput Emmanuel, who sustained a gunshot in his attempt to run away from his home in Bungha village, Mangu LGA, for which he had his left leg amputated. Generally speaking, during armed conflict, women and children are the most vulnerable apart from the terrible abuses that they are exposed to (UN Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women, 2000). In most conflicts time, casualties and humanitarian threats are estimated to be civilians, with close to 90% rate of who are largely women and children, while hundred years ago, 90% of those who were casualties of same were used to be military personnel's; authorities concerned must do more to ensure the protection of innocent people caught amid such raging conflicts globally (UN, 2022 & Hassana, 2024). One of the major highlights during the 2022 live meetings at the UN headquarters was the calls for action with experts and delegates alike recalling years of appeals for the world body to respect its landmark and unanimously adopted civilian protection resolutions: - 2286 (2016), 2417 (2018), 2474 (2019), 2475 (2019) and 2573 (2021) respectively.

Table 1: Population Overview of Bokkos, Barkin Ladi and Mangu Local Government Areas of Plateau State, Nigeria, based on the 2006 census final results.

Serial Number	Postal Code	State	Local Government Area	Population Based on 2006 NPC Census	Surface Area Km ²
1	932	Plateau	Bokkos,	178,454	1,682
2	932	Plateau	Barkin Ladi	175,267	1,032
3	932	Plateau	Mangu	294,931	1,653
TOTAL	1	1	3	648,652	4,367

Source: National Population Commission (NPC) Census Data 2006.



Theoretical Framework

This study is built on human needs theory which is based on the idea that, the lack of available socio-economic and political alternatives to meet the growing needs and desires of human being are among the soft triggers of insecurity in the society. To this end, violence occurs in the event of safeguarding interest or in a struggle to compete over scarce needs in the society. The needs are not just subsistence ones like food, water, healthcare and shelter but more so include biological needs such as affection, identity, participation, understanding, recognition, security, belonging, self-esteem and personal fulfilment as it were.

The deliberate choice of this theory is to squarely address the caption “Interrogating Internal Displacement of Women and Children Due to Insecurity in Bokkos, Barkin-Ladi and Mangu Local Government Areas, Plateau State, Nigeria” The choice was informed by the understanding that, there is a nexus of human needs satisfaction and societal peaceful coexistence. The core of the argument is that, satisfying human needs will bring about bio-diversity and prevent occurrence of social violence of any kind. It should be noted that violence arises mostly because the basic needs of the individuals and groups that are deprived over time, hence, frustration ensued and the aggrieved think of any way out of the malaise of deprivations and high altitude of despair. The result of such psycho-social and personality’s imbalances, social harmony, eventually lead to more chaos and loss of negative social order. The theory therefore is relevant because if the daunting socio-economic and political challenges are ignored, same may result to a huge complex humanitarian crisis hence, the urgent need for curbing deprivation-based insurgency, the development of socio-economic and political order in the study area.

3. Methodology

This study is dependent on qualitative tools sort between 7th July 2023 and 10th September 2024 to generate data using Key Informant Interview-KIIs and Focus Group Discussion-FGD. Qualitative Data Miner-QDG software tool has been used to analyse the data collected. This is because the study aimed to find out the state of the living conditions and to determine the surviving strategies adopted by Internally Displaced Persons-IDPs as coping mechanisms with livelihood.

This study was conducted based on the action in Bokkos, Barkin Ladi and Mangu Local Government Areas, Plateau State, where a brazen resurgence of well organised and unprovoked attacks were launched on more than 162 villages (46 in Bokkos, 11 in Barkin Ladi, and 109 in Mangu LGAs) alongside the unquantifiable numbers of farmlands, being overrun by suspected fulani militias, resulting in over 409 houses burnt down, 342 deaths, 172 injured with an estimated 18,275 people displaced, particularly women and children from their homes as IDPs in search of refuge in other neighbouring communities.

Data for this study was sourced through Key Informant Interview-KII and Focus Group Discussions-FGD with the IDPs, government officials, and stakeholders in the study area. National dailies reports, text books, extant literatures and National Population Commission-NPC reports among others sought and incorporating these steps into data collection plan helped in improving the likelihood that the data and measurements can be used to support the ensuing analysis. By and large it is important to note that participant observation has immensely aided the enrichment of the data collected for this study.

The research has employed survey research design using qualitative data. First-line victims in the study area were part of the IDPs population who were respondents. A



session of KIIs and FGDs was conducted with sixteen (16) groups of IDPs camp leaders, which comprised seven (7) groups for men and nine (9) groups for women. KIIs with sixteen (16) stakeholders were conducted, which went further to explain the true picture of IDPs presence in their respective domains and plights as host communities. The KIIs and the FGD details have constituted the ensued primary data and sample representative of the entire population once the representativeness of the sample will be assured. Most of the secondary data for the study were obtained from relevant literatures; reports and publications on insecurity, insurgency IDPs among others, are considered as strategic instruments in respect of displacement and dearth plight of women and children in the study area. In addition, the flexibility of the sample data collection instrument, such as KIIs and FGD, could be used to allow one instrument to serve as a check mechanism on the other. It considered the reliability and relevance of the model software analysis tool. Therefore, the choice model used is appropriate and relevant to achieve the set objectives of the study and answer the questions herein.

The data were analyzed using thematic content analysis of Qualitative Data Miner-QDM software tool. The objectives guided the formation of themes and codes for the study accordingly. The various analysed data formed a basis for generating findings of the study.

4. Results and Discussion

This section presents the results and discussion of this study. Each research question is answered based on the results of the analysis and various responses from KIIs and FGD interviews are as follows:

Research Question: 1

“What are the livelihood conditions of the internally displaced persons-IDPs (Women and children) in Bokkos, Barkin-Ladi and Mangu Local Government Areas, Plateau

State, Nigeria?” The results obtained from analyses revealed that the populations of the IDPs especially women and children in the study area is that of humanitarian crisis due to the numerous inhuman conditions associated with displacement. The FGD also indicates that another potential factor that forces IDPs to wander from place to place in search of livelihood is the crisis over the use of common pool resources. This is seen as a serious issue that worsens their food insecurity, as justified by various responses. The question of integration too became impaired as a result of sustained conflicts in the host communities especially over the use of common pool resources. Regarding the means of earning money for a living, findings have justified that the IDPs earn a living mostly by depending on the use of common pool resources in order to get something for a living. The IDPs engage themselves in all sort of subsistence activities, and some among them, in other menial labours to gain a living. Many respondents so attested to it whom are largely artisans. Interviews with the leaders of thought from the respective host communities have justified that the IDPs do utilize the common pool resources of the communities which they use as an avenue for their livelihood conditions.

Research Question: 2

“What are the surviving strategies among the internally displaced persons-IDPs (Women and children) in Bokkos, Barkin-Ladi and Mangu Local Government Areas, Plateau State, Nigeria?” The results obtained in the analyses has shown that the government that is supposed to be a protector of lives, property, and provider of basic life social necessities is proved from the findings to be doing less than expected in terms of been proactive. This is justified by evidence from various respondents who admitted that various faith-based organisations, NGOs, spirited individuals and groups that have been major sources of reaching out to their day-to-day plights in



terms of food and non-food items needs. In the FGD, it was shown that due to the abject poverty situations of the IDPs, they were compelled to depend largely on palliatives and other interventions from NGOs among others. An FGD and a series of interviews have established that IDPs have received more interventions from spirited individuals, faith-based organisations, and NGOs. From the respondents, it would appear that the responsibility of the government in the management and timely response to IDP situations has been long overtaken and managed by the activities of largely faith-based organisations, NGOs among others. The humanitarian response or interventions from government at all levels are justified to be best adjudged to be uncoordinated and inadequate hence indicated their outright inability to discharge its responsibilities of protecting and providing the basic life needs of the citizenry in the study area.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

The study concludes that the situation of internally displaced persons, especially women and children in Bokkos, Barkin-Ladi, and Mangu Local Government Areas, Plateau State, Nigeria; has been an awkward predicament on internal displacement of women and children due to insecurity has attributed largely to the prevalence of IDPs in the area been interrogated. Also, the livelihood of the IDPs especially women and children appeared to be suffering from numerous humanitarian crisis that is worsened due to their conditions of seeming neglect by the authorities concerned. The concern that purportedly informed this study, and which this research interrogated and also provided justification for, is that there is justified inadequacy in both the willingness and the capacity of the government to manage the plight of the IDPs in the study area. The research study recommends as follows:

i. Good governance should be proactive, seen revolves around an effective state that has stable economic and socio-political milieu for efficient distribution of state limited resources to better the livelihood conditions of displaced citizenry especially women and children in the study area.

ii. Government should show its political will to pay more attention to agriculture, which is on the decline, since most of the IDPs population are agrarian farmers and artisans; provide them with necessary incentives for entrepreneurial engagements as surviving strategies to fester better for livelihood.

iii. Government should meet its mandate in providing a secure, safe and basic life needs as a priority to IDPs food, health care, portable drinking water, basic education, affordable housing and commodities.

iv. Penology on the treatment of offenders should be enhanced in line with extant laws to serve as deterrent to offenders for the violations of laws on the displacement of persons to ensure physical and human security, a just society, peaceful co-existence, national unity, prosperity and sustainable development.

v. Government should make deliberate policies to restore hope to IDPs through a well-coordinated humanitarian response with other stakeholders for the protection of human dignity as a primary responsibility.

vi. Government should motivate the affected LGAs to always be on the lookout to provide credible and reliable intelligence reports to security agencies to assist in tackling down any security breach.

Fulfilling these recommendations mitigates the humanitarian crisis, which includes persistent poverty, lack of basic



education, food insecurity, family disintegration, absence of basic health care facilities, and uncoordinated government response in the informal IDPs camps, making the livelihood conditions of women and children worthwhile among other things in the study area.

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