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**THE ROLE OF SOCIAL PROVISION ON SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD
AMONG DISPLACED PERSONS IN BENUE STATE: CHALLENGES AND
OPPORTUNITIES**

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JULIET AMARACHI MPAMAH

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Members of the Examining Committee:

Supervisor

GERARD MCCARTHY

Second Reader

KAIRA ZOE ALBURO-CAÑETE

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Inquiries:

International Institute of Social Studies
P.O. Box 29776
2502 LT The Hague
The Netherlands

t: +31 70 426 0460
e: info@iss.nl
w: www.iss.nl
fb: <http://www.facebook.com/iss.nl>
twitter: [@issnl](https://twitter.com/issnl)

Location:

Kortenaerkade 12
2518 AX The Hague
The Netherlands

Contents

Contents

List of Tables	v
List of Figures	v
List of Maps	v
List of Appendices	v
List of Acronyms	v
Abstract	vi
Relevance to Development Studies	vi
Chapter 1 Introduction	1
1.1 Background of The Study	1
1.1 Background of Internal Displacement in Nigeria	3
1.2 Justification of the Study	4
1.4 Objectives of the Study	4
1.5 Research Questions	5
Chapter 2 Literature Review	5
2.1 Introduction	5
2.2 Conceptual Review	6
2.2.1 Concept of Displacement	6
2.2.2 Concept of Social Provision and Sustainable Livelihood	6
2.2.3 Concept of Resilience	7
2.2.4 The Nexus between Social Provision, Sustainable Livelihood, and Resilience in Displacement Context	8
2.2.5 Context of Benue State	9
2.2.6 Social Provision in Benue state	10
2.3 Theoretical Framework	11
2.3.1 Sustainable Livelihood Framework (SLF).	11
2.3.3 The Welfare Regime Framework	12
Chapter 3 Methodology	13
3.1 Introduction	13
3.2 Research Design	14
3.3 Sampling Technique	14
3.4 Population of the Study	14
3.5 Sample Size	14
3.6 Sources of Data	15
3.7 Data Collection	15
3.8 Data Management Analysis	16
3.9 Research Area	16

3.10 Positionality	17
3.11 Ethics and Conduct	17
Chapter 4 Presentation of Findings	18
4.1 Introduction	18
4.2 Sampling and Demographic Overview	18
4.3 Navigating Displacement and Social Provision in Benue State	19
4.4 Challenges Faced in Accessing and Delivery of Social Provisions	20
4.4.1 Challenges of Social Provision Delivery	20
4.4.2 Challenges of Social Provisions Accessibilities	21
4.5 Resilience: The way to Go	22
Chapter 5 Discussion of Findings	23
5.1 Introduction	23
5.2 Social Provision Impact on Livelihood Support and its Limitations	23
5.3 Challenges Faced in Delivery and Accessing Social Provisions	25
5.4 Activities of Government through SEMA Towards Creating a Sustainable Livelihood Among Internally Displaced Persons in Benue Camp.	26
5.4.1 Food Security as a Core Responsibility of Government	26
5.4.2 Challenges in Allocation and Mobilization of Provisions	27
5.4.3 Collaboration with Non-State Actors	28
Chapter 6 Conclusion and Recommendation	28
6.1 Conclusion	28
6.2 Recommendations	29
References	29
Appendix	35

List of Tables

Table 1.1 Demographic Profile

Error!

Bookmark not defined.

Table 2: Occupation of IDPs Before and After Displacement

List of Figures

Figure 1.1 The Care Diamond

Error!

Bookmark not defined.

List of Maps

Map 1.1 A map of Benue State, showing the location of Makurdi

Error!

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List of Appendices

Appendix 1 Approved Questionnaire Guide **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Appendix 2 Approved Consent Form

Appendix 3 Approved Ethics form

List of Acronyms

BSEMA	Benue State Emergency Management Agency
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
IOM	International Organizations for Migration
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
SEMA	State Emergency Management Agency
SLF	Sustainable Livelihood Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHRC	United Nations Human Right Commission
UNRA	United Nations Refugee Agency

Abstract

The increasing displacement crisis in Benue State resulting from conflicts, particularly between herders and farmers, makes effective humanitarian interventions and social provisions for IDPs indispensable. This study investigates the role of social provisions in promoting sustainable livelihoods for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Benue State, Nigeria. The study, using a qualitative research method, fundamentally guided by the sustainable livelihood framework and welfare regime framework, attempts to assess the challenges related to the provision of the delivery, effectiveness, and the eventual impact on the livelihood sustainability of IDPs. Data was collected through interviews and focus group discussion with a total of twenty (20) participants which includes IDPs, camp officials, community leaders, and non-state actors such as NGOs. These results show that although social provisions such as education and healthcare have impacted the lives of the IDPs, a several challenges persist. These include shortage of provisions, security threat, and financial constraints. As it is, IDPs are of the view that these basic needs such as food, shelter, education and healthcare were not enough to sustain them, which leaves them dependent on external aid.

Humanitarian actors have also sited security risks and financial constraints as the key factors that often limit the delivery of social services. Against these odds however, this research shows how social provision, inclusive of food provision, shelter, educational support, skill acquisition programmes and healthcare provisions play an indisputable role in supporting internally displaced persons. All these services have been able to foster resilience beyond what is provided to them, although they need to be scaled up and better coordinated for long-term impact. The study concludes that an all-encompassing approach, which may involve improved funding, enhanced security measures, and better coordination among humanitarian actors, is necessary to ensure sustainable livelihoods for IDPs in Benue State. Increasing the volume of social provisions, focusing on long-term livelihood support through skills acquisition and financial empowerment, and addressing the challenges of service delivery to create a more robust and sustainable frameworks for IDP support in Nigeria constitute the recommendations.

Relevance to Development Studies

Sustainability, the dream of various displaced persons, typically involves government and humanitarian organisations and individuals providing for the needs of such people by way of social provisions. This research contributes to development studies through the discussions of social provisions and social relationship, challenges and opportunities faced by both humanitarian actors and IDPs in accessing social provisions and how it has helped in creating sustenance among IDPs in Benue State. Through the analysis and uncovering of various possibilities and limitations of the role of social provisions in promoting resilience and sustainable livelihood among IDPs, the government and policy makers will be able to improve in those aspects pointed out in the research to ensure sustainable livelihood among IDPs.

Keywords

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs); social provisions; sustainable livelihoods; Benue State; Government; non-state actors.

Chapter 1 Introduction

1.1 Background of The Study

Social, economic, and environmental challenges constantly drive more people to leave their homes and livelihoods to seek refuge in safer places. This mobility of people is often either temporary or long-term. According to Tilly, in Shaibu et al (2022, p. 2), internal displacement, reflects the social exclusion of displaced citizens who became marginalized from the national mainstream. Issues of Internal displacement in Nigeria, particularly in conflict-affected areas like Benue State, thus remains one of the most significant humanitarian challenges in the country, and according to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC, 2023), Nigeria, till this day, is home to a significant population of internally displaced groups, owing mostly to armed conflicts, cases of insurgency, and intercommunal conflict. In recent years, Benue State has become a focal point of displacement due to violent conflicts between Fulani herdsmen and farming communities. This conflict, according to Achem and Aderinto (2023), often rooted in disputes over land and resources, herding and farming situation, has escalated over the last decade, forcing over 3.6 million persons in Nigeria and about 2.1 persons in Benue state out of their homes.

The displaced populations in Benue face numerous challenges, and according to Deblon and Gutekunst's study, in Chenge, et al. (2020, p. 1), these challenges go beyond physical dangers in situations when forced to migrate. They likewise have to contend with the challenges of ensuring economic as well as social survival, leading to a rise in unemployment among IDPs. The implications of being unemployed and with a lack of income in displaced situations can often make it difficult for them to gain stability, as they are often faced with poor nutrition inadequate access to basic needs and services, psychological distress and interpersonal conflicts as possible results (Chenge et al., 2020). The effects of displacement often go beyond humanitarian considerations can pose as a development challenge for the state and nation.

This is particularly as Nigeria has conflict in many regions, especially the Niger Delta. This tensions, including the military history takeovers from the first military rule of 1966 till the fourth republic in 1999 adds to the country's history with conflict. To calm the unrest, in the Niger Delta an amnesty program was implemented in 2009 by the former president Musa Yar'Adua. This effort encouraged insurgents in the Niger Delta to surrender their weapons to the federal government, marking a significant step toward restoring peace in the region (Tobi and Adesanmi, 2020).

In 2009, a group in the northern part of the country declared war against the federal government of Nigeria in the northeastern area. This group, known as Boko Haram, traumatised thousands of Northeastern Nigerians, as many of them found themselves at the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camps across the Northeastern region states of the country due to the conflict between the federal government and various groups, such as the Niger Delta, Boko Haram, as well as Fulani herders.

Ukase and Terungwa (2022, p. 2) assert that Benue State has come under severe, intermittent, and endemic attacks from the Fulani herders. According to Wegh as cited in Ukase and Jato (2020, p. 2), the war between alleged Fulani herders and crop farmers throughout the country, which has the most extensive spread geographically in Nigeria's history, has been the most devastating in Benue State. The attacks became so severe, rendering many people homeless with no effective means of income. This terrible incident, which began as a minor dispute between parties in Guma and Gwer West local governments in 2008, rapidly spread throughout Guma and the entire Gwer-West councils by 2018. This conflict eventually concluded with farmers being killed with advanced weapons and their

farms being destroyed. With the loss of livelihood, the affected population is thus left in need of social support to help their recovery and self-resilience.

Social provision therefore addresses the services that the government, non-state actors make available for individuals or communities to support them in times of distress and recovery. Devereux and Sabates-Wheeler (2004) emphasize that this system provides both material and non-material support to reduce the vulnerability of affected population. These includes basic amenities such as food, healthcare, education and shelter and long-term support like financial aid and skill acquisition programmes. As stated by Devereux et al (2017), social provision remains an integral part of a broader social protection framework, that is designed to create a safe haven for individuals and communities in the midst of crisis. As such, social provision seeks to stabilize people in the course of displacement, while making available provisions for the required long-term rehabilitation. Pavanello and Montemurro (2021) also includes that the efficacy of these measures is highly dependent on whether there is enough capacity to concurrently serve both immediate and long-term needs, enough to guarantee that internally displaced persons can rebuild their lives and regain their dignity.

In recent years, Nigeria and development partners have deemed it necessary to make available social provision instruments as mechanisms to tackle such high rates of poverty and vulnerability of IDPs and to support progress in both their economic and social spheres. Thus, social provisions have become an emerging and fundamental component of the government. The primary obligation of every government is to secure the lives of citizens and their properties, which does not exclude the internally displaced persons (IDPs). With the controversial situations of the IDPs, it is the reverse, as their lives are constantly threatened and their properties are continually laid to waste, in conflict situations, natural disasters. Against this background, this study will examine various social provisions of the government and non-governmental organisations and how these social provisions have helped in providing a sustainable livelihood among internally displaced people (IDPs). The term social provision thus refers to the services and resources provided to individuals or communities by the government, non-state actors, or individuals in times of crisis to render support, reduce suffering, promote social welfare, and support recovery. Scholars such as Devereux and Sabates-Wheeler (2004) describe these as mechanisms that provide both material and non-material support, including things like food, healthcare, education, and shelter, as well as longer-term interventions such as financial aid and skill development programs to address the vulnerability of the affected population. Devereux et al. (2017) also emphasise that social provision is still important in providing broader social protection systems for individuals and communities during crises. As such, by providing these support systems, social provisions can help to provide stability for IDPs while providing them with the needed resources for long-term recovery. Pavanello and Montemurro (2010) further notes that the effectiveness of these provisions is very dependent on their ability to address both short-term and lasting needs of IDPs at the same time so that they can build their lives again.

This is underscored by the fact that displacement contributes adversely to the state's development. For internally displaced persons to recover or reclaim their livelihood, this study aims to find out what social services are made available by government and non-state actors. By ascertaining how social provisions assistance help internally displaced persons in building and maintaining a sustainable life, the study hopes to explore the efficacy and efficiency of these provisions. The study will also address the potential difficulties and the opportunities that social service providers face in the drive to promote resilience and independence for internally displaced persons in Benue state.

Though several investigations on this topic have been conducted in recent years on IDPs in Benue state, the effectiveness of the social provisions made available to IDPs in Benue

State still needs to be addressed. In addition, roles played by the government and non-governmental organisations, as well as the challenges they face in service delivery have become overlooked.

1.1 Background of Internal Displacement in Nigeria

Internal displacement in Nigeria has been driven primarily by a combination of ethno-religious conflicts, political instability, and environmental disasters. The first incidence can be traced back to the civil war, also known as the Nigerian civil war from 1967 to 1970 (Omoraka, 2021). According to Oduwale et al. (2013 p. 2-5), displacement in Nigeria, particularly in the northern regions, is mostly caused by violent conflicts, rising poverty rates, and low education levels, all which drive people to migrate within the country. These drivers have significantly increased over the last decade, particularly due to violent insurgencies such as the Boko Haram crisis in the Northeast and the Fulani herdsmen crisis in the north-central region, including Benue State. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported in 2022 that the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nigeria had surged to one of the highest in Africa, largely because of these conflicts. According to Achem (2023), these numbers have significantly increased to over 3.6 million persons in Nigeria alone.

The politicised ethnicity and belief system in Nigeria has fuelled the creation of groups like the Boko Haram (Bamidele, 2012, p. 1-13). The insurgency caused by this group alone has displaced millions, forcing people to flee from rural areas where attacks are most frequent, consequently gaining both national and international popularity for the Boko Haram group (Adeiyza, 2022; Cold-Ravnikilde and Plambech 2015 p. 39). Similarly, the conflict between Fulani herdsmen and farming communities has contributed to widespread displacement in states like Benue, where farmers have been forced off their land, losing both homes and livelihoods.

Amnesty International (2023) reports that majority of displaced persons now face severe economic insecurity as they are unable to cultivate their land, making them heavily dependent on aid. Consequentially, when internally displaced people (IDPs) migrate to cities in search of safety from armed violence and better prospects, they encounter significant obstacles, including a lack of resources and social networks to help them adjust to a new reality.

The Nigerian government, with other international organizations like UNHCR, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) like Médecins Sans Frontières, work together to provide emergency relief to those who are displaced for any reason. The kind of support they give are food items distribution, make-shift house or tent, drugs which are things the needed immediately. But then these things they provide are not enough to actually solve the problem of this displacement because in the long run these displaced persons cannot really go back and live their lives they used to live before. This is because many, humanitarian workers and even research into humanitarian issues have noted that while the immediate support that these people receive is very important, long-term plans and support is very much needed if these people are to continue their lives. According to Uzobo and Akhuetie (2018, p. 2), food insecurity, inadequate healthcare, is still a big problem for displaced people in Nigeria. This indicates a significant gap and makes me wonder if these aid programs are even effective in helping these displaced people build back their lives.

Displaced people in Nigeria also don't have enough support that can help them to build sustainable livelihoods that can help them in the long run. Displaced persons in Nigeria are still facing so many challenges that does not allow them to have economic independence, so they are still depending on the government, NGOs, and International Organization for everything. Because of this most of them remain poor because they remain dependent for a

long time. According to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) highlights these immediate reliefs are not totally bad it is just that they do not really address the main issues that can help these displaced people to re-build their lives. Iweala and Oche (2019), also agree with the IOM and for these authors, the need to address the issues that can help IDPs be economically independent is still very and so the focus needs to go beyond just their immediate needs to the future. This is because when the support does not look at the future of these IDPs, they will remain in deep poverty and more issues like their health, access to water, food and shelter will keep growing bigger and bigger. These problems even go being just affecting these IDPs to affecting the communities that host them leading to more problems and conflict Bett et al. (2019). All of these show how important it is to do more to help IDPs not just in the short term through emergency reliefs but support that is long-term and helps their future as such the importance of social provisions is very clear.

Social provisions, likes education, medical help, and employment, are important if displaced persons are to build their lives back. It is important to note that in delivering these important services is not easy there may be no roads to even deliver them, no money to provide these services or government just does not care about them. For example, in Benue State, the insecurity on the road with the fear of being kidnapped or killed as well as corruption in the government agencies that should even protect IDPs make it difficult to provide aid. (Akawu, 2023, p. 81). These makes it very important to address these issues and even ensure that there is better collaboration so that everyone can work to ensure IDPs are provided the needed help.

In Nigeria, so much has been done to provide support to IDPs but there is still so much to still be done. It is important to mention at this point in my research paper that internal displacement is not the only humanitarian crisis in Nigeria It is very important for the Nigerian government, to coordinate with other stakeholders NGOs and international organisations to more effectively help displaced populations get the needed reliefs and access that can help them build back their lives. in this research I examine how the challenges that these IDPs face can be solved, especially with social provisions that can support their livelihoods in the long run.

1.2 Justification of the Study

Benue State presents a unique case for understanding the role of social provisions in supporting displaced populations. As a region heavily affected by farmer-herder conflicts, Benue State has seen a steady increase in the number of IDPs over the past decade. The state's capacity to provide adequate social services to IDPs is limited, and humanitarian organizations often face challenges in delivering aid due to insecurity and logistical constraints. Notwithstanding, several conflicts and other unfavourable circumstances which has led to displacement of people most especially in Benue state Nigeria has brought necessity for thorough assessment of the government and non-state actors' responses to the situation of displacement, and their impact to provide sustainable livelihood among the internally displaced persons. With the rise in the case of displacement, studies on it have become popular, most especially in Africa. Studies on displacement over the years have shown a link between social provisions as humanitarian response to the displacement situations and the livelihood of displaced persons in various countries.

Achieving successful interventions that support resilience, and sustainable livelihood requires an understanding of the difficulties experienced by IDP's in Benue state. To ensure that internally displaced persons can put their lives back on track, this study aims to add to the body of knowledge on social provision by exploring how these studies can be tailored to

suite specific requirements and this important for organisations and authorities that work in this sector

This study investigates the role of social support in the long term, the current difficulties and the opportunities to improve them.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To explore the difficulties encountered by IDPs in securing social provisions in Benue.
2. To establish how the social provisions contribute to finding sustainable livelihood among IDPs
3. To provide recommendations for in providing the delivery and impact of social provisions for IDPs.

1.5 Research Questions

The main research question guiding this study is:

- In what ways do social provisions contribute to sustainable livelihoods among IDPs in Benue State?

The following sub-questions further explore this issue:

- How effective are the social provisions provided by the government and NGOs in improving the livelihoods of IDPs?
- What challenges do IDPs face in accessing these social provisions?
- What are the key factors that influence the successful delivery and utilisation of social provisions in IDP camps?

Literature Review

2.1 Introduction

Displacement has had a significant impact on the livelihood of the IDPs in Benue state, with many losing their homes, farms and livelihood as a result of recurrent attacks. The loss of these livelihood sources have made a major portion of the displaced persons dependent on support from outside. Which is often provided by non-state actors and government institutions. When put in context, social provision becomes important for sustaining and stabilizing IDPs, providing with the resources they to restore their lives. According to Ogbe and Nyiayaana (2022), access to social services for those who have already been displaced is making it difficult to obtain essential services like medical care, education and livelihood support.

The theoretical framework that guides this study such as the sustainable livelihood framework and the welfare regime framework are useful in explaining how social provisions help bring about sustainable livelihood among IDPs. These frameworks provide information about the different elements that affect displaced population's resilience and the ability to

recover. For instance, the sustainable livelihood framework shows the importance of access to human, social, financial and human resources in achieving sustainable livelihoods (Chambers and Conway, 1992). By examining these theoretical perspectives, this study aims to explore how social provisions can be optimised to promote sustainable livelihoods that will ensure resilience among IDPs in Benue State.

2.2 Conceptual Review

2.2.1 Concept of Displacement

According to the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (UNHCR), internally displaced persons (IDPs) are individuals or groups forced to flee their homes, but unlike refugees, they remain within their country's borders (Kalin 2008, UNHCR, 2022). Often, individuals find themselves in situations of displacement "as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalised violence, violations of human rights, or natural or human-made disasters" (Kalin, 2008, p. 2–17). Displacement creates a range of vulnerabilities for affected individuals, including loss of livelihoods, exposure to violence, and lack of access to basic services such as healthcare, education, and sanitation.

Displacement has far-reaching social, economic, and psychological consequences. The separation from one's home and community lead to the loss of social networks and support systems that are critical for emotional well-being and economic stability. According to Tajudeen and Adebayo (2013), the sudden disruption of social structures due to displacement creates feelings of isolation and vulnerability, particularly among women and children, who are often disproportionately affected by displacement. For instance, studies like Enwereji (2009) note that displaced persons are vulnerable to exploitation, because they often lack protection. Also, because displaced persons have lost their means of sustenance, they are dependent on government intervention and humanitarian aid. According to Obaji (2016), this dependency likely leads to long-term issues, as displaced persons try to find long-term livelihood support. Aloba and Obaji (2016) argue that this dependency can create long-term challenges for recovery, as displaced persons may struggle to regain self-sufficiency without adequate livelihood support programs.

2.2.2 Concept of Social Provision and Sustainable Livelihood

Social provision can refer to support, services, and aid provided by either governments or non-state actors aimed at enhancing individual or community wellbeing. Cammett and MacLean (2011, p. 4) describe social provision as encompassing both direct and indirect delivery of services, programs, and structures designed to enhance the wellbeing and security of the people. This includes healthcare, education, and assistance for vulnerable groups such as the elderly, disabled, and impoverished. Similarly, Spicker (2014, p. 56) defines social provision as the "organised effort to ensure the welfare of individuals by supplying them with essential services and support systems such as healthcare, education, housing, and income maintenance." In contrast to other services of general interest, social services are person-orientated, created to address human vital needs, and typically motivated by the principle of solidarity. They also help to protect fundamental rights and human dignity, ensure that there is no discrimination, and ensure that equal opportunities are created for all, allowing people to participate meaningfully in the social and economic life of the community (European Union Council, 2010).

When applied to displaced persons—such as refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), or asylum seekers—social provision becomes crucial in addressing their immediate and long-term needs, particularly in times of crisis. In this context, social provision serves as vital assistance given to individuals or communities in distress to help them recover from adverse situations and rebuild their lives. This support includes both material and non-material forms of assistance, such as food, shelter, healthcare, education, psychological support, and social integration. Social provisions are critical for promoting resilience and recovery. Sambu (2015) adds that social provisions not only help in the immediate recovery phase but also contribute to long-term development by enhancing individuals' resilience and helping them regain control over their lives. McNally et al. (1999) explain that social provisions can be further categorised into structural support, which includes social bonds like family and community ties, and functional support, which includes the actual services provided, such as economic aid, healthcare, and emotional support. For IDPs, both structural and functional provisions are essential for ensuring recovery from displacement and promoting long-term sustainability.

Sustainable livelihood as a concept and approach was developed in an attempt to move beyond traditional or conventional strategies to poverty alleviation and eradication (Krantz, 2001; Auta et al., 2023). Chambers and Conway (as cited in Natarajan et al., 2022) define a livelihood as a set of “capabilities, assets (including both material and social resources), and activities required for a means of living” (Natarajan et al., 2022, p. 2). According to the authors, a livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, while not undermining the natural resource base (Krantz, 2001; Auta et al., 2023). Chambers and Conway (as cited in Natarajan et al., 2022) for future generations. In the context of displacement, sustainable livelihood approaches have been utilised in responses aimed at rehabilitating and restoring displaced persons/communities. When people and households can handle and bounce back from the challenges of shifting circumstances, a livelihood is considered sustainable. In general, sustainable livelihood programs strive to enhance food security as well as other economic outcomes such as household income, employment, and asset ownership to achieve a desirable standard of living that is both appropriate for them as human beings and validated by measures of wellbeing and human development. Development practitioners and academics agree that sustainable livelihood assistance should be prioritised post-disaster to ensure that individuals in displaced communities can rebuild, sustain themselves, and develop resilience (Daly et al., 2020). For this study therefore, sustainable livelihood refers to the ability of individuals and communities, particularly those who have been displaced, to adapt to and recover from adversity while also working towards improved economic and social conditions.

2.2.3 Concept of Resilience

Resilience is defined as the ability of an individual or community to resist and adapt to and recover from a crisis or emergency (Van Breda, 2022). Resilience in the context of internal displacement refers to impacted populations' capacity to adjust to changes brought about by forced relocation and its impacts on their health, welfare, and living circumstances inside their nation (Ekezie, 2022, p. 1). Thus, encompassing not only the ability to meet immediate survival needs but also the ability to rebuild lives and livelihoods in the long term. Ekezie (2022) explains that people who have been internally displaced due to war, violence, disasters, or other life-threatening situations face a variety of difficulties and are often at the lower chain of building resilience due to the lack of organisational support, often leading to IDP re-displacement.

Resilience, therefore, is a multifaceted concept that involves not only psychological and emotional recovery but also social and economic reintegration. Efforts to enhance resilience must therefore adopt a holistic approach that addresses both the immediate needs and long-term challenges of displacement. By focusing on the interplay between social support, economic recovery, and living conditions by policymakers and non-state actors, displaced persons can achieve greater stability and security (IOM, 2021).

2.2.4 The Nexus between Social Provision, Sustainable Livelihood, and Resilience in Displacement Context

In the last decades, social provision has become a useful model in the fight for inequalities, poverty, and vulnerabilities, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. In Sub-Saharan countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Uganda, for instance, social provision interventions, frameworks, and policies have been crucial in addressing the needs of many displaced persons (Barrientos and Nini-Zarazua, 2011). These policies and frameworks are often implemented solely by the state (national, regional, local) and/or in collaboration with non-state actors (non-profits, the private sector, and bilateral organisations, i.e., the World Bank) (Hovey, 2013).

With displacement come social and economic changes for individuals and communities that often lead otherwise self-sufficient people to become dependent on social provisions for survival. When people are faced with displacement, they no longer have access to their traditional forms of support like land, houses, etc., and that makes them more vulnerable. Social provisions become the first form of stability that displaced persons rely on to meet their economic, educational, health, and other social needs. In supporting displaced persons to begin to build their lives, social provisions become more than quick fixes; they have the potential to catalyse into becoming tools for building livelihoods and resilience that can help IDPs rebuild their lives economically and socially.

For IDPs, social provisions such as community-based mental health programs or peer support groups can significantly improve their ability to recover from displacement-related trauma. Sambu (2015) further emphasises the need for emotional reassurance as a form of social support that enables displaced individuals to maintain hope and optimism, which are essential components of resilience.

Crawford and Holloway (2024) discuss that displaced persons routinely list their livelihoods as one of their top priorities. However, it might be difficult to create and maintain a sustainable livelihood when displaced. Forcible relocation, discrimination, shattered social networks, constrictive legal and policy frameworks, the anguish of forced relocation, and other challenges are faced by displaced people trying to start over and provide for their family. The key to helping displaced people settle into their new communities is livelihoods programming, which helps them find jobs and actively participate in the local labour market (UNHCR 2022). Those who have been displaced may be able to access wage employment as part of social programs, which can offer them social inclusion, chances for skill and career development, and a consistent income. Additionally, offering them financial support, educational opportunities, and skill acquisition and training programs will help them return to their appropriate status. However, due to legal constraints, discrimination, a lack of social networks, and other impediments, access to formal-wage jobs and all other social benefits is frequently restricted for displaced communities (UNHCR, 2018). Displaced people may also experience exploitation and unfavourable working circumstances in both formal and informal jobs. Many of these many obstacles to creating a sustainable living among people who are internally displaced are the result of structural and legal policies that have created an environment that is not favourable to their wellbeing. Although development initiatives frequently delve further and deeper into the fundamental problems facing society, they

frequently do not include displaced people. Humanitarians and development actors ought to collaborate more closely in all situations to improve the standard of living for both host communities and displaced people (IASC, 2019).

Lastly, sustainable livelihoods or self-sufficiency are frequently the ultimate goals of livelihoods programs (UNHCR 2008). Programs that help people become more self-reliant should still be supported as practical contributions, even if they don't entirely achieve self-reliance as a result of that specific project.

2.2.5 Context of Benue State

Benue State in the central part of Nigeria has witnessed significant levels of internal displacement for many years because of intercommunal clashes, economic crises, and natural catastrophes. Attacks by Fulani herdsmen on farming villages, which began on a modest scale in 2008, have since escalated and evolved across most of the state's local government areas. As a result, millions of people have been involuntarily uprooted and their livelihoods have been destroyed, resigned to seek refuge in both official and unofficial internally displaced persons (IDP) camps throughout the state.

According to statistics, by 2022, Benue State had 1.5 million IDPs due to Fulani herdsmen attacks alone (Torbo et al., 2024), and according to Achem (2023), this number has been on the rise, increasing to about 2.1 million in 2023. The attacks have been progressively devastating, reaching their highest in 2014 and 2018, when many were killed in multiple local government regions (Torbo et al., 2024). With agriculture as the main economic activity and means of employment in Benue, and over 70% of the population working in it (Torbo et al., 2024), the attacks by Fulani herders have destroyed farmlands and livelihoods worth billions of naira across 21 local government areas between 2011-2018, according to the Benue State Emergency Management Agency (BSEMA) (Torbo et al., 2024, p.97-99).



Figure 1: A map of Benue State, showing the location of Makurdi

Source: https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Map-of-Benue-State-showing-Makurdi-the-capital-city-in-circle-wwwbenpolyonlineedung_fig3_272409547

In Benue State, Nigeria, displacement is largely driven by the violent clashes between farmers and herders that have resulted in the destruction of homes, farms, and communities. Conflicts such as these have created a protracted displacement crisis in the region, where many IDPs have been living in camps or with host communities for extended periods without stable sources of income or access to essential services. The prolonged displacement of individuals in Benue State, as well as the affected family structures, where many families have experienced separation or the loss of primary breadwinners, has made citizens reliant on social provision by state and non-state actors (NGOs).

2.2.6 Social Provision in Benue state

In Nigeria, social provision for displaced persons is guided by the National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons. This policy is led by the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management, and Social Development, in collaboration with the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) (FMHA, 2021). Drawing on international (United Nations Guidelines for International Displacement) and regional (African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons) legal instruments, this policy provides a framework for effective solutions for internally displaced persons with an overall goal of reducing their reliance on government-assisted support and supporting reintegration into host communities or return to communities of origin (FMHA 2021).

Under the National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons for Nigeria, the state government has the primary responsibility to provide response measures to cater to minor displacements (FMHA 2021). This response is coordinated through the state departments of the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management, and Social Development, in collaboration with the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) (FMHA 2021). In the event of major displacements that exceed the state's capabilities, the federal government coordinates the response in partnership with the state. In Benue, the State Emergency Management Agency (BSEMA) - the Benue state arm of NEMA, coordinates the distribution of social welfare for internally displaced persons across the state by providing necessities such as makeshift shelters, the provision of food and water supplies, sanitation facilities such as toilets, as well as healthcare facilities (Inyang and Effiong 2022). However, in recent times, social provision has shifted to include civil society organisations, NGOs, and community-focused groups in the quest to breach the gap between the government and the availability of social provision (Akanmu et al., 2016). The involvement of non-state actors such as international organisations UNICEF, UNHCR, the Red Cross, Save the Children, and MSF is aimed at countering the inefficiencies that have been created by minimal state supplies and the social isolation connected to market provision (Mwabu et al., 2000). Their support ranges from the provision of "food, water, access to protection and security, educational services, and health services." (Mile and Apinega, 2023, p. 95).

It is important to note that despite these responses, the provision of social support has been impacted by several factors, such as inadequate housing, lack of quality healthcare, and lack of access to public education (Iorbo et al., 2024, p. 102–103). In addition to this, Shaibu et al (2024) note that the lack of clean water, sanitation and hygiene services really affects IDPs. Iorbo et al. (2024) also mention that legal documentation has become difficult to access, limiting proper integration into the larger society. Another issue that IDPs must cross is the substantial threats to their wellbeing, as a lot of camps are without proper security measures. These inadequate responses to security issues have left many displaced persons in a state of fear and uncertainty, further increasing the psychological trauma of the displacement shift (Human Rights Watch, 2022). The lack of a sustainable social provision creates a void,

making it difficult for IDPs to prepare for their futures or even attempt to rebuild their lives. This has further perpetuated their position of need and vulnerability.

Because these services are not regularly delivered it has led to frustrations among displaced populations, heightening conflict in the region (Phuong, 2005). Hence, individuals have become overdependent on both government and non-government support (Achem, 2023). To achieve livelihoods in the long-run, social provision must go beyond simply meeting urgent needs.

2.3 Theoretical Framework

I used the welfare regime framework and the sustainable livelihood framework, because it really looks into social provision and connects it to sustainable livelihood for internally displaced people (IDPs) in Benue state, Nigeria. As I combined these frameworks, I could begin to see how social provisions impact the resilience, recovery and general well-being of displaced persons. Even though the frameworks look at different things it was still useful to examine the effectiveness of the social provisions given to IDPs. The study aims to help in showing how social provisioning can help in the long-term recovery of internally displaced people in Benue State using the lens of this frameworks.

2.3.1 Sustainable Livelihood Framework (SLF).

The sustainable livelihood framework, which was developed by Robert Chambers and Gordon Conway in 1992, provides a framework for comprehending how individuals, in this case IDPs can attain sustainable livelihoods in the face of external shocks such as displacement. To Chambers and Conway (1992), the foundation of the SLF is in the individual, which supports participation in rural areas. (Chambers and Conway 1992; Natarajan et al., 2022; Small 2007).

The SLF identifies five different areas which are importation for livelihoods to be sustained in the long-run: human, social, financial, physical, and natural capital. According to DFID (1999), livelihood sustainability is dependent on its ability to cope with and recover from shocks while maintaining or enhancing its capabilities and assets. In the context of displacement, sustainable livelihoods become focused on restoring these forms of capital through access to resources such as education, vocational training, healthcare, and financial assistance. Thus, showing its relevance in addressing the situation of IDPs in Benue State, who have lost access to their traditional means of livelihood, such as farming, due to ongoing conflict between farmers and herders.

Notably, while Chambers and Conway's Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA) may have simplified the complexities surrounding livelihood systems by overlooking the unpredictable nature of livelihood strategies such as the interplay of social, environmental, and political forces (Natarajan et al., 2022), the framework remains a critical lens through which individuals can understand livelihoods and sustainability. In Nigeria, specifically Benue, where displacement significantly alters the social frame and disrupts local economies, along with the current inflation situation in general, a more diverse framework is necessary to understand how individuals navigate livelihoods under such conditions. Small (2007) further argues that ignoring key social factors—like market forces, class differences, gender roles, and ethnic influences—makes it hard to fully understand the complex social realities and power structures in rural and IDP communities. For internally displaced persons, these factors can affect their access to resources and ability to rebuild their livelihoods. Benue State, known for its agricultural strength, having a many displaced individuals without means of

income generation creates a significant strain on the state's productivity and economic output. Erunke and Aku (2022).

For this study, the Sustainable Livelihood Framework (SLF) is adopted to help provide a detailed and critical prism through which individuals can understand the complex connections that exist between social provision and sustainable livelihoods for displaced people in Benue State. The SLF, as adopted for this study, illustrates that a person's livelihood transcends mere economic factors, following the understanding that it also cuts across social ties, personal skills, physical resources, financial means, and access to natural resources. This framework categorically brings to the fore important issues such as vulnerability and the resources people have, making it possible for the researcher to unearth the real challenges and opportunities that displaced individuals face. Moreover, the SLF considers how various factors—such as policies, institutions, and cultural backgrounds—interact with people's livelihood strategies, thereby availing us the opportunity to critically analyse how social provision can either help or hinder their ability to build sustainable lives, especially within the Benue spatiality (Natarajan et al., 2022). Oteyi (2020) emphasises that many IDPs in Benue State require external support to resume their livelihoods due to the destruction of their economic assets. Hence, the exploration of the livelihoods of IDPs in Benue through the SLF imbues this research with the potential to reveal the linkages between social provision, livelihood resources, and the adaptability of displaced people in Benue State. The goal is to provide details to facilitate effective interventions, which can foster sustainable livelihoods as well as improve overall well-being.

2.3.3 The Welfare Regime Framework

The Welfare Regime Framework, developed by Esping-Anderson in 1990 and expanded by Wood and Gough (2006), is considered for this research to bring more light to the activities of the state in the availability or unavailability of welfare security or systems for internally displaced persons who are considered vulnerable. According to this framework, Wood and Gough (2006) argue that in economically deficient societies such as Nigeria, which is often driven by a clientelist and hierarchical system, this may play a major role in the increased vulnerability, dependency, and insecurity of individuals within the state as individuals become reliant on informal networks for social support. (Wood & Gough, 2006, p. 1697-1708), Akinola and Adekunle (2022).

The current economic imbalance in Nigeria further buttresses this point, as it begs the question of what the support for livelihood of IDPs may become, especially as every Nigerian struggle to meet their daily needs while all having social expectations from the state. This leaves marginalised groups such as the IDPs at the end of the social provision food chain. In the same line of idea, Akinola and Adekunle (2022) points out that Nigeria is influenced by rising political clientelism as resources are distributed based on political alliance rather than need. Olanrewaju et al. (2019) also emphasise that the capacity of the state in Nigeria to equitably and consistently provide and distribute welfare provisions to its citizens is significantly constrained due to institutional weakness. They argue that the inability of the government to provide for IDPs has resulted in situations where IDPs rely on non-state actors such as NGOs, local leaders, and networks to survive (Olanrewaju et al., 2019), creating more vulnerabilities. Consequently, the distribution of social provision may thus be affected by factors such as a corrupt system, political instability, and mismanagement of resources.

Devereux and Sabates-Wheeler (2004) argue that social protection in developing countries such as Nigeria, therefore, needs to move away from the usual informal and

politically dense form of social support, as formalising social protection mechanisms is key to achieving the required long-term poverty reduction. Hence, improving the livelihood of the vulnerable population, in this case, IDPs (Devereux and Sabates-Wheeler, 2004). This framework seeks to understand the involvement and efforts of the government in the provision of formal welfare support, particularly in conflict-affected regions such as Benue State, to build a sustainable livelihood for the internally displaced population. It further serves as a useful tool for analysing the welfare regime in Benue State, Nigeria, especially in relation to how displaced persons access security and social provisions in an economically fraught environment.

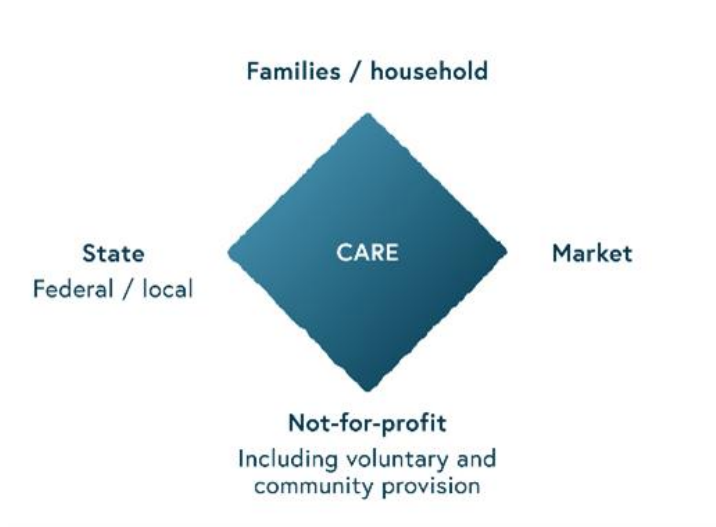


Figure 2: The care diamond

<https://www.futurelearn.com/info/courses/gender-and-labour-in-the-global-south/0/steps/292870>

Adequate social provisions will help in providing sustainable livelihoods for the internally displaced persons (IDPs). In the study, it was also noted that the concept of social provision encompasses health care, social networking and many other basic amenities such as shelter, food and clothing should be made available by the humanitarian actors in enhancing resilience and providing sustainable livelihood.

Methodology

3.1 Introduction

This chapter highlights the methodology used in this study to establish how providing education, medical services, shelter and food helped in achieving a sustainable livelihood among IDPs in Benue State, Nigeria. In this chapter I provide a detailed explanation of the research design, sampling techniques, area of study, population, sample size, source of data and data collection methods, analysis techniques, and ethical considerations. this study

engaged with a qualitative research method, which was further enhanced using a thematic analysis to examine the lived experiences of participants and the factors that influence the services that they receive. This method provides a deep understanding of the issues facing IDPs in this research.

3.2 Research Design

For this research, I used qualitative research design and a case study approach. Bryman (1984) and Yin (2009) when engaging in a complex social situation in real life settings. This method allowed me to deeply analyse the role of social provisions in enhancing the livelihood of internally displaced persons of Benue state, including how the present socio-economic condition among displaced persons plays out. It allowed get rich data from the stakeholders, IDPs, government officials, and humanitarian actors.

In collecting this data, I also used thematic analysis to help me find similar things that the participants said (Braun and Clarke (2006). This method helped me place the things the participants said in compartments that were similar and then I began to analyse explaining what I had found out. This way my findings were based on the words of my participants.

3.3 Sampling Technique

In this research I used a purposive sampling to decide who my participants should be (Palinkas et al., 2015). Purposive sampling was used to ensure that I only spoke to people who had real experiences as an IDP male and female who had lived in the camp for over five months or a humanitarian workers involved in the provision of social services: government officials, humanitarian actors and local community leaders, ensuring that a cross-section of the population is represented.

3.4 Population of the Study

The population in my study consists of IDPs in Benue State, Nigeria, where according to data from BSEMA and IOM, thousands of individuals have been displaced due to violent attacks, among other factors. My participants were between 25-60 aged and have lived in IDP camps who have lived in camps for the last six months, to ensure that those with direct experiences of social provision and long-term livelihood needs are focused on.

I selected the Abagana camp with 3,025 IDPs and the Ichuwa camp, with 3,523 residents as of 2023 especially because it was easy, safe to get to and the large numbers made it easy to also quickly see the problems with the social provision in these camps (BSEMA, 2023).

3.5 Sample Size

The sample size for this study was 20 participants and was considered adequate to provide more depth in the understanding of the research questions, while managing the data collection process. The sample was particularly selected to involve various stakeholders and their perspectives with displacement along with social provisioning. The composition of the sample included:

- Two (2) camp officials discussed how the everyday administration and delivery of social services happens in the camps, in my opinion, this insider

perspective into the challenges and successes associated the management of social provision.

- Three (3) village chiefs discussed the community displacement and the local insight on how displacement affects traditional social structures and livelihood.
- Six (6) IDPs- three men and three women- who benefit directly from social provision programmes and initiatives, to provide firsthand information on their individual experiences with social provisions and how it affects their livelihood.
- Six (6) IDP participants (three women and three men) were engaged in two focus group discussions. The FGDs allowed for a collective understanding of the social provisions provided and how it affects their livelihood.
- Three (3) policy makers involved in the development and implementation of social initiatives, along with the challenges associated with policy implementation.

I used a sample size of 20 participants for a more detailed data collection, so that my findings reflect the different groups in the study.

3.6 Sources of Data

For this research, I used both primary and secondary data to establish the impact of social provisions in supporting the livelihood of IDPs in Benue state. I gathered primary data from semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions organized with participants during the data collection. Secondary data was also collected from online reports of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNCHR), the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), and other academic literatures, supported the understanding of IDP demographics, displacement patterns and social and economic.

3.7 Data Collection

I used semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions with selected participants to gather data. I travelled to Benue state to conduct the interviews and engage in focus group discussions with my research assistant for better interaction between participants. Before the commencement of the interviews, the researcher involved the help of a research assistant to help translate the interviews and the interaction participants, since the local language is Tiv, a native language in Benue, which I did not understand. I got a letter of approval from the Benue State Emergency Management Agency for the selected IDP camps which gave me access into the camps. The interviews which were semi-structured so that I could explore specific issues while allowing the participants express themselves.

I arranged focus groups by gender men and women separate to respect cultural and gender dynamics, so that my participants will feel comfortable to discuss. This focus group discussion helped me in engaging group insights on shared challenges and benefits of social provisions giving them the chance to build on each other's experiences (Berg and Bruce 2001). I recorded and transcribed with the consent of the participants the interviews and discussions. I also supported my transcription with observational notes.

3.8 Data Management Analysis

Data collected were subjected to thematic analysis, for the identification, analysis and interpretation of meaning of the collated qualitative data (Braun and Clarke, 2006). The data was coded manually, and key themes were identified, which includes the role of social provisions, the impact on livelihoods, and the displacement challenges. The process used for coding involved a constant reviewing of the data, coding the recurring or imbedded concepts, and the organization and development of these concepts into broader themes, allowing the researcher to capture both explicit contents and participants responses and their underlying patterns of meaning.

Using triangulation, I compared the findings with secondary data from reports and literature materials to verify the accuracy of the information received from participants, while providing an understanding of how social provisions contribute to sustainable livelihoods. Also, the use of thematic analysis allowed me focus on the individual experiences of participants, and the collective patterns that came up as I talked to different groups of stakeholders.

All the information for this research was also managed in line with ethical guidelines of Erasmus University. For the suppose of participant's safety and identity, the personal information and interviews was anonymized to protect their identities with the use of pseudonyms.

3.9 Research Area

This study was carried out in Makurdi, Benue state, located in north-central Nigeria and is known for peculiar role in Nigeria's agricultural productivity. The state is encountered with a large population of displaced persons, sprouting from ongoing conflicts between herders and farmers in the state. As stated by the National Bureau of statistics, (NBS), Benue state has a population of 6,687,706 people as of 2024. this situation, combined with the constant crisis, has created a significant internal displacement and makes for an ideal case of study to understand the impact of social provision on displaced persons (NBS 2016).

The study is about the IDP camps located in Abagana and Ichuwa camps, both in Makurdi, Benue state as they are among the largest camps within the state with significant number of displaced persons in each camp. These camps have a congestion problem because of the conflicts and displacements and limited access to basic amenities. The selection of these camps was therefore important to understand how available social provisions are distributed in these camps, and whether they are effective in supporting livelihood with the continuous conflicts



Source:https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Map-of-Nigeria-showing-the-location-of-Benue-State_fig1_339388981

3.10 Positionality

My positionality as a Nigerian who has lived in Nigeria and is currently undergoing a master's programme in social policy has informed both my professional and personal experiences with discussions around cases of displacement, with a first-hand understanding of the social and political factors that people who are displaced in Nigeria are plagued with. This insider understanding allowed me to approach this research and the issues discussed with empathy. Throughout the study however, I was aware that my familiarity with the case study could lead to a potential bias on how I viewed the potential results. To solve this, I constantly reflected on my positionality and how it was influencing the analysis of the data.

Notably, being a graduate student in the Netherlands, conducting research in my country might influence the responses, especially because some of my participants may have indeed viewed me as an outsider regardless of my ties to my homeland. These concerns were however addressed by making a conscious effort to build a working communication with the participant that ensured their comfort and freedom during the interviews. I also remained cognizant of the power dynamics during the discussions, particularly because I was working with vulnerable individuals. Being aware of my positionality, I sought to develop findings that were both reliable and reflective, showing first-hand, the participants genuine experiences.

3.11 Ethics and Conduct

In light of the vulnerability of my participants, ethical consideration were necessary for this study. For this reason, ethical approval was obtained from the relevant institutional review boards; in this case, the International Institute of Social Science (ISS) and the Benue State Emergency Management Agency (BSEMA) before undertaking this research. This is in line with the guidelines for undertaking research involving human subjects. During the course of data collection, verbal and written consents were also obtained from all the participants after they were fully informed on the objectives of the research.

In order to further protect the participants privacy, participants real information was left undisclosed, and restricted to the researcher alone. Also, more steps were taken to prioritise participants wellbeing during the interviews, as measures were taken to prevent re-exposing individuals to past traumatic events. Emotional support was also provided when needed, as is the ethical standard for this research.

Presentation of Findings

4.1 Introduction

This chapter represents the findings of this research paper on the role of social provision in promoting the sustainable livelihood of internally displaced people in Benue state, Nigeria. To gain a comprehensive understanding of the data and its linkage to the objective for this study, a thematic analysis was employed. In addition to identifying the types of social provisions, and how they are available to IDPs, this study aimed to analyse the barriers that IDPs in the Abagana and Ichuwa camps are faced with in accessing and utilising these provisions to build a sustainable livelihood for internally displaced persons.

This chapter offers a thematic analysis of the findings, categorized according to the research questions, providing a comprehensive understanding of the role of social provisions in the livelihood restoration of IDPs.

4.2 Sampling and Demographic Overview

A purposive sampling technique was employed to select 20 participants State with at least six months of displacement experience in Benue State. The demographic data collected provides a diverse cross-section of the population, focusing on gender, age, and occupation as shown in table 1. Before displacement, 80% of the participants were engaged in farming, but only 40% continued farming afterwards due to the loss of their land and resources as depicted in table 2. The demographic composition reflects the impact of displacement on livelihoods, providing context for interpreting how social provisions have supported or failed these individuals.

Category	Number of Participants	Percentage
Total Participants	20	100% = 20
Gender		
Male	12	60% =12
Female	8	40% =8
Age		
25-35	6	30% = 6
35-45	8	40% = 8
45-60	6	30% = 6

Table 1: Demographic Profile

Occupation	Before Displacement	After Displacement
Farming	80%	40%
Craft/Skills (e.g., Bead-Making)	10%	35%
Others (e.g., Trading)	10%	25%

Table 2: occupation of IDPs Before and After Displacement

4.3 Navigating Displacement and Social Provision in Benue State

Benue State has been significantly affected by internal displacement due to violent conflicts, particularly between farmers and herders. Before displacement, most of the population were farmers who contributed to the state's agricultural productivity. However, many IDPs reported that the violence, particularly attacks by Fulani herdsman, had forced them to flee, leaving their farms and homes behind. Participants shared traumatic experiences of losing family members, properties, and their means of livelihood, emphasizing the suddenness and intensity of the displacement. Isa, one of the Sesugh vividly recounted, *"The Fulani herdsman have committed a lot of atrocities by killing many of our farmers and making those who were left to flee for their lives, leaving their major source of income and their abode to reside in IDP camps."*

Since arriving at the camps, IDPs have relied on social provisions from the government and non-state actors such as the NGO's, humanitarian actors and local communities. However, participants indicated that the provision of basic amenities such as food, shelter, and clothing have been inconsistent and often insufficient for camp members. Participants described having to share limited resources with the host community, leading to further strain on the already scarce supplies. Despite the efforts of organizations like the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) and NGOs, IDPs expressed dissatisfaction with the frequency and adequacy of the aid they received. Doshima shared that, *"We receive bags of rice and beans occasionally, but it is never enough to last. We have to go out and beg sometimes because what we are given doesn't last long."*

Efforts to provide social provisions have been supported by partnerships between the government and various actors, including international organisations such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). While these partnerships have helped improve some of the challenges faced by IDPs, issues such as coordination, inadequate funding, and insecurity continue to hamper the effectiveness of these provisions. Mr. Lami, one of the SEMA officials at the Abagana camp, highlighted this issue during our conversation, he said. *"One of the challenges we face, aside from funding, is the coordination with meetings and distribution of the provisions for the IDPs. For instance, my boss has not been to the office for months, and his absence delays our operations."* Though many participants acknowledged that there is a presence of various working in the camps to help provide for people who are in the camp,

but they also noted that the irregular nature of support, such as food, medical supplies, often left them without basic resources for extended periods. Kator who is an IDP from the Abagana camp argued “we *don’t always have enough supplies. The ones provided for us can barely go round for everyone for even a month. If you look at the camp, we are large number, some families have many children. Before the month runs out, we start borrowing from each other to make up for what we don’t have. But we can’t always do that*”. As such, IDPs continue to face significant hardships, particularly in securing food and shelter, despite the presence of multiple actors.

4.4 Challenges Faced in Accessing and Delivery of Social Provisions

This part highlights some challenges that were factored into both the delivery and accessibility of social provisions for internally displaced persons. These challenges emerged as key themes from the data analysis and are presented in two broad categories: challenges in social provision delivery and challenges in accessing social provisions.

4.4.1 Challenges of Social Provision Delivery

Social provision delivery in Benue’s IDP camps has been significantly affected by two primary factors: security threats and financial limitations.

Security Threats

Insecurity has come up as a persistent issue in the effective delivery of social provisions. Government agencies and non-state actors who ensure provision for IDPs tend to often face risks when travelling to IDP camps. From conversations with service providers such as BSEMA, local NGOs, and humanitarian actors, participants have highlighted incidents where aid workers encountered violence or threats while trying to deliver provisions. The unstable security situation such as hijacking and kidnapping has made it difficult for organisations to reach camps consistently, further limiting their ability to provide essential services. Mrs. Ame, a senior officer at the Elohim Foundation that works with vulnerable groups such as the IDPs in Benue State, shared, “*Most of the challenges we’ve faced are related to insecurity. For example, a year ago, some of our colleagues went to work and before they could come back, they faced serious hitches due to security issues like kidnapping. We pray and hope that this issue will be addressed soon.*”

Insecurity threats not only endanger the lives of social aid providers but also delay the delivery of aid, leaving IDPs in a more vulnerable position. The severity of the situation created by insecurity was further stressed by Ochuko, who is an official of SEMA, as he stated, “*You need to be alive to do this protection work.*” Without adequate security, the continuity of social provisions can be jeopardised, as workers are unable to access vulnerable groups who need their services most.

Financial Limitations

To productively provide social interventions for vulnerable groups like the IDPs in Benue State, funding was pointing as an important factor. From my discussion with participants, insufficient funding emerged as another major challenge to the delivery of social provisions. Actors such as the humanitarian organisations, NGOs, have reported that they often lacked the financial resources to sustain their operations. As a result, programs designed to support IDPs, such as skills training or food distribution, were often interrupted due to funding shortages. One NGO worker explained, “*The primary challenge we face is funding. No matter how committed we are to humanitarian work, our efforts are constrained by available funds. When*

we have access to funds, we're actively working in the field. However, once those funds are depleted, it becomes difficult to maintain our operations, pay staff, and cover operational costs like fuel."

The shortage of funds has had a significant impact on the types of provisions available to IDPs. For example, while skills acquisition programs were initiated to help IDPs become self-reliant, the lack of follow-up resources, such as start-up tools, has hindered their ability to implement what they learned. One participant, an NGO official, expressed concern, as she said, *"We focus on teaching livelihood skills that can be useful beyond camp life. However, we face a challenge in that many organisations teach the same skills, but because of inadequate finance, we are unable to set them up."* she further expressed that while the previous government made reasonable effort to support displaced persons within the state, especially women who had lost their husbands in the course of being displaced, the limited funding has been a major reason as to why these initiatives have been limited *"In the past, previous government supported by providing skill training for widows in areas like catering, sewing and braiding of hair. However, due to shortage in funding, necessary materials for IDPs to have independent start-ups could not be achieved."*

4.4.2 Challenges of Social Provisions Accessibilities

In addition to the challenges faced by social providers, IDPs themselves have encountered several barriers in accessing social provisions. Two main challenges emerged: inadequate social provisions and limited livelihood support.

Inadequate Social Provisions of Basic Needs

Many IDPs reported that the social provisions they received were often insufficient to meet their basic needs. Although food, shelter, and clothing were provided sporadically, the quantities were not enough to sustain them for extended periods. Bem, one of my participants at the Ichuwa camp, expressed that *"we receive bags of rice, beans, and sometimes ingredients and clothing, but it's not often, and what we do get isn't enough to sustain us. For me, I must try to manage what is 'given to us so that my children will not starve."*

The issue of inadequacy is compounded by the competition for resources between IDPs and the host community. Some participants noted that members of the host community would frequently demand a share of the provisions, leaving the IDPs with even less to survive on. As Awase puts it, *"A lot of challenges because the community living around us always comes to attack us that food is being given to us and that we need to share. So, sometimes we share 50-50, and the 50 for the IDPs is not enough for everyone."*

The inadequacy of social provisions was not limited to food; participants also highlighted the lack of sufficient shelter and healthcare services. Overcrowding in shelters was a common problem, with many families having to live in cramped and poorly constructed spaces. *"The major challenge is that the food given to us is not enough to sustain us for a month. You see some women carrying children, going from house to house, room to room, and begging, "We have not had anything today." Then they will invite them to eat, and then they clear everything. Even now, the indigenes here are buying food."* To add to this, one of the local chiefs at the Ichuwa camp expanded on the living condition of the IDPs, especially due to their large numbers and how the camp had become too small to fully accommodate them. As a result, IDPs have to move into homes owned by community members as they seek shelter, as he stated, *"In fact, for a long-term solution, only the federal and state governments can address this issue. If you go to these sleeping areas, it is not accommodating, but they just try to manage themselves and make do. Our houses are also filled up. At this rate, only the federal government through the state government can handle it."*

Access to medical care was limited, with participants noting that the health facilities available in the camps were often understaffed and under resourced. As a result, many IDPs have

been forced to seek support outside the camps, further increasing their vulnerability because of the insufficient provision of basic needs, affecting their quality of life.

Limited Livelihood Support

Although there have been efforts to improve the livelihood of IDPs, such as the skill development initiatives, their reach and effectiveness have been largely limited. Despite the trainings received, many participants shared that they were not provided with money to put the skills they had learnt into use. One of my participants said, *"After receiving the trainings, we have not received any funding to help us start our own small practice."*

Many IDPs lack the financial resources and tools move from being dependent, to becoming independent. One participant, who had participated in a catering training program, shared, *"Even though we learnt the skills, there are no materials to give us to set up, and without them, we can't make money from what we've learned."* This lack of livelihood support undermines the potential for IDPs to rebuild their lives and achieve sustainable livelihoods, keeping them trapped in a dependent state on available minimal provisions.

Another area of social provision that, according to participants, was not met with enough support were the education and health care systems within the camps, as the education within the camps could only cater for the basic primary education of younger children, while secondary school students in the camp remain stagnant academically. Hasana expressed that *"the school we have here is only for primary students with volunteers that have been helpful in impacting knowledge into them, but our secondary school children are not being considered. We are still requesting from the government to help us in establishing secondary sessions for our secondary school children so that they will also move on academically."*

4.5 Resilience: The way to Go

In the face of limited provisions, internally displaced persons have come up with resilient initiatives that they have used to further adapt to the displacement and to better sustain their livelihood. Participants shared their experiences on the steps they have taken to make additional provision for themselves in areas where the available social provisions were not sufficient. Bash, one of my participants, expressed that *"I go to the houses of some of the community members and work and to get some money. I am saving it to buy a sewing machine that I can use to practice tailoring."* Another participant, Nass, who is a father of three young children, expressed how he uses some of the skills he learnt as a farmer to make local brooms that he sells in the local market to get income. He stated that, *"I have started making local brooms, which I get from palm leaves in the bush, and selling them at the market in order to better take care of my children."* Shim, a 30-year-old participant, explains how she has to save for a long period to get minimal capital to make puff-puff, a local snack in Nigeria, to sell to generate income. She shared that one of her friends, Ladi, was compelled to make hair for the camp women to get food. stated, *"we receive trainings, but we have not been given any capital or tool to fully start. Because of this, I try and save money to buy little products to make puff-puff and sell so I can gain a little extra change. My friend Ladi also makes hair for the camp women and some community women, in return they make her hair too or give her some food stuff"*.

Moreover, the IDPs community is built on a strong sense of care and support among the different members. Bem pointed out that Shittu, the traditional doctor, supports finding alternative ways to provide treatment and medication when someone is not well at the camp. Bem stated that she had to resort to Shittu when her two children were ill. She expressed, *"When my children fall sick with malaria or stomach pain and there is no medication from the health centre, I give them herbs from the traditional doctor."*

Discussion of Findings

5.1 Introduction

This chapter explores the study's findings, relating them to theoretical frameworks and empirical literature. It delves deeper into the issues of delivering social services, their impact on the lives of internally displaced persons (IDPs), and the role of the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) in establishing sustainable livelihoods for IDPs in Benue State. The debate is built around the research objectives, with the goal of providing a full understanding of the situation.

5.2 Social Provision Impact on Livelihood Support and its Limitations

My objective is to explore the impact of social provisions that are made available for IDPs in Benue State, particularly on how it directly impacts them and how these provisions are critical in promoting their sustainable livelihood in the long run.

Through my conversation with IDPs, I realised that the government makes provision for them. However, according to my participants, these provisions are not sufficient to meet IDPs basic needs. This fact came out through my discussion with Maimuna, one of the participants and mother of four children; she said, *"We get food items and some toiletries and other stuff from the government and some NGOs, but they are barely enough. Before the month runs out, you are left with nothing and can even go hungry."* Observing the setting and living conditions of the people at the camps, it clearly appeared that they are vulnerable and poor. I wanted to know more about how they can survive in these conditions. One of my participants, Nass, an IDP and a father of three young children, stated that *"I have started making local brooms, which I get from palm leaves in the bush, and selling them in the market to better take care of my children."*

Furthermore, education gears towards improving the stability of children within the camps and providing the essential skills that help promote economic resilience and self-reliance. Chamber and Conway (1992) indicate human capital investment, for which education is part of, as one of the fundamentals of building a sustainable livelihood (Chambers & Conway, 1999; Natarajan et al, 2022). Adamu, one of the participants, noted, *"The school that we have in our camp has helped so far. I assure you that our children can read and write very well. This has made the children feel like there is hope for their future beyond their current situation."* By ensuring that children get fortified with educational skills, it ensures that they develop as well in the social and economic context

Nonetheless, I observed that the educational services in IDP camps are often limited to the primary level, with the absence of secondary education. This situation poses a barrier for older children to pursue their education. Ngutur, the camp leader at the Abagana camp, observed: *"We have primary schools for our children, but there is nothing for secondary school students. They just sit idle, with no opportunities to continue their education."* As such, access to secondary education is vital in breaking cycles of poverty and dependence, particularly in displacement contexts. The absence of more educational prospects can thus inhibit children's future and further perpetuates vulnerability within the camps. Moreso, the psychological benefits have a tremendous impact on IDPs children's mental well-being by providing a sense of structure and normalcy. Hence, social support institutions such as schools can serve as buffers of psychological stress for growing children, such that school attendance enhances children's emotional and cognitive wellbeing.

I also observed that while IDPs before displacement, 80% of IDPs were basically engaged in farming as their dominant activity to earn income; however, they are now taught new vocational skills to be involved in other forms of income generation. These activities

range from sewing, braiding, pastry making, catering, and generator repair, to name a few, and although the funding situation may have affected their training, IDPs still find a means of engaging the skills they have learnt to earn little income or exchange favours within the camps and the community as coping strategies. While this shows the individual efforts of internally displaced persons on building resilience, it does not dissuade the understanding that the lack of follow through on skill training and funding (It is not clear to me) undermines the potential benefit that these training bring, as many displaced persons may not be able to apply these new skills to earn a living. According to Pavanello and Montemurro (2010), funding and mentorship become critical to developing a sustainable livelihood.

Another area where I found to have profound impact on the livelihood and resilience of IDPs was the healthcare system, as access to care is critical to maintaining well-being, particularly considering the physical and psychological toll of displacement on IDPs and new living conditions in the camps as well as medication and treatment in the camps, which has helped their navigation within the camp. Otor described how care services provided relief upon their arrival in the camp: *"When we first arrived, many of us were sick, but thanks to the health services provided by NGOs, we received treatment and education on how to maintain good hygiene, and we got medicine when we were sick."* However, although primary care is made available, there are limitations as medical support is not always available, especially for a specialised care system, which can be challenging. Otor expressed that *"the healthcare services here are helpful for treating minor illnesses, but when someone has a more serious condition, we don't have the facilities or resources to treat them properly."* As discussed above, Bem narrated the pivotal role of the traditional doctor in the community. She uses his services for her children when they are sick. While we see the resilience of camp members in sustaining their health, it further addresses the need for an advanced care system in displacement situations.

Furthermore, integrating health awareness interventions has been significant in improving the health outcomes of IDPs in the camps. In my discussion with my participants, they indicated that they have profited from health sensitisation on hygiene, nutrition, and gender-based violence. Onyi expressed, *"The healthcare workers here taught us about the dangers of child marriage and how to take better care of our children's health and our own,"* as preventive health procedures and communal education in improving overall health outcomes are important. Devereux and Sabates-Wheeler (2004) further emphasise the need for social support systems to go beyond basic relief and focus on building resilience through health and education services. By teaching IDPs on crucial health issues, aid providers not only address immediate health needs but also provide displaced people with the knowledge they need to protect their health in the long run.

Another striking observation was that most of the IDPs both at the Abagana and Ichuwa camps had not so comfortable living situations, with the accommodation being small and the environment unhygienic. Internally displaced persons have to ensure uncomfortable living situations as they are made to live together in large numbers. Oche, a 35-year-old man at the Abagana camp who had moved to the camp in 2021, said that *"we are provided this place to stay; however, it is not easy staying here. I have been here for two years now, but I still find it hard to adapt. Having to share a room with many people is still hard for me, and sometimes I am reminded of what I have lost."* In my observation, I noticed that while the living structures in both camps were slightly different, the experiences of displaced persons living in both camps were similar. Aisha, a 39-year-old pregnant woman, expressed how the makeshift hut that she lived in was barely enough to accommodate her family. The living situations are not always favourable for her. *"We must be at least two in a hut. The space is already small, but we still must share it. Sometimes, my back hurts from the pain of always bending down to enter or come out of the hut. I don't know how I will manage after I give birth."* I observed from further discussions that for IDPs, while they hoped that this system of accommodation would be temporary, many of them have been in the

camps for longer periods, without any solution. Owing to this, participants have viewed new settlements or the return to their homeland as better options. One of my participants, Abenga Explained that *"the accommodation here does not help us in planning ourselves. I have been here for five years in this same condition, and the government is yet to make plans to resettle us. Many of us here would prefer to go back home."*

These social provisions remain essential to establishing long-term independence among internally displaced people. In Benue state IDP camps, the current provision of healthcare, education, skills training, and shelter is currently lacking. To bridge these gaps, non-states and governments should invest in improving the living conditions of IDPs and educational services, including secondary education and vocational training, as well as providing access to comprehensive healthcare services, as these services have a direct impact on individual well-being and community resilience, but to fully realise their potential, service delivery gaps must be overcome.

5.3 Challenges Faced in Delivery and Accessing Social Provisions

During my field trip, I discovered through my observations and interactions with local actors in the humanitarian sector and IDPs that the primary issues that displaced people face in Benue State were security challenges, financial limitations, limited help, and limited livelihood support. These concerns have slowed the efforts of aid providers and IDPs' access to critical supplies, reflecting broader difficulties with effectively delivering help in insecure regions in need of help, as is identified in a previous study on conflict-affected countries aligned with existing, particularly in regions with high levels of insecurity and underfunded social programs.

Security was identified as one of the primary obstacles faced by state and non-state actors while providing social services for IDPs. Security risks, like attacks from insurgent groups and communal conflicts, can impede the delivery of essential services in areas such as Benue State, where herder-farmer conflicts have persisted for years. Mrs. Ame noted that *"We experience insecurity issues when trying to reach some IDP camps, which makes it hard to supply basic assistance to them."* Because of how bad the security problem is those who provide aid and other social services are unable and unwilling to go to these areas as a result it is difficult for these displaced persons to rebuild their lives or even become comfortable, since they are not able to obtain the much-needed essential supplies.

The lack of funds has further prevented the social services from being effective in addressing the needs of the IDPs in the long run. This is also something that Phuong (2024), mentions in his research that lack of funds makes the provision of aid limited. Karachi, one of the UNHCR workers at the camp, said *"Finance is the biggest challenge we face. Regardless of our zeal to carry out our duties to IDPs, it is difficult to do so without funding."* These shows that funding not only prevent the provision of immediate help but makes it difficult to help IDPS through vocational training that help them to stand on their feet.

Inadequate provisions, such as food and shelter, continue to be an issue for IDPs in Benue State, and according to Bett et al. (2019), despite the best efforts of assistance actors, the amount and frequency of social provisions frequently fail to meet the needs of displaced communities. According to Donsurr, *"the food we get is never enough, and we often have to beg or find other means to survive. Some of us have to rely on people we know to provide for us."* This shortage is caused in part by an increasing rate of displacement, which strains scarce resources, as well as poor logistical coordination and competition for resources from neighbouring areas. In line with Chambers and Conway (1992), a sustainable livelihood framework must address resource limitations by guaranteeing equitable distribution and availability of necessary essential needs.

Moreso, limited livelihood support further prevents IDP's self-sufficiency because, while some vocational training programmes are in place, many IDPs reportedly lack the follow-up support they need to engage in start-up businesses. Ellis (2000) underscores that livelihood diversification is essential for promoting resilience among displaced populations, however, without resources to apply these newly acquired skills, these efforts often fail. As remarked by Doshima, *"We learnt skills but were never given the tools to practice them, so we remain dependent on aid."* The broader challenges in social provision intervention are thus reflected in those where efforts often seem to become short-term rather than a long-term strategy. Thus, for a more sustainable impact, livelihood support would need to extend beyond just training to incorporate market accessibility, financial services, as well as continued support (Ellis, 2000).

The findings underscore significant challenges in establishing sustainable livelihoods for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Benue State, highlighting security threats, funding shortages, inadequate provisions, and limited livelihood support, which hinder the resilience and self-sufficiency efforts among IDPs. Hence, for effective interventions to be possible, government and non-state actors must prioritise security measures to ensure unrestricted access to all camps, along with increased funding to support both immediate needs and long-term independence for IDPs. Chambers and Conway (1999) argued that sustainable livelihoods require a comprehensive approach that addresses both immediate needs and long-term development goals.

5.4 Activities of Government through SEMA Towards Creating a Sustainable Livelihood Among Internally Displaced Persons in Benue Camp.

Here, I attempt to examine the role that the government plays in ensuring a sustainable livelihood for IDPs in Benue State through activities such as management, coordination, and partnerships with non-state actors to provide essential services for displaced individuals.

5.4.1 Food Security as a Core Responsibility of Government

Food security remains one of the core provisions of the government, and in Benue State, the government through SEMA plays a central role in the provision of food supplies for the well-being of IDPs in Benue State. SEMA, thus, becomes responsible for managing the distribution of food supplies provided for IDPs. I confirmed this during my visit to the SEMA office, as one of the SEMA officials stated, *"When the federal government provides provisions, they are handed over to SEMA who ensures their distributions within the IDP camps within the state. We make sure that food gets to those who need it most."* Besides overseeing the camps and its progress, the Benue State Emergency Management Agency (BSEMA) goes at length to that IDPs are provided with basic needs of which food is a major part of as stated in the National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons (2021), displaced individuals have access to a basic level of social services, including food security, particularly in times of crisis (FMHA 2021).

Regardless of this fact, food insecurities have remained a constant plague for IDPs in Benue despite SEMA's efforts. Many participants noted that the quantity of food provided is often inadequate to meet their needs. Tersue explained, *"The food we get is not enough to last the whole month. To help ourselves, we have to portion it, yet sometimes we go hungry before they are able to provide again."* The government's inability to provide these essentials, which, according to national policy (FMHA, 2021), are entitlements for IDPs, presents a challenge: inadequate food supply for the IDP population within the state may drive individuals to rely on alternative avenues—such as godfathers, local communities, churches, and extended families—for their needs and survival (Achem, 2023). As the Sustainable Livelihood

Framework indicates, food security as a natural capital, becomes important for maintaining health and productivity, and its insufficiency can prove to have long-term negative effects on livelihoods (Chamber and Conway, 1992; Natarajan, 2022).

Another challenge I identified was in the distribution of food as they were supplied camps, as in most cases, the host communities often took part in the sharing of this produce. This created a complex dynamic in the distribution of food, as it further ensured that the intended IDP population did not have enough to go by. Ortom pointed out that *"the villagers sometimes come to share the food items with us when it arrives, and because of that, we don't always have enough."* This further raises a question as to whether the current economic situation in Nigeria, which has affected every Nigerian, may have left communities in a state of want Usman (2024). Host communities, hence, may be in situations of need that leave them in a state of competition with IDPs for social support and resources, often leading to increased tension among both parties. This brings questions as to what the government is doing to mitigate this rising tension both for the IDPs and the host communities, as interventions must look beyond instant provisions and introduce activities that can create sustainable food security such as providing agricultural support that can enable IDPs grow their own food and establishment of vocational practices.

5.4.2 Challenges in Allocation and Mobilization of Provisions

Some challenges were also identified in the portioning and mobilization of provisions for IDPs. One of the SEMA officials, at the Ichuwa camp noted that in most cases, securing necessary provisions from the federal government often involves long waiting periods, as bureaucratic procedures are often involved. He expressed that *"Sometimes, after we've identified what the IDPs need and pass this information to the government for approval, it takes a while for the federal government to accept the release of funds or even the supplies needed for these people."* This delay in the allocation of resources which Olanrewaju et al (2019) refers to as institutional weakness exacerbates the vulnerability of IDPs, who rely on these provisions especially from state actors for their basic survival. Crisp (2003) notes that often in displacement situations, slow administrative processes hinder the timely delivery of required interventions, undermining the effective sustainability of these interventions which for IDPs in Benue state, may pose a barrier in achieving a sustainable livelihood among IDPs. Addressing administrative structures, Bett et al (2019) therefore requires reenforced corporations between local and international actors and a more efficient process for resource sharing.

Remarkably, financial limitations also came up as a top challenge when addressing the limitations associated with the distribution of social provisions as accounted by both government and non-state actors. Another SEMA official explained, *"regardless of our commitment to provide IDPs with food, shelter, healthcare, no matter how dedicated we are to helping, if we do not have enough funds to enforce it, it will be difficult to be"*. While this may reflect the funding situations encountered by actors such as humanitarian actors, where limited funding often hinders the broader scope and duration of interventions, the discrepancy between the National Displacement Policy and the interventions on the ground is related to the fact that the state (region) is the first respondent for minor displacement at the region level and the federal government intervenes only in situations with a greater magnitude. However, it does not give an explicit explanation as to what defines minor displacement. This impacts on the financial operations and delays the interventions perhaps, because the federal government categorises the displacement situation in Benue state as a case of Minor displacement, although according to Achem (2023) displaced population in Benue state have increased to 2.1 million in 2023 alone. Furthermore, while examining the context of displacement, the policy addresses situations within regions such as the south-south and the North-east, without mentioning the north-central, of which Benue State is a part of. Therefore, the national policy is biased with funding situations, as funding is skewed towards addressing

displacements created due to oil production in the South and the Boko haram crisis in the North-east yet does not specifically address the farmer-herder situation in Benue state. As Akinola and Adekunle (2022) pointed Nigeria's administrative and welfare system has been influenced by systems of client-politics. Resources are distributed based on political alliance and benefit even for the government, rather than people's needs.

5.4.3 Collaboration with Non-State Actors

Collaborating with non-state actors, such as local NGOs and international organisations like the UNHCR, has been a key aspect of the government's efforts to deliver welfare services to IDPs in Benue State. I observed that the state government, through the SEMA office, has encouraged this collaboration and mobilisation to ensure that more internally displaced persons are reached out to in Benue State. An official of SEMA stated, *"One important role we play is to ensure provisions are able to get to the camps and distributed accordingly and timely too. We get to do this by coordinating with different organizations who support the government where it cannot reach, like in healthcare and education, even food"* by doing this, the state government policy seeks to ensure that welfare resources are equitably distributed.

Coordination, however, is also often met with its own challenges especially when it comes to the mobilization of resources during emergency situations. Findings from SEMA officials indicate that this challenge is narrowed down to the lack of timely communication and bureaucracy as causes of delay in active response. One SEMA official noted that, *"We often face delays in the support we need from NGOs especially when we have an urgent matter that needs to be handled. It can take a while before we get a response"*. However, according to the National policy the state government is the first respondent about displacement which is then extended to the federal government in cases of broader scheme, as non state actors coordinate with government to reach out to the displaced population. The state government and the federal government at large, seek to push its responsibility to the non-state actors, with the expectation that actors such as NGOs, international organization like the UNHCR, RED CROSS, UNICEF, religious organisations, and elite individuals within the community take up more responsibilities in fending for these displaced persons, without acknowledging the difficulties that organizations face in carrying out these tasks or the challenges that internally displaced persons faced with in relying on non-state actors for support, that may result into an increased dependency and vulnerability (Wood & Gough, 2006, p. 1697-1708) regardless of the fact that the state is supposed to be their major source of support. As such, rebuilding individual livelihood would require the committed involvement of the government, with the support of international organisations and local communities to reach a sustainable long-term recovery. It is the full engagement of the government and non-state actors that can drive the resilience and stability that IDPs need to fully recover.

Conclusion and Recommendation

6.1 Conclusion

In my research, I have examined how social provisions are very important in helping internally displaced persons in Benue State, Nigeria build their lives in the long run in a way that is sustainable so that they are continually dependent on the government or NGO's to provide them with aids and relief materials. By analysing the data, I was able to discover the problems and possible advantages that these relief and immediate help provided to internally displaced persons offer. In this research I have also highlighted and discussed the usefulness

and the gaps that still remain in helping displaced persons build their lives back economically in the long run.

In this research I have argued that even though these immediate reliefs and social provisions that the government and other NGOs like education, medical care, vocational and skills training, including shelter help IDPs they are still not enough to help these people to move on with their lives and help them become economically independent. Hence, while immediate aid is okay it still needs to be supported with other support that can help IDPs build a stable future in the long run by sustaining themselves economically outside the camps that they live in.

From my findings, it is clear that making the social provisions work for displaced in helping them build back their lives there must be efforts to address the challenges of corruption, logistics among others. In conclusion, one single approach cannot solve this problem, but it must be approached from different angles that address both immediate and long-term needs of IDPs. The aim should be to make them economically independent and not just provide for their immediate needs.

6.2 Recommendations

Basic services which include food, shelter, clothings should be made available for the displaced population, as the study reveals that the living conditions of IDPs within camps have become unfavourable. To overcome this, need assessment programmes should be organised by government agencies and non-state actors to uncover the different needs of displaced people, especially in Benue state, and improve the quality of the provisions that are given to IDPs.

To promote efficient dissemination of needed resources to IDP camps, efforts to improve access to social amenities must be intensified across the various stakeholders involved in the distribution chain. This is the major condition that would allow for equitable provision of needs to inhabitants in the IDP camps. Furthermore, strategic mechanisms are needed to secure accountability, especially in reporting the results and impacts in which these interventions yield for beneficiaries.

The vision to develop IDP camps to the point where displaced people can enjoy access to basic needs, must also include actions that will improve the quality of social services that they are given.

From this research, it is clear that security risks is a big problem does not allow for good social services in these camps. Humanitarian actors have been vocal about their various fatal experiences while visiting the IDP camps. Hence, to solve this problem totally, both social workers and beneficiaries to know that they will be safe as they are doing their work. Additionally, security trainings should be administered to workers in humanitarian organizations, to give them with the needed knowledge and skills needed to handle security risks in high-threat areas.

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Appendix



IDPs Questionares
Updated 2.doc



WhatsApp Image
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Consent form for
RP.docx



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