

AN APPRAISAL OF THE MANAGEMENT OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPS) IN BENUE STATE, NORTH-CENTRAL NIGERIA, 2015-2022

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Abstract

The paper appraised the management of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Benue state of north-central Nigeria from 2015 to 2022. The paper specifically sought to ascertain the causes of internal displacement of persons in Benue state, identify the challenges facing the government in its efforts to manage IDPs, and recommend possible ways of overcoming the challenges of managing IDPs in the state. To achieve these objectives, the paper adopts the eclectic approach anchored on Emergency Management Theory and Human Security Theory. The paper generated data using primary method through questionnaire and secondary method through books, journals and internet materials. Three Local Government Areas (LGAs), namely Agatu, Kwande and Makurdi were selected using purposive sampling technique while the exact sample size of 384 respondents was determined using Krejcie and Morgan (1970) sampling table. Data generated from the field survey were presented in tables and descriptively analyzed. The paper found that the growing number of IDPs in the state is as a result of the incessant violent conflicts

between nomadic cattle herders and sedentary crop farmers. The paper equally found that government's efforts in managing IDPs have not produced the desired results because of inadequate funding and diversion of relief materials meant for IDPs by some corrupt government officials. The paper recommends that government should increase its funding of the IDPs and also ensure that distribution of relief materials meant for the IDPs are properly monitored to guard against diversion by corrupt government officials.

Keywords: *IDPs, Benue State, BSEMA, management, Nigeria, violent conflict*

Introduction

Persistent social, economic and environmental pressures are causing more people to leave their homes and livelihoods, seeking refuge in safer locations, on a temporary or long term basis. Historically, the global crisis of internal displacement emerged on the global agenda in the late 1980s resulting from violent conflicts, internal strife, systematic violations and natural factors (Cohen, 2004). The World experienced the highest ever rate of migration

since the beginning of the 21st century, even tagged “century of people on the move” by the United Nations High Commissioner for refugees, António Guterres in 2011 (United Nations General Assembly, 2011). By the end of 2017, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC, 2018) put the total global internal displacement head count at 40 million with 30.6 million new displacements. These displacements are both conflict and disaster related, spread across 143 countries and territories. Out of 30.6 million new human displacements, 11.8 million people were displaced by violent conflicts while 18.8 million other displacements were linked to natural disasters. The regions affected by disasters include: Africa, Asia, Americas and Europe with Sub-Saharan Africa leading in violent conflict related displacements (IDMC, 2018).

The global effects of internal displacement and forced migration constitute significant impacts on the countries’ economies, particularly the huge task of providing humanitarian response to affected persons and communities for a sustained period, until normalcy is returned. In terms of spending, a great deal of resources is needed to provide such responses: humanitarian responses have high capital costs (Eriksson *et al.*, 1996). It is estimated that the world economy loses between \$250 billion and \$300 billion annually on displacements and disasters (Food and Agriculture Organizations FAO, 2017). The impacts of internal displacement can be direct or indirect, short-term or long-term, tangible or intangible (IDMC, 2018). The economic effects of internal displacement can be both positive and negative, as it creates opportunities for financial ambiguities and misuse by certain individuals (Omaraka, 2021). Authorities responsible for providing the basic needs of IDPs can corruptly benefit from revenues intended for tackling displacement challenges. Conversely, displacements are business gains for producers and suppliers of displacement needs (Boyer *et al.*, 2016).

Internal displacement in Nigeria is not a new phenomenon. It has been a regular occurrence in the country for over six decades. Since 1960 when Nigeria got her political independence, the highest recorded numbers of incidences of Internal Displacement have been triggered by violent conflicts. The first incidence can be traced back to the civil war, also known as the Nigerian civil war from 1967 to 1970 (Omoraka, 2021). Although it is difficult to determine the exact number of people displaced during this period due to contradictory figures and unreliable data, several sources have estimated over 2 million people were either displaced or in need of humanitarian assistance within and across the borders during the Nigeria civil war (Mohammed, 2017). The causes of internal displacement of persons are multi-faceted, complex and often overlapping. For example, armed conflict between states or non-state actors; generalized violence, man-made disasters, climate change, ethno-religious clashes, insurgency, natural disasters and developmental projects are general causes or reasons for internal displacement in Nigeria (Omoraka, 2021).

Internal displacement is huge for both displaced populations and host communities. These issues are understood to be far more tasking for developing nations to manage due to huge resources required to manage such situations, as well as to rebuild affected livelihoods and communities. Developing nations have the least number of IDP returnees in the World (IDMC, 2018). Displaced persons have no access to food, water, shelter, healthcare and other basic human needs; limited access to social services; human vulnerability; physical, sexual and gender-based violence; and discrimination (Deng, 2001). The primary responsibility of any state is the security and welfare of its citizens without which the sovereignty of that state will be in question. The constitutional responsibility of the Nigerian state to provide security for her citizens has in one way or the other failed due to the inability of the state to provide a

secured and safe environment for lives and property as well as that of economic activities. This has been the challenges confronting the state in post-colonial society. The implication of this is the continual inability and/or failure of the state to guarantee the security of lives and property of the people (Asogwa & Peter, 2009; Peter & Ocheni, 2015).

Nigeria has witnessed disasters resulting from *Boko Haram* insurgency, flood, fire outbreak, building collapse, plane crash, road mishaps, unrest, armed banditry, militancy, communal conflicts and agitations among others (Ezenyilimba, Maduagwu & Eze, 2018). The alarming rate of insecurity in Nigeria especially the northern region of the country has increased the crime rate and terrorist attacks in different parts of the country leaving people in the north in a deplorable situation. Many factors accounted for the population displacement in Nigeria such as flood, famine and violence among others. The growing number of IDPs in Nigeria is to some extent the resultant effect of violent conflicts and natural disasters such as flooding among others. *Boko Haram* insurgencies in Nigeria's north east region has also contributed to the growing number of population displacement in the country, which is generally believed to be as a result of government's negligence in providing social needs of citizens (Abdulrahman & Zuwaira, 2016).

According to Azam (2008), the challenges faced by IDPs, which include hunger and starvation, education, acute malnutrition, insecurity, trauma and bitterness, Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs), waste management, and electricity, lack of good water among others. The failure of Nigerian government to establish economic policies that will improve the living standard of people and create employment opportunities for the youth has created a vacuum of unemployment, poverty and illiteracy among the youth, which resulted in various

communal, ethnic, religious, and class conflicts that have now characterized the country and contributed to the emergence of *Boko Haram* (Adesoji, 2010).

Of all the social menace in Nigeria that caused internal population displacement, *Boko Haram* insurgency, rural banditry and herders-farmers' conflict have been the most social epidemic that has caused contemporary national challenges of IDPs in the country. The radical posture of *Boko Haram* insurgents is the result of government's failure to address the socio-economic needs of its citizenry (Omoraka, 2021). The IDPs phenomenon has not only caused more security challenges to constitute authority but to the host communities of these displaced population. In reality, insecurity in any environment constitutes threat to lives and property, hinders economic activities, and discourages local and foreign investors (Omoraka, 2021). This in turn retards human and economic development of the country. Nigeria has suffered a variety of complex political problems including inequality, corruption, oil disputes, national disunity, herders-farmers clashes as well as the *Boko Haram* insurgency (Abdulrahman & Zuwaira, 2016).

The Nigeria state has been a core signatory to the United Nations guiding principles on internally displaced as well as the Kampala Convention of 2009 of the African Union (AU). The goal of the Kampala convention was to promote and strengthen regional and national measures to prevent or mitigate, prohibit and eliminate the root causes of internal displacement as well as provide durable solutions (Kampala Convention-KC, 2009). Nigeria has also set up a national disaster management institution called the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to help coordinate and manage disasters in the country and also with other state-controlled agencies. The organization is also responsible for managing the various IDPs camps with the support of both local and international Non-Governmental

Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the country. Each state of the federation also established its emergency management agency to address the issue of disasters, emergencies and IDPs.

Benue state like most states in Nigeria's north-west, north-central and north-east regions has played host to a growing population of IDPs in recent years. As at January 2019 alone, no fewer than 483, 669 persons had already being displaced by herdsmen attacks in Benue state (Sahara Reporters, 2019). And by January 2021 the population of IDPs in the state had risen to over 1.597 million persons (Godwin, 2021). Furthermore, by mid June, 2022 there were still about 1.5 million IDPs resident in various camps in the state that could not return to their homes for fear of being kidnapped (Vanguard, 2022). This paper therefore sought to assess the efforts of the Benue state government in managing IDPs through the instrumentality of the Benue State Emergency Management Agency (BSEMA) from 2015 to 2022 against the backdrop of the growing population of IDPs and its negative socio-economic effects in the state in recent years.

2.0 Literature Review

2.1 Conceptual Review

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are "persons or groups of persons who have been forced to flee their homes or places of habitual residence suddenly or unexpectedly as a result of armed conflict, internal strife, systematic violations of human rights or natural or man-made disasters, who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border (Kampala Convention, 2009). In other words, IDPs refers to persons who have been displaced by natural disaster or violent conflicts from their homes and traditional support structure and have not crossed the borders of their countries. They are victims of various kinds of injustices, violent attacks

orchestrated by their own government or others against them.

According to Durosaro and Ajiboye (2011), there are two major components of IDPs the coercive or otherwise involuntary character of movement and the fact that such movement takes place within national borders. Some of the most common causes of involuntary movements are armed conflicts, violence, human rights violation and disaster among others. This gives no choice to people but to leave their homes, deprive them of the most essential protection mechanisms, such as community networks, access to services and livelihoods. The second component of the IDPs is the movement within national borders. Since IDPs remain legally under the protection of national authorities of their habitual residence, unlike refugees who have been deprived of the protection of their state (country) of origin; they are expected to enjoy the same rights as the rest of the population (Durosaro & Ajiboye, 2011). When families are displaced they only run for the survival of their children and themselves. It is a situation where the victims face untold economic hardship, psychological trauma and social dislocation. In this regard, the IDPs need the assistance of the government and other humanitarian groups that could intervene to cushion the impact of hardship in order to bring succour to them.

Displacement of any kind in Nigeria has led to break down in family structure, loss of lives, infrastructure and destruction of property. The security condition left people with no choice than to migrate from their place of residence (Norwegian Refugee Council, 2017). In this regard, Obaji and Aloba (2016) asserted that displaced persons are exposed to security challenges; that range from gender and child based hostility, separation from family, exploitation, and detention with no consideration of the rule of law. According to Akuto (2017), the challenges facing the IDPs are insecurity, trauma, bitterness, malnutrition, hunger and

starvation, deprivation of human rights and sexual transmitted disease among others.

According to Shimawua (2020), inter-communal clashes engendered by ethnic and religious tensions; *Boko Haram* insurgency and the escalation of resource use conflicts between herders and farmers as responsible for the growing numbers of IDPs in Nigeria. IDPs are made to flee their habitual place of residence to find accommodation in mosques, schools, churches and informal settlement; and in the course of this their health and security are consequently affected (Adewale, 2016). Ahmad (2018) disclosed that the places that IDPs live in Nigeria are government buildings, schools, churches, town halls, and tents among others. These shelters are not sufficient and in most cases the IDPs asked to leave these temporary places of habitation or in some cases the accommodations are destroyed. Also, these accommodations are most times overcrowded and un-suitable in terms of sanitation and water facilities with women having no privacy at all.

Ogundamisi (2016) noted that IDPs are faced with constrain of accessing healthcare in Nigeria because of damages on facilities and workforce in the health sector are relocating to other places due to conflict. To Sambo (2017), the closure of medical facilities and the non-presence of medical doctors who left as a result of poor remuneration, insecurity, scarcity of drugs and medical facilities has resulted to serious health challenges between IDPs in the north. With the increase in population of IDPs in camps, sanitation facilities and water have become insufficient to take care of the needs of IDPs. There is no waste management and lack of provision for important utility like drinkable water and power supply. The state of poor hygiene and sanitation explains the outbreak of diseases (Sambo, 2017).

Olufemi and Olaide (2015) are of the view that children and women remain the most helpless as a result of gender and sexual based

violence. Cases of sexual diseases, infant marriage, forced marriage, sexual harassment, rape, and uncontrolled birth occasioning high infant and material mortality are evident in displaced persons camp in Nigeria. Corroborating this view point, Olajide (2016) said there is a high occurrence of rape and other forms of violence against children and women in IDPs camps.

Odusanya (2016), espoused that when people are internally displaced, they flee their places of residence with their cultures and are faced with the challenge of not being welcomed by those they are likely to live in their communities, and this is a limitation to them in accessing resources. Accessing healthcare facilities is also a challenge to IDPs. Problems that are not health related includes: security, access to safe and clean water, basic sanitation, housing and education for children. It is imperative to note that in Nigeria issues of displacement did not begin overnight but occurred slowly but was largely ignored and unnoticed by both state and national government. They are not taken seriously by government as they do not encroach on their privileges and space (Odusanya (2016).

Responding to the plights of IDPs, Mmahi (2016) noted that displacement in Nigeria affects education, health, nutrition, emotions and all areas of lives of those who are internally displaced. Furthermore, women, young girls, children and the aged are most hit during occasions of armed conflicts or man-made disasters as they are considered as the most vulnerable in the society. Children during periods of armed conflicts end up losing their siblings, parents, homes and are compelled to drop out of school. However, in the case where these displaced children are able to access education the quality is usually below standard and poor due to the environment not being good for learning coupled with the problem of lack of qualified teachers and absence of teaching aids. In most cases, the teachers that volunteer to teach

internally displaced children are not competent (Abdulazeez, 2016).

Forcible eviction of women as a result of development projects, according to Oyefara and Alabi (2016), has dire consequences on women as IDPs as they are made homeless and destitute. Furthermore, women also face health challenges due to unavailability of drinkable water, poor sanitation and awful waste disposal among others. Oladeji (2015) averred that women and girls have been the most affected as IDPs, with concomitant consequences of abduction and forced marriage. The IDPs usually lose access to their sources of revenue when they flee. Assistance for those living in IDPs camps, when provided, is usually inadequate (Adewale, 2016).

2.2 Empirical Review

Olanrewaju and Adekunle (2019) examined insurgency and the invisible displaced population in Nigeria. The study addressed the gap of the effects of the invisibility of internally displaced persons living in host communities to the Government as less attention has been given to the discriminatory treatment of IDPs in host communities arising from the neglect of the government towards providing humanitarian aids to IDPs in host communities against the Government presence in formal camps. The study deployed Vulnerability Theory as its theoretical compass and employed interviews and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) as its research instruments. The study found that the destinations of IDPs settlements were very vulnerable in terms of their access to quality education, shelter, food, health care, and potable water as they were often cut off from the government's humanitarian interventions and only visible to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and individual philanthropists who have limited resources to allocate. The study recommended among others that, there should be a holistic intervention mechanism in managing the displacement crisis in

Nigeria irrespective of their resettlement destination.

In a related study Onoja, Ogedengbe, Sanni, Abiodun, Ayorinde and Okeme (2020) interrogated the challenges facing the IDPs with a view to evaluating the effects of humanitarian response projects in alleviating these challenges. The study deployed mixed methods approach in data collection and analysis with quantitative dominance. The study found hunger, lack of clothing regular sickness and lack of drugs as the major challenges confronting IDPs. The study equally found that humanitarian services positively impacted the IDPs, yet there is need for government and the humanitarian services providers to put more efforts to alleviate the suffering of the IDPs in Nigeria.

In another study, Oghuvbu and Okolie (2020) disclosed that the challenges facing displaced people in Nigeria as a result of *Boko Haram*, natural and man-made disasters, as well as the Hausa-Fulani Mayhem are peculiar to all the IDPs irrespective of demographic disparities. The study employed qualitative and quantitative research methods drawing data from primary and secondary sources. Questionnaire was administering to 256 respondents complemented by Key Informant Interviews (KII) and FGDs with IDPs in the study area. The study found starvation, inadequate potable water supply; hunger, lack of electricity, accommodation shortages and lack of sustainable occupation foretell serious human security threats for the country. The study recommended relevant policies for government and other related agencies working with the IDPs; while, concluding that government should collaborate with individuals and organizations in providing vocational skills, that will help alleviate their plights.

According to Titilope, Atiyah, Zakuan, Osman (2019), the *Boko Haram* insurgency has led to major displacement particularly in Nigeria's North-East region. The study used qualitative approach and thematic analysis to explain the major problems of integration

among the internally displaced women. The study found struggle to return home, security concern, poor infrastructure and lack of economic opportunities as the major challenges affecting the integration of the displaced women. It was recommended that the government and other stakeholders should adopt the Inter-Agency Standing Committee framework to address the integration of internally displaced Women in Nigeria. According to Obioji and Eze (2019) poor funding, lack of disaster management equipments and facilities are the major challenging emergencies management bodies in carrying out its disaster management functions.

Eweka and Olusegun (2016) revealed that displacement remains the most significant humanitarian challenge facing the World today. According to the study, of the 33.3 million IDPs in the World, Sub-Saharan Africa hosts 15 million, with an increase of 7.5% between 2013 and 2014 (Ban Ki-Moon, 2014). As the number of IDPs continues to increase, attempts at management become more challenging for these countries. Notably, global efforts at managing displacement have concentrated more on refugees than IDPs, yet the latter equally constitute a challenge to global civilization.

3.0 Theoretical Framework

The paper adopts the eclectic approach. It is anchored on Emergency Management Theory (EMT) and Human Security Theory (HST).

3.1 Emergency Management Theory (EMT)

This paper deploys Emergency Management Theory (EMT) to assess the management of IDPs in Benue state. EMT was propounded in 2004 by an American expert in emergency administration called David McEntire (Omoraka, 2021). This theory was formulated in a bid to provide a pragmatic, proactive and reactive all-in-one paradigm for management of disruptive and hazardous phenomena after the terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Centre on 11

September, 2001 in United States of America (Ughulu & Igabor, 2021). The assumptions of EMT are as follows:

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

EMT is analytically expedient for this study because just as the theory assumes, disasters are inherent in all human societies including Benue state and has the capability of threatening the society. If disaster occurs and continues to grow rate without functional management mechanism evolved to tackle it then, the population of the state is bound to decrease continually, and probably go into extinction on a long-run. The state government presently has in place an institution-Benue State Emergency Management Agency (BSEMA)-saddled with the responsibility for managing disaster in the state. The mission of this body, according to Oruonye, Dimas and Ahmed (2021), is basically to coordinate resources towards efficient and effective disaster

prevention, preparedness, mitigation and responses.

BSEMA, which is a replica of NEMA at the state level employs disaster management plan and mechanisms as early warning and awareness generation, use of satellite technology to pick distress alerts and location data, search and rescue operations, Geographic Information System, Mobile Clinic, Development of Disaster Response Units (DRUs), collaboration with climatologically and Weather Forecasting Agencies, employee training and capacity building, disaster advocacy, and post-disaster assessment. This is to say that in line with the assumptions of the EMT, BSEMA has a disaster management plan that streamlines its actions toward disaster preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery.

3.2 Human Security Theory (HST)

Human Security Theory (HST) was propounded in 1995 by Mahbub ulHaq (Omoraka, 2021). It was the first theory that drew global attention to the issue of human security. The emergence of the human security approach as an area of developmental and intellectual discourse was the product of a convergence of various complex factors. The proponents challenged the traditional notion of national security by arguing that the proper referent for security should be the individual rather than the state. The spread and consolidation of democratization and human rights norms opened a floodgate to reconsider the concept of security.

The 1994 Human Development Report's definition of human security argues that the scope of global security should be expanded to include threats in seven key areas which includes economic security which requires an assured basic income for individuals, usually from productive and remunerative work; food security that relies on both physical and economic access to basic food; health security aims to guarantee a minimum protection from diseases and unhealthy

lifestyles; and environmental security supports the protection of people from the short and long-term ravages of nature, man-made threats in nature, and deterioration of the natural environment.

Furthermore, human security covers personal security which aims at protecting people from physical violence, whether from the state or external states, from violent individuals and sub-state actors, from domestic abuse, or from predatory adults; community security protects people from the loss of traditional relationships and values and from sectarian and ethnic violence; and political security which is concerned with whether people live in a society that honors their basic human rights. Each of the UNDP's seven categories of threats deserves adequate attention and resources.

Accordingly, if the state is unable to protect its population, the international community has a responsibility to help build state capacity for early-warning, mediating conflicts, security sector reform, and many other actions. In the face of incessant violent attacks against the people, and the state does not have the capacity to handle the situation alone; and refuses to seek foreign assistance due to perhaps national pride; and the myth of indivisibility of sovereignty; the human rights of the people would continue to be violated. In this situation, human security, social cohesion, and national integration may be elusive. The following are the basis assumptions of HST:

- i. The proper referent for security should be the individual rather than the state.
- ii. The threat agenda should be broadened to include hunger, diseases and natural disasters as they are inseparable in addressing the root of human insecurity.

- iii. Hunger, diseases and natural disasters kill far more people than war, genocide and terrorism combined.
- iv. It is the responsibility of the state to protect her citizens and if she fails to do so, the international community has a responsibility to help such a state

Using the HST as a theoretical compass, it presupposes that the root cause of displacement as well as the plight of the IDPs should be made national and international agenda with strict adherence to and implementations of the policies made. Arguably, the security of the people would be in doubt if issues such as natural and human disasters, terrorism, violent conflicts and insurgency among others that led to displacement in the first instance, are beyond the capacity of the state to effectively tackle. The rights and security of IDPs are endangered whenever the state fails to protect and safeguard them in a manner that would from the field survey were presented in tables and descriptively analyzed.

make them free from fear and free from want as well as their dignity restored through rehabilitation, reintegration and resettlement.

4.0 Research Methodology

The study was conducted in Benue state in North-Central geo-political zone of Nigeria. The study employed purposive sampling technique in selecting three Local Government Areas (LGAs) in the state. The LGAs are Agatu, Kwande and Makurdi. Thereafter, some IDPs camps in these LGAs were selected using simple random sampling technique. Data were generated using primary and secondary methods. The former involves collecting data through questionnaires administered to 384 respondents randomly determined based on Krejcie and Morgan (1970) sample size determination table (See Appendix 1) while the latter entails that data were collected from books, journals and web-based materials among others. Data collected

Table 1: Sampled IDPs in each LGA

Sampled LGAs	Number of IDPs	Sample Size
Agatu	65,347	$65,347/76,508 \times 384 = 328$
Kwande	2,951	$2,951/76,508 \times 384 = 15$
Makurdi	8,210	$8,210/76,508 \times 384 = 41$
Total	76,508	384

Source: Researchers’ own computation, 2022

5.0 Data Presentation and Analysis

Table 2: Causes of Internal Displacement of Persons

Response	Frequency	Percent
Natural Disaster	12	3.1
Man-Made Causes	364	94.8
No response	8	2.1
Total	384	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2022

Analysis of data in Table 2 shows that 12 respondents which represents 3.1% of the total respondents are of the view that internal displacement of persons are caused by natural disasters, 364 respondents representing 94.8% believe displacements are caused by man-made

causes while 8 respondents representing 2.1 % did not response to the question posed before them.

Table 3: The Nature of Man-Made Causes of Internal Displacement of Persons

Response	Frequency	Percent
Farmer-Herders Conflict	342	89.1
Rural Banditry	14	3.6
Communal Conflict	12	3.1
Chieftaincy Tussle	8	2.1
Others	8	2.1
Total	384	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2022

Analysis of data in Table 3 shows that 342 respondents which represents 89.1% were of the view that farmer-herder conflict is responsible for internal displacement of persons in Benue state; 14 respondents which represents 3.6% were of the view that rural banditry was responsible for displacement of

persons; 12 respondents representing 3.1% shows that communal conflicts were responsible for internal displacement of persons while 8 respondents representing 2.1% shows that chieftaincy tussle was responsible for internal displacement of persons in the state.

Table 4: Challenges of Managing IDPs

Response	Frequency	Percent
Diversion of relief materials meant for IDPs by corrupt government officials	136	35.4
Insecurity	29	7.6
Inadequate social amenities	4	1.0
Inadequate funding by the government	207	53.9
No Response	8	2.1
Total	384	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2022

Analysis of data in Table 4 shows that 207 respondents representing 53.9 % are of the view that inadequate funding by the government is a major challenge to managing IDPs in the state; 136 respondents which represent 35.4% of the total respondents were of the opinion that diversion of relief

materials meant for IDPs by corrupt government official is yet another major challenge to managing IDPs in the state; 29 respondents representing 7.6% were of the view that insecurity also challenges the efforts of the government in managing IDPs.

Table 5: Governments' Efforts in Managing IDPs

Response	Frequency	Percent
Unsatisfactory	322	83.9
Satisfactory	55	14.3
Not Sure	7	1.8
Total	384	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2022

Analysis of data in Table 5 shows that 322 respondents representing 83.9% were of the opinion that government's efforts in managing IDPs in Benue state has been unsatisfactory to the IDPs as it has not been able to produce the desired results while 55 respondents which represents 14.3% were of the view that government's efforts have been satisfactory. 7 respondents representing 1.8% are not sure whether government's efforts have been satisfactory or not.

6.0 Discussion of Findings

The paper found that internal displacement of persons in Benue state is as a consequence of incessant conflicts between nomadic cattle herders and sedentary crop farmers. This finding is in consonance with the findings of similar study conducted by Elijah (2018) who found that IDPs particularly in Guma LGA of Benue state is due to attacks orchestrated by suspected herders. This finding also agrees with the works of Shimawua (2020), which argued that Fulani herdsmen causes displacement from various communities across Nigeria.

The paper equally found that government's efforts in managing IDPs in Benue state has not really been able to produce the desired results due to inadequate funding and diversion of relief materials meant for the IDPs. This finding agreed with the work of Ogoh and Agbo (2021) in their research that deals with farmer-herder conflicts.

This specific finding from their research and other scholars is that the government has failed in meeting her constitutionally prescribed obligations to the people. It can be seen from the results, and various supporting

literature that most of the time, government management of the IDPs, conflicts and insecurity has not really brought about the expected result rather what it has ended up achieving is suppressing the problem which later re-surfaces in future with greater intensity and ferocity causing severe havoc on the people and society.

Section 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) places the responsibility on government to ensure the security of lives and property. Yet, past and present governments in Nigeria have not demonstrated the political will to halt the herder-farmers' clashes neither appropriately managed issues in IDPs camps. The situation has given rise to a sort of pervasive Fulani militancy in Benue state of north-central Nigeria. So government should therefore be more aggressive in pro-active governance and respond swiftly to intelligence reports and early warning signals to avoid or prevent conflicts and insecurity outrage in Benue state of north-central Nigeria.

7.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

This study assessed the management of IDPs in selected IDP camps in Benue state of North-Central Nigeria. The paper adopted the eclectic approach anchored on EMT and HST. Methodologically, the paper generated data using questionnaire, books, journals, and internet materials as its research instruments. The paper found that internal displacement of persons in Benue state is as a consequence of incessant conflicts between nomadic cattle herders and sedentary crop farmers. The paper equally found that government's efforts in managing IDPs in Benue state has

not really been able to produce the desired results due to inadequate funding and diversion of relief materials meant for the IDPs by corrupt government officials. The paper concludes that the Benue state government has not lived up to expectation in managing IDPs. On the basis of the findings and conclusion drawn, the paper made the following recommendations:

- a. Government should endeavour to increase its funding of the IDPs and also ensure that relief materials or funds received for the benefit of IDPs are well managed and transparently distributed to them.
- b. Government should try as much as possible to intervene by providing more relief materials to the unofficial IDP camps as well and consistently keep track of new displacements in order to know exactly how many IDPs live in a given area.
- c. Counselling and awareness programmes for IDPs should be encouraged as most of them lack knowledge about their fundamental human rights.
- d. Lastly, there is need for government to collaborate with other stakeholders in order to accommodate the growing population of the IDPs in the state.

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