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INSECURITY AND DISPLACEMENT IN NIGERIA: THE PLIGHT OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICY ACTIONS

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ABSTRACT
This study examined the nexus between insecurity and displacement in Nigeria, focusing on the plight of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the implications for policy action. Using a qualitative research design based on secondary data from credible sources such as UNHCR, IOM, NEMA, and scholarly publications, the study explored the causes, effects, and policy gaps surrounding displacement in Nigeria. Findings revealed that insurgency, banditry, communal violence, and political instability are the primary drivers of internal displacement, leading to massive loss of lives, destruction of property, loss of livelihoods, and disruption of education among displaced populations. The absence of permanent IDP camps, poor government interventions, and inadequate humanitarian coordination has further worsened the living conditions of IDPs, leaving many in prolonged uncertainty. The study concludes that addressing the displacement crisis requires a multi-dimensional approach centered on security reform, institutional accountability, socio-economic rehabilitation, and community reintegration. It recommends the establishment of permanent displacement camps, improved livelihood and education programs, and stronger collaboration between government and international partners to ensure sustainable solutions to internal displacement in Nigeria.

Keywords: Internally Displaced Persons, Insecurity, Displacement, and Security
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1. INTRODUCTION

The plight of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) anywhere in the world is a concern of the global community. The total number of displaced persons is currently estimated around fifty millionworldwide, with majority of these people in Africa and Asia. Human Displacement remains one of the most significant humanitarian challenges facing the world. Of the 33.3 million internally displaced persons in the world (excluding the development induced displacement), 15 million internally displaced persons can be found in Africa with an increase of 7.5% between 2013 and 2014 and Nigeria hosting over 3.300,000 IDPs (Osagioduwa & Oluwakorede 2016). It is however, worthy of note that millions of people have been forced to leave their homes to seek safety unfamiliar to them in the process losing their assets and in the process being exposed to untold hardship (Onaedo*et al.*2017).
Nigeriahas witnessed series of insecurity leading to the displacement of thousands, and the destruction of lives andproperty leaving an undeniable negative mark on Internally

Displaced Persons (Musa, 2019). This sudden battlingwith insecurity is characterized by violent conflicts, insurgency, banditry, kidnapping secessionist agitation and communal clashes, which have led to the displacement of about 3.7 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDP's) within the country (Oludare & Abubakar, 2021). Insecurity has become a defining issue in many parts of Nigeria, Boko Haram Insurgency in the Northeast, Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) in the Southeast, banditry and kidnapping in North-Westernand other's part of the country where conflicts and violent attacks have forced thousands of people flee their homes and means of livelihood for safety (Mohammed & Abubakar, 2019).

Banditry, kidnapping and communal clashes in Nigeria's Northwestern States such as Zamfara, Kaduna, Sokoto, and Katsina State have also contributed to this displacement crisis. Armed groups, often referred to as bandits, have attacked villages, kidnapped civilians, and engaged in cattle rustling, leading to the displacement of entire communities (Usman, 2020). This has exacerbated poverty and food insecurity in the area, as many of the displaced people are subsistence farmers who have now lost access to their land (Nnaji, 2022).

Displacement has disrupted agricultural production, a primary source of livelihood for many rural communities, leading to widespread food insecurity and loss of income (Ibrahim & Saleh, 2021). Many IDPs have been forced to leave their homes, farmlands and means of livelihood, which has resulted in the abandonment of agricultural activities in affected areas, further aggravating poverty levels. In addition, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) often find themselves living in overcrowded camps or host communities with inadequate access to basic services such as healthcare, education, and clean water (Abubakar & Umar, 2020). In fact, insecurity continues to prevent the affected communities from returning to their homes or engaging in productive economic activities (Oludare & Abubakar, 2021).

According to the UNHCR (2023), approximately 70% of the global displaced population are women and children, many of whom experience gender-based violence, trafficking, and limited access to healthcare. Furthermore, a report by the National Bureau of Statistics (2023) shows that women account for over 54% of Nigeria's Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), many of whom reside in under-resourced camps with limited access to sanitation, maternal care, and educational opportunities for their children.These displaced females often face dire living conditions, including sexual abuse, malnutrition, and restricted access to reproductive healthcare and education (Yusuf, 2022).

The increasing level of insecurity in Nigeria, particularly in the North-East, North-West and North Central geo-political zone, has resulted to the rise in the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs). In the light of the above, this aper seeks to examineinsecurity and displacement in Nigeria: the plight of internally displaced persons and recommendations for policy actions.

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Internal Displacement in Nigeria

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nigeria have emerged from a wide range of crises, including civil conflicts, insurgency and counterinsurgency operations, communal and religious clashes, political unrest, natural disasters, and disputes over resources (Adeleye & Osadola, 2022). Most of Nigeria's thirty-six states are vulnerable to environmental

hazards, particularly flooding, which has displaced thousands of residents. In addition, electoral violence was a significant factor that led to internal displacement in nine states during the 2011 electionsspecifically in Bauchi, Sokoto, Zamfara, Niger, Katsina, Jigawa, Kano, Adamawa, and Akwa Ibom (Adeleye, 2017). Among these causes, communal violence stands out as one of the most persistent and devastating triggers of displacement, often characterized by violent confrontations between ethnic or religious groups and serious violations of human rights. Before the escalation of insurgency in northern Nigeria, communal clashes were the leading cause of internal displacement nationwide. The origins of communal conflicts in the country are deeply historical, with major causes linked to ethnic competition, religious intolerance, disputes over land ownership, boundary demarcation conflicts, and tensions arising during political elections (Osadola, 2012).

Since the early 2000s, Nigeria has witnessed forced evictions of over two million people, particularly among the urban poor and marginalized populations residing in informal settlements. These evictions, often authorized by government agencies, are typically justified on the grounds of urban renewal and security enhancement, especially in cities like Lagos, Abuja, and Port Harcourt. In 2012 alone, thousands of residents were evicted from slums such as Makoko in Lagos State and Abonnema in Rivers State, while additional demolitions occurred in 2013 to pave the way for urban development projects. Armed insurgents and militant activities have further deepened insecurity, compelling rural dwellers to flee from their homes, especially in regions where government security presence remains weak or ineffective (Okon, 2018).

Ethno-religious conflicts in Nigeria are frequently tied to the contentious "indigene-settler" divide, often fueled by competition for access to political power and economic resources. Conflicts over land, political boundary demarcations, and the creation of new administrative areas have also contributed significantly to internal displacement. Between 1999 and 2002 alone, over fifty major communal clashes were recorded across the country (Osadola, 2012). Despite the recurrence of such violent incidents, the Boko Haram insurgency has become the most significant driver of displacement since the Nigerian Civil War. It accounts for more than 90% of recorded internal displacement cases, followed by communal violence as the second most prominent cause (Okon, 2018).

While some displacements last only a few days, many internally displaced persons now remain uprooted for extended periodsspanning months or even yearsbefore returning home or resettling. In recent times, insurgency, counterinsurgency operations, ethno-religious clashes, political violence, flooding, forced evictions, and competition for scarce resources have remained the dominant causes of internal displacement in Nigeria. According to reports by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in September 2015 and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in August of the same year, the number of IDPs in Nigeria was estimated at 2,150,451, with the majority located in Borno State, the epicenter of the Boko Haram insurgency (Kushi, 2018).

2.2 Insecurity and Displacement in Nigeria

Insecurity and displacement in Nigeria have become intertwined phenomena that reflect the growing instability in the country's political, economic, and social systems. Over the past two decades, insecurity has escalated due to multiple drivers, including terrorism, armed banditry, communal violence, herder–farmer clashes, and political unrest. These

threats have resulted in large-scale internal displacement, particularly in the northern regions of Nigeria, where militant groups such as Boko Haram and the Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP) continue to perpetrate attacks against civilians and government institutions. According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC, 2022), Nigeria ranks among the top ten countries globally with the highest number of internally displaced persons, with over 3.2 million people forced to flee their homes due to insecurity. The collapse of community security structures, coupled with the weakness of law enforcement and poor intelligence gathering, has further aggravated the displacement crisis, forcing families to abandon their ancestral lands in search of safety (Adeleye & Osadola, 2022).

The humanitarian consequences of insecurity-induced displacement in Nigeria are profound, affecting both the displaced and host communities. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) often face limited access to food, healthcare, education, and livelihood opportunities, which exacerbates poverty and social vulnerability (Onaedo, *et. al.* 2017). Camps and temporary shelters across the North-East and Middle Belt are frequently overcrowded, underfunded, and poorly managed, resulting in deteriorating living conditions and frequent outbreaks of disease. Women and children, in particular, bear the brunt of displacement, facing gender-based violence, child labour, and exploitation (Kullima, 2019). Furthermore, displacement has created demographic imbalances, straining the already weak public service delivery systems of host communities. The protracted nature of insecurity has also contributed to secondary displacement, where IDPs are forced to move multiple times due to recurring attacks or deteriorating camp conditions (Kushi, 2018).

Beyond the humanitarian dimension, insecurity and displacement have broader socio-economic and political implications for Nigeria's stability and development. Displacement disrupts agricultural production and local economies, leading to food insecurity and loss of livelihoods in affected areas. Insecurity also undermines national cohesion by deepening ethnic and religious divisions, thereby fuelling further conflicts. The continuous displacement of citizens erodes public trust in the government's ability to protect lives and property, weakening the legitimacy of state institutions (Akinyetun, 2023). Moreover, the diversion of national resources towards security operations and humanitarian relief limits investments in critical sectors such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure. Addressing insecurity and displacement therefore requires a multifaceted approach that combines military operations with socio-economic interventions, community reconciliation, and effective governance reforms to restore peace and stability across Nigeria (Ejiofor *et al.,* 2017).

2.3 Empirical Review

Nasa'i, *et. al.*(2018) investigates the forced displacement and the plight of internally displaced persons in Northeast Nigeria. This paper explored and discussed the suffering of the people internally displaced by Boko Haram conflict from the framework of forced displacement. It is found that, the IDPs in Nigeria suffered from multifaceted problems, ranging from the issues of inadequate life-saving assistance, protection related crisis, and the unclear prospect of achieving durable solutions. Moreover, the lack of a clear national policy, institutional, and legal frameworks in addressing internal displacement in Nigeria is found to be the prime cause of the intensification of the plight of IDPs. Thus, it is recommended that, there should be a legally backed national policy on IDPs, which

should include punitive measures for corrupt humanitarian officers. Also, provision should be made for effective coordination among national humanitarian agencies. Lastly, a clear rule of engagement between the Government and the international humanitarian agencies should be clearly defined.

Tasiu, (2024) examines the global responsibility to protect internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nigeria. It utilizes case studies, reports, and official documents to assess the current response to internal displacement in Nigeria and identify its challenges and shortcomings. The paper argues that the needs of IDPs in Nigeria have not been adequately addressed due to factors such as a lack of political will, limited resources, and structural barriers stemming from government corruption and conflict dynamics. Additionally, the study analyzes the roles and responsibilities of international actors, including the United Nations and international NGOs, in providing assistance to IDPs. It asserts that although these actors have made some progress in addressing the issues faced by IDPs in Nigeria. However, more effort is required to ensure the protection of their rights and reintegration into their communities. In conclusion, the paper calls for a more coordinated and comprehensive approach to the protection of IDPs in Nigeria, as well as the fulfillment of international obligations to assist them in achieving sustainable solutions.

According to Adeola (2023) the phenomenon of internal displacement in Nigeria is a substantial problem that can be traced back to a wide range of causes, such as armed conflict, community violence, and natural disasters. The repercussions of internal displacement are widespread and encompass a variety of negative outcomes, including physical and psychological damage to people, as well as disruptions to communities' social and economic systems. It is essential to address the underlying reasons of internal displacement and put effective techniques for risk reduction, early warning, and reaction into place if the nation want to forestall its occurrence. This may involve actions such as resolving conflicts, managing the risks of natural disasters, and using community-based ways to meeting the needs of people who have been displaced inside their own country. This study posits that there is also a need for an improved level of dedication and cooperation on the part of the government, in addition to help from international organisations, in order to solve the problem of internal displacement in Nigeria.

Adamu and Abdullahi, (2019) examines the socio-economic implications of displacement in Nigeria with reference to the Internally Displaced Persons in the North-East. It reveals that the inhabitants of the North-Eastern part of Nigeria are negatively affected by insecurity leading to their displacement. While the study adopts Lee's theory of migration as a theoretical framework, a total of 200 sample size was used for interview using judgmental sampling technique. The study reveals that the displacement has negatively affected their socio-economic condition which adversely resulted to extreme poverty, hunger, starvation and outbreak of diseases that had led to death of many. It concludes that Internal Displacement remains a drained and stumbling block in the cogwheel of national development in Nigeria, Africa and other parts of the world. While some significant displacement crises have attenuated due to the cessation of hostilities and tens of thousands of IDPs have been able to return to their original place of residence, over a million more in Nigeria remain psychologically challenged while new situations of internal displacement continue to occur. The study recommends among others that government should address the root causes of displacement by dealing with issues that lead to conflict and promoting peace and reconciliation as well as respect for human rights.

2.4 Theoretical Framework

David Easton's Systems Theory provides a valuable analytical framework for understanding insecurity and displacement in Nigeria, particularly the plight of internally displaced persons (IDPs). According to Easton (1965), a political system operates as a set of interrelated components that receive inputs (such as demands and supports) from the environment, process them through authoritative decisions and actions, and generate outputs in the form of policies and programs. In the context of Nigeria, insecurity and displacement can be seen as the outcome of systemic dysfunctionwhere the political system fails to effectively respond to citizens' demands for safety, justice, and welfare. Inputs such as rising insecurity, terrorism, and communal conflicts enter the system as public grievances, but weak governance structures, corruption, and poor institutional coordination hinder the transformation of these inputs into effective policy outputs. Consequently, the system produces inadequate responses, leading to feedback loops of insecurity, displacement, and human suffering (Easton, 1979).

Applying Easton's theory to the plight of IDPs in Nigeria highlights how systemic weaknesses undermine effective policy action and service delivery. The absence of strong feedback mechanisms prevents the government from accurately assessing the needs of displaced populations or adjusting its policies accordingly. Poorly implemented resettlement programs, underfunded IDP camps, and the lack of rehabilitation strategies reveal gaps in the output-feedback process of Nigeria's political system (Akinyetun, 2023). When government policies fail to address these challenges, they trigger further inputs in the form of social unrest, poverty, and distrust in state institutionscreating a vicious cycle of instability. Thus, adopting Easton's systems perspective underscores the need for a more responsive and adaptive governance system that effectively integrates citizen inputs, produces evidence-based policies, and strengthens institutional capacities to manage displacement and insecurity sustainably.

3 METHODOLOGY

This study adopted a qualitative research design that relied primarily on secondary data to explore the dynamics of insecurity and displacement in Nigeria, with a particular focus on the plight of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and implications for policy intervention. The qualitative approach was deemed appropriate because it allows for an in-depth understanding of social and political phenomena within their contextual realities. Data were gathered from credible secondary sources, including published journal articles, government reports, policy documents, books, international organization publications such as those of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), as well as reports from reputable Nigerian agencies. The collected materials were analyzed thematically to identify patterns, relationships, and recurring themes related to the causes, consequences, and policy responses to insecurity-induced displacement. This method facilitated a comprehensive interpretation of existing knowledge while enabling the study to draw evidence-based conclusions and policy recommendations grounded in documented empirical and theoretical insights.

4 RESULT AND DISCUSSION

4.1 The Plight of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nigeria

Displacement in Nigeria has become one of the most visible humanitarian consequences of prolonged insecurity and violent conflicts. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM, 2023), over 3.2 million Nigerians are currently displaced across the northern and central regions of the country, largely due to insurgency, banditry, communal clashes, and natural disasters. Most of these displacements are concentrated in the North-East states of Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe, which account for nearly 70% of the total IDP population (UNHCR, 2023). Insecurity arising from Boko Haram and Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) attacks continues to destroy homes and communities, forcing families to flee repeatedly in search of safety. The lack of stability and security in rural settlements has made displacement recurrent and cyclical, as many IDPs are unable to return home even after years in temporary shelters (Adewale & Musa, 2022).

Furthermore, displacement in Nigeria is not only a humanitarian crisis but also a developmental and governance challenge. The persistent movement of populations disrupts social cohesion and weakens local economies. IDPs are forced to live in overcrowded camps or informal settlements without adequate access to food, clean water, and healthcare (Onaedo, *et. al.*2017). Studies reveal that in Borno State alone, over 60% of displaced households live below the national poverty line, while more than 45% depend entirely on humanitarian assistance for survival (NEMA, 2023).

4.2 Lack of Permanent IDP's Camps in Some States Affected by Insecurity

A major challenge confronting IDPs in Nigeria is the lack of permanent and well-equipped displacement camps in several conflict-affected states. While states like Borno and Adamawa have formal camps supported by international partners, many others such as Kaduna, Niger, Zamfara, and Plateau rely on temporary or makeshift shelters created in schools, religious centers, or abandoned buildings (Olagunju & Usman, 2021). These improvised shelters often lack essential amenities such as potable water, sanitation facilities, and adequate security. For instance, in Kaduna State, thousands of IDPs displaced by communal violence in Chikun and Kajuru LGAs live in temporary structures without formal recognition from government agencies (IDMC, 2022).

Without permanent shelters, displaced persons face constant threats of eviction, exposure to harsh weather, and insecurity from further attacks. The lack of proper registration and camp management systems also prevents effective monitoring and distribution of relief materials (Akinyetun, 2023). Reports from the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA, 2023) indicate that up to 40% of IDPs in North-Western Nigeria live outside formal camps, leaving them without protection or access to basic services.

4.3 Poor Government Interventions

Government intervention in managing internal displacement in Nigeria has often been reactive, fragmented, and insufficient. While agencies like NEMA and the State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMAs) are mandated to coordinate disaster and displacement responses, their efforts are often hampered by poor funding, weak

coordination, and corruption (Okon, 2018). Many IDPs rely heavily on international humanitarian organizations such as the UNHCR, IOM, and the Norwegian Refugee Council for survival. The National Policy on IDPs (2012), which was intended to provide a legal framework for protecting displaced persons, has not been effectively implemented. As a result, displaced populations remain exposed to hunger, malnutrition, and disease outbreaks. For example, in 2023, over 600 children died from preventable diseases in IDP camps in Borno due to lack of medical supplies and poor sanitation (UNICEF, 2023).

Moreover, the government's focus has largely been on short-term relief distribution rather than long-term resettlement and rehabilitation. IDPs who attempt to return to their ancestral homes find them destroyed, mined, or occupied by armed groups. In addition, limited government investment in rebuilding destroyed communities perpetuates dependency on humanitarian aid (Adewale &Musa, 2022). The absence of comprehensive reintegration programs, psychosocial support, and livelihood training leaves many displaced persons without hope for recovery. This policy gap reflects a broader governance crisis in Nigeria, where insecurity and humanitarian issues are often politicized rather than addressed through sustainable development planning (Akinyetun, 2023).

4.4 Mass Loss of Lives and Properties

Insecurity-induced displacement in Nigeria has been accompanied by massive loss of lives and properties. Since the onset of Boko Haram insurgency in 2009, an estimated over 35,000 people have been killed and more than 2.5 million displaced (UNHCR, 2023). Attacks by armed bandits in the North-West, including Zamfara, Kaduna, and Katsina states, have led to widespread destruction of villages, farms, and public infrastructure. The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED, 2023) reported that between 2020 and 2023 alone, over 10,000 Nigerians were killed in bandit-related violence. This destruction forces survivors to flee en masse, leaving behind homes, schools, and farmlands that often remain abandoned for years.

The property loss suffered by displaced persons is devastating, as most victims are subsistence farmers, traders, or artisans who depend on their local resources for survival. In Borno and Zamfara, satellite imagery by Human Rights Watch (2022) revealed that over 15,000 houses and 300 public buildings were razed between 2018 and 2022 due to insurgent and communal attacks. The scale of destruction not only impoverishes affected households but also hampers regional economic growth and discourages reconstruction efforts (Nasa'i, *et al*. 2018).

4.5 Loss of Means of Livelihood

Insecurity and forced displacement have deprived millions of Nigerians of their livelihoods. According to IOM (2023), over 75% of IDPs previously engaged in agriculture have lost access to their farmlands due to insecurity, landmines, and occupation by armed groups. This loss severely affects food production and contributes to rising food insecurity across northern Nigeria. In the Lake Chad Basin, where fishing and farming were once the major sources of livelihood, continuous insurgent attacks have crippled economic activities, leading to widespread hunger and dependency on humanitarian assistance (FAO, 2023).

The disruption of livelihoods extends beyond agriculture to include the destruction of markets, transport networks, and small businesses. A report by the World Bank (2022) estimates that insecurity and displacement have caused an annual economic loss of over $10 billion in northern Nigeria. The lack of economic empowerment programs for IDPs further exacerbates poverty, as most camps lack vocational training centers or financial inclusion initiatives (Kushi, 2018).

4.6 Education Disruption and Lost Opportunities for Youth

Education is one of the sectors most severely affected by insecurity and displacement in Nigeria. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF, 2023) reports that over 1.5 million children in the North-East are out of school due to insurgency and displacement. IDP camps lack formal schools, and children who attempt to continue their education often do so under trees or in overcrowded classrooms without adequate learning materials. In Borno State alone, more than 1,400 schools have been destroyed or shut down since 2013 due to Boko Haram attacks (UNESCO, 2022).

Furthermore, the loss of educational opportunities among displaced youth, women and children has long-term implications for national development. Without access to formal education and skills training, displaced young people are at risk of chronic unemployment and poverty. The absence of educational continuity also undermines social integration and post-conflict recovery, as displaced children are unable to compete in an increasingly knowledge-driven economy (Akinyetun, 2023).

5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusion

The issue of insecurity and displacement in Nigeria represents one of the most pressing humanitarian and governance challenges confronting the nation today. The persistence of insurgency, banditry, communal violence, and political instability has forced millions of Nigerians from their ancestral homes, creating widespread internal displacement and human suffering. The plight of internally displaced persons (IDPs) underscores the vulnerability of marginalized populations who often find themselves trapped in cycles of poverty, insecurity, and neglect. Without a holistic and sustained policy response, displacement will continue to erode national cohesion and hinder socio-economic development, particularly in northern Nigeria where the crisis is most acute.

Furthermore, the study established that inadequate government interventions, lack of permanent camps, and insufficient humanitarian coordination exacerbate the challenges faced by displaced populations. Most IDPs live in deplorable conditions with limited access to healthcare, education, clean water, and livelihood opportunities. The destruction of homes, schools, and farmlands has resulted in mass poverty, food insecurity, and educational disruptions, particularly for children and young people. In many instances, government responses have been short-term and reactive, focusing on emergency relief rather than long-term rehabilitation and reintegration. The neglect of displaced persons not only undermines their human rights but also poses a serious threat to peacebuilding and post-conflict recovery efforts across affected states.

Insecurity and internal displacement in Nigeria require a multi-dimensional and coordinated approachthat combines security reform, governance accountability, and

socio-economic empowerment. The Nigerian government must institutionalize a robust framework for IDP protection and resettlement, strengthen early warning systems, and promote community-based peacebuilding initiatives.

5.1 Recommendations

The Nigerian government should prioritize the establishment of permanent, well-equipped, and secure IDP camps in all states affected by insecurity and displacement. These camps should be built with proper housing, healthcare, education facilities, and clean water supply to ensure the dignity and safety of displaced persons. Institutionalizing a National Framework for IDP Camp Management, in partnership with agencies such as NEMA, UNHCR, and IOM, would facilitate efficient data collection, humanitarian coordination, and long-term planning. This initiative should also include gender-sensitive infrastructure to protect vulnerable groups such as women, children, and persons with disabilities.

Beyond providing temporary relief, the government should implement sustainable rehabilitation and reintegration programs aimed at restoring livelihoods and rebuilding destroyed communities. This includes vocational training, agricultural support, and micro-financing initiatives to enable IDPs to become economically self-reliant. Reintegration policies should also incorporate psychosocial support to address the trauma experienced by victims of conflict. The Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management, and Social Development should lead this process with technical support from international partners to ensure transparency and sustainability.

To prevent further displacement, government authorities must address the root causes of insecurity by enhancing security presence, community policing, and intelligence sharing in vulnerable regions. Strengthening local governance and ensuring that traditional and community leaders are actively engaged in peacebuilding initiatives will improve social cohesion and early conflict detection.

The government should integrate education continuity programs into all IDP interventions to reduce the educational disruption caused by displacement. This can be achieved through mobile schools, digital learning platforms, and the deployment of volunteer teachers in conflict-affected areas. Additionally, youth empowerment initiatives such as skills acquisition centers and entrepreneurship development should be expanded to prevent vulnerable youths from being recruited into criminal or extremist groups. Prioritizing education in humanitarian responses would not only safeguard the future of displaced children but also promote long-term national development.

There is an urgent need for a multi-sectoral coordination mechanism involving federal, state, and local governments alongside international organizations and civil society. The adoption of a National Displacement Management Policy with clear accountability frameworks would ensure effective monitoring of resource allocation and prevent corruption in humanitarian assistance. Establishing an Independent Humanitarian Oversight Commission could enhance transparency and ensure that interventions reach the most affected communities. Regular impact assessments should also be conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of policies and adjust strategies accordingly.

Finally, Nigeria should strengthen its early warning and disaster risk management systems to anticipate and mitigate displacement caused by conflict and natural disasters. This includes investing in data-driven monitoring, conflict prevention programs, and environmental resilience projects such as flood control and reforestation. A proactive

approach would reduce the scale of displacement and improve the government's capacity to respond swiftly and effectively to emerging crises.

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