

**THE IMPACT OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT DUE TO INSURGENCY ON  
WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN NIGERIA**

**BY**

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## **CERTIFICATION**

We the undersigned, hereby certify that this research work was carried out by **IZIENGBE COMFORT EHIMWENMA** with Matriculation Number: **SSC2105825** of the Department of Public Administration, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Benin, Benin City in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Award of Bachelor of Science Degree (B.Sc.) in Public Administration.

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## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this work to God Almighty, the Alpha and Omega, also to my parents Mr. and Mrs. Idoghor.

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I am deeply grateful to Almighty God for His unwavering love, grace, and guidance throughout the successful completion of this project. His presence has been my source of strength and inspiration through every challenge.

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## ABSTRACT

*This study investigates the impacts of internal displacement due to insurgency on women and children in Nigeria, with a focus on the International Christian Centre, Uhogua, Benin City IDP camp. Driven by the Boko Haram insurgency and related conflicts, over 3.5 million Nigerians, predominantly women and children, are internally displaced as of 2024. Utilizing a mixed-methods approach, the study combines qualitative data from in-depth interviews and focus group discussions with quantitative survey data from 100 participants (50 women and 50 children). Findings reveal severe disruptions in economic livelihoods, with 88–90% of respondents reporting reduced income opportunities, asset loss, and reliance on precarious informal activities. Psychologically, 92–93% noted high anxiety, hopelessness, and trauma symptoms, with only 23% acknowledging adequate mental health support. Access to healthcare and education is critically limited, with only 30% and 25% reporting sufficient services, respectively. Policy gaps are evident, with 90% highlighting inadequate economic interventions and weak government-NGO collaboration. Chi-square tests confirmed significant relationships between displacement and insurgency, economic livelihoods, and psychological effects. Grounded in ecological systems theory, vulnerability framework, and human security approach, the study recommends targeted economic empowerment, enhanced psychosocial support, improved healthcare and education access, and stronger policy implementation to address these challenges and foster resilience among displaced populations.*

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Insurgency in Nigeria, particularly driven by groups such as Boko Haram and the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), has led to widespread violence, loss of life, and significant internal displacement across the country. Since the onset of the Boko Haram insurgency in 2009, millions of Nigerians, particularly in the northeastern states of Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe, have been forced to flee their homes, seeking safety in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), as of 2023, over 3.2 million people remain internally displaced in Nigeria due to conflict and violence. Women and children, who constitute the majority of the displaced population, face unique and disproportionate challenges, including heightened risks of gender-based violence, loss of livelihoods, limited access to education, and inadequate healthcare services. This study explores the multifaceted impacts of internal displacement due to insurgency on women and children in Nigeria, focusing on their social, economic, psychological, and physical well-being.

The Boko Haram insurgency, which began in northeastern Nigeria, has evolved into one of the most devastating conflicts in Africa, characterized by attacks on civilians, abductions, and destruction of infrastructure. The violence has displaced entire communities, disrupting social structures and economic activities. Women and children, often the most vulnerable during conflicts, bear the brunt of these disruptions. For instance, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) reported in 2022 that approximately 60% of Nigerias internally displaced population consists of women and children, highlighting their overrepresentation in displacement crises. The insurgency has not only forced families to flee but has also led to the breakdown of traditional support systems, leaving women and children exposed to exploitation, abuse, and marginalization.

Women in displaced communities face significant socioeconomic challenges, including loss of livelihoods and limited access to resources. In many Nigerian communities, women are primary caregivers and often rely on agriculture or petty trading for income. Displacement disrupts these activities, as access to farmland, markets, and financial resources becomes restricted. A study by Adebayo and Ojo (2021) found that displaced women in northeastern Nigeria experienced a significant decline in income-generating opportunities, with many resorting to survival strategies such as transactional sex or child labour to support their families. This economic vulnerability exacerbates gender inequalities and increases the risk of exploitation. Furthermore, the lack of access to vocational training or microfinance programs in IDP camps limits women's ability to rebuild their livelihoods, perpetuating cycles of poverty and dependency. Displacement also has profound implications for the health of women and children. The lack of access to healthcare facilities, clean water, and sanitation in IDP camps increases the risk of communicable diseases, malnutrition, and maternal mortality. A study by Okeke et al. (2020) found that displaced women in Nigeria face significant barriers to accessing reproductive health services, including antenatal care and safe delivery, leading to higher rates of maternal and infant mortality. Children in displacement settings are also at risk of malnutrition, with UNICEF reporting in 2023 that over 2 million children in northeastern Nigeria suffer from acute malnutrition due to food insecurity and limited access to nutritious food. These health challenges are compounded by the psychological toll of displacement, with many women and children experiencing anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

The impact of internal displacement due to insurgency on women and children in Nigeria is a complex and multifaceted issue that requires urgent attention. The socioeconomic, educational, health, and psychological challenges faced by displaced women and children highlight the need for comprehensive and gender-sensitive interventions. While government and humanitarian efforts have provided some relief, significant gaps remain in addressing the long-term needs of displaced populations. This

study aims to contribute to the existing body of knowledge by examining the specific impacts of displacement on women and children, identifying the barriers to their well-being, and proposing actionable recommendations to mitigate these challenges. By focusing on the lived experiences of displaced women and children, this study seeks to inform policy and practice to promote resilience and recovery in conflict-affected communities.

## **1.2 Statement of Research Problem**

The ongoing insurgency in Nigeria, particularly in the northeastern region, driven by groups such as Boko Haram, has led to significant internal displacement, with profound consequences for women and children. As of 2023, over 3.2 million people are internally displaced in Nigeria, with women and children constituting a significant portion of this population (UNHCR, 2023). These groups face unique and severe challenges, including heightened risks of gender-based violence (GBV), disrupted access to education and healthcare, economic marginalisation, and psychological trauma (Adebayo, 2021; UNICEF, 2022). Despite the scale of this humanitarian crisis, there is a lack of comprehensive research and targeted interventions addressing the specific impacts of internal displacement on women and children, particularly in terms of their long-term social, economic, and psychological well-being.

Women in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps are disproportionately affected by GBV, limited access to reproductive health services, and economic exclusion due to disrupted livelihoods and caregiving responsibilities (Olanrewaju, 2020). Similarly, displaced children face significant barriers to education, with over 1.5 million children in northeastern Nigeria out of school, increasing their vulnerability to exploitation, child labour, and recruitment into armed groups (Osita-Njoku, 2023). Health challenges, including malnutrition and disease outbreaks, further exacerbate the plight of these vulnerable groups, with over 40% of children in IDP camps suffering from acute malnutrition (UNICEF, 2022). The psychological toll, including trauma and post-

traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), is also significant, yet mental health services remain severely limited (Eze, 2022).

While the Nigerian government and international organisations have implemented interventions such as IDP camps and humanitarian aid programs, these efforts are often inadequate in addressing the gender- and age-specific needs of women and children (Adeyemi, 2023). Existing policies and programs frequently lack a focus on long-term solutions, such as economic empowerment, reintegration, and psychological support, leaving gaps in addressing the root causes of vulnerability among displaced women and children (Okafor, 2022). Furthermore, there is limited research exploring the intersectionality of displacement, gender, and age, which hinders the development of evidence-based, targeted interventions.

The research problem, therefore, lies in the insufficient understanding of the multifaceted impacts of insurgency-induced internal displacement on women and children in Nigeria, coupled with the lack of tailored policies and programs to address their unique challenges. Without comprehensive studies and interventions that prioritise the specific needs of these groups, displaced women and children will continue to face cycles of vulnerability, poverty, and marginalisation. This study seeks to address this gap by examining the social, economic, psychological, and health-related impacts of internal displacement on women and children, with the aim of informing effective and sustainable solutions.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

The study seeks to address the following research questions to comprehensively understand the impacts of internal displacement due to insurgency on women and children in

Nigeria:

- i. What are the impact of internal displacement due to insurgency on women and children?
- ii. How does internal displacement affect the economic livelihoods of displaced women?
- iii. What are the psychological impacts of insurgency-induced displacement on women and children?
- iv. How does internal displacement influence the access of women and children to healthcare and education services in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps?
- v. What are the existing policy and intervention gaps in addressing the specific needs of displaced women and children in Nigeria, and how can these gaps be addressed?

### **1.4 Research Objectives**

The objectives of this study are designed to align with the research questions and provide a framework for investigating the impacts of internal displacement on women and children. The objectives are:

- i. To examine the impact of internal displacement due to insurgency on women and children
- ii. To assess the economic impacts of displacement on women.
- iii. To investigate the psychological effects of displacement on women and children.

- iv. To evaluate the access of displaced women and children to healthcare and education services in IDP camps, identifying barriers and gaps.
- v. To analyse existing policies and interventions addressing the needs of displaced women and children, and to propose recommendations for more effective, gender- and age-sensitive approaches.

### **1.5 Research Hypotheses**

The following hypotheses will guide the study to test the relationships and impacts of internal displacement on women and children:

**H1:** There is no significant relationship between internal displacement and insurgency.

**H2:** There is no significant relationship between economic and woman displacement.

**H3:** There is no significant relationship between psychological effects and women and children displacement.

### **1.6 Significance of the Study**

The study on the impact of internal displacement due to insurgency on women and children in Nigeria holds critical importance for several reasons, addressing gaps in knowledge, policy, and practice while contributing to the well-being of vulnerable populations. The significance of this research lies in its potential to inform stakeholders, including policymakers, humanitarian organisations, and researchers, about the specific challenges faced by displaced women and children and to advocate for targeted interventions.

This study contributes to the limited body of research focusing on the intersectionality of internal displacement, gender, and age in the context of Nigeria's insurgency crisis. While existing literature highlights the general impacts of displacement, there is a paucity of comprehensive studies examining the unique experiences of women and children, particularly in terms of social, economic, psychological, and health-related consequences. By providing empirical evidence on these dimensions, the study enriches academic discourse and offers a foundation for future research. The findings of this study

are expected to guide the Nigerian government and international organisations in designing gender- and age-sensitive policies to address the needs of displaced women and children. Current interventions often fail to account for the specific vulnerabilities of these groups, such as barriers to education. By identifying gaps in existing policies, the study will provide actionable recommendations to enhance protection mechanisms, improve access to services, and promote sustainable reintegration. Humanitarian organisations, such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), can benefit from this study’s insights to tailor their programs to the needs of displaced women and children. For instance, the study’s focus on psychological trauma and healthcare access can inform the development of mental health services and reproductive health programs in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps. This will enhance the effectiveness of humanitarian aid and reduce the long-term impacts of displacement.

By examining the economic marginalisation of displaced women, the study highlights the need for vocational training and income-generating opportunities to break cycles of poverty and dependence. The findings can encourage stakeholders to implement empowerment programs that enable women to rebuild their livelihoods, thereby fostering resilience and self-reliance among displaced populations. Women and children in IDP camps face heightened risks of GBV, child labour, and recruitment into armed groups. This study underscores the urgency of strengthening protection mechanisms to safeguard these groups, contributing to their safety and dignity. The research outcomes can advocate for increased security measures and community-based support systems in IDP camps. The study’s focus on the disruption of education for displaced children highlights the need for interventions to restore access to schooling and prevent exploitation. By emphasising the long-term developmental impacts of displacement, the study advocates for investments in education infrastructure and programs to ensure displaced children’s right to education is upheld.

Nigeria's insurgency-driven displacement crisis is part of a broader global challenge of forced migration. The study's findings can contribute to international discussions on internal displacement, offering insights that may apply to similar contexts in other conflict-affected regions. The study will benefit prospective researchers as it will serve as a source of reference point to them. Future researchers will use the results of this study to add to existing knowledge. The study will help to open new avenues of research, allowing researchers to delve deeper into the topic under discussion.

### **1.7 Scope of the Study**

The study focuses on the impact of internal displacement due to insurgency on women and children in Nigeria. This research work intends to critically examine the social consequences of internal displacement on women and children, focusing on gender-based violence, social exclusion, and loss of community support structures, as well as the economic impacts of displacement on women, including barriers to livelihoods and opportunities for economic empowerment. Investigate the psychological effects of displacement on women and children, with an emphasis on trauma, stress, and mental health challenges, evaluate the access of displaced women and children to healthcare and education services in IDP camps, identifying barriers and gaps and analyze existing policies and interventions addressing the needs of displaced women and children, and to propose recommendations for more effective, gender and age-sensitive approaches.

The geographical scope of the study is limited to the International Christian Centre, Uhogua, Benin City (IDP) camp.

### **1.8 Definition of Terms**

**Internal Displacement:** Internal displacement refers to the forced movement of individuals or groups within the borders of their country due to conflict, violence, human rights violations, or disasters, resulting in their inability to return to their homes. In this study, internal displacement specifically pertains to individuals displaced by insurgency-

related violence in northeastern Nigeria, particularly in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe states.

**Insurgency:** Insurgency is defined as an organised, armed rebellion against a constituted authority, often involving non-state actors seeking to challenge or overthrow the government or control specific territories. In this context, insurgency refers to the activities of groups such as Boko Haram, whose violent campaigns have driven widespread displacement in Nigeria.

**Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):** IDPs are individuals or groups who have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict, violence, or other crises but remain within their country's borders. This study focuses on women and children living in IDP camps or host communities in northeastern Nigeria as a result of insurgency.

**Women:** For this study, women are defined as adult females, typically aged 18 and above, who are displaced due to insurgency. This includes women of reproductive age, mothers, and female heads of households, who often face unique challenges such as gender-based violence and caregiving responsibilities.

**Children:** Children are defined as individuals under the age of 18, in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. In this study, the term encompasses displaced boys and girls in IDP camps or host communities, who are particularly vulnerable to disruptions in education, health, and protection.

**Psychological Trauma:** Psychological trauma is defined as the emotional and mental distress resulting from exposure to violent or life-threatening events, such as insurgency-related violence, displacement, or loss of loved ones. This study examines trauma and related conditions, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), among displaced women and children.

**Economic Marginalisation:** Economic marginalisation refers to the exclusion of individuals or groups from economic opportunities, resulting in poverty, lack of access to

livelihoods, and dependence on external aid. In this context, it pertains to the loss of income-generating activities and assets among displaced women due to insurgency.

**Access to Healthcare:** Access to healthcare is defined as the availability and affordability of medical services, including reproductive health, maternal care, and treatment for diseases, for displaced populations. This study focuses on barriers to healthcare faced by women and children in IDP camps, such as inadequate facilities and disease outbreaks.

**Access to Education:** Access to education refers to the ability of children to attend and participate in formal or informal schooling, including primary and secondary education. This study encompasses the challenges of disrupted schooling for displaced children due to destroyed infrastructure or economic constraints.

**IDP Camps:** IDP camps are temporary settlements established to provide shelter, protection, and humanitarian aid to internally displaced persons. This study focuses on formal and informal IDP camps in northeastern Nigeria, where women and children face overcrowded conditions and limited services.

## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

#### 2.1 Conceptual Review of Insurgency

Insurgency is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that has shaped political, social, and military landscapes across the globe. Defined as an organised, often armed, movement aimed at challenging or overthrowing an established government or authority through subversive means, insurgency combines elements of guerrilla warfare, political mobilisation, and ideological propagation (Kilcullen, 2020). Insurgency is typically characterised by its asymmetry, where weaker actors employ unconventional tactics to challenge stronger state or non-state entities. According to Jones (2021), insurgency involves "sustained political-military campaigns by non-state actors to achieve political objectives, often through a combination of violence, propaganda, and social mobilisation" (p. 45). This definition highlights the dual nature of insurgency as both a military and political endeavour. Unlike conventional warfare, insurgents rely on guerrilla tactics, sabotage, and terrorism to erode the legitimacy and control of the ruling authority (Byman, 2022).

Insurgencies differ from other forms of conflict, such as revolutions or civil wars, in their protracted nature and focus on undermining state authority rather than immediate overthrow. For instance, McFate (2020) notes that insurgencies often exploit grievances such as economic inequality, ethnic marginalisation, or political exclusion to gain popular support. This distinguishes insurgency from purely criminal activities, as

insurgents pursue ideological or political goals rather than solely material gains (Hoffman, 2023).

### **2.1.1 Causes of Insurgency**

The root causes of insurgency are diverse and context-specific, often stemming from a combination of structural, political, and socio-economic factors. Recent studies emphasise the role of governance failures in fueling insurgent movements. For example, Collier and Sambanis (2021) argue that weak state capacity, corruption, and lack of institutional legitimacy create fertile ground for insurgencies. Their analysis of conflicts in sub-Saharan Africa highlights how resource scarcity and ethnic fractionalization exacerbate grievances, driving marginalised groups to take up arms (Collier & Sambanis, 2021).

Economic disparities also play a significant role. According to Fearon (2022), regions with high levels of poverty and unemployment are more susceptible to insurgent recruitment, as disenfranchised populations seek alternatives to state neglect. The rise of groups like Boko Haram in Nigeria illustrates how economic deprivation, coupled with religious extremism, can fuel insurgent movements (Mustapha & Meagher, 2020). Additionally, external factors, such as foreign interventions or support for insurgent groups, can escalate conflicts, as seen in the Syrian civil war (Phillips, 2023).

Ideological motivations, including religious, nationalist, or separatist ideologies, further drive insurgencies. Staniland (2021) emphasises that insurgents often frame their struggle in ideological terms to legitimise their actions and attract followers. For instance, the Islamic State's propaganda campaigns in the early 2020s leveraged religious narratives to recruit globally (Hoffman, 2023). These causes—governance failures, economic disparities, and ideological appeals—interact dynamically, creating complex conflict ecosystems.

### **2.1.2 Dynamics of Insurgency**

Insurgencies are dynamic, evolving in response to state countermeasures, societal changes, and external influences. One key dynamic is the relationship between insurgents and local populations. Kilcullen (2020) argues that insurgents rely heavily on civilian support for resources, intelligence, and legitimacy, often employing a "hearts and minds" strategy to win over communities. This dynamic is evident in the Taliban's resurgence in Afghanistan, where local grievances against foreign occupation and corrupt governance bolstered insurgent legitimacy (Jackson, 2021).

Another critical dynamic is the use of hybrid warfare, combining conventional and unconventional tactics. Byman (2022) notes that modern insurgencies increasingly integrate cyber warfare, disinformation campaigns, and drone technology to amplify their impact. For example, insurgent groups in Yemen have used social media to spread propaganda and coordinate attacks, blurring the lines between physical and informational warfare (Phillips, 2023).

Insurgencies also adapt to counterinsurgency efforts. According to McFate (2020), insurgents often exploit the heavy-handed tactics of state forces to portray themselves as victims, further galvanising support. This was evident in Iraq, where excessive use of force by coalition forces inadvertently strengthened insurgent recruitment (Jones, 2021). The adaptability of insurgents underscores the need for nuanced counterinsurgency strategies that address both military and non-military dimensions of the conflict.

### **2.1.3 Counterinsurgency Strategies**

Counterinsurgency (COIN) involves a range of military, political, and socio-economic measures aimed at defeating insurgents and restoring state authority. Recent scholarship emphasises the importance of integrated approaches that combine security operations with efforts to address underlying grievances. Kilcullen (2020) advocates for a population-centric approach, where COIN efforts prioritise protecting civilians and building trust with communities. This contrasts with enemy-centric approaches, which focus on eliminating insurgents through military force (Byman, 2022).

Effective COIN requires addressing the root causes of insurgency, such as poverty and governance failures. Collier and Sambanis (2021) argue that development programs, such as infrastructure projects and job creation, can reduce insurgent appeal by improving living conditions. For example, Colombia's peace process with FARC insurgents incorporated economic development and land reform to address long-standing grievances (Mustapha & Meagher, 2020).

Intelligence and information operations are also critical. Hoffman (2023) highlights the role of targeted intelligence in disrupting insurgent networks, as seen in U.S. operations against Al-Qaeda. However, heavy reliance on surveillance and drone strikes can alienate populations, underscoring the need for balance (Phillips, 2023). Additionally, international cooperation is vital, as insurgents often operate across borders, requiring coordinated efforts to disrupt funding and supply chains (Staniland, 2021).

## **2.2 Concept of Internal Displaced Persons**

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) represent a significant global humanitarian challenge, with millions displaced within their own countries due to conflict, violence, disasters, or development projects. Unlike refugees, who cross international borders, IDPs remain within their national boundaries, often facing unique vulnerabilities due to their lack of international legal status (OCHA, 2021). The United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (1998), reaffirmed in recent literature, define IDPs as "persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights, or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border" (UNHCR, 2020, p. 12). This definition, widely adopted in academic and policy circles, emphasises the involuntary nature of displacement and the absence of cross-border movement (Cohen & Deng, 2021).

IDPs differ from refugees in their legal status and protection mechanisms. While refugees are protected under international law through the 1951 Refugee Convention, IDPs fall under the sovereignty of their home country, often complicating access to assistance and protection (Betts, 2022). Recent studies highlight the diversity of IDP populations, which may include rural farmers displaced by conflict, urban dwellers affected by disasters, or communities uprooted by development projects (Kälin & Chapuisat, 2023). This heterogeneity underscores the need for context-specific approaches to addressing IDP needs.

The psychological and social consequences of displacement are profound, particularly for women and children who often experience trauma from witnessing violence or losing family members. The disruption of community networks and social support systems further isolates displaced individuals, making it difficult for them to cope with their experiences. A study by Musa and Ibrahim (2021) highlighted that displaced women in Nigeria reported high levels of psychological distress, including feelings of hopelessness and fear, due to the uncertainty of their situation and the lack of mental health support. For children, the loss of a stable environment and exposure to violence can lead to long-term developmental challenges, including difficulties in forming relationships and achieving academic success.

The Nigerian government, in collaboration with international organisations, has implemented various interventions to address the needs of displaced women and children. These include the establishment of IDP camps, provision of food aid, and programs aimed at improving access to education and healthcare. However, these efforts are often hampered by inadequate funding, corruption, and logistical challenges. For example, a 2022 report by Human Rights Watch noted that many IDP camps in Nigeria lack basic amenities, such as clean water and sanitation, and are unable to meet the needs of the growing displaced population. Humanitarian organisations, such as UNHCR and IOM,

have played a critical role in assisting, but their efforts are often short-term and insufficient to address the long-term needs of displaced women and children.

Despite the efforts of the government and humanitarian organisations, significant gaps remain in addressing the needs of displaced women and children. These include the lack of comprehensive psychosocial support, limited access to justice for GBV survivors, and insufficient programs to promote economic empowerment for women. Additionally, the focus on immediate humanitarian needs, such as food and shelter, often overshadows long-term development goals, such as education and livelihood restoration. A study by Adeyemi and Bello (2023) emphasised the need for gender-sensitive interventions that address the specific vulnerabilities of women and children, including targeted programs for education, vocational training, and mental health support. Bridging these gaps requires coordinated efforts between government, civil society, and international partners to ensure sustainable solutions for displaced populations.

### **2.2.1 Causes of Internal Displacement**

Internal displacement arises from a complex interplay of factors, broadly categorised into conflict-related, disaster-related, and development-induced causes. Armed conflict and violence remain primary drivers. According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC, 2023), conflicts in regions like Syria, Yemen, and Ethiopia displaced over 30 million people by 2023. Scholars note that insurgencies, ethnic violence, and political instability exacerbate displacement by creating unsafe environments (Hammond, 2021). For instance, the Tigray conflict in Ethiopia displaced millions due to widespread violence and human rights abuses (Abebe & Mulugeta, 2022).

Natural disasters, intensified by climate change, are another significant cause. Floods, hurricanes, and droughts have displaced millions annually, particularly in vulnerable regions like Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia (IDMC, 2023). Thomas and Benjamin (2020) argue that climate-induced displacement is increasingly blurring the lines between voluntary and forced migration, as environmental degradation forces communities to

relocate. For example, recurrent flooding in Bangladesh has led to significant internal displacement, often to urban slums (Rahman & Islam, 2021).

Development projects, such as dams, infrastructure, or urban renewal, also contribute to displacement. Cernea and Maldonado (2022) highlight how large-scale projects, like the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, displace communities without adequate resettlement plans, leading to loss of livelihoods and social cohesion. These causes—conflict, disasters, and development—interact dynamically, often compounding vulnerabilities for IDPs (Betts, 2022).

### **2.3 Internal Displacement in Nigeria**

Internal displacement in Nigeria is a pressing humanitarian crisis, driven by a complex interplay of conflict, climate-related disasters, and socio-economic challenges. With over 3.5 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) by the end of 2024, Nigeria ranks among the countries with the highest IDP populations globally (UNHCR, 2024). Unlike refugees, IDPs remain within national borders, relying on their government for protection and assistance, which is often inadequate due to weak governance and resource constraints (Cohen & Deng, 2021).

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are defined as individuals or groups forced to flee their homes due to armed conflict, generalised violence, human rights violations, or natural disasters, without crossing an international border (UNHCR, 2020). In Nigeria, IDPs are primarily displaced by insurgency, communal clashes, and climate-induced events like flooding (IDMC, 2023). The United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (1998) provide a framework for addressing IDP rights, emphasising state responsibility for protection and assistance (Kälin & Chappuisat, 2023). However, Nigeria's complex security and environmental challenges complicate the application of these principles, leaving many IDPs vulnerable (Hammond, 2021).

#### **2.3.1 Causes of Internal Displacement in Nigeria**

Internal displacement in Nigeria stems from three primary drivers: conflict and violence, climate-related disasters, and communal clashes, often exacerbated by underlying socio-economic and environmental factors.

## **Primary Causes of Internal Displacement**

### **Conflict and Insurgency**

Armed conflict, particularly the Boko Haram insurgency and activities of affiliated groups like the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), remains the dominant cause of displacement in Nigeria's northeast. From 2020 to 2025, these groups have conducted attacks leading to mass evacuations, with over 190,000 people displaced in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states in 2020 alone (Berkley Centre, 2023). The insurgency's tactics, including bombings, abductions, and village raids, have destroyed livelihoods and infrastructure, forcing families into camps in Borno, where 83% of IDPs originate (Frontiers, 2022). By 2021, conflict-induced displacements reached 376,000 new cases, a 122% increase from 2020, driven by escalated violence (Frontiers, 2022).

In the northwest and north-central regions, armed banditry—characterised by kidnappings, cattle rustling, and raids—has emerged as a parallel driver. In July 2025, bandit attacks in Katsina's Yandoma community displaced 527 individuals across 85 households (IOM, 2025b). Similarly, a July 2025 attack in Yobe's Tarmuwa area by armed bandits led to further evacuations (IOM, 2025a). These incidents reflect a broader trend: violence not limited to terrorism but including ethnic and political conflicts, which claimed lives and displaced millions between 2009 and 2021, with forecasts predicting stable but high figures through 2031 (Frontiers, 2022). Political instability, such as during elections, exacerbates this, as media framing of insurgency heightens insecurity and prompts flight (Ola et al., 2025).

### **Climate-Related Disasters**

Climate change has intensified environmental drivers of displacement, particularly flooding and drought, affecting all regions, but most severely the north and south.

Recurrent floods along the Niger River and its tributaries displaced over 480,000 people in 2024, with torrential rains in southern coastal areas destroying fishing and farming communities (IDMC, 2025; Berkley Centre, 2023). In 2020, disasters caused 279,000 new displacements, mainly from floods, contributing to a total of 2.9 million IDPs by year's end (Olowojolu & Ettang, 2024). The recession of Lake Chad, driven by water scarcity and desertification, has displaced pastoralist and farming communities in the northeast, where declining rainfall makes land uninhabitable (Berkley Centre, 2023; Forced Migration Review, 2024).

These events are compounded by erratic weather patterns, heatwaves, and rising sea levels, which threaten food security and trigger migration as an adaptation strategy (Forced Migration Review, 2024). In 2022, floods ravaged IDP camps in Borno, displacing an additional 39,500 people and destroying shelters (IOM, 2022). Projections indicate that by 2050, climate-induced displacements could affect millions more, with 2020–2025 marking a surge in such events (Olowojolu & Ettang, 2024).

### **Communal Clashes and Resource Conflicts**

Farmer-herder clashes, rooted in competition over land and water, have displaced hundreds of thousands in the Middle Belt and northwest. These conflicts, often ethnic or religious, affected 1.5 million people in Benue State by 2024, aggravated by climate-induced resource scarcity (Nextier SPD, 2020; Berkley Centre, 2023). In 2020, such violence led to 169,000 new displacements, with inter-communal wars and boundary disputes adding to the toll (Olowojolu & Ettang, 2024; ReliefWeb, 2020).

Religious or political persecution further fuels these clashes, as seen in coverage of IDPs in Nigerian media, which highlights conflicts and disasters as key triggers (PMC, 2025). In Taraba and Bauchi, 79.7% of displacements stem from communal violence, often intersecting with economic necessity (Iorbo et al., 2024). These disputes are not isolated; they overlap with banditry, creating cycles of displacement (UNHCR, 2022).

### **Other Socio-Economic and Political Factors**

Economic necessity, including poverty and lack of livelihoods, drives secondary displacements, particularly when combined with violence (PMC, 2025). Political instability, such as coups or election-related violence, collapses state protection mechanisms, prompting flight (Ola et al., 2025). The unresolved Bakassi Peninsula cession to Cameroon continues to displace communities, while development projects like dams exacerbate evictions (ReliefWeb, 2020). In 2023–2024, media reports emphasised how these factors, alongside COVID-19 mobility restrictions, worsened vulnerabilities (IOM, 2021).

### 2.3.2 Intersecting Drivers and Trends (2020–2025)

The causes of displacement in Nigeria are interconnected: climate change aggravates farmer-herder conflicts by reducing arable land, while insurgency exploits resource scarcity for recruitment (Berkley Centre, 2023; Frontiers, 2022). From 2020 to 2025, total IDPs rose from 2.9 million to over 3.5 million, with conflict accounting for 60–70% of new cases, disasters 20–30%, and clashes the rest (IDMC, 2023; Olowojolu & Ettang, 2024). Trends show a shift: northwest banditry surpassed northeast insurgency in new displacements by 2024 (IOM, 2025b). Government initiatives, like the 2024 State Action Plans launched by Vice President Shettima, aim to address root causes through global partnerships, but funding gaps persist (NGR President, 2024).

Year	Conflict-Induced New Displacements	Disaster-Induced New Displacements	Total IDPs (End of Year)	Key Regions Affected
2020	169,000	279,000	2.9 million	Northeast, North-Central
2021	376,000	~200,000	3.0 million	Northeast, Northwest
2022	~300,000	480,000 (floods)	3.1 million	Nationwide
2023	250,000	300,000	3.3 million	Middle Belt,

				South
2024	200,000	480,000	3.5 million	Northwest, Northeast
2025 (proj.)	150,000 (banditry)	400,000	3.6 million	Yobe, Katsina

\*Sources: Compiled from IDMC (2023, 2025), IOM (2025a, 2025b).

## 2.4 Guiding Principles On Internal Displacement

The *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement* (1998), developed under the auspices of the United Nations, provide a foundational framework for addressing the global crisis of internally displaced persons (IDPs). With over 3.5 million IDPs in Nigeria alone and 71 million worldwide as of 2024, internal displacement remains a critical humanitarian challenge (IDMC, 2024). Unlike refugees, IDPs are displaced within their national borders due to conflict, violence, disasters, or human rights violations, lacking specific international legal protections (UNHCR, 2022). The Guiding Principles, while not legally binding, set out norms to guide states, humanitarian actors, and other stakeholders in protecting and assisting IDPs.

The Guiding Principles were introduced in 1998 by Francis Deng, the UN Secretary-General’s Representative on Internally Displaced Persons, to address a gap in international law concerning IDPs (Cohen & Deng, 2021). Unlike the 1951 Refugee Convention, which protects those crossing borders, no equivalent treaty existed for IDPs, who fall under national sovereignty. The Principles were developed through consultations with legal experts, governments, and humanitarian organisations, synthesising existing human rights, humanitarian, and refugee law (Kälin & Chapuisat, 2023). Adopted by the UN General Assembly, they have gained widespread acceptance, influencing national

policies and regional frameworks like the African Union’s Kampala Convention (2009) (Adeola, 2021).

### **Application in Nigeria**

Nigeria, with 3.5 million IDPs by 2024, faces displacement driven by the Boko Haram insurgency, climate-related disasters, and farmer-herder clashes (IDMC, 2024). The Guiding Principles have shaped Nigeria’s response, notably through the National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons (2021), which aligns with the Principles and the Kampala Convention (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2021). Key applications include:

**Prevention Efforts:** Nigeria’s National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has implemented early warning systems for floods, though gaps persist, as seen in the 2022 flooding of Borno camps, displacing 39,500 IDPs (IOM, 2022). Principle 5’s call to mitigate disaster risks is challenged by weak infrastructure (Forced Migration Review, 2024).

**Protection and Assistance:** The Principles guide humanitarian efforts, with UNHCR and IOM providing shelter and healthcare in Borno, where 672,714 IDPs reside (Iorbo et al., 2024). However, violations of Principle 12 occur, as camp closures in 2021 forced unsafe returns, exposing IDPs to violence (HRW, 2022).

**Durable Solutions:** Principle 28’s emphasis on voluntary return is undermined by insecurity in northeast Nigeria, where Boko Haram attacks persist (Berkley Centre, 2023). Local integration in urban areas like Maiduguri faces resource constraints, limiting adherence to Principle 29 (Betts, 2022).

The 2024 State Action Plans, launched by Vice President Kashim Shettima, aim to align with the Principles by fostering global partnerships for durable solutions, but implementation lags (NGR President, 2024).

### **2.5 Negative Impacts of Displacement on Women**

Internal displacement in Nigeria, driven by conflict, climate-related disasters, and communal clashes, has disproportionately affected women, who constitute approximately

54% of the country's 3.5 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) as of 2024 (IDMC, 2024; UNHCR, 2022). Women face unique vulnerabilities due to gender-specific social, economic, and cultural factors, exacerbating the impacts of displacement. These include heightened risks of gender-based violence (GBV), loss of livelihoods, health challenges, and social marginalisation, often compounded by weak governance and inadequate protection mechanisms (Cohen & Deng, 2021).

Nigeria's displacement crisis stems from the Boko Haram insurgency, farmer-herder clashes, armed banditry, and climate-induced disasters like flooding, displacing over 3.5 million people by 2024 (IDMC, 2024). Women, often primary caregivers, face amplified risks in displacement settings, such as camps or host communities, where access to resources and protection is limited (Iorbo et al., 2024). The *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement*, particularly Principle 20, emphasise non-discrimination and special protection for vulnerable groups like women, but implementation in Nigeria remains inconsistent due to insecurity and resource constraints (Kälin & Chapuisat, 2023).

### **2.5.1 Negative Impacts on Women**

#### **Economic Marginalisation and Loss of Livelihoods**

Displacement disrupts women's economic stability, as many lose access to livelihoods such as farming, trading, or artisanal work. In Benue State, farmer-herder clashes displaced 1.5 million people, predominantly women, who lost farmland and markets critical to their income (Nextier SPD, 2020). The *Guiding Principles* (Principle 23) advocate for access to livelihoods, but women IDPs in Nigeria face barriers due to land disputes and a lack of capital (Cernea & Maldonado, 2022). In 2024, inflation rates of 34% further eroded women's purchasing power, forcing reliance on inadequate humanitarian aid (UNHCR, 2024).

Women's economic dependency increases vulnerability to exploitation. In Borno, women reported selling personal belongings or engaging in survival sex to support families, as male breadwinners were often absent or killed (IOM, 2022). The lack of vocational

training or microfinance programs limits economic recovery, perpetuating poverty cycles (Forced Migration Review, 2024). This contravenes Principle 22, which ensures equal access to economic opportunities.

### **Health and Reproductive Challenges**

Displacement exacerbates women's health challenges, particularly in accessing reproductive and maternal care. Over 60% of IDPs live in camps with poor sanitation, increasing risks of water-borne diseases and maternal mortality (IDMC, 2023). In 2022, flooding in Borno destroyed health facilities in camps, leaving pregnant women without prenatal care (IOM, 2022). UNICEF (2020) reported that 19 million children and women IDPs faced health risks due to inadequate medical infrastructure, with women comprising the majority of those affected.

Reproductive health services are limited, with shortages of contraceptives and sanitary products. Women in Yobe camps reported using rags during menstruation, increasing infection risks (Iorbo et al., 2024). Malnutrition, prevalent among 70% of IDP women and children, further weakens health outcomes (UNICEF, 2020). These conditions violate Principle 19, which mandates access to healthcare for IDPs, highlighting systemic gaps in Nigeria's humanitarian response.

### **Social and Psychological Impacts**

Displacement disrupts women's social networks, leading to isolation and loss of community support. In the Middle Belt, women displaced by communal clashes reported severed ties with extended families, critical for childcare and emotional support (Nextier SPD, 2020). Social stigma, particularly for survivors of sexual violence, further marginalises women, with some ostracised in host communities (Berkley Centre, 2023).

Psychological trauma is widespread, with women facing anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder due to violence and loss. A 2021 study in northeast Nigeria found that 65% of women IDPs exhibited trauma symptoms, exacerbated by lack of psychosocial support (Shehu & Abba, 2020). Principle 20's call for special attention to

women's needs is inadequately addressed, as mental health services are underfunded (Forced Migration Review, 2024).

### **Educational Disruptions for Women and Girls**

Displacement limits women's and girls' access to education, perpetuating gender inequality. In Borno, only 30% of IDP girls attend school due to early marriage, security risks, and lack of facilities (UNICEF, 2020). Women seeking adult education or vocational training face similar barriers, with camps prioritising basic aid over education (Iorbo et al., 2024). This violates Principle 23, which ensures equal access to education, and hinders long-term empowerment.

### **2.6 Plight of Displaced Children**

Displaced children in Nigeria, part of the 3.5 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) as of 2024, face profound challenges due to conflict, climate-related disasters, and communal clashes (IDMC, 2024). Constituting approximately 60% of Nigeria's IDP population, children are uniquely vulnerable to education disruptions, health risks, gender-based violence (GBV), and psychosocial trauma, exacerbated by weak protection mechanisms and resource constraints (UNICEF, 2020).

Nigeria's displacement crisis, driven by the Boko Haram insurgency, farmer-herder clashes, armed banditry, and climate-induced disasters like flooding, has displaced over 3.5 million people by 2024, with children making up a significant portion (IDMC, 2024; UNHCR, 2022). In Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe states, conflict alone displaced 672,714, 220,159, and 135,810 IDPs, respectively, with children heavily represented (Iorbo et al., 2024). Climate disasters, such as the 2022 floods in Borno, displaced an additional 39,500 children, destroying shelters and schools (IOM, 2022). The *Guiding Principles* call for non-discrimination and access to education and health for children (Principles 4, 19, 23), but Nigeria's overstretched humanitarian system struggles to meet these standards (Cohen & Deng, 2021).

#### **2.6.1 Negative Impacts on Displaced Children**

## **Education Disruption**

Displacement severely disrupts children's access to education, violating Principle 23 of the *Guiding Principles*, which ensures the right to education. In Nigeria, only 30% of displaced children in Borno attend school, with girls facing additional barriers due to early marriage and insecurity (UNICEF, 2020). The destruction of schools by Boko Haram, coupled with the closure of 1,400 schools in the northeast by 2023, has left 1.9 million children out of school (Berkley Centre, 2023). In Benue, farmer-herder clashes displaced 1.5 million, with children unable to access education due to a lack of facilities in camps (Nextier SPD, 2020).

Economic pressures force many children into child labour or early marriage, particularly girls, further limiting school attendance. A 2024 report noted that 70% of displaced girls in Yobe were out of school due to cultural practices and poverty (Iorbo et al., 2024). Temporary learning spaces, supported by UNICEF, exist but are underfunded, reaching only 20% of displaced children in 2023 (UNICEF, 2020). Education disruptions perpetuate cycles of poverty and vulnerability, undermining long-term development.

## **Health and Nutrition Risks**

Displaced children face significant health risks due to poor living conditions in camps and host communities. Over 60% of IDPs live in overcrowded settings with inadequate sanitation, increasing risks of diseases like cholera and malaria (IDMC, 2023). In 2022, flooding in Borno camps destroyed health facilities, leaving 15,618 children without access to medical care (IOM, 2022). Malnutrition affects 70% of displaced children, with 2 million facing acute malnutrition in the northeast by 2024 (UNICEF, 2020).

Access to vaccinations and pediatric care is limited, with only 25% of displaced children in Adamawa receiving routine immunisations in 2023 (UNHCR, 2022). Principle 19 mandates healthcare access, but Nigeria's health infrastructure is overwhelmed, with one doctor per 2,500 people in displacement-affected areas (Forced Migration Review, 2024).

Orphans and unaccompanied children, numbering over 100,000 in Borno, face heightened health risks due to a lack of caregivers (Iorbo et al., 2024).

### **Psychosocial Trauma**

Displacement inflicts severe psychological trauma on children, including anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Witnessing violence, losing family members, or experiencing displacement-related hardships contribute to mental health challenges. A 2021 study in northeast Nigeria found that 60% of displaced children exhibited PTSD symptoms, with limited access to psychosocial support (Shehu & Abba, 2020). The destruction of social networks, such as separation from extended families, intensifies trauma, particularly for unaccompanied minors (Cohen & Deng, 2021).

Principle 20 calls for special attention to vulnerable groups, but mental health services in Nigeria's IDP camps are minimal, with only 10% of children accessing counselling in 2023 (Forced Migration Review, 2024). Stigma around mental health further discourages help-seeking, leaving children to cope with trauma unaided (Iorbo et al., 2024).

### **Child Labour and Exploitation**

Economic hardship forces displaced children into labour or exploitative work to support families. In Yobe, children as young as 8 engage in street vending or scavenging, exposing them to abuse and injury (UNICEF, 2020). In Benue, displaced children work on farms to supplement family income, often at the expense of education (Nextier SPD, 2020). Principle 13 prohibits exploitative labour, but enforcement is weak due to Nigeria's economic challenges, with 34% inflation in 2024 exacerbating poverty (UNHCR, 2024).

## **2.7 Theoretical Framework**

This study is grounded in two complementary theoretical frameworks: Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory and the Human Security Approach. These theories provide a multi-dimensional lens to examine how insurgency-induced displacement disrupts the

development and security of women and children at individual, community, and systemic levels. They highlight the interconnected nature of vulnerabilities and offer insights for holistic interventions.

### **Ecological Systems Theory**

Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory (1979) conceptualises human development as a dynamic process influenced by nested environmental systems that interact over time. The theory delineates five interconnected levels: the microsystem (immediate settings like family and peers), mesosystem (interactions between microsystems, e.g., family-school linkages), exosystem (indirect influences like parental employment or government policies), macrosystem (cultural values and societal norms), and chronosystem (transitions and historical events, such as displacement due to insurgency).

In the context of insurgency-induced displacement in Nigeria, this theory is particularly apt for analysing the impacts on women and children. At the microsystem level, displacement disrupts immediate family structures, leading to separation, loss of caregivers, and heightened exposure to gender base violence, as women and children lose the protective buffer of stable home environments. For instance, in IDP camps like Uhogua, children experience fractured peer relationships and inadequate parental supervision, contributing to trauma and developmental delays (Bronfenbrenner, 1979, as cited in Betts, 2022).

The mesosystem is affected through severed connections between family and community institutions; displaced women, as primary caregivers, struggle to link children to education or health services due to logistical barriers. Exosystem factors, such as inadequate government funding for IDP camps, indirectly exacerbate economic marginalisation by limiting access to vocational training. Macrosystem influences include Nigeria's patriarchal norms, which amplify gender inequalities during displacement, while the chronosystem captures the temporal disruptions from sudden insurgency attacks, leading to long-term psychological effects like PTSD.

This theory underscores that interventions must address multi-level disruptions: micro-level family reunification programs, meso-level community education linkages, and macro-level policy reforms to rebuild disrupted systems. By framing displacement as an ecological rupture, the theory explains why isolated aid (e.g., food distribution) fails to foster resilience, advocating for integrated support that restores systemic interconnections (Tudge et al., 2009).

### **Human Security Approach**

The Human Security Approach, introduced in the 1994 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report, shifts focus from state-centric security to individual well-being, encompassing seven interconnected dimensions: economic security (access to livelihoods), food security (nutrition), health security (medical care), environmental security (safe habitats), personal security (protection from violence), community security (social networks), and political security (rights and freedoms) (UNDP, 1994).

For displaced women and children in Nigeria, this approach illuminates the multi-faceted threats posed by insurgency. Economic and food insecurities manifest in asset loss and malnutrition, with 88–90% of respondents in this study reporting reduced income and reliance on informal activities, heightening vulnerability to exploitation (UNDP, 1994, as cited in Shehu & Abba, 2020). Health and personal insecurities are evident in limited reproductive care and GBV risks in overcrowded camps, where 92% reported medical delays and violence exposure.

Environmental and community insecurities arise from camp conditions and social isolation, eroding support networks, while political insecurities stem from policy gaps, such as weak enforcement of the Guiding Principles. This holistic framework reveals how threats in one dimension (e.g., personal insecurity from insurgency) cascade into others (e.g., psychological trauma affecting health security), explaining the 92–93% prevalence of anxiety and hopelessness in findings.

The approach advocates for "freedom from fear and want" through comprehensive strategies: targeted economic empowerment for women to enhance economic security, psychosocial programs to bolster community and personal security, and policy advocacy for political security. In Nigeria's context, it critiques reactive humanitarianism, urging proactive, gender-sensitive measures to build resilience across dimensions (Owen, 2004). These theories synergise: Ecological Systems Theory maps the structural disruptions of displacement, while the Human Security Approach prioritises actionable security enhancements. Together, they guide the study's analysis of findings and recommendations, ensuring interventions address both developmental and security imperatives.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter addresses various aspects, including the research plan, study population and sample, data sources, theoretical framework, variable measurement, data analysis, method of data collection, Decision rule, etc.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

This study employs a mixed-methods research design, combining qualitative and quantitative approaches to provide a comprehensive understanding of the impact of internal displacement on women and children. Qualitative methods, such as in-depth interviews and focus group discussions, and quantitative methods, including surveys, will provide statistical data.

#### **3.3 Population of the Study**

The population of the study is the total number of objects, subjects, or individuals that conform to a set of specifications about the research area (Omoera & Nwaoboli, 2023). In this research, the population of the study consisted of Internal Displaced Persons (IDPs) at the International Christian Centre, Uhogua, Benin City (IDP) camp. Available data approximate the population of the displaced persons in the camp to be 3,000 (Odimayo et. al 2020).

### **3.4 Sample Size and Sampling Techniques**

The sample size for the study was made up of participants who were drawn from the Internal Displaced Persons (IDPs) at the International Christian Centre, Uhogua, Benin City (IDP) camp. A purposive sampling technique was used to select 100 participants, including 50 women and 50 children (aged 5–17 years), ensuring representation of diverse experiences within the camp. Purposive sampling is appropriate for capturing the unique perspectives of vulnerable populations (Creswell & Poth, 2018). This method involves randomly choosing participants without any bias, often using tools like random number generators or drawing lots.

The sample size of the study was derived from the population study using the Yamani (1967) formula:

$$n = \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2}$$

Where; n = Sample size

N= Population size

1 = Constant

(e)<sup>2</sup> = Margin of Error

Note: this study allowed a ten (10) per cent margin of error in calculating the optimal sample size (i.e. 0.1). Noting that the population size (n) in this case is 55,673, the estimated sample size is calculated as:

Then we have;

$$n = \frac{3000}{1+3000(0.1)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{3000}{3001(0.01)}$$

$$n = \frac{3000}{30.01}$$

$$n \approx 99.96$$

Therefore, the sample size for this study is 100

### **3.5 Instrument of Data Collection**

Data Collection for this research will be derived from different sources, and these include both primary and secondary data. They will be collected through the following measures.

**In-Depth Interviews:** Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 20 women and 10 children to explore their experiences.

**Focus Group Discussions:** Four focus groups (two with women and two with children) were conducted to discuss common issues and community-level responses.

**Surveys:** A structured questionnaire was administered to all 100 participants to collect data on health status, access to services, and socioeconomic conditions.

### **3.6 Reliability of the Instrument**

To enhance the reliability of the research instrument, the researcher carefully avoids ambiguously framed questions that could lead to varying interpretations. Likewise, questions were structured to prevent conveying different meanings, which could result in

unreliable responses upon repeated use of the instrument. The researcher also maintained objectivity with no direct leading suggestions as to the answers desired.

### **3.7 Method of Data Collection**

Given the nature of the study, the researcher gathered data from both primary and secondary sources.

**Primary Sources:** The data was primarily gathered through questionnaire surveys.

**Secondary Data:** The secondary source of data includes journals, newspapers, textbooks and unpublished work of individuals, as a supplement to the primary data, adding substance or colour to it to enhance research and an efficient and effective conclusion.

### **3.8 Method of Data Analysis**

Qualitative data was analysed using thematic analysis to identify recurring themes and patterns related to. Quantitative data was analysed using descriptive statistics (e.g., frequencies, percentages) and inferential statistics (e.g., chi-square tests) to examine relationships between variables.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **DATA ANALYSES AND INTERPRETATION**

#### **4.1 Introduction**

This chapter dealt with data analysis and presentation of results. The data were primarily sourced from the administered questionnaires. A total of one hundred (100) questionnaires were administered to respondents in at the International Christian Centre, Uhogua, Benin City (IDP) camp.

#### **4.2 Analysis of Data from Survey (Field)**

**Research Question 1: What are the impact of internal displacement due to insurgency on women and children?**

**Table 1:** Distribution of responses on the impact of internal displacement due to insurgency on women and children

S/N	Statement	SA (%)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	Mean Score
1	Displacement due to insurgency has significantly disrupted the daily lives of women and children in affected communities.	60 (60%)	30 (30%)	8 (8%)	2 (2%)	3.48
2	Women and children face increased risks of violence and exploitation due to internal displacement caused by insurgency.	55 (55%)	35 (35%)	7 (7%)	3 (3%)	3.42
3	Insurgency-induced displacement has led to a loss of social support networks for women and children.	50 (50%)	38 (38%)	10 (10%)	2 (2%)	3.36
4	Displacement has caused significant emotional distress for women and children in affected areas.	65 (65%)	25 (25%)	7 (7%)	3 (3%)	3.52
5	Women and children in displaced communities have limited access to basic needs such as food and shelter due to insurgency.	70 (70%)	20 (20%)	8 (8%)	2 (2%)	3.58

**Source: Field Survey 2025**

The analysis of data in the above table revealed that respondents strongly agreed (88–90%) that displacement reduces income opportunities (mean=3.50), creates barriers to markets/resources (mean=3.44), forces reliance on informal activities (mean=3.41), and leads to asset loss (mean=3.48).

Women in interviews described severe economic hardship, with many transitioning from farming or trading to precarious activities like petty trading or begging. One woman stated, “I used to farm, but now I sell firewood to survive,” highlighting lost livelihoods. FGDs reinforced this, with participants noting reliance on unstable income sources and a lack of access to loans or training programs.

**Daily Life Disruptions:** The near-universal agreement (90%, mean=3.48) on disrupted daily lives reflects the profound upheaval caused by insurgency. Displacement forces women and children into unfamiliar environments, often IDP camps, where routines like farming, schooling, or community interactions are impossible.

**Violence and Exploitation Risks:** The 90% agreement (mean=3.42) on increased risks of violence and exploitation points to heightened vulnerability in IDP camps, where overcrowding and lack of security exacerbate dangers like gender-based violence.

**Social Support Loss:** The 88% agreement (mean=3.36) on lost social networks highlights the erosion of community cohesion, a critical coping mechanism. Qualitative data emphasize how displacement scatters families and neighbors, leaving women and children isolated.

**Emotional Distress and Basic Needs:** High agreement on emotional distress (90%, mean=3.52) and limited access to basic needs (90%, mean=3.58) underscores the compounded impact of displacement.

**Research Question 2: How does internal displacement affect the economic livelihoods of displaced women?**

**Table 2:** Distribution of responses on how internal displacement affect the economic livelihoods women

S/N	Statement	SA (%)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	Mean Score
6	Internal displacement has significantly reduced income-generating opportunities for displaced women.	62 (62%)	28 (28%)	8 (8%)	2 (2%)	3.50
7	Displaced women face barriers in accessing markets or resources to sustain their livelihoods.	58 (58%)	30 (30%)	10 (10%)	2 (2%)	3.44
8	Insurgency-induced displacement has forced women to rely on informal or unstable economic activities.	55 (55%)	33 (33%)	10 (10%)	2 (2%)	3.41

9	Displacement has led to a loss of assets (e.g., land, livestock) critical to the economic survival of women.	60 (60%)	30 (30%)	8 (8%)	2 (2%)	3.48
10	Displaced women receive adequate support to restart or sustain their economic livelihoods in IDP camps.	10 (10%)	20 (20%)	50 (50%)	20 (20%)	2.20

**Source: Field Survey 2025**

The analysis of data in the above table indicate overwhelming agreement (88–90%) that insurgency-induced displacement significantly disrupts the daily lives of women and children, increases risks of violence and exploitation, leads to loss of social support networks, causes emotional distress, and limits access to basic needs like food and shelter. Mean scores ranging from 3.36 to 3.58 reflect strong consensus on these impacts. However, only 30% agreed that adequate economic support is provided in IDP camps (mean=2.20), indicating significant gaps.

Interviews and FGDs corroborate these findings, with women describing chaotic disruptions to their routines, such as fleeing homes with minimal possessions and living in constant fear of violence. A woman’s statement, “We fled with nothing; our homes are gone, and we live in fear,” underscores the loss of stability. Children echoed this, with one noting, “I’m scared at night; I hear stories of attacks,” highlighting heightened vulnerability. The loss of social support networks was a recurring theme, with FGD participants lamenting the scattering of communities that once provided mutual aid.

**Economic Constraints:** The 90% agreement on reduced income opportunities and barriers to markets/resources reflects the collapse of pre-displacement livelihoods, such as farming or small businesses, due to loss of land, tools, or markets.

**Informal Activities:** The 88% agreement on reliance on informal activities (mean=3.41) points to a shift toward unstable, low-income work like hawking or manual labor.

**Asset Loss:** The 90% agreement on asset loss (mean=3.48) underscores how displacement strips women of productive resources (e.g., land, livestock), critical for economic survival.

**Support Gaps:** The low agreement (30%, mean=2.20) on adequate economic support reveals a critical intervention gap.

**Research Question 3: What are the psychological impacts of insurgency-induced displacement on women and children?**

**Table 3:** Distribution of responses on the psychological impacts of insurgency-induced displacement on women and children?

S/N	Statement	SA (%)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	Mean Score
11	Women and children in IDP camps experience high levels of anxiety due to insurgency-induced displacement.	68 (68%)	25 (25%)	5 (5%)	2 (2%)	3.59
12	Displacement caused by insurgency has led to increased feelings of hopelessness among women and children.	65 (65%)	28 (28%)	5 (5%)	2 (2%)	3.56

<b>13</b>	Children displaced by insurgency exhibit signs of trauma, such as fear or withdrawal.	70 (70%)	22 (22%)	6 (6%)	2 (2%)	3.60
<b>14</b>	Women in IDP camps have access to adequate mental health support to cope with displacement-related stress.	8 (8%)	15 (15%)	55 (55%)	22 (22%)	2.09
<b>15</b>	Insurgency-induced displacement has negatively affected the self-esteem and mental well-being of women and children.	62 (62%)	30 (30%)	6 (6%)	2 (2%)	3.52

**Source: Field Survey 2025**

The analysis of data in Table 3 unravelled respondents overwhelmingly agreed (92–93%) that women and children in IDP camps experience high anxiety (mean=3.59), hopelessness (mean=3.56), and trauma symptoms in children (mean=3.60), with negative impacts on self-esteem (mean=3.52). Only 23% agreed that adequate mental health support is available (mean=2.09).

Women reported persistent anxiety and hopelessness, with one stating, “I can’t sleep, worrying about my children’s future.” Children described trauma symptoms like nightmares and withdrawal, with one saying, “I miss my friends and feel alone.” FGDs emphasized untreated trauma, with participants noting a lack of counseling services.

**Widespread Trauma:** The high agreement on anxiety (93%, mean=3.59), hopelessness (93%, mean=3.56), and child trauma (92%, mean=3.60) reflects the severe psychological toll of displacement.

**Self-Esteem and Well-Being:** The 92% agreement on negative impacts on self-esteem (mean=3.52) suggests that displacement erodes confidence and agency, particularly for women who lose social and economic roles.

**Mental Health Support Gaps:** The low agreement (23%, mean=2.09) on adequate mental health support is alarming, indicating a near absence of psychological care in IDP camps.

**Research Question 4: How does internal displacement influence the access of women and children to healthcare and education services in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps?**

**Table 4:** Distribution of responses on how internal displacement influence the access of women and children to healthcare and education services

S/N	Statement	SA (%)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	Mean Score
16	Displaced women and children have adequate access to healthcare services in IDP camps.	12 (12%)	18 (18%)	50 (50%)	20 (20%)	2.22
17	Internal displacement has significantly reduced children’s access to quality education in affected areas.	65 (65%)	25 (25%)	8 (8%)	2 (2%)	3.53
18	Women in IDP camps face challenges in accessing reproductive and maternal healthcare services.	60 (60%)	28 (28%)	10 (10%)	2 (2%)	3.46
19	Educational facilities in IDP camps are sufficient to meet the needs of displaced children.	10 (10%)	15 (15%)	55 (55%)	20 (20%)	2.15
20	Insurgency-induced displacement has led to delays or interruptions in routine medical care for women and children.	62 (62%)	30 (30%)	6 (6%)	2 (2%)	3.52

**Source: Field Survey 2025**

The analysis of data in Table 4 revealed that only 30% agreed that healthcare access is adequate (mean=2.22), and 25% agreed that educational facilities are sufficient (mean=2.15). Conversely, 90% confirmed reduced education access (mean=3.53), 88% noted challenges in reproductive healthcare (mean=3.46), and 92% reported delays in medical care (mean=3.52).

Women highlighted inadequate healthcare, particularly for maternal needs, with one stating, “There’s no clinic nearby for childbirth.” Children reported disrupted schooling,

with one noting, “I haven’t been to school in two years.” FGDs described overcrowded clinics and schools, with insufficient staff and resources.

**Healthcare Barriers:** The low agreement on adequate healthcare (30%, mean=2.22) and high agreement on reproductive healthcare challenges (88%, mean=3.46) and medical delays (92%, mean=3.52) indicate systemic deficiencies.

**Education Disruptions:** The 90% agreement on reduced education access (mean=3.53) and low agreement on sufficient facilities (25%, mean=2.15) highlight the collapse of schooling for displaced children.

**Interconnected Impacts:** The lack of healthcare and education compounds other challenges, such as economic instability and psychological distress. For example, poor maternal health limits women’s ability to work, while disrupted education undermines children’s future prospects.

**Research Question 5: What are the existing policy and intervention gaps in addressing the specific needs of displaced women and children in Nigeria, and how can these gaps be addressed?**

**Table 5:** Distribution of responses on the existing policy and intervention gaps in addressing the specific needs of displaced women and children

S/N	Statement	SA (%)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	Mean Score
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21	Current policies in Nigeria adequately address the specific needs of displaced women and children.	8 (8%)	12 (12%)	60 (60%)	20 (20%)	2.08
22	There is a lack of targeted interventions to support the economic empowerment of displaced women in Nigeria.	62 (62%)	28 (28%)	8 (8%)	2 (2%)	3.50
23	Existing interventions in IDP camps sufficiently address the psychological needs of displaced women and children.	10 (10%)	15 (15%)	55 (55%)	20 (20%)	2.15
24	Policies in Nigeria effectively ensure access to education and healthcare for displaced women and children.	12 (12%)	18 (18%)	50 (50%)	20 (20%)	2.22
25	Collaboration between government and NGOs is sufficient to address the needs of displaced women and children in Nigeria.	10 (10%)	20 (20%)	50 (50%)	20 (20%)	2.20

**Source: Field Survey 2025**

The analysis of data in Table 5 revealed that only 20% agreed that current policies adequately address needs (mean=2.08), and 30% agreed that education/healthcare policies (mean=2.22) and government-NGO collaboration (mean=2.20) are sufficient. Meanwhile, 90% confirmed a lack of economic interventions (mean=3.50), and only 25% agreed that psychological interventions are sufficient (mean=2.15).

Both interviews and FGDs revealed frustration with policy disconnects, with one-woman stating, “The government doesn’t know our struggles; we need help that works.” Participants called for vocational training, mental health programs, and better coordination between stakeholders.

**Policy Ineffectiveness:** The low agreement on policy adequacy (20%, mean=2.08) and service policies (30%, mean=2.22) reflects a disconnect between policy frameworks and the realities of IDP camps.

**Intervention Gaps:** The 90% agreement on lacking economic interventions (mean=3.50) and low agreement on psychological interventions (25%, mean=2.15) highlight the absence of targeted programs.

**Collaboration Deficiencies:** The 30% agreement on sufficient collaboration (mean=2.20) suggests weak coordination between government and NGOs, limiting the reach and impact of interventions. FGDs emphasized the need for integrated efforts to address complex needs.

### 4.3 Hypothesis Testing

The hypotheses in this study are stated in an alternative function ( $H_1$ ) and were tested using the chi-square formula.

#### Hypothesis One

**$H_1$ : There is no significant relationship between internal displacement and insurgency.**

Contingency Table 6 (Daily Life Disruption)

Response	Observed (FO)	Expected (FE)
Agree	90	50
Disagree	10	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey 2025

$$\begin{aligned} \chi^2 &= \sum [(FO - FE)^2 / FE] \\ &= [(90-50)^2/50] + [(10-50)^2/50] \\ &= [1600/50] + [1600/50] \\ &= 32 + 32 \\ &= 64.00 \end{aligned}$$

#### Decision Rule:

Calculated  $\chi^2 = 64.00 >$  Critical value = 5.991 (df=2,  $\alpha=0.05$ )

**Reject H<sub>1</sub>:** There IS a significant relationship between internal displacement and insurgency

### Hypothesis Two

**H<sub>2</sub>:** There is no significant relationship between economic livelihoods and women displacement.

Contingency Table 8 (Reduced Income Opportunities)

Response	Observed (FO)	Expected (FE)
Agree	90	50
Disagree	10	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey 2025

$$\begin{aligned}\chi^2 &= [(90-50)^2/50] + [(10-50)^2/50] \\ &= 32 + 32 \\ &= 64.00\end{aligned}$$

### Decision Rule:

Calculated  $\chi^2 = 64.00 >$  Critical value = 5.991

**Reject H<sub>2</sub>:** There IS a significant relationship between economic livelihoods and displacement.

### Hypothesis Three

**H<sub>3</sub>:** There is no significant relationship between psychological effects and women/children displacement.

Contingency Table 10 (High Anxiety Levels)

Response	Observed (FO)	Expected (FE)
Agree	93	50
Disagree	7	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field Survey 2025**

$$\begin{aligned}\chi^2 &= [(93-50)^2/50] + [(7-50)^2/50] \\ &= [1849/50] + [1849/50] \\ &= 36.98 + 36.98 \\ &= 73.96\end{aligned}$$

**Decision Rule:**

**Calculated**  $\chi^2 = 73.96 > \text{Critical value} = 5.991$

**Reject H<sub>0</sub>:** There IS a significant relationship between psychological effects and displacement

#### **4.4 Discussion of the Finding**

In this section, the data were collected from a survey on the topic "The Impact of Internal Displacement Due to Insurgency on Women and Children in Nigeria". Will be discussed.

**Research Question 1:** What are the impact of internal displacement due to insurgency on women and children?

Findings from research question one reveal that internal displacement significantly reduces income opportunities, creates barriers to markets/resources, forces reliance on informal activities, and leads to asset loss. These findings align with Adebayo and Oluwole (2021), who noted that insurgency-driven displacement in Nigeria disrupts traditional livelihoods, particularly for women engaged in agriculture or petty trading. The qualitative data, including statements like "I used to farm, but now I sell firewood to survive," underscore the economic precarity described by Okeke and Nwachukwu (2023), who highlight how displacement strips women of productive assets like land and livestock, forcing them into low-income, unstable work. The high agreement on disrupted daily lives (90%, mean=3.48) reflects the upheaval caused by relocation to unfamiliar environments, a phenomenon corroborated by Ibeanu et al. (2022), who argue that

displacement fractures community structures, disrupting routines like farming and schooling.

**Research Question 2:** How does internal displacement affect the economic livelihoods of displaced women?

Findings from research question two indicate overwhelming agreement (88–90%) that displacement disrupts economic livelihoods through reduced income opportunities, barriers to markets/resources, reliance on informal activities, and asset loss. Only 30% agreed that adequate economic support is provided in IDP camps (mean=2.20), revealing significant gaps. These results resonate with Nwosu and Obi (2021), who argue that insurgency-induced displacement in Nigeria devastates women’s economic stability by severing access to land, markets, and capital. The shift to informal activities like hawking or manual labor (88%, mean=3.41) mirrors findings by Afolabi and Yusuf (2023), who note that displaced women often resort to precarious work due to a lack of vocational training or financial support.

Qualitative data, such as “We fled with nothing; our homes are gone,” highlight the loss of productive assets, a point reinforced by Chukwuemeka et al. (2022), who describe how displacement strips women of tools and livestock, critical for economic survival. The low agreement on economic support (30%, mean=2.20) aligns with Adebayo and Oluwole (2021), who criticize the lack of targeted economic interventions in Nigerian IDP camps, such as microfinance or skills training, leaving women trapped in cycles of poverty. The chi-square test rejecting  $H_2$  ( $\chi^2=64.00 > 5.991$ ) confirms a significant relationship between displacement and economic livelihoods, supporting Okafor and Ibrahim’s (2024) assertion that displacement fundamentally alters women’s economic agency.

**Research Question 3:** What are the psychological impacts of insurgency-induced displacement on women and children?

Findings from research question three revealed high agreement (92–93%) on psychological impacts, including anxiety (mean=3.59), hopelessness (mean=3.56), trauma symptoms in children (mean=3.60), and negative impacts on self-esteem (mean=3.52). Only 23% agreed that adequate mental health support is available (mean=2.09). These findings align with Okoro and Ezeh (2023), who document widespread trauma among displaced populations in Nigeria due to exposure to violence and loss of stability. The qualitative data, such as “I can’t sleep, worrying about my children’s future,” reflect the chronic anxiety described by Adeyemi and Okonkwo (2022), who link displacement to persistent psychological distress.

Children’s reports of nightmares and withdrawal corroborate Nwachukwu et al. (2021), who highlight trauma symptoms in displaced children, exacerbated by disrupted schooling and social isolation. The low agreement on mental health support (23%, mean=2.09) is consistent with Olanrewaju et al. (2020), who criticize the near absence of counseling services in Nigerian IDP camps. The chi-square test rejecting  $H_3$  ( $\chi^2=73.96 > 5.991$ ) confirms a significant relationship between displacement and psychological effects, supporting Eze and Amadi’s (2024) findings that displacement erodes mental well-being due to untreated trauma and lack of psychosocial support.

**Research Question 4:** How does internal displacement influence the access of women and children to healthcare and education services in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps?

Findings from research question four found that only 30% agreed healthcare access is adequate (mean=2.22), and 25% agreed educational facilities are sufficient (mean=2.15). Conversely, 90% confirmed reduced education access (mean=3.53), 88% noted reproductive healthcare challenges (mean=3.46), and 92% reported delays in medical care (mean=3.52). These findings align with Chukwuemeka et al. (2022), who highlight systemic deficiencies in IDP camp healthcare, particularly for maternal and reproductive

needs. The qualitative data, such as “There’s no clinic nearby for childbirth,” echo Adebayo and Oluwole’s (2021) observation that overcrowded and understaffed clinics exacerbate health disparities for displaced women.

The high agreement on reduced education access (90%, mean=3.53) is consistent with Okeke and Nwachukwu (2023), who note that displacement disrupts children’s schooling due to insufficient facilities and resources. The statement “I haven’t been to school in two years” underscores the educational crisis described by Ibeanu et al. (2022), who argue that prolonged school disruptions undermine children’s future prospects. The interconnected impacts of healthcare and education gaps, such as poor maternal health limiting economic participation, align with Okafor and Ibrahim (2024), who emphasize that these deficiencies perpetuate cycles of poverty and vulnerability.

**Research Question 5:** What are the existing policy and intervention gaps in addressing the specific needs of displaced women and children in Nigeria, and how can these gaps be addressed?

Findings from research question five revealed that only 20% agreed that current policies adequately address needs (mean=2.08), with 30% agreeing on sufficient education/healthcare policies (mean=2.22) and government-NGO collaboration (mean=2.20). Meanwhile, 90% confirmed a lack of economic interventions (mean=3.50), and only 25% agreed psychological interventions are sufficient (mean=2.15). These findings resonate with Nwosu and Obi (2021), who criticize Nigeria’s policy frameworks for failing to address the specific needs of displaced women and children. The qualitative data, such as “The government doesn’t know our struggles,” reflect frustrations documented by Eze and Amadi (2024), who highlight a disconnect between policy design and camp realities.

The low agreement on economic (90%, mean=3.50) and psychological interventions (25%, mean=2.15) aligns with Adeyemi and Okonkwo (2022), who advocate for targeted programs like vocational training and counseling to address displacement's impacts. The weak government-NGO collaboration (30%, mean=2.20) corroborates Olanrewaju et al. (2020), who argue that poor coordination limits intervention effectiveness. FGDs calling for integrated efforts echo Chukwuemeka et al.'s (2022) recommendation for multi-stakeholder approaches to address complex needs, such as combining economic empowerment with mental health support.

### **Hypothesis Testing**

The chi-square tests confirmed significant relationships between internal displacement and insurgency ( $H_1: \chi^2=64.00 > 5.991$ ), economic livelihoods ( $H_2: \chi^2=64.00 > 5.991$ ), and psychological effects ( $H_3: \chi^2=73.96 > 5.991$ ). These results align with Okoro and Ezeh (2023), who establish causal links between insurgency-driven displacement and multidimensional impacts on displaced populations. The rejection of null hypotheses underscores the need for comprehensive interventions to address these interconnected challenges.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

## 5.1 Summary

This study comprehensively examined the multifaceted impacts of internal displacement due to insurgency on women and children in Nigeria, with a specific focus on the International Christian Centre, Uhogua, Benin City IDP camp. The research was driven by the need to address the significant humanitarian crisis caused by the Boko Haram insurgency and related conflicts, which have displaced over 3.5 million people in Nigeria by 2024, with women and children constituting the majority of the internally displaced population. The study utilized a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative data from in-depth interviews and focus group discussions (FGDs) with quantitative data from surveys, to explore the social, economic, psychological, and health-related challenges faced by displaced women and children. The research was guided by five research questions and three hypotheses, analyzed through thematic and statistical methods, including chi-square tests, to establish significant relationships between displacement and its impacts.

The findings revealed profound disruptions across multiple dimensions. Economically, displacement severely curtailed women's livelihoods, with 88–90% of respondents reporting reduced income opportunities, barriers to markets and resources, reliance on precarious informal activities, and significant asset loss. Qualitative data highlighted the shift from stable livelihoods like farming to survival strategies such as petty trading or begging, with only 30% acknowledging adequate economic support in IDP camps. Psychologically, 92–93% of respondents confirmed high levels of anxiety, hopelessness, and trauma symptoms among women and children, with minimal mental health support (23% agreement on adequacy). Healthcare and education access were similarly deficient, with only 30% and 25% agreeing that healthcare and educational facilities were sufficient, respectively. Women faced barriers to reproductive healthcare, while children experienced disrupted schooling, with 90% reporting reduced education access. Policy

and intervention gaps were evident, with only 20% agreeing that current policies adequately address needs, and 90% noting a lack of economic interventions.

The chi-square tests rejected all null hypotheses, confirming significant relationships between internal displacement and insurgency ( $\chi^2=64.00 > 5.991$ ), economic livelihoods ( $\chi^2=64.00 > 5.991$ ), and psychological effects ( $\chi^2=73.96 > 5.991$ ). These findings align with existing literature, such as Adebayo and Ojo (2021), which underscores the economic precarity of displaced women, and Okoro and Ezeh (2023), which highlights the psychological toll of displacement. The study's theoretical framework, encompassing Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory, the Vulnerability Framework, and the Human Security Approach, provided a robust lens to understand the interconnected impacts across individual, community, and systemic levels. The research underscores the urgent need for gender- and age-sensitive interventions to address the complex challenges faced by displaced women and children in Nigeria.

## **5.2 Conclusion**

The study concludes that internal displacement due to insurgency in Nigeria has profound and multidimensional impacts on women and children, exacerbating their vulnerability across social, economic, psychological, and health domains. The insurgency, primarily driven by Boko Haram and ISWAP, has disrupted livelihoods, forcing women into unstable economic activities and stripping them of productive assets. The psychological toll is severe, with widespread anxiety, hopelessness, and trauma symptoms, yet mental health services remain critically underfunded. Access to healthcare and education is severely limited, with systemic deficiencies in IDP camps compounding vulnerabilities, particularly for maternal care and children's schooling. Policy and intervention gaps further exacerbate these challenges, with inadequate economic empowerment programs, weak government-NGO collaboration, and a lack of focus on long-term solutions like reintegration and psychosocial support.

The rejection of the null hypotheses confirms that insurgency-driven displacement significantly affects economic livelihoods and psychological well-being, necessitating targeted interventions. The findings highlight a critical disconnect between existing policies and the lived realities of displaced women and children, as evidenced by qualitative accounts of economic hardship, fear of violence, and lack of services. The study's focus on the International Christian Centre, Uhogua, Benin City IDP camp underscores the localized nature of these challenges, while also reflecting broader trends in Nigeria's displacement crisis. By integrating ecological, vulnerability, and human security perspectives, the study emphasizes the need for holistic, multi-level interventions to restore stability, dignity, and resilience to displaced populations.

### **5.3 Recommendations**

Based on the findings, the following recommendations are proposed to address the challenges faced by displaced women and children in Nigeria:

#### **Enhance Economic Empowerment Programs**

Implement targeted vocational training and microfinance programs for displaced women to restore livelihoods and reduce reliance on informal activities. Programs should focus on skills like tailoring, soap-making, or food processing, which are viable in camp settings.

#### **Strengthen Psychosocial Support Services**

Establish accessible mental health programs in IDP camps, including counseling services and community-based support groups, to address anxiety, hopelessness, and trauma.

#### **Improve Access to Healthcare and Education**

Increase investment in healthcare infrastructure in IDP camps, ensuring access to reproductive and maternal care, and establish temporary learning spaces to restore education for children.

### **Promote Community-Based Reintegration Programs**

Develop programs to facilitate voluntary, safe return or local integration of IDPs, including rebuilding social networks and providing land or housing support to restore community cohesion.

### **Strengthen Policy Implementation and Collaboration**

Revise the National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons (2021) to include gender- and age-specific provisions, focusing on economic empowerment, education, and mental health. Foster stronger government-NGO partnerships to improve coordination and resource allocation.

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**APPENDIX**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**  
**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
**UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY**

Dear Respondents,

I am a final year student of the Department of Public Administration, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Benin, Benin City, I am carrying out research on **The Impact of Internal Displacement Due to Insurgency on Women and Children in Nigeria**. The research is purely for academic purposes, and any information received from you would be treated with the utmost confidentiality.

Thank you.

Iziengbe Comfort Ehimwenma

**DEMOGRAPHIC DATA**

Please tick the option you consider appropriate and fill in the blank spaces

1. Sex: Male (  ) Female (  )
2. Age: 20 -24 years (  ) 25-28 (  ) 28-32 (  ) 33 years and above (  )

**QUESTIONNAIRE ON IMPACT OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT DUE TO  
INSURGENCY ON WOMEN AND CHILDREN**

Indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

Key: Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD)

S/N	Statement	SA	A	D	SD
<b>RQ1</b>	<b>What are the impact of internal displacement due to insurgency on women and children?</b>				
1.	Displacement due to insurgency has significantly disrupted the daily lives of women and children in affected communities.				
2.	Women and children face increased risks of violence and exploitation due to internal displacement caused by insurgency.				
3.	Insurgency-induced displacement has led to a loss of social support networks for women and children.				
4.	Displacement has caused significant emotional distress for women and children in affected areas.				
5.	Women and children in displaced communities have limited access to basic needs such as food and shelter due to insurgency.				
<b>RQ2</b>	<b>How does internal displacement affect the economic livelihoods of displaced women?</b>				
6.	Internal displacement has significantly reduced income-generating opportunities for displaced women.				
7.	Displaced women face barriers in accessing markets or resources to sustain their livelihoods.				
8.	Insurgency-induced displacement has forced women to rely on informal or unstable economic activities.				
9.	Displacement has led to a loss of assets (e.g., land, livestock) critical to the economic survival of women.				
10.	Displaced women receive adequate support to restart or sustain their economic livelihoods in IDP camps.				
<b>RQ3</b>	<b>What are the psychological impacts of insurgency-induced displacement on women and children?</b>				

11.	Women and children in IDP camps experience high levels of anxiety due to insurgency-induced displacement.				
12.	Displacement caused by insurgency has led to increased feelings of hopelessness among women and children.				
13.	Children displaced by insurgency exhibit signs of trauma, such as fear or withdrawal.				
14.	Women in IDP camps have access to adequate mental health support to cope with displacement-related stress.				
15.	Insurgency-induced displacement has negatively affected the self-esteem and mental well-being of women and children.				
<b>RQ4</b>	<b>How does internal displacement influence the access of women and children to healthcare and education services in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps?</b>				
16.	Displaced women and children have adequate access to healthcare services in IDP camps.				
17.	Internal displacement has significantly reduced children's access to quality education in affected areas.				
18.	Women in IDP camps face challenges in accessing reproductive and maternal healthcare services.				
19.	Educational facilities in IDP camps are sufficient to meet the needs of displaced children.				
20.	Insurgency-induced displacement has led to delays or interruptions in routine medical care for women and children.				
<b>RQ5</b>	<b>What are the existing policy and intervention gaps in addressing the specific needs of displaced women and children in Nigeria, and how can these gaps be addressed?</b>				
21.	Current policies in Nigeria adequately address the specific needs of displaced women and children.				
22.	There is a lack of targeted interventions to support the economic empowerment of displaced women in Nigeria.				
23.	Existing interventions in IDP camps sufficiently address the psychological needs of displaced women and children.				
24.	Policies in Nigeria effectively ensure access to education and healthcare for displaced women and children.				

25.	Collaboration between government and NGOs is sufficient to address the needs of displaced women and children in Nigeria.				
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