

**THE WELFARE AND SAFETY CHALLENGES OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED
PERSONS (IDPs) IN NIGERIA: A CASE STUDY OF UHOGUA CAMP IN EDO
STATE**

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SSC2004044

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

UNIVERSITY OF BENIN

BENIN CITY, NIGERIA

MARCH, 2025

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**BEING A PROJECT WORK PRESENTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION, FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF BENIN,
BENIN CITY IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF BACHELORS OF SCIENCE IN PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION**

MARCH, 2025

CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned certify that this project titled “The Welfare and Safety Challenges of Internally Displaced Persons (Idps) In Nigeria: A Case Study of Uhogua Camp in Edo State” was carried out by ONOTHOJA AJIRIOGHENE JUDITH with matriculation number SSC2004044 of the Department of Public Administration in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) in Public Administration, University of Benin.

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Date

Dr. A. I. Mustapha
Head of Department

Date

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to God almighty the beginning and the end. The work is also dedicated to my wonderful parents Mr. and Mrs Onothoja.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

All thanks to my Heavenly Father and creator, for making this work a success. I am forever indebted to God for his faithfulness. I am profoundly indebted to my project supervisor, MRS. ESEZOBOR OSAHENRHUNMWEN MAUREEN whose invaluable insights, corrections and constructive criticism has contributed greatly and aided the success of this project work.

My sincere appreciation also goes to the Head of Department, Dr. A. I. Mustapha and my course adviser, Mr. Ehis Ugiagbe for the positive academic impact they had upon my life.

I wish to express my profound gratitude my parents Mr. and Mrs Onothoja for their unfailing support materially, mentally and spiritually. Thank you mom and dad for always been there for me. May God continue to bless you people and grant you good health and long life, Amen!

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE PAGE -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	I
CERTIFICATION -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	II
DEDICATION	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	III
ACKNOWLEDGMENT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	IV
TABLE OF CONTENTS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	V
ABSTRACT -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	VII
 CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION									
1.1	Introduction -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1.2	Statement of the Problem	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
1.3	Research Questions -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
1.4	Objectives of the Study -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
1.5	Hypotheses -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
1.6	Significance of the Study -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
1.7	Scope of the Study -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
1.8	Definition of Terms -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
 CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW									
2.1	Internally Displaced Persons --	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
2.2	Challenges Faced by Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
2.3	Role of Government in Improving the Living Conditions of IDPs -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
2.4	Challenges Faced by Government Officials in the Management of IDPs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
2.5	Strategies Put in Place by the Government to Ensure the Welfare and Security of IDPs -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
2.6	Theoretical Framework -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28

CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY

3.1	Research Design -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31
3.2	Population of the Study -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31
3.3	Sample and Sampling Technique -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32
3.4	Sources of Data -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33
3.5	Validation of the Instrument --	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34
3.6	Instrument for Data Collection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34
3.7	Techniques of Data Analysis -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1	Introduction -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36
4.2	Analysis of Respondents Demographic Data -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36
4.3	Analysis of Findings -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40
4.4	Discussion of Findings -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48

Chapter Five: Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1	Summary -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	51
5.2	Conclusion -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	53
5.3	Recommendations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	54
	Bibliography -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	56

ABSTRACT

The study investigated the welfare and safety challenges of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nigeria: A case study of Uhogua camp in Edo State. To achieve the purpose of the study, four research questions were raised and answered. The sample size was made up of 200 respondents. The data collected was analyzed using frequency count and simple percentage. The study revealed that IDPs in Uhogua Camp face severe challenges in accessing basic needs, healthcare, education, security, and sanitation, which significantly impact their living conditions. It was concluded that the strategies put in place by the state government to ensure the welfare and security of IDPs in Uhogua camp, include security measures, basic needs provision, psychosocial support, NGO collaborations, and vocational training. The study recommended among others that the government should enhance its support by allocating more resources to improve living conditions, healthcare, education, and security for IDPs in Uhogua camp. Additionally, policymakers should implement long-term strategies that ensure sustainable development and well-being.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nigeria face numerous challenges as a result of ongoing conflicts, insurgency, communal clashes, and natural disasters. These displaced individuals are forced to flee their homes, often leaving behind their livelihoods and enduring extreme hardships in overcrowded and under-resourced camps (Nwaigwe, 2020). Despite government and non-governmental efforts to provide assistance, internally displaced persons (IDPs) struggle with inadequate shelter, poor access to healthcare, education, and basic necessities, exacerbating their vulnerability. The crisis highlights deeper issues related to security, governance, and social welfare in Nigeria, requiring a more coordinated and sustainable approach to address the needs and rights of these displaced populations.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are individuals or groups of people who have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict, violence, human rights violations, or natural and man-made disasters, but who remain within the borders of their own country (Abubakar, 2022). Unlike refugees, who cross international borders seeking asylum in foreign countries, internally displaced persons (IDPs) remain under the legal protection and jurisdiction of their own government, even if that government is the cause of their

displacement. This internal displacement can occur suddenly or gradually and often places these individuals in precarious situations where they may lack basic necessities such as food, shelter, healthcare, and access to education. Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are recognized by international organizations like the United Nations, which offer guidelines and frameworks for their protection, yet the primary responsibility for ensuring their welfare lies with their national governments, which are often ill-equipped or unwilling to provide the needed support.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) often face myriad of challenges, primarily stemming from the underlying causes of their displacement, including conflicts, natural disasters, and insurgencies. One of the most pressing challenges is inadequate access to basic needs such as food, clean water, healthcare, and shelter. Many IDP camps are overcrowded, poorly managed, and lack the necessary resources to sustain a dignified living condition (Emesi, 2021). Due to limited food supplies, malnutrition is rampant among internally displaced persons (IDPs), especially children and pregnant women. Healthcare services are equally constrained, with many camps lacking adequate medical facilities and personnel. As a result, preventable diseases like malaria, cholera, and respiratory infections spread rapidly. The scarcity of clean water and proper sanitation facilities further exacerbates these health challenges, leading to frequent outbreaks of waterborne diseases.

Beyond the physical hardships, internally displaced persons (IDPs) face significant psychological and social challenges. The trauma of displacement, coupled with the loss of livelihoods, homes, and loved ones, has profound impacts on mental health. Many internally displaced persons (IDPs) suffer from depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), but access to mental health services is almost non-existent in most camps (Udom, 2019). Social cohesion is also severely strained, as displaced individuals often come from diverse ethnic, religious, and cultural backgrounds, leading to tensions within the camps. Moreover, the disruption of education for children and youths due to displacement has long-term effects on their development and future prospects. The lack of educational facilities and trained teachers in many IDP camps deprives children of their right to education, further marginalizing them and deepening their vulnerability.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nigeria face legal and security issues that hinder their reintegration and long-term recovery. Many internally displaced persons (IDPs) are unable to return to their homes due to ongoing conflicts, land disputes, or the destruction of their communities. The lack of legal frameworks to protect the rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs) leaves them vulnerable to exploitation, discrimination, and abuse (Bwala, 2023). Women and girls in IDP camps are particularly at risk of gender-based violence, including sexual harassment, exploitation, and trafficking. Security within and around IDP camps is often inadequate, making residents susceptible to attacks by armed groups or criminal elements. Furthermore, the slow and inconsistent

response from government agencies and humanitarian organizations hampers efforts to provide sustainable solutions, leaving many internally displaced persons (IDPs) trapped in a cycle of dependency and uncertainty.

The welfare of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nigeria remains critically inadequate, reflecting the deep-seated challenges in addressing both immediate and long-term needs. Over the years, conflict-driven displacement, particularly from the Boko Haram insurgency, communal clashes, and farmer-herder crises, has led to a surge in the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) across various regions (Omohwo, 2020). Despite the establishment of camps and temporary shelters, the quality of living conditions is alarming, characterized by overcrowded spaces and dilapidated infrastructure. Most IDP camps suffer from severe shortages of essential resources like food, clean water, and medical supplies. In many instances, the daily ration provided falls well below nutritional standards, leading to widespread cases of malnutrition, particularly among vulnerable groups such as children, pregnant women, and the elderly (Ezenagu, 2022). The limited availability of healthcare services compounds the problem, with insufficient medical personnel and facilities to address even basic health needs, let alone handle complex conditions. Consequently, preventable diseases like malaria, cholera, and typhoid spread unchecked, exacerbated by poor sanitation and inadequate water supply. Moreover, the overall coordination between government agencies and international organizations remains fragmented, resulting in inconsistent and unsustainable assistance for IDPs.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In contemporary time, preliminary observation has shown that the poor state of welfare among Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nigeria remains a significant humanitarian crisis in contemporary times. Despite numerous efforts by government agencies and international organizations, the conditions in most IDP camps are deplorable (Sanni, 2021). Overcrowding, inadequate shelter, and poor sanitation have become hallmarks of these camps, leading to severe health challenges, including outbreaks of preventable diseases like cholera and malaria. The lack of basic amenities such as clean water, healthcare, and education leaves many internally displaced persons (IDPs) in perpetual suffering, with children and vulnerable groups being the most affected. Food insecurity is also rampant, with insufficient supplies leading to malnutrition, especially among children.

The challenges facing internally displaced persons (IDPs) extend beyond inadequate welfare to include insecurity, discrimination, and neglect. Common observation has shown that many internally displaced persons (IDPs) are survivors of violence from insurgencies, communal clashes, and banditry, yet they continue to face threats even within the camps, as armed groups frequently target these areas. Additionally, internally displaced persons (IDPs) often experience social exclusion and discrimination from host communities and authorities, which worsens their plight (Jibrin, 2019). Women and girls in IDP camps are particularly vulnerable, facing heightened risks of gender-

based violence, exploitation, and trafficking. The absence of sustainable livelihoods also keeps many internally displaced persons (IDPs) trapped in cycles of poverty and dependency, with little hope for resettlement or reintegration into society. Despite the urgency of these issues, the response from the government and stakeholders seems to be slow and inadequate, leaving millions of displaced persons with little access to safety, dignity, and basic human rights. Based on these aforementioned problems, this study seek to the welfare and safety challenges of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nigeria: A case study of Uhogua camp in Edo State. Arising from the foregoing, the following research questions are raised:

1. What are the challenges of IDPs in Uhogua camp in Edo State?
2. What is the role of Edo State government in improving the living conditions of IDPs in Uhogua camp, Edo State?
3. What challenges are being faced by Edo State government officials in the management of IDPs in Uhogua camp, Edo State?
4. What are the strategies put in place by the state government to ensure the welfare and security of IDPs in Uhogua camp, Edo State?

1.3 Research Objectives

The main objective of the study is to investigate on the welfare and safety challenges of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nigeria: A case study of Uhogua camp in Edo State. The specific objectives of the study are:

1. To determine the extent to which challenges the living conditions of internally displaced person are in Uhogia camp, Edo State
2. To examine effectiveness of Edo State government mechanism in improving the living conditions of IDPs in Uhogia Camp, Edo state;
3. To determine the challenges being faced by Edo State government officials in the management of IDPs in Uhogua camp, Edo State;
4. To assess the impact of the strategies put in place by the state government to ensure the welfare and security of IDPs in Uhogua camp, Edo State.

1.4 Hypotheses

HO₁: There is no significant relationship between challenges and the living condition of IDPs in Uhogia camp, Edo State.

HO: There is significant relationship between challenges and the living condition of IDPs in Uhogia camp, Edo State.

HO₂: There is no significant relationship between effectiveness in Edo State government mechanism and improved living condition of IDPs in Uhogia camp, Edo State.

HO: There is a significant relationship between effectiveness in Edo State government mechanism and improved living condition of IDPs in Uhogia camp, Edo State.

HO₃: There is no challenges being faced by Edo State government officials in the management of IDPs in Uhogua camp, Edo State.

HO: There are challenges being faced by Edo State government officials in the management of IDPs in Uhogua camp, Edo State.

HO4: There is no strategies put in place by the state government to ensure the welfare and security of IDPs in Uhogua camp, Edo State.

HO: There are strategies put in place by the state government to ensure the welfare and security of IDPs in Uhogua camp, Edo State.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The study will be of utmost significance to internally displaced persons as it will help highlights some of the challenges they are facing. The findings of this study can guide interventions aimed at improving their living conditions, safety, and overall well-being, thereby giving them a voice and drawing attention to their needs.

The study will be of significance to the government as it will help them see some of the welfare and safety challenges of internally displaced persons. This will put them in a better position to come up with effective policies which will help improve the living conditions of internally displaced persons nationwide.

The study will be of paramount significance to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as it will help them gain insights into the specific challenges internally displaced persons (IDPs) face, helping them refine their strategies and intervention programmes. It

will also assist them in identifying areas where their support can have the most significant impact, allowing for more targeted and effective humanitarian responses.

The study will also be of significance to community leaders and social workers as it will help highlight their roles in ensuring the safety and welfare of internally displaced persons (IDPs) within their communities. The study will help equip them with knowledge to advocate for better policies and to implement grassroots-level solutions that enhance the protection and integration of displaced persons.

The study will be of significance to prospective researchers as it will be a source of reference point to them. The study will help open new avenues for further research, identifying gaps in existing literature and providing a foundation for future studies aimed at addressing the evolving challenges faced by internally displaced persons (IDPs).

1.6 Scope of the Study

The study focuses on the welfare and safety challenges of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nigeria: A case study of Uhogua camp in Edo State. The study will be limited to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Uhogua camp in Edo State.

1.7 Definition of Terms

The following terms were defined in the study:

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs): Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are individuals or groups of people who have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict, violence, human rights violations, or natural and man-made disasters.

IDP Camp: An IDP camp refers to a settlement or temporary shelter designed for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)—people who have been forced to flee their homes

Welfare Challenges: Welfare challenges refer to difficulties or obstacles that impact the well-being and quality of life of individuals or groups

Safety Challenges: Safety challenges refer to risks and obstacles that threaten the physical security and well-being of individuals or groups.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Internally Displaced Persons

Aramu (2021) described Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) as individuals or groups forced to flee their homes while staying within their country's borders. The term "IDP" highlights the domestic nature of their displacement, differentiating them from refugees who cross international borders in search of safety. This displacement can arise from a variety of reasons, including political instability, natural disasters, or internal armed conflict (Uzochukwu, 2023). Unlike external migration, which involves crossing national boundaries, IDPs experience forced relocation within their home country's borders, often finding themselves in unfamiliar regions or territories where they might not enjoy the same level of protection and rights they once had. These displacements disrupt lives and create new vulnerabilities, fundamentally altering their socio-economic and psychological landscapes.

At the heart of the IDP phenomenon is the idea that these individuals are displaced not only physically but also socially and economically. Their forced migration often breaks the social bonds and economic structures that had previously provided them with security and identity (Adamu, 2022). Displacement within their country can result in cultural dislocation as well, particularly when they are forced to relocate to regions where

their language, customs, or even religion differ significantly from those of the local population. In this sense, IDPs experience a double dislocation: they are physically uprooted from their homes while also confronting social alienation in their new environments. This dual challenge makes their reintegration into society, either in their current locations or through eventual return to their places of origin, a complex and long-term process.

A critical aspect of the definition of IDPs is the element of coercion. Unlike voluntary migrants, who move by choice, IDPs are forced to leave their homes due to circumstances beyond their control. Whether fleeing conflict, environmental disasters, or systemic violations of human rights, their displacement is marked by a lack of agency, as they are pushed into a life of uncertainty without the benefit of planning or preparation (Zubairu, 2021). This involuntary aspect of their movement creates an immediate need for shelter, food, and security, yet it also represents a deeper loss: the loss of control over one's life and future. This loss of agency is a defining characteristic of internal displacement and plays a crucial role in shaping both the short-term needs and long-term aspirations of IDPs.

Okoye (2020) opined that the classification of IDPs is rooted in the recognition that they often face vulnerabilities that are unique to their status as displaced individuals within their own country. While they may be entitled to the same rights as other citizens under domestic law, the reality of displacement often places them at the margins of

society. This marginalization can manifest in various ways, from lack of access to basic services like healthcare and education to exclusion from political and social participation. Even though international humanitarian law and guidelines provide frameworks for their protection, IDPs remain in a precarious position where the very institutions meant to safeguard their rights may be unable or unwilling to do so (Emeniya, 2019).

2.2 Challenges Faced by Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nigeria encounter a vast array of challenges that severely hinder their ability to rebuild their lives and reintegrate into society. One of the most prominent issues they face is the extreme overcrowding in IDP camps. These camps, designed as temporary solutions, often become long-term settlements due to protracted conflicts or ongoing natural disasters (Balogun, 2023). The rapid influx of displaced persons typically overwhelms the already limited infrastructure in place, resulting in inadequate living spaces where families are forced to share confined areas. These congested living conditions create an environment ripe for the spread of diseases such as tuberculosis, cholera, and respiratory infections, as the population density makes it nearly impossible to maintain hygiene and sanitation standards (Omohwo, 2020). The absence of sufficient medical facilities in many of these camps means that preventable health crises go untreated, exacerbating the health challenges facing IDPs.

Food insecurity is another major challenge faced by internally displaced persons, exacerbating their already precarious situation. In many IDP camps, food supplies are insufficient to meet the needs of the growing populations. International humanitarian aid, while crucial, is often sporadic and limited, leaving many IDPs without reliable access to nutritious meals (Aborisade, 2022). Children and pregnant women are particularly vulnerable, with many suffering from severe malnutrition, which affects their long-term physical and cognitive development. Food distribution programs, when available, are often plagued by inefficiencies, corruption, and mismanagement, which result in uneven access to food. In addition to food shortages, IDPs also face difficulties accessing clean drinking water. Many camps rely on contaminated water sources due to a lack of proper sanitation infrastructure, and the scarcity of clean water has led to frequent outbreaks of waterborne diseases. This lack of access to clean water not only worsens the health crisis but also underscores the broader failure to meet basic needs (Ubeku, 2019).

The issue of psychological trauma among IDPs is another profound challenge that is often overlooked. The displacement experience, particularly in the context of violent conflicts and insurgencies, leaves many individuals with deep emotional and psychological scars. The loss of homes, loved ones, and livelihoods, combined with the uncertainty about their future, has a detrimental effect on mental health (Umiaghwa, 2021). Many displaced persons experience chronic anxiety, depression, and symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Unfortunately, there is a near-total absence of mental health services in most IDP camps, leaving these individuals without the support

needed to process their trauma. The psychological toll is particularly pronounced among children, who not only face the loss of stability but also suffer from disruptions in their education and development. The lack of educational opportunities, compounded by emotional distress, severely hampers their ability to reintegrate into society and diminishes their prospects for the future.

Another critical issue facing IDPs is the disruption of education for displaced children and adolescents. Due to displacement, many children are unable to continue their education as IDP camps lack sufficient educational facilities and qualified teachers. This interruption in education deprives children of a fundamental right and severely limits their future opportunities (Durojaiye, 2020). In cases where education services are available in camps, the resources are often inadequate, with overcrowded classrooms, insufficient learning materials, and untrained or overstretched teaching staff. Furthermore, the constant instability and insecurity in some regions discourage parents from sending their children to school, further hindering their educational development. This educational deprivation has long-term implications, not only for the children themselves but also for the broader society, as an uneducated generation struggles to escape the cycle of poverty and marginalization that displacement creates (Haruna, 2023).

The issue of gender-based violence in IDP camps is another pressing concern. Women and girls in these camps are often the most vulnerable, facing heightened risks of sexual exploitation, harassment, and trafficking. The lack of security within and around

the camps leaves many women and girls unprotected from both external threats, such as armed groups, and internal threats, including exploitation by other camp residents or aid workers (Fapohunda, 2020). In many cases, the breakdown of traditional social structures and the scarcity of resources create situations where women are coerced into exploitative situations to secure food or other basic necessities. Despite these pervasive risks, there are few formal mechanisms in place to protect women and girls from gender-based violence or to provide them with the support they need to recover from these experiences.

Udechukwu (2022) opined that the slow and inconsistent response from government agencies and humanitarian organizations poses a significant challenge to the long-term recovery of IDPs. While humanitarian aid plays a crucial role in meeting the immediate needs of displaced persons, long-term solutions are often elusive. Government responses are frequently marked by bureaucracy, corruption, and inefficiency, preventing displaced individuals from accessing the legal and financial resources needed to rebuild their lives. Many IDPs are unable to return to their homes due to ongoing conflict, destruction of property, or land disputes, leaving them in a state of limbo, dependent on aid without a clear path to reintegration. Furthermore, without strong legal frameworks to protect the rights of IDPs, they remain vulnerable to exploitation and discrimination (Aina, 2020). This lack of long-term planning and sustainable solutions traps many displaced persons in a cycle of dependency and uncertainty, with little hope for a stable and dignified future.

2.3 Role of Government in Improving the Living Conditions of IDPs

One of the primary responsibilities of any government is to ensure that its citizens, including Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), have access to adequate shelter and housing. IDPs, who are often displaced by conflict, natural disasters, or other crises, face severe housing challenges (Osoba, 2023). They are frequently forced to live in makeshift camps, abandoned buildings, or temporary shelters that are overcrowded and lack essential services such as sanitation, electricity, and water. Governments, particularly in countries with significant numbers of IDPs, must prioritize the construction of temporary and permanent shelters that are not only secure but also meet international standards for living conditions. This may involve building new housing units, repurposing public buildings, or incentivizing private sector involvement to provide housing solutions. Governments should also develop long-term strategies to integrate IDPs into urban housing plans, ensuring they have access to affordable, durable, and dignified housing options (Useni, 2021).

Healthcare is another critical area where government intervention is essential for improving the living conditions of IDPs. Many IDPs, due to their displacement, find themselves in areas where healthcare services are either nonexistent or severely inadequate. The physical and psychological trauma caused by displacement, coupled with the unsanitary conditions in many IDP camps, often leads to the outbreak of diseases and a rise in health issues such as malnutrition, mental health disorders, and maternal and infant mortality (Chikwendu, 2022). Governments have a crucial role to play in ensuring

that IDPs have access to both basic and specialized healthcare services. This can be achieved by deploying mobile clinics to remote areas, providing immunization campaigns, offering mental health counseling, and establishing health posts in IDP camps. Additionally, governments need to work with international organizations like the World Health Organization (WHO) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to supplement national efforts in providing healthcare (Okeke, 2020).

Education is a fundamental human right, and governments must ensure that internally displaced children and youths have access to quality education, even in the face of displacement. Displacement disrupts education, and many IDP children are at risk of becoming permanently excluded from the formal education system, which exacerbates the cycle of poverty and vulnerability. Abdulraheem (2023) opined that governments must establish temporary schools in IDP camps, provide learning materials, and train teachers to work in these challenging environments. Additionally, integrating IDP children into host community schools can be an effective way to ensure their continued education. Governments can partner with international organizations such as UNICEF and UNESCO to implement educational programs tailored to the needs of displaced populations, focusing on both formal education and skills training.

One of the significant challenges faced by IDPs is the loss of livelihood due to displacement. Many IDPs lose their jobs, businesses, and sources of income when they are forced to flee their homes. Without the means to support themselves and their

families, they become dependent on aid, which can be both unsustainable and disempowering (Ejumudo, 2022). The role of government in improving the living conditions of IDPs must include the provision of livelihood opportunities, enabling them to become self-reliant. Governments can initiate job training programs, offer microfinance schemes, and create public work programs that allow IDPs to earn a living while contributing to their communities. Furthermore, governments should develop policies that promote the economic integration of IDPs into local labor markets, encouraging private sector involvement and reducing discrimination against displaced persons in employment (Osigbeame, 2020).

The government has a fundamental responsibility to protect the rights and security of IDPs. Internally displaced persons are often vulnerable to exploitation, violence, and abuse, particularly in situations where law and order have broken down, or where there are tensions with host communities (Ukobi, 2020). Governments must ensure that IDPs are legally protected from human rights violations, including discrimination, gender-based violence, and forced recruitment into armed groups. This can be achieved through the enactment and enforcement of laws that specifically address the rights of IDPs, as well as by providing legal assistance to those who have been wronged. Additionally, governments need to ensure the physical security of IDPs by deploying security forces to protect camps and providing safe corridors for those seeking to return to their homes or move to safer areas.

A key aspect of improving the living conditions of IDPs is the facilitation of durable solutions that enable them to either return to their homes, resettle elsewhere, or reintegrate into host communities. Yusuf (2023) asserted that governments must take the lead in creating conditions that allow for the safe, voluntary, and dignified return of IDPs to their places of origin. This requires not only ensuring that conflict or disaster-related risks have subsided but also providing the necessary support for rebuilding homes, infrastructure, and public services in areas of return. For those who cannot return, governments should offer resettlement opportunities in other parts of the country, including access to housing, land, and livelihoods. Reintegration programs are equally important, particularly for IDPs who choose to remain in host communities (Umeano, 2022). These programs should focus on ensuring equal access to services, promoting social cohesion, and preventing discrimination against IDPs.

2.4 Challenges Faced by Government Officials in the Management of IDPs

One of the significant challenges faced by government officials in the management of IDPs is the lack of adequate funding. Managing internally displaced persons requires substantial financial resources to cater to their basic needs such as food, shelter, healthcare, and education. Unfortunately, budgetary allocations for IDP management are often insufficient, and there is little to no structured funding from external sources (Salami, 2020). Government officials struggle to secure adequate funds to provide for the increasing number of displaced persons due to ongoing conflicts and natural disasters. The lack of financial resources exacerbates the poor living conditions in

IDP camps, where many live in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions, which increases the vulnerability of displaced persons to diseases and malnutrition. Government officials face the added challenge of coordinating humanitarian assistance with local and international donors, as these efforts are often fragmented, leading to duplication of efforts and misallocation of resources (Abayomi, 2022).

Another critical challenge is the security situation in areas where IDP camps are located. Most IDPs are displaced due to insurgency, ethnic conflicts, or violent clashes, particularly in the northern part of Nigeria (Lawal, 2019). In many instances, IDP camps are located in conflict zones or regions prone to attacks by insurgents like Boko Haram or bandits. Government officials are often tasked with providing security to the camps to prevent further displacement or attacks. However, ensuring the safety of both IDPs and the officials managing the camps has proven to be a daunting challenge, as the Nigerian security forces are often overstretched. This security problem hinders the smooth operation of aid delivery and affects the overall well-being of displaced persons. Furthermore, the insecurity in some regions makes it difficult for government officials to properly assess the needs of IDPs, leading to delayed interventions and inadequate response strategies (Okafor, 2022).

The issue of coordination among various government agencies is another major challenge faced by officials in managing IDPs. The management of IDPs involves multiple agencies such as the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), State

Emergency Management Agencies (SEMAs), and the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI). Coordination between these agencies and other humanitarian organizations is often weak, leading to inefficiencies and delays in delivering aid and services to IDPs (Ezeilo, 2020). There is also a lack of a clear institutional framework or policy that clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of each agency involved in IDP management. This lack of coordination is further compounded by bureaucratic bottlenecks, which slow down the process of decision-making and resource allocation. As a result, government officials often find themselves unable to respond quickly to the ever-growing needs of IDPs, leading to frustration among displaced persons and worsening their living conditions.

Government officials face logistical challenges in reaching and providing services to IDPs, particularly in remote areas. Nigeria is a vast country with difficult terrains in certain regions, which makes it challenging for officials to access some of the IDP camps. During the rainy season, many roads leading to these camps become impassable, further complicating the delivery of food, medical supplies, and other essentials (Usman, 2023). Moreover, the constant movement of IDPs from one location to another as a result of insecurity adds another layer of complexity to the logistical challenges. Government officials must constantly adjust their operations to accommodate the shifting locations of IDP camps. These logistical hurdles delay the provision of humanitarian aid and often leave IDPs in remote areas cut off from critical services, aggravating their already precarious situation.

Ibrahim (2022) lamented that one of the most pressing challenges faced by government officials in the management of IDPs is inadequate healthcare services available to IDPs. Most IDP camps lack basic healthcare facilities, and where they exist, they are often underfunded and understaffed. This creates a situation where the health needs of IDPs, including maternal and child healthcare, treatment of chronic illnesses, and mental health services, are not adequately met. Government officials are tasked with ensuring that IDPs receive the necessary medical care, but the lack of medical professionals, coupled with the scarcity of medical supplies, hinders their ability to do so. The high prevalence of diseases such as malaria, cholera, and malnutrition in IDP camps further strains the limited healthcare resources available. Additionally, the psychological trauma experienced by many IDPs, as a result of the violence and displacement, often goes unaddressed due to a lack of mental health services in the camps (Chianu, 2020).

Gbadamosi (2023) opined that the challenge of reintegrating IDPs back into their communities poses a significant obstacle for government officials. The return of IDPs to their original communities is a complex process that requires not only security guarantees but also the reconstruction of destroyed homes, infrastructure, and livelihoods. Many displaced persons are reluctant to return to their homes due to ongoing insecurity or lack of basic services in their communities. Government officials are often faced with the dilemma of managing the prolonged stay of IDPs in camps, which are designed to be temporary, while also ensuring that the necessary conditions are met for their safe and sustainable return. Additionally, the lack of a comprehensive strategy for the

reintegration of IDPs into society has made it difficult for officials to implement durable solutions. As a result, many IDPs remain in camps for years, leading to protracted displacement and dependency on humanitarian aid, which further strains government resources and capacities (Chijoke, 2022).

2.5 Strategies Put in Place by the Government to Ensure the Welfare and Security of IDPs

The Nigerian government has implemented several strategies to ensure the welfare and security of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), primarily driven by the need to address the humanitarian crisis arising from internal conflicts, terrorism, and natural disasters (Ekpo, 2023). One of the most prominent strategies is the establishment of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), which is tasked with coordinating disaster response and ensuring the immediate needs of IDPs are met. NEMA plays a crucial role in the distribution of relief materials such as food, clothing, and medical supplies to displaced persons in various camps across the country. Additionally, NEMA is involved in conducting assessments of IDP needs, coordinating international aid, and setting up temporary shelters. The agency works closely with state governments and local agencies to ensure that assistance reaches those in need, particularly in areas affected by terrorism and conflict, such as Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa States (Abubakar, 2020). Through NEMA, the government aims to provide immediate relief while ensuring that displaced persons have access to basic amenities essential for survival.

Moreover, the Nigerian government has developed a National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons to provide a legal framework for addressing the challenges faced by IDPs. This policy outlines the responsibilities of the federal, state, and local governments in providing protection and assistance to displaced persons (Chidalu, 2020). The National Policy on IDPs seeks to ensure that displaced persons are treated with dignity and that their rights are protected in line with international standards, such as those established by the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. It also aims to integrate displaced persons back into society by facilitating their return, resettlement, or reintegration. The policy highlights the importance of collaboration between governmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, and international agencies, such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), to create a comprehensive approach to managing the displacement crisis in Nigeria. By institutionalizing this policy, the government seeks to ensure that the needs of IDPs are systematically addressed, and long-term solutions are developed to prevent prolonged displacement.

Another important strategy involves the government's partnership with international organizations and foreign governments in providing aid and technical assistance to IDPs. The Nigerian government has entered into numerous agreements with the United Nations, the European Union, and other foreign entities to access resources and expertise necessary to improve the conditions of IDPs. Through these partnerships, the government has been able to secure funds for building more resilient shelters,

improving healthcare services, and expanding educational opportunities for displaced children (Diberuo, 2023). The collaboration also extends to security measures, as international partners provide training and equipment to the Nigerian military and police forces to enhance their capacity to protect IDP camps from attacks by insurgents, particularly Boko Haram. Furthermore, the government has established frameworks for the safe delivery of humanitarian aid to conflict zones, working closely with the international community to ensure that aid workers can operate safely in these areas (Hadiza, 2020). These collaborations have bolstered the government's capacity to manage the displacement crisis and have provided much-needed support to the IDP population.

The government has also made significant investments in the rehabilitation and reintegration of IDPs into society through various resettlement programs. These programs are designed to provide displaced persons with opportunities to rebuild their lives by offering vocational training, agricultural support, and microcredit schemes (Ekong, 2023). For instance, the government has launched initiatives to help displaced farmers regain access to land and receive agricultural inputs such as seeds and fertilizers to resume farming activities. This not only addresses food insecurity among IDPs but also enables them to contribute to the local economy. Additionally, the government, in collaboration with NGOs and development agencies, has provided vocational training in various trades, including tailoring, carpentry, and mechanics, to IDPs, particularly women and youth (Tanko, 2020). These programs aim to equip them with the skills needed to become economically self-sufficient and reduce their dependence on aid. By focusing on long-

term solutions, the government seeks to reduce the vulnerabilities of IDPs and create pathways for their successful reintegration into society.

Furthermore, security measures have been enhanced in and around IDP camps to protect displaced persons from further violence, particularly in regions affected by terrorism and banditry. The Nigerian military and police forces have increased their presence in these camps, conducting regular patrols and setting up checkpoints to deter attacks (Madueke, 2020). This strategy is particularly important in the northeastern part of Nigeria, where Boko Haram insurgents have targeted IDP camps in the past. In addition to physical security measures, the government has collaborated with international organizations to improve psychological support services for IDPs, many of whom have experienced trauma from violence and displacement. Counseling services, mental health programs, and trauma-healing workshops have been introduced in several camps to address the psychological well-being of displaced persons. The government also emphasizes the importance of preventing the exploitation and abuse of IDPs, particularly women and children, by ensuring that law enforcement officers are present in camps to monitor and prevent cases of gender-based violence and human trafficking (Qudus, 2022).

The Nigerian government has adopted policies aimed at addressing the root causes of displacement to prevent further internal displacement in the future. These policies focus on resolving conflicts, promoting social cohesion, and ensuring that development projects are inclusive of vulnerable populations, including IDPs. The

government has implemented peacebuilding initiatives, particularly in areas prone to ethnic and religious conflicts, to promote dialogue between communities and prevent future displacement (Fashola, 2020). Additionally, development projects such as infrastructure improvements, education, and healthcare expansion are targeted at both displaced persons and host communities to ensure equitable access to services and reduce tensions. The government is also working to strengthen its disaster preparedness and response mechanisms to reduce the impact of natural disasters, which have contributed to displacement in some regions. By addressing the underlying causes of displacement and ensuring that development is inclusive, the government aims to create a more stable environment where people are less likely to be displaced in the future (Gambari, 2022).

2.6 Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework adopted for the study is the Social Support Theory propounded by Cobb Sidney in 1976. The theory posits that social relationships and networks play a vital role in helping individuals manage stress, trauma, and difficult life situations. In the context of internally displaced persons (IDPs), this theory is particularly relevant, as displacement often leads to the breakdown of traditional support systems. IDPs frequently lose their homes, jobs, and community connections, which exacerbates their vulnerability. Social support systems, whether formal (such as humanitarian organizations) or informal (like family and community networks), are essential for providing the emotional, psychological, and material assistance that IDPs need to cope with the challenges of displacement.

At the heart of Social Support Theory is the idea that social ties help buffer the effects of stress and trauma by offering emotional, informational, and instrumental support. For IDPs, emotional support can come from family members or fellow displaced persons, who share similar experiences and provide empathy and encouragement. Informational support, such as guidance on accessing humanitarian aid or legal assistance, can be provided by NGOs, community leaders, or health workers. Instrumental support involves tangible assistance like food, shelter, and medical care, which is critical for IDPs, especially in camps where resources are often scarce. These forms of support contribute significantly to the welfare and safety of IDPs by helping them navigate the psychological and physical challenges of displacement.

The absence of inadequacy of social support networks can worsen the plight of IDPs. In situations where government agencies and humanitarian organizations are overwhelmed, the lack of sufficient social support can lead to increased levels of anxiety, depression, and social isolation among displaced populations. Moreover, the disruption of family units due to displacement can lead to the loss of traditional caregiving roles, leaving vulnerable groups, such as women, children, and the elderly, more exposed to safety risks. The breakdown of social cohesion within displaced communities can also lead to increased tensions, which can further threaten the safety and well-being of IDPs.

The theory is relevant to the study as it help provides a valuable framework for understanding the welfare and safety challenges of IDPs. It emphasizes the importance of

both formal and informal support systems in helping displaced individuals cope with the complex and multifaceted stresses of displacement. When effectively mobilized, social support can enhance resilience, mitigate the psychological impacts of displacement, and address the material needs of IDPs. As such, strengthening social support networks should be a key focus for policymakers, humanitarian organizations, and community leaders working to improve the conditions of internally displaced persons.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

This chapter examines the methodology adopted in carrying out the study. The following were examined; research design, population of study, sample size and sampling technique, sources of the data, validation of the instrument, instrument for data collection and techniques for data analysis.

3.1 Research Design

The research design employed in this study is the descriptive survey design. Echebiri (2022) explained that descriptive survey research design is a quantitative method used to gain a thorough understanding of a particular population or phenomenon by systematically gathering data on their existing conditions, behaviours, or attitudes. This design is deemed appropriate as it allowed the researcher to thoroughly investigate the welfare and safety challenges faced by Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Uhogua camp, Edo State.

3.2 Population of the Study

Nwankwo (2020) defined a research population as the complete set of individuals, groups, or elements that share common characteristics and are the focus of a study, from which a sample may be drawn. The population of this study consisted of all Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) residing in Uhogua camp, Edo State. According to available data from the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, there are 4,022 IDPs currently living in Uhogua camp, Edo State (Source: Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), 2024).

3.3 Sample Size and Sampling Technique

The sample size was made up of 200 respondents who were randomly selected from the 4,022 IDPs in Uhogua camp, Edo State. The researcher employed the simple random sampling technique. This approach ensured that every individual in the population had an equal chance of being selected. It involved randomly choosing participants without bias, often through tools such as random number generators or drawing lots. By providing a representative sample of the larger population, this method enhanced the accuracy and generalizability of the findings. Simple random sampling was widely appreciated for its simplicity and effectiveness in minimizing sampling bias, making it a popular choice in various research studies. To determine the sample size, the Taro Yamane's formula was applied as follows:

$$\text{Sample size} = N \frac{1}{1+N(e)^2}$$

Where:

N = Population size

1 = Constant

e = margin of error (0.0689 for a 95% confidence level)

Thus;

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

$$= \frac{4,022}{1+4,022(0.0689)^2}$$

$$N = \frac{4,022}{1+4,022(0.00475)}$$

$$N = \frac{4,022}{1+19.11}$$

$$N = \frac{4,022}{20.11}$$

N=200

Thus, the calculated sample size is 200 respondents.

3.4 Method of Data Collection

The data for this study was collected from both primary and secondary sources. The primary data was obtained through the design and administration of questionnaires to gather information from respondents on the welfare and safety challenges faced by Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). Secondary data was drawn from archival materials, including books, journals, conference publications, newspapers, and online resources. Primary data referred to information directly collected by the researcher using methods such as interviews, surveys, observations, or experiments. It was original and specifically tailored to address the research objectives, offering new insights without prior interpretation. In contrast, secondary data consisted of information that had already been compiled, analyzed, and published by others in sources such as books, articles, reports, and databases. While primary data provided new evidence, secondary data helped to build on existing knowledge, offering context and supporting or contrasting the study's findings.

3.5 Validation of the Instrument

The validity of an instrument refers to how accurately and appropriately a research tool measures what it is designed to measure. In other words, it assesses whether the instrument effectively captures the specific concepts or variables of interest in the study. The questionnaire, which served as the research instrument, underwent face validation. This process involved a thorough review by the supervisor, whose feedback and suggestions were incorporated into the final version of the questionnaire to ensure its accuracy and relevance for the study.

3.6 Instrument for Data Collection

In this study, the primary data collection instrument was the questionnaire, which was organized into two sections. The first section gathered demographic information from respondents, including age, gender, and educational background. The second section included questions aimed at obtaining insights into the welfare and safety challenges faced by Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). This structured format helped facilitate the systematic collection of relevant data for analysis.

3.7 Techniques of Data Analysis

The data analysis technique encompassed the methods and tools used to process and interpret the information gathered during the study. For this research, the Statistical

Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was selected as the primary tool for data analysis. SPSS was well-known for its effectiveness in handling and analyzing large datasets, offering a solid platform for statistical evaluation. In this study, simple descriptive statistics, such as frequency counts and percentages, were utilized to compute and present the findings. These methods facilitated a clear and understandable summary of the data's characteristics.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Introduction

This chapter dealt on the presentation and analysis of the responses to questionnaire by the respondents. The responses are presented using a frequency table distribution, simple percentage and detailed analysis was made accordingly. The data were primarily sourced from the administered questionnaires. A total of two hundred (200) questionnaires were administered to 200 respondents. However, only 190 copies of the questionnaire were returned completely filled. The analysis of data was based on the 190 questionnaires recovered.

4.2 Analysis of Respondents Demographic Data

This section starts with the demographic data of respondents which include gender, age, marital status, religious affiliations and educational qualifications which are all aimed to give a concise understanding on the welfare and safety challenges of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nigeria: A case study of Uhogua camp in Edo State.

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents by Gender

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	73	38.4%
Female	117	61.6%
Total	190	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Table 1 shows the distribution of respondents according to sex. As shown in the table above, male respondents are 73 constituting 38.4% while female respondents are 117 representing 61.6%. This indicates that majority of the respondents were females.

Table 2: Distribution of Respondents by Age

Age Range	Respondents	Percentages
15-20	17	8.9%
21-25	28	14.7%
26-30	36	18.9%
31-35	54	28.4%
36-40	42	22.1%
40 years and above	13	6.8%
Total	190	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2025

The age distribution in Table 2 shows that the 15-20 age group, accounts for 8.9% of respondents. The 21-25 group makes up 14.7% of the sample, followed by the 26-30 group at 18.9%. The largest segment is the 31-35 age group at 28.4%, with the 36-40 group close behind at 22.1%. Finally, those aged 40 and above represent the smallest share at 6.8%. This distribution suggests that the majority of respondents are in the mid-adult range, with the majority concentrated in the 31-35 age bracket.

Table 3: Distribution of Respondents by Marital Status

Marital Status	Respondents	Percentages
Single	124	65.3%
Married	63	33.2%
Divorced	3	1.5%
Total	190	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Table 3 shows that 65.3% of the respondents are single, making them the largest group in the study. Married individuals account for 33.2% of the respondents, while divorced individuals represent the smallest category at 1.5%. This distribution highlights that the majority of participants are single, with fewer being married or divorced.

Table 4: Distribution of Respondents by Religion

Religion	Respondents	Percentages
Christian	150	78.9%
Muslim	31	16.3%
African Traditional Religion	7	3.7%
Others	2	1.1%
Total	190	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Table 4 highlights the religious affiliations of the respondents, starting with Christians, who form the majority at 78.9%. This is followed by Muslim which accounts for 16.3%

while those practicing African Traditional Religion, accounts for 3.7%. Individuals identifying with other religions represent the smallest group, making up 1.1%. Overall, the data reveals that Christianity is the predominant religion among the 190 respondents.

Table 5: Distribution of Respondents by Educational Qualification

Qualifications	Respondents	Percentages
Primary	39	20.5%
SSCE	104	54.7%
B.Sc.	45	23.7%
M.Sc.	2	1.1%
Ph.D.	-	-
Total	190	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2025

The Table 5 shows the educational qualifications of the respondents, starting with those who attained primary education which accounts for 20.5%, 54.7% have completed SSCE, 23.7% hold a B.Sc., and 1.1% have an M.Sc., with no respondents holding a Ph.D. This distribution indicates that while the majority have reached the secondary education level, progressively fewer individuals have attained higher academic qualifications.

4.3 Analysis of Findings

Objective One: To Determine the Extent to Which Challenges the Living Conditions of Internally Displaced Person Are in Uhogia Camp, Edo State

Table 6: Distribution of Responses on the Extent to Which Challenges the Living Conditions of Internally Displaced Person Are in Uhogia Camp, Edo State

S/N	Items	Total No of Respondents	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1.	There are difficulties in accessing basic amenities like clean water, food, and shelter in the camp	190	98 (51.6%)	75 (39.5%)	4 (2.1%)	8 (4.2%)	5 (2.6%)
2.	Receiving adequate healthcare services in the camp is also challenging	190	96 (50.5%)	82 (43.2%)	2 (1.1%)	7 (3.7%)	3 (1.6%)
3.	Availability of educational opportunities are limited	190	93 (48.9%)	83 (43.7%)	6 (3.2%)	5 (2.6%)	3 (1.6%)
4.	IDPs often unsafe or insecure while living in the camp	190	104 (54.7%)	77 (40.5%)	3 (1.6%)	4 (2.1%)	2 (1.1%)
5.	Sanitation and hygiene facilities in the camp are inadequate for me and my family	190	101 (53.2%)	75 (39.5%)	2 (1.1%)	7 (3.7%)	5 (2.6%)

Source: Field Survey, 2025

The responses in Table 6 highlight the significant challenges faced by IDPs in Uhogua Camp, Edo State. Item 1 reveals that a significant majority of respondents (51.6%

strongly agree, 39.5% agree) struggle to access basic amenities such as clean water, food, and shelter in the camp, indicating severe hardship. A small percentage (2.1%) remained undecided, while 4.2% disagreed and 2.6% strongly disagreed, suggesting that only a few do not experience such difficulties. In item 2, 50.5% strongly agreed and 43.2% agreed that receiving adequate healthcare services in the camp is challenging, reflecting a major concern. Meanwhile, 1.1% of respondents were undecided, while 3.7% disagreed and 1.6% strongly disagreed, indicating that access to healthcare is a widespread issue. Item 3 shows that nearly half of the respondents (48.9% strongly agree, 43.7% agree) believe that educational opportunities in the camp are limited, while 3.2% were undecided. However, 2.6% disagreed and 1.6% strongly disagreed. Item 4 revealed that 54.7% strongly agree and 40.5% agree that they often feel unsafe in the camp. A smaller percentage (1.6%) were undecided, while 2.1% disagreed and 1.1% strongly disagreed. It could be seen from item 5 that 53.2% strongly agree and 39.5% agree that sanitation and hygiene facilities are inadequate, while 1.1% were undecided, 3.7% disagreed, and 2.6% strongly disagreed, further emphasizing the poor living conditions. Overall, the findings suggest that IDPs in Uhogua Camp face severe challenges in accessing basic needs, healthcare, education, security, and sanitation, which significantly impact their living conditions.

Objective Two: To Examine Effectiveness of Edo State Government Mechanism in Improving the Living Conditions of IDPs in Uhogia Camp, Edo state

Table 7: Distribution of Responses on Effectiveness of Edo State Government Mechanism in Improving the Living Conditions of IDPs in Uhogia Camp, Edo state

S/N	Items	Total No of respondents	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1.	There is efforts by the Edo State government to improve the quality of food and water supply in the camp	190	88 (46.3%)	72 (37.9%)	6 (3.2%)	13 (6.8%)	11 (5.8%)
2.	The Edo State government provides healthcare services or medical outreach programmes that I can access in the camp	190	84 (44.2%)	77 (40.5%)	4 (2.1%)	14 (7.4%)	11 (5.8%)
3.	The security measures provided by the Edo State government are sufficient to keep me safe in the camp	190	86 (45.3%)	83 (43.7%)	7 (3.7%)	9 (4.7%)	5 (2.6%)
4.	There is initiatives by the Edo State government to improve educational facilities for children like mine in the camp	190	96 (50.5%)	69 (36.3%)	6 (3.2%)	8 (4.2%)	11 (5.8%)
5.	From my experience, I have benefited vocational training or employment opportunities provided by the Edo State government in the camp	190	94 (49.5%)	80 (42.1%)	3 (1.6%)	8 (4.2%)	5 (2.6%)

Source: Field Survey, 2025

The responses in Table 7 evaluate the effectiveness of Edo State government mechanisms in improving the living conditions of IDPs in Uhogua Camp. Item 1 reveals that 46.3% of respondents strongly agree and 37.9% agree that the government has made efforts to improve food and water supply, while 3.2% were undecided, 6.8% disagreed, and 5.8% strongly disagreed, indicating that some IDPs still experience difficulties. Item 2 shows that 44.2% strongly agree and 40.5% agree that healthcare services or medical outreach programs are accessible, whereas 2.1% were undecided, 7.4% disagreed, and 5.8% strongly disagreed, highlighting mixed perceptions. Item 3 suggests that 45.3% strongly agree and 43.7% agree that security measures are adequate, while 3.7% were undecided, 4.7% disagreed, and 2.6% strongly disagreed. Item 4 indicates that 50.5% strongly agree and 36.3% agree that educational initiatives have been observed, with 3.2% undecided, 4.2% disagreeing, and 5.8% strongly disagreeing. Item 5 reveals that 49.5% strongly agree and 42.1% agree that they have benefitted from vocational training or employment opportunities, whereas 1.6% were undecided, 4.2% disagreed, and 2.6% strongly disagreed. The analysis of data in the above table therefore implies that the Edo State government plays a significant role in improving the living conditions of IDPs in Uhogua camp, Edo State by enhancing food, water, healthcare, security, education, and employment opportunities for IDPs in the camp.

**Objective Three: To Determine the Challenges being Faced by Edo State
Government Officials in the Management of IDPs in Uhogua camp,
Edo State**

Table 8: Distribution of Responses on the Challenges being faced by Edo State
Government Officials in the Management of IDPs in Uhogua camp, Edo
State

S/N	Items	Total No of respondents	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1.	The government faces challenges in providing adequate shelter for me and others in the camp	190	104 (54.7%)	74 (38.9%)	4 (2.1%)	6 (3.2%)	2 (1.1%)
2.	The government struggles to ensure food security and proper nutrition for people like me in the camp	190	99 (52.1%)	72 (37.9%)	4 (2.1%)	9 (4.7%)	6 (3.2%)
3.	Lack of funds has limited the government's ability to provide services that meet my needs in the camp	190	88 (46.3%)	82 (43.2%)	2 (1.1%)	10 (5.3%)	8 (4.2%)
4.	The government has difficulties managing the psychological and social welfare of people like me in the camp	190	101 (53.2%)	74 (38.9%)	3 (1.6%)	7 (3.7%)	5 (2.6%)
5.	From my experience, the government faces challenges in managing water supply and sanitation for residents like me in the camp	190	93 (48.9%)	78 (41.1%)	6 (3.2%)	8 (4.2%)	5 (2.6%)

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Table 8 presents responses regarding the challenges faced by Edo State government officials in managing IDPs at Uhogua Camp. Item 1 indicates that 54.7% of respondents strongly agree and 38.9% agree that providing adequate shelter remains a challenge, while 2.1% were undecided, 3.2% disagreed, and 1.1% strongly disagreed. Item 2 reveals that 52.1% strongly agree and 37.9% agree that ensuring food security and proper nutrition is difficult, with 2.1% undecided, 4.7% disagreeing, and 3.2% strongly disagreeing. Item 3 shows that 46.3% strongly agree and 43.2% agree that limited government funding affects service delivery, while 1.1% were undecided, 5.3% disagreed, and 4.2% strongly disagreed. Item 4 highlights that 53.2% strongly agree and 38.9% agree that managing the psychological and social welfare of IDPs is a major challenge, with 1.6% undecided, 3.7% disagreeing, and 2.6% strongly disagreeing. Item 5 indicates that 48.9% strongly agree and 41.1% agree that managing water supply and sanitation is difficult, while 3.2% were undecided, 4.2% disagreed, and 2.6% strongly disagreed. These findings revealed that the challenges being faced by Edo State government officials in the management of IDPs in Uhogua camp, Edo State include provision of shelter, food security, funding, psychological welfare, and sanitation.

Objective Four: To Assess Strategies by Edo State Government to Ensure the Welfare and Security of IDPs in Uhogua Camp, Edo State

Table 9: Distribution of Responses on the Strategies by Edo State Government to Ensure the Welfare and Security of IDPs in Uhogua Camp, Edo State

S/N	Items	Total No of respondents	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1.	The deployment of security personnel by the government has made the camp feel safer	190	102 (53.7%)	78 (41.1%)	2 (1.1%)	6 (3.2%)	2 (1.1%)
2.	The provision of basic needs like food, water, and shelter by the government has improved my welfare in the camp	190	91 (47.9%)	81 (42.6%)	4 (2.1%)	8 (4.2%)	6 (3.2%)
3.	Vocational training programmes introduced by the government have helped individuals in the camp, including myself, to become more self-reliant.	190	98 (51.6%)	83 (43.7%)	2 (1.1%)	5 (2.6%)	2 (1.1%)
4.	In my view, collaboration between the government and NGOs has helped improve my living conditions in the camp	190	93 (48.9%)	83 (43.7%)	3 (1.6%)	7 (3.7%)	4 (2.1%)
5.	The vocational training programmes introduced by the government have helped me and others in the camp to become more self-reliant	190	100 (52.6%)	77 (40.5%)	2 (1.1%)	8 (4.2%)	3 (1.6%)

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Table 9 presents responses on the strategies adopted by the Edo State government to ensure the welfare and security of IDPs in Uhogua Camp. Item 1 indicates that 53.7% of respondents strongly agree and 41.1% agree that the deployment of security personnel has improved their safety, while 1.1% were undecided, 3.2% disagreed, and 1.1% strongly disagreed. Item 2 reveals that 47.9% strongly agree and 42.6% agree that the provision of basic needs like food, water, and shelter has enhanced their welfare, with 2.1% undecided, 4.2% disagreeing, and 3.2% strongly disagreeing. Item 3 shows that 51.6% strongly agree and 43.7% agree that they have benefitted from psychosocial support services provided by the government, while 1.1% were undecided, 2.6% disagreed, and 1.1% strongly disagreed. Item 4 highlights that 48.9% strongly agree and 43.7% agree that government collaboration with NGOs has contributed to better living conditions in the camp, with 1.6% undecided, 3.7% disagreeing, and 2.1% strongly disagreeing. Item 5 indicates that 52.6% strongly agree and 40.5% agree that vocational training programmes have helped IDPs become more self-reliant, while 1.1% were undecided, 4.2% disagreed, and 1.6% strongly disagreed. The analysis of data in the above table revealed that the strategies put in place by the state government to ensure the welfare and security of IDPs in Uhogua camp, include security measures, basic needs provision, psychosocial support, NGO collaborations, and vocational training.

4.4 Discussion of Findings

Findings from the study revealed that IDPs in Uhogua Camp face severe challenges in accessing basic needs, healthcare, education, security, and sanitation, which significantly impact their living conditions. This findings can be can be attributed to inadequate government funding, overcrowding, poor infrastructure, and limited access to humanitarian aid. Additionally, the high number of displaced persons places immense pressure on available resources, leading to shortages in food, clean water, medical supplies, and educational facilities. The lack of proper security measures further exposes IDPs to risks such as violence and exploitation, while insufficient sanitation facilities contribute to poor hygiene, disease outbreaks, and deteriorating health conditions, ultimately worsening their overall living standards and well-being. This findings is in line with Omohwo (2020) who asserted that the absence of sufficient medical facilities in many of IDP camps means that preventable health crises go untreated, exacerbating the health challenges facing IDPs. In same vein, Aborisade (2022) opined that food insecurity is another major challenge faced by internally displaced persons, exacerbating their already precarious situation.

Findings from the study also revealed that the Edo State government plays a significant role in improving the living conditions of IDPs in Uhogua camp, Edo State by enhancing food, water, healthcare, security, education, and employment opportunities for IDPs in the camp. This is achieved through policies, partnerships with humanitarian

organizations, and direct interventions aimed at alleviating hardships faced by displaced persons. Government efforts include improving healthcare facilities, strengthening security measures, expanding educational access, and creating skill acquisition programs to enhance self-reliance among IDPs. Additionally, periodic relief materials and infrastructural development initiatives help sustain their well-being, fostering better living conditions and long-term resilience in the camp. This findings is in agreement with Osoba (2023) who asserted that one of the primary responsibilities of any government is to ensure that its citizens, including Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), have access to adequate shelter and housing.

Findings from the study further revealed that the challenges being faced by Edo State government officials in the management of IDPs in Uhogua camp, Edo State include provision of shelter, food security, funding, psychological welfare, and sanitation. These findings can be attributed to limited government funding, the increasing number of displaced persons, inadequate infrastructure, and logistical constraints. The high demand for food and shelter often exceeds available resources, while insufficient mental health support affects the psychological well-being of IDPs. Additionally, poor sanitation facilities and bureaucratic delays further hinder effective management, making it difficult for officials to meet the basic needs of displaced persons. In line with the findings, Salami (2020) found out that one of the significant challenges faced by government officials in the management of IDPs is the lack of adequate funding. In same vein,

Ibrahim (2022) lamented that one of the most pressing challenges faced by government officials in the management of IDPs is inadequate healthcare services available to IDPs.

Findings from the study indicated that the strategies put in place by the state government to ensure the welfare and security of IDPs in Uhogua camp, include security measures, basic needs provision, psychosocial support, NGO collaborations, and vocational training. These findings can be attributed to the government's commitment to reducing the hardships faced by displaced persons, the need to prevent security threats within the camp, and efforts to promote self-reliance among IDPs. Collaboration with NGOs helps bridge resource gaps, while vocational training equips IDPs with skills for economic empowerment. Additionally, psychosocial support addresses trauma-related issues, ensuring the overall well-being and stability of displaced individuals. In support of the findings, Dieberuo (2023) asserted that one of the strategies put in place by the government to ensure the welfare and security of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) involves the government's partnership with international organizations and foreign governments in providing aid and technical assistance to IDPs. Also supporting the findings, Madueke (2020) opined that security measures have been enhanced in and around IDP camps to protect displaced persons from further violence, particularly in regions affected by terrorism and banditry.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary

The study investigated the welfare and safety challenges of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nigeria: A case study of Uhogua camp in Edo State. To achieve the purpose of the study, four research questions were raised and answered. The research design that was used in this study is the descriptive survey research design. The sample size was made up of 200 respondents. Both primary and secondary data were used in the study. As regard the primary data, questionnaire was used to elicit information from the respondents. The analysis of data was done using frequency count and percentages.

It was discovered in the study revealed that IDPs in Uhogua Camp face severe challenges in accessing basic needs, healthcare, education, security, and sanitation, which significantly impact their living conditions. This findings can be can be attributed to inadequate government funding, overcrowding, poor infrastructure, and limited access to humanitarian aid. Additionally, the high number of displaced persons places immense pressure on available resources, leading to shortages in food, clean water, medical supplies, and educational facilities. The lack of proper security measures further exposes IDPs to risks such as violence and exploitation, while insufficient sanitation facilities contribute to poor hygiene, disease outbreaks, and deteriorating health conditions, ultimately worsening their overall living standards and well-being.

The study also revealed that the Edo State government plays a significant role in improving the living conditions of IDPs in Uhogua camp, Edo State by enhancing food, water, healthcare, security, education, and employment opportunities for IDPs in the camp. This is achieved through policies, partnerships with humanitarian organizations, and direct interventions aimed at alleviating hardships faced by displaced persons. Government efforts include improving healthcare facilities, strengthening security measures, expanding educational access, and creating skill acquisition programs to enhance self-reliance among IDPs. Additionally, periodic relief materials and infrastructural development initiatives help sustain their well-being, fostering better living conditions and long-term resilience in the camp.

It was further seen from the study that the challenges being faced by Edo State government officials in the management of IDPs in Uhogua camp, Edo State include provision of shelter, food security, funding, psychological welfare, and sanitation. These findings can be attributed to limited government funding, the increasing number of displaced persons, inadequate infrastructure, and logistical constraints. The high demand for food and shelter often exceeds available resources, while insufficient mental health support affects the psychological well-being of IDPs. Additionally, poor sanitation facilities and bureaucratic delays further hinder effective management, making it difficult for officials to meet the basic needs of displaced persons.

The study also shows that the strategies put in place by the state government to ensure the welfare and security of IDPs in Uhogua camp, include security measures, basic needs provision, psychosocial support, NGO collaborations, and vocational training. These findings can be attributed to the government's commitment to reducing the hardships faced by displaced persons, the need to prevent security threats within the camp, and efforts to promote self-reliance among IDPs. Collaboration with NGOs helps bridge resource gaps, while vocational training equips IDPs with skills for economic empowerment. Additionally, psychosocial support addresses trauma-related issues, ensuring the overall well-being and stability of displaced individuals.

5.2 Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, the researcher concluded that IDPs in Uhogua Camp face severe challenges in accessing basic needs, healthcare, education, security, and sanitation, which significantly impact their living conditions. It was also concluded that the strategies put in place by the state government to ensure the welfare and security of IDPs in Uhogua camp, include security measures, basic needs provision, psychosocial support, NGO collaborations, and vocational training. These findings can be attributed to the government's commitment to reducing the hardships faced by displaced persons, the need to prevent security threats within the camp, and efforts to promote self-reliance among IDPs. Collaboration with NGOs helps bridge resource gaps, while vocational training equips IDPs with skills for economic empowerment.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusion drawn, the following recommendations were put forward:

1. The government should enhance its support by allocating more resources to improve living conditions, healthcare, education, and security for IDPs in Uhogua camp. Additionally, policymakers should implement long-term strategies that ensure sustainable development and well-being.
2. Security agencies should collaborate with camp administrators to enhance safety, prevent exploitation, and protect IDPs, particularly vulnerable groups such as women and children. Regular security patrols, surveillance systems, and community engagement initiatives should be implemented effectively.
3. There is a need to establish well-equipped healthcare facilities within the camp, ensuring that IDPs have access to quality medical care, including maternal and child health services. Adequate drug supplies, trained medical personnel, and emergency response units should be provided.
4. Vocational training and skill acquisition programmes should be introduced to empower IDPs economically, reducing their dependency on humanitarian aid and fostering self-sufficiency.

5. The government, NGOs, and international agencies should work together to develop a coordinated framework for the effective management of IDPs, ensuring long-term solutions to their welfare and safety challenges.

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

QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear Respondent,

I am an undergraduate student in the above named department and institution. I am conducting a research on **“Welfare and Safety Challenges of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nigeria: A Case Study of Uhogua Camp in Edo State”**. This study is purely for academic purpose and you have been selected as one of the respondents for this study. Your participation will contribute to knowledge base in the research theme.

I will be very grateful if you assist by providing honest information on the subject matter of this study. Rest assured that any information you provide will be treated with utmost confidentiality and shall be used strictly for the purpose of the academic research.

To guarantee this, your name, address and phone number are not required. It will be much appreciated if you could spare some minutes to complete this questionnaire.

Thank you.

Onothoja Ajiri

SECTION A

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

Age: 20-30 () 31-40 () 41-50 () 51 years and above ()

Gender: Male () Female ()

Marital Status: Single () Married () Divorced ()

Religious Affiliation: Christian () Muslim () ATR ()

Educational Qualification: Primary 6 () SSCE () B.SC () M.SC () PHD ()

SECTION B

1 Strongly Agreed (SA)	2 Agreed (A)	3 Undecided (U)	4 Disagreed (D)	5 Strongly Disagreed (SD)
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S/N	Using the scale above (1-5), please (v) the levels of agreement in each of the items below with regards to the challenges of IDPs in Uhogua camp in Edo State	SA	A	U	D	SD
	Challenges of IDPs in Uhogua Camp					
1.	There are difficulties in accessing basic amenities like clean water, food, and shelter in the camp					
2.	Receiving adequate healthcare services in the camp is also challenging					
3.	Availability of educational opportunities are limited					
4.	IDPs often unsafe or insecure while living in the camp					
5.	Sanitation and hygiene facilities in the camp are inadequate for me and my family					
	Role of Edo State Government in Improving the Living Conditions of IDPs in Uhogua Camp	<u>SA</u> 1	<u>A</u> 2	<u>U</u> 3	<u>D</u> 4	<u>SD</u> 5
6.	There is efforts by the Edo State government to improve the quality of food and water supply in the camp					
7.	The Edo State government provides healthcare services or medical outreach programmes that I can access in the camp					
8.	The security measures provided by the Edo State government are sufficient to keep me safe in the camp					

9.	There is initiatives by the Edo State government to improve educational facilities for children like mine in the camp					
10.	From my experience, I have benefited vocational training or employment opportunities provided by the Edo State government in the camp					
	Challenges Being Faced by Edo State Government Officials in the Management of IDPs in Uhogua Camp	<u>SA</u> 1	<u>A</u> 2	<u>U</u> 3	<u>D</u> 4	<u>SD</u> 5
11.	The government faces challenges in providing adequate shelter for me and others in the camp					
12.	The government struggles to ensure food security and proper nutrition for people like me in the camp					
13.	Lack of funds has limited the government's ability to provide services that meet my needs in the camp					
14.	The government has difficulties managing the psychological and social welfare of people like me in the camp					
15.	From my experience, the government faces challenges in managing water supply and sanitation for residents like me in the camp					
	Strategies by Edo State Government to Ensure the Welfare and Security of IDPs in Uhogua Camp	<u>SA</u> 1	<u>A</u> 2	<u>U</u> 3	<u>D</u> 4	<u>SD</u> 5
16.	The deployment of security personnel by the government has made the camp feel safer					
17.	The provision of basic needs like food, water, and shelter by the government has improved my welfare in the camp					
18.	Vocational training programmes introduced by the government have helped individuals in the camp, including myself, to become more self-reliant.					
19.	In my view, collaboration between the government and NGOs has helped improve my living conditions in the camp					
20.	The vocational training programmes introduced by the government have helped me and others in the camp to become more self-reliant					