

An Analysis of Stakeholders' Human Security Interventions in Internally Displaced Persons Camps in Guma and Makurdi Local Government Areas in Benue State, Nigeria¹

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Abstract

This study explores stakeholders' human security interventions in internally displaced persons' camps in selected local government areas of Benue State. It relies on a descriptive survey utilising a concurrent triangulation design. The study population consisted of 72,993 internally displaced persons (IDPs) from seven IDP camps in the Makurdi and Guma LGAs, Benue State, Nigeria, who were purposively selected. A sample of 400 IDPs was selected using the Taro Yamane formula. A quota sampling technique was used to determine the number of questionnaires distributed per IDP camp. Data were collected through a structured questionnaire, yielding a 95.5% response rate with 382 questionnaires returned; focus group discussions conducted in seven IDP camps; semi-structured in-depth interviews with seven IDP leaders and seven key informants; and unstructured personal observations. Secondary data was also sourced from journals, government records, and scholarly websites. Thematic and content analysis were used for qualitative data, while descriptive statistics and SPSS software were used for quantitative data analysis. The study discovers that major stakeholders providing human security interventions in IDP camps in Benue are international organisations, NGOs, Civil Society Organisations, religious organisations, and self-help. At the same time, the majority of respondents disagree with the government's efforts. The pattern of intervention is the maintenance of law and the provision of basic needs such as food, shelter, and clothing. The challenges are paucity of funds, lack of capacity and experts, sustainability issues and population explosion. The study concludes that stakeholder interventions in the IDP camps are largely focused on short-term humanitarian assistance, with limited emphasis on long-term human security strategies that prioritise IDP empowerment and participation to ensure lasting solutions, and recommends that the government should develop context-specific strategies to address human security challenges, establish a centralised coordination mechanism for stakeholders and establish transparent and accountable mechanisms for managing resources.

Keywords: Human Security, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), Stakeholder Intervention, Displacement Governance, and Benue State, Nigeria

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Analyse des interventions des parties prenantes en matière de sécurité humaine dans les camps de personnes déplacées internes dans les zones de gouvernement local de Guma et Makurdi, État de Benue, Nigéria

Résumé

Cette étude examine les interventions des parties prenantes en matière de sécurité humaine dans les camps de personnes déplacées internes (PDI) situés dans certaines zones de gouvernement local de l'État de Benue. Elle s'appuie sur une enquête descriptive utilisant un dispositif de triangulation concomitante. La population de l'étude était composée de 72 993 PDI provenant de sept camps situés dans les zones de gouvernement local de Makurdi et de Guma, dans l'État de Benue, au Nigéria, sélectionnés de manière raisonnée. Un échantillon de 400 PDI a été déterminé à l'aide de la formule de Taro Yamane. Une technique d'échantillonnage par quotas a été utilisée pour répartir le nombre de questionnaires administrés par camp de PDI. Les données ont été collectées au moyen d'un questionnaire structuré, avec un taux de réponse de 95,5 %, soit 382 questionnaires retournés. Elles ont également été complétées par des discussions de groupe (focus groups) menées dans sept camps de PDI, des entretiens approfondis semi-directifs réalisés auprès de sept leaders de PDI et de sept informateurs clés, ainsi que par des observations personnelles non structurées. Des données secondaires ont également été recueillies à partir de revues scientifiques, de documents gouvernementaux et de sites académiques. L'analyse thématique et l'analyse de contenu ont été utilisées pour les données qualitatives, tandis que les statistiques descriptives et le logiciel SPSS ont servi à l'analyse des données quantitatives. Les résultats montrent que les principaux acteurs impliqués dans les interventions en matière de sécurité humaine dans les camps de PDI de l'État de Benue sont les organisations internationales, les ONG, les organisations de la société civile, les organisations religieuses ainsi que les initiatives d'auto-assistance. Par ailleurs, la majorité des répondants exprime une insatisfaction vis-à-vis des efforts du gouvernement. Les interventions observées se concentrent principalement sur le maintien de l'ordre et la fourniture des besoins de base tels que l'alimentation, l'hébergement et l'habillement. Les principaux défis identifiés sont l'insuffisance des ressources financières, le manque de capacités et d'expertise, les problèmes de durabilité et la croissance rapide de la population des camps. L'étude conclut que les interventions des parties prenantes dans les camps de PDI sont largement axées sur une assistance humanitaire à court terme, avec une attention limitée accordée aux stratégies de sécurité humaine à long terme, qui devraient pourtant privilégier l'autonomisation et la participation des PDI afin de garantir des solutions durables. Elle recommande que le gouvernement élabore des stratégies adaptées au contexte pour répondre aux défis de la sécurité humaine, mette en place un mécanisme centralisé de coordination des parties prenantes et instaure des dispositifs transparents et responsables de gestion des ressources.

Mots-clés : Sécurité humaine, personnes déplacées internes (PDI), intervention des parties prenantes, gouvernance du déplacement, État de Benue, Nigéria.

INTRODUCTION

Forced displacement has become a major global humanitarian concern, particularly in regions affected by persistent armed conflicts and insecurity. Across Africa, violent conflicts and communal clashes have significantly increased the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) (UNHCR, 2025; IDMC, 2025). In Nigeria, multiple security challenges have intensified internal displacement across several regions (Aboh & Ubom, 2021). In North-Central Nigeria, however, the farmers–herders' conflict, particularly in Benue State, has emerged as a major driver of displacement and humanitarian crises for affected communities. These protracted forms of violence have devastated rural settlements, undermined livelihoods, and forced thousands of people into displacement camps. The Institute for Economics & Peace (2019) ranks Nigeria among countries with a high projected risk of conflict, a situation further exacerbated by socio-economic vulnerability, inequality, and food insecurity (IEP, 2019). The persistence of insecurity, therefore, requires urgent attention; otherwise, innocent citizens will continue to experience forced displacement and prolonged humanitarian crises. This situation aligns with the observation attributed to former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon that forced displacement remains one of the most pressing humanitarian challenges in the contemporary world.

Globally, forced displacement has reached unprecedented levels. By the end of 2024, an estimated 123.2 million people were forcibly displaced due to persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations, and events seriously disturbing public order (UNHCR, 2025). Sub-Saharan Africa accounted for approximately 38.8 million internally displaced persons by the end of the same year, representing nearly half of the global total (IDMC, 2025). Nigeria remains one of the countries most affected by internal displacement on the continent due to a combination of violent conflicts, insecurity, and environmental pressures (African Centre for Strategic Studies, 2022). One of the major drivers of displacement in Nigeria is the escalating conflict between nomadic pastoralists and sedentary farming communities, particularly in the North-Central region. According to the International Crisis Group (2017), clashes in Benue State alone resulted in an estimated 2,500 deaths in 2016, rivalling the lethality of the Boko Haram insurgency in the northeast. In the first half of 2018, over 1,300 Nigerians were killed in herder–farmer violence, with Benue State recording the highest number of casualties (International Crisis Group, 2018). These attacks have gradually evolved from spontaneous clashes into coordinated assaults on rural communities, often characterised by scorched-earth tactics and night raids (Patrick & Terungwa, 2022). Abah (2023) further argues that the conflict has claimed more civilian lives than the

Boko Haram insurgency in some periods and poses significant threats to national stability and food security (Odifa, 2022). Benue State, historically regarded as Nigeria's "food basket," has increasingly become a theatre of violent conflict driven largely by competition over land, grazing routes, and livelihood resources (Ode, 2018). Major attacks such as those in Agatu (2016), Logo and Guma (2018), and Mgbani and Otukpo (2023) have displaced thousands of residents into internally displaced persons camps across the state (Nwankwo, 2023).

To understand the conditions experienced by displaced populations, this study draws on Human Needs Theory, originally advanced by John Burton (1979) in *Deviance, Terrorism, and War: The Process of Solving Unsolved Social and Political Problems*. Human Needs Theory posits that all human beings possess fundamental, universal needs, and that when these needs are not adequately satisfied, conflict and social instability are likely to emerge. According to Burton (1997), these needs are non-negotiable and include security, recognition, participation, identity, and development. When individuals are unable to fulfil these needs within existing social or political systems, they may seek alternative mechanisms to address them. In the context of internal displacement, the theory provides a useful framework for analysing the conditions under which displaced populations experience deprivation and vulnerability. Issues such as distributive justice, participation, safety, dignity, access to healthcare, employment opportunities, and effective government response constitute critical dimensions of the broader human security discourse (Hadgu et al., 2025).

Despite the growing body of literature on internal displacement and humanitarian responses in Nigeria, much of the existing scholarship has primarily focused on the causes of displacement, conflict dynamics, and national policy frameworks. Comparatively fewer empirical studies have examined the nature and effectiveness of stakeholder interventions within IDP camps, particularly from a human security perspective. In Benue State, where displacement has persisted for several years due to recurring farmers–herders' conflict, limited attention has been given to how humanitarian interventions address broader human security concerns such as livelihood sustainability, dignity, participation, and long-term resilience. This gap is significant because prolonged displacement requires more than temporary humanitarian relief; it demands interventions that promote comprehensive human security and sustainable recovery for affected populations. Therefore, this study examines stakeholder interventions in IDP camps in Makurdi and Guma Local Government Areas of Benue State to assess the extent to which these interventions

address the human security needs of internally displaced persons. The following Research Questions guided the study which stakeholders are involved in the provision of human security interventions in IDP camps in Guma and Makurdi LGAs? What is the nature and pattern of human security interventions provided in the IDP camps in the study area? What challenges do stakeholders encounter in providing human security interventions in IDP camps in Guma and Makurdi LGAs?

OBJECTIVES

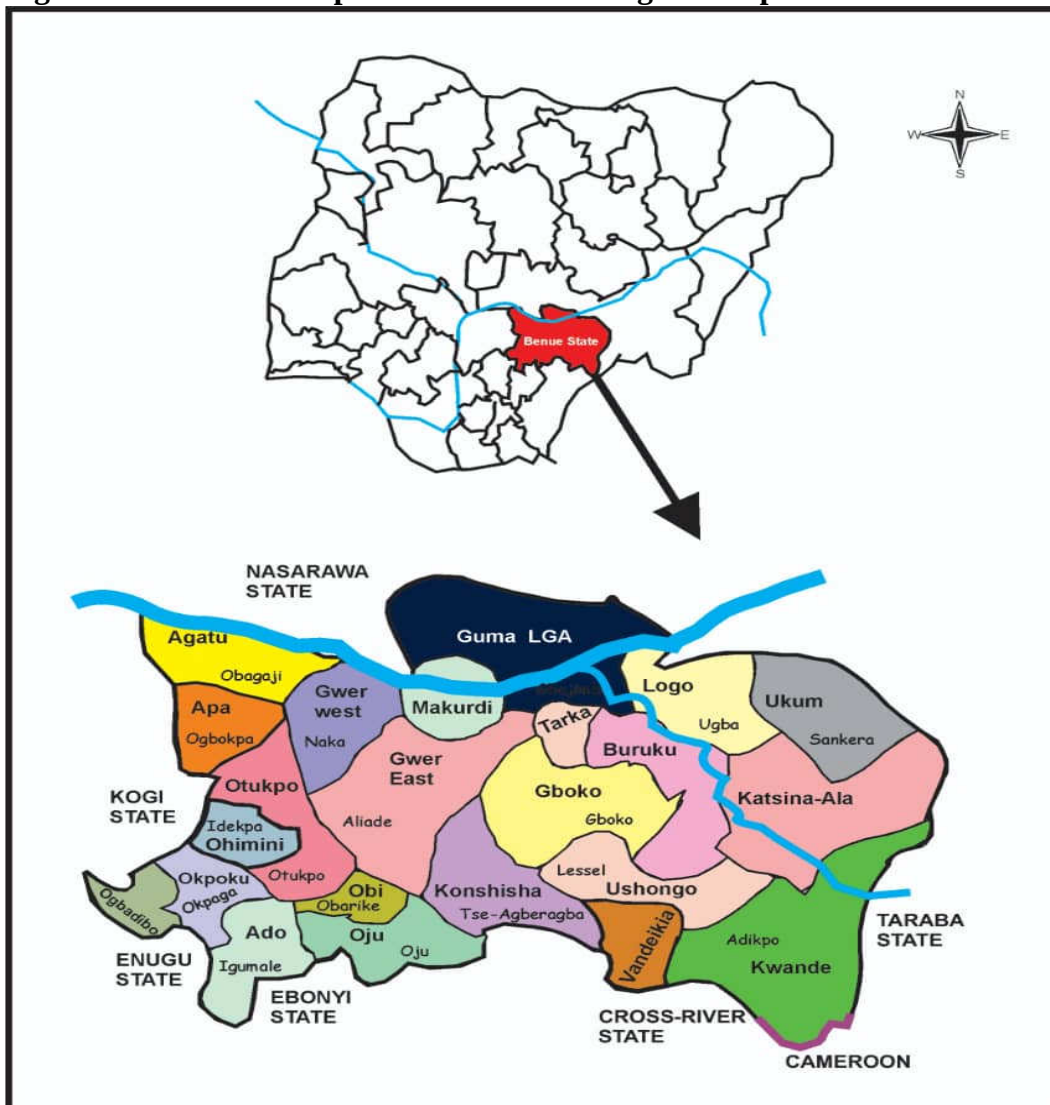
The study seeks to:

1. Investigate the stakeholders involved in human security intervention in IDP camps in Guma and Makurdi LGAs.
2. Assess the nature and pattern of human security intervention in the IDP camps in the study area
3. Analyse the challenges facing stakeholders in providing human security interventions in the IDP camps in Guma and Makurdi LGAs.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Benue State, located in North-Central Nigeria, within the lower Benue River basin. The state lies between latitudes 6°25'N and 8°08'N and longitudes 7°47'E and 10°00'E, and shares boundaries with Nasarawa, Taraba, Cross River, Enugu, and Kogi States. Benue is predominantly agrarian and widely known as Nigeria's "food basket." However, persistent farmers–herders' conflicts and communal violence have resulted in significant internal displacement and the establishment of several internally displaced persons (IDP) camps, making the state an important setting for examining stakeholders' human security interventions in IDP camps.

Fig 1.1: Benue State Map Carved Out from Nigeria Map



Source: Ajayi (2024), Geography and Planning Department, PAAU Anyigba

This study employed a descriptive survey design with a concurrent triangulation mixed-method approach to collect both quantitative and qualitative data from IDPs in Benue State, Nigeria. The study population comprised 72,993 IDPs across seven purposively selected communities, identified by the Benue State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) as having substantial displaced populations. Inclusion

was limited to camps listed in the permission letter issued by NEMA, while camps inaccessible due to security concerns and without permission were excluded. A sample of 400 IDPs was determined using the Taro Yamane (1967) and proportionately allocated to camps using quota sampling. Data were collected via a structured questionnaire with a five-point Likert scale (1 = Strongly Disagree to 5 = Strongly Agree), yielding 382 valid responses (95.5% response rate). Instrument reliability was tested through a pilot study, producing a Cronbach's Alpha of 0.70, indicating acceptable internal consistency. Qualitative data were collected through focus group discussions, semi-structured interviews with IDP leaders and key informants, and unstructured observations. Secondary sources included journals, government records, and scholarly websites. Quantitative data were analysed in SPSS using descriptive statistics, while qualitative data were analysed using thematic and content analyses. Ethical considerations included obtaining informed consent, ensuring confidentiality and anonymity, and securing ethical clearance from the relevant institutional ethics committee.

RESULTS

Table 1

S/N	Stakeholders involved in human intervention in IDP camps	S A	A	N	D	S D	Total	Mean	Std.D	Decision
		Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)	Freq.	$\bar{x}$	σ	
1	Humanitarian organisation and international organisation support system	267 (69.89)	76 (19.89)	2 (0.52)	19 (4.97)	18 (4.71)	382	4.45	1.06	Agreed
2	Civil societies and non-governmental organisation's assistance	189 (49.47)	152 (39.79)	23 (6.02)	16 (4.18)	2 (0.52)	382	4.34	.81	Agreed
3	Government aid and security support, e.g. police, NSCDC, etc.	107 (28.01)	51 (13.35)	122 (31.93)	28 (7.32)	74 (19.37)	382	3.23	1.43	No strong consensus
4	Religious bodies support system	153 (40.05)	165 (43.19)	17 (4.45)	11 (2.87)	36 (9.42)	382	4.02	1.19	Agreed
5	Self-help, host communities' assistance and individual donations	179 (46.85)	65 (17.01)	59 (15.44)	27 (7.06)	52 (13.61)	382	3.76	1.44	Agreed

Source: Field Report, 2024.

In Table 1 above, 69.89% and 19.89% of respondents strongly agreed and agreed, respectively, that IDP camps have been receiving interventions from humanitarian organisations and support systems of international organisations. Also, 4.71% and 4.97% of respondents strongly disagreed and disagreed, respectively, while 0.52% were neutral. The high mean score of 4.45 indicates a strong positive perception of humanitarian organisations' and international organisations' support systems in IDP camps, suggesting that the camps have been benefiting from interventions by these organisations. The low SD score of 1.06 indicates a high level of consensus and minimal variability in the responses, indicating that respondents are largely unified in their positive perception of humanitarian and international organisations' support in the IDP camps. This was strongly corroborated in an in-depth interview with one of the camp chairmen, who stated that, The IDPs have been receiving aid from some international and humanitarian organisations like UNICEF and Action Aid (IDI 04).

Also, in FGDs (B), the participants agreed that Several humanitarian and international organisations like the IOM, MSF, and the Red Cross have been supporting the IDP camps through several means.

Table 1 indicates that 49.47% and 39.79% of respondents strongly agreed and agreed, respectively, that civil society organisations and non-governmental organisations have been helping the IDP camps in the study area. Also, 0.52% and 4.18% of respondents strongly disagreed and disagreed, respectively, while 6.02 respondents were neutral. The high mean score of 4.34 indicates strong positive sentiment in support of the statement, showing that a significant proportion of respondents strongly agreed that civil society organisations and non-governmental organisations have been contributing substantially to the welfare of IDP camps in the study area. The SD score of 0.81 indicates a relatively low level of variability in responses, suggesting a high level of consensus among respondents regarding the positive impact of civil society organisations and non-governmental organisations on the welfare of IDP camps in Makurdi and Guma. In other words, the majority of respondents are in agreement that these organisations have been providing substantial support to the IDP camps, and there is little deviation from this opinion. This was strongly agreed with a key informant interview with one of the SEMA IDP camp managers, NGOs and CSOs have been of great help to bring succour to the plight of the IDPs (KII 05).

This was also supported by FGDs (E) in which the participants acknowledged that, we have been receiving aid from NGOs and support from civil society organisations like the Foundation for Justice, Development, and Peace (FJDP).

One member of the group retorted that, The NGO is out to protect and promote the totality of the dignity of the human person, especially of the poor and marginalised populations, which aligns with human security.

In Table 1, 28.01% and 13.35% of respondents strongly agreed and agreed, respectively, on government aid and security support. Also, 19.37% and 7.32% strongly disagreed and disagreed, respectively, while 31.93% were neutral. The SD score of 1.43 indicates a moderate to high level of variability in the responses, reflecting diverse opinions and attitudes among respondents regarding government aid and security support in IDP camps. This variability, combined with the neutral tendency (31.93% neutral) and the moderate mean score (3.23), indicates that while some respondents acknowledged government aid and security support (e.g., police, NSCDC), others were more sceptical or undecided, leading to a mixed assessment of government efforts. The findings from IDP leaders and SEMA officials are further supported by official government actions, in which the Benue State Government distributed food and non-food items to 15 IDP camps, with the flag-off ceremony held on 10th November 2025 and marked by a speech on behalf of the Permanent Secretary of Benue-SEMA. The Permanent Secretary emphasised that this exercise reflects the state's commitment, under the leadership of His Excellency Rev. Fr. Dr Hyacinth Iormem Alia, to alleviating the suffering of displaced persons (Anyanwu, 2025). Also, findings from in-depth interviews further clarify these mixed perceptions. The head of the sanitation unit/household leader in one of the IDP camps stated:

The previous leadership in the state did not effectively handle the IDP camp situation. The past administration refused to recognise some IDP camps, but under the current administration, all IDP camps in Benue State are recognised. Also, the current government is trying, but this is just one year into its administration, which is a small period to measure its impact on the camp" (IDI 07).

The above narratives highlight a difference in leadership over time: earlier administrations were largely perceived as neglecting IDP needs, whereas the current administration has taken steps to recognise all camps and improve aid and security support. The mixed quantitative responses reflect this transition, showing both acknowledgement of current government efforts and continued scepticism among IDPs, emphasising the need for sustained leadership, coordination, and monitoring to ensure meaningful impact.

Table 1 shows that 40.05% and 43.19% of respondents strongly agreed and agreed, respectively, on the support of religious bodies. Also, 9.42% and 2.87% strongly disagreed and disagreed, respectively, while 4.45% of respondents were neutral. The high mean score of 4.02 indicates strong positive sentiment, suggesting that IDP camps have significantly benefited from interventions by religious organisations. The SD score of 1.19 indicates a moderate level of variability in responses, suggesting that while there is strong consensus on the positive impact of religious organisations' support in IDP camps, there are some differing opinions among respondents. This moderate variability reflects the diverse experiences and perspectives of respondents regarding the role of religious organisations in providing support to IDP camps. In an in-depth interview with one of the household leaders of the IDP camp, he emphatically stressed that, Various religious organisations have been coming around to help (IDI 06).

Also, this was confirmed in FGDs (G), where all the participants mentioned that *several* religious bodies have been supportive, e.g. The Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA) and Sons and Daughters of Zion Ministry International have been assisting the IDPs in Benue state.

Table 1 shows that 46.85% and 17.01% of respondents strongly agreed and agreed that the IDP rely on self-help, the host community, and individual donations to the camp. Also, 13.61% and 7.06% of respondents strongly disagreed and disagreed, respectively, while 15.44% were neutral. The mean score of 3.76 indicates a moderate-to-high level of reliance on self-help, host-community, and individual donations among IDPs. The SD score of 1.44 indicates a moderate to high level of variability in the responses, suggesting that there are differing opinions and attitudes among respondents regarding the extent to which IDPs rely on self-help, host community, and individual donations. This is affirmed in an in-depth interview with the chairman of one of the camps, who narrated that, Our people normally go to people's farms with the permission of the owners of the farm after the owners have harvested their produce, so that they can glean or gather the leftovers of the farm produce (IDI 05).

Also, this was further buttressed in FGDs (D), where the participants revealed that, some of the host communities are benevolent because some of them give us permission to farm on some portions of their land, harvest firewood, and use their water. We use their available resources for our needs. Reverend Father Solomon always comes around to give relief materials as an individual donor, too.

Table 2

S/N	Stakeholders' human security intervention in IDP camps	S A Freq. (%)	A Freq. (%)	N Freq. (%)	D Freq. (%)	S D Freq. (%)	Total Freq.	Mean $\bar{x}$	Std.D σ	Decision
1	Provision of jobs and safe net	107 (28.01)	22 (5.75)	19 (4.97)	50 (13.08)	238 (62.30)	382	2.36	1.56	Disagreed
2	Availability of vigilante, neighbourhood watch and civilian joint task force	129 (33.76)	67 (17.53)	92 (24.08)	40 (10.47)	54 (14.13)	382	3.46	1.41	No strong consensus
3	Creation of skill acquisition centres, education and training on human security	123 (32.19)	69 (18.06)	122 (31.93)	45 (11.78)	23 (6.02)	382	3.59	1.22	Agreed
4	Maintenance of law and order in the camp and adherence to environmental safety	243 (63.61)	91 (23.82)	28 (7.32)	5 (1.30)	15 (3.92)	382	4.42	.97	Agreed
5	Provision of basic needs e.g. food, shelter, health care etc.	172 (45.02)	110 (28.79)	74 (19.37)	16 (4.18)	10 (2.61)	382	4.09	1.02	Agreed
6	Protection of fundamental human rights, advocating for policy change and justice for vulnerable people	134 (35.07)	168 (43.97)	53 (13.87)	19 (4.97)	8 (2.09)	382	4.05	.93	Agreed
7	Implementation of programmes that address the root cause of IDPs and promote peacebuilding and conflict resolution efforts	169 (44.24)	133 (34.81)	28 (7.32)	33 (8.63)	19 (4.97)	382	4.05	1.14	Agreed

Source: Field Report 2024

Table 2 indicates that 62.30% and 13.08% of respondents strongly disagreed and disagreed, respectively, with the provision of jobs and a safety net for the IDPs. Also, 13.87% and 5.75 respondents strongly agreed and agreed, respectively, while 4.97% were neutral. The mean score of 2.36, closer to the lower end of the scale, reflects negative sentiment, suggesting that respondents are dissatisfied with efforts related to employment and safety-net provision in the IDP camps. This indicates that a significant proportion of respondents do not believe that the human security interventions in the IDP camps are effectively providing jobs or a safety net. The SD score of 1.56 indicates a relatively high level of variability in responses, suggesting differing opinions among respondents regarding the effectiveness of employment and safety net provisions in the IDP camps. In a key informant interview, this was corroborated by one of the Assistant NEMA camp managers in the IDP camp, The government is not paying anything, even when we have one or two graduates and NCE holders among the internally displaced persons (KII 01).

Table 2 reveals that 33.76% and 17.53% strongly agreed and agreed, respectively, that there is availability of vigilante or neighbourhood watch. Also, 14.13% and 10.47% strongly disagreed and disagreed, respectively, while 24.08 were neutral. The mean score of 3.46 indicates a moderate level of availability of vigilante or neighbourhood watch. The SD score of 1.41 indicates a moderate level of variability in responses, suggesting differing opinions among respondents regarding the availability of vigilantes or neighbourhood watch. This was substantiated in an in-depth interview with one of the chairmen of the IDP camp, who testified that, In the absence of conventional security personnel, the youths in the camp have to organise themselves to play the role of security watch at night (IDI 03).

Also, in FGDs (F), it was confirmed by the participants that, they have vigilante groups within the camp that run shifts. In FGDs (A), too, it was affirmed by the participants that, We have to watch over ourselves at night with the warning that no one moves around from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m., and if you go out of the camp and you cannot make it back before the set time, you have to find a place to sleep over before coming to the camp the next morning; it is as serious as that.

Table 2 indicates that 32.19% and 18.06% of respondents strongly agreed and agreed, respectively, that the creation of skills acquisition centres, education, and training on human security are some of the interventions by stakeholders in the camp. Also, 6.02% and 11.78% of respondents strongly disagreed and disagreed, respectively, while 31.93% were neutral. The mean score of 3.59 indicates a moderate level of agreement

with the statement. The SD score of 1.22 indicates a relatively low level of variability in the responses, suggesting a moderate level of consensus among respondents regarding stakeholders' interventions in the camp with respect to the creation of skill acquisition centres, education, and training on human security. In an in-depth interview with the chairman of one of the IDP camps, he clarifies that, there is no establishment of skills acquisition centres meant for the IDPs, but NGOs, CSOs, and humanitarian organisations normally organise skill acquisition programs for them once in a while (IDI 01).

FGDs (C) participants attested to the fact that, NGOs normally organise training for those who are interested. However, one chairman of another camp lamented that, I learnt that skills acquisition training was organised for some IDPs, but nothing of the sort happens in our camp here. This is one of the initiatives governments should have done by training IDPs on lifelong living skills, and in the future, wherever the beneficiaries find themselves, they will be useful to themselves and society because they have been empowered by the skill economically (IDI 02).

During the fieldwork, it was observed that an organisation came to one of the camps to enquire if anyone was interested in learning any trade or skill so that the person would be attached to a shop offering such trade or skills for service in the town, and the bills would be paid by the organisation to cover the period of the training (personal observation).

Table 2 indicates that 63.61% and 23.82% of respondents strongly agreed and agreed that there is maintenance of order and law in the camps and adherence to personal safety. Also, 3.92% and 1.30% of respondents strongly disagreed and disagreed, while 7.32% were neutral. The high mean score of 4.42 indicates a strong positive sentiment among respondents regarding the maintenance of law and order in the camp. The SD score of 0.97 indicates relatively low variability in responses, suggesting a high level of consensus and agreement among respondents regarding the maintenance of law and order in the camp. In a key informant interview with the SEMA manager of one of the camps, he stated that, We do not have a challenge in maintaining order in the camp, but we can still do more because there are one or two persons in the camp, when the IDP camp leaders try to caution them on some attitudes, they despise them. After all, they see them as IDPs too, but if the SEMA manager or any other government official addresses them on the same matter, they obey (KII 02).

Table 2 indicates that 45.02% and 28.79% of respondents strongly agreed and agreed, respectively, while 2.61% and 4.18% of respondents strongly disagreed and disagreed, respectively. Also, 19.37 were neutral, and the high mean score of 4.09 indicates strong positive sentiment among respondents regarding the availability of basic needs interventions in the camp, such as food, shelter, and health care. The SD score of 1.02 indicates a relatively low level of variability in responses, indicating that there is a high level of consensus and agreement among respondents regarding the provision of basic needs interventions in the camp. A camp chairman confirmed this in one of the in-depth interviews that, International organisations like the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and Médecins Sans Frontières, also known as Doctors Without Borders, have been helping in terms of making shift shelters, health care, and clothing, among others (IDI 01).

In the FGDs (G), one of the participants commented that, The current governor of the state normally supplies them with food every month. Another participant retorted that the food was too small. However, the majority of the participants echoed that the current government of the state is trying their best compared to the former administration because the new administration normally shares up to 280 to 350 bags of rice among us every month since they came on board.

Table 2 shows that 35.07% and 43.97% of respondents strongly agreed and agreed, respectively, while 2.09% and 4.97% of respondents strongly disagreed and disagreed, respectively. Also, 13.87% were neutral, and the high mean score of 4.05 indicates a strong positive sentiment among respondents regarding the protection of human rights and justice for vulnerable persons. The SD score of 0.93 indicates relatively low variability in responses, suggesting strong consensus among respondents regarding the protection of human rights and justice for vulnerable persons in the IDP camps. In a key informant interview with the Benue State SEMA manager in one of the camps, he testifies that, The government is doing everything possible to advocate for the positive well-being of internally displaced persons in Benue State (KII 03).

Table 2 shows that 44.24% and 34.81% of respondents strongly agreed and agreed, respectively, that programs exist to address the root causes of IDPs and promote peacebuilding and conflict resolution in Benue State. 7.32% were neutral, reflecting uncertainty or limited awareness of the interventions, while 8.63% disagreed and 4.97% strongly disagreed, indicating that some respondents question the visibility or effectiveness of these programmes. The mean score of 4.05 reflects a moderate-to-

high perception of these interventions among respondents, while the SD of 1.14 indicates moderate variability, suggesting that opinions are generally positive but not entirely uniform across camps. Qualitative insights provide further context. A key informant from Benue State SEMA noted that there are series of security and development strategies ongoing that cannot be disclosed because of their sensitive nature (KII 05).

The above finding highlights that, although respondents generally perceive the interventions positively, the absence of concrete details limits the ability to empirically verify specific programme activities or outcomes. Consequently, while stakeholders are recognised as actively addressing the root causes of displacement, the confidential nature of some initiatives constrains the empirical validation of these efforts.

Table 3

S/N	Challenges confronting stakeholders	SA Freq. (%)	A Freq. (%)	N Freq. (%)	D Freq. (%)	SD Freq. (%)	Total Freq. (%)	Mean $\bar{x}$	Std.D σ	Decision
1	Paucity of funds and insufficient resources	289 (75.65)	37 (9.68)	11 (2.87)	6 (1.57)	39 (10.20)	382	4.39	1.27	Agreed
2	Accessibility constraints and safety concerns	63 (16.49)	69 (18.06)	7 (1.83)	31 (8.11)	212 (55.49)	382	2.32	1.64	No strong consensus
3	Language barriers and cultural differences	53 (13.87)	58 (15.18)	51 (13.35)	79 (20.68)	141 (36.91)	382	2.48	1.46	Disagreed
4	Non-collaboration and coordination among stakeholders	141 (36.91)	89 (23.29)	74 (19.3)	45 (11.78)	33 (8.63)	382	3.68	1.31	Agreed
5	Regulatory and administrative obstacles	46 (12.04)	213 (55.75)	63 (16.49)	29 (7.59)	31 (8.11)	382	3.56	1.06	Agreed
6	Lack of capacity and shortage of experts	281 (73.56)	43 (11.25)	13 (3.40)	16 (4.18)	29 (7.59)	382	4.39	1.21	Agreed
7	Sustainability issues and long-term goals	267 (69.89)	85 (22.25)	8 (2.09)	5 (1.30)	17 (4.45)	382	4.52	.95	Agreed
8	IDP population explosion and inaccurate data on actual IDPs	251 (65.70)	77 (20.15)	38 (9.94)	9 (2.35)	7 (1.83)	382	4.46	.90	Agreed
9	Corruption, conspiracy and the Nigerian factor	209 (54.71)	111 (29.06)	29 (7.59)	13 (3.40)	20 (5.23)	382	4.25	1.08	Agreed

Source: Field Report, 2024

Table 3 shows that the majority of respondents (75.65% agreed and 10.20% strongly agreed) strongly concurred that a paucity of funds and insufficient resources are significant challenges, with a mean score of 4.39, indicating a high level of concern. Conversely, only 2.87% disagreed, and 1.57% strongly disagreed with this position. A small proportion of respondents (9.68%) remained neutral on the issue. While there was a moderate level of variation in responses, with a standard deviation of 1.27, the overall consensus was clear: inadequate funding and resources are critical issues that require attention and support.

In a key informant interview with one humanitarian worker, who explained that one major area is the lack of adequate finance, and many people here are volunteers just like me, that i was in academia before, but I need field experience (KII 04).

Table 3 shows a varied response to accessibility constraints and safety concerns, with 16.49% respondents strongly agreeing and 18.06% agreed, while (1.83%) remaining neutral. Also, 8.11% respondents disagreed, and 55.49% strongly disagreed. The mean score was 2.32, indicating a slightly negative leaning, while the high standard deviation of 1.64 revealed a wide range of opinions. Overall, the results indicate no strong consensus among respondents. This suggests that accessibility constraints and safety concerns are contentious issues, with respondents holding diverse views. At the time of this fieldwork, it was advised not to visit Logo IDP camps while the official letter granting permission to access the IDP camps in Benue was limited to Makurdi and Guma LGAs, probably because of security issues.

An interview with a security officer who explained that there are areas you might not be able to access unless you have an escort. On Naka Road leading to Kogi, the security checkpoint there normally provides escort for government officials who ignorantly travel through the place without escort (KII 08).

Table 3 shows that language barriers and cultural differences elicited a striking divide in responses. A significant proportion of respondents 36.91% strongly disagreed, and 20.68 % disagreed that language barriers and cultural differences are a major concern, suggesting that many individuals do not perceive these differences as a significant obstacle. In contrast, 13.87% of respondents strongly agreed that language barriers and cultural differences are a major issue, 15.18% agreed, and 13.35% were neutral, indicating that a substantial minority of respondents are deeply concerned about the impact of these differences. The overall mean score was 2.48, suggesting that respondents tend to disagree that language barriers and cultural differences are a major

concern. However, the standard deviation of 1.46 revealed a high level of variation in responses, indicating that opinions on this issue are sharply polarised.

All the focus group discussions (FGD A-G) testified to the fact that language and culture are never barriers; we are all Tivs except an insignificant number of non-indigenes among us, and we can also communicate in pidgin English even if the majority do not have formal education or do not further their studies.

Table 3 above indicates that 36.91% strongly agreed and 23.29% respondents agreed respectively with the statement that non-collaboration and coordination among stakeholders is an issue, suggesting a significant proportion of respondents have experienced or witnessed a lack of collaboration and coordination, while 19.3% were neutral, suggesting they may not have a strong opinion about the issue. In contrast, 11.78% disagreed and 8.63% strongly disagreed with the statement, indicating that a smaller proportion of respondents do not perceive non-collaboration and coordination as significant issues. The mean response score of 3.68 indicates that respondents tend to agree that non-collaboration and coordination among stakeholders are issues. The standard deviation of 1.31 suggests a moderate level of variation in responses, indicating that opinions on the issue are not uniformly distributed.

The SEMA manager of one of the camps opined that it will be very good if all the stakeholders work together to create the necessary synergy to achieve the main goal of intervention with the IDPs, because what I have seen so far is that individual stakeholders try making efforts to bring succour to them, but things can be planned centrally (KII 03).

The responses from Table 3 indicate that 55.75% agreed and 12.04% strongly agreed that regulatory and administrative obstacles are a significant issue. Additionally, 16.49% were neutral, suggesting they may not have a strong opinion about the issue. In contrast, 7.59% disagreed and 8.11% strongly disagreed, indicating that a smaller proportion of respondents perceive regulatory and administrative obstacles as a significant issue. The mean response score of 3.56 indicates that respondents tend to agree that regulatory and administrative obstacles are a significant issue. Furthermore, the standard deviation of 1.06 suggests a relatively low level of variation in responses, indicating that opinions on the issue are fairly consistent. Based on the analysis, it can be concluded that regulatory and administrative obstacles are a significant issue.

One of the SEMA managers opined that things should be done properly because IDP issues are sensitive. For instance, I would not have attended to you if not for the official letter that permits you to access the camp (KII 02).

Table 3 indicates that 73.56% agreed that the lack of capacity and shortage of experts is a significant issue, while 11.25% 1strongly agreed, highlighting a strong perception of this challenge. Additionally, 3.40% were neutral, suggesting they may not have a strong opinion about the issue. In contrast, 4.18% disagreed and 7.59% strongly disagreed, indicating that a smaller proportion of respondents do not perceive a lack of capacity and a shortage of experts as significant issues. The mean response score of 4.39 indicates that respondents strongly agree that the lack of capacity and shortage of experts are significant issues. Furthermore, the standard deviation of 1.21 suggests a relatively low level of variation in responses, indicating that opinions on the issue are fairly consistent. The consistency in opinions suggests that respondents have fairly uniform perceptions of the challenge posed by a lack of capacity and shortage of experts. The chairman of one of the IDP camps lamented that there are no experts on the ground to help us, ranging from medical personnel to educators. Doctors Without Borders have finished their tenure with us, and they have left our camp, so any health emergency here will take God's grace for the victim to survive (IDI 04)

The responses in Table 3 indicate that 69.89% agreed that sustainability issues and long-term goals are a significant consideration, while 22.25% strongly agreed, highlighting a strong emphasis on sustainability and long-term thinking. Additionally, 2.09% were neutral, suggesting they may not have a strong opinion on the issue. In contrast, 1.30% disagreed, and 4.45% strongly disagreed, indicating a small proportion of respondents do not prioritise sustainability issues and long-term goals. The mean response score of 4.52 indicates that respondents tend to strongly agree that sustainability issues and long-term goals are significant considerations. Furthermore, the standard deviation of 0.95 suggests a relatively low level of variation in responses, indicating that opinions on the issue are fairly consistent. A humanitarian worker and researcher narrated that keeping people in camps like this and feeding them is not sustainable. They have been here for the past seven to eight years; the government should have proposed long-term goals to bring lasting solutions and not a child's play approach. If the issues linger on like this no hope (KII 04)

The responses in Table 3 indicate that 65.70% agreed that IDP population explosion and inaccurate data of actual IDPs are significant challenges, while 20.15% strongly agreed, highlighting a strong concern about the rapid growth of IDP populations and

the accuracy of related data. Additionally, 9.94% were neutral, suggesting they may not have a strong opinion about the issue. In contrast, 2.35% disagreed and 1.83% strongly disagreed, indicating that a small proportion of respondents do not consider the IDP population explosion and inaccurate data on actual IDPs to be significant challenges. The mean response score of 4.46 indicates that respondents tend to strongly agree that the IDP population explosion and inaccurate data on actual IDPs are significant challenges. Furthermore, the standard deviation of 0.90 suggests a relatively low level of variation in responses, indicating that opinions on the issue are fairly consistent. A member of the host communities and a senior civil servant opined that we don't even know the sincerity of this IDP thing again. Is like some people are using it for business. When visitors come around to distribute relief items to the IDPs, you will see many people claiming to be IDPs so that they can get their share (KII 06).

Table 3 shows that 29.06% agreed and another 54.71% strongly agreed that corruption, conspiracy, and the "Nigeria factor" are significant issues. This suggests an overwhelming consensus among respondents that corruption is a major challenge. Only 7.59% were neutral, while 3.40% disagreed and 5.23% strongly disagreed. The mean response score of 4.25 indicates that respondents strongly agree that corruption, conspiracy, and the "Nigeria factor" are significant issues. The standard deviation of 1.08 suggests a relatively low level of variation in responses. This highlights the need for effective anti-corruption measures and institutional reforms. In one of the key informant interviews, a businessman who stated that just wandering in a country with a government and some citizens will be driven out of their communities for the past eight years. I even learnt that the assailants occupy some of the communities the IDP forcefully migrated from, and the government can not go after them. Something must be wrong somewhere. And so many other stories like diversion of relief materials, IDP been used to get money from donor agency so if you implement a lasting solution, it will mark a close of business for some persons (KII 07).

DISCUSSION

The study found that interventions in the IDP camps largely reflect a humanitarian model centred on temporary relief provisions such as food distribution, makeshift shelter, and skeletal health services. Ozcelik (2025) argues that humanitarian interventions are essential during emergencies for immediate relief; however, when displacement becomes prolonged, continued reliance on such measures can undermine the dignity and well-being of displaced persons. This situation also limits the broader objectives of the human security framework, which emphasises economic

sustainability and psychosocial well-being (Hadgu et al., 2025). The relief-oriented support observed in this study highlights a significant gap in economic empowerment initiatives, particularly employment opportunities and vocational skill acquisition, that could enable displaced persons to achieve livelihood independence and social reintegration (Ozcelik, 2025).

While the study suggests that responses to internal displacement in Benue State remain largely humanitarian, the findings presented in Table 2 reveal elements consistent with the human security framework. For instance, relatively high mean scores for the protection of fundamental human rights (4.05) and programmes addressing the root causes of displacement and promoting peacebuilding (4.05) suggest that certain interventions extend beyond emergency relief. However, the relatively high rating for human rights protection may reflect respondents' subjective perceptions of safety and assistance rather than a comprehensive understanding of broader legal standards. In prolonged displacement contexts, beneficiaries may evaluate rights protection based on the availability of basic relief services and relative security compared to previous living conditions, highlighting a common limitation in perception-based survey research.

According to the human security perspective advanced by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 1994), human security involves not only the provision of immediate humanitarian assistance but also the protection of human rights, conflict prevention, and promotion of sustainable livelihoods. The evidence from this study indicates that these broader interventions remain limited, sporadic, and insufficiently institutionalised. Respondents and key informants acknowledged peacebuilding and rights-based initiatives, yet specific programme details were unavailable or could not be disclosed because of their sensitivity. Furthermore, the low mean score for provision of jobs and social safety nets (2.36) signals a critical gap in long-term livelihood support, an essential component of human security. Consequently, although aspects of human security interventions are emerging, the overall response remains predominantly humanitarian, focused on immediate survival needs rather than on comprehensive strategies for long-term security and resilience.

Integrating Human Needs Theory, social conflicts persist when fundamental human needs such as identity, recognition, participation, and development remain unmet (Burton, 1997). Interpreting the findings through this lens highlights structural limitations of the current response framework: while humanitarian interventions satisfy immediate survival needs, higher-order needs related to dignity, economic

participation, and decision-making remain largely unaddressed. The persistence of these unmet needs reinforces vulnerability and dependency among displaced populations, suggesting that sustainable displacement governance requires a transition from short-term humanitarian relief to interventions that more comprehensively address the broader spectrum of human security needs (Earle et al., 2025; Babister, 2020).

Despite the Nigerian National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons outlining durable solutions and rights-based protections, the findings reveal a significant gap between policy and practice. Weak inter-agency coordination, funding constraints, and inadequate integration of development planning within displacement governance undermine effective implementation (Hadgu et al., 2025; Ozcelik, 2025). The absence of coordinated planning among stakeholders reinforces fragmentation, echoing broader governance deficits in displacement management (Brown et al., 2024). Overall, displacement governance in the study area remains relief-centric rather than transformative. Reorientation toward an approach grounded in the human security framework and Human Needs Theory is essential to transition from short-term humanitarian assistance to sustainable, dignity-based displacement management (Brown et al., 2024; Babister, 2020).

CONCLUSION

This study examined stakeholders and the nature of their human security interventions in Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camps in the Guma and Makurdi LGAs of Benue State, Nigeria. The challenges encountered by stakeholders were also evaluated. It was discovered that the government, international organisations, non-government organisations, and religious bodies are part of the stakeholders rendering support to the IDP. Challenges faced by stakeholders were IDP explosion, inaccurate data and non-central planning. The nature of the intervention was food, makeshift shelters, and minimal health services, which may not be sustainable because there is no employment or job opportunity or safe net for IDPs or adequate training in hard skills. Saliently, the IDPs in this study have been displaced for more than eight years; therefore, it is no longer a matter of humanitarian intervention but of human security intervention, which focuses on the security and development of the individual, thereby restoring and protecting their dignity as humans.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The government should establish a centralised machinery that involves all stakeholders to encourage collaboration and a united effort in responding to the human security needs of the IDP.
2. There should be strict compliance with working with scientific data or verifiable information about IDPs to promote accountability and transparency, which will ensure that corruption is checked and integrity is ensured.
3. The community should be carried along in the affairs of the IDP as important stakeholders, so that the community challenges will be solved, and they will be willing to support human security initiatives for the IDP.
4. All stakeholders should focus on a long-term solution for the IDP, where humanitarian intervention goes hand in hand with developmental programmes, which align with the essence of human security.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflict of interest.

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