Peace Studies and Practice
Journal of the Society of Peace Studies and Practice

2024 Edition, Vol. 13, No. 3
Pp 41 - 56

Community Engagement and the Plight of IDPs in Sokoto City

Shehu Hashimu,
Department of General Studies
Umaru Ali Shinkafi Polytechnic Sokoto
shehuhashimu67@gmail.com

Aliyu Balarabe
Department of General Studies
Umaru Ali Shinkafi Polytechnic Sokoto
aliyubalarabe78@gmail.com

&
Theresa Omang Okoli
Department of Peace Studies and Conflict Resolutions
National Open University of Nigeria Abuja
tokoli@noun.edu.ng

Abstract
The predicament of internally displaced people (IDPs) in northwest Nigeria is grave and requires prompt attention from academics, aid agencies, and decision-makers. This study looks into the community involvement and related difficulties that internally displaced people (IDPs) in the city of Sokoto face. The research outlines the complex relationship between host communities and displaced populations. It examines the sociocultural, political, and economic factors affecting how communities react to the presence of internally displaced people (IDPs), illuminating both cooperative efforts and conflicts. Additionally, the research looks at the barriers to successful community involvement, such as institutional gaps, intergroup dynamics, and resource limitations. Through the identification of these obstacles, the paper provides valuable perspectives on possible approaches to improve community resilience and promote social cohesion. A mixed-methods approach is used in this study, combining qualitative and quantitative research techniques. By utilizing both empirical data and theoretical frameworks, this study adds to the conversation about humanitarian aid and conflict resolution by providing useful suggestions for decision-makers, practitioners, and other interested parties who are working to address the multifaceted requirements of internally displaced people in Sokoto and other comparable settings.

Keywords: Community Engagement, Challenges, Internally Displace Persons, Sokoto

Introduction

The State of Bandit in Sokoto

The state of banditry in Sokoto State, located in North-West Nigeria, has escalated into a severe humanitarian crisis marked by pervasive violence, insecurity, and displacement. Farmers and pastoralists clash as a result of the conflict, which is mainly about control over natural resources. Attacks on villages, thefts of livestock, and highway robberies are examples

of banditry incidents that cause widespread fear and force large-scale migrations in search of safety. Communities that depend on pastoralism and agriculture face significant socioeconomic challenges. Food insecurity and poverty are made worse by bandits who prey on farmers and herders, stealing livestock, destroying crops, and demanding ransom. Although, there have been continuous military operations to combat Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs), the security situation has not improved significantly. Abductions and fatalities occur frequently as a result of incidents such as targeted attacks and illegal checkpoints along major routes. There has been a great deal of violence in recent months, including vicious attacks and extensive looting that forced many people to flee to internment camps.

Community engagement is identified as a critical approach to addressing the issues faced by internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Sokoto Metropolis. Families are forced into urban areas like Sokoto, where they face particular difficulties, as a result of conflict, sociopolitical unrest, and economic hardships. In order to develop customized solutions and advance socioeconomic integration, effective community engagement involves stakeholders such as government agencies, NGOs, local communities, and the internally displaced people themselves. This crisis necessitates all-encompassing strategies to lessen the effects on internally displaced people, promote social cohesiveness, and treat psychological trauma with psychosocial support. In order to guarantee that the voices of internally displaced people are heard in all decision-making processes that impact their lives, research endeavors seek to offer insights into cultivating cooperation, empathy, and mutual support among stakeholders. Ultimately, it will take consistent efforts across several sectors, motivated by humanitarian ideals and a dedication to human rights, to address the underlying causes of banditry and displacement in Sokoto State.

Research Questions

1. To assess the current living conditions and main challenges faced by IDPs in Sokoto.
2. What is the awareness of Community Engagement Initiatives on IDPs in Sokoto city
3. What is level of participation in community activities
4. To provide recommendations for enhancing community engagement strategies for better support of IDPs.

CONCEPT ANALYSIS

The Perspective of Community

According to Community Engagement (CDC, 1997), "who is included and who is excluded from membership" defines the concept of community, which is characterized by circumstances. A community can also be described as "a group of people united by at least one common characteristic such as geography, shared interests, values, experiences, or traditions" in other definitions. The CDC (1997) defines community as "a relationship, a place, an institution, or a sense of belonging." Certain academics hold differing opinions, particularly when it comes to the notion of community. Some communities like neighborhoods, for example, are essentially defined by their physical location. (Capece & Costa, 2013). Individuals who have similar values, beliefs, and worldviews to us make up communities. (Bettez, 2013). Community was defined by a small group of friends…" (Ibrahim, 2009). According to Wilkinson (1991), the field of interaction should take precedence when defining a community. (Julius, 2005). The critical aspect of all these conceptualizations centered to group of people who virtue of their common interest, purpose aimed at consolidation of resilient in the communities at large.

Conceptualization of Engagement

Sometimes it is hard to define and particularly

hard to quantify what is meant by "community engagement" Engaged individuals comprehend the initiative's goal, take on a sense of responsibility, pledge to see the project through to completion, and strive for its success (CDC,1997). The term "community engagement" describes how people actively participate, engage, and work together in the community on a variety of issues, decisions, and initiatives that have an impact on their lives and the community at large. It includes a variety of initiatives meant to promote deep communication, collaboration, and teamwork amongst individuals, groups, and establishments in the community. Engaging the community effectively means making sure that a variety of voices-including those of marginalized groups-are heard and represented in order to advance social justice and equity. Additionally, it entails giving community members the knowledge, tools, and abilities they need to actively participate in decision-making and take charge of initiatives and projects.

Perspectives on Community Engagement

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released its first edition of Principles, which provided a working definition for the conceptualization of community engagement. Community engagement, according to the organization, is:

> Collaborating with and through groups of people connected by geography, shared interests, or comparable circumstances in order to address issues impacting those people's well-being It is an effective means of enacting behavioral and environmental changes that will enhance the general well-being of the populace. Partnerships and coalitions are frequently involved, as they aid in the mobilization of resources, exert influence over systems, modify relationships between partners, and act as catalysts for the modification of policies, programs, and practices (CDC, 1997).

The CDC states that through long-term partnerships, community engagement seeks to build trust, find new allies and resources, improve communication, and eventually improve health outcomes (CDC, 2011). Born (2012) provides a more recent definition of community engagement as learning to envision and realize bold futures together through collaborative action. Empirical research has similarly demonstrated that communities are socially transformable and naturally adept at solving problems. The process emphasizes the importance of engagement, as stated by Endurance (2023), which includes leadership development, creative problem-solving, cooperation, and innovative organizing models. Partnerships devoted to inclusion, impact, and innovation in problem-solving are sought after (Linden, 2002).

Displacement in Perspective

Displacement can take many different forms, including upheaval brought on by natural disasters, development initiatives, conservation efforts, resettlement plans, violence, and conflicts. Instead of voluntary migration motivated by economic, political, cultural, or environmental factors, it leads to people being forced to leave their homes-a phenomenon known as forced migration. As a result of forced or involuntary movement, displacement is widely understood. Determining this distinction in particular cases, however, can be difficult because it frequently involves mixed flows of people or groups that may fall into one or both categories at different points in time. The definition of migration adopted by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is broad and encompasses both involuntary and voluntary movements, with a focus on individuals who have crossed international borders. Displacement typically entails being physically removed from one's dwelling and

the expropriation of productive land and assets to facilitate alternative uses. Cernea (2000) suggests that displacement may commence prior to physical eviction, through measures such as halting construction, entrepreneurial investment, or public infrastructure projects. This can result in economic hardship for households before their actual displacement, eventually leading to impoverishment. It extends to individuals and communities who involuntarily relocate, leaving behind their homes, social networks, employment, social capital, and emotional ties to their place of origin (Cristina,2017; Marilyn,2015)

Conceptual Aspect of Internally Displace Person (IDPs)

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) lack a universally binding definition, leading to ambiguity in identifying and addressing their needs. The context of IDPs definition is commonly used within the international community as provided by UN. The representative of the United Nations secretary-general on internally displaced persons for the UN's Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (hereinafter "the Guiding Principles"). This definition is broadly comprising

> "…persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border." (Philippe, 1998)

In the contemporary, Internally Displaced People (IDPs) are amongst the most vulnerable groups of persons as there is no universal, legally binding instrument that specifically addresses their plight. This is irrespective of the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement of 1998, which remains as the only universally accepted international framework for the protection of IDPs. This is complemented by other regional instruments such as the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa of 2009 (Kampala Convention), which entered into force on 6 December 2012, as the first-ever legally-binding regional instrument for the protection and assistance of IDPs (Kennedy,2019). Accordingly, IDPs are partly protected by a gamut of laws including international humanitarian law, refugee law, international human rights law, and of course, the national law of the State concerned. There exists what can be called a "protection gap" that exists not only because of the sensitivity of the subject within the country concerned, but also various gaps within the international framework. Resultantly, the international law has not succeeded in effectively preventing internal displacement (Kennedy,2019; Cristina, 2017; Marilyn, 2015; ICRC, 2006).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Community Engagement and the IDPs in View

The growing corpus of literature on internally displaced persons (IDPs) and community engagements highlights the significance of comprehending the intricate socio-cultural, political, and economic components inherent in displacement crises. Efficient community engagement has become crucial to addressing the diverse needs of internally displaced individuals and fostering social harmony in receiving communities. The literature emphasizes several key points, one of which is the sociocultural background of displacement. The dynamics of interactions and engagements between IDPs and host communities are greatly influenced by cultural norms, values, and traditions. The perspective of these socio-cultural dynamics is crucial for promoting acceptance, trust, and mutual understanding among diverse groups.

The difficulties and significance of involving internally displaced people (IDPs) in Nigerian electoral processes are covered by Ibeanu (2015). Even though the initial efforts were limited in scope and raised concerns about potential abuse, it was imperative to take action to prevent disenfranchisement. This was especially true in Borno State, where a significant number of internally displaced people could have been denied the right to vote. In subsequent elections, the emphasis should be on increasing inclusivity for internally displaced people and other marginalized groups. Isah (2015) studied the problems with reproductive health that internally displaced women in Abuja, Nigeria, faced. The study, which was carried out in the Newkuchigoro IDPs camp, used primary data gathered from women between the ages of 15 and 49 through questionnaires. It brought attention to how easier it should be for IDP camps and surrounding areas to access reproductive health care services. After post-election violence, Sheikh (2015) investigated depression among internally displaced people in Kaduna, Nigeria. The Researchers discovered through systematic random sampling that there was probable and definite depression among IDPs, especially those living in the Hajj camp. Depression among internally displaced people (IDPs) has been found to be predicted by variables like gender, experience of violence, and unemployment. The findings emphasize how critical it is to attend to the mental health needs of displaced people.

Two noteworthy events in Lagos that year were covered by Bamgbose (2009) the bombing at Ikeja Cantonment and the ethnic conflict in Idi-Araba, Mushin, which resulted in many displaced people and demanded government intervention. Using data from interventions given to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nigeria, Enwereji (2009) study from that same year identified service gaps, especially in areas like HIV/AIDS prevention care. The problems and coping mechanisms of internally displaced adolescents in Jos were examined by Durosaro and Ajiboye (2011), who discovered that emotional and educational problems were common, and that repression was a common coping strategy. For displaced adolescents, they recommended trauma counseling and alternative educational activities. Ogwo (2013) investigated gender differences in aggression among male and female internally displaced children in Nasarawa State, but found no statistically significant differences. This emphasizes the danger that armed conflict and displacement pose to children's wellbeing. Oduwole and Fadeyi (2013) assessed the situation of internally displaced people in Nigeria, exposing government indifference and emphasizing the danger to development objectives and national unity. They stressed the necessity of enacting sensible legislation to handle the intricate problem of internal displacement and protect the rights and welfare of those who are impacted.

As a result, certain academic works focused on the political aspects of displacement, such as policy frameworks, power relationships, and governance structures. Institutional weaknesses and insufficient governance frameworks obstruct productive community involvement and intensify pre-existing vulnerabilities among internally displaced people. For example, research by Kibreab (2015) highlights the value of participatory decision-making processes and inclusive governance in fostering social cohesion and resilience in settings of displacement. Even though community engagements are acknowledged to be important, there are a number of obstacles that prevent them from working as intended. Implementing community-based interventions is significantly hampered by resource constraints, such as a lack of funding, infrastructure, and human capital (UNHCR, 2020). The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (2018) notes in their report that institutional gaps in humanitarian assistance

programs pose a critical challenge. These gaps include inadequate capacity, lack of accountability, and coordination issues that impede efforts to effectively address the needs of internally displaced people (IDPs) (IFRC, 2018; World Bank, 2020).

Hovil (2016) looks at how communities around the world have responded to displacement in his academic discourse. The work sheds light on the intricacies of these community engagements and how they affect both host communities and internally displaced people. In her investigation of the idea of cultural trauma in the context of displacement, De Haene (2018) emphasizes the significance of comprehending the sociocultural aspects of suffering and adaptability in displaced populations. From a different angle, Dolan (2010) explores how vulnerable pastoralist communities are to displacement brought on by climate change in the Sahel, illuminating the connections between livelihood dynamics, the environment, and community resilience. O'Keefe (1976) provided a clear explanation of the difficulties posed by natural disasters and emphasized the influence of social, economic, and political factors in determining the resilience and vulnerability of impacted communities. Academic contributions have advanced the understanding of the causes of the problems faced by internally displaced people around the world. The African Union in particular is one of the regional organizations that Rua, M. (2017) looks at in relation to Africa's displacement crises. It assesses the value of regional cooperation and group action in advancing long-term solutions for internally displaced people as well.

The State of Banditry and the Caused of IDPs in Northwestern Nigeria

According to Rosenji and Adeniyi (2021) the term "banditry" refers to violent crimes such as kidnapping, cattle rustling, raids on highways and villages, and other violent crimes in which the victims are coerced into using force in order to be killed, kidnapped, raped, or robbed. Abdullahi and Mukhtar's (2022) studied the "Armed Banditry as a Security Challenge in Northwestern Nigeria". It shades more that the repercussions of armed banditry in the region, particularly on destruction on economic activities, causing element of poverty coupled with unemployment and collapse of local cottage, as well as educational development. The resulting trauma and stress disrupt teaching processes, further exacerbating the situation (Nwosu,2019).

Over the years, Nigeria has grappled with the crisis of banditry, resulting in internal displacement and the establishment of internally displaced persons' camps (IDPCs) across the country. This crisis has particularly affected regions such as Zamfara, Kaduna, Sokoto, Kebbi, and Katsina States in the Northwest, as well as Benue, Niger, Nasarawa, and Plateau States in the North Central. In addition to displacement, the crisis has severely disrupted agricultural activities, livelihoods, and food security, intensifying competition among host communities and IDPs for scarce resources such as water, land, and food. This situation has also heightened fear and insecurity among the populace. The displacement has raised protection concerns, especially for vulnerable groups like women, children, and the elderly. Priority needs in affected areas include security, healthcare, and access to food, water, and sanitation services (Rosenje and Adeniyi, 2021). Women and children bear the brunt of this crisis, with many women forced into the role of breadwinners and family heads traditionally held by men, leading to shifts in social roles. The loss of breadwinners due to killings has left numerous children orphaned and unaccompanied in displacement camps (Rosenje and Adeniyi, 2021). The banditry crisis, which originated as a conflict between farmers and herders in 2011, has escalated since 2017 to include cattle rustling, kidnapping for ransom, sexual violence, and killings (Mac-Leva, 2021).

Environmental changes, water scarcity, and competition for arable land have fueled conflicts among communities. Factors such as widespread poverty, unemployment, and weak local governance have contributed to a steady influx of individuals resorting to criminal activities for survival. Moreover, vast forested areas provide cover for bandits, allowing them to establish camps deep within inaccessible regions, beyond the reach of law enforcement agencies lacking adequate resources (American Security Project, 2021).

Governmental Action

Whole communities are frequently uprooted as a result of the threat of violence, with people fleeing their homes and means of subsistence to avoid the threat posed by armed groups. As a result of the escalation of tensions into intercommunal violence, banditry, and criminal activity, 56,600 people have been displaced within the state and 80,900 have crossed into Niger; 71% of these people are officially registered. Between July and the end of September2021, 32 incidents were reported, and 109 people died in Sokoto, indicating that the security situation there has only gotten worse. In September 2021, the State government passed the Security Challenges (Containment) Order No. 3 of 2021 in order to address these issues. This order includes things like curfews, prohibitions on certain items in local markets, and restrictions on movement. Furthermore, in response to an increase in attacks that they blamed on continuing military operations in neighboring Zamfara State, the State government took the unprecedented action of cutting off communications networks in 14 of the 23 Local Government Areas (LGAs).

The proactive suspension of telecom services throughout the central zone of Sokoto has worsened the situation rather than produced any noticeable results. This was a result of the Bandit is continued daily attacks. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) established a presence in the local government areas of Sokoto Municipality, Rabah, Isa, Sabon-Birni, and Goronyo in response to these crises. Furthermore, protection monitoring has been implemented by the Grassroot Initiative for Strengthening Community Resilience (GISCOR), which covers the LGAs of Isa and Sabon Birni remotely. However, since September 20th, 2021, GISCOR has not been able to reach monitors in the LGAs of Isa and Sabon Birni due to the telecommunication network outage and road closures (UNHCR, 2021). In addition, the state government of today has formed a state vigilante group with the goal of eliminating the threat posed by banditry in those regions. Some long-standing traditional leaders who had collaborated with the bandits were removed from office.

Theoretical Framework

This Study Applies Conflict Theory to Internally Displaced People (IDPS).

Conflict and violence, which are essential components of conflict theory, frequently lead to internal displacement. The power dynamics, competition for resources, and sociopolitical tensions that cause internal displacement are all examined by this theory. Understanding the role of state and non-state actors in sustaining or mitigating displacement, as well as how internal displacement is used as a tactic in conflicts (e.g., ethnic cleansing, political oppression) (Muggah, 2000; Kalyvas, 2006). The theory of conflict is especially strong and versatile. This decision is supported by the frequency of displacement brought on by conflict as well as the thorough understanding of the socio-political dynamics that both cause and result from internal displacement that conflict theory offers. According to conflict theory, power struggles between various groups, such as political, religious, or ethnic factions, frequently lead to internal displacement. Conflict and violence resulting from these struggles may force people to leave

their homes in order to protect themselves. This is the story of how kidnapping and banditry forced people to relocate from rural areas to the city of Sokoto in search of safety and security. Conflicts that result in population displacement can also be caused by competition for resources like minerals, water, and land. A typical example is the conflict between herders and farmers in some villages, and the rural residents in the villages surrounding Sabon-Birni, Isa, and Rabah. As a result of the intense fighting that claimed hundreds of lives and destroyed hundreds of properties, the women and children fled to the city of Sokoto in search of safety and protection. To obtain control over these resources, powerful groups may forcibly remove weaker groups (Marx, 1848; Muggah, 2000). Thus, displacement exacerbates social inequality, as explained by the Conflict theory. The reality that groups who have been displaced frequently experience marginalization in host communities, discrimination, and restricted access to resources. This is a fact, as evidenced by the numerous IDP camps in the Sokoto metropolis' Guiwa Low-Cost, Gidan Man-Ada, Arkilla area, and Mabera Jelani area, where people were living in extreme poverty, filthy conditions, and severe malnourishment among young children. The socioeconomic situation and a lack of political support from other stakeholders may be the cause of the community's failure to take the necessary steps to improve the standard of living for those internally displaced people. Certain IDPs were unable to be forced to flee for security reasons.

Additionally, the theory looks at how displacement modifies power relations. While host communities or new groups may benefit from the IDPs' loss, the IDPs may lose their economic and political clout. This is true in the sense that the bandits gained control over the communities by making them pay taxes before being permitted to engage in agriculture, and similarly, before the harvest season, every farmer was required to pay taxes (Weber, 1922). Ideally, using conflict theory to inform policy development can help safeguard IDPs and promote their rights. Formulating interventions that address these underlying issues can be made easier by having a better understanding of the root causes of displacement (Deng, 1999). Approaches to conflict resolution and peacebuilding, which are essential for preventing displacement and facilitating the safe return or resettlement of internally displaced people, are informed by conflict theory. In order to better understand the structural and socio-political causes of displacement, Conflict Theory has been applied to the research and assistance of internally displaced people. This theoretical framework not only aids in the explanation of why displacement happens, but it also directs the creation of all-encompassing interventions that attend to pressing concerns as well as underlying ones, with the ultimate goal of averting further displacement and advancing long-term peace and stability.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

A mixed-methods approach is used in this study, combining qualitative and quantitative research techniques to analyze “Community Engagement and the Plight of IDPs” Sokoto City in Perspective. According to Creswell and Plano Clark (2011), a mixed-methods research design is a research design that has its own philosophical assumptions and methods of inquiry. A mixed-methods design offers a number of benefits to approaching complex research issues as it integrates philosophical frameworks of both post-positivism and interpretivism (Fetters, 2016) interweaving qualitative and quantitative data in such a way that research issues are meaningfully explained (Maxwell, 2016). In other words, the use of mixed-methods enables researchers to answer research questions with sufficient depth and breadth (Enosh, Tzafrir, & Stolovy, 2014) and helps generalise findings and implications of the researched issues to the whole population.

DATA COLLECTION

Qualitative Approaches

Interviews: Key stakeholders, such as internally displaced people (IDPs), community leaders, government officials, and repre sentatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), participated in semi-structured interviews. The purpose of these interviews was to obtain comprehensive understanding of IDPs' experiences and the efficiency of community engagement tactics.

Focus Groups: To better understand the perspectives, difficulties, and recommendation for enhancing community involvement and support for internally displaced people, focus groups with 4 IDPs and four members of host communities were conducted.

Non-Participant Observation: In order to better understand the dynamics and efficacy of these initiatives, observations of community engagement activities and interactions between IDPs and host communities were made in Guiwa and Mabera camps as well.

Quantitative Methods

Surveys: A representative sample of both host community members and IDPs received structured questionnaires. The purpose of the surveys was to gather information on living situations, community engagement initiatives, access to services, and demographics.

Secondary Data Analysis: Secondary data analysis involves using existing data collected by others, offering a cost-effective way to research without new data collection. Common sources include government reports, academic studies, organizational records, and historical archives.

DATA ANALYSIS

Qualitative Analysis

Thematic Analysis: Thematic analysis was used to transcribe and examine the qualitative information from focus groups, interviews, and observations. Important motifs and trends about the difficulties IDPs encounter, the value of community involvement, and the efficacy of non-kinetic methods were found.

Coding: To systematically classify and arrange the data, invivo and other qualitative data analysis software were used to code the data. Important insights and recurrent themes were found during this process.

QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

Descriptive Statistics

Variables Analyzed

Living Circumstances: Variables like type of housing, access to basic amenities (e.g., water, electricity), and overall quality of living conditions.

Opinions on Community Engagement Initiatives: Variables include perceived effectiveness, satisfaction levels, and participation rates in these initiatives.

Demographic Traits: Age, gender, education level, occupation, income, and duration of displacement.

Descriptive Measures Used: Frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviations to summarize data distribution.

Inferential Statistics: To investigate relationships and differences between variables, such as the effect of community engagement on the well-being of IDPs, inferential statistical techniques, such as chi-square tests, t-tests, and regression analysis, were used.

T-test

Variables Used: Continuous Variables such as the well-being scores of internally displaced persons (IDPs) based on scales measuring psychological, physical, or social well-being.

Groups Compared: IDPs who participated in community initiatives vs. those who did not.

Purpose: To determine if there are significant differences in well-being between groups (e.g.,

participants and non-participants).

Regression Analysis

Dependent Variable: The well-being score (measured on a continuous scale).

Independent Variables: Factors such as participation in community engagement initiatives, duration of displacement, age, and gender.

Purpose: To explore the impact of various independent variables (predictors) on the well-being of IDPs, establishing the strength and nature of these relationships.

Survey Data for Quantitative Analysis

Descriptive and inferential statistical techniques were applied to the examination of the questionnaire data. In Sokoto Metropolis, 300 survey questionnaires were given to 100 members of the host community and 200 members of a representative sample of IDPs. Data on living circumstances, access to services, opinions of community engagement initiatives, and demographics were among the items gathered

Table: 1 Demographic Profile

RESPONDENTS	DISTRIBUTIO
IDPs	200
Community Membe	100

IDPs: 200 were respondents while host Community Members 100 were the respondents

Table: 2 Gender Distribution

GENDER	DISTRIBUTIO
Male	40%
Female	60%

A total of 40% respondents were Male and 60% were Female

Table: 3 Age Distribution

AGE	DISTRIBUTIO
18 years	30%
19-35 years	50%
36-60 years	15%
60 years	5%

The majority of the respondents were under 18-35: 50%, another 30% of the respondents were 19 years, while 15% and 5% were under the categories of 36-60 as well as 60 years

Table: 4 Educational Level

EDUCATION	DISTRIBUTION
Formal Education	45%
Primary Education	40%
Secondary Educatior	10%
Tertiary Education	5%

Majority of the respondents were no formal education 45%, Primary education 40%, Secondary education: 10%, Tertiary education: 5%

Table: 5 Living Conditions

HOUSING CONDITION	RESPONDENTS
Permanent Housing	5%
Temporary Shelters	85%
Informal Settlements	10%

From the above table indicated that 5% were IDPs with permanent housing of their own, 85% revealed that majority of IDPs were living in temporary shelters erected either by NGO or individual at community level while 10% of IDPs were living in informal settlements around the Sokoto metropolis.

Table: 6 Access to Healthcare

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE	RESPONDENTS
Regular access	15%
Irregular access	35%
No access	50%

The above on the access to health care shows that 15% have regular access to healthcare, another 35% indicated that have no access to regular healthcare and 50% revealed that have no total access to healthcare facilities.

Table: 7 Food Security

FOOD SECURITY	RESPONDENTS
Sufficient food	20%
Insufficient food	55%
Food aid dependent	25%

The above table indicate that 55% believed to have live without insufficient food to survive, 25% reveals that they dependent on food aid and 20% shows sufficient food supply.

Table: 8 Access to Education

Access to Education	Respondents
Children attending school	10%
Children not attending school	90%

The table above shows 90% of the children do not attending school while 10% indicate attending school. Therefore, majority of the IDPs' children were roaming about on the streets begging.

Table 9: Awareness of Community Engagement Initiatives

Awareness of Community Engagement Initiatives	Respondents
Aware	35%
Unaware	65%

The table above indicate 35% have awareness of community engagement initiatives while 65% unaware of engagement.

Table:10 Level of Participation in Community Activities

Level of Participation in Community Activities	Respondents
Active participation	30%
Occasional participation	20%
No participation	50%

The table above reveals that 30% were active participant in community activities, 20% were occasional participant and 50% no participation.

Inferential Statistics

1. Chi-Square Test: Relationship between gender and awareness of community engagement initiatives: $\chi^2(1, N=300) = 6.89$, $p < 0.01$, indicating a significant relationship between gender and awareness.

2. T-Test: Difference in perceived impact of community engagement initiatives between IDPs and host community members. $t(298) = 2.45$, $p < 0.05$, showing a significant difference in perceived impact.

3. Regression Analysis: Predictors of positive perceptions of community engagement initiatives. Significant predictors: level of education ($\beta = 0.30$, $p < 0.01$), participation in community activities ($\beta = 0.45$, $p < 0.001$).

QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

Interviews and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)

The qualitative data from interviews and FGDs was analyzed using thematic analysis, which involved coding and identifying key themes and patterns related to the challenges faced by IDPs, and the effective role of community engagement.

KEY THEMES IN THE ANALYSIS

Challenges Faced by IDPs: Issues related to basic needs (e.g., shelter, food, water), mental health challenges, security concerns, and social isolation.

Role of Community Engagement: Participation levels in community activities, support from local organizations, and the social cohesion built through engagement.

RELATIONSHIP TO THE TITLE

These themes are central to understanding the overarching topic of how community engagement and the well-being and integration of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Sokoto city specifically such as:

i. Challenges Faced by IDPs: issues related to shelter, food, water which are directly relates to the context of the IDPs' current situation, which frames the need for interventions.

ii. Role of Community Engagement: providing support to the IDPs such as food, shelter which are essential for assessing the impact on their well-being.

KEY FINDINGS

Challenges that IDPS Faces

IDPs claimed to be residing in filthy, overcrowded shelters and unofficial settlements. *"We are cramped into tiny quarters with poor sanitary facilities and no privacy."* Many IDPs were perpetually hungry and dependent on sporadic food assistance. *We occasionally go days without eating a healthy meal. The food assistance we get is insufficient.* Some IDPs reported having trouble getting access to medical care, which resulted in illnesses going untreated. *"There is nowhere for me to take my sick child. It is too far to the closest clinic."*

Strategies for Community Engagement
Few received vocational education and training programs by the community. *"I was able to launch a small business thanks to the skills training I received. I can now provide for my family."* Tensions were lowered in part by programs that encouraged interaction between the host communities and the IDPs. *"We have improved our ability to understand and support one another through community dialogues."* Organizing resources for IDPs was greatly aided by local groups. *"The food, clothes, and other necessities our local NGO provides have been a lifeline."*

Institutional weaknesses and Insufficient Coordination
Officials from the government acknowledged that there are large gaps in the way that IDP-supporting policies are being implemented. One of the biggest obstacles was found to be the coordination of different stakeholders, such as local government, non-governmental organizations, and international organizations. IDPs and locals alike expressed dissatisfaction with the inadequate coordination and support. Many believed that aid was frequently given insufficiently and inconsistently. *"We occasionally get help, but it is not consistent or sufficient. Better preparation and coordination are required to make sure we receive the assistance we require*. Zanabu Isa is an IDP participant.

INTEGRATION OF RESULTS
The amalgamation of both qualitative and quantitative discoveries yields a thorough comprehension of the research inquiries. While the quantitative data gives generalizable insights into the larger population of IDPs in Sokoto Metropolis, the qualitative data supplements the quantitative results with context and nuance.

Demographic Information: The respondents' profile shows a varied population with particular needs, especially among women and children who make up a sizable share of internally displaced people.
Living Conditions: The critical need for efficient interventions is highlighted by the fact that both qualitative and quantitative data point to serious problems with housing, food security, and access to healthcare.
Community Engagement: According to the analysis, community engagement programs have improved the welfare of internally displaced people. Effective tactics include resource mobilization, social cohesion, and capacity building. Nevertheless, issues like scarce resources and administrative roadblocks still exist.

CONCLUSION
Community engagement play a very active role in supporting the well-being and integration of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Sokoto Metropolis. Community engagement makes use of local resources, promotes social cohesion, and strengthens the capacities of both host communities and internally displaced people to provide a sustainable solution. Stakeholders can build a more resilient and integrated society and, in the process, improve the living conditions and prospects of internally displaced people (IDPs) in Sokoto by enacting inclusive policies, sponsoring community initiatives, and speaking up for the rights of IDPs. The statistical and qualitative analyses emphasize the significance of focused interventions and point out areas that require more study and the formulation of policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS
The following actions are suggested by this study for policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders to collaborate on in order to tackle the intricate problems that IDPs and host communities in the Sokoto metropolis face.

1.Strengthen Community-Based Initiatives: Community-led projects that foster cooperation, solidarity, and reciprocal support between IDPs and host communities must be

encouraged and supported. To address common issues and promote social cohesion, a thorough forum for discussion, decision-making, and group problem-solving should also be offered.

2. Improve Access to Basic Services: Both IDPs and host communities must have better access to basic services like healthcare, education, water, and sanitation. To guarantee that everyone has fair access to services and that they are delivered in a timely manner, investments must be made in capacity-building initiatives, service delivery mechanisms, and infrastructure development.

3. Encourage Livelihood Opportunities: It is crucial to put in place livelihood support programs and economic empowerment initiatives that give host communities and internally displaced people sustainable means of making a living. A collaborative effort involving local businesses, cooperatives, and microfinance institutions is necessary to establish avenues for entrepreneurship, skill development, and job creation.

4. Offer Psychosocial Support: To address the trauma, stress, and psychosocial challenges faced by IDPs and host communities, it is necessary to establish psychosocial support services and mental health programs. To help those in need with counseling, therapy, and psychosocial support, the government and non-governmental organizations should step up their training of community health workers, counselors, and volunteers.

5. Address Institutional Gaps: To improve the efficacy of humanitarian assistance and service delivery, coordination mechanisms, institutional frameworks, and governance structures must be strengthened. In order to effectively address displacement and insecurity, government agencies, humanitarian organizations, and community stakeholders should collaborate more effectively and share information more freely.

6. Encourage Policy Reforms: Political representatives must be an advocate for legislative actions and policy changes that deal with the underlying issues that lead to conflict, insecurity, and displacement in Sokoto. Prioritizing inclusive and participatory strategies that entail the significant involvement of host communities, marginalized groups, and internally displaced people in the process of making decisions and developing policies is imperative.

7. Invest in Education and Awareness: To combat stereotypes, clear up misunderstandings, and encourage tolerance, understanding, and acceptance among diverse communities, it is necessary to support advocacy campaigns, education, and awareness campaigns. Through neighborhood-based projects, interfaith discussions, and cultural exchange programs, there should be a culture of peace, communication, and reconciliation.

8. Create Resilient Communities: Resilience-building programs should be implemented to increase communities' ability to adapt to shocks, strains, and emergencies and to bounce back from them. Investments in community-based disaster management strategies that enable communities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies, as well as in disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation, are imperative.

9. Encourage Cross-Sectoral Collaboration: partnerships, cooperation, and synergies between various sectors-human rights, development, peacekeeping, and humanitarian assistance-are necessary. To fully address the intricate issues of displacement and insecurity, gather resources, knowledge, and assistance from the public and private sectors as well as civil society and academia.

RESULTS AND IMPLICATIONS

Policy Development: By educating decision-makers about the unique requirements and difficulties faced by internally displaced people (IDPs) in Sokoto Metropolis, the findings will facilitate the development of more focused and efficient interventions. The significance of community involvement will also motivate the creation of laws that support inclusive and

collaborative methods of resolving IDP problems.

Community Empowerment: The study highlights the assistance that local communities provide to internally displaced people (IDPs), and it suggests that empowering these communities may improve the resiliency and integration of displaced people. IDPs may receive greater acceptance and support from community-driven projects because they may be more resilient and sensitive to cultural differences.

Allocating Resources: By determining the unique difficulties that internally displaced people (IDPs) face, it is possible to direct resources in a way that will best provide aid and support where it is most needed. When NGOs, governments, and international organizations know where their efforts are most needed, they can focus their efforts more effectively. Research indicates that social cohesion can be promoted and host-community tensions can be decreased through efficient community engagement.

CONTRIBUTION TO KNOWLEDGE

Context-Specific Insights: The study closes a gap in the literature by offering comprehensive, context-specific insights into the difficulties faced by IDPs in Sokoto Metropolis. Regional-specific data is frequently lacking in previous studies. It advances knowledge of the ways in which socioeconomic circumstances, cultural elements, and local dynamics affect the lives of internally displaced people in northern Nigeria.

Framework for Effective Community Engagement in Humanitarian Contexts: The research helps create a framework for community engagement that can be used or modified for other areas with comparable problems. It provides useful illustrations and tactics that have worked in Sokoto and can act as role models for other communities and policymakers.

Multidimensional Analysis: The study offers a thorough, multidimensional analysis that can guide future research and interventions by looking at the difficulties faced by IDPs as well as the importance of community engagement. In the area of community integration and displacement, it fills the knowledge gap between theory and practice.

REFERENCES

Abubakar, U. B. (2019). Banditry, violence, and rural underdevelopment in northwest Nigeria: The case of Sokoto state. Journal of African Union Studies, 8(2), 93-113.

Ahmad S. Abdullahi and Jamilu I. Mukhutar, (2022). Armed Banditry as a Security Challenge in Northwestern Nigeria, African Journal of Sociological and Psychological Studies (AJOSAPS), Volume 2, 1, June 2022.

Adamu, I. S., & Akanwa, M. A. (2021). Banditry and rural displacement in Sokoto state, Nigeria: A case study of Tangaza local government area. Journal of Peace, Conflict, and Development, 28, 91-106.

Bamgbose, A. (2009). Internally Displaced Persons: Case Studies of Nigeria's Bomb Blast and the Yoruba-Hausa Ethnic Conflict in Lagos, Nigeria. https://sites.tufts.edu/jha/archives/541

Bukar, M., & Umar, B. (2019). Environmental degradation and desertification in Nigeria: Causes, impacts and solutions. Environmental Development, 30, 34-40.

Cernea, M.M, (2000), Impoverishment Risks, Risk Management, and Reconstruction: A model of Population Displacement and Resettlement

Cristina C. M. (2017) Internally Displaced Persons: A Vulnerable Group in Need of Protection. Current and Future Developments in Law, 2017, Vol. 1, 316-333

Curott, N. A., & Fink, A. D. (2008). Bandit heroes: Social, mythical or rational. The American Journal of Economics and Sociology

De Haene, L., & Rousseau, (2018). From social suffering to cultural trauma: Ethnographic contributions to the study of human rights and displacement. American Anthropologist, 120(4), 741-744.

Delrosario, I.A., and Ajiboye, S.K. (2011).

Problems and Coping Strategies of Internally Displaced Adolescents in Jos Metropolis, Nigeria. International Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences, 1(20),256-262.

Endurance U. et al, (2023) Food and Health Security Challenges among Vulnerable Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria. The Nigerian Journal of Sociology and Anthropology. Pp 47-71

Emmanuel, O.O. (2018) Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria: Review of Empirical Studies. American International Journal of Social Science Research. Pp 28-38

Enwereji, E.E. (2009). Assessing Interventions Available to Internally Displaced Persons in Abia state, Nigeria. Libyan Journal of Medicine,1(1), 23-26.

Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development (FMHDS). (2020). Sokoto state vulnerability assessment report: Impact of banditry and displacement on communities. Abuja, Nigeria: FMHDS.

Hovil, L., & Ukiwo, U. (Eds.). (2016). Community responses to displacement: Context, process, sand outcomes. Berghahn Books.

Ibeanu, O. (2015).Between Refuge and Rights: Internally Displaced Persons and Inclusive Electoral Process in Nigeria. Lecture delivered at The Electoral Institute (TEI) Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Abuja, Nigeria, 15th December 2015

IFRC. (2018). World Disasters Report 2018: Leaving no one behind. Retrieved from https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/wp-content/ uploads /sites/5/2018/10/B_WDR-2018_EN.pdf

Imran Zeb, et al, (2012) National Strategy Paper Non-kinetic challenges to the state of Pakistan National Defence University, Islamabad)

Kalyvas, S. N. (2006). The Logic of Violence in Civil War. Cambridge University Press.

Kaura, M. U. (2018). The rise of banditry in northwest Nigeria: Causes and consequences for peace and development in Sokoto state. International Journal of Conflict and Violence, 12(1), 1-15.

Kibreab, G. (2015). Critical reflections on the Development-induced Displacement discourse. Development and Change, 46(3), 555-581.

Lehto, Martti; Henselmann, Gerhard (2020) Non-Kinetic Warfare : The New Game Changer in the Battle Space

Marilyn R. S. (2015) Community Engagement: Nine Principles. DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska – Lincoln. Marilyn Schlake, (402) 472-4138

Marx, K., & Engels, F. (1848). The Communist Manifesto. International Publishers.

Mshelia, H., & Yaro, A. S. (2020). Banditry and rural livelihoods in northwest Nigeria: Evidence from Sokoto state. African Security Review, 29(3), 278-290.

Muggah, R. (2000). "Through the Developmentalist's Looking Glass: Conflict-Induced Displacement and Involuntary Resettlement in Colombia." Journal of Refugee Studies, 13(2), 133-164.

Ochi I.B. (2022) Crisis of Banditry and the Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria: A Political Economy Approach. Scholars Journal of Economics, Business and Management. PP 247-256

Oduwole, T. A and F. A. O. (2013). Issues of Refugees and Displaced Persons in Nigeria. Journal of Sociological Research, 4, No 1

Okoli, C. (2018). Religious Conflict and the Crisis of Nationhood in Nigeria. In Religion and Nation (pp. 193-210). Springer, Cham.

O'Keefe, P., Westgate, K., & Wisner, B. (1976). Taking the naturalness out of natural disasters. Nature, 260(5552), 566-567.

Ogwo, A. (2013). Sex Differences in the Manifestation of Aggression on Internally Displaced Nigerian Children. Gender & Behaviour,11(2), 5586-5592.

REACH (2023) Navigating the In-Between: IDPs' Search for Security in Northwest Nigeria – January

Rua, M. (2017). Refugee management in Africa: Redefining the role of the African Union. International Journal of Refugee Law, 29(4), 585-608.

Rosenje, M., & Adeniyi, O. (2021). The Impact of Banditry on Nigeria's Security in the Fourth Republic: An Evaluation of Nigeria's Northwest. https://zjpd.com.ng › zjpd › article

UNHCR. (2020). Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2019. Retrieved from https://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends2019/

Sheikh, T. L., et al, (2015). Correlates of Depression among Internally Displaced Persons after post-election Violence in Kaduna, North Western Nigeria. Journal of Effective Disorder,170(1), 46-51

UNHCR (2023) Factsheet for Sokoto – North-West Nigeria

UNHCR (2021) Protection monitoring report katsina, Sokoto and Zamfara 3 - 15 January

Watts, M. (1987). Banditry, rebellion and social protest in Africa: A review. African Economic History, (16), 22-48.