SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHALLENGES AND RESILLIENCE OF DISPLACED WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN SHIRORO LGA, NIGER STATE

MARYAM UMAR CHIRI; KAMAR HAMZA; AND ALIYU MOHAMMED SHAMSUDEEN
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, IBRAHIM BADAMASI BABANGIDA UNIVERSITY, LAPAI, NIGERIA

***Corresponding author**: amshamsudeen@ibbu.edu.ng +2348036916063; +2348027036063*

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ABSTRACT
The socioeconomic effects of displacement on women and children in Shiroro Local Government Area (LGA), Niger State, Nigeria, are examined in this study. It looks at how banditry-induced forced migration has affected livelihoods, education, health, and safety, making women reliant on outside assistance and keeping kids out of school. The study also looks at the difficulties of living in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps, where displaced people are subjected to additional burdens like psychological trauma and gender-based violence due to inadequate utilities, poor housing, and a lack of privacy. The study generates information from impacted communities using a qualitative research methodology in order to document the lived experiences of women and children who have been displaced. It reveals how women use coping mechanisms like farm work, menial labour, and unofficial support systems to maintain their families through focus groups and interviews. However, the effectiveness of these survival tactics is limited by the lack of official community-based programs and insufficient government intervention. The study is based on the Social Exclusion Theory, which describes how displaced people become marginalised because their access to social services, education, and economic possibilities is limited. The way that displacement exacerbates inequality and upholds structural barriers that keep women and children trapped in a cycle of poverty and dependency is highlighted by this theoretical framework. By concentrating on a lesser-known area impacted by displacement brought on by banditry, this study adds to the body of literature by reorienting focus from security issues to socioeconomic disturbances. This study emphasises grassroots resilience and offers policy-oriented recommendations to improve IDP conditions and help displaced communities, in contrast to many other studies that focus on government interventions.

Introduction

With millions of people displaced by armed conflict, violence, human rights abuses, and natural or man-made disasters, internal displacement is a worldwide humanitarian crisis. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) stay inside their nation's borders and frequently face little government assistance, in contrast to refugees who are granted international protection. Their general well-being is threatened by environmental hazards, political marginalisation, poor health, and economic volatility (Oladeji, 2015; Emmanuelar, 2015). Many internally displaced people live in filthy, overcrowded camps, which leaves them susceptible to illness and dependent on outside assistance. More than 33.3 million people are internally displaced globally, according to latest estimates, underscoring the serious obstacle that displacement presents to reaching the Sustainable Development Goals (Osagioduwa & Oluwakorede, 2016).

Internal displacement has disproportionately afflicted Africa, where millions have been displaced by environmental disasters, political unrest, and warfare. Due to ongoing security problems, the number of internally displaced people on the continent increased steadily, reaching 15 million by 2014 (Osagioduwa & Oluwakorede, 2016). In contrast to earlier decades, when interstate conflicts were the main source of displacement, intrastate conflicts such as insurgencies, armed banditry, and intercommunal conflicts are now the main cause of displacement in Africa (UNHCR, 2012). The vulnerabilities of displaced people have been exacerbated by these types of violence, especially for women and children who lack proper access to necessities like food, medical care, and education.

With more than 3.3 million internally displaced persons, Nigeria is one of the most afflicted nations. Insurgency, ethnic conflicts, and banditry have caused more than 2.1 million people to be relocated in the northern region (IDMC, 2016). The continuous struggle between Fulani farmers and herdsmen, which has intensified violence and instability, is a major cause of displacement (Itumo & Nwefuru, 2016). Despite efforts by humanitarian organisations and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), many displaced persons live in host communities or temporary settlements where they struggle with scarce supplies. However, many IDPs lack a sustainable means of subsistence because current efforts are still insufficient (Ventures Africa, 2015).

The displacement situation in Nigeria is best shown by the Shiroro Local Government Area (LGA) in Niger State, where thousands of people have been displaced as a result of violent attacks and banditry. Women IDPs have particular difficulties, such as economic hardships, lack of access to reproductive healthcare, and gender-based abuse. Research shows that more than half of those displaced are women, and children (Biola, 2016). Shiroro LGA's displaced women still face insufficient support networks and are compelled to use a variety of survival techniques in spite of government and non-governmental organisation (NGO) assistance.

Although there is a growing body of research on internal displacement in Nigeria, the most of it has been on displacement brought on by insurgencies, especially in the northeast, with little attention paid to areas like Niger State that are impacted by banditry. Furthermore, there is a lack of knowledge regarding the socioeconomic effects of displacement, particularly for women and children, even if previous study frequently looks at it from a security standpoint. By placing the issue in global, regional, and national contexts, this study adds to the body of literature by offering localised insights and evidence-based recommendations for improving the living conditions and resilience of displaced populations. Addressing these issues is crucial for promoting sustainable development in affected communities and improving human security. This study emphasises how displacement perpetuates social and economic marginalisation, ultimately limiting opportunities for sustainable livelihoods.

Statement of Problem

Due to violence, conflicts, and insecurity, millions of Nigerians have been forced to flee their homes, making internal displacement one of the country's most urgent humanitarian crises. As of 2016, there were about 3.3 million internally displaced people (IDPs) in Nigeria, the majority of them were based in the country's north, according to the International Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC). The issue has been compounded by recurrent

disputes between farmers and herders, insurgency, and, more recently, the advent of armed banditry. Armed groups' frequent attacks in Niger State, especially in the Shiroro Local Government Area (LGA), have forced thousands of people to flee their homes and leave them without a steady source of income, a place to live, or access to basic amenities. Over 150,000 individuals have been displaced from their homes in Niger State in the past ten years as a result of violent attacks, according to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).

Due to their extreme socioeconomic problems, women and children are the most vulnerable among the displaced. According to reports, children make up more than half of those impacted, while women make up more than 50% of the displaced population. Numerous women who once worked in agriculture and commerce have lost their jobs and are now solely reliant on frequently insufficient humanitarian aid. Conversely, children experience poor health, interrupted schooling, and a higher chance of child labour and exploitation. Their living conditions are made worse by the absence of infrastructure in IDP camps, including as sufficient security, healthcare, and sanitation, which leaves them vulnerable to psychological trauma and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

The response is still insufficient to meet the long-term requirements of the displaced people in Shiroro LGA, despite several interventions by governmental and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Many internally displaced people reside in cramped, temporary settlements where they have limited access to clean water, food, medical treatment, and education. Furthermore, women lack official support networks to help them re-establish their livelihoods, which forces many of them to turn to risky coping strategies like working in low-paying professions with abusive conditions. In the impacted communities, displacement exacerbates social marginalisation, poverty, and insecurity in the absence of long-term solutions.

Although a number of studies have looked at displacement in Nigeria, the majority have concentrated on displacement brought on by insurgencies in the northeast, specifically the Boko Haram issue. The effects of banditry-induced displacement in Niger State, particularly on women and children, have not, however, been thoroughly studied. By investigating how displacement impacts the socioeconomic well-being of women and children in Shiroro LGA, investigating their coping mechanisms, and evaluating the structural deficiencies that maintain their vulnerabilities, this study aims to close this gap. Gaining an understanding of these problems is essential to creating focused solutions that deal with the underlying causes and long-term effects of displacement in the area.

Conceptual Clarification

Socioeconomic Challenges

The problems that people or groups encounter in obtaining and preserving basic components of social and economic well-being, such as money, work, education, healthcare, and housing, are referred to as socioeconomic hurdles. Because displacement disrupts livelihoods, restricts access to essential services, and fosters economic instability, these issues are more severe for displaced communities. Castles (2003) asserts that since people lose access to markets, secure employment, and productive resources, migration frequently results in economic exclusion.

Poor living conditions in displacement camps and insufficient government intervention exacerbate these issues for internally displaced people (IDPs), especially women and children (Brookings Institution, 2008). Many women in Shiroro LGA, Niger State, have been forced to rely on humanitarian help or work in low-paying occupations as a result of being displaced by armed banditry. In a similar vein, youngsters experience educational disruptions that impact their future socioeconomic prospects.

The incapacity of displaced women and children to obtain secure livelihoods, education, healthcare, and basic necessities, leading to long-term vulnerabilities, is how this study defines socioeconomic problems.

Resilience

In the context of displacement, resilience is the capacity of people and communities to adjust to unfavourable situations, bounce back from emergencies, and figure out how to maintain their well-being in the face of persistent difficulties. Resilience, according to

Norris et al. (2008), is a dynamic process that includes economic, social, and psychological coping strategies that help displaced people deal with uncertainty and start over. Through a variety of adaptive techniques, such as working on farms, trading on a local scale, and creating unofficial support networks, displaced women in Shiroro LGA have shown resilience.

However, systemic limitations including a lack of access to economic opportunities and insufficient government support frequently hinder resilience (Betts & Collier, 2017). Resilience is defined in this study as the coping techniques used by displaced women and children, such as social networks, informal support systems, and economic survival mechanisms. Although resilience is necessary for survival, ongoing socioeconomic marginalisation frequently reduces its efficacy.

Displacement

When people or communities are forcibly relocated from their usual habitation because of violence, conflict, natural catastrophes, or development projects, this is referred to as displacement. Displacement is involuntary, as opposed to voluntary movement, and frequently causes severe social and economic suffering (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2016). Insurgency, intercommunal conflicts, and, more recently, banditry have been the main causes of displacement in Nigeria. According to Oladeji (2015), displacement damages local economies, upends community institutions, and puts impacted communities at higher risk of poverty and insecurity.

Family structures have broken down, livelihoods have been lost, and there is now a greater need for outside assistance in Shiroro LGA as a result of the relocation brought on by violent attacks. Once engaged in farming and trading, women have been pushed into dependency, and children suffer from psychological and educational losses as a result of their unstable living circumstances. According to this study, displacement is defined as the forcible relocation of people as a result of violence and insecurity, which increases vulnerability for women and children and causes economic hardship and social marginalisation.

Empirical Review

The difficulties experienced by IDPs and the efficacy of rehabilitation programs have been the subject of numerous studies. Umaru and Mohammed (2017) evaluated the rehabilitation requirements of insurgency victims in IDP camps in Yobe State, Nigeria, using a descriptive survey design. According to their research, more than 65% of internally displaced people experienced psychological suffering, substance abuse, unemployment, and camp conflicts. In order to promote national integration, the study suggested counselling techniques like therapy and orientation workshops.

Likewise, Umaru (2018) investigated the connection between counselling interventions and PTSD in Borno State's internally displaced people. The study recommended therapy-based approaches to support recovery after identifying symptoms of trauma as emotional numbness and hyperarousal. Omonyemen (2020) highlighted the importance of counselling in IDP rehabilitation and promoted a cooperative strategy combining the government, educational institutions, and civil society organisations.

Banditry and insurgency-related displacement has been the subject of other investigations. The resilience of violence-affected rural communities in Niger State was investigated by Hamza et al. (2022), who emphasised the necessity of ongoing government engagement. Similar to this, Askederin (2021) looked at the difficulties of IDP resettlement in Nasarawa, Niger, and the Federal Capital Territory. They found that living circumstances were subpar and that many IDPs wanted to go back to their homes if they were given financial and security help. Izom (2024) emphasised poverty as the main cause of banditry in Shiroro LGA, Niger State. According to the survey, 64.5% of participants connected economic hardship to instability and displacement, and they suggested measures like improved intelligence collection and youth empowerment.

Giyoh (2023) investigated the adaption mechanisms of internally displaced people (IDPs) in Kumba Town with regard to survival tactics, highlighting acute food insecurity and poor healthcare as key issues. The study discovered that in order to survive, displaced people frequently cut back on meal quantities, resorted

to less expensive food options, and sought out unofficial medical care. In a similar vein, Aidelokhai (2022) evaluated food insecurity among internally displaced people in Niger State and discovered that 90% of participants cited insurgency and banditry as the main reasons for food shortages. To lessen food insecurity, the study suggested enhanced security and intelligence-sharing protocols.

Inadequate governmental and civil society interventions pushed many IDPs in Benue State to resort to petty stealing, street begging, and other desperate means, according to Albert and Abah's (2024) investigation on survival tactics. In order to address the situation, the report recommended sustainable development policies and skill development centres.

Finally, more general research on displacement and security has connected poor governance to IDP difficulties. Rosenje and Adeniyi (2021) studied how banditry affected Nigeria's national security and found that poverty, unemployment, and the spread of weapons were the main causes. The report made the case that banditry jeopardises national stability and advocated for proactive border security measures, government policies, and youth empowerment programs.

Although these studies offer insightful information about IDP rehabilitation, resilience, and security concerns, they frequently concentrate on more general displacement problems or more significant security issues. In contrast, the current study focusses on the socioeconomic effects of displacement on women and children in Shiroro LGA, highlighting the ways in which displacement intensifies social exclusion and gendered vulnerabilities. This study addresses a gap in the literature on gendered displacement experiences in conflict-affected areas of Nigeria by utilising Social Exclusion Theory to give a targeted examination of how displaced women and children deal with financial hardship and access support networks.

Theoretical framework

The social exclusion theory serves as the analytical basis for this investigation. Lenoir (1974) popularised the term "social exclusion" in France to refer to people who were shut out of the welfare and employment markets, including the disabled, the unemployed, and other marginalised groups. Later, Sen (1999) developed the idea by connecting poverty, inequality, and loss of talents to social isolation. He maintained that people's incapacity to fully engage in society is just as much a factor in exclusion as financial difficulties. Likewise, Silver (1994) created a paradigm that highlights the multifaceted nature of exclusion by analysing it in various societal and cultural situations.

The denial of social, political, and cultural involvement is a form of social exclusion that goes beyond economic hardship. It is strengthened by institutional and societal arrangements that deny some groups access to opportunities and resources. Ethnic minorities, women, the elderly, people with disabilities, and displaced people are among the vulnerable groups that frequently experience many layers of exclusion. This process is dynamic rather than static since social discrimination, legislative changes, and changes in the economy can all cause people or groups to be constantly marginalised.

A number of fundamental presumptions form the basis of the idea of social exclusion. First, exclusion happens when people or groups are not given access to opportunities and resources that are necessary for full participation in society, which is a fundamental human right. Second, institutional frameworks and cultural prejudices frequently act as obstacles that strengthen marginalised communities' exclusion. Third, rather of addressing exclusion, societal mechanisms like welfare programs, labour markets, and educational systems often serve to reinforce it. Lastly, even while exclusion restricts opportunities, impacted people and groups still have resilience and agency, which enables them to deal with or oppose exclusionary behaviours.

Social exclusion theory has been criticised despite its applicability. According to some academics, the phrase is overly general and ambiguous, making it challenging to use consistently in research. Others argue that the theory ignores personal preferences, such as the desire of some groups to maintain their separation, and overemphasises communal participation. Furthermore, detractors point out that although the theory mainly concentrates on local or national exclusion, it falls short in explaining how globalisation and international institutions affect marginalisation. Moreover, some contend that the theory minimises how

structural dominance and power relations maintain exclusion.

Social exclusion theory is a useful framework for comprehending the socioeconomic effects of displacement on disadvantaged populations, notwithstanding these criticisms, according to this study. It is a crucial tool for formulating policy suggestions because it draws attention to the structural and systemic obstacles that sustain marginalisation and inequality. The idea sheds light on the difficulties internally displaced people (IDPs) encounter in Shiroro LGA and guides tactics to alleviate their marginalisation and enhance their reintegration into society.

Methodology

In order to investigate the lived experiences of women and children who have been displaced by violence in Shiroro Local Government Area (LGA) in Niger State, this study uses a qualitative research design, more precisely a phenomenological approach. This study uses a phenomenological methodology in an effort to document the individual experiences, difficulties, and coping mechanisms of displaced people as seen by them.

Purposive sampling was used to guarantee a more comprehensive and methodical participant selection procedure. This approach makes it possible to choose people who can offer rich, in-depth insights and who have direct experience with displacement. Twenty-five women and children from Gwada camp and fifteen from Kuta camp made up the 40 participants that were chosen. Economic status, length of displacement, and willingness to engage in the study were among the factors used to choose the sample.

Semi-structured interviews, which gave participants the freedom to discuss important themes and share their experiences in their own words, were used to collect the data. The interview guide was divided into two sections: the first collected demographic information, and the second segment concentrated on topics including access to necessary services, social support networks, coping strategies, and economic hardship. In order to add context and bolster the findings, secondary data sources such as scholarly publications, official reports, and policy papers were also examined.

A thematic analysis method was applied to the data. In accordance with the goals of the study, the interview replies were classified, transcribed, and grouped into emergent themes. This approach made sure that important trends and patterns in the lives of displaced women and children were methodically found and analysed. Selected participants examined summarised replies to verify accuracy as part of a member checking process to increase the findings' reliability. The study's depth and dependability were enhanced by the utilisation of several data sources and analytical methods, providing a thorough grasp of the socioeconomic effects of displacement on marginalised communities in Shiroro LGA.

Data Presentation and Analysis

Negative Impacts of Displacement on Women and Children

Family Disintegration and Loss of Loved Ones

Women and children are especially affected by the severe family fragmentation brought on by displacement in Shiroro Local Government Area. Numerous women have become widows after losing their spouses, and brutal attacks have left children orphaned. One widow described how her husband and a number of other men were brutally murdered on his farms, and others were captured. Another woman talked about how she lost her spouse only three months into their marriage after he was kidnapped and slain for not paying the ransom demands of the kidnappers. In addition to causing these families great emotional suffering, the loss of loved ones has resulted in heavy financial difficulties.

Economic Hardship and Loss of Livelihoods

For displaced women and children, the loss of homes, businesses, and farmlands has had disastrous economic repercussions. Numerous women who were formerly involved in farming, trade, and raising livestock are now without a source of income. One respondent, formerly from the wealthiest class in her neighbourhood, explained how she fell into great poverty after being violently attacked and losing her home, life savings, and everything she owned. Financial instability has also resulted from market women who depended on daily trading for livelihood

being displaced and unable to maintain their businesses. Losses have also been experienced by women who raised cattle, which has made survival more challenging and weakened their economic resilience.

Disruption of Education and Child Welfare

Children's education has been significantly impacted by the displacement crisis; as a result of persistent insecurity, many schools have been demolished or made dangerous. The absence of educational facilities and financial limitations make it difficult for families in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps to enrol their children in new schools. Many displaced children have thus stopped attending school, which has significantly reduced their chances for the future. One mother described how her child's health issues at birth were brought on by the stress of escaping an attack, making it even more difficult for her to get healthcare and schooling.

Psychological and Social Distress

Displacement has serious psychological repercussions, with many women and children experiencing trauma, worry, and future uncertainty. After losing family members and witnessing violent attacks, a number of respondents said they felt hopeless. Formerly relatively comfortable families now live in overcrowded shelters and depend on family members' kindness and humanitarian assistance to survive. Many have been unable to restore their lives due to the ongoing fear of further assaults, which has made their psychological suffering much worse.

The Daily Struggles of Displaced Women and Children

Loss of Stability and Increased Dependency

Families that have been displaced in the Galadiman-Kogo, Erena, and Bassa communities are now completely dependent on government assistance programs and non-governmental organisation (NGO) donations. Previously, women who worked on farms or had small enterprises now have no way to make a living. Due to the widespread poverty brought on by the devastation of farms and businesses, displaced women find it challenging to support their children.

Children have experienced a crippling sense of instability as a result of displacement. Many youngsters in Erena now face starvation and an uncertain future after formerly having access to education and a healthy diet. Their parents, who used to be their guardians, are now powerless to pay for their fundamental needs. Many families in Bassa have become extremely dependent due to the loss of economic possibilities, making them susceptible to more adversity.

Loss of Lives, Property, and Educational Opportunities

Tragically, both lives and property have been lost as a result of the displacement issue. Following violent attacks, several families have been forced to leave their homes and everything they possessed. Although there are still some schools in the impacted areas, most of them are closed since the students and staff are afraid for their safety.

Once a means of achieving optimism, education has been seriously interrupted. Parents are too scared to send their kids back to school, and many teachers have run away. As a result, many kids miss important learning opportunities because they are not attending school. Makeshift classrooms have been used as shelter in IDP camps, and attempts to re-establish schooling are made more difficult by overcrowding and a lack of supplies. The future development of relocated children is affected in the long run by the lack of structured learning contexts.

The Unique Challenges Faced by Displaced Women

Increased Burden and Vulnerability

When it comes to displacement, women confront particular difficulties that exacerbate their pain. Women frequently struggle with new and unfamiliar survival tasks, whereas men may discover chances in manual labour. To support their families, many displaced women have turned to dangerous jobs like illicit mining.

Men and women are compelled to share cramped quarters in IDP camps, raising serious privacy concerns. Women find it challenging to maintain personal hygiene because of this invasion of privacy, especially when they are menstruating. Their difficulties are made worse

by the lack of adequate sanitary facilities. Furthermore, young moms who have lost their husbands now have to deal with the difficulties of being a single parent in a very insecure setting.

The Impact on Children's Education and Well-Being

Educational Disruptions and Psychological Trauma

With an estimated 80% of relocated children now not attending school, the effects of displacement on children's education are profound. While the few who can afford it face limited access to high-quality education, many families are prevented from enrolling their children in alternative schools due to financial constraints.

In addition to receiving an education, children who witness violence or lose loved ones experience emotional and psychological suffering. Many people struggle to comprehend the abrupt breakdown of their formerly steady lives and suffer from worry and sadness. These events cause trauma that affects their general wellbeing and leaves them with long-lasting scars.

Health issues are also common. Malnutrition is on the rise as a result of food shortages, and children in IDP camps are exposed to infections due to poor sanitation. These difficulties reduce children's prospects of a better future by endangering their physical and cognitive development.

Compromised Safety and Security
Risks of Exploitation and Violence

Due to insufficient protection in IDP camps, displaced women and children are at serious danger for safety and security issues. They are susceptible to exploitation and abuse because they lack secure homes and receive no assistance from the authorities. In settings with inadequate security measures, women and girls are particularly vulnerable to sexual and gender-based violence.

Many displaced people have also been compelled by extreme poverty to resort to child labour as a last resort. Children are frequently exposed to hazardous situations as they work informally to help support their families. Families who have been displaced are left in a state of perpetual uncertainty and dread due to the lack of organised government assistance.

Survival Strategies of Internally Displaced Women in Shiroro LGA

Coping Strategies and Alternative Livelihoods

Shiroro LGA's displaced women have adapted a variety of survival techniques to deal with their situation. In return for food or money, many help out local farmers by performing hard agricultural labour. Nevertheless, they frequently experience exploitation and are paid insufficiently for their labour.

Contract farm labour is a popular tactic used by displaced women. Some hire other women to split the workload and accept farm contracts. Then, as payment, harvested crops like millet, maize, and groundnuts are distributed. This structure of cooperation offers a limited but necessary method of surviving.

Children also perform small-scale work, including helping market vendors, to support their families. Since IDP camp rations are sometimes insufficient, these profits assist families in filling food supply gaps.

Access to Food, Shelter, and Basic Necessities

Challenges of Sustaining Daily Needs

For food, shelter, and basic necessities, displaced households in Shiroro LGA depend on a variety of sources. While some relief is offered by NGOs, the government, and individual donations, the assistance is frequently insufficient. Through informal labour and menial professions, women look for other ways to augment food supply.
For displaced people, a public elementary school has been transformed into temporary housing. But because of its inadequate infrastructure, there is overpopulation and subpar living conditions. Strong familial ties frequently lead women to seek safety with family members, but host families' capacity to offer sustained support is hampered by financial difficulties.

Role of Family and Community Networks

Despite the lack of official community-based support systems, displaced women have established unofficial networks for survival. When assistance is available, they pool resources and work together on labour-intensive projects. Since some displaced people depend on family members for support, social and familial relationships are also quite important. However, many host families have found it impossible to provide long-term support due to economic challenges.

Summary of Key Findings

According to the report, internally displaced women and children's livelihoods, education, and general well-being have all been severely disrupted by displacement in Shiroro Local Government Area. Many women who had worked in agriculture and trade have lost their jobs and are now dependent on government assistance, manual labour, and family support. In places like Galadiman-Kogo and Bassa, the displacement has also had a major impact on agricultural productivity, which has increased poverty and the need for outside help.

Approximately 80% of students are not attending school as a result of insecurity and school closures, making education one of the most negatively affected industries. Teachers and students in Erena Community have gone, leaving youngsters without formal education, endangering their future prospects and long-term growth. Displacement also has significant psychological repercussions. While women face increased stress as they attempt to care for their families in challenging circumstances in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps, many youngsters suffer from emotional distress as a result of the death of loved ones and the unpredictability of their living surroundings.

IDP camps are characterised by overcrowding, inadequate healthcare services, and poor sanitation, all of which raise the possibility of disease epidemics. Gender-specific issues that women confront include vulnerability to exploitative work circumstances and a lack of facilities for menstruation hygiene. Due to a lack of economic options, some have been compelled to engage in dangerous jobs like illicit mining.

Displaced women have come up with a number of survival techniques in spite of these obstacles. Many work in the agricultural sector, helping farmers in return for food or money. Additionally, some women work together on farms under contract, sharing resources and earnings. By helping market vendors and earning meagre wages to sustain their families, children help to sustain households.

Food and shelter supplied by the government are still insufficient, so women are forced to look for other ways to survive. Family relationships are essential for offering short-term housing and emotional support, but their ability to help is limited by financial hardships. Without official community-based support systems, displaced women have established unofficial networks for survival, cooperating on farming projects and pooling resources.

These results are consistent with earlier studies on livelihood disruption and displacement. Shiroro LGA is a clear example of the decline in economic activity and the growing burden on women, as noted by academics such as Cernea (2000) and Chant (2006). Furthermore, Putnam's (2000) discussion of social networks' involvement in relocation emphasises the significance of unofficial support systems during emergencies.

Due to displacement, women and children in Shiroro LGA are now more susceptible to gender-specific difficulties, psychological discomfort, disruptions in their education, and financial difficulty. In order to deal with the harsh reality of their displacement, displaced women have shown resilience by embracing collective survival techniques, informal labour practices, and reliance on family and social networks, even when institutional support structures are still lacking.

Conclusion

The economic, educational, and psychological difficulties that women and children in Shiroro Local Government Area encounter as a result of displacement were highlighted in this study. Due to the widespread economic hardship brought on by displacement, women are now forced to survive through menial labour, family assistance, and humanitarian relief. Due to insecurity and school closures, many children have been unable

to finish their education, endangering their long-term growth.

In addition, in overcrowded IDP camps, displaced women and children face poor living circumstances and significant psychological suffering. These results highlight the critical need for long-term solutions that improve living conditions and psychological assistance for displaced people while addressing both economic hardships and disruptions in education.

Recommendations

To effectively mitigate the impact of displacement in Shiroro LGA, the following recommendations should be implemented:

i. To boost their efficacy, government organisations like NEMA and SEMA ought to be given more money and better coordination. Long-term solutions, such as skill development programs, vocational training, and sustainable livelihood initiatives for displaced women, should be the main focus of partnerships with international organisations and non-governmental organisations.

ii. Immediate action is needed to improve the terrible living conditions in IDP camps. Clean water, suitable housing, better sanitation, and easily available medical care should all be prioritised. Restoring economic activity in the camps will also assist displaced people in becoming self-sufficient.

iii. Economic instability and vulnerability to gender-based violence are two of the particular vulnerabilities faced by displaced women. Affected women will benefit from social stability, legal protection, and economic empowerment through the establishment of women's cooperatives, legal aid services, and gender-sensitive assistance initiatives.

iv. Temporary learning centres with qualified instructors and required educational resources should be built up inside displacement camps in order to avoid long-term educational setbacks. Children should also have access to psychological support services, such as trauma counselling and kid-friendly environments, to help them deal with the psychological effects of relocation.

v. Long-term policy measures are necessary to address displacement in a sustainable manner. The government should create comprehensive policies that address the underlying causes of displacement, such as resource conflicts and insecurity, while guaranteeing sufficient support networks for displaced people. This should be done in coordination with civil society and international partners.

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