



Assessment of Socio- Economic Well-Being of Internally Displaced Persons in Anka LGA of Zamfara State

Ugba Dajo¹

Email: dajougba@fugusau.edu.ng

Saidu Salihu²

Email: Saidusalihu1973@gmail.com

¹Department of Sociology, Federal University Gusau, Zamfara

Abstract

Global displacement has continued to increase significantly, largely driven by factors such as climate change, insecurity, and armed conflict. In Nigeria, especially in northern part of the country insecurity have resulted in the displacement of thousands of people. While numerous studies have examined the economic and social well-being of internally displaced persons (IDPs) globally, there is limited research focusing on the specific conditions of IDPs in Zamfara State, Nigeria, where incessant violent conflicts have displaced thousands of people, creating a rising humanitarian crisis. This study seeks to contribute to the global understanding of displacement by examining the social integration, livelihood challenges, and access to essential services among IDPs in Anka LGA. Social disorganization theory was used to explain the social and economic well-being of IDPs. Questionnaire was utilized as the primary instrument of data collection. The sample size of the study consisted of 351 IDPs. Data collected was analyzed using tables, percentages, mean and standard deviation. Findings reveal that IDPs face significant social challenges, including limited acceptance by host communities, low participation in community activities, and a weak sense of belonging, reflecting poor social integration. Economically, most IDPs were previously farmers, and displacement has disrupted their traditional livelihoods, resulting in restricted access to employment, income, and other productive opportunities. While government and non-governmental organizations provide basic needs such as food and healthcare, critical support services including vocational training, financial assistance, and psychosocial care remain largely inadequate. To address these challenges, the study recommends that local authorities, traditional leaders, and NGOs collaborate to organize inclusive community activities and sensitization programs to promote social cohesion. It also advocates for the establishment of vocational training centers, apprenticeship programs, and microcredit schemes to enhance economic self-reliance. Furthermore, government and NGOs should ensure reliable provision of essential services such as shelter, healthcare, and education within IDP camps. Finally, addressing insecurity in Zamfara State is crucial to enabling IDPs to safely return to their homes.

Keywords: Armed conflict, Displacement, humanitarian crisis, IDPs, Insecurity



Introduction

Forced displacement has become a major global problem with millions of people worldwide compelled to desert their homes due to conflict, violence, natural disasters, and human rights violations. According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC, 2023), there were approximately 71 million forcibly displaced people worldwide with a significant portion being internally displaced persons (IDPs). It is also disturbing to note that disaggregated data on internally displaced persons showed that the African continent tops the chart as one of the most affected regions with IDPs. The above view has also been highlighted by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC, 2024), that Africa has 35 million internally displaced people (IDPs). This shows that nearly half of the global total of internally displaced persons IDPs, is living in Africa. In addition to this, 32.5 million of these internally displaced persons (IDPs), were displaced by conflict and violence, and 80% are predominantly found in only five African countries which include Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Somalia and Sudan (IDMC, 2024).

In Nigeria, Boko Haram insurgency, farmers and herders' conflict are the major drivers of internal displacement. This has been confirmed by Okoli (2018) that farmers and herders conflict post a major threat to human and national security in Nigeria. This crisis has created serious humanitarian challenges in Nigeria. For example, the International Organization for Migration (IOM, 2024) stated that 2 million individuals have been displaced, with the States of Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe being the most affected.

Zamfara is part of Nigeria's Northwest region that has a significant share of the burden of displacement. Data from the Zamfara State Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs (2022) and Saminu et al (2023) indicated armed bandits kidnapped a total of 16,086 persons and murdered 9490 people between 2015 and 2022. Similarly, in 2022 alone, bandits displaced 100,433 households (Zamfara State Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, 2022 & Saminu et al, 2023).

These displacements, not only uproot individuals from their homes, but also dislocate their social, economic, and psychological living condition. The internally displaced persons (IDPs), often face significant challenges in rebuilding their lives, especially when residing in camps. These camps, typically characterized by overcrowding, limited access to the basic and essential services, and economic deprivation, pose considerable barriers to achieving social and economic stability (Akinwale & Olukayode, 2021).

Despite the negative impact of displacement on the living conditions of people in IDP camps, previous studies on IDPs in Nigeria narrowly focus on specific aspects of displacement such as coping, health-seeking, and health-management processes (Olanrewaju, Omotoso Alabi, 2018; Ekezie, Siebert, Timmons, Murray, 2022; & Gidado et al, 2023). The limited attention given to the broader social and economic living conditions of IDPs particularly in Anka local government area of Zamfara state is the primary focus of this study.

Research Questions

- i. What is the social well-being of internally displaced persons in Zamfara State?
- ii. What is the economic condition of Internally Displaced persons (IDPs), in Zamfara State?



- iii. What are the major challenges affecting the social and economic well-being of IDPs in Zamfara State?
- iv. What are the coping strategies adopted to enhance the well-being of IDPs in Zamfara State?

Literature Review

The Concept of Social Well-being

Social well-being has been recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO, 1948) as a key aspect of individuals' overall health. The concept has been defined and operationalized in many different ways (Cicognani, 2014). Social well-being (SWB) refers to the feelings of wellness in the context of fulfilling the expectations of others in different paradigms of life (Iqbal, Hussain & Soddique, 2022). According to Keyes (1998) Social well-being covers five areas which include social integration, social acceptance, social contribution, social actualization and social coherence. This means that social well-being is a multidimensional concept that encompasses individual's positive functioning, social relationships and the freedom to partake meaningfully in society.

Economic well-being

Economic well-being on the other hand, encompasses the overall circumstances of individuals and communities regarding their economic conditions, which includes income generation, employment, food security, and overall quality of life to achieve upward mobility, and live fulfilling lives (United Nations Development Programme [UNDP], 2021). Economic well-being also denotes material condition of individuals and households, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity for sustainable livelihood and prosperity within an economy. Economic well-being further emphasizes various dimensions, including wealth accumulation, employment, access to basic goods and services, social support, and overall satisfaction of the individuals.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Internally displaced persons are defined as individuals or groups who have been forced to leave their aboriginal homes due to armed conflict, generalized violence, human rights violations, or natural or human-made disasters, general disorder, but remain within their country's borders (United Nations Human Rights Commission [UNHCR], 2022). Unlike refugees, internally displaced persons do not cross international boundaries, and their protection lies under the jurisdiction of their own State. IDPs, may also be defined as individuals who have been compelled to abandon their own country because of violent conflicts, widespread violence, or natural catastrophes and human rights violations within their own boundaries (WHO, 2010).

Social Well-being of IDPs in Nigeria

The social well-being of IDPs is affected by displacement through poor mental health, weak social integration, poverty, and limited access to essential services (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2023; Miller & Rasmussen, 2017). Displacement also increases anxiety, depression, and trauma, while crises such as COVID-19 further restrict humanitarian assistance and livelihood opportunities (Silove et al., 2017; Kluge et al., 2020; Human Rights Watch, 2022).



IDPs may experience loss of economic and social assets, inadequate housing, unemployment, and weak social support, which can reduce their overall life satisfaction (Cernea, 2006; Ivashchenko et al., 2020).

Children are particularly vulnerable, facing higher risks of PTSD, anxiety, depression, infectious diseases, poor nutrition, and disruption of education (Betancourt et al., 2013; UNICEF, 2022). In Nigeria, particularly Zamfara State, IDPs face inadequate food, shelter, healthcare, clean water, education, and security, as well as the loss of family networks, identity, and sense of belonging (Akinwale & Olukayode, 2021; UNICEF, 2023; UNHCR, 2024; Adeleke, 2023; Cambridge University, 2024). More than half of Nigerian IDPs, mostly children, remain out of school due to limited resources and poor integration policies (Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice, 2023). In a nutshell, these challenges demonstrate the need for context-specific research and solutions to improve the social well-being of IDPs in Zamfara State.

Economic well-being of IDPs in Nigeria

The economic well-being of IDPs in Nigeria is severely affected by displacement, which often results in the loss of homes, farms, businesses, employment, and productive resources, leading to poverty and dependence on humanitarian assistance (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2023; Olanrewaju, Omotoso, & Alabi, 2019; Adeola, 2015). Limited access to employment, financial services, farmland, capital, and livelihood opportunities further restricts economic recovery (International Organization for Migration, 2022; Afolayan & Jegede, 2018). In Zamfara State, banditry, kidnapping, and cattle rustling have disrupted farming and livestock activities, which were major sources of livelihood, leaving many IDPs dependent on petty trading, manual labour, and other low-income activities (Akinwale & Olukayode, 2021; FAO, 2023). These economic hardships contribute to psychological distress and reduced quality of life (Ezeh, Okoye, & Adebayo, 2020), while existing government and humanitarian interventions often remain short-term and insufficient for sustainable recovery (National Emergency Management Agency, 2022). Food insecurity is also a major concern, with inadequate access to food, farmland, and humanitarian assistance contributing to malnutrition and increased vulnerability, particularly among children and other vulnerable groups (WFP, 2024; NEMA, 2024). Therefore, sustainable solutions such as vocational training, microfinance, cash-for-work programmes, agricultural support, and targeted food programmes are necessary to improve the economic well-being and self-reliance of IDPs in Zamfara State (Olanrewaju et al., 2021; FAO, 2023).

Theoretical Framework

Social Disorganization Theory, developed by Shaw and McKay, explains how the breakdown of social structures, community networks, and institutions can lead to poverty, insecurity, and social instability (Kubrin, Branich & Hipp, 2022). The theory is relevant to IDPs in Zamfara State because displacement caused by banditry, kidnapping, and cattle rustling disrupts families, communities, and livelihoods, forcing people to abandon farms, businesses, and livestock (FAO, 2023). This breakdown also limits access to employment, farmland, capital, and social

support, increasing dependence on humanitarian assistance (Akinwale & Olukayode, 2021; Olanrewaju et al., 2021). Thus, the theory helps explain how the disruption of social and economic structures contributes to the poor well-being of IDPs.

Methodology

Research Design

The research design used for this study was cross-sectional. The justification for using this design was because cross-sectional studies are more convenient. They enable the completion of research in a short time thereby allowing its wide application across various research topics (Xueying, etal, 2025).

Location of Study

Anka Local Government Area is one of the 14 LGAs in Zamfara State, located in the northwestern geopolitical zone of Nigeria. Its administrative headquarters is the town of Anka, which serves as the political and traditional centre of the area. Anka covers an area of approximately 2,746 km² and had a population of 231, 370 (Zamfara State Bureau of Statistics, 2022).

Population of Study

The population of the study comprises of two categories of people or respondents. The first group is made up of the internally displaced persons (IDPs), in camps in Anka LGA. Data from the International Organization for Migration (IOM, 2024) showed that there are 4041 displaced persons in Zamfara State. However, only 364 respondents were selected and studied.

Sample Size Determination

The population of this study was determined using Taro Yamane (1967) formula. The formula is expressed below;

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

Where n= sample size

N = Population size

e = level of significant

1 = Constant level

$$\text{Therefore } n = \frac{4041}{1 + 4041 * (0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{4041}{1 + 4041 * 0.0025}$$

$$n = \frac{4041}{1 + 10.1}$$

$$n = \frac{4041}{11.1}$$

$$n = 364.05$$

n=364

Therefore, the population that will be selected for the study consisted of 364 respondents drawn from Anka IDP camp.

Sampling Technique

In this study, purposive and simple random sampling techniques were utilized to select IDPs Camps and respondents for the study. First, the researcher purposively selected (2) of the safest IDPs camps located in Anka Local Governments for the study. These IDP camps are located at the New Emir's Palace and Girls Focal Primary School/Genu Camp. Lastly, simple random sampling was deployed to select 364 IDPs for the study.

Method of Data Collection

This study adopted a quantitative approach of data collection. Consequently, a five scale Likert-style questionnaire was utilized as the major instrument of data collection. The questionnaire was divided into five sections. The first section contained the socio-demographic characteristics of respondents, the second focused on social well-being of IDPs, economic conditions of IDPs, interventions by government and non-governmental organizations and the challenges in addressing the conditions of IDPs. Due to the high level of illiteracy in the study location, the researcher employed the services of two research assistants who understand Hausa Language to assist in data collection.

Method of Data Analysis

Data collected from the questionnaire was analyzed quantitatively with the aid of descriptive statistical tools such as tables, percentages, mean and standard deviation.

Data Presentation

This section presents, analyzes, and discusses, the findings of the study obtained on the field based on the core objectives of the study, which is primarily aimed at evaluating the social and economic well-being of IDPs in camps in Zamfara State. Socio-demographic data of the respondents is presented first.

Table 1: Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

S/N	Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Gender	Male	96	27.4
		Female	255	72.6
		Total	351	100
2	Age	18–25 years	65	18.5
		26–35 years	120	34.2

S/N	Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
3	Marital Status	36–45 years	90	25.6
		46 years and above	76	21.7
		Total	351	100
		Single	82	23.4
		Married	190	54.1
		Widowed	55	15.7
		Divorced	24	6.8
4	Educational Level	Total	351	100
		No Formal Education	110	31.3
		Primary Education	95	27.1
		Secondary Education	100	28.5
		Tertiary Education	46	13.1
		Total	351	100
5	Occupation Before Displacement	Farming	145	41.3
		Trading	90	25.6
		Artisan	60	17.1
		Civil Servant	30	8.5
		Others	26	7.4
		Total	351	100
6	Duration of Stay in IDP Camp	Less than 1 year	21	6.0
		1–3 years	104	29.6
		4–6 years	150	42.7
		Above 6 years	76	21.7
		Total	351	100

Source: Field Survey, 2025

The distribution of respondents by gender shows a predominance of females (72.6%) compared to males (27.4%), indicating that women constitute the majority in the IDP population. This gender imbalance aligns with previous studies in displacement contexts, where women and children often constitute the majority of displaced populations due to patterns of conflict and migration (Shehu & Abba, 2020; Stark et al., 2025). Age distribution of respondents reveals that most IDPs are in the 26–35 years category (34.2%), followed by those aged 36–45 years (25.6%), 46 years and above (21.7%), and 18–25 years (18.5%). The predominance of young and middle-aged adults suggests that the displaced population is largely of working age, which has implications for livelihood interventions and economic rehabilitation programs.

Regarding marital status, over half of the respondents are married (54.1%), while singles constitute 23.4%, widows 15.7%, and divorced individuals 6.8%. This indicates that family units are a significant component of the IDP population, highlighting the need for social and economic support targeting both adults and dependents. Analysis of educational attainment shows that a significant proportion of respondents have no formal education (31.3%), followed by those with primary (27.1%), secondary (28.5%), and tertiary education (13.1%). The relatively low levels of formal education may limit access to skilled employment and formal training opportunities, exacerbating economic vulnerability among IDPs (Bang, 2024).

Occupational history prior to displacement indicates that farming (41.3%) was the primary livelihood, followed by trading (25.6%), artisan work (17.1%), civil service (8.5%), and other occupations (7.4%). The dominance of agrarian livelihoods underscores the economic impact of displacement, as many IDPs are no longer able to engage in their traditional means of income generation. Finally, the duration of stay in IDP camps varies, with the largest proportion residing 4–6 years (42.7%), followed by 1–3 years (29.6%), above 6 years (21.7%), and less than 1 year (6.0%). Extended stays in camps may exacerbate dependence on humanitarian aid and hinder reintegration into host communities or return to ancestral homes. Prolonged displacement also underscores the importance of implementing sustainable livelihood, educational, and psychosocial support programs.

Table 2: Social Well-being of IDPs in camps in Zamfara State.

S/ N	Item	Strongly Agree (SA)	Agree (A)	Neutral (N)	Disagree (D)	Strongly Disagree (SD)	Mean	Std. Dev.
1	I feel accepted by other members of the community where I currently live	30 (8.5%)	25 (7.1%)	28 (8.0%)	148 (42.2%)	120 (34.2%)	2.14	1.21
2	I feel a sense of belonging in this community	28 (8.0%)	23 (6.6%)	35 (10.0%)	125 (35.6%)	140 (39.9%)	2.07	1.21
3	I receive emotional support from family members, friends, or neighbours	138 (39.3%)	130 (37.0%)	30 (8.5%)	32 (9.1%)	21 (6.0%)	3.95	1.17
4	I am able to participate in community or social activities	21 (6.0%)	32 (9.1%)	52 (14.8%)	96 (27.4%)	150 (42.7%)	2.08	1.21

5	People in this community help each other during difficult times	95 (27.1%)	125 (35.6%)	60 (17.1%)	45 (12.8%)	26 (7.4%)	3.62	1.22
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Source: Field Survey, 2025

The survey results indicate that acceptance by members of the host community is generally low among IDPs in camps in Anka LGA, as a total of 76.4% of respondents disagreed with the statement, reflected in a low mean score ($\bar{x} = 2.14$), which is below the benchmark of 3.50. Similarly, the sense of belonging among IDPs is also weak, with a combined 75.5% of respondents disagreeing, supported by a weak mean score of $\bar{x} = 2.07$, indicating that many displaced persons feel socially disconnected from their current communities. In contrast, emotional support from family members, friends, or neighbours appears to be relatively strong, as 76.3% of respondents agreed, reflected in a high mean score ($\bar{x} = 3.95$) above the benchmark of 3.50. This suggests that despite broader social integration challenges, close interpersonal relationships remain an important source of support for IDPs.

Participation in community or social activities is however limited, as a combined 70.1% of respondents disagreed, with a low mean score ($\bar{x} = 2.08$) indicating that most IDPs are unable to actively engage in social or communal activities within the camps. On the other hand, mutual assistance among community members during difficult times is recognized by respondents, with 62.7% agreeing, supported by a mean score of $\bar{x} = 3.62$, which is above the benchmark. This suggests that although IDPs face challenges related to social acceptance and participation, there is still a degree of solidarity and mutual support among residents in the camp

Table 3: Economic Well-being of IDPs in camps in Zamfara State.

S/N	Item	Strongly Agree (SA)	Agree (A)	Neutral (N)	Disagree (D)	Strongly Disagree (SD)	Mean	Std. Dev.
1	I have a stable source of income	20 (5.7%)	35 (10.0%)	50 (14.2%)	120 (34.2%)	126 (35.9%)	2.15	1.16
2	I can afford basic necessities like food, clothing, and medicine	25 (7.1%)	50 (14.2%)	60 (17.1%)	110 (31.3%)	106 (30.2%)	2.37	1.19
3	I have opportunities to engage in income-generating activities	15 (4.3%)	30 (8.5%)	55 (15.7%)	130 (37.0%)	121 (34.5%)	2.11	1.15
4	I have access to financial	11 (3.1%)	29 (8.3%)	20 (5.7%)	164 (46.7%)	127 (36.2%)	1.95	1.01

	assistance or aid when needed							
5	I am able to save money for future needs	10 (2.8%)	25 (7.1%)	50 (14.2%)	140 (39.9%)	126 (35.9%)	2.01	1.08

Source: Field Survey, 2025

The survey results indicate that the economic well-being of IDPs in Zamfara State is generally low. Only 16% of respondents reported having a stable source of income, while a combined 70% disagreed, reflected in a low mean score ($\bar{x} = 2.15$). Similarly, the ability to afford basic necessities such as food, clothing, and medicine was limited, with 21% agreeing and 61% disagreeing, supported by a low mean score of $\bar{x} = 2.37$. Opportunities to engage in income-generating activities were also minimal, as 12.8% agreed and 71.5% disagreed, with a mean score of $\bar{x} = 2.11$. Access to financial assistance or aid when needed was largely unavailable, with only 11.4% agreeing and 82.9% disagreeing, reflected in the lowest mean score ($\bar{x} = 1.95$). Finally, the ability to save money for future needs was also very limited, with 9.9% agreeing and 75.8% disagreeing, supported by a mean score of $\bar{x} = 2.01$.

Table 4: Government and NGO Interventions for IDPs in Anka LGA

S/N	Item	Strongly Agree (SA)	Agree (A)	Neutral (N)	Disagree (D)	Strongly Disagree (SD)	Mean	Std. Dev.
1	Government provides food and basic supplies in the camps	155 (44.2%)	139 (39.6%)	23 (6.6%)	15 (4.3%)	19 (5.4%)	4.13	1.06
2	NGOs offer healthcare and medical support	121 (34.5%)	148 (42.2%)	30 (8.6%)	24 (6.8%)	28 (8.0%)	3.88	1.10
3	There are vocational training or skills acquisition programs available	15 (4.3%)	37 (10.5%)	18 (5.1%)	137 (39.0%)	144 (41.0%)	1.98	1.30
4	Financial or microcredit support is largely unavailable to IDPs	23 (6.6%)	22 (6.3%)	11 (3.1%)	157 (44.7%)	138 (39.3%)	1.96	1.28
5	Social and psychosocial support programs are inadequate or absent	20 (5.7%)	35 (10.0%)	22 (6.3%)	128 (36.5%)	146 (41.6%)	2.02	1.25

Source: Field Survey, 2025

The survey results indicate that the government's provision of food and basic supplies to IDP camps in Zamfara State is largely recognized, with a combined 84% of respondents, reflected in a high mean score ($\bar{x} = 4.13$), above the benchmark of 3.50. Similarly, NGOs' delivery of healthcare and medical support is acknowledged by respondents, with 76% agreeing, supported by a mean score of $\bar{x} = 3.88$. In contrast, vocational training or skills acquisition programs are largely unavailable, as a combined 80% of respondents disagreed, with a low mean score ($\bar{x} = 1.98$). Financial or microcredit support is also inadequate, with 84% disagreeing, confirmed by a mean score of $\bar{x} = 1.96$. Likewise, social and psychosocial support programs are insufficient, with 78% disagreeing, reflected in a mean score of $\bar{x} = 2.02$. Overall, while the government and NGOs provide essential food and healthcare services, critical interventions such as vocational training, financial assistance, and psychosocial support remain largely insufficient for IDPs in Zamfara State.

The survey findings show that government support in the form of food and basic supplies to IDP camps in Zamfara State is widely acknowledged by respondents. Similarly, the provision of healthcare and medical assistance by NGOs is generally recognized. However, the availability of vocational training or skills acquisition programs is reported to be very limited. Respondents also indicate that financial or microcredit support is largely inadequate. In essence, while basic needs such as food and healthcare are being addressed, important support services like vocational training, financial assistance, and psychosocial care remain largely lacking for IDPs in Zamfara State.

Table 5: Challenges Affecting the Social and Economic Well-being of IDPs

S/N	Item	Strongly Agree (SA)	Agree (A)	Neutral (N)	Disagree (D)	Strongly Disagree (SD)	Mean	Std. Dev.
1	Lack of employment opportunities in the camp affects my economic well-being	160 (45.6%)	120 (34.2%)	25 (7.1%)	28 (8.0%)	18 (5.1%)	4.07	1.12
2	Insufficient food supply is a major challenge in this camp	145 (41.3%)	130 (37.0%)	28 (8.0%)	30 (8.5%)	18 (5.1%)	4.01	1.10
3	Limited access to healthcare services negatively affects my well-being	138 (39.3%)	125 (35.6%)	35 (10.0%)	32 (9.1%)	21 (6.0%)	3.93	1.17
4	Lack of adequate shelter is a serious problem for residents in the camp	150 (42.7%)	120 (34.2%)	30 (8.5%)	32 (9.1%)	19 (5.4%)	4.02	1.13

S/N	Item	Strongly Agree (SA)	Agree (A)	Neutral (N)	Disagree (D)	Strongly Disagree (SD)	Mean	Std. Dev.
5	Inadequate educational opportunities affect children and youths in the camp	132 (37.6%)	140 (39.9%)	26 (7.4%)	30 (8.5%)	23 (6.6%)	3.94	1.15
6	Lack of vocational training or skills acquisition programs limits economic opportunities	170 (48.4%)	120 (34.2%)	20 (5.7%)	25 (7.1%)	16 (4.6%)	4.15	1.09
7	Social discrimination or exclusion affects IDPs in this community	110 (31.3%)	125 (35.6%)	40 (11.4%)	45 (12.8%)	31 (8.8%)	3.68	1.21
8	Limited access to financial support or credit makes it difficult to start small businesses	158 (45.0%)	130 (37.0%)	22 (6.3%)	24 (6.8%)	17 (4.8%)	4.11	1.08
9	Psychological stress and trauma affect the well-being of IDPs in the camp	142 (40.5%)	135 (38.5%)	26 (7.4%)	28 (8.0%)	20 (5.7%)	4.00	1.12
10	Insecurity and safety concerns remain major challenges in the camp	150 (42.7%)	132 (37.6%)	22 (6.3%)	27 (7.7%)	20 (5.7%)	4.04	1.11

Source: Field Survey, 2025

The survey results indicate that lack of employment opportunities is a major challenge affecting the economic well-being of IDPs in camps in Zamfara State, as a combined 79.8% of respondents agreed, reflected in a high mean score ($\bar{x} = 4.07$) above the benchmark of 3.50. Similarly, insufficient food supply is recognized as a major problem, with 78.3% of respondents agreeing, supported by a mean score of $\bar{x} = 4.01$.

Limited access to healthcare services also affects the well-being of IDPs, as 74.9% of respondents agreed, reflected in a mean score ($\bar{x} = 3.93$). In addition, lack of adequate shelter is a significant concern, with 76.9% of respondents agreeing, supported by a mean score ($\bar{x} = 4.02$). The results further show that inadequate educational opportunities for children and youths in the camps is a major challenge, with 77.5% of respondents agreeing, reflected in a mean score ($\bar{x} =$

3.94). Likewise, the lack of vocational training or skills acquisition programs is strongly acknowledged, with 82.6% of respondents agreeing, supported by the highest mean score ($\bar{x} = 4.15$).

Furthermore, social discrimination or exclusion is identified as a challenge, with 66.9% of respondents agreeing, reflected in a mean score ($\bar{x} = 3.68$). Limited access to financial support or credit facilities also constrains economic activities among IDPs, as 82.0% of respondents agreed, supported by a mean score ($\bar{x} = 4.11$). In addition, psychological stress and trauma are widely experienced among IDPs, with 79.0% of respondents agreeing, reflected in a mean score ($\bar{x} = 4.00$). Finally, insecurity and safety concerns remain a significant challenge in the camps, as 80.3% of respondents agreed, supported by a mean score ($\bar{x} = 4.04$).

Discussion of Findings

Based on the data presented and analyzed on the social well-being of IDPs in Anka local Government, two issues were raised. First, IDPs had limited acceptance by members of the host community and a weak sense of belonging. This finding is consistent with a previous study in IDPs Cameroon which reported that internally displaced persons frequently experience limited acceptance and weak social integration within host communities, resulting in a reduced sense of belonging (Angwi et al, 2023). Secondly, it was also discovered that IDP participation in the social activities organized by the host community was low. This means that IDPs in Anka local Government have limited involvement in the activities of the communities where they live. This also suggests that the level of social integration of IDPs in the host community is weak. The findings of this study reflect similar observations made by Iorbo, Sahni, Bhatnagar and Andzenge (2024) that IDP in Benue State that reside in the same communities like their hosts were rarely invited or involved in community activities.

Data collected on the economic well-being of IDPs in Anka local Government showed that IDPs have narrow economic opportunities. This is because the IDPs were primarily farmers before being displaced, and their displacement led to the abandonment of their traditional means of livelihood. This means that opportunities for income-generating activities are very limited suggesting restricted access to employment or productive engagement by IDPs. In essence, majority of the IDPs lacked a stable income which limits their ability to meet their primary needs such as food, clothing, and drugs. The findings of this study agree with those of Bang (2024) which stated that the most pressing issues in the Anglophone IDP crisis in Cameroon were limited access to finances, jobs, training opportunities, health care, shelter, potable water, farming activities, and information.

The survey findings show that government support in the form of food and basic supplies to IDP camps in Zamfara State is widely acknowledged by respondents. Similarly, the provision of healthcare and medical assistance by NGOs is generally recognized. However, the availability of vocational training or skills acquisition programs is reported to be very limited. Respondents also indicate that financial or microcredit support is largely inadequate. In essence, basic needs such as food and healthcare are being addressed, important support services like vocational

training, financial assistance, and psychosocial care remain largely lacking for IDPs in Zamfara State. Similar studies such as Shehu and Abba (2020) and Stark et al (2025) also agreed that the basic needs of IDPs are given top priority but IDPs still require livelihood opportunities and long-term support

Lastly, the findings show that internally displaced persons (IDPs) in camps in Zamfara State face several major challenges affecting their well-being and livelihoods. These include lack of employment opportunities, insufficient food supply, limited access to healthcare, and inadequate shelter. Educational opportunities and vocational training programs are also limited, reducing the chances for skills development and income generation. The findings agree with those of Kemei, Salami, Soboka, et al. (2023) and Timothy et al (2026) that IDPs face severe shortages of essential resources, including food and healthcare, and experience loss of income and livelihoods while coping in their camps.

Conclusion

In conclusion, internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Anka Local Government face significant challenges that undermine both their social and economic well-being. Socially, IDPs experience limited acceptance by host communities, low participation in community activities, and a weak sense of belonging. Economically, the majority of IDPs have lost their traditional livelihoods, particularly farming, resulting in restricted access to employment, income, and other productive opportunities. While government and NGO interventions provide basic needs such as food and healthcare, critical support services including vocational training, financial assistance, and psychosocial care remain inadequate. Overall, IDPs in the study area continue to face vulnerabilities that require comprehensive social and economic support to improve their well-being and long-term resilience.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations have been made:

- i. It is obvious from the study that IDPs had limited acceptance by members of the host community and a weak sense of belonging. Therefore, the local government in collaboration with community and traditional leaders should organize inclusive community events, town hall meetings, and cultural festivals that intentionally include IDPs. They should also lead sensitization campaigns to reduce discrimination and foster a sense of belonging for IDPs.
- ii. There is the urgent need for government, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to work together to establish vocational centers for IDPs as well provide apprenticeships or on-the-job training placements for skilled IDP.
- iii. The Federal and state government should provide low-interest loans, grants, or startup capital for small businesses run by IDPs. This will reduce their dependence on humanitarian which will lead to the creation of reliable and sustainable livelihood for IDPs and their families



- iv. There is no doubt that due to competing demands, government struggles to meet the basic needs of IDPs such as food, shelter, education, medical care etc. Government and NGOs should collaborate so that these essential social services can be provided in IDP camps
- v. Integrating IDPs into the host community is commendable. However, like the saying goes “there is no place like home” Therefore, government at all levels must address the escalating insecurity in Zamfara State and Nigeria in general so that displaced persons can return to their ancestral homes to continue with their normal social and economic life.

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