



DEVELOPING AN INCLUSIVE RESEARCH NETWORK

**to Co-design Livelihood Recovery
Measures for Internally Displaced
Persons (IDP) in Nigeria:**

Project Impact Report
2023



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1. INTRODUCTION

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The concept of livelihood recovery is a critical aspect that emerges as a direct consequence of conflict within society, exerting substantial and far-reaching impacts on the socio-economic fabric of communities, states, and nations. In the context of Nigeria, the country has been confronted with a confluence of interrelated factors that contribute to the eruption of conflict. Prominent among these factors are terrorism, the ramifications of climate change, and fierce competition over limited natural resources. The convergence of these challenges has led to the distressing displacement of a staggering number of Nigerian citizens, resulting in the disruption of their lives, livelihoods, and overall well-being.

Terrorism, in various forms and manifestations, has emerged as a prominent driver of conflict in Nigeria, inflicting widespread fear, destruction, and human suffering. Armed non-state actors, such as Boko Haram, ISWAP, and bandits, have wreaked havoc across the nation, carrying out attacks on civilians, schools, and critical infrastructure. The incessant violence perpetrated by these groups has coerced countless individuals and families to flee their homes in search of safety and security, leading to a crisis of internal displacement on an unprecedented scale. Additionally, climate change-induced effects have compounded the preexisting challenges, exacerbating resource scarcity and environmental degradation. Nigeria, like many other regions around the world, is grappling with the adverse

consequences of climate change, including erratic weather patterns, prolonged droughts, and devastating floods. These climatic anomalies disrupt agricultural productivity, hamper food security, and exacerbate resource competition, fuelling tensions and conflicts over dwindling resources.

In tandem with the effects of terrorism and climate change, competition over natural resources, particularly land and water, further escalates conflict dynamics in Nigeria. As the population continues to grow, the demand for land and water resources intensifies, leading to land-use conflicts and disputes over access to vital water sources. Such resource-driven conflicts often trigger violent confrontations between communities, ethnic groups, and pastoralists, culminating in displacements and humanitarian crises.

The cumulative effect of these interrelated factors is the staggering displacement of millions of Nigerians from their homes due to multi-dimensional conflicts, resulting in the disruption of livelihoods, access to basic services, and social cohesion. The effect of conflict is also multi-dimensional. Among other things, it is a threat to food security and the growth of local economies in Nigeria. Similarly, it effects healthcare services and the provision of quality of education to children-victims. The internal displacement crisis poses a formidable challenge for both the affected individuals and the broader society, necessitating urgent and comprehensive measures to address the needs and vulnerabilities of the displaced population. Mitigating the socio-economic impact of conflict on Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) in Nigeria remains a challenge.



Against the background of this challenge, the question of how to identify sustainable livelihood measures to support the recovery measures of IDPs remains crucial. To better understand the critical aspects of this question, an action network research titled Developing and Inclusive Research Network to Co-design Livelihood Recovery Measures was design to explore some of the opportunities and strategies to deploy to mitigate the economic effects of conflict on IDPs in Nigeria. The project was sponsored by the UK Research and Innovation Scheme under the Arts and Humanities Research Council, and led by Dr Ambi Ambituuni from the University of Birmingham, UK in collaboration with the Nigeria partners including The Kukah Centre and Playback Nigeria, as well as other higher education institutions including Coventry University, UK; Teesside University, UK; and Taraba State University, Nigeria. The project also engaged with a host of civil society organisations (CSOs) to develop a framework for IDP livelihood recovery policy advocacy.

This report presents a comprehensive analysis of the project’s impact on various stakeholders, encompassing IDP participants, The Kukah Centre, co-implementing partners, CSOs, and the general public. It highlights the significant contribution of the employed methodology in facilitating knowledge sharing and advocacy efforts aimed at improving the livelihoods of IDPs in Nigeria. Additionally, the report thoroughly examines the encountered implementation challenges and synthesizes valuable lessons learned throughout the process, ultimately culminating in strategic recommendations to ensure the project’s sustainability and effectiveness over time.



2. RELEVANCE OF THE PROJECT

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The project assumes profound significance and pertinence within the complex and challenging Nigerian IDP management context. As the nation grapples with the ongoing crisis of internal displacement, driven by factors such as conflict, terrorism, climate change effects, and resource competition, the need for effective and sustainable coping mechanisms for the growing number of IDPs has become an urgent priority. In this context, the project emerges as a beacon of hope, offering an innovative and multi-faceted initiative to address the multifarious challenges faced by the displaced population. The project aligns seamlessly with the overarching objectives of The Kukah Centre. As a dynamic and forward-thinking institution committed to promoting peace, human rights, and social development in Nigeria, The Kukah Centre's objectives are harmoniously mirrored in the essence of the project.

Firstly, the project directly addresses humanitarian crises, a primary objective of The Kukah Centre. By co-designing livelihood recovery measures for IDPs, the project endeavours to alleviate the socio-economic impact of internal displacement and promote the well-being and dignity of the vulnerable displaced population. Central to the project's relevance is the deliberate adoption of a robust and inclusive methodology, meticulously designed to foster meaningful collaboration among key participants and stakeholders. This methodology stands as a testament

to the project's commitment to engaging diverse perspectives and expertise, creating a collaborative platform that transcends institutional boundaries. Such an inclusive approach brings together researchers, policymakers, humanitarian organizations, local communities, and most importantly, the IDPs themselves, to collectively identify and amplify the plights faced by those affected.

Secondly, advocacy and knowledge sharing are vital objectives of The Kukah Centre, and the project effectively embodies these ideals. Through its methodology, which emphasizes meaningful collaboration among stakeholders and amplification of IDPs' voices, the project contributes to advocacy efforts and facilitates the dissemination of evidence-based solutions to policymakers and the wider community. Through the active involvement of key stakeholders, the project not only ensures that the voices of the IDPs are heard but also facilitates the co-design of tailored livelihood recovery measures that resonate with the unique challenges of each community. The project's methodology serves as a conduit for knowledge sharing, advocacy, and the dissemination of evidence-based solutions, aiming to uplift and empower the displaced population in Nigeria.

Building inclusive networks is another key goal of The Kukah Centre, and the project exemplifies this by bringing together diverse stakeholders, including multidisciplinary experts, policymakers, humanitarian organizations, and local communities. This collaborative approach fosters inclusive partnerships and collective action to address the complex challenges faced by IDPs in Nigeria. Furthermore, the project's relevance is underscored by its potential to drive positive change and inspire scalable solutions in the context of internal displacement. By forging strong partnerships and fostering collaborative synergies, the project lays the foundation for enduring and sustainable interventions that can address the underlying causes of displacement and alleviate its socio-economic consequences.

A key outcome from the project is the wider impact achieved on the targeted audience because of the collective efforts of project team members. It validates the point that projects can have a wider impact when partners contribute to knowledge and skill based on their areas of specialisation. This quality associated with the project provided an enabling atmosphere for crossbreeding of ideas that that provided the results achieved.



Pictures from IDP Livelihood Advocacy Workshop



3. PROJECT IMPACT

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This section of the report focuses on the impact of the project on The Kukah Centre as a co-implementing partner, and on the project’s targeted audience i.e., IDPs in New Kuchingoro and Durumi Camps. The impact of the project will be discussed against the undercurrents of three key perspectives - knowledge, methodology, and outcomes. Thus, the outcomes and impact provided in this report recognise the contributions of the project inputs namely, knowledge-exchange webinars, the workshops with IDPs and the advocacy policy workshop, in realising the overall objective of the project.

Knowledge Exchange: Series of Webinar

Implementing a project intervention with a well-informed approach yields outcomes of exceptional quality. As a result, the exchange of knowledge through thoughtfully organized webinars among the implementing partners fortified the project’s strategy, enhancing its understanding of the intricate nature of conflict in Nigeria and the dynamics surrounding the displacement of its victims.

A particularly noteworthy webinar was hosted by The Kukah Centre on the 14th of November 2022, focused on the intersection between conflict and the livelihoods of IDPs in Nigeria. Through this insightful discussion, The Kukah Centre shared and gained valuable perspectives on the cultural and economic aspects intricately linked to the livelihoods of IDPs, as well as pertinent steps to effectively engage with this vulnerable population.

This proactive approach of exchanging knowledge through collaborative webinars has proven to be a pivotal element in strengthening the project's foundation and ensuring a well-informed and impactful implementation. By gaining deeper insights into the complex realities faced by IDPs in Nigeria, The Kukah Centre and the other implementing partners have equipped themselves with invaluable tools to navigate the intricate landscape of conflict-induced displacement and effectively work towards enhancing the livelihoods of those affected.

The problems of IDPs in Nigeria envelops several disaggregated humanitarian issues ranging from access to land, quality education, health, security, gender-based violence, as well as the role of national and sub-national governments, community leaders, community-based organisations, and other stakeholders. The series of webinar provided an opportunity to speak to these issues. It consequently provided a headway in terms of identifying boundary partners to work with during the implementation phase. Some key points from the series of webinar are:

- There has been an enduring connection between conflict and displacement of persons in Nigeria – this has resulted in an increasing number of Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria
- The several causes of conflict in Nigeria are ideologically driven, economically and socially motivated. Mitigating conflict requires understanding the issues first, before deploying mitigation strategies.
- Interventions aimed at resilience building and livelihood recovery of IDPs in Nigeria requires a multi-disciplinary approach for long-term impacts.

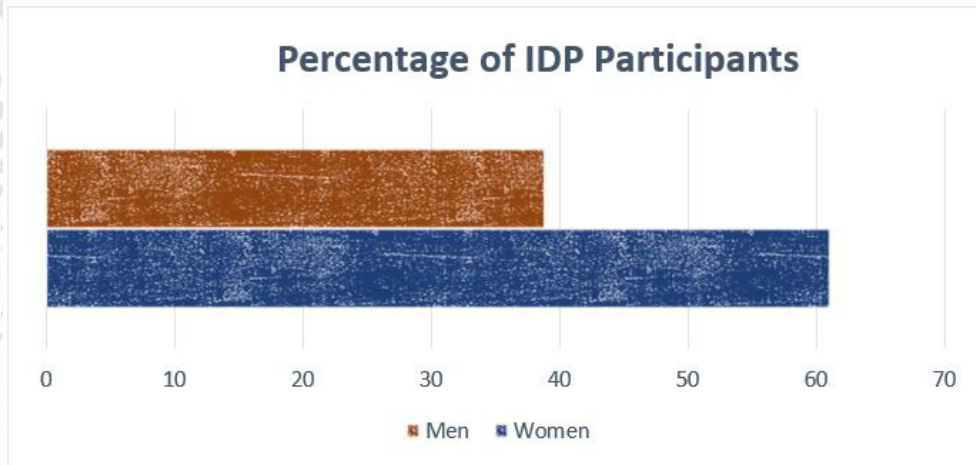
Overall, it was also an exciting moment connecting with other experts from various organisations to discuss on selected topics around the livelihood of IDPs. The Kukah Centre has identified these organisations and individuals for future collaborations and partnerships.

3.1 Methodology: The Use of Art-based Performance to Capture the Social Realities of IDP in Nigeria

A four-day workshop for IDPs was organised between the 21st and 24th of November 2022 to explore Participatory Action Research (PAR) technique with the aim to collect data that identifies livelihood capabilities of IDPs needed for their recovery measures and to amplify their voices through storytelling performances in public places.

The Kukah Centre has garnered invaluable insights from the utilization of the arts-based PAR methodology during the project's implementation. This marked the Centre's first direct engagement with a project that leveraged participatory drama and research as a strategic and methodological approach. The ice-breaking activity, led by the Playback team, served as a compelling buy-in and bonding strategy. This initial activity acted as a catalyst, fostering an atmosphere of trust and camaraderie among the participants and facilitators. Through this engaging and interactive session, candid and open-hearted conversations were sparked, encouraging active participation and uninhibited expressions of the challenges faced by the IDPs. In this safe and nurturing environment, the IDP participants felt empowered to communicate their experiences through various creative means, including drawing and drama, as well as through heartfelt conversations. The arts-based approach facilitated a free exchange of emotions and perspectives, enabling the participants to candidly express their plights and aspirations, thus enriching the depth and authenticity of the research findings. This innovative methodology proved to be an instrumental and transformative element in the project, setting the stage for meaningful and profound interactions that shed light on the complex realities of the displaced population. Secondly, the methodology allowed IDP participants to draw storylines using the technique of flashback and, thereafter, injected action into the storyline through group performances. Their group performances were premised on their past and present realities of conflict and displacement such that the thematic preoccupation reflected experiential issues germane to their livelihoods. The dramatic representation of their challenges showed that there is point of convergence between reality and how it can creatively be represented for the purpose of learning, entertainment, and enlightenment. These three issues were achieved especially on the final day of the workshop where participants performed at public places (markets) to amplify their challenges, calling on the government and the citizens to treat IDPs with dignity and respect.

In terms of the number of participants, The Kukah Centre was able to understand the nuances attributed to how conflict affects vulnerable groups such as women and girls in Nigeria. 61.1 % of the total number of participants during the workshop were women, while 38.9% were men. This representation further suggests that in post-conflict society, women are highly at the risk of facing gender-based violence and are often faced with the challenge of poor access to reproductive healthcare facilities and girl-child education.



Similarly, within the purview of specific gender dimensions of conflict, the category of IDP participants suggests that men are often casualties of conflict in terms of mortality, while women are disproportionately displaced from their homes and means of livelihoods. Policy formulations and interventions in a post-conflict environment should be targeted more at women to support their recovery process.



IDP women showcase artistic work which captures the plight of their displacement and recovery process



Audience watching IDPs perform at the Area 10 market, Abuja.



IDPs presenting a drama at the Area 10 kilichi market, Abuja.

3.2 Stakeholders Engagement for Policy and Advocacy



Effective policy formulation and advocacy require accurate data to have an impact on the issues that it seeks to address. On the background of the findings from its engagement with IDPs in Nigeria, the project team organised a policy and advocacy workshop to discuss findings with key government and non-governmental organisations, and to recommend sustainable policies that will address the plight of IDPs in Nigeria.

Present at the policy and advocacy workshop were representative from the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), National Human Rights Commission, Action Aid, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, just to mention a few. These organisations and agencies were invited because they play a critical role in the humanitarian sector, working directly with IDPs in Nigeria.

Conversations held during the workshop beamed the search light of how IDPs in Nigeria can attain sustainable livelihood recovery measures amidst the challenges such as access to land and the recurrent problem of displacement from resettled communities. One strong recommendation from the workshop emphasised the need to avoid a tokenistic approach in providing succour and interventions to IDPs in Nigeria. This approach can encourage laziness and will build a strong tendency of IDPs to over-rely on such intervention without empowering them towards self-sustenance. Hence, the Nigerian government as well as local and international organisations must deploy a skill-oriented approach to their interventions to stimulate the creativity and innovations of IDPs. Such an approach will mitigate the over-reliance of IDPs on relief interventions provided by government and non-governmental organisations in Nigeria. Similarly, in terms of gender-specific interventions, women should be empowered through skill acquisition to build their recovery measures.

The workshop also identified the need for multi-stakeholder collaboration in supporting IDPs in Nigeria. Government and organisations must identify a meeting point in their interventions and interactions with IDPs.

It is worthy of mention that the workshop had an impact on The Kukah Centre in terms of its strategy for advocacy and linkages. It provided an opportunity for the Centre to add to its database of partners for possible future collaborations.



4. CHALLENGE ENCOUNTERED DURING PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

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A major challenge encountered during project implementation was largely an external factor beyond the control of The Kukah Centre. Due to insecurity in Northeast Nigeria, the project had to be relocated from Taraba state to Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory. This affected the activities designed for implementation. Consequently, budgets were reallocated to align with the changes made in terms of logistics, mobilisation of boundary partners which include IDPs, community-based organisations traditional and religious leaders. However, the challenge encountered provided the team an opportunity to engage IDP participants drawn from across the states in North-east Nigeria (Adamawa and Borno states) that resettled temporarily in the camps in Abuja. Outcomes from participating with a heterogenous participants was able to identify some disaggregated issues of livelihood recovery measures. A key output from the project was the strengthening of social cohesion among IDPs irrespective of ethnicity or religion.



5. LESSONS LEARNED

Use of Media as a tool for policy advocacy: One of the lessons derived from implementing this action is the importance of media as a tool for advocacy and awareness creation. The project leveraged on various media platforms for the purpose of policy advocacy. The workshop incorporated a media component that amplified the plights of IDPs in Nigeria and the need to formulate policies that will address them. Strategic visibility actions – which involves using print, television, and radio – were deployed. That increased the advocacy reach within and outside Nigeria, yielding a wider impact.

Engaging more stable IDP Camps/Communities to track project impact: While the concept of stable communities within the context of Nigeria is relative, one of the selection criteria for engaging IDPs in a project like this, which requires monitoring its progress and impact, is the need to identify and engage with IDPs residing in more stable communities. This

lesson doesn't jettison, nor undermine IDPs settling in un-official camps or communities. However, because this is a research project that has the prospect of sustainability in terms of implementation, projects with long term impact should be targeted at such camps to make sustainable impact on participants.

Multi-stakeholder approach to project implementation has wider impact: This project has underpinned the need for multi-stakeholder approach in addressing issues directly related to humanitarian responses but also in the governance and democratic space. It made multi-stakeholder and/or multi-disciplinary collaboration a plausible strategy in addressing the various strands of economic challenges faced by IDPs in Nigeria. Going forward, The Kukah Centre will place more emphasis on adopting these approaches to its project implementation.



6. RECOMMENDATIONS

As part of the multi-disciplinary team of experts that implemented the action: Developing and Inclusive Research Network to Co-design Livelihood Recovery Measures for Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) in Nigeria, The Kukah Centre makes the following recommendations:

Engage traditional leaders, community-based leaders, and local faith-based organisation for advocacy campaigns: Conflict in Nigeria is experienced at the level of communities. So also, resettlement of IDPs, either in host communities or camps, occur at the community level. Potential livelihood projects should incorporate grassroots advocacy and awareness by engaging traditional and community-based leaders to identify the plights of IDPs and promote communal support in form of access to land for IDPs.

Implementation of gender-specific intervention: One issue that is clear from the implementation of this project is the need to focus on gender-specific interventions, especially for women and girls who are largely affected by conflict in Nigeria. Thus, as a continuum, The Kukah Centre recommends the need to implement a project that will explore further findings observed in the fieldwork, particularly on gender-based violence within IDP communities.

The Incorporation of a Monitoring and Evaluation Component: In subsequent project implementation, a monitoring and evaluation strategy should be developed and deployed to track the progress of the project.



7. CONCLUSION

The project Developing and Inclusive Research Network to Co-design Livelihood Recovery Measures for IDP in Nigeria has had multiple impact on The Kukah Centre, and IDP participants. The impact was achieved because of collaborations from implementing partners. This underpins the need for a multi-disciplinary approach in addressing relevant issues in the academia, within the governance space and among civil society organisations. Thus, the methodology adopted recognised the importance of knowledge about conflict and livelihoods measures, the plights of IDPs and the role of the government and civil society organisations in addressing the challenge of economic and social displacement of IDPs in Nigeria. While the report recognises the contribution of the project towards identifying sustainable livelihood recovery measures for IDPs, it provides recommendations for project sustainability and in deploying better implementation strategies.



This report was produced by the Kukah Centre, a Nigerian based non-profit, non governmental and public policy organization that offers alternatives approaches to the challenges of leadership and the impact of conflict on national development. Interfaith dialogue is at the core of the Centre's work and involves actively promoting conversations among Nigeria's faith communities, as well as between leaders in faith and public policy.

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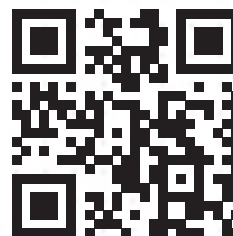
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Implementing Partners

