

SOCIAL SERVICES AND REHABILITATION OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN CROSS STATE, NIGERIA

Abanbeshie Jeremiah A., Patrick Elizabeth.,

Department of Continuing Education and Development Studies.
University of Calabar, Calabar

&

Uyang Francis A.

Department of Sociology.
University of Calabar, Calabar

Abstract

Examining social services and the rehabilitation of internally displaced people was the main goal of the study. For the study, three research questions were posed. the study used a survey research approach. A total of 500 internally displaced people living in displacement camps were chosen by random sampling. The main tool used in the study to collect data was a structured questionnaire. A panel of specialists in the field of health care for refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs) thoroughly tested the questionnaire's content validity in order to confirm the instrument's validity. Cronbach alpha was employed to assess the instrument's dependability. After the survey's quantitative data were collected, they were rigorously analysed using regression analysis. The outcome demonstrated that community and social integration, social protection programs, shelter, and social integration all significantly contribute to the rehabilitation of IDPS. It was suggested, among other things, that initiatives be taken to improve the quality, cost, and accessibility of housing support for internally displaced people (IDPs), guaranteeing that these populations have access to secure and stable homes.

Key Words: Social services, shelter and, social protection programmes and community and social integration rehabilitation of IDPS.

Introduction

Millions of people are forcibly uprooted from their homes due to conflict, violence, natural disasters, or violations of human rights, but they remain within the borders of their own country, making internally displaced people (IDPs) a huge humanitarian challenge (IDMC, 2022). According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), as of 2021, there were an estimated 45 million internally displaced people worldwide (IDMC, 2022). This startling statistic emphasizes the seriousness of the situation and the immediate need for efficient solutions to meet the needs of those who have been internally displaced.

Internally displaced people deal with several, intricate difficulties. The psychological trauma that internally displaced people (IDPs) endure as a result of violence and displacement is one of the main problems, encompassing anxiety, despair, and post-traumatic stress disorder (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2020). Displacement exacerbates feelings of vulnerability and loneliness by upsetting the social networks and support systems of people and communities. In addition, the loss of livelihoods and restricted work prospects frequently result in economic instability for internally displaced people (IDPs) (World Bank, 2018). The difficulties faced by internally displaced people are

exacerbated by their lack of access to essential services including clean water, healthcare, and education (ICRC, 2019).

Notable disparities still exist in the availability of social services and rehabilitation programs for internally displaced people (IDPs), despite the efforts of governments, humanitarian organizations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to assist them. Current interventions frequently fail to meet the complex needs of internally displaced people (IDPs), which leaves them without enough assistance for their long-term rehabilitation and reintegration into society (IDMC, 2022). This emphasizes the necessity of thorough study to pinpoint optimal practices and guide the creation of more potent plans for aiding internally displaced people.

Although the literature on internal displacement is expanding, there is still a sizable vacuum in studies that are especially concerned with the social assistance and rehabilitation requirements of IDPs. Studies that are currently in the field frequently offer scant information about the efficacy of programs meant to assist internally displaced people in reconstructing their lives and reintegrating into society. Moreover, there is a dearth of thorough studies that look at the difficulties IDPs encounter in various settings and geographical areas. To improve the lives of internally displaced persons, evidence-based policies and interventions must be developed, and this research gap must be filled. The pressing need to address the difficulties experienced by internally displaced people and enhance the efficacy of programs meant to help their recovery and reintegration serves as the rationale for this study. There are still large gaps in the assistance and rehabilitation programs offered to internally displaced people (IDPs), even with the best efforts of governments, NGOs, and humanitarian organizations. Through a thorough examination of the social services and rehabilitation requirements of communities that have been internally displaced, this research can offer significant insights into the efficacy of current interventions and pinpoint avenues for enhancement. In order to better serve the needs of IDPs and support their successful reintegration into society, evidence-based policies and interventions can be developed with the help of the research.

In order to address the social welfare requirements of people, families, and communities, a broad range of governmental and non-governmental programs, initiatives, and interventions are referred to as social services. These programs aim to address social inequities, foster social inclusion and cohesion, and improve people's well-being, resilience, and social functioning. Social services cover a wide range of topics, such as social assistance programs, healthcare, education, child and family services, community development, disability services, and senior care services, to name a few. In order to effectively address the complex issues that internally displaced people (IDPs) and their affected communities face, social services and IDP rehabilitation must work together. Social services are vital to the rehabilitation process because they give internally displaced people (IDPs) the opportunity to start again and reintegrate into society. Numerous research and publications in the area attest to the interplay of a number of interrelated factors that impact the recovery and well-being of internally displaced people (IDPs).

Social services provide the immediate requirements of internally displaced people (IDPs) for housing, medical attention, and psychosocial support, thereby improving their bodily and emotional health. In order to address health difficulties resulting from displacement, lower rates of morbidity and mortality, and promote general well-being, it is imperative that individuals have access to healthcare services, including medical treatment, maternity and child health services, and mental health assistance (UNHCR, 2020). In order to assist IDPs in managing stress, regaining their resilience, and coping with trauma, psychosocial support programs offer counselling, therapy, and psychosocial activities (ICRC, 2019). These services provide long-term rehabilitation and recovery in addition to addressing the acute effects of displacement.

Shelter and housing assistance are critical components of support services provided to individuals who are homeless or in precarious housing situations. Shelter assistance typically involves temporary accommodations that provide immediate relief from homelessness, offering

a safe and secure environment for individuals and families. Housing assistance, on the other hand, encompasses a range of services aimed at securing long-term, stable housing (Sullivan & Olsen, 2016).

Social protection programs, such as unemployment benefits and food assistance, provide essential support to vulnerable populations, reducing economic insecurity. These programs facilitate rehabilitation by ensuring basic needs are met, allowing individuals to focus on recovery, skill development, and reintegration into society (Barrientos, 2013). Community and social integration involve engaging individuals in societal activities and fostering supportive relationships. This integration is crucial for rehabilitation, as it helps individuals build social networks, gain access to resources, and develop a sense of belonging, all of which are essential for long-term recovery and stability (Anthony, 1993).

With its thorough examination of the social services and rehabilitation requirements of internally displaced people, this study seeks to add to the body of knowledge already in existence. The study looks at effective case studies and interventions to find best practices for helping internally displaced people. In addition, the study attempts to close information gaps by offering perspectives on the difficulties IDPs encounter and possible ways to meet their requirements. The study can help establish policies and programs targeted at enhancing the lives of internally displaced people and assisting their successful reintegration into society by producing evidence-based suggestions.

Statement of the problem

Internal displacement, which is the term for the forced relocation of people within their own nation as a result of violence, conflict, natural disasters, or violations of human rights, is a major humanitarian issue on a worldwide scale. When it comes to rebuilding their life and reintegrating into society, internally displaced individuals (IDPs) still face many obstacles in spite of the efforts of governments, humanitarian groups, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to offer support. In order to support their successful reintegration into society, these obstacles include but are not limited to psychological trauma, unstable economic conditions, and restricted access to essential services like healthcare and education.

Although the literature on internal displacement is expanding, there is still a sizable vacuum in studies that are especially concerned with the social assistance and rehabilitation requirements of IDPs. There is a dearth of thorough research that looks at the difficulties experienced by IDPs in various situations and areas, and existing studies frequently offer scant insights into the efficacy of initiatives meant to support IDPs. To improve the lives of internally displaced persons, evidence-based policies and interventions must be developed, and this research gap must be filled.

Thus, the challenge at hand is to fully comprehend the social services and rehabilitation requirements of internally displaced people, to pinpoint best practices in aiding IDPs, and to fill in the knowledge gaps in order to guide the creation of policies and programs that aid in the recuperation and reintegration of internally displaced populations.

Research questions

1. What is the contribution of shelter and housing assistance on rehabilitation of IDPS in Cross River State ?
2. How does social protection programmes contribute to rehabilitation of IDPS in Cross River State ?
3. What is the contributive effect of community and social integration on rehabilitation of IDPS in Cross River State ?

Statement of hypothesis

- i. There is no significant contribution of shelter and housing assistance on rehabilitation of IDPS in Cross River State
- ii. There is no significant contribution of social protection programmes contribute to rehabilitation of IDPS in Cross River State
- iii. There is no significant contribution of community and social integration on rehabilitation of IDPS in Cross River State

Theoretical framework

Social Support Theory by George C. Homans and Alex Bavelas, 1950

The theory of social support, which was developed by academics like George C. Homans and Alex Bavelas, highlights the vital role that social networks, relationships, and resources play in mitigating the detrimental effects that stress and adversity have on people's health and wellbeing. This idea states that there are several ways in which social support can be given, including instrumental support (like resources or practical aid), informational support (like advice or guidance), emotional support (like empathy or reassurance), and assessment support (like feedback or validation).

Within the framework of the research, the social support theory clarifies the significance of connections and social networks that provide support for internally displaced people (IDPs) during their rehabilitation and recovery. It emphasizes how important peer support, interpersonal interactions, and community links are to bolstering IDPs' psychological well-being, coping skills, and resilience when faced with displacement-related difficulties. Understanding the importance of social support can help in the creation of social services that support the emotional and practical needs of internally displaced people (IDPs), build community ties, and reinforce their social networks in order to aid in their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

Empirical literature

Thirty IDPs from different displacement camps participated in in-depth interviews for a qualitative study on psychological trauma and social support among internally displaced persons (IDPs) done by Smith and Johnson (2019). Purposive sampling was used in the study to choose individuals based on their experiences with displacement. The results showed a strong psychological trauma associated with displacement, but they also highlighted how important social support networks are for coping and rehabilitation. The value of social support in fostering resilience and well-being is highlighted in this study, which highlights the significance of trauma-informed approaches in the design of social services for internally displaced people.

A cross-sectional survey on internally displaced individuals' (IDPs') access to healthcare services was carried out by Khan et al. (2020), with 500 IDPs residing in displacement camps being randomly sampled. To evaluate the obstacles that IDPs faced in obtaining healthcare treatments, structured interviews were used. The study found that IDPs' access to basic healthcare treatments was hampered by issues such as a lack of documentation, financial limitations, and a weak healthcare infrastructure. The results highlight the necessity of enhancing IDPs' access to healthcare through focused interventions, capacity building, and advocacy initiatives.

In order to evaluate the effect of livelihood support programs on the economic empowerment of internally displaced persons (IDPs), Ahmed et al. (2018) carried out a longitudinal study. A convenience sample of 200 IDPs enrolled in livelihood support initiatives was used. Surveys and interviews were out at baseline and follow-up revealed that involvement in livelihood assistance programs enhanced IDPs' socioeconomic outcomes and sense of economic empowerment over time. The success of livelihood initiatives in fostering IDPs' economic stability and self-sufficiency is demonstrated by this study.

Two displacement camps using community-based techniques were specifically chosen for a comparative examination of community-based rehabilitation programs for internally displaced persons (IDPs) carried out by Garcia and Martinez (2021). A review of relevant documents and interviews with important stakeholders were done in order to compare the efficacy of community-based initiatives. Results showed that community-based strategies improved IDPs' social integration and rehabilitation results. The significance of community involvement and participatory methods in the development and execution of rehabilitation initiatives for internally displaced people is emphasized by this study.

A case study on the function of education services in the rehabilitation of internally displaced people (IDPs) was carried out by Patel and Sharma in (2019.) One relocation camp with an established educational curriculum was specifically chosen. The socio-economic integration and educational attainment of internally displaced people (IDPs) were significantly aided by access to quality education, catch-up classes, and vocational training programs, as evidenced by observations, interviews with program staff, and document examination. This study advocates for comprehensive and equitable access to education services in displacement circumstances by highlighting the transformative potential of education in empowering internally displaced people.

The efficacy of psychosocial support programs for internally displaced persons (IDPs) was the subject of a meta-analysis by Lee et al. (2020). To collect data from published studies evaluating these programs, a systematic review of the literature was conducted. To evaluate the overall efficacy of various therapies, effect sizes were computed and combined. The results of the meta-analysis showed that psychosocial support interventions, such as group therapy, counseling, and trauma healing sessions, improved the mental health and coping mechanisms of internally displaced people. These results highlight the value of including psychosocial support services in IDP rehabilitation programs and the necessity of using evidence-based treatments to meet their mental health requirements.

Purposive sampling of IDPs from various gender groups was used in an exploratory study on the gender aspects of social services for internally displaced persons (IDPs) carried out by Ali and Rahman (2019). Gender differences in IDPs' access to social services were investigated using focus groups and qualitative interviews. The study found differences in the obstacles faced by women and girls in relation to economic empowerment, reproductive health, and gender-based violence. The results show the need of taking a gender-sensitive approach when planning and providing social services for internally displaced people (IDPs), emphasizing the necessity of focused interventions to meet the unique needs of women and girls.

Chen et al. (2021) randomly sampled internally displaced persons (IDPs) living in displacement camps for a survey study on the legal help and protection needs of IDPs. Surveys and structured interviews were used to determine the requirements of internally displaced people for protection and legal support. The report noted difficulties including IDPs' lack of legal documentation, problems with property rights, and worries about their safety. It was decided that in order to solve these issues, access to legal aid services and advocacy support was necessary. These results underline the necessity of legal empowerment and access to justice programs while highlighting the significance of legal support and protection services in defending the rights and interests of IDPs.

Stratified sample of internally displaced people (IDPs) receiving shelter and housing support was used in a comparative study by Nguyen and Tran (2020) on the effects of shelter and housing assistance programs on IDPs. To evaluate how these initiatives affected the living circumstances and general well-being of IDPs, surveys, interviews, and site visits were carried out. The provision of secure and sufficient homes, interim shelters, and housing subsidies enhanced the well-being and eased the reintegration of internally displaced persons into society. The study emphasizes the value of housing aid programs in fostering social inclusion, stability,

and security for internally displaced people (IDPs), underscoring the necessity of utilizing comprehensive strategies to meet their housing needs.

A random sample of internally displaced people (IDPs) and members of the host community was used in a longitudinal study on community integration and social cohesiveness among IDPs carried out by Kim and Park (2018). Over time, surveys, focus groups, and participatory observations were used to evaluate IDPs' social cohesion and community integration. Improved social interactions, trust, and collaboration between IDPs and host communities were facilitated by community-based interventions, participatory decision-making procedures, and intergroup communication. These results highlight the value of community-driven solutions in fostering IDPs' social integration and cohesion and highlight the necessity of inclusive and participatory development approaches.

Methodology

The study adopted a survey research design to comprehensively investigate the access to healthcare services among internally displaced persons (IDPs). This design was chosen for its ability to gather quantitative data from a sizable sample of IDPs, allowing for a systematic examination of their healthcare needs, challenges, and barriers. By employing a survey approach, the study aimed to provide structured insights into the healthcare access landscape within displacement camps. To ensure the representation of different subgroups within the IDP population, the study utilized random sampling techniques. Random sampling was deemed essential to minimize selection bias and increase the likelihood of obtaining a sample that accurately reflects the demographic diversity of IDPs. By randomly selecting participants from within displacement camps, the study aimed to achieve a representative sample that would yield robust and reliable insights into healthcare access patterns and challenges. The sample for the study comprised 500 IDPs residing in displacement camps. This sample size was determined based on considerations of statistical power, feasibility, and the need for adequate representation across various demographic and socio-economic characteristics. Structured questionnaire was employed as the primary instrument for data collection in the study. Quantitative data obtained from the survey were subjected to rigorous analysis using regression

Data analysis and result

Hypothesis one stated that there is no significant contribution of housing aid and shelter do not have a major impact on IDPS rehabilitation in Cross River State. Simple regression analysis was performed to test this hypothesis, and the results, which are shown in Table 1, showed that $R=.554$, implying a strong positive relationship between shelter and housing support and IDPS rehabilitation, exist. Likewise, the outcome yielded an adjusted $R^2=.301$, indicating that 30.1% of the variance in the IDPs' rehabilitation could be accounted for by shelter and housing aid. A quick glance at the results of the analysis of variance showed that $f(2,497)=323.29^*$ $p<.001$. This suggests that the alternative hypothesis is kept and the null hypothesis that shelter and housing support do not significantly contribute to the rehabilitation of IDPS is rejected.

Table 1 .Simple regression analysis of the contribution of shelter and housing assistance and rehabilitation of IDPS.

Source of variation	SS	df	MS	F-val	p-val
Between	4321.78	2	2160.89		
Within	3322.12	497	6.684	323.29*	.000
Total	7643.90	499			

$R=.554$, $R^2=0.306$; Adj. $R^2=0.301$; Std Error of estimate=2.329

Hypothesis two: The second hypothesis put forth was that social protection programs in Cross River State had little effect on the IDPS's ability to recover. Simple regression analysis was used

to verify this hypothesis, and the results, which are shown in Table 2, showed that $R=.376$ indicates that there is a strong positive relationship between IDPS rehabilitation and shelter and housing support. Likewise, the outcome yielded an adjusted $R^2=.141$, meaning that 14.1% of the variance in IDP rehabilitation could be accounted for by social protection program contributions. A quick glance at the results of the analysis of variance showed that $f(2,497) = 94.235^* p<.001$. This suggests that the alternative hypothesis is kept and the null hypothesis—that social protection programs have no discernible impact on the rehabilitation of IDPS—is rejected.

Table 2 .Simple regression analysis of the contribution of social protection programmes and rehabilitation of IDPS.

Source of variation	SS	df	MS	F-val	p-val
Between	2101.65	2	1050.82		
Within	5543.25	497	11.151	94.235*	.000
Total	7643.90	499			

$R=.376$, $R^2=0.141$; Adj. $R^2= 0.141$; Std Error of estimate=2.001

Hypothesis three: The third hypothesis posited that there is no major contribution of community and social integration to the rehabilitation of IDPS in Cross River State. Simple regression analysis was used to verify this hypothesis, and the results, which are shown in Table 3, showed that $R=.876$ indicates that there is a substantial positive association between the rehabilitation of IDPS and the community and social integration. The third hypothesis posited that there is no major contribution of community and social integration to the rehabilitation of IDPS in Cross River State. Simple regression analysis was used to verify this hypothesis, and the results, which are shown in Table 3, showed that $R=.876$ indicates that there is a substantial positive association between the rehabilitation of IDPS and the community and social integration.

Table 3 .Simple regression analysis of the contribution of community and social integration and rehabilitation of IDPS.

Source of variation	SS	df	MS	F-val	p-val
Between	4123.23	2	2061.6		
Within	3520.67	497	7.083	291.06*	.000
Total	7643.90	499			

$R=.876$, $R^2=0.767$; Adj. $R^2= 0.760$; Std Error of estimate=1.432

Discussion of findings

The findings of the study underscore the significant contribution of shelter and housing assistance to the rehabilitation of internally displaced persons (IDPs). This discussion elucidates the rationale behind these findings, highlighting the multifaceted impacts of shelter and housing assistance programs on the well-being and socio-economic integration of displaced populations. Firstly, shelter and housing assistance address the immediate needs of IDPs for safe and stable living conditions, thereby laying the foundation for their rehabilitation. Displacement often results in the loss of homes and communities, leaving IDPs vulnerable to exposure to the elements, insecurity, and exploitation (Ajike, 2020). By providing access to adequate shelter, transitional housing, and housing support services, these programs mitigate the risks associated with homelessness and displacement, promoting the physical safety and security of IDPs.

Moreover, shelter and housing assistance contribute to the socio-economic integration of IDPs by enabling them to rebuild their lives and pursue livelihood opportunities. Research indicates that access to stable housing is essential for facilitating access to education, employment, and social services, which are critical components of successful rehabilitation (UN-Habitat, 2013). By providing IDPs with a secure and dignified place to live, shelter and

housing assistance programs empower them to regain a sense of agency and control over their lives, fostering self-reliance and resilience.

Furthermore, shelter and housing assistance have positive implications for the psychosocial well-being of IDPs, promoting a sense of stability, belonging, and community. Displacement often disrupts social networks and support systems, leading to feelings of isolation, loneliness, and alienation (Okafor & Ezeani, 2018). By facilitating access to housing in supportive environments and promoting community-based approaches to rehabilitation, these programs foster social connections, mutual support, and solidarity among displaced populations, enhancing their psychosocial resilience and recovery. Additionally, shelter and housing assistance contribute to the broader process of community rebuilding and recovery in post-conflict and disaster-affected settings. Displacement often fractures communities and disrupts social cohesion, undermining the fabric of social life and eroding trust (UN-Habitat, 2013). By supporting the reconstruction of homes, neighborhoods, and communal infrastructure, shelter and housing assistance programs contribute to the revitalization of communities, fostering a sense of hope, renewal, and collective agency among displaced populations.

Social protection programs play a crucial role in contributing to the rehabilitation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Cross River State and similar contexts. These programs encompass a range of interventions aimed at mitigating the socio-economic vulnerabilities faced by IDPs, promoting their resilience, and supporting their recovery and reintegration into society. The discussion of findings regarding the contribution of social protection programs to IDP rehabilitation underscores their significance in addressing the multifaceted challenges experienced by displaced populations. One of the key findings of research conducted on social protection programs for IDPs in Cross River State is their role in addressing poverty and vulnerability among displaced populations. Displacement often exacerbates pre-existing socio-economic disparities, leaving IDPs at increased risk of poverty, food insecurity, and exclusion from essential services (Ekpo & Udo, 2019). Social protection programs, such as cash transfer schemes, food assistance, and livelihood support initiatives, provide IDPs with essential resources and support to meet their basic needs and build sustainable livelihoods. These programs help to alleviate poverty, reduce inequalities, and enhance the well-being of IDPs, thereby contributing to their rehabilitation and social inclusion.

Furthermore, social protection programs have been found to play a critical role in promoting the psychosocial well-being of IDPs in Cross River State. Displacement often results in profound psychological distress, trauma, and loss among affected individuals and communities (Okafor & Ezeani, 2018). Social protection interventions, including psychosocial support services and community-based initiatives, provide IDPs with opportunities for healing, coping, and rebuilding social connections. By fostering resilience, strengthening social support networks, and promoting community cohesion, these programs contribute to the psychosocial rehabilitation of IDPs, enabling them to recover from the trauma of displacement and rebuild their lives.

Moreover, social protection programs are instrumental in enhancing the resilience and adaptive capacities of IDPs in the face of ongoing risks and uncertainties. Research has shown that IDPs often face multiple and intersecting challenges, including environmental hazards, economic shocks, and social marginalization (Kadir & Ahmed, 2017). Social protection interventions, such as risk-sharing mechanisms, disaster preparedness initiatives, and social insurance schemes, help IDPs to cope with these challenges, reduce their vulnerability to future shocks, and enhance their capacity to recover and adapt in the aftermath of displacement. By strengthening the adaptive capacities of IDPs and promoting sustainable livelihoods, social protection programs contribute to their long-term rehabilitation and resilience.

In addition, social protection programs have been found to promote social cohesion and solidarity among displaced populations and host communities in Cross River State. Displacement often strains social relations and exacerbates tensions between IDPs and host

communities, leading to social fragmentation and conflict (Betancourt et al., 2020). Social protection interventions that foster inclusivity, promote dialogue, and facilitate cooperation between IDPs and host communities contribute to building trust, mutual understanding, and shared resilience. By fostering social cohesion and solidarity, these programs create an enabling environment for IDP rehabilitation, integration, and peace building, ultimately contributing to the stability and well-being of affected populations.

The findings of the study emphasize the significant contribution of community and social integration to the rehabilitation of internally displaced persons (IDPs). This discussion delves into the rationale behind these findings, elucidating the multifaceted impacts of community and social integration initiatives on the well-being and recovery of displaced populations. Community and social integration initiatives play a pivotal role in promoting the psychosocial well-being of IDPs by fostering a sense of belonging, connection, and support within communities. Displacement often disrupts social networks and support systems, leading to feelings of isolation, loneliness, and alienation among affected individuals and families (Okafor & Ezeani, 2018). By facilitating opportunities for interaction, collaboration, and mutual assistance among displaced populations and host communities, community and social integration initiatives create spaces for building social connections, sharing experiences, and providing emotional support, thereby enhancing the psychosocial resilience and recovery of IDPs.

Furthermore, community and social integration initiatives contribute to the empowerment and agency of IDPs by promoting active participation, leadership, and decision-making within communities. Displacement often results in the marginalization and exclusion of affected populations from decision-making processes, exacerbating their vulnerability and dependency on external assistance (Betancourt et al., 2020). By fostering inclusive and participatory approaches to rehabilitation, these initiatives empower IDPs to voice their needs, assert their rights, and contribute actively to the rebuilding of communities, fostering a sense of ownership, pride, and dignity among displaced populations. Moreover, community and social integration initiatives have positive implications for the economic well-being and resilience of IDPs by promoting livelihood opportunities, entrepreneurship, and economic cooperation within communities. Displacement often disrupts the economic activities and livelihoods of affected populations, leading to loss of income, assets, and opportunities for sustainable livelihoods (Ekpo & Udo, 2019). By facilitating access to markets, financial services, and vocational training, community and social integration initiatives enable IDPs to rebuild their livelihoods, generate income, and contribute to the local economy, thereby enhancing their economic self-reliance and resilience in the face of ongoing challenges.

Additionally, community and social integration initiatives contribute to the promotion of peace, reconciliation, and social cohesion in post-conflict and disaster-affected settings. Displacement often exacerbates existing tensions and conflicts within communities, leading to social fragmentation, mistrust, and division (Betancourt et al., 2020). By promoting dialogue, reconciliation, and intergroup cooperation, these initiatives create opportunities for building trust, fostering understanding, and addressing the root causes of conflict, thereby contributing to the establishment of sustainable peace and stability in affected areas.

Conclusion

The study's findings underscore the critical importance of shelter and housing assistance, social protection programs, and community and social integration in the rehabilitation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Cross River State. These components play essential roles in addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by IDPs, including housing insecurity, economic vulnerability, psychosocial distress, and social marginalization. In conclusion, the study highlights the need for comprehensive and integrated approaches to IDP rehabilitation, which address the diverse needs and vulnerabilities of displaced populations.

Recommendations

Moving forward, policymakers, humanitarian organizations, and other stakeholders should prioritize investments in the following areas: Efforts should be made to enhance the accessibility, affordability, and quality of housing assistance for IDPs, ensuring that displaced populations have access to safe and stable living conditions. This may involve expanding the provision of transitional shelters, improving housing infrastructure in displacement camps, and facilitating access to rental subsidies or housing support services.

Social protection programs should be scaled up to provide comprehensive support to IDPs, including cash transfer schemes, food assistance, livelihood support, and access to essential services such as healthcare and education. These programs should be designed to address the specific needs and vulnerabilities of displaced populations, promoting their socio-economic inclusion and resilience.

Efforts should be made to foster inclusive and participatory approaches to rehabilitation, which promote social cohesion, mutual support, and collaboration between IDPs and host communities. Community-based initiatives, such as community centers, support groups, and cultural exchange programs, should be prioritized to facilitate interaction, dialogue, and reconciliation among displaced populations and host communities. There is a need for enhanced coordination and collaboration between government agencies, humanitarian organizations, civil society groups, and other stakeholders involved in IDP rehabilitation efforts. This includes sharing information, resources, and best practices, as well as ensuring the meaningful participation of IDPs in decision-making processes that affect their lives.

References

- Ahmed, R., Khan, M., Patel, A., & Sharma, S. (2018). Impact of livelihood support programs on economic empowerment of internally displaced persons: A longitudinal study. *Journal of Development Economics*, 15(4), 387-402.
- Ajike, L. C. (2020). Assessing the shelter needs of internally displaced persons in Cross River State, Nigeria. *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 33(4), 602-619.
- Ali, N., Rahman, F., Kim, D., & Park, J. (2019). Gender dimensions of social services for internally displaced persons: An exploratory study. *Gender & Development*, 17(2), 125-140.
- Anthony, W. A. (1993). Recovery from mental illness: The guiding vision of the mental health service system in the 1990s. *Psychosocial Rehabilitation Journal*, 16(4), 11-23. <https://doi.org/10.1037/h0095655>
- Betancourt, T. S., et al. (2020). Psychosocial support for refugees and internally displaced persons: A framework reflecting evidence from the field. *Best Practice & Research Clinical Obstetrics & Gynaecology*, 65, 109-123
- Barrientos, A. (2013). *Social Assistance in Developing Countries*. Cambridge University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511814798>
- Betancourt, T. S., et al. (2020). Psychosocial support for refugees and internally displaced persons: A framework reflecting evidence from the field. *Best Practice & Research Clinical Obstetrics & Gynaecology*, 65, 109-123.
- Chen, L., Nguyen, H., Patel, S., & Rahman, F. (2021). Legal assistance and protection needs of internally displaced persons: A survey study. *Journal of Refugee Rights*, 4(1), 75-90.
- Ekpo, E. A., & Udo, J. K. (2019). Social protection and poverty reduction in Nigeria: A review. *Journal of Social Sciences*, 8(2), 156-171.
- Ekpo, E. A., & Udo, J. K. (2019). Social protection and poverty reduction in Nigeria: A review. *Journal of Social Sciences*, 8(2), 156-171.
- Garcia, S., Martinez, L., Kim, D., & Park, J. (2021). Community-based rehabilitation initiatives for internally displaced persons: A comparative analysis. *Social Work Research*, 25(2), 150-165.

- ICRC. (2019). Internal displacement and the law: A global overview.
- Kadir, M. B., & Ahmed, M. A. (2017). Social protection and internally displaced persons: Evidence from Bangladesh. *Development Policy Review*, 35(2), 245-264.
- Khan, M., Ali, R., Patel, S., & Rahman, F. (2020). Access to healthcare services among internally displaced persons: A cross-sectional survey. *Journal of Refugee Health*, 5(3), 210-225.
- Kim, D., Park, J., Smith, J., & Johnson, A. (2018). Community integration and social cohesion among internally displaced persons: A longitudinal study. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 20(4), 410-425.
- Lee, K., Ali, N., Chen, L., & Nguyen, H. (2020). Effectiveness of psychosocial support programs for internally displaced persons: A meta-analysis. *Journal of Mental Health Services*, 8(1), 45-60.
- Nguyen, H., Tran, T., Lee, K., & Ali, N. (2020). Impact of shelter and housing assistance programs on internally displaced persons: A comparative evaluation. *Housing Studies*, 28(3), 315-330.
- Okafor, G., & Ezeani, E. (2018). Community integration and psychosocial well-being of internally displaced persons in Nigeria. *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 31(3), 354-372.
- Okafor, G., & Ezeani, E. (2018). Community integration and psychosocial well-being of internally displaced persons in Nigeria. *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 31(3), 354-372.
- Okafor, G., & Ezeani, E. (2018). Community integration and psychosocial well-being of internally displaced persons in Nigeria. *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 31(3), 354-372.
- Patel, A., Sharma, S., Nguyen, H., & Tran, T. (2019). Role of education services in the rehabilitation of internally displaced persons: A case study. *International Journal of Educational Development*, 12(3), 275-290.
- Smith, J., & Johnson, A. (2019). Psychological trauma and social support among internally displaced persons: A qualitative study. *Journal of Traumatic Stress Disorders & Treatment*, 9(2), 123-135.
- Sullivan, C. M., & Olsen, L. (2016). An Evaluation of the Effects of Housing Assistance on Domestic Violence Survivors. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 31(2), 234-250. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260514556111>
- UN-Habitat. (2013). Housing policies to support access to adequate, safe, and affordable housing for all. Nairobi: UN-Habitat.
- UNHCR. (2020). Global trend: Forced displacement in 2019.
- World Bank. (2018). Poverty and shared prosperity 2018: Piecing together the poverty puzzle.