



BENUE STATE

ACTION PLAN

January 2025

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His Excellency
Rev. Fr. Dr. Hyacinth Iormem Alia
Executive Governor, Benue State

Forward

For decades, protracted displacement has plagued millions of people worldwide, forcing them to flee their homes and seek refuge in unfamiliar lands. The consequences of this phenomenon are far-reaching, as it not only strips individuals of their basic human rights but also perpetuates a cycle of poverty, inequality, and social unrest. However, in recent years, a paradigm shift has emerged, focusing on connecting people to sustainable solution pathways that prioritize their safety, dignity, and enjoyment of universal human rights. This transition marks a significant milestone in the quest to address the root causes of displacement and foster a brighter future for those affected. Protracted displacement is characterized by prolonged periods of exile, during which individuals are forced to rely on humanitarian aid and struggle to rebuild their lives. This state of limbo has severe implications for their physical and mental well-being, as they face uncertainty, insecurity, and a lack of access to basic services such as healthcare, education, and employment. Moreover, the absence of a stable and secure environment hampers their ability to participate in their host communities, leading to social isolation and marginalization.

The State Durable Solution Action Plan is a vital framework aimed at providing a comprehensive approach to addressing the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees. This plan is crucial in ensuring that these individuals, who have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict, persecution, or natural disasters, are able to rebuild their lives and reintegrate into society. The plan focuses on providing durable solutions, which are long-term and sustainable, to the displacement crisis. This involves not only providing immediate humanitarian assistance but also working towards finding lasting solutions that address the root causes of displacement.

The plan is forward-looking, recognizing that displacement is not only a humanitarian crisis but also a development challenge that requires the involvement of governments, international organizations, and local communities. The implementation of the State Durable Solution Action Plan requires a multi-faceted approach that involves various stakeholders. Governments must take the lead in developing and implementing policies that address the needs of IDPs, returnees, host communities and refugees, while also working to prevent further displacement. The Donor community, INGOs, UN Agencies, and CSOs play a critical role in providing technical assistance and resources to support the implementation of the plan. Local communities, including civil society organizations and community groups, are also essential in providing support and services to IDPs and refugees.

Furthermore, the plan must prioritize the empowerment of IDPs and refugees, ensuring that they are involved in the decision-making processes and are able to take ownership of their own solutions. By working together, it is possible to achieve durable solutions that not only improve the lives of IDPs and refugees but also contribute to the overall development and stability of the country. The State Action Plan aligns with the Benue State Government's 10-year (2025 – 2034) Development Plan that underlines the State Government's commitment to address the complexities of internal displacement within its overall policy framework of prosperity and sustainable development for all. The Executive Governor of Benue State Rev Fr. Dr. Hyacinth Iormem Alia's Seven (7) Point Agenda in Pillar 1 speaks to the importance of dealing with the challenges of security of lives and property of citizens. This pillar equally acknowledges the importance of establishment of Permanent Integrated Forward Operation Bases for Security men at all the flash points, where there have been cases of armed attacks and displacement of people while at the same time developing the policy for the rehabilitation and resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons in the State. These proposed Government led actions will be most evident in the areas of coordination, implementation leadership and monitoring.

The progress of implementation will adapt an iterative approach that allows for course correction. Together with partners, the State Government will continue building capacity within its institutions for effective and efficient implementation and reporting. This will enable the State to benefit from the UN Secretary General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement of which Nigeria is one of the pilot countries. This beneficiation will be in order since Benue state has unfortunately become the second state with the highest number of IDPs after Borno state. In its effort to address the issues around displacement, the government established the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management as a pivotal institution tasked with coordinating the efforts needed to return all IDPs to their respective ancestral homes as well as lead in the development that is expected to follow, while prioritizing their safety and security during the return process. This State Action Plan (2025 – 2034) is therefore a crucial investment in addressing the current humanitarian needs while rebuilding our communities that were severely devastated by the various forms of conflicts and crises that the state has experienced. The strategy's main aim is to deal with the needs of IDPs and impacted displacement-affected communities while at the same time addressing the root causes of conflict and other crises that have led to displacement. Addressing these issues require identifying and responding to needs and risks along a continuum. This comprises immediate needs in the shorter term, while progressing into durable solutions for displacement and building resilience in the medium and longer-term.



His Excellency Rev Fr. Dr. Hyacinth Iormem Alia
Executive Governor of Benue State
c/o Government House Makurdi

Acknowledgement



Aondowase Ephraim Kunde

*Hon. Commissioner for Humanitarian
Affairs and Disaster Management
Benue State*

First and foremost, our humble and profound gratitude and acknowledgement goes to God Almighty for the choice of His Son Very Fr. Dr. Hyacinth Iormem Alia as the Executive Governor of Benue State at this auspicious time in the History of the State. Our heartfelt appreciation goes to the Executive Governor of Benue State Very Fr. Dr. Hyacinth Iormem Alia who came into the arena of the State politics with this God-given vision of returning the displaced people of Benue State to their ancestral homes. It is this vision that is being translated today into this State Action Plan for Durable Solutions. We remain eternally grateful to the entire team of the United Nations Agencies who collaborated with the State Task team on durable solutions in producing this SAP.

The United Nations, through its appropriate agencies, especially United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Organisation for Migration (IOM), United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) World Health Organisation (WHO) and others actively supported the State Action Plan development by delivering targeted technical cooperation aligned with its global mandate, expertise, and on-the-ground capabilities. In addition, the UN has committed to work to mobilize the necessary resources to provide essential support to advance the successful realization of the objectives of the SAP.

This acknowledgement will not be complete without the recognition due to the Good People of the United States of America who through BHA/IOM supported the State with resources through its Rapid Response Fund (RRF) mechanism. Other international development partners such as Save the Children International, Plan International, Heifer International amongst a host of others are hereby acknowledged.

Finally, we acknowledge the leadership provided by the State Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster management and Peace and Conflict Resolution Commission who are the Co-Chairs of the Task Force team on Durable Solutions. The work done by the duo of Mr. John Akuse of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) programme and Mr. Lawrence Ogwuche the Principal Private Secretary in the Office of the Deputy Governor of Benue State are heartily acknowledged.

Also acknowledged are the invaluable inputs and insights brought into the development of the SAP by the Honourable Commissioners of the relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) either in person or through their representatives. We equally acknowledge the inputs from the Benue State members Civil Society Organisations represented by the their Networks especially BENGONET and CSO-B. Let us acknowledge the inspiration and moral support we received from our sister States of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe who shared their experiences with us as we journeyed through this process. We are grateful and say thank you.

A passionate plea: We acknowledge that the implementation of the Benue State Action Plan will require sustained commitment and resources from all stakeholders. Governments, international organizations, and civil society must work together to mobilize the necessary funding, expertise, and political will to drive progress towards the plan's objectives. The plan's success will also depend on the active participation of displaced persons, who must be involved in the design, implementation, and monitoring of solutions that affect their lives.

1. Executive Summary

Introduction and Context

Benue State, known as the "Food Basket of Nigeria," is located in Nigeria's north-central region, characterized by a rich agricultural landscape and a population exceeding 6.1 million people. Despite its agricultural strength, Benue faces significant challenges with internal displacement. As of June 2024, over 87,000 households (approximately 500,000 individuals) are displaced across the state, largely due to socio-political conflicts and environmental factors. About 60% of displaced persons (IDPs) reside within host communities, creating strain on essential resources and services. The Benue State Action Plan (SAP) aligns with the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons and the UN Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, focusing on long-term strategies that enable displaced populations to lead stable, dignified lives. This plan encompasses local integration, return to areas of origin, and resettlement within Benue and other parts of Nigeria. With strong local partnerships, government coordination, and collaboration with civil society, this strategy aims to foster social cohesion and economic stability.

Drivers and Impact of Internal Displacement

Benue's displacement crisis results from a complex interplay of socio-political conflicts, climate variability, and security challenges. Key displacement drivers include:

- **Farmer-Herder Conflicts:** Account for 83% of displacement, primarily from competition over resources between sedentary farmers and nomadic herders, intensified by population growth and environmental changes.
- **Communal and Ethnic Conflicts:** Representing 13% of displacement cases, these conflicts stem from historical land disputes and political tensions.
- **Banditry and Kidnapping:** Though responsible for only 2% of displacement, these activities contribute to regional instability.
- **Flooding and Environmental Hazards:** Affect areas such as Makurdi and Vandeikya, causing displacement and infrastructural damage.

The Benue State recorded a total of 87,136 Households (500,182 Individuals) displaced in the state. Out of the total of 23 Local Government Areas (LGAs) a large majority of them i.e. 17 LGAs are currently hosting IDPs. Displaced persons face challenges including loss of livelihoods, limited access to essential services, and mental health challenges, while host communities experience social and resource strain.

Vision, Mission, and Objectives

The SAP envisions a resilient Benue State where all displaced individuals and host communities experience safety, dignity, and economic security. Its mission is to develop sustainable strategies that address displacement through inclusive governance, community empowerment, and economic recovery. Key objectives for the next five years include:

- **Building Resilience:** Ensuring IDPs and host communities can withstand future shocks and achieve self-reliance.
- **Strengthening Institutions:** Improving community coping mechanisms to prevent displacement and enhance preparedness.
- **Enhancing Governance:** Coordinating efforts to bridge humanitarian, peace, and development initiatives.

The plan targets over 600,218 individuals, including displaced persons (500,182) and host community members (100,036), focusing on human rights, socio-economic development, and social cohesion.

Solutions Pathways

The SAP proposes three primary pathways:

- **Local Integration:** Supports IDPs who choose to integrate (20%) into host communities through stable housing, vocational training, and healthcare access. Community infrastructure improvements, such as roads and water supply, aim to reduce resource strain and promote social cohesion.
- **Return to Areas of Origin:** Facilitates safe and voluntary return (72% for households wishing to return home), emphasizing security, reconstruction of housing, restoration of essential services, and agricultural support. Peace-building and legal support to ensure a conducive environment for sustainable reintegration.
- **Resettlement:** Enables relocation (8%) within Benue or other Nigerian states for households seeking new opportunities. Resettlement efforts include temporary housing support, vocational training, and community integration programs. Infrastructure expansion in receiving communities ensures equitable access to resources and services for all residents.

Table 1. Budget and Financing

Household & Area Support NGN (Nigerian Naira)			
	Pathway	Target Population	Budget
IDPs	Local Integration	100,036 IDPs	135,781,213,383.52
	Return to Area of Origin	360,131 IDPs	488,812,368,180.67
	Resettlement	40,015 IDPs	54,312,485,353.41
Host Community		100,036 Persons	169,726,516,729.40
Sub-Total		600 218 Persons	848,632,583,647.00
Policy & Coordination			4,065,000,000.00
MEL			620,000,000.00
Sub-Total			4,685,000,000.00
TOTAL			853,317,583,647.00

The SAP's budget totals approximately 853 billion Naira (equivalent to \$520 million), structured to support both household and community-level needs in each pathway:

- **Basic Services:** Education, health, water, and rural infrastructure improvements.
- **Economic Empowerment:** Livelihood programs, agricultural and livestock support, business development, and market access.
- **Security and Governance:** Strengthening policing, local governance, and traditional justice mechanisms.
- **Housing, Land, and Property (HLP):** Access to land, mortgage facilities, and legal documentation support.
- **Public Participation:** Empowering IDPS and host communities to actively and equally participate in their communities socio-economic and political lives.
- **Family Reunification:** Support family tracing, integration and psychosocial support while also family restoration assistance.
- **Restitution:** Support reconciliation and victim support with an approach on forgiveness and rebuilding social ties.
- **Coordination and M&E:** Governance of durable solutions at both state and LGA level with a robust capacity to lead, coordinate and monitor effectiveness of Solutions work.

Funding will be sourced from state, federal, and international bodies, alongside private sector partnerships, ensuring sustainable resource mobilization and collaborative efforts toward solution implementation.

Principles and Approaches

The SAP is guided by four core approaches:

- **Conflict-sensitive/Do-no-harm:** Ensures interventions reduce, rather than exacerbate, conflict dynamics.
- **Human Rights-based:** Focuses on protecting and empowering displaced persons and vulnerable groups.
- **Area-based:** Targets high-need geographic areas, addressing the unique needs of each community.
- **Evidence-based:** Relies on data and research to inform decision-making, ensuring effective and targeted interventions.

Coordination and Implementation

The SAP employs a three-tiered coordination structure:

- **Strategic Coordination:** Led by the Executive Governor, who oversees policy implementation and decision-making through the State Executive Council.
- **Technical Coordination:** The Durable Solutions Task Force, a coalition of government bodies, NGOs, and UN agencies, develops and oversees action strategies.
- **Operational Coordination:** At the local government level, a network of community leaders, civil society, and stakeholders facilitate pathway implementation, ensuring alignment with community needs.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

The SAP's Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) framework enables continuous assessment of progress, identifying areas for improvement. It promotes transparency and accountability, with a strong emphasis on community involvement in evaluation processes.

2. Introduction and Context

Benue State, located in Nigeria's North-Central Region, is widely recognized as the "Food Basket of the Nation" due to its vast arable land and agricultural productivity. The state spans 30,955 square kilometers and, according to the 2022 population projection by the National Population Commission, has a population exceeding 6.1 million people. It is bordered by six states - Nasarawa to the north, Taraba to the north-east, Cross River to the south, Ebonyi and Enugu to the South-East and Kogi to the West - and shares an international boundary with the Republic of Cameroon, adding to its strategic significance. The Tiv, Idoma, and Iggede are the main ethnic groups in Benue, with the Tiv predominantly occupying 14 Local Government Areas (LGAs), while the Idoma and other groups inhabit the remaining 9 LGAs. Despite its rich cultural diversity and economic potential, Benue State has faced persistent challenges related to internal displacement attributed to a complex interplay of socio-political conflicts and environmental factors.

As of June 2024, Benue State recorded a total of 87,136 Households (500,182 Individuals) displaced in the state. Out of the total of 23 Local Government Areas (LGAs) a large majority of them i.e. 17 LGAs are currently hosting IDPs. The severity of internal displacement varies from LGA to LGA. For instance, Guma LGA is most affected whereby 106,593 IDPs were recorded in seven wards, followed by Gwer West with 67,825 IDPs recorded in five wards, and Ukum with 57,080 IDPs in 6 wards. In addition, the IDPs in Benue State have different settlement patterns where about 60% of the total IDPs are living in host communities. The remaining are residing in camp and camp-like settings, demonstrating the severe risks and strains on basic service facilities, infrastructures and local resources as both IDPs and host communities are sharing these basic services. The IDPs in Benue State are also scattered across 72 wards and villages posing a significant level of logistical and resources constraints.

2.1 Setting the stage for the Benue State Action Plan

The Benue State Action Plan on Durable Solutions is designed to comprehensively address the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) by aligning closely with the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons.

This framework establishes that durable solutions are achieved when displaced persons no longer have specific assistance and protection needs related to their displacement and can fully enjoy their rights without discrimination. The Benue Plan adopts this definition as a starting point to develop a long-term vision on how internal displacement can be a force to drive long-term development of the state. It does so by highlighting the 3 pathways – local integration, return to the area of origin, and resettlement elsewhere in the country – as avenues to strengthen individual and area-level resilience. Further strengthening this approach, the Benue State Action Plan also draws on the UN Secretary-General’s Action Agenda on Internal Displacement. Recognizing that internal displacement is not just a humanitarian issue but a broader development challenge, the Action Agenda calls for integrated solutions that empower displaced persons while fostering inclusive community development. In line with this vision, the Benue Plan emphasizes local ownership, collaborative governance, and partnerships with UN agencies, civil society, and the private sector to ensure that solutions are sustainable and adapted to the context of Benue State, all while putting IDPs at the center of the action. This approach not only supports IDPs but also benefits host communities, strengthening social cohesion and economic recovery across the state.

2.2 Drivers and Impact of Internal Displacement

Communal and ethnic conflicts, exacerbated by competition over pastoral land for grazing, have led to tensions between sedentary farmers and nomadic herders, often escalating into violence. Climate variability and environmental hazards, including erratic rainfall patterns, flooding, and erosion, further contribute to the instability. Ethno-religious clashes over resources and political power, along with prevalent insecurity from insurgency, banditry, and kidnapping, have instilled fear in communities. Additionally, land use and development pressures such as rapid urbanization, population growth, and land use changes have exerted significant pressure on available land and resources in Benue State. Large-scale infrastructure projects, urban expansion, and agricultural investments have also played a role. Continued political instability and governance challenges, including weak governance, corruption, and inadequate response mechanisms, have compounded the displacement dynamics. The lack of state policy to advancing solutions and ending displacement-related vulnerabilities has forced many communities to abandon their ancestral homes in search of safer grounds. While the reasons for displacement vary across states, Benue’s primary triggers include:

- 1. Farmer-Herder Clashes:** The primary trigger, accounting for 416,341 (83.2%) of displacement caseload, is the violent conflict between sedentary farming communities and nomadic herders. Competition over fertile land and water resources has intensified due to population growth, climate variability, and diminishing arable land. These clashes often result in devastating violence, loss of lives, and large-scale displacement.
- 2. Communal and Ethnic Conflicts:** Representing 66,331 (13.3%) of the displacement caseload, these conflicts stem from historical rivalries, disputes over land ownership, and struggles for political control. The tensions have led to violence, especially in LGAs such as Agatu, Guma, Gwer East, and Katsina-Ala.
- 3. Armed Banditry and Kidnapping:** Though contributing only 11,641 (2.3%) to the overall displacement figures, the rise in banditry and kidnappings has fostered an environment of fear and instability.
- 4. Insurgency:** Insurgency accounts for 4,153 (0.8%) of displacement caseload.
- 5. Natural Disaster (Flooding):** Exacerbated by erratic rainfall patterns and environmental degradation, has affected communities such as Makurdi, Agatu, and Vandeikya, displacing thousands, accounting for 1,716 (0.3%) of the displacement caseload in the state.

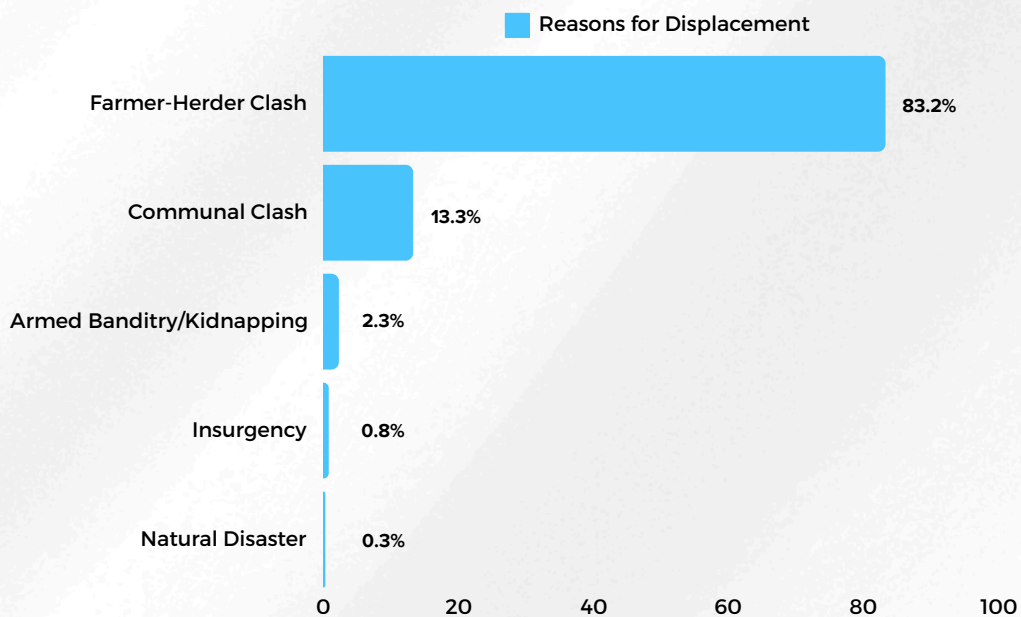


Figure 1: Benue State IDP caseload by drivers/causes of displacement

The cumulative effect of these factors has led to the displacement of over 1.5 million people since 2018, where 500,182 are still found in a protracted displacement situation in the state. The internally displaced persons (IDPs) are distributed across camps established by the state government and host communities that struggle to accommodate them. The consequences of this mass displacement are severe including:

- **Loss of Livelihoods:** Most displaced individuals are farmers who have lost their primary source of income. This economic disruption has led to increased poverty and dependence on aid for survival.
- **Access to Services:** The crisis has strained basic services, including housing, healthcare, education, and water supply. Displaced children face disruptions in their schooling, contributing to a cycle of illiteracy and limited future opportunities.
- **Mental Health Challenges:** Over 80% of displaced populations live with trauma from witnessing violence, suffering through perilous journeys, and coping with the degraded quality of life in camps.
- **Social Strain on Host Communities:** The influx of IDPs into host communities places significant pressure on already limited resources, creating tensions and competition for essentials such as food and clean water.



Figure 2: Cross-section of IDPs at LGEA Primary School

2.3 Areas Affected & Key Challenges

Displacement has affected 17 out of Benue's 23 LGAs. Prominent conflict zones include Guma, Agatu, Gwer West, Makurdi, and Katsina-Ala. For instance, in Makurdi alone, the 2022 flooding displaced 56,689 people. Similarly, Agatu saw over 45,000 individuals impacted by the crisis. This widespread displacement disrupts social structures and hinders development, as communities shift their focus from growth to survival.



Figure 3: Map of Benue State indicating 17 affected LGAs - SEMA 2018

The Benue State Government has made strides in responding to the displacement crisis through short-term relief and long-term planning. The establishment of the **Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management** is a step towards coordinated efforts in managing the humanitarian response and fostering recovery. The state relies on the **National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)** and international frameworks such as the **Kampala Convention** to guide its strategies. However, challenges persist:

- **Insufficient Resources:** Despite efforts, the state faces a significant shortfall in funding and technical expertise to fully address the scale of the crisis.
- **Infrastructure Deficits:** The need for improved infrastructure, such as healthcare centers and schools, remains critical for supporting displaced populations and host communities.

- **Coordination and Implementation Gaps:** Effective coordination among government agencies, local communities, and international partners is essential but often lacking. This hinders the efficient delivery of services and prolongs the displacement crisis.
- **Security Concerns:** Ensuring safety and stability in resettlement areas is paramount. The presence of armed conflicts in flashpoints challenges efforts to rehabilitate and return IDPs to their homes. For instance, in April 2021, a total of 2,402 households (27,196 individuals) were attacked and displaced by armed violence in nine villages of Konshisha and Oju LGAs of Benue State.

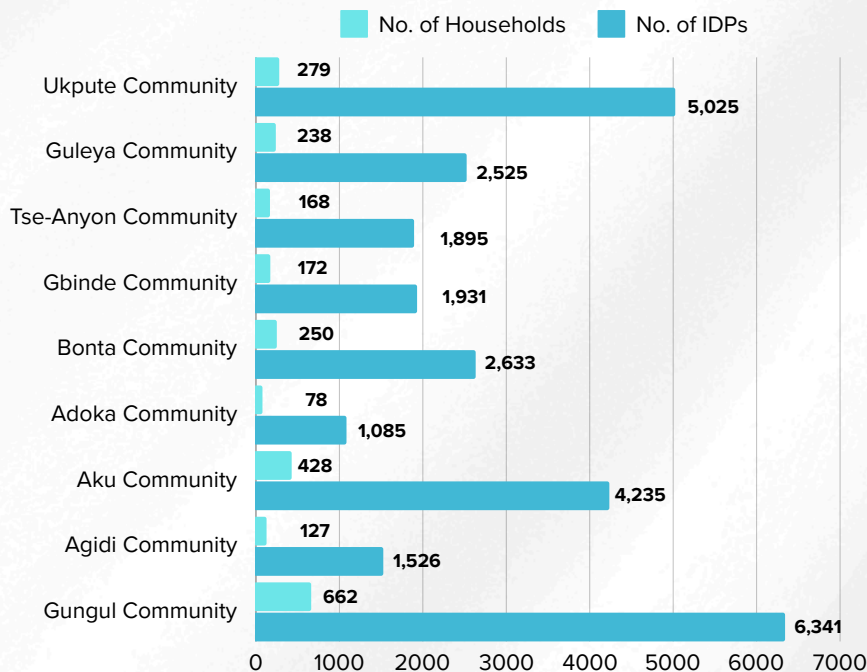


Figure 4: Armed Attacks and Violence

2.4 Intentions for Solutions Pathway

A recent joint intention survey conducted in collaboration with the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMA), the Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) with a sample size of 3,877 households (including 2,898 households residing within host communities and 979 households in camps) indicates that the vast majority of respondents - 72% expressed a preference to return to their ancestral lands. Additionally, 20% of respondents preferred local integration, while 8% preferred relocation to other areas.

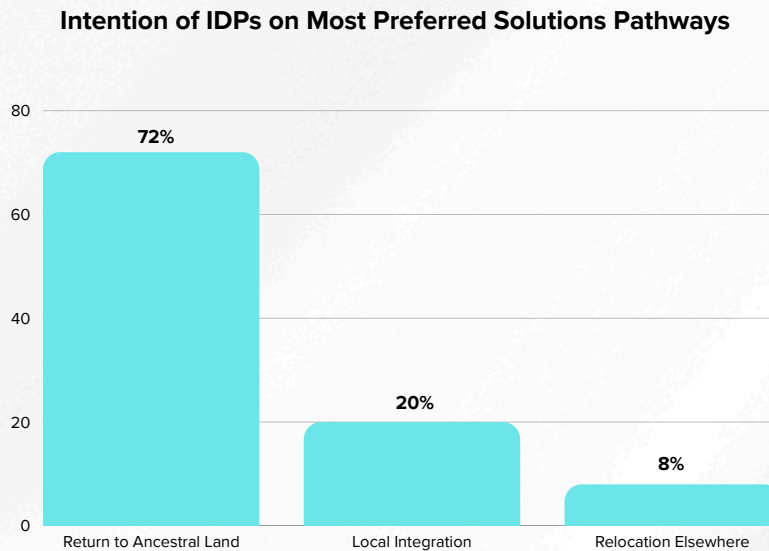


Figure 5: *Intention Survey results for solutions pathways*

3. Vision, Mission and Objectives

3.1 Vision

Our vision is to see a resilient Benue State where every displaced individual is empowered to live in safety, dignity, and prosperity, contributing to a community that values and enjoys human rights, sustainable development, and social cohesion. That is, our vision is to transform the lives of our displaced communities from protracted displacement to a protective and conducive environment that ensures safety, dignity, and enjoyment of human rights. We aim to empower individuals affected by displacement, providing them with the necessary tools and resources to rebuild their future lives, peacefully and voluntarily return to their ancestral homes or integrate with communities where they feel safe and secure, and contribute to and benefit from their states and national socioeconomic development.

3.2 Mission

To develop and execute comprehensive, inclusive, and sustainable strategies that proactively address displacement by fostering stability, promoting integration, empowering communities, and nurturing economic growth while safeguarding human rights and advancing the well-being of all citizens.

3.3 Goal

The goal of the Benue Durable Solutions Action Plan, within the next five years, is to end the displacement-related vulnerabilities and protection needs of 600,218 IDPs and host communities through a government-led, community-driven, and development-oriented multi-stakeholder engagement that warrants IDPs and host communities the full enjoyment of peace and security, dignity, human rights, and socio-economic development. In the absence of a systematic approach in place to document host communities impacted by displacement, Benue State officials, include an additional of 100,036 individuals from host communities (20% of the current IDP caseload as a target for this solutions action plan bringing the total target to 600,218 individuals).

3.4 Strategic Objectives

3.4.1 Strategic Objective 1 (SO1)

SO1: Address displacement in Benue State in a way that goes beyond meeting immediate needs to one that builds resilience and the ability to withstand future shocks, preserves material, physical, and legal safety, and improves the lives and self-reliance of displaced populations and host communities through a sustainable solution pathway of their choice.

3.4.2 Strategic Objective 2 (SO2)

SO2: Strengthen institutional capacity and community coping strategies in Benue State to prevent displacement. This involves implementing early warning and response systems and tools that enhance preparedness and response to displacement drivers at the grassroots level.

3.4.3 Strategic Objective 3 (SO3)

SO3: Enhance governance and coordination capacity of Solutions to encourage collaborative and synergistic efforts by all stakeholders, bridging humanitarian, peace, and development initiatives, and fostering long-term socio-economic development of IDPs and host communities in Benue state.

4. Solutions Pathways

The Benue State Action Plan for Durable Solutions presents a well-structured budget designed to support displaced households and host communities through three pathways: local integration, return to areas of origin, and resettlement. Each pathway comprises household- and area-level interventions aimed at meeting immediate needs and establishing sustainable livelihoods, economic stability, and social cohesion.

Given the impact of conflict and climate induced displacement in Benue State, it is imperative that all of the pathways have women, peace and security, youth, peace and security and climate peace and security indicators mainstreamed throughout the pathways and reported in the results framework.

Table 2. Household and Area Support

Household & Area Support in NGN (Nigerian Naira)			
IDPs	Pathway	Target Population	Budget
	Local Integration	100,036 IDPs	135,781,213,383.52
	Return to Area of Origin	360,131 IDPs	488,812,368,180.67
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Policy & coordination	4,065,000,000.00
MEL	620,000,000.00
Sub-Total	4,685,000,000.00
TOTAL	853,317,583,647.00

4.1 Local Integration Pathway

This plan will align with the existing National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and is based on the principle of creating inclusive communities that bring together IDPs and their host communities. Local integration will be characterized by individuals opting to settle in the Ward (or Local Government Area) where they currently reside. We advocate for policies that enhance social cohesion, highlighting the significance of community-driven initiatives and participatory decision-making in the integration process.

For displaced households that choose to integrate within host communities, the plan prioritizes stability, economic empowerment, and a secure environment. Household-level support includes permanent housing assistance, such as housing upgrades or rental support, to ensure a safe and dignified living environment. Substantial investment is allocated for economic empowerment through vocational training, small business grants, and microfinance access. These resources help families develop employment skills or establish businesses, fostering self-reliance and reducing dependency on humanitarian assistance. Additionally, the budget allocates funding for healthcare and education access, including school materials and medical services, to enhance well-being and support generational stability.

The largest cost at the household level for local integration is housing and shelter support, which covers rental assistance, housing upgrades, and accessible housing for those with special needs. Given the urban and peri-urban settings of many integration sites, high housing demand significantly increases these costs.

Economic empowerment programs, which constitute the second-largest expense, include vocational training, financial literacy, and business start-up capital, essential for sustainable self-sufficiency but costly due to the need for tailored programs. To achieve the requirements of the Women, Peace , and Security (WPS) agenda under UNSCR 1325, women’s capacity building for conflict resolution can be integrated into the local integration pathway where up to 50% of the beneficiaries are women leaders.

At the area level, infrastructure improvements—such as roads, water supply, and sanitation facilities—are funded to reduce pressure on resources and provide equitable service access. These investments not only enhance quality of life for all residents but also stimulate economic activity by facilitating market access and creating employment in construction and services. Support for local markets and cooperatives, which includes both host and displaced communities, helps reduce competition for resources, promoting peaceful coexistence. Community-based peacebuilding programs and security initiatives, such as mediation training for local leaders and social cohesion workshops, further enhance stability and foster safe integration.

4.2 Return to Area of Origin Pathway

The procedure for the return of Internally Displaced Persons in Benue focuses on establishing an enabling environment that ensures safety, dignity, and the voluntary nature of the return process. Key components of this policy include the development of frameworks that prioritize safety and security, the reconstruction of essential infrastructure, the restoration of vital services, and the revitalization of local economies.

For households opting to return to their areas of origin, the SAP addresses immediate and long-term needs to support stability and sustainability. At the household level, a major budget allocation covers shelter rehabilitation to provide safe, dignified housing upon return. Recognizing the reliance of many returnees on agriculture, resources are also allocated for agricultural inputs, such as seeds, tools, and fertilizers, as well as productivity training. In urban return areas, vocational training, small business support, and financial literacy programs help families re-establish their livelihoods. Security and protection receive priority with funding for legal aid to resolve property disputes and secure land rights, alongside psychosocial support to address trauma and assist reintegration. Shelter rehabilitation represents the largest household cost for returnees, as extensive housing repairs or reconstructions are often needed in conflict-affected areas. Agricultural support is the second-largest expense, providing essential agricultural inputs and vocational training to support economic recovery.

At the area level, public infrastructure rehabilitation—covering schools, health centers, water sources, and marketplaces—supports community life. Economic programs, such as agricultural cooperatives and savings groups, stimulate the local economy and encourage collaboration among returnees and residents. Security initiatives, including community policing and conflict mediation, are also prioritized to ensure a stable environment for coexistence.

Enabling a suitable environment for IDPs to return will require dedicated and focused attention and resources on peace and reconciliation processes with the ultimate aim to foster social cohesion among different groups. The Benue State Action Plans aims to create peaceful and conducive environments for all its citizens by allocating the required resources to allow for conflict resolution through mediation processes. While doing so, the plan also recognizes the power of community-based and faith-based groups in these processes. The plan aims to build the capacities of these groups as well as youth and women groups as key enablers in establishing and nurturing local peace. To achieve WPS 1325 requirements, women's capacity building for conflict resolution can be integrated into the local integration pathway where up to 50% of the beneficiaries are women leaders.

4.3 Resettlement Pathway

Relocation will be understood as individuals choosing to settle in a Local Government Area (LGA) different from their original Ward or the place where they spent most of their time while displaced. It encompasses policies that emphasize safety, fair distribution of resources, and community integration during the relocation process. The relocation process will involve careful site selection, infrastructure development, and community consultations to facilitate the smooth integration of relocated individuals.

For households opting for resettlement in new locations, the plan supports relocation, economic, and security needs to enable successful integration. Household-level support covers relocation expenses, temporary housing, and essential items, followed by assistance for permanent housing or rental support to create a stable foundation in new communities. Economic empowerment includes vocational training, job placement services, and start-up grants, facilitating rapid economic integration. Psychosocial and legal support help families navigate the challenges of resettlement and secure rights and access to public services.

Housing and relocation expenses represent the largest household cost, covering relocation and long-term housing support. Economic integration support, including job training and start-up capital, equally has a large expense, enabling resettled families to establish viable livelihoods.

At the area level, funds are allocated to expand healthcare, education, and sanitation facilities, ensuring equitable access as new residents arrive. Economic programs create jobs and encourage entrepreneurship, benefiting both resettled and host communities. Peace and security measures, including intercultural dialogues and community watch programs, foster social cohesion and build a safe, inclusive environment. To achieve WPS 1325 requirements, women's capacity building for conflict resolution can be integrated into the local integration pathway where up to 50% of the beneficiaries are women leaders. Youth and Women mediators and negotiators can be discrete target within this pathway to achieve on indicators for YPS and WPS.

5. Budget & Financing

5.1 Budget

The budget calculation is based on the number of IDPs and the findings of the Intention Survey, which captures IDP preferences regarding return, local integration, or relocation. For each pathway, the Benue State Government is committed to delivering tailored, standard support packages at both household and area levels, thereby reinforcing its dedication to sustainable and context-specific solutions.

This strategy supports both area-based and household-level solutions, ensuring the construction and rehabilitation of essential facilities, the provision of critical resources and staffing, livelihood enhancement, and initiatives led by local communities. By integrating these elements, the strategy aims to strengthen economic stability, enhance access to public services, and foster resilient social frameworks.

Housing and relocation expenses represent the largest household cost, covering relocation and long-term housing support. Economic integration support, including job training and start-up capital, is the second-largest expense, enabling resettled families to establish viable livelihoods.

At the area level, funds are allocated to expand healthcare, education, and sanitation facilities, ensuring equitable access as new residents arrive. Economic programs create jobs and encourage entrepreneurship, benefiting both resettled and host communities. Peace and security measures, including intercultural dialogues and community watch programs, foster social cohesion and build a safe, inclusive environment.

Table 3. Benue State SAP Draft Budget Summary

Benue State SAP Draft Budget Summary		
Thematic Area	Sub-Thematic Area	Budget Summary
Basic Services	Education	49,535,000,000.00
	Health	83,197,123,940.00
	Water and Sanitation	22,260,000,000.00
	Infrastructure and Rural Road	100,550,000,000.00
Sub-Total		255,542,123,940.00

Livelihood/Job Creation/Economic Empowerment	Agriculture	116,812,400,000.00
	Livestock	75,556,400,000.00
	Business Development	118,901,600,000.00
	Market and Access to Finance	46,265,300,000.00
Sub Total	357,535,700,000.00	
Safety and Security	LGA Governance System	16,704,200,000.00
	Policing, Security Apparatus and System Strengthening	23,569,218,007.00
	Traditional and Statutory Court	18,785,000,000.00
	Psychosocial Support	170,000,000.00
	PSEA – Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	3,050,000,000.00
Sub Total	62,278,418,007.00	
Housing Solutions	Access to Land for Housing	8,670,000,000.00
	Mortgage Facilities – Alternative Housing, Rental Solutions	68,722,000,000.00

Sub Total		77,392,000,000.00
Documentation	Legal and Identity Document Restoration/Issuance	2,550,000,000.00
Sub Total		2,550,000,000.00
Family Reunification	Family Tracing Assessment and Reunification	3,230,000,000.00
Sub Total		3,230,000,000.00
Public Participation	Participation and Social/Political Economic Activities of Communities	73,355,000,000.00
Sub Total		73,355,000,000.00
Restitution	Transitional Justice	2,550,000,000.00
	Peace-building	8,221,200,000.00
	Victim Support	4,275,141,700.00
	Social Cohesion	1,700,000,000.00
Sub Total		16,746,341,700.00
Policy & Coordination	DS Capacity and Coordination	4,065,000,000.00
	Monitoring and Evaluation	620,000,000.00
Sub Total		4,685,000,000.00
GRAND TOTAL		853,314,583,647.00

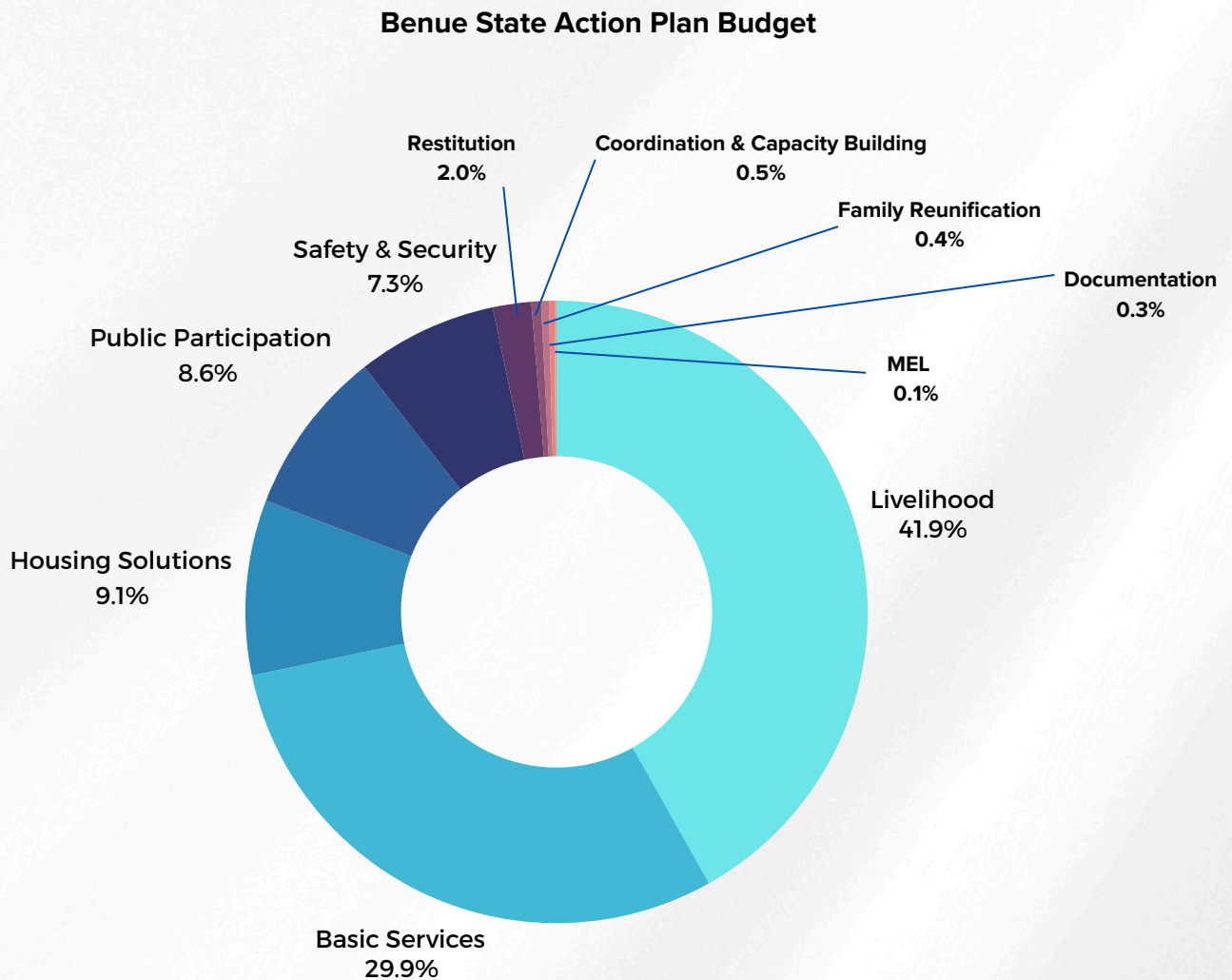


Figure 6: Benue State Action Plan Budget

5.2 Financing the State Action Plan

5.2.1 Government

The Benue State government will serve as the core coordinating body for financing and implementing durable solutions to displacement, closely aligned with Nigeria’s National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons. This structure, anchored in the Office of the Executive Governor, enables a centralized approach to coordinate state-led financing strategies across all levels of governance in a way that will bolster livelihood opportunities, foster agricultural initiatives, and drive sustainable, community-focused solutions.

5.2.2 International Cooperation & Financial Institutions

The United Nations, through appropriate agencies, will actively support the State Action Plan by delivering targeted technical cooperation aligned with its global mandate, expertise, and on-the-ground capabilities. In addition, the UN will work to mobilize necessary resources to provide essential support to advance the successful realization of the objectives.

5.2.3 Private Sector

The effective implementation of the State Action Plan depends significantly on the collaboration and active commitment of the private sector. Private enterprises, through their innovation, resources, and industry expertise, are poised to be influential partners in supporting the SAP's goals. By working closely with the state authorities, and other stakeholders, private sector partners can contribute to sustainable progress while aligning with both global best practices and local priorities.

6. Principles and Approaches

The Benue State Durable Solutions Task team has adopted four key approaches to the implementation of the durable solution in the State. These include:

- i. A conflict-sensitive/do-no harm approach
- ii. A human right based approach;
- iii. Area based approach; and
- iv. Evidence based approach.

6.1 Conflict-sensitive/Do-no Harm Approach

Conflict sensitivity is a set of principles and practices that can be applied to all sectors of work (i.e. humanitarian, development and peacebuilding) before, during and after conflict and crisis because it can reduce or address rather than exacerbate conflict dynamics. 'Do No Harm' is one objective of conflict sensitivity, but the broader approach seeks to create positive change, not only managing symptoms.

As such conflict sensitivity is also focused on ensuring that the durable solutions work also can ‘do good’ within communities and for impacted and affected community members. As such, the conflict-sensitive principles are mainstreamed throughout the Benue State Action Plan, including the solutions pathways, packages for support and financing solutions to encourage the solutions work to have peace outcomes that can contribute to conflict transformation and peace-building.

This approach requires three steps:

1. Understanding the drivers of conflict (this can be done through an updated conflict analysis that is done using a participatory approach of all relevant stakeholders).
2. Understanding the two-way interaction between the conflict context and the desired solutions pathways (this can be done through a risk matrix with indicators and mitigation strategies).
3. Adjust the implementation based on conflict-induced or conflict-inducing risks (i.e. if there are risks identified, adjusting the approach will become imperative to ensure the solutions approach ‘does no harm.’

6.2 Human Rights-Based Approach

In line with international standards such as those set by the National Human rights Institution (NHRIs) the state human rights-based approach is a conceptual framework directed towards promoting and protecting human rights, based on international human rights standards. It puts human rights and corresponding state obligations at the heart of our implementation agenda and will use NHRIs as a tool to empower the most vulnerable people to participate in decision-making processes and us as duty-bearers accountable.

This approach is chosen to achieve two related objectives:

- i. To empower rights-holders – the persons of Concern - to claim and exercise their rights; and
- ii. To strengthen capacity of duty-bearers who have the obligation to respect, protect, promote, and fulfill their human rights.

This approach defines Rights-holders as individuals or social groups that have particular entitlements in relation to duty-bearers and duty-bearers are state or non-state actors that have the obligation to respect, protect, promote, and fulfill human rights of the rights-holders.

6.2.1 Principles to be Adopted

The Human Rights Based Approach is underpinned by five key human rights principles, as detailed below:

- i. **Participation:** Everyone is entitled to active participation in decision-making processes which affect the enjoyment of their rights.
- ii. **Accountability:** Duty-bearers are held accountable for failing to fulfil their obligations towards rights-holders. There should be effective remedies in place when human rights breaches occur.
- iii. **Non-discrimination and equality:** All individuals are entitled to their rights without discrimination of any kind. All types of discrimination should be prohibited, prevented and eliminated.
- iv. **Empowerment:** Everyone is entitled to claim and exercise their rights. Individuals and communities need to understand their rights and participate in the development of policies which affect their lives.; and
- v. **Legality:** Approaches should be in line with the legal rights set out in domestic and international laws. In this wise the State Ministry of Justice and Public Order as a member of the Task team will spearhead the development and or domestication of such laws to be used by the State team on durable solutions.

6.3 Area-Based Approach

The State Task Force Team adopted this approach based on the fact that Benue State is divided into Local Government Area Councils numbering 23 but not all of them have been affected and the impact is not the same across the affected LGAs.

Area-based approaches typically involve: (a) the targeting of geographic areas with high levels of need, delineated by physical, social or administrative boundaries; (b) a multi-sectoral approach that takes into account the needs, capacities and access to services across all sectors; (c) an inclusive approach that considers all population groups in that location (host, displaced, returnees, poor and those with specific vulnerabilities); and (d) participatory modalities, involving all actors present or operating in that location (local authorities, local civil society and service providers, international organizations, etc.). Considering the Area Based Approach, the investments outlined in the action plan will provide advantages not only to the 600,218 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and their host communities but also to the 9,318 individual refugees.

6.3.1 Area Based Approach Implementation Strategy

Implementing area-based planning in Benue State will take the following several key steps:

- 1. Identify the Area:** Since even within affected LGAs not the whole LGA in some cases is affected. We will as a first step, define the geographic area we want to focus on. This could be a neighborhood, district, or region with specific needs or opportunities arising from the impact of the crisis. This will also enable us to properly defined host communities to each crisis.
- 2. Conduct a Needs Assessment:** This step will enable the Task team to gather data on the area's demographics, socio-economic conditions, infrastructure, and other relevant factors and engage with local communities to understand their needs, priorities, and challenges. Within this needs assessment, a gender-sensitive conflict assessment can also be considered.
- 3. Set Clear Objectives:** Based on the needs assessment, establish clear, measurable objectives for what we aim to achieve in the area. These should align with the State's mission and strategic goals as established in the Executive Governor's seven (7) point agenda.
- 4. Develop a Conflict Gender-Sensitive Multi-Sectoral Plan:** Create a comprehensive plan that addresses various sectors such as health, education, infrastructure, and economic development. Ensure the plan is inclusive and participatory, involving local stakeholders in the planning process.

- 5. Engage Stakeholders:** Build partnerships with local governments, community organizations, businesses, and other stakeholders, whose involvement is crucial for the successful implementation of the plan. All stakeholder engagement will be based on conflict sensitive approaches and principles to ensure there is no harm done to participants.
- 6. Resources Mobilization and Allocation:** The State Task Force team will ensure that we have the necessary resources (financial, human, and material) to implement the plan. This will involve securing funding, recruiting staff, and mobilizing community volunteers.
- 7. Implement the Conflict Gender-Sensitive Multi-Sectoral Plan:** As evident from the above strategic methodological approach, State Task Force team will roll out the plan in phases, starting with pilot projects such as (Restoration of Security apparatus, Renovation of Schools, Primary Health Care facilities, Police Stations, Water Points and Markets, other critical infrastructure that support lives and safety) where necessary. Monitor progress closely and be prepared to make adjustments based on feedback and changing conditions especially as it relates to sustainable security.
- 8. Monitor and Evaluate:** State Task Force team shall establish a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to track progress, measure outcomes, and assess the impact of our interventions. We will use this data to inform future planning and decision-making.
- 9. Promote Local Leadership and Ownership:** While seeking for Local Leadership at the State level we will equally also encourage local communities to take ownership of the projects and initiatives at those lower levels. This can be achieved through capacity-building, leadership training, mentorship and creating platforms for community participation.
- 10. Foster Learning Alliances:** Create networks and alliances with the UN System, International NGOs and other organizations and stakeholders to share knowledge, best practices, and lessons learned. This will enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of our area-based planning efforts.

6.4 Evidence Based Approach

The concept of durable solutions is a crucial aspect of humanitarian response, particularly in the context of refugee crises. It refers to the long-term solutions that enable refugees to rebuild their lives and regain their dignity. An evidence-based approach to durable solutions is essential in ensuring that these solutions are effective, sustainable, and responsive to the needs of IDPs. This approach involves the use of data and research to inform decision-making, program design, and implementation. By relying on empirical evidence, Government can identify the most effective strategies for achieving durable solutions, such as voluntary repatriation, local integration, and resettlement. For instance, studies have shown that community-based approaches that involve IDPs and Host communities in the decision-making process are more likely to lead to sustainable solutions. Furthermore, evidence-based approaches can help identify the most vulnerable populations, such as women and children, and target interventions to address their specific needs.

The adoption of an evidence-based approach to durable solutions has several benefits. Firstly, it ensures that interventions are cost-effective and efficient, as they are based on a thorough understanding of the refugee context. Secondly, it promotes accountability and transparency, as decisions are based on verifiable data rather than anecdotal evidence. Thirdly, it enables stakeholders to adapt their programs in response to changing circumstances, as new evidence emerges. In conclusion, an evidence-based approach to durable solutions is critical in ensuring that Government and stakeholder responses are effective, sustainable, and responsive to the needs of IDPs. By relying on empirical evidence, all stakeholders can design and implement programs that truly make a difference in the lives of IDPs and host communities. Improved evidence-based planning, decision-making, prioritization, monitoring and evaluation of sustainable solutions initiatives are made available through systematic, regular, cross-sectional qualitative and quantitative data including spatial data and analysis for solutions to internal displacement.

By relying on empirical evidence, policymakers and practitioners will develop targeted and effective solutions that address the root causes of displacement and promote sustainable reintegration and self-sufficiency. By relying on empirical evidence, policymakers and practitioners will avoid interventions that are ineffective or even harmful. Evidenced based approach recognizes the importance of community engagement and participation. By involving IDPs and host communities in the decision-making process, programs will be tailored to meet local needs and priorities, increasing their effectiveness and sustainability.

6.5 General Principles

At the heart of the guiding principles of the Durable Solutions is that the IDPs' needs, rights and legitimate interests should be the primary consideration, and should guide all laws and policies on internal displacement. Secondly, the same principles should be extended to the IDPs hosts, which in turn reduces the risk of tensions arising and facilitates (re)integration. In this wise the Benue State guiding principles will be built around the following principles:

- 1. Nexus Oriented:** The approach will be founded on linkages between humanitarian and development actors. This favors a successful search of integration oriented to humanitarian and development needs, opportunities for joint programming, and consistent criteria and processes for joint monitoring and learning.
- 2. The centrality of protection:** All interventions will maintain the rights of affected populations. Measures will be taken to avoid any exposure of displacement-affected communities to protection risks and vulnerabilities. Compliance with human rights and international humanitarian law forms an integral part of the approach.
- 3. Community Engagement and Accountability:** The needs, aspirations, priorities, and capacities of displacement-affected groups (including host communities) are at the centre of the sustainable solutions pathway. Programmatic interventions will encourage participatory community-based approaches for assessments, planning, implementation, and monitoring to allow affected populations to be decision-makers in their pathway.
- 4. Gender and Social Inclusion:** The strategy will consider gender perspectives, ensuring that interventions have a positive impact in enabling rights, voices, and participation, and benefit girls, women, boys, and men. In consideration of the disproportionate impact of displacement on persons with disabilities and despite the limited availability of reliable data on the numbers of people with disability, the approach will maintain a disability inclusion approach in the design, conceptualization, and implementation of programmes and activities.
- 5. Localization:** In consideration of the context-specific dynamics the approach will adopt a tailored approach to sustainable solutions in line with international commitments to localization. The approach, therefore, aims to support civil society engagement and ownership including strengthening local initiatives, local organizations, and community networks, and of using the approaches.

- 6. Safety & Security:** Return, resettlement, and local integration shall be in areas where the physical, legal, or material safety of IDPs would not be at risk. This includes villages and houses, access roads, and areas where all displacement-affected populations have access to basic services and available public utilities without discrimination.
- 7. Informed:** Displacement-affected populations will be provided adequate information prior to making decisions impacting their displacement status. Information on the conditions in areas of settlement including safety and security will be made available to the extent possible. The provision of information will ensure IDPs are able to make an informed choice on whether and when to return, relocate, or locally integrate.
- 8. Voluntary:** All relevant actors need to respect the right of IDPs to make an informed and voluntary choice on what sustainable solution to pursue and to participate in the planning and management of sustainable solutions. IDPs' decision-making on whether and when to return, relocate, or locally integrate will be devoid of any form of coercion or influence.

7. Coordination Structure

The State of Benue will use a 3-tiered coordination approach that focuses on strengthening systems, empowering social and political actors to engage in humanitarian-development-peacebuilding deliberations, supporting institutions that promote collaboration and dialogue, and ensuring that technical knowledge becomes embedded and widely shared within the state.

7.1 Strategic Level Coordination

At the state level, the overall leadership and direction-setting of solutions to internal displacement in Benue state lies in the hands of the Executive Governor. The established State Executive Council (EXCO) will be the forum where the Executive Governor will take the relevant and necessary decisions to implement the Benue State Action Plan on Durable Solutions. Updates and progress on implementation of the Action Plan will be provided by the Chair of the Durable Solutions Task Force team.

7.2 Technical Level Coordination

An Inter-Agency Durable Solutions Task Force team with 18 members has been inaugurated by the Executive Governor of Benue state. This coordination mechanism includes representatives of the displaced persons, members of the academia, representative the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) sector relevant Implementing Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and representatives of ALL the UN Agencies working in Benue State The Task Force is chaired by the Honorable Commissioner for Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management and co-chaired by the Director General of the State Peace and Conflict Reconciliation Commission. The Terms of reference of the Task Force team amongst others mandates it to develop and implement strategies that will bring lasting and sustainable solutions for all displacement affected communities.

Furthermore, the role of the Task Force team as the coordination body is to provide leadership, oversee the durable solutions planning process and take decisions in line with the State's strategic and development-oriented direction as required throughout the process. It is to ensure that in doing this; it achieves a unified and integrated position on durable solutions, ensure that the support to durable solutions is guided by the relevant standards, principles and core concepts, that the durable solutions planning and programming is evidence based and they adopt a performance-based approach in the implementation and monitoring of the processes.

Further to participating in the Durable Solutions Task Force, all MDA's will also ensure a coordinated approach and a representative participation of their sector coordination within the Durable Solutions Task Force. This approach will ensure that emergency support and longer-term support reinforce each other with the clear objective of reducing displacement-related vulnerabilities and building long term resilient communities.

Government members in the Durable Solutions Task Force team will include; Ministries of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management (Chair), Peace and Conflict Resolution Commission (co-chair), Sustainable Development Goals (Secretariat Lead), Health and Human Services, Justice and Public Order, Women Affairs and Social Welfare, Water Resources Environment and Climate Change, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Lands and Survey, Transport, Power and Energy, Works, and Housing, Finance, State Emergency Management Agency, Budget and State planning, Bureau for International Cooperation and Development, State Bureau of Statistics, Bureau for Home Security, Representatives of NAPTIP.

7.3 Operational / LGA Level Coordination

At the LGA level, where solutions will be implemented, an operational coordination mechanism will be set up under the leadership of the LGA Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Coordinator working in unity with the MDAs specialist working at the LGA levels in such a way as to bring together the entire society. This coordination structure will also include local government officials, traditional & religious leaders, IDPs, civil society members, as well as any other relevant national or international partner that has a stake in the LGA's progress towards durable solutions.

The operational/LGA coordination structure will ensure that the appropriate activities and steps are being implemented to allow IDPs to achieve durable solutions in line with their own needs. At the LGA level, concrete decisions will be taken as to what has to happen and where it will be implemented in the LGA. The LGA level coordination will operate in line with technical guidance from the Durable Solutions Task Force team. Overall, the operational coordination structure will identify and build upon existing structures and capacities of people and structures at the LGA level in the pursuit of achieving durable solutions.

7.4 SDGs and Displacement

In furtherance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) ambitious commitment to 'leave no one behind'; the SDGs declaration recognizes "Refugees, Internally Displaced persons and Migrants" as amongst the vulnerable groups. It therefore encourages effective measures to meet the needs of "people living in areas affected by complex humanitarian emergencies. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recognition of displacement as a challenge to achieving the goals has made it to include several goals that are relevant to displaced people:

Goal 1: No Poverty

Refugees and displaced people can lose their jobs, assets, and land, and may be left behind economically.

Goal 2: End Hunger

Achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Refugees and internally displaced persons and migrants face extreme hunger as they lose their lands and access to agriculture. SDGs intends to ensure that all people in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations especially infants have access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.

Goal 4: Quality Education

Refugees and displaced people are often behind in education, and half of all refugees are likely under 18.

Goal 5: Gender Equality

Displacement can exacerbate existing gender discrimination and vulnerabilities, putting women and girls at greater risk.

Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic growth Opportunities

Refugees and displaced people are often disadvantaged in the labor market compared to the host population.

Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

Refugees and displaced people need protection and access to basic human rights.

7.5 Reporting

Since the SDGs also recognize refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants as vulnerable groups; it has developed SDG Indicator Framework which includes specific indicators on refugees, IDPs and Migrants to help ensure that their situation is monitored. The State Task Force team on Durable Solutions will adopt these indicators in reporting on its progress in the implementation of the Durable Solutions pathways.

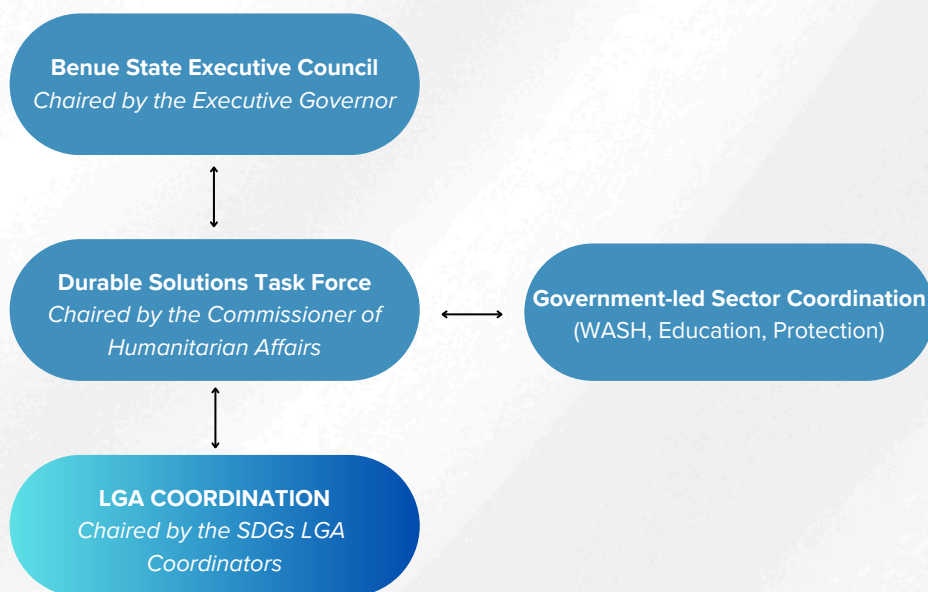


Figure 7: Durable Solutions Task Force

7.6 Engagement with the Federal State

Through the Durable Solutions Task team, frequent dialogue will be set up with the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, and in particular the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants & IDPs (NCFRMI). It will seek active participation and representation in existing and future coordination and discussion fora. The Lead of the Durable Solutions Task team shall be responsible for ensuring effective and meaningful coordination and cooperation with Federal level led efforts to achieve durable solutions.

8. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

The Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) framework is essential to the success of the Benue State Action Plan (SAP) on Durable Solutions for Internal Displacement. This framework will help ensure that the SAP's implementation remains accountable, data-driven, and responsive to the evolving needs of displaced persons and host communities. A well-developed MEL plan will support to:

- Assess the impact of implementing the State Action Plan. The MEL framework will ensure that all stakeholders are able to highlight what is working well, and which challenges are emerging or persistent, ultimately allowing to identify the adjustments that are needed.
- Ensure that displacement affected communities are an integral part of the monitoring and evaluating of the State Action Plan. This will ensure that interventions aimed at achieving Durable Solutions are effective and efficient.
- Enhance transparency and accountability by continuous monitoring of progress towards achieving Durable Solutions, including all relevant stakeholders as elaborated in the Durable Solutions Task Force.

The Benue Durable Solutions Task Force shall undertake regular assessments that allow the Task Force to identify successes and areas where improvements can be made. It will also enable us to ensure accountability, allowing stakeholders to track progress and hold each other responsible for achieving goals. Monitoring of the State Action Plan and progress towards durable solutions can take shape in different forms:

8.1 Regular Monitoring and Evaluation

The Monitoring component of this Action Plan will ensure the systematic and routine collection of data and information from statistical resources, administrative data or specific program-related data. The MEL framework will provide more detailed data on relevant indicators, data collection methods, data collection frequency, the analytical framework and roles & responsibilities of all stakeholders involved. It will draw inspiration from global best practices such as the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS), the Inter-Agency Durable Solutions indicator library and the 6 OECD evaluation criteria among others. Equally, the proposed indicators and MEL framework will be in-line with proposed ways of working and guidance as set by the Federal Authorities, notable the National Bureau of Statistics. The MEL framework will ensure participatory processes and data collection methods. This will allow for the voices of displacement-affected communities to be captured in evaluations. A mixed-methods approach will equally ensure that quantitative data can be interpreted and explained in a meaningful analysis. Beyond a participatory approach, the Benue Task Force on Durable Solutions will ensure analysis is shared among all relevant stakeholders allowing for a common and joined up approach towards durable solutions.

8.2 Commissioned Evaluations

Periodically, the Benue State Durable Solutions Task Force will call for an evaluation of the implementation of the Durable Solutions Action Plan. Such evaluations shall look into (a) a particular components of the State Action Plan or (b) a periodical review of implementation and progress towards Durable Solutions. The commissioned evaluations shall appraise data and information that inform strategic decisions, thus improving the project or programme in the future.

8.3 Learning Alliances

Benue State will seek to build leaning alliances with other states in Nigeria especially the Northeast that are also implementing durable solutions. Learning alliances are collaborative partnerships where different entities and stakeholders come together to share knowledge and skills. Through these learning alliances the Benue state Durable Solutions Task Force will seek to share knowledge, enhance capacities and skills on monitoring of durable solutions.

9. Communication, Visibility & Media

A communication and Visibility policy has been developed and is awaiting the approval of the State Coordination Team. This policy is developed to enable the UN Systems, INGOs NGOs and implementing MDAs to coordinate and enhance the visibility of all supporting partners its ability to “Leverage these platforms to showcase Benue State's potential, share success stories, and engage with potential partners and investors”.

In light of the above, the communication and visibility materials developed for our use will serve as the state image maker and facilitate efficient and effective public awareness. It will serve the purpose of communicating the identities of the project supporters the expected results what the project partners are doing and what are the aims/goals of any project or funding organization. For the effective implementation and showcasing of ALL projects being supported by our international partners and the Benue State government, the management of state MDAs will develop and provide mockups of all branded public communications and visibility materials for the consideration, review and approval of partners before they are deployed.

