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Insecurity and Forced Migration in the Kogi State, North Central Nigeria

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Abstract

With a focus on rural areas along the Niger–Benue confluence impacted by farmer–herder conflicts, abduction, banditry, and other kinds of communal violence, this study investigates the connection between insecurity and forced migration in Kogi State, Nigeria. The project is to evaluate the humanitarian and socioeconomic effects of insecurity on displaced people and host communities, as well as how it contributes to forced displacement. The study included both primary and secondary data and used a descriptive research approach. While secondary data came from books, journal articles, government publications, institutional reports, and existing literature on insecurity, conflict, and displacement in Nigeria, primary data was gathered through field observations, interviews, and discussions with impacted community members and other pertinent stakeholders. The results show that insecurity has grown to be a significant factor in forced migration in Kogi State, especially in rural areas where farming, raising livestock, fishing, and unofficial economic activities are the main sources of income. Conflicts between farmers and herders were shown to be major causes of displacement, primarily due to competition for land, water, grazing routes, and other natural resources. Both direct and anticipatory displacement are also caused by kidnapping and banditry, as locals shift due to ongoing dread of violence or escape attacks. Loss of livelihoods and productive assets, food insecurity, poverty, inadequate housing, interrupted healthcare and education, psychological misery, and increased protection threats are all consequences of displacement. Additionally, it puts a strain on host communities and interferes with social networks, local commerce, and agricultural productivity. The study comes to the conclusion that Kogi State's forced migration and instability are related security, humanitarian, and development issues that call for integrated

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security, conflict prevention, livelihood restoration, and social support interventions.

Keywords: Insecurity, Forced Migration, Internal Displacement, Banditry, Kidnapping, Farmer–Herder Conflict, Kogi State.

Introduction

Globally, forced migration has been a source of concern for national governments, supra- national institutions, civil society organizations, international organizations for migration and other stakeholders. In the past few years, it has caused an unprecedented population displacement with grave consequences, particularly on developing countries like Nigeria Reports have shown that from 2000 to 2025, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) associated with armed conflicts increased from 21 million to 41 million. Today 55 million people are displaced worldwide as a result of violent conflict and natural catastrophe, with 59 [4]countries accounting for 49 million of those displaced persons [5].The armed conflict in West Africa, particularly in the Lake Chad Region has resulted in the mass displacement of people with serious consequences for the security, social, political, and humanitarian conditions of people in Nigeria, Cameroon, and Niger[6]The Federal Republic of Nigeria is currently experiencing an upsurge in the forced migration crisis. The country currently has more than 3 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), 1.7 million returnees who were formerly refugees in neighbouring countries, and 74,000 refugees and asylum seekers[7]. Furthermore, Nigeria has witnessed and is still witnessing a myriad of conflicts that have challenged and threatened rural, socio-economic development, internal security, and unity of the nation. Most of these crises are propelled by socio- economic (resource control agitation)/political affiliation, and the behavioral propensity of ethnic and religious identity by ethnic groups in the Nigeria state.[8]This paper therefore examines insecurity and force migration crisis in the Niger/Benue confluence.

Conceptual Clarification

Insecurity

Insecurity to some people would mean absent of safety or the existence of danger; hazardous situation; uncertainty; lack of harmony; doubtfulness; inadequate protection; instability; disturbing situation; lack of protection and safety [9]Insecurity can actually make someone to lose trust, be frightened, unsettled, oppressed, be unfocused, be devastated and lose your sanity. Insecurity is the state of being subjected to every form of threats, risk, terror, molestation, bullying, harassment, creation of anxiety among others. Insecurity, instance, can be seen as a threat or actual use of threat to the state that often

[4](Aminu and Molmela, 2024).
[5](Targba, 2022).
[6](Targba, 2022).
[7](Aminu and Molmela, 2024).
[8]Obi, Odikpa, et al, 2021).
[9](Achumba et al, 2013).

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leads a state into arms race for the protection of the state from external aggression. For instance, it has been opined that the fear of kidnappers and banditry along Kaduna-Abuja road and other parts of the north is less common compared to the fear of Boko-Haram in Bornu and its environs [10]

Insecurity, could be describe as pervasive state of fear, risk, threat, and vulnerability that individuals, groups, entire societies or ethnic nationality face (Saliu, H. A., Luqman, S., & Abdullahi, A. (2007). Broadly speaking, it is the absence or insufficiency of safety and protection manifesting most visibly in physical insecurity, such as violence and armed conflict. This physical insecurity often serves as a catalyst that exacerbates other forms of insecurity, including economic deprivation, social instability, and political disenfranchisement and crisis [11]

Forced Migration

Forced migration is the movement of people from their homes due to natural disasters such as earthquakes, flooding, drought and/or human actions such as wars and conflicts. People are also forced to move because of economic hardship and hunger. Forced migration has to do with the movement of migrants, displaced persons and refugees within and across international borders. The major causes of forced migration include wars and conflict, environmental change, and social and economic conditions. Given the above definitions, forced migration and population displacement are seen as one and the same phenomenon, involving the forced movement of people from their homes to other places [12]Forced migration could also be described as persons or group of persons who have been forced to another place of usual residence in order to avoid the effect of armed conflicts and leave an unpleasant situation of generalized violence and natural or human-made disasters. One of the present challenges associated with forced migration in Nigeria is the increase in the trends of the movement that is, there is increase in the number of displaced persons and their vulnerability[13].

Forced migration is the movement of persons or group of persons from a particular location to another seeking to escape from natural or man-made disasters in the forms earth quake or arm conflict, persecution, repression, ecological issues, and other occurrences that endangers their life's [14]

The nexus between Banditry, Herders-Farmers Crisis and Forced Migration in Kogi State

Banditry, Herders-farmer's crisis and forced migration can be viewed as two sides of the same coin. It has forced millions of people to relocate from their ancestral hometowns to other locations in search of stability, peace and security. Forced migration comes with a lot of consequences for both the

[10](Aliyu, 1998).
[11](Beland, 2005).
[12]Giovetti 2019).
[13](Shittu, S. B. &Kazeem. S, 2023
[14](Mukhtar, Rose, Choy, & Bibi-Farouk, 2018).

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migrants and the host communities. It is worthy of note that on the side of the migrants, it has created displacement from ancestral homes, diseases, unemployment, poverty and emotional trauma, instability among other. For the host communities, it comes with increase in population, food insecurity, and in some cases, crime. Forced migrants have left their ancestral homes and lost their means of livelihood such as farmlands and livestock scattered in neighboring towns and cities where there is relative peace and security. Often, the women and children engage in street begging, some of the young girls engage in commercial sex, while the men engage in other menial jobs just to earn a living[15]

An interview with a female forced migrant in Omala local government area of Kogi state revealed that: Finding safe and decent accommodation in the new location is a major problem that forced migrants usually encounter. She further revealed that majority of the forced migrants live in overcrowded uncompleted buildings without toilets, water, and electricity and other abandoned home facilities. She also asserted that unhygienic accommodation has resulted in subpar living circumstances and heightened susceptibility to different illnesses and deaths among forced migrants. Due to congestion, poor hygiene and lack of access to basic medical supplies, many, particularly, women and children have died of common preventable illnesses such as diarrhea, fever, and meningitis[16]

The traditional ruler of Abeukolo, the head quarter of Omala local government area which has been experiencing rural-urban migration as a result of insecurity in the local government stressed that; The influx of forced migrants in to the town has increased the population of the host community. This implies the demand for more food to feed the growing population amid inaccessible land. Thus, forced migration is majorly responsible for the unprecedented increase in the prices of food across the state. This implies that host communities are likely to incur more living expenses while the displaced people would find it difficult to afford necessities [17]

One of the leaders of one of the civil society organizations based in Kogi State submits that; Often, some of the members of the host communities accused forced migrants of being informants that supply information about the members of the host communities to the bandits or herders for financial gains. Most residents of the host communities associate midnight home-based abduction with forced migrants. These accusations have created a strained relationship between the forced migrants and their host communities. Hence, in some areas, forced migrants are treated as mere criminals and architects of their problems[18]

Causes and Drivers of Forced Migration in Kogi State

Displaced persons are persons or group of persons who have been forced to another place of usual residence in order to avoid the effect of armed conflicts

[15](Rosenje, Soluade, Olatoye, Peju-Rosenje, &Adeniyi, 2022).
[16](A. Debora, 2025)
[17](Musa, 2025).
[18](Jonathan, 2026).

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and leave an unpleasant situation of generalized violence and natural or human-made disasters are described as displaced persons of group of persons.
Over time, forced migration has grown to be a national problem that necessitates the declaration of an emergency[19]The increase's aftereffects, which include more unstable and tumultuous conflict scenarios including derogatory ethnic insurgencies, corrupt politicians, religious intolerance, national wars, and endemic poverty brought on by the displacements, made intervention necessary. Among the displaced people, particularly women and children, this has resulted in several social, emotional, and physiological issues, including severe depression and fatalities. The majority of Nigeria's forced migrants were uprooted by internal armed conflicts, communal violence, and natural calamities including drought, floods, and fires.[20]Banditry and other forms of arm conflicts confrontation the country has led to high threats to lives and properties, death of thousands while millions were being displaced from their ancestral homes[21]

Herders/Farmers Conflict as a Cause of Forced Migration

Farmer/herder crisis is one of the major causes of forced migration in some parts of Kogi State. The conflict is generally connected to competition over land, water, crops, grazing routes and other natural resources. Farmer/herder crisis in Kogi State was associated with resource-use disputes and broader structural factors. Farmers identified crop destruction, destruction of farmland, uncontrolled grazing and pollution of community water supply as some important causes of the conflict. However, herders, on the other hand, identified issues such as cattle rustling, blockage of water points and commercialization of crop residues as their own identified drivers of the conflicts[22]

These competing claims matter because both farmers and herders depend heavily on the land and natural resources. Farmers need land to grow crops, pastoralists need grazing land and water for their livestock. Higher population pressures and more intensive use of available land may reduce the space available for pastoral mobility. Simultaneously, farmers may also consider livestock movement across cultivated land as an immediate threat to their livelihood.

In Kogi state, livelihood issues also identified three broad causal dimensions: violation of agreements or traditional arrangements, interference with livelihoods and cultural factors. The study also revealed that farmer-herder conflict led to forced relocation of farmers, migration to marginal areas and creation of an unsafe environment for farming. The consequences can be a cycle of displacement. If a farmer loses his crops, he may lose the income that supports his family. If the farmer is threatened or attacked later, the family may abandon its farm and go somewhere else. Similarly, pastoralists may be forced to leave grazing areas in the wake of attacks, reprisals or community hostility. Research among pastoralists in Kogi has identified conflict as the cause of

[19](Salleh, Ahmad & Jamil, 2018; Okon, 2018).
[20](Shittu, S. B. &Kazeem. S, 2023)
[21](Tajudeen& Adebayo, 2013).
[22](Dimelu, Salifu and Igbokwe, 2016).

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forced ejectment, displacement of herders, abandonment of cattle and unsafe grazing conditions. Recent evidence suggests the problem is still relevant. The EUAA reported incidents of farmer–herder violence in Kogi in 2024, 2025 and the first quarter of 2026 including an incident in Omala LGA in April and another in Ijumu LGA in November. It also reported the destruction of farm produce and property linked to attacks and community conflict.[23]

Kidnapping as a Cause of Forced Migration

Kidnapping has emerged as another major insecurity-related factor affecting mobility in Kogi State. Kidnapping involves the unlawful seizure or confinement of persons, often for ransom, and its effects extend beyond the immediate victims. The wider community may experience fear, economic disruption and loss of confidence in its ability to provide security. Research on kidnapping in Dekina Local Government Area of Kogi State identified ransom expectations, inadequate cooperation with security agencies, unemployment, poverty, greed and the pursuit of material gains among factors associated with kidnapping. The study also found that kidnapping had become sufficiently prevalent to affect social and economic life in the area [24]

The significance of kidnapping for forced migration lies particularly in the creation of anticipatory displacement. People do not necessarily have to be kidnapped before they leave their homes. Where kidnapping becomes frequent, residents sometimes concludes that remaining in the community exposes them to unacceptable risk. Farmers may stop going to distant farms, traders may reduce travel and families may move to larger towns or safer communities. This pattern has been reported in Kogi's rural areas. A 2025 report by *Punch* described several villages as having been deserted as residents relocated to safer areas because of fear of kidnapping, rape, maiming and death. The report identified communities in Lokoja and Kabba-Bunu among those affected.

The economic consequences reinforce forced migration, when farmers cannot safely travel to their farms, agricultural production declines. If traders cannot safely move between communities, markets become less functional. Families may subsequently lose income and become unable to maintain their former livelihoods. The EUAA's review of Kogi's security situation provides additional evidence of the scale of the problem. It reported that different sources recorded dozens of kidnapping victims in Kogi in 2024 and noted that kidnapping incidents continued to be reported in 2025. It also described parts of the Abuja/Lokoja highway as having historically experienced violent crime and kidnapping, although security operations had reportedly reduced criminal activity along some sections. Kidnapping therefore contributes to forced migration in at least three ways. First, victims and their immediate families may be forced to relocate after an incident. Second, repeated kidnapping can cause communities to abandon their settlements. Third, fear of kidnapping can prevent residents from accessing farms, markets, schools and other livelihood opportunities, creating conditions that encourage longer-term migration [25]

[23](Dimelu, Salifu and Igbokwe, 2016
[24](ULOKO, GOMMENT and YUNUSA, 2024)
[25](Punch Newspaper. 11th May, 2025).

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Banditry as a Cause of Forced Migration

Banditry constitutes another major cause of forced migration in Kogi State. Although the term "banditry" covers different forms of criminal activity, contemporary Nigerian banditry frequently involves armed attacks, kidnapping, cattle rustling, extortion, robbery, destruction of property and occupation or exploitation of rural territories. It is important to distinguish banditry from kidnapping conceptually while recognising their practical overlap. Kidnapping may be the primary objective of a criminal group, whereas bandit groups may combine kidnapping with robbery, cattle theft, extortion, attacks on villages and control of rural resources. Consequently, kidnapping and banditry often operate as interconnected sources of forced migration[26]

Banditry represents another important security-related cause of forced migration. In the Nigerian context, the term is often used to describe organized criminal groups involved in activities such as armed attacks, kidnapping, cattle rustling, robbery, extortion and destruction of property. Banditry can overlap with kidnapping because kidnapping is sometimes used as an important source of income by criminal groups. Kogi has experienced attacks by bandits and other armed criminal groups. The EUAA's recent assessment identifies bandits, criminal groups, unidentified armed groups and communal militias among the actors responsible for violence in the state. Between January 2024 and December 2025, ACLED recorded 202 security incidents in Kogi, producing 216 fatalities. Banditry causes displacement because it directly threatens the physical security of communities. Armed groups may attack villages, raid farms, steal livestock, destroy property or impose fear on residents. When these attacks become persistent, the affected population may conclude that the costs of remaining outweigh the costs of relocation[27]

Banditry also erodes the economic base of rural communities. In an agrarian state like Kogi, the destruction or theft of crops and livestock is especially damaging. When a household loses its farm produce or livestock, it loses its immediate food supply and its future source of income. Displacement due to banditry is therefore not just displacement from physical violence, but also displacement from destroyed livelihoods. The link between banditry and kidnapping is particularly important. Criminal groups may use rural forests as bases of operations and people traveling along roads or living in isolated communities may be targeted. The Kogi State Government reported security operations against kidnapping networks in Kabba/Bunu, Ijumu, Yagba East and Yagba West in 2025. The government said investigations had uncovered local collaborators who allegedly provided logistical support to gangs that carried out kidnappings. The government's statements should be understood as official assertions, not independent corroboration of each charge, but they reveal the extent to which criminal networks can embed themselves in local settings. This insecurity may lead to short-term flight and longer-term relocation decisions[28]

[26](Amadi, &Ugwu, 2025).
[27](EUAA, 2025)
[28](Ogalah, 2025).

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Socio-economic and Humanitarian Consequences of Forced Migration on Displaced Communities in Kogi State

Forced migration has become an important development and humanitarian concern in Nigeria, particularly in communities exposed to armed conflict, communal violence, farmer–herder clashes, and other disasters. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) are particularly vulnerable because, although they remain within the borders of their country, displacement often separates them from their homes, productive assets, social networks and established sources of livelihood.

Kogi State presents an important case for examining these consequences because of its geographical position at the confluence of the Niger and Benue rivers, its large rural and agrarian population, and its exposure to recurrent episodes of communal and farmer/herder conflict, kidnapping and arm banditry. Evidence from studies conducted in the state demonstrates that forced displacement is not merely a temporary humanitarian emergency. It produces interconnected economic, social, health, educational, psychological and livelihood consequences that may persist long after the immediate crisis has ended[29]

The consequences of forced migration therefore extend beyond the physical movement of people. Displacement can destroy productive assets, interrupt education, weaken family and community networks, increase dependence on humanitarian assistance and expose already vulnerable populations to additional health and protection risks. This write-up examines these socioeconomic and humanitarian consequences within the context of displaced communities in Kogi State. Forced migration encompasses situations in which people are compelled to leave their usual places of residence because of conflict, persecution, disasters, environmental hazards or other circumstances threatening their safety and livelihoods. Internal displacement differs from international refugee movement because displaced persons remain within their country of nationality or habitual residence. In Kogi State, forced migration has multiple drivers. but violent conflict and insecurity is the major contributor.

Similarly, research on conflicts in Kogi State has linked conflict tensions to displacement, homelessness and increased pressure on social services such as education and healthcare. The scale and character of displacement can also change from one crisis to another. In the September 2024 flood assessment, for example, IOM identified 773 displaced persons among 798 flood-affected individuals in two assessed LGAs. Thirty-three per cent of affected houses were completely destroyed, while 26% were partially damaged.[30]

Socioeconomic Consequences of Forced Migration
Loss of Livelihoods and Household Income

One of the most immediate socioeconomic consequences of forced migration is the loss of access to livelihoods. This is particularly severe in Kogi State because

[29](Omeiza and Dauda, 2025)
[30](Omeiza and Dauda, 2025)

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a substantial proportion of affected communities depend directly on agriculture, fishing, petty trading and other informal economic activities. When flooding or conflict forces households away from their communities, farmers may lose access to farms precisely when crops are approaching harvest. Livestock can be lost, fishing activities interrupted and small businesses destroyed. The 2024 IOM assessment found that crop farming constituted a major source of income in 84% of assessed flood-affected locations in Kogi State. Consequently, destruction of farmland and crops translates directly into loss of household income and food production. The loss of income may continue after the displaced population leaves an emergency shelter. Displaced households frequently lack capital to restart farming, replace equipment, rebuild shops or purchase agricultural inputs. Consequently, a temporary displacement can develop into prolonged economic vulnerability.[31]

Destruction of Productive Assets and Property

Forced migration frequently involves the loss or destruction of houses, farms, shops, livestock, household possessions and important documents. Such losses reduce the economic capacity of displaced households and make recovery more difficult. The loss of property has consequences beyond the immediate replacement cost. A house is simultaneously a place of residence, an economic asset and a source of social security. A farm provides food and income; a shop provides employment; livestock represents savings and productive capital. Their destruction therefore reduces household resilience and increases dependence on external assistance[32]

Increased Poverty and Household Vulnerability

Forced displacement can create a poverty trap. A household may lose its assets during the initial crisis, spend its remaining savings on transportation and survival, lose access to employment and subsequently depend on relatives, host communities or humanitarian assistance.

Food Insecurity and Malnutrition

Forced migration disrupts both food production and household access to food. In agricultural communities, the destruction of farms removes an important source of household consumption while simultaneously reducing income with which food can be purchased. The consequences can be especially serious for children, pregnant women, older people and persons with disabilities. Where displacement lasts for an extended period, inadequate dietary diversity may contribute to malnutrition, weakened immunity and increased susceptibility to disease.

Disruption of Education

Education is one of the social services most vulnerable to forced migration. Children may lose access to school because their families relocate, schools are

[31](Oyedele, Kola, Olorunfemi&Walz, 2022).
[32](Anierobi, Obasi el ta, 2024).

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damaged, educational materials are lost or household income becomes insufficient to cover education-related costs.

This interruption has long-term implications. Children who remain out of school for prolonged periods may experience learning loss, increased dropout risk and greater exposure to child labour, exploitation and other forms of vulnerability. Displacement therefore affects not only the present socioeconomic condition of households but also the future human capital of affected communities.

Unemployment and Loss of Economic Productivity

Displacement often disconnects individuals from their normal employment and productive activities. The problem is particularly pronounced when displaced populations are moved from rural communities to camps or urban locations where their existing skills may not easily translate into employment. This reduction in employment also affects the wider local economy. When large numbers of farmers, traders and artisans lose their livelihoods, local production falls, markets become disrupted and household purchasing power declines.

Humanitarian Consequences
Inadequate Shelter and Overcrowding

The immediate humanitarian consequence of forced migration is the need for safe shelter. Displaced people may initially stay with relatives, friends, host communities, religious institutions, schools or makeshift camps. Where displacement is large-scale, however, existing facilities can become overcrowded. Overcrowding creates secondary humanitarian problems, including inadequate privacy, poor sanitation, difficulty maintaining personal hygiene and increased exposure to infectious diseases[33]

Public Health Risks

Forced migration creates conditions that can increase the incidence of infectious and water-related diseases. Displaced populations may have limited access to clean water, sanitation facilities, healthcare and adequate nutrition. Health consequences therefore arise through several pathways: contaminated water, inadequate sanitation, mosquito exposure, overcrowding, poor nutrition, interrupted medical treatment and reduced access to health facilities.

Psychological Distress and Mental Health Challenges

Forced migration involves more than physical movement. People may experience grief over lost relatives, homes and livelihoods; anxiety about the future; uncertainty regarding return; fear of renewed violence or flooding; and frustration arising from inadequate humanitarian support. Such experiences can produce stress, depression, anxiety and trauma, particularly when displacement is prolonged. Children can be particularly vulnerable because

[33](ISMAILA, 2024).

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displacement may simultaneously remove them from their homes, schools, friends and familiar support systems.

Protection and Gender-Related Vulnerabilities

Displaced populations may face increased risks of exploitation, discrimination, gender-based violence, child abuse and other protection concerns. The concentration of large numbers of vulnerable people in temporary settlements can create conditions in which individuals have reduced privacy and limited control over their personal security. Women and girls may face particular challenges where sanitation facilities are inadequate or where access to reproductive and maternal healthcare is interrupted. Children separated from parents or caregivers may also be exposed to exploitation and trafficking. Although the available Kogi-specific literature does not comprehensively quantify all forms of gender-based violence in displacement settings, recent research on displaced populations in Nigeria demonstrates that overcrowding, inadequate resources and insecurity can compound the vulnerabilities of IDP[34]

Pressure on Host Communities

Forced migration does not affect displaced people alone. Host communities also experience pressure when large numbers of displaced persons arrive. Additional populations increase demand for water, food, healthcare, education, housing, transportation and employment. Where host communities themselves have limited infrastructure, displacement can intensify existing socioeconomic difficulties. Research on conflicts and development in Kogi State notes that displacement places additional pressure on already fragile local infrastructure and social services, including education and healthcare.

Effects on Social Cohesion and Community Networks
Breakdown of Social Networks

Communities possess informal systems of social protection through kinship, religious institutions, traditional authorities, neighbourhood associations and community organisations. Forced migration disrupts these networks when families become scattered across different locations. Displacement may separate extended families, interrupt community traditions and weaken collective mechanisms for resolving disputes. When people are eventually able to return, the social landscape may have changed considerably. The problem can be particularly significant in communities affected by conflict. Research on communal conflict in Ihima, Kogi State, found that conflict negatively affected social activities, tourism, local production and community development.

Disruption of Local Markets and Community Economies

Markets depend upon population stability, agricultural production and predictable patterns of consumption. Forced migration interrupts all three. When farmers abandon their farms, agricultural output declines. When traders lose their shops or customers migrate, commercial activity falls. When roads

[34](Rosenje, M. O., Soluade, Z. O., Olatoye, O. A., Peju-Rosenje, T. O., &Adeniyi, O. P. 2022)

and infrastructure are damaged by floods, the movement of agricultural products becomes more difficult[35]

Consequences for Agriculture and Food Systems

Agriculture occupies a central position in the socioeconomic life of many Kogi communities. Consequently, forced migration from farming settlements has implications for both household welfare and the wider food system.

Forced Migration and Rural–Urban Pressure

Forced migration can also accelerate rural–urban movement. When rural communities become unsafe or repeatedly flooded, displaced households may move toward relatively safer urban centres such as Lokoja and other towns. However, urban relocation does not automatically resolve vulnerability. Displaced rural populations may arrive without sufficient financial resources, formal employment, adequate housing or marketable skills for urban employment. Consequently, they may settle in informal or overcrowded areas and become dependent on casual labour. The movement can therefore transfer vulnerability from rural areas to urban communities. Host towns may experience increased pressure on housing, schools, hospitals, transportation, water and employment markets.

Long-Term Consequences for Human Development

The cumulative effects of forced migration can undermine human development in displaced communities. When families lose homes, farms, businesses, educational opportunities and social networks simultaneously, the effects can persist across generations. Children who discontinue schooling may experience reduced future employment opportunities. Adults who lose productive assets may remain trapped in low-income activities. Repeated displacement may prevent families from accumulating savings and rebuilding their asset base. Communities may also lose skilled workers, entrepreneurs and agricultural producers. Consequently, forced migration should be treated as a development issue as well as a humanitarian issue. The objective should not merely be to keep displaced persons alive during an emergency but to restore their capacity to live productive, secure and dignified lives[36]

Conclusion

According to this study, forced migration in Kogi State is largely caused by insecurity, especially in areas where banditry, farmer-herder conflicts, kidnapping, and other forms of communal violence are prevalent. The reviewed evidence shows that displacement is not just the immediate result of physical attacks; it is also caused by ongoing fear, loss of livelihoods, property destruction, and the inability of impacted populations to safely access markets, schools, farms, and other vital services. Residents are more susceptible to the

[35](Mukhtar, S., Rose, R.A.C. Choy, L.K. & Bibi-Farouk, A.U.I. 2018)
[36](Yusuf, 2020).

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socioeconomic effects of instability because to the Niger–Benue confluence and the fact that many rural villages are mostly agrarian.

The study also demonstrates how forced migration creates significant developmental and humanitarian issues. Loss of employment and productive assets, poverty, food insecurity, poor housing, interrupted healthcare and education, psychological suffering, and increased protection threats are all common experiences for displaced people. In the meantime, host towns are under more strain in terms of food, housing, jobs, and social services, and tense interactions between displaced people and host inhabitants may threaten societal cohesiveness. Therefore, forced migration and insecurity are related issues that cannot be resolved by military or security measures alone.

Therefore, an integrated strategy including efficient security measures, conflict avoidance, enhanced rural infrastructure, livelihood restoration, humanitarian aid, and more robust community-based structures for peacebuilding is necessary for the sustainable management of forced migration in Kogi State. It is equally vital to address the underlying issues of poverty, unemployment, rural fragility, and competition for land and water. Restoring livelihoods, fostering social cohesion, and attaining sustainable development in Kogi State will need an all-encompassing response that safeguards displaced persons while bolstering the resilience of host communities.

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