

MULTI-SECTOR NEEDS ASSESSMENT (MSNA)

For Displaced Women, Girls, Men, And Boys in Barkin Ladi, Bassa, Bokkos, Mangu, and Riyom Local Government Areas in Plateau State, North Central, Nigeria.

September – December 2024



Acknowledgement

The CRADI team expresses its appreciation to the management and staff of all partner organizations for their support throughout this assessment. Your contributions at various stages of this assessment, ranging from the inception workshop to data collection, report review, and the validation workshop, were helpful in ensuring the success of this assessment.

We also extend our thanks to the Plateau state government, particularly the Plateau State Emergency Management Agency (PLASEMA), for their usual support and collaboration. The ethical approval you granted, created an enabling environment for the smooth conduct of this assessment. Furthermore, we recognize and commend the dedication and hard work of the data collectors and all those who played a role in this process. Your commitment and timely efforts were key to the accomplishment of this task.

Special appreciation goes to the organizations that participated in the inception and validation workshops. Your contributions in designing the tools, reviewing research questions, and finding through interactive and participatory sessions were essential to the success of this assessment.

Disclaimer

The perspectives presented in this report are based on data collected from community members and stakeholders across the five LGAs of the assessment. These findings reflect the opinions and experiences shared by respondents during the data collection process. They do not represent the official views or positions of CRADI, its staff, or its partners.

Citation

Crest Research and Development Institute, et al. (2024), Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA): For Displaced Women, Girls, Men, And Boys in Barkin Ladi, Bassa, Bokkos, Mangu, and Riyom Local Governments Areas in Plateau State, North Central Nigeria.

Crest Research and Development Institute (CRADI), December 2024





Table of Contents

Acknowledgement.....	2
Table of Contents.....	3
Acronyms.....	5
Executive Summary	6
Findings (What you Absolutely need to Know from the Assessment)	6
Introduction	9
Purpose and Objectives of the MSNA.....	10
Scope of the Study	11
Methodology	12
1. Study Design	12
2. Population and Sampling	12
3. Method of Data Collection	13
4. Method of Data Analysis.....	13
5. Ethics and Accountability.....	13
Discussion of Findings.....	14
Demographic Overview.....	14
Security and Governance	16
Food Security and Livelihood.....	17
Health and WASH	20
Protection and Human Rights	22
Education	24
LGA-Specific Findings	29
Barkin Ladi LGA.....	29
Bassa LGA	31
Bokkos LGA	34
Mangu LGA.....	37
Riyom LGA:	39
Recommendations:	42
1. Security and Governance.....	42
2. Food Security and Livelihoods.....	42
3. Health and WASH.....	42

4. Protection and Human Rights.....	43
5. Education	43
Conclusion.....	44
Annex	45
Authors and Contributors	45
List of Stakeholders Present at the Validation Workshop.....	46
Communities of The MSNA across the Five (5) LGAs.....	47
About the Partners	48





Acronyms

CECOMPS	Centre for Conflict Management and Peace Studies
CRADI	Crest Research and Development Institute
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration
DREP	Dialogue and Reconciliation and Peace (DREP) Centre
FCS	Food Consumption Scores
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
KIIs	Key Informant Interviews
LGA	Local Government Area
MSNA	Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment
NEMA	National Emergency Management Agency
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
OPSH	Operation Safe Haven
PLASEMA	Plateau State Emergency Management Agency
SWF	Safer World Foundation
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
WOCCI-Nig.	Women and Children in Support of Community Development Initiatives Nigeria.





Executive Summary

The Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) was conducted in conflict-affected Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Plateau State, Nigeria, including Bokkos, Mangu, Barkin Ladi, Riyom, and Bassa. These areas have experienced significant disruption due to ongoing violence and displacement, resulting in widespread humanitarian needs across key sectors. The MSNA aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of these needs, assess the gaps in critical services, and inform the design of targeted interventions to improve conditions in food security, health, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), education, and protection.

The assessment utilized a mixed-methods approach, gathering data from household surveys, Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) to ensure a robust and evidence-based analysis of the situation. The findings will serve as a critical tool for humanitarian actors, local authorities, and donors in prioritizing responses and resources to the most urgent needs in the conflict-affected LGAs.

Findings (What you Absolutely need to Know from the Assessment)

The key findings are discussed according to sectors below;

Security and Governance

Findings from the assessment revealed that the conflict has severely weakened security and governance structures, leading to a pervasive sense of insecurity among the population. In **Riyom LGA**, 83.8% of households reported experiencing some form of violence, while high levels of insecurity were also reported in **Bassa** and **Bokkos**. In **Barkin Ladi**, 47.3% of households reported experiencing violence, including physical assaults, property damage, and displacement. Local protection efforts have been insufficient to address the scale of violence. Similarly, in **Mangu**, 52.7% of households have been affected by violence, with many families forced to flee due to ongoing conflict. Both LGAs have seen significant disruption to local governance structures, with traditional mechanisms for conflict resolution no longer effective. Local governance has been significantly disrupted, with traditional conflict resolution mechanisms unable to function effectively. Communities have resorted to forming vigilante groups for protection, but these efforts remain inadequate to address the scale of violence and insecurity.

Food Security and Livelihoods

Food security has been critically affected by the conflict, with agricultural activities heavily disrupted. In **Mangu**, 96.8% of households reported destruction of food stocks, and 94.7% of households in **Bassa** experienced similar losses. In **Riyom**, 72.1% of households reported the destruction of food stocks, and 63.4% of households experienced poor food consumption scores. Similarly, in **Barkin Ladi**, 52.7% of households reported significant losses of food stocks due to the conflict, with 45.5% of households facing poor food consumption. In **Bokkos**, 38.4% of households experienced food stock destruction, and 41.3% reported poor food consumption. The widespread loss of agricultural produce, theft of livestock, and market disruptions have exacerbated food insecurity, leading to the adoption of negative coping strategies, such as selling assets and reducing meal frequency.

The destruction of crops, theft of livestock, and the breakdown of market systems have left households highly food insecure. In **Mangu**, 47.0% of households reported poor food consumption scores. Negative coping strategies, such as reducing meal frequency and selling essential assets, are widespread.

Health and WASH

Access to healthcare has been severely compromised, with many health facilities damaged or destroyed and widespread shortages of medical supplies and personnel. In **Bassa**, only 31.1% of households reported having access to a functioning health facility, while 93.5% of households in **Riyom** reported access to healthcare. WASH services have been equally disrupted, particularly in **Riyom** and **Mangu**, where 57.9% and 48% of households, respectively, reported difficulties accessing clean water. In **Barkin Ladi**, 52.7% of households reported difficulties accessing healthcare, with many health facilities either damaged or understaffed. Access to clean water has also been a significant challenge, with 26.0% of households facing



difficulties in obtaining safe water. This has led to increased reliance on unsafe water sources, further exacerbating health risks, including waterborne diseases. Malnutrition is also a growing concern, with rising cases of acute malnutrition reported among children.

This has led to increased reliance on unsafe water sources, heightening the risk of waterborne diseases. Malnutrition, particularly among children, has become a pressing issue in **Mangu** and **Bokkos**, where cases of acute malnutrition have been reported.

Protection and Human Rights

The protection environment has deteriorated, with women, children, and other vulnerable groups facing heightened risks of violence, exploitation, and abuse. In **Bassa**, **43.3%** of respondents reported concerns about sexual violence. In **Riyom**, **50.1%** of households reported concerns about sexual violence, with women and girls being particularly vulnerable to exploitation. Early marriage and child labor are also on the rise, as families face increasing economic hardship. In **Barkin Ladi**, **47.3%** of households expressed similar concerns, with displacement and lack of resources exacerbating vulnerabilities. In **Mangu**, **4.3%** of households reported sexual violence as a significant issue, while **Bokkos** reported **38.3%** of households facing protection risks, including physical violence and displacement. Mental health issues, including anxiety, depression, and trauma, are widespread, particularly among children and the elderly in these areas. While some protection services exist, significant gaps remain in access to legal aid, psychosocial support, and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) services. Early marriage and child labor have also increased as families struggle to cope with the economic fallout of the conflict. Mental health issues, including anxiety and trauma, are prevalent among children and the elderly, who have been disproportionately affected by the violence and displacement. While some protection services are in place, significant gaps remain, particularly in access to legal, psychosocial, and GBV support.

Education

The education sector has been heavily impacted by the conflict. In **Bokkos**, **41.3%** of schools have been damaged or destroyed, and **81.3%** of households in **Mangu** reported significant disruptions to educational services. The situation in **Riyom** is equally dire, with **43.6%** of children no longer attending school due to insecurity, displacement, and financial barriers. In **Barkin Ladi**, **27.5%** of schools have been damaged or destroyed, with significant disruptions to educational services, affecting **52.7%** of children. In **Bassa**, **35.2%** of schools have been damaged, and **41.3%** of children are no longer attending school due to insecurity, displacement, and financial difficulties. Overcrowded classrooms, a lack of qualified teachers, and inadequate learning materials are common across both areas, further compromising the quality of education. Many families, particularly those headed by women, face financial barriers to education, contributing to the rising dropout rates and further limiting educational opportunities.



Figure 1. LEA Primary School Tahore (Bokkos LGA). Photo credit CRADI. 2024

Overcrowded classrooms, a lack of qualified teachers, and inadequate learning materials have further compromised the quality of education. Many families, particularly those headed by women, are unable to afford the costs associated with schooling, contributing to the high dropout rates.

Recommendations

The MSNA findings highlight critical areas for intervention, requiring a coordinated and sustained response across multiple sectors:

- **Security and Governance:** Strengthen formal security presence and reinforce local governance structures, particularly in areas with high levels of violence such as **Riyom** and **Bassa**. Support community-based policing initiatives and enhance traditional conflict resolution mechanisms to restore peace and social cohesion.
- **Food Security and Livelihoods:** Scale up emergency food distribution, particularly in **Mangu** and **Bassa**, where food insecurity is most severe. Provide support for agricultural recovery through the provision of seeds, tools, and livestock, alongside market rehabilitation to restore livelihoods and economic stability. Support agricultural recovery in **Barkin Ladi**, where significant losses of food stocks and livestock have occurred. Provide targeted support for vulnerable households, including distribution of seeds, livestock, and agricultural tools, to promote sustainable livelihoods. Additionally, rehabilitate local markets to restore economic activities and improve food access for the population.
- **Health and WASH:** Rehabilitate damaged health facilities and deploy mobile health units to ensure access to primary healthcare. Expand safe water access in **Riyom** and **Mangu** and prioritize sanitation and hygiene interventions in displaced communities to prevent disease outbreaks. Scale up nutrition programs to address malnutrition, especially among children and pregnant and lactating women.
- **Protection:** Strengthen GBV prevention and response mechanisms, ensuring that survivors have access to medical, legal, and psychosocial support. Establish safe spaces for women and children in IDP camps and provide comprehensive protection services, including legal aid and psychosocial counselling, to the most vulnerable populations.
- **Education:** Prioritize the rehabilitation of damaged schools, particularly in **Bokkos**, **Mangu**, and **Riyom**. Provide financial assistance to families to reduce dropout rates and invest in teacher training and psychosocial support programs for students affected by trauma. Support community-based initiatives to reopen schools and provide safe, temporary learning spaces.





Introduction

Plateau State has been an epicenter of violence for over two decades¹, largely driven by competition over access to land and resources. These tensions, historically framed along ethnic and religious lines, have been exacerbated by climate change, demographic pressures, and governance failures. Conflicts between herder and farmer communities, particularly involving the Fulani and indigenous farming groups, have resulted in large-scale displacement, loss of lives, and destruction of assets. In recent years, the frequency and intensity of violent incidents have increased dramatically, particularly in the LGAs targeted by this assessment.

In 2021, clashes in Bassa LGA between Fulani herders and Irigwe locals claimed 19 lives and led to significant property damage². Concurrently, Barkin Ladi, Riyom, and Bokkos LGAs have witnessed sustained clashes between Berom tribes and Fulani militias, resulting in over 80 fatalities and widespread displacement. The violence escalated further in 2022 and 2023, with an alarming rise in attacks and retaliatory incidents. By mid-2023, over 400 fatalities were recorded in Barkin Ladi, Bokkos, and Mangu LGAs, and over 30,000 individuals were forcibly displaced. Many of these displaced persons sought refuge in overcrowded camps or with host families in nearby communities, with limited access to essential services such as food, shelter, and healthcare.

A key feature of this conflict is its protracted nature, with cycles of violence often linked to unresolved grievances over land ownership, political marginalization, and access to grazing areas. As such, the conflict has not only exacerbated humanitarian needs but has also undermined social cohesion, deepened mistrust between ethnic groups, and created complex dynamics that pose significant challenges to peacebuilding efforts.

Despite the presence of security forces, including the Nigerian Military's Operation Safe Haven (OPSH), and various peacebuilding initiatives, the situation remains volatile. The inability to secure lasting peace has resulted in a protracted humanitarian crisis, characterized by widespread displacement, food insecurity, and restricted access to basic services. The assessment of these dynamics is critical for informing effective and sustainable interventions.

The Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) was commissioned to provide a comprehensive analysis of the humanitarian impact of recurrent violence and displacement in five Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Plateau State, North-Central Nigeria: Barkin Ladi, Bokkos, Bassa, Mangu, and Riyom. Rooted in the need for a data-driven approach, the MSNA aims to inform targeted humanitarian interventions by assessing the conflict's far-reaching effects on the socio-economic fabric of the region.

Given the protracted nature of the conflict and its devastating consequences, the assessment is both critical and timely. With thousands displaced and living in precarious conditions, the humanitarian situation in Plateau State has reached alarming levels. The MSNA will enable humanitarian actors to develop a shared understanding of the key challenges facing affected communities and design interventions that are responsive to the specific needs of different population groups.

¹ https://fscluster.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/Advocacy%20Brief_Call%20for%20joint%20humanitarian%20response%20to%20the%20crisis%20in%20Plateau.pdf

² <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/nigeria-%E2%80%94-north-central-bassa-lga-%E2%80%94-plateau-state-flash-report-10-august-2021>



Purpose and Objectives of the MSNA

The purpose of the MSNA is to generate a nuanced and evidence-based understanding of the impact of the recurrent conflict in Plateau State, particularly across the five targeted LGAs. The MSNA is structured to assess the humanitarian impact across multiple sectors, including food security, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), protection, and education. The assessment aims to identify key vulnerabilities, response gaps, and priority needs within these sectors, providing critical data to support resource mobilization, programmatic planning, and coordinated humanitarian responses.

Specifically, the MSNA focuses on the following objectives:



• **Security and Governance:** To assess the extent of damage to livelihoods, properties, and household assets in the conflict-affected LGAs, and to identify key vulnerabilities among the displaced populations, particularly those related to food security and governance structures. This includes an analysis of how the violence has impacted community governance, social cohesion, and local conflict resolution mechanisms.



• **Food Security and Livelihood:** To assess the disruption of agricultural activities, including damage to food stocks, crops, livestock, and other livelihood sources. This assessment will identify the most pressing gaps in food security and economic resilience, with a focus on the coping mechanisms employed by affected households to manage food insecurity and livelihood disruptions.



• **Health, WASH, and Nutrition:** To examine the impact of conflict on the demand and delivery of basic social services, with a particular focus on access to healthcare, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services. The assessment investigated the prevalence of malnutrition among displaced populations, identifying the factors contributing to deteriorating nutritional status and recommending remedial actions to improve access to essential health and WASH services.



• **Protection and Human Rights:** To identify the protection needs, risks, and vulnerabilities of conflict-affected populations, with particular attention to women, girls, and other vulnerable groups. This includes an analysis of GBV, child protection issues, and the effectiveness of existing protection mechanisms. The assessment documented the coping strategies adopted by affected households and highlights the gaps in protection support that require urgent attention.



• **Education:** To assess the extent of damage to educational infrastructure and the disruption of educational services in the conflict-affected areas. The assessment also examined the challenges faced by students, particularly in terms of access to quality education, and identified the coping mechanisms employed by educational institutions and communities to mitigate the impact of the conflict on learning outcomes.

Scope of the Study

The scope of the MSNA is broad, encompassing a wide range of thematic areas and sectors that are integral to understanding the complex dynamics of the conflict in Plateau State. Specifically, the assessment covers the following key areas:

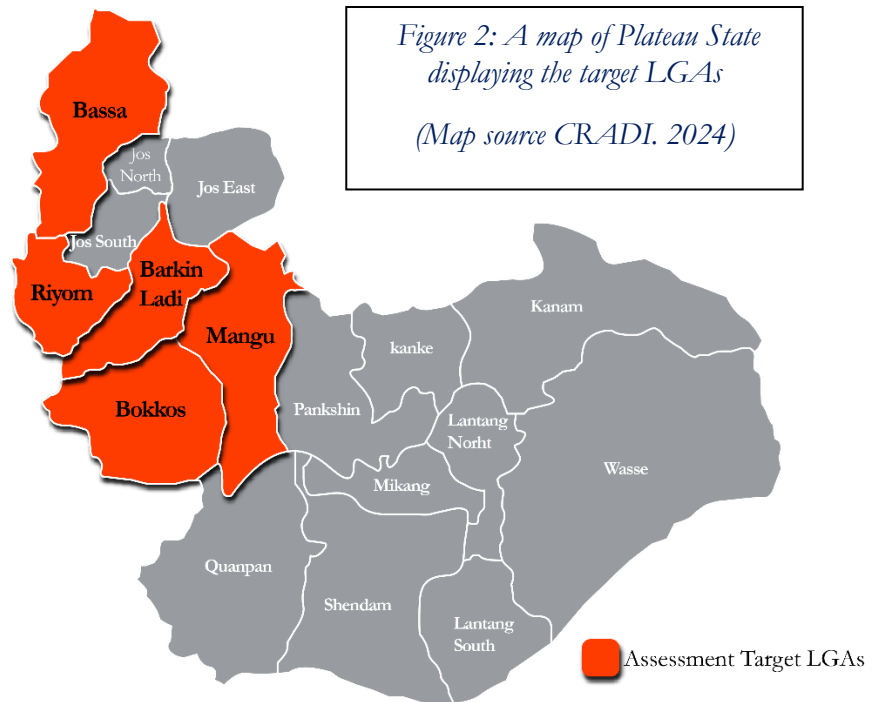
Geographic Coverage: The MSNA focuses on five LGAs in Plateau State-Barkin Ladi, Bokkos, Bassa, Mangu, and Riyom. These areas have been selected based on the severity of conflict and the extent of humanitarian needs. Within these

LGAs, the assessment covers both urban and rural areas, with particular attention given to communities most affected by displacement, violence, and economic disruption.

Sectoral Focus: The assessment is multi-sectoral in nature, designed to assess the humanitarian impact of the conflict across the following critical sectors:

- **Security and Governance:** The MSNA assesses the extent of damage to governance structures, community cohesion, and local conflict resolution mechanisms. This includes an analysis of how insecurity has disrupted daily life, governance processes, and the ability of local authorities to provide essential services.
- **Food Security and Livelihood:** The assessment examined the disruption of agricultural production, food stocks, and livelihood activities. It investigates how conflict has affected food security at the household and community levels, and how affected populations are coping with reduced access to income-generating opportunities.
- **Health, WASH, and Nutrition:** The MSNA examines access to healthcare services, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities, and the prevalence of malnutrition. This sectoral analysis aims to highlight critical gaps in service delivery and identify the most pressing health and WASH needs among displaced and conflict-affected populations.
- **Protection and Human Rights:** The assessment identifies the key protection risks faced by vulnerable populations, including women, children, and persons with disabilities. It focuses on issues such as gender-based violence (GBV), child protection, and broader human rights concerns that have arisen as a result of the conflict.
- **Education:** The MSNA assessed the extent of disruption to educational services and infrastructure in the conflict-affected LGAs. It identifies the barriers preventing children and young people from accessing quality education, and the coping mechanisms employed by educational institutions and communities to maintain learning continuity.

The assessment covers a period from 2021 to 2023, reflecting the escalation of conflict during this time and the subsequent increase in humanitarian needs. By focusing on this timeframe, the MSNA captures both the immediate and cumulative impacts of conflict, providing a comprehensive understanding of how the situation has evolved over time.





Methodology

1. Study Design

This assessment employed a mixed-methods approach to capture both quantitative and qualitative data, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the needs and vulnerabilities of conflict-affected populations in Plateau State. The design prioritized inclusivity and contextual appropriateness across the five Local Government Areas (LGAs) under study. The integration of multiple methods facilitated data triangulation, enhancing the robustness and reliability of findings. Quantitative data was collected through structured household surveys, while qualitative data was obtained via Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). This approach allowed for the identification of numerical trends while also exploring the lived experiences of affected populations, including women, children, and other vulnerable groups.

2. Population and Sampling

The study population included Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and host communities across the five LGAs: Barkin Ladi, Bokkos, Bassa, Mangu, and Riyom. The sampling frame was designed to be representative of these populations, with a particular focus on individuals most affected by displacement and violence. Special attention was given to vulnerable groups, such as women, persons with disabilities, and children, ensuring their perspectives were adequately represented.

A combination of multi-stage and purposive sampling techniques was employed. For quantitative data collection, random household sampling was used to ensure representativeness across selected LGAs. The household survey gathered data on key issues such as food security, health, education, and protection.

For qualitative data collection, purposive sampling was used to select participants for KIIs and FGDs, ensuring the inclusion of key stakeholders, such as local leaders, service providers, and community representatives. Special priority was given to vulnerable groups to capture their unique experiences and needs.

Table 1 Sample Size Distribution across LGAs

LGA	Planned Sample Size (Quantitative)	Achieved Sample Size (Quantitative)	Achieved KIIs	Achieved FGDs
Mangu	253	253	14	5
Barkin Ladi	151	131	15	4
Riyom	111	111	16	5
Bokkos	151	151	9	5
Bassa	160	171	17	5
State-Level Stakeholders	-	-	19	-
Total	826	817	90	24

The sample size for the household survey was determined using a 95% confidence level and a 5% margin of error, targeting 826 respondents across the five LGAs. In addition, 90 KIIs and 24 FGDs were conducted to gather in-depth qualitative insights from diverse stakeholders.



A total of 817 households were successfully surveyed, achieving a 98.9% response rate. The minor shortfall in the target sample was due to security and access challenges, particularly in Mangu and Riyom. Despite these limitations, the final sample remained representative and reliable for assessing the needs and challenges of the conflict-affected areas.

3. Method of Data Collection

Data collection took place from August 16 to September 3, 2024, across the five LGAs. Quantitative data was collected using Kobo Collect on mobile tablets, facilitating real-time data validation and minimizing errors. Surveys were administered in English, Hausa, and local dialects to ensure accessibility for all respondents.

For qualitative data collection, KIIs and FGDs were conducted using semi-structured interview guides. These discussions provided a deeper understanding of the socio-economic and protection impacts of conflict in the study areas. Secondary data was sourced from government agencies, including the Plateau State Emergency Management Agency (PLASEMA) and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), as well as reports from international organizations. These sources were used to triangulate primary data and provide additional context.

Quantitative data collection utilized Kobo Collect on mobile tablets, while qualitative data was gathered through semi-structured interviews and FGDs. To enhance accessibility, tools were translated into local languages. Ethical guidelines were strictly adhered to, ensuring participant safety and data confidentiality.

4. Method of Data Analysis

Quantitative data was analyzed using Microsoft Excel, with descriptive statistics, including frequencies, percentages, and cross-tabulations, generated to illustrate key findings. The data was disaggregated by gender, age, and vulnerability status to highlight patterns and disparities among population groups.

Qualitative data was analyzed thematically using MAXQDA. Transcripts from KIIs and FGDs were coded and categorized into themes to capture significant insights and experiences. The integration of quantitative and qualitative data through triangulation enhanced the depth and accuracy of the analysis.

5. Ethics and Accountability

Ethical considerations were fundamental to the assessment. Informed consent was obtained from all participants before data collection. Enumerators were trained on ethical guidelines, including the “Do No Harm” principle, and all data was anonymized to protect participant identities. Special measures were implemented to ensure that vulnerable populations, including women, children, and persons with disabilities, could participate safely and confidently.

FGDs were conducted separately for men, women, and youth to create safe spaces for open discussion. Findings were shared with community leaders and stakeholders in a validation workshop, where feedback was solicited and incorporated into the final report to ensure accountability and transparency in reporting.





Discussion of Findings

Demographic Overview

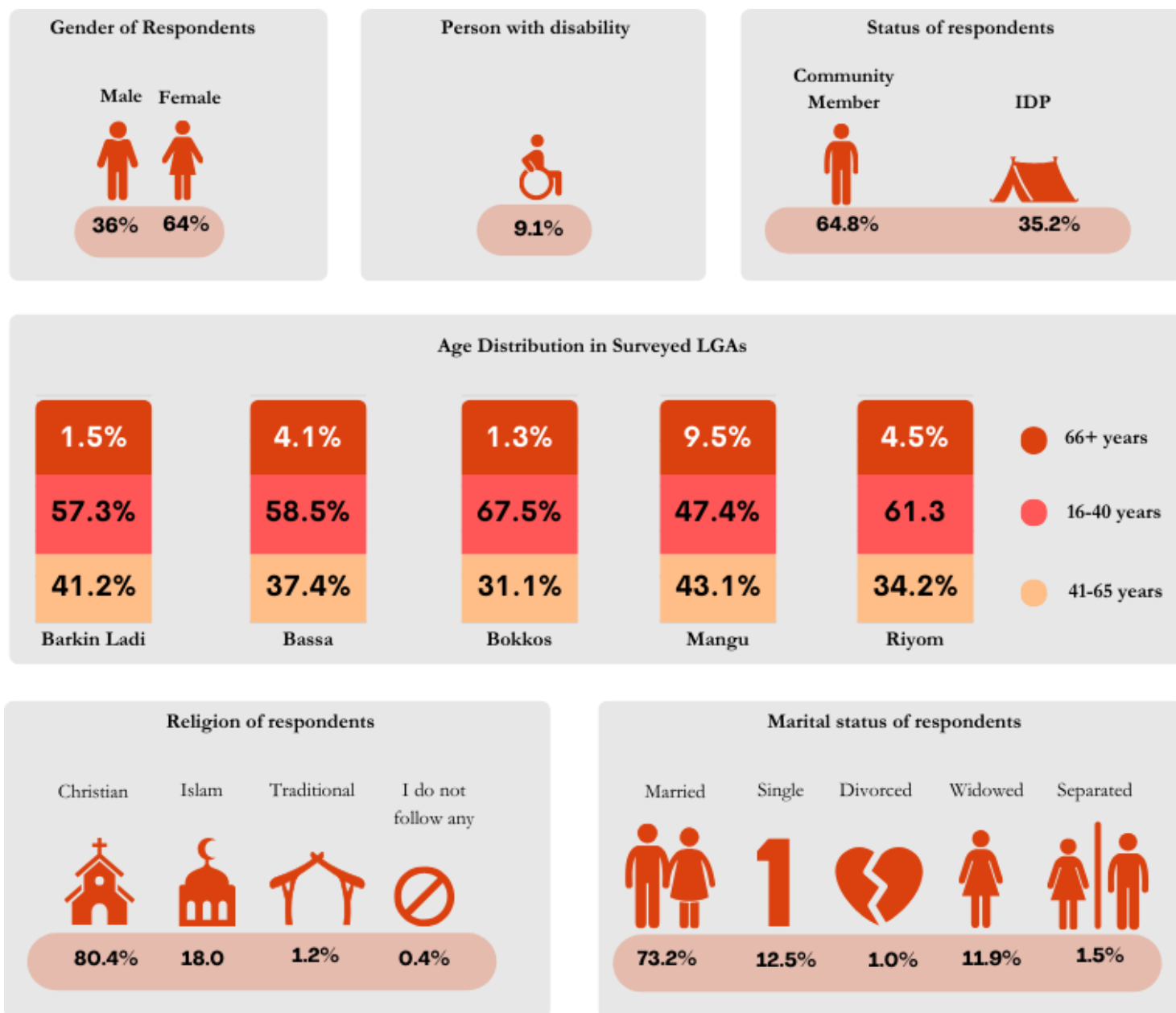


Figure 3a. Demographic Information of Respondents

The Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) captured key demographic data across several Local Government Areas (LGAs), including Barkin Ladi, Bassa, Bokkos, Mangu, and Riyom. Across the five LGAs, the majority of respondents fall within the 16-40 age group, representing 56.9% of the surveyed population. The elderly (66 years and above) make up a smaller proportion, at just 4.9%. However, there are notable differences across LGAs. For instance, Bokkos has the highest proportion of young respondents, with 67.5% aged between 16-40 years, while Mangu has the highest percentage of elderly respondents at 9.5%.

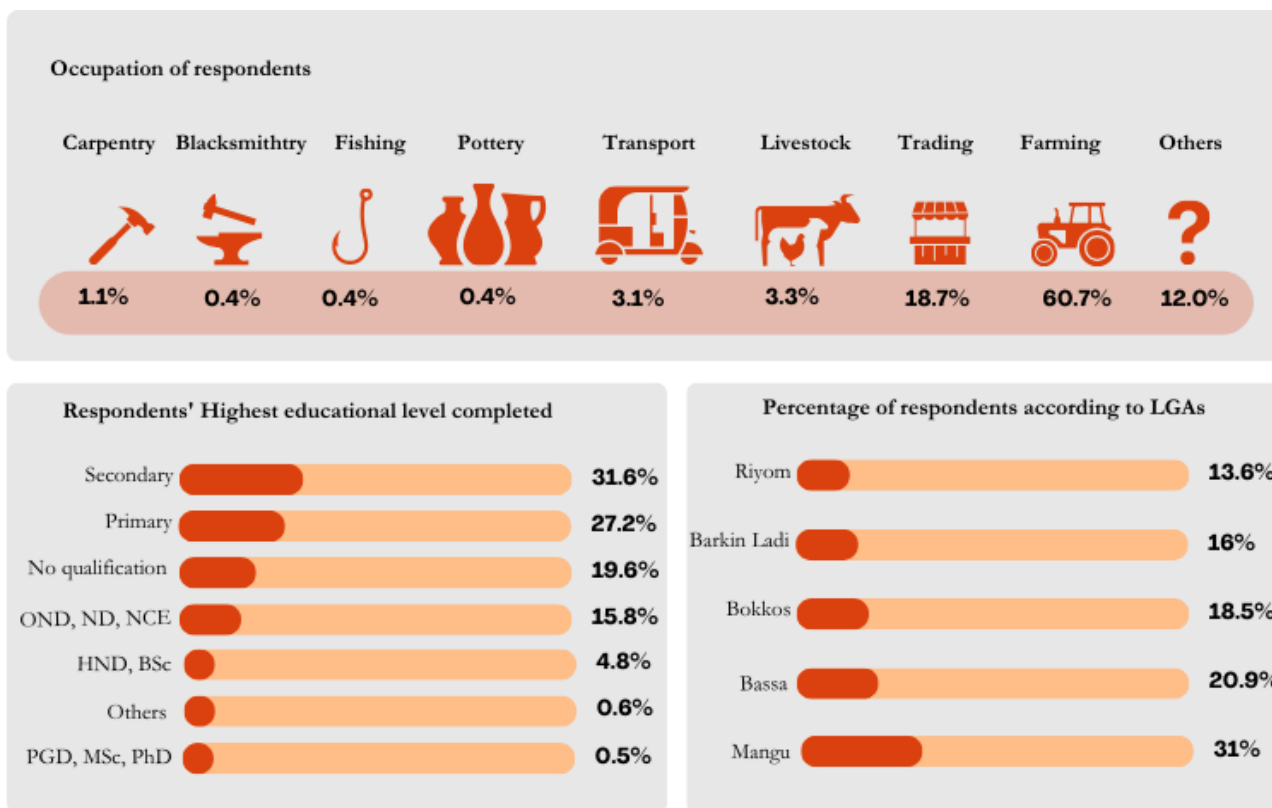


Figure 3b: Demographic Information of Respondents (continued)

These age dynamics have implications for resource allocation and intervention strategies, particularly in areas with more elderly populations, where healthcare and support services may need greater emphasis.

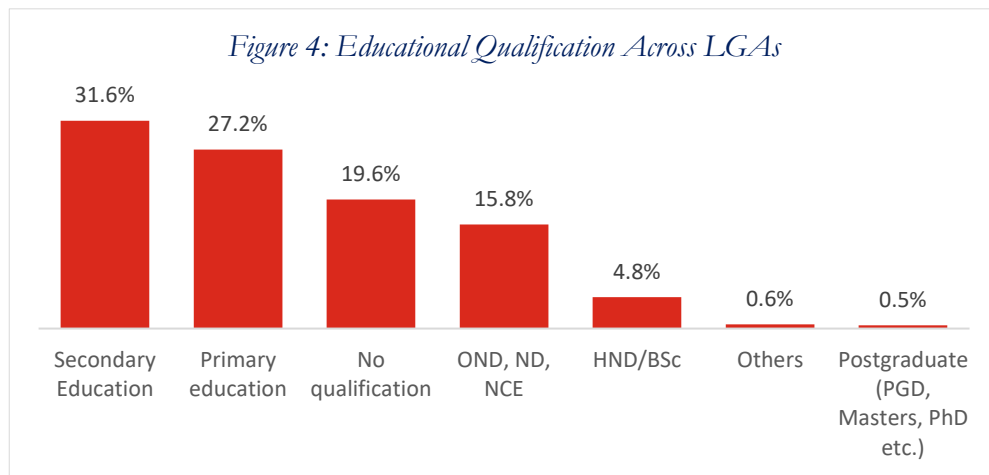
Gender distribution shows a relatively balanced ratio across the LGAs, though some areas display distinct gender trends. Mangu, for example, reported a higher proportion of female respondents (67.6%), while Bokkos had a male majority (67.5%). Such gender imbalances could influence the design of gender-responsive programs, particularly in areas where women or men dominate the population.

Household composition across the LGAs reveals significant variations in leadership. In Barkin Ladi, 71.8% of households are headed by women, compared to Bokkos, where men head 63.6% of households. This gender disparity in household leadership highlights the potential for increased economic vulnerability among female-headed households, which often face additional financial and social challenges. The assessment also highlighted the presence of vulnerable groups, particularly those facing health and economic challenges. In Bassa, 77.2% of heads of households reported chronic health conditions, making it a focal point for health-related interventions. Similarly, Mangu reported a high incidence of health vulnerabilities, with 72.3% of households indicating the presence of chronic health conditions. Conversely, Riyom had the highest proportion of households facing economic vulnerabilities, with 83.8% of respondents struggling to secure stable income. These trends underscore the need for health and economic support services to be integrated into broader intervention strategies in these LGAs.

The marital status of respondents also varied across the LGAs. In Mangu, 83% of respondents reported being married, while Bokkos had the highest percentage of widowed individuals at 10.6%. These findings suggest that certain areas may require more tailored support for widowed and single-parent households, which may be more vulnerable to economic and social hardships.

Educational attainment was another key area of focus, with significant differences across the LGAs. Bassa had the highest proportion of respondents with only primary education, at 56.7%, while Barkin Ladi and Mangu reported higher levels of secondary education completion, at 38.2% and 31.2% respectively.

Postgraduate attainment remained low across the board, with Barkin Ladi leading at 1.5%. The limited access to higher education across the LGAs suggests that capacity-building and educational support

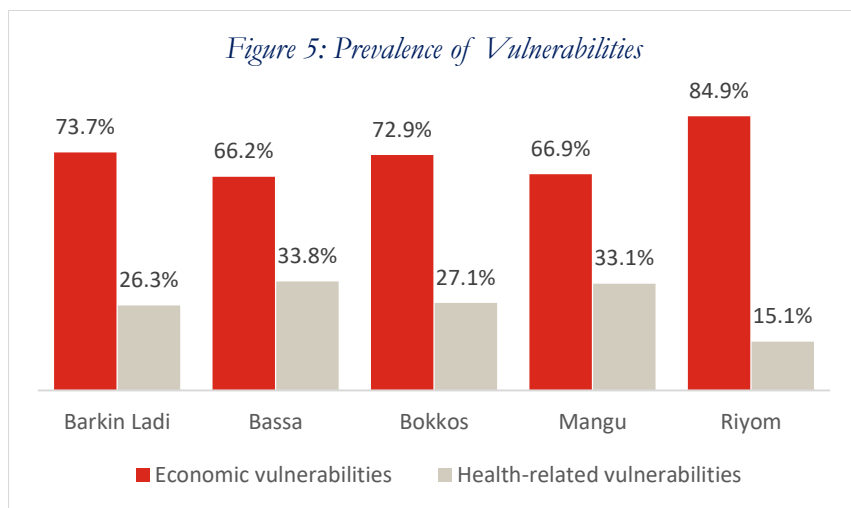


programs will be essential for fostering community participation in development initiatives, especially those that require specialized skills.

In terms of employment and livelihoods, farming emerged as the predominant activity

across all LGAs. In Bokkos, 69.5% of respondents reported farming as their primary occupation, while in Bassa, this figure rose to 81.3%. However, some LGAs exhibited more livelihood diversity. For instance, 22.9% of respondents in Barkin Ladi engaged in market trading, and Mangu showed significant involvement in carpentry and pottery. Unemployment was most pronounced in Mangu, with 14.7% of respondents reporting being unemployed. These findings highlight the need for diversified livelihood support, particularly in areas with higher unemployment rates.

The data underscore the prevalence of vulnerabilities within the population. In Bassa, 33.8% of respondents reported health-related challenges, pointing to a critical need for healthcare services in this region. The presence of chronic health conditions and economic difficulties in various LGAs suggests that healthcare and social safety nets must be a priority in future interventions.



The demographic trends across the surveyed LGAs provide crucial insights into the population's composition and vulnerabilities. The data point to significant variations in age distribution, gender dynamics, household leadership, and economic stability, all of which will inform the design of more effective, targeted interventions. Understanding these trends is essential for addressing the diverse needs of the population and ensuring equitable access to resources and services.

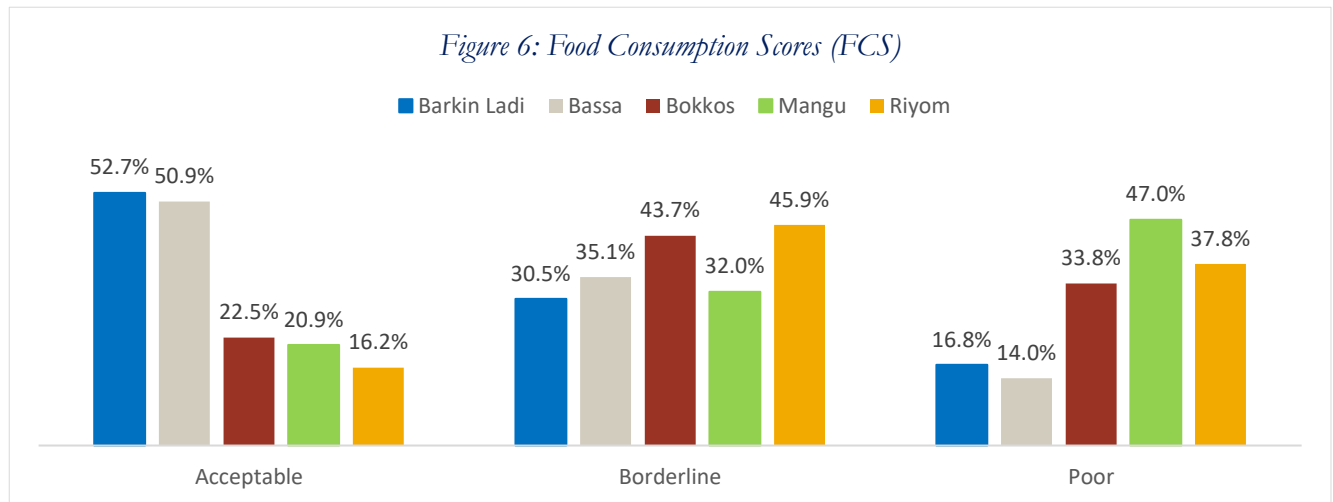
Security and Governance

Food Security, Livelihoods, and Vulnerabilities in Conflict-Affected Areas

The violent conflict in Plateau State has severely disrupted food security and livelihoods in key LGAs, including Mangu, Bassa, Riyom, Barkin Ladi, and Bokkos.

Agricultural Destruction and Severe Food Insecurity

Agriculture is the primary livelihood for majority of households in Plateau State, and the conflict has had devastating effects on food production. Quantitative data shows that in Mangu, 96.8% of households reported damage to food stocks, followed closely by Bassa (94.7%) and Riyom (72.1%). These figures indicate extensive destruction of crops and food reserves across the LGAs. In Bokkos, while the level of damage is slightly lower, 38.4% of households still reported significant losses. In Barkin Ladi, 27.5% of households reported significant damage to food stocks, reflecting the severe disruption caused by the ongoing conflict. This damage includes the destruction of crops and loss of food reserves, which has contributed to the widespread food insecurity in the region. This widespread agricultural collapse is



reflected in the Food Consumption Scores (FCS), with Mangu experiencing the highest percentage of households reporting “poor” food consumption at 47.0%. In Riyom, 37.8% of households fall into the “poor” category, while in Bokkos and Barkin Ladi respectively, 33.8% and 16.8% of households are experiencing similarly poor food intake. Bassa has the lowest percentage of “poor” FCS at 14%, but 35.1% of its households are classified as “borderline”.

In Mangu, a farmer shared, *“Our crops have been completely destroyed, and now we are surviving on one meal a day.”* Another respondent in Riyom stated, *“We used to harvest enough to feed our families, but now there is nothing. We are dependent on aid to survive.”* These accounts emphasize the urgent need for food assistance, as many households have resorted to negative coping strategies such as reducing meal frequency and skipping meals entirely.

Food Security and Livelihood

The destruction of agriculture has led to a significant loss of livelihoods, especially for farming households in Bassa, where 81.3% rely on agriculture, and Riyom, where 89.2% of households depend on farming. In Mangu, 77.9% of households reported losing their primary livelihood due to the conflict, a figure that underscores the widespread economic devastation. The collapse of local markets has compounded these issues, with traders in Bassa and Mangu reporting severe drops in income due to restricted access to markets and road closures.

One trader from Mangu explained, *“We can no longer access the markets safely, and even when we do, people have no money to buy anything.”* This economic stagnation has left many households without the means to purchase food or other essential goods. In Bokkos, respondents noted that even non-agricultural livelihoods, such as trading and livestock herding, have been severely disrupted, further deepening the economic crisis. In Barkin Ladi, 32.8% of households reported significant impacts on their livelihoods, with farming and livestock rearing among the most affected sectors. The ongoing violence has devastated agricultural

production, affecting both crop yields and livestock. In addition, 30.4% of households reported that agricultural work, the primary livelihood for many in Barkin Ladi, has been severely impacted. One community leader from Barkin Ladi shared, *“Our farmlands have been destroyed, and many have lost their livestock. We can no longer sustain our families from the land as we used to; the violence has taken away our main source of income.”*

Destruction of Homes and Displacement

The conflict has also resulted in widespread destruction of homes and properties, leading to large-scale displacement across the LGAs. In Mangu, 97.6% of households reported that their homes had been damaged or destroyed, making it the most affected LGA in terms of housing loss. Similarly, in Bassa and Riyom respectively, 86.5% and 66.7% of households reported losing their homes. In Bokkos, 49.0% of households faced similar destruction, while 28.2% of households in Barkin ladi representing the lowest reported losing their home. Displacement has become a major issue, with internally displaced persons (IDPs) making up 57.3% of Mangu’s population, followed by 37.8% in Riyom. Displaced families are facing overcrowded living conditions, inadequate sanitation, and limited access to clean water. One displaced woman from Riyom shared, *“We have been living in a tent for months, with no access to clean water or proper toilets. The children are getting sick, and there is no food.”* These dire living conditions highlight the urgent need for shelter and basic services for displaced populations.



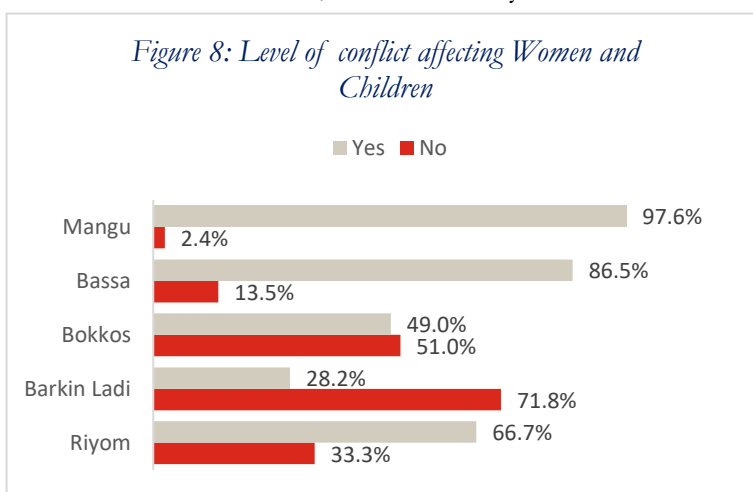
Figure 7. Some destroyed settlements in Mangu, and Bokkos LGA. Photo credits CRADI 2024

Vulnerabilities Among Women, Children, and Marginalized Groups

The conflict has disproportionately affected women, children, and marginalized groups. In Mangu and Bokkos, women have reported increased difficulties in accessing food, healthcare, and livelihoods. Many women, particularly those who are widowed or the primary breadwinners for their households, have been left without any means to support their families. A woman from Mangu explained, *“I lost my husband in the violence, and now I am struggling to feed my children. There is no food, and I cannot farm anymore.”*



Children are also facing significant challenges, with rising rates of malnutrition reported across all LGAs. Health workers in Bassa noted a sharp increase in malnutrition cases, exacerbated by the destruction of health centers and the lack of clean water and food. Many schools have been destroyed or closed due to insecurity, leaving children without access to education and increasing their vulnerability to exploitation and abuse. One respondent in Bokkos remarked, *“The children are not going to school anymore, and many of them are becoming malnourished because we have no food.”* The elderly and disabled are among the most vulnerable groups. In Barkin Ladi, a local leader highlighted their plight, stating, *“The elderly cannot flee the violence like others, and they are often left behind with no one to care for them.”* These groups are frequently overlooked in relief efforts, making targeted interventions critical to ensuring their survival and well-being.



Community Resilience and Coping Mechanisms

Despite the overwhelming challenges, communities in Plateau State have demonstrated resilience through various coping mechanisms. In Bokkos and Riyom, communal farming initiatives have been set up, allowing families to pool their remaining resources to cultivate small plots of land. A community leader in Riyom explained, *“We are doing our best to help each other, but the destruction is so great that we cannot rebuild on our own.”* In Barkin Ladi, 27.5% of households reported damage to food stocks due to the conflict, and communities have sought to rebuild their agricultural production through collective efforts. However, many families are still struggling to recover from the loss of their livelihoods. One community leader from Barkin Ladi shared, *“We work together to plant what we can, but the scale of destruction makes it difficult to recover without outside support. Our farms have been burnt down, and many of our livestock have been lost. We are relying on each other, but we need more help to get back on our feet.”*

However, these efforts are often insufficient to meet the overwhelming needs of the population. Many households are heavily dependent on external aid, and the demand for food assistance, shelter, and healthcare is growing. One community leader from Bassa emphasized, *“Without help from NGOs and the government, we cannot recover. The destruction is too much for us to handle alone.”* These accounts underscore the critical role that humanitarian aid plays in supporting conflict-affected communities.

The data highlights several emerging trends that underscore the urgency of the situation in Plateau State. Food insecurity is at crisis levels, particularly in Mangu and Riyom, where the majority of households are experiencing “poor” food consumption scores. In Barkin Ladi, 52.7% of households are experiencing acceptable food consumption, while 30.5% are borderline and 16.8% fall into the poor category. One community member from Barkin Ladi expressed, *“There are days when we have nothing to eat. We rely on food distributions from NGOs, but it’s never enough to feed our children for long.”*

Displacement continues to exacerbate vulnerabilities, with IDPs living in overcrowded and unsafe conditions. Women, children, and marginalized groups are disproportionately affected, facing heightened risks of malnutrition, lack of access to healthcare, and exploitation. A healthcare worker from Mangu explained, *“The health facilities have been overwhelmed. We lack medical supplies, and many people can’t afford treatment. The most vulnerable are the children and elderly, who are suffering the most.”*

While communities have shown resilience, the scale of the destruction requires substantial external support to restore livelihoods, rebuild infrastructure, and provide essential services.

Health and WASH

Impact on Basic Social Services

The conflict in Plateau State has had a profound impact on the demand for and delivery of essential social services, particularly healthcare and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH). Affected communities in LGAs such as Mangu, Bassa, Riyom, Barkin Ladi, and Bokkos have faced severe challenges in accessing these services. The conflict has led to the destruction of infrastructure, shortages of medical supplies, and the displacement of healthcare personnel, with significant consequences for the health and well-being of the population.

Healthcare Access and Delivery

The conflict has caused a significant decline in access to healthcare services across Plateau State. Only 31.1% of households in **Bassa** reported having access to a functioning health facility, while **Bokkos** was slightly better at 45.9%, highlighting the

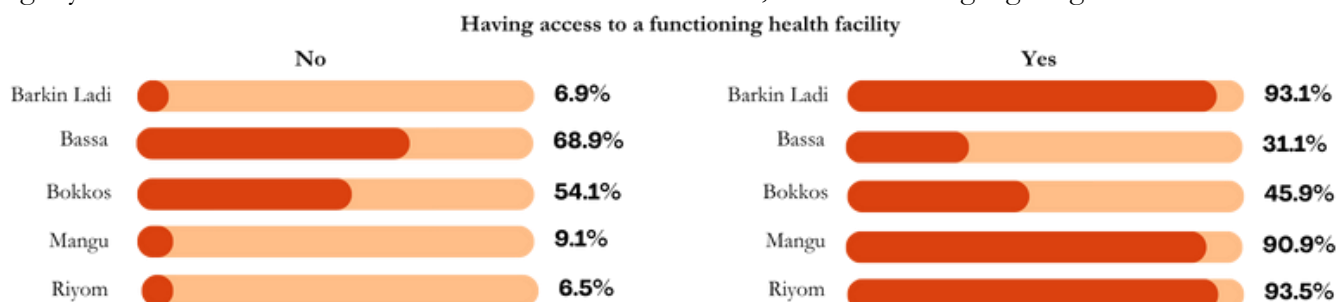


Figure 9. Access to health facility

significant disparity in healthcare availability across the LGAs. **Mangu** fared much better, with 90.9% of households having access to healthcare services, similar to **Barkin Ladi** and **Riyom** where 93.1% and 93.5% of households reported having access to health services. However, even in areas with higher healthcare availability, the facilities are often overstretched and under-resourced.

In many cases, insecurity has prevented people from accessing healthcare, particularly in **Bassa**, where 17.9% of households reported security concerns as a barrier to accessing health services. In **Bokkos**, 5.6% of households also cited insecurity as a reason for avoiding healthcare facilities. One resident from Barkin Ladi explained, *“The clinic is in an area where we fear to go. The tensions with neighboring communities make it unsafe to travel there.”* This fear, combined with the destruction of facilities, has significantly reduced access to essential health services, leaving the population vulnerable.

Further compounding the issue is the lack of female healthcare workers in certain areas, which has made it difficult for women and children to access appropriate care. In **Bokkos**, 5.6% of households reported that the absence of female health workers was a significant barrier to accessing healthcare, which particularly affects maternal and child health services.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

The conflict has significantly impacted access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene services in Plateau State. In Mangu, 48.0% of households reported difficulties collecting water, with Riyom facing even higher levels at 57.9%. These challenges stem from long distances to water points, security risks, and damaged water infrastructure. One respondent from Mangu noted, *“We used to walk short distances to get water, but now, even when we find water, it’s too dangerous to fetch it.”* Similarly, in Riyom, a participant explained, *“The wells are too far away now, and we have to deal with armed groups who threaten anyone trying to fetch water.”*

In Bokkos, 53.1% of households identified distance as the main challenge to accessing water, while in Bassa, 35.2% faced similar difficulties. A community member from Bassa shared, *“The nearest water point is several miles away, and it’s not safe to make that journey every day. We need help to restore these water sources close to our homes.”*



Figure 10: An abandoned borehole at LEA Primary School Tabore. Photo credits CRADI 2024

In Barkin Ladi, 52.7% of households reported difficulties accessing clean water, with 26.0% of households indicating that they faced challenges related to the distance to water points and the ongoing security risks. One participant from Barkin Ladi mentioned, *“Our water sources have been destroyed, and those that remain are too far. The violence makes it even more difficult for us to fetch water safely. We need urgent support to rebuild these sources.”*

The ongoing insecurity and damaged infrastructure have forced communities to rely on unsafe water sources. In Bokkos, one respondent explained, *“We used to rely on our boreholes, but now we have to collect water from rivers, which are often contaminated with animal waste, especially during the dry season. This has led to frequent illnesses.”* This is echoed in Riyom, where a community member explained, *“With the water points too far, we’re forced to fetch water from streams, which we know are unsafe, but it’s the only option available.”*

Despite these challenges, communities have adopted various coping mechanisms. In Bassa, a youth leader shared, *“We’ve started digging makeshift wells, but they are not enough to meet everyone’s needs, especially with the influx of displaced people.”* In Barkin Ladi, a community member added, *“We try to collect rainwater, but the infrastructure needed to store it properly is lacking. Still, it’s one of the few solutions we have left.”*

These efforts are not sufficient to meet the growing needs. As the humanitarian crisis deepens, many households continue to face critical shortages of water and sanitation services. The lack of access to clean water has led to increased risks of waterborne diseases, further exacerbating the public health challenges in the region

Malnutrition Prevalence

The disruption of healthcare and WASH services, combined with the destruction of agricultural systems, has led to a rise in malnutrition, particularly among children under five. **Mangu** and **Bokkos** reported the highest incidences of malnutrition, with 2.0% and 0.7% of households respectively reporting cases of acute malnutrition among their children. This rise in malnutrition is directly linked to the destruction of food sources, the loss of livelihoods, and the lack of access to healthcare. One mother from **Bassa** explained, *“We do not have enough food for our children. We used to grow our own, but now we must rely on what little we can buy, and it is not enough.”*



Poor WASH conditions have exacerbated the problem, with contaminated water and open defecation contributing to the spread of diseases like diarrhea, which further weakens malnourished children. Health workers in **Bokkos** noted an increase in the number of malnourished children coming to health facilities, many of whom also suffer from WASH-related illnesses such as diarrhea and cholera

Protection and Human Rights

The violent conflict in Plateau State has intensified the protection concerns of affected communities, particularly regarding the safety, dignity, and rights of vulnerable groups such as women, children, and the elderly. This section provides a detailed assessment of the current and future protection risks, coping mechanisms adopted by households, and the role of government and partners in providing support. It also identifies the protection gaps that still need urgent attention.

Protection Concerns and Vulnerabilities

The conflict has led to widespread violence, displacement, and the breakdown of community structures, leaving many households in vulnerable conditions. Protection concerns such as physical violence, property destruction, sexual violence, and psychological trauma have significantly increased. In **Bassa**, 51.8% of households reported experiencing some form of violence, which included physical assaults and property damage. Similarly, in **Riyom**, 83.8% of respondents reported that they or a household member had faced abuse or violence during the conflict. **Bokkos** saw 58.3% of households reporting experiences of violence, highlighting the extensive insecurity across these areas. In **Barkin Ladi**, 47.3% of households reported experiencing some form of violence or abuse, including property damage, physical violence, and displacement. One community member from Barkin Ladi shared, *“We fear leaving our homes to go to the market or fetch water.”* The fear of violence restricts our movement, and this has crippled our daily activities. The primary concerns in Barkin Ladi also revolve around security, as many people are afraid to return to their farms. The situation has left the community in a state of deep mistrust. Women and girls, in particular, have faced increased risks of gender-based violence (GBV). In **Bassa**, 43.3% of respondents reported concerns about sexual violence, and 2.3% indicated psychological abuse as a major issue. In Barkin Ladi, 16.7% of households reported concerns about gender-based violence (GBV), particularly sexual violence. A woman from Barkin Ladi expressed, *“We no longer go out alone. The fear of sexual violence is very real, and we cannot risk our safety for something as basic as fetching water.”*

In **Mangu**, 4.3% of households reported sexual violence as a pressing concern, with many women facing harassment and violence when accessing basic services like healthcare and water.

One woman in **Mangu** explained, *“We fear going out to fetch water because the attackers might be waiting. We cannot go out alone, and that has restricted our movement a lot.”*

Children are also highly vulnerable, with increased reports of early marriage, child labor, and school dropouts. A women’s group in **Mangu** noted, *“Early marriage has become more common because families are struggling to survive. The violence has taken away our livelihoods, and now we are left with few options.”* Many children are out of school, and families are increasingly resorting to sending their children to work in dangerous or exploitative conditions in an effort to cope with economic hardship. In **Riyom** and **Bokkos**, there have also been growing reports of mental health issues, including anxiety and depression, particularly among children and the elderly.

The elderly and people with disabilities face additional challenges, as many are unable to flee from violence or access essential services. One elderly respondent in **Bokkos** stated, *“We are often left behind because we cannot move as fast or as far as the younger people. There is no one to help us, and we are forgotten.”* These groups are often isolated, further exacerbating their vulnerability. The elderly and people with disabilities face additional challenges, as many are unable to flee from violence or access essential services. One elderly respondent in **Bokkos** stated, *“We are often left behind because we cannot move as fast or as far as the younger people. There is no one to help us, and we are forgotten.”* These groups are often isolated, further exacerbating their



vulnerability. A similar sentiment was echoed in Barkin Ladi, where an elderly man shared, *"The younger generation runs to safety while we stay behind, vulnerable and abandoned."*

Coping Mechanisms and Community Resilience

Despite these challenges, affected households and communities have adopted various coping mechanisms to manage the impact of the conflict. In **Mangu**, 63.6% of households reported adopting strategies such as borrowing money, selling assets, or reducing food consumption to make ends meet. In **Bokkos**, 27.4% of households relied on social networks, while **Bassa** saw 23.0% of households depending on extended family support for survival.

One of the most common strategies has been the formation of community vigilante groups, particularly in areas where formal security services are absent or ineffective. In **Barkin Ladi**, a participant shared, *"We have set up our own community vigilante. It has helped reduce the number of attacks, but it is not enough. We need more help from the government."* These vigilante groups, while providing some level of protection, often lack the resources and training necessary to fully address the security needs of the community.

In **Riyom**, 77.9% of respondents expressed concerns that their protection risks would persist unless there was a significant intervention. Many households have adopted negative coping mechanisms, including reducing food consumption, withdrawing children from school, and increasing their reliance on informal security networks. One respondent from **Bokkos** remarked, *"We are doing everything we can to protect ourselves, but it is not enough. The government must take more action."*

While informal networks and community-based protection efforts have provided some relief, they remain insufficient to address the broader security risks and protection needs faced by these communities.

Support from Government and Partners

Some support has been provided by government agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), particularly in the form of food aid, cash transfers, and shelter assistance. However, the level of support has varied significantly across the LGAs, and gaps in critical services such as healthcare, education, and legal assistance remain widespread.

In **Bokkos**, 43.1% of households reported receiving food aid, while **Riyom** saw slightly more coverage, with 45.9% of households benefiting from food distribution programs. However, these efforts were often described as insufficient. One participant from **Riyom** noted, *"The food aid is helpful, but we need more than that. We need schools for our children, and we need healthcare. Food alone is not enough."*

In **Bassa**, 50.8% of households received food aid, but only 24.6% reported receiving any form of financial assistance, such as cash transfers. This lack of financial support has limited households' ability to rebuild their livelihoods and recover from the economic impact of the conflict. In **Mangu**, the majority of households (52.9%) received food aid, yet critical services such as healthcare, shelter, and mental health support were still largely unmet.

Legal and psychosocial services, which are crucial for addressing the protection concerns of the population, remain particularly underprovided. Only 9.6% of households in **Bokkos** reported access to legal assistance, while in **Barkin Ladi**, only 2.5% of households had any form of legal aid. This lack of legal support has made it difficult for survivors of violence to seek justice or obtain compensation for the loss of property.

Women and girls continue to face significant barriers to accessing services, particularly in healthcare and education. In **Riyom**, 76.6% of respondents reported that women and girls in their community face heightened protection risks, including sexual violence, early marriage, and lack of access to education. One woman from **Bassa** said, *"We cannot access schools or healthcare, and the little support we get does not address these needs. We are asking for more focus on women and children."*



Gaps in Protection Services

Despite the support provided by various actors, significant gaps remain in addressing the protection needs of the affected population. The most pressing gap is the lack of formal protection services, including legal assistance, psychosocial support, and mental health services. Women and children are particularly underserved, with many unable to access gender-sensitive services or find safe spaces to report incidents of violence. Another major gap is in economic recovery and livelihood support. While food aid has been widely distributed, it has not been sufficient to address the long-term needs of households. In **Mangu**, many families continue to struggle to rebuild their livelihoods, with 63.6% of households reporting the sale of assets as a coping strategy. In **Bassa**, where 23.0% of households depend on extended family networks, there is an urgent need for sustainable livelihood programs that go beyond short-term food relief. In **Barkin Ladi**, 74.0% of households reported that they are unable to access the support they need for economic recovery and livelihood restoration. Many families are heavily dependent on informal networks, as there is no structured assistance to help rebuild livelihoods. A community leader in Barkin Ladi shared, *“We used to rely on our farms, but after the destruction, many of us have lost everything. We have to rely on what little we can borrow from others, but it is not enough.”* Many households are still struggling to regain their footing and need urgent livelihood support beyond food aid to sustain themselves.

Education is also an area of concern, with many children still out of school due to insecurity and the destruction of educational facilities. In **Riyom**, respondents reported that 41.3% of school-age children were no longer attending school, largely due to the ongoing violence and the fear of attacks. In Barkin Ladi, 38.7% of school-age children have also dropped out of school due to the ongoing violence and destruction of schools. A teacher from Barkin Ladi explained, *“The fear of attacks is so high that many parents are afraid to send their children to school. Even the schools that are still standing are not safe.”* This disruption in education is contributing to a growing protection risk, as children are left vulnerable to exploitation, early marriage, and recruitment into armed groups.

This lack of education is contributing to a growing protection crisis, as children who are not in school are more vulnerable to exploitation, abuse, and recruitment into armed groups. The lack of safe and dignified access to essential services, such as healthcare and water, continues to put women and girls at significant risk. In **Mangu**, many women reported avoiding health centers or water points because they feared being attacked or harassed on the way. One woman from **Bokkos** explained, *“We do not go out alone anymore. It is too dangerous. We wait until there are enough of us to go together, but even then, we are not safe.”* In Barkin Ladi, many women and girls are also avoiding essential services due to safety concerns. One woman from Barkin Ladi stated, *“We are afraid to go to the clinic or even fetch water because of the constant attacks. We only go in groups, and even then, it is not always safe.”* The lack of secure access to water points and health facilities is a major gap in protection services, particularly for vulnerable women and children.

Education

Impact of Conflict on Educational Infrastructure, Services, and Access

The violent conflict in Plateau State has devastated the educational sector, severely damaging schools, disrupting services, and impeding access to education for thousands of students. This section provides an exploration of the damage to educational infrastructure, the challenges faced by students and families, and the gaps in the support provided to educational institutions in the conflict-affected LGAs assessed.

Damage to Educational Infrastructure

The destruction of educational infrastructure has been one of the most significant consequences of the conflict, with schools in several LGAs either destroyed or rendered unsafe for learning. Quantitative data reveals that in **Bokkos**, 41.3% of school buildings in their area had been damaged or destroyed. In **Riyom**, 37.5% of schools were affected by the conflict, while **Mangu** and **Bassa** saw 30.4% and 27.3%, respectively, of schools sustaining damage.





Figure 11. A destroyed and abandoned nomadic school in Mandarken, Bokkos LGA (left) and LEA Primary School Tabore in Bokkos LGA (right). Photo credits CRADI 2024

In **Barkin Ladi**, 26.0% of schools were damaged or destroyed, which has severely impacted access to education. One teacher from Barkin Ladi shared, *“Many schools are no longer functional, and even those that remain standing have been looted and are unsafe for children. We are left with very few resources to continue teaching.”* Focus group discussions (FGDs) and key informant interviews (KIIs) provided additional context, with community leaders and parents describing the devastating impact the destruction has had on their children’s education. One teacher from **Riyom** shared, *“Our schools were attacked during the violence. The classrooms are not safe anymore, and we do not have enough resources to rebuild them quickly.”* Similarly, a community leader from **Mangu** expressed frustration over the slow pace of recovery, saying, *“Even where the buildings are still standing, they have been looted or damaged. It’s not safe for the children, and they cannot concentrate on learning under such conditions.”* A community leader from Barkin Ladi echoed these sentiments, saying, *“The violence has left us with nothing. Even when the schools are still standing, they are unsafe. We don’t have enough teachers, and we are struggling to find resources to keep the children learning. It’s heartbreaking.”*

The destruction of infrastructure extends beyond physical buildings. About 33% of schools have lost essential learning materials such as textbooks, desks, and chairs, making it difficult for those schools that are still functioning, to operate effectively. Teachers from **Bokkos** reported that, in some cases, classrooms are so overcrowded that students are forced to sit on the floor. In Barkin Ladi, 28.7% of schools have lost essential materials, and those that remain are overcrowded, further hindering effective learning. One parent from Barkin Ladi shared, *“Our children have to study outside because classrooms are overcrowded. There aren’t enough desks, and some schools have had to use damaged buildings.”*

One parent in **Bassa** explained, *“The few schools still open are overcrowded because so many others were destroyed. There aren’t enough classrooms, and children have to study in shifts.”*

Disruption of Educational Services and Impact on Students

The conflict has caused widespread disruption to educational services, leading to a significant decline in school attendance and exacerbating the challenges students face in accessing quality education. In **Mangu**, **81.3%** of respondents reported disruptions in educational services, the highest among the LGAs surveyed. **Bassa** and **Bokkos** followed closely with **64.8%** and **63%** of respondents reporting that regular classes had been interrupted, while in **Barkin Ladi**, **58.0%** of households noted similar challenges with lesser percentage.

Many students are unable to attend school due to ongoing security concerns. In **Bassa**, a mother explained, *“It’s not safe for my children to go to school. We’ve heard of attacks happening near the school, and I fear for their safety.”* This sentiment was echoed across the LGAs, with families prioritizing their children’s safety over education, even if it meant pulling them out of school entirely.

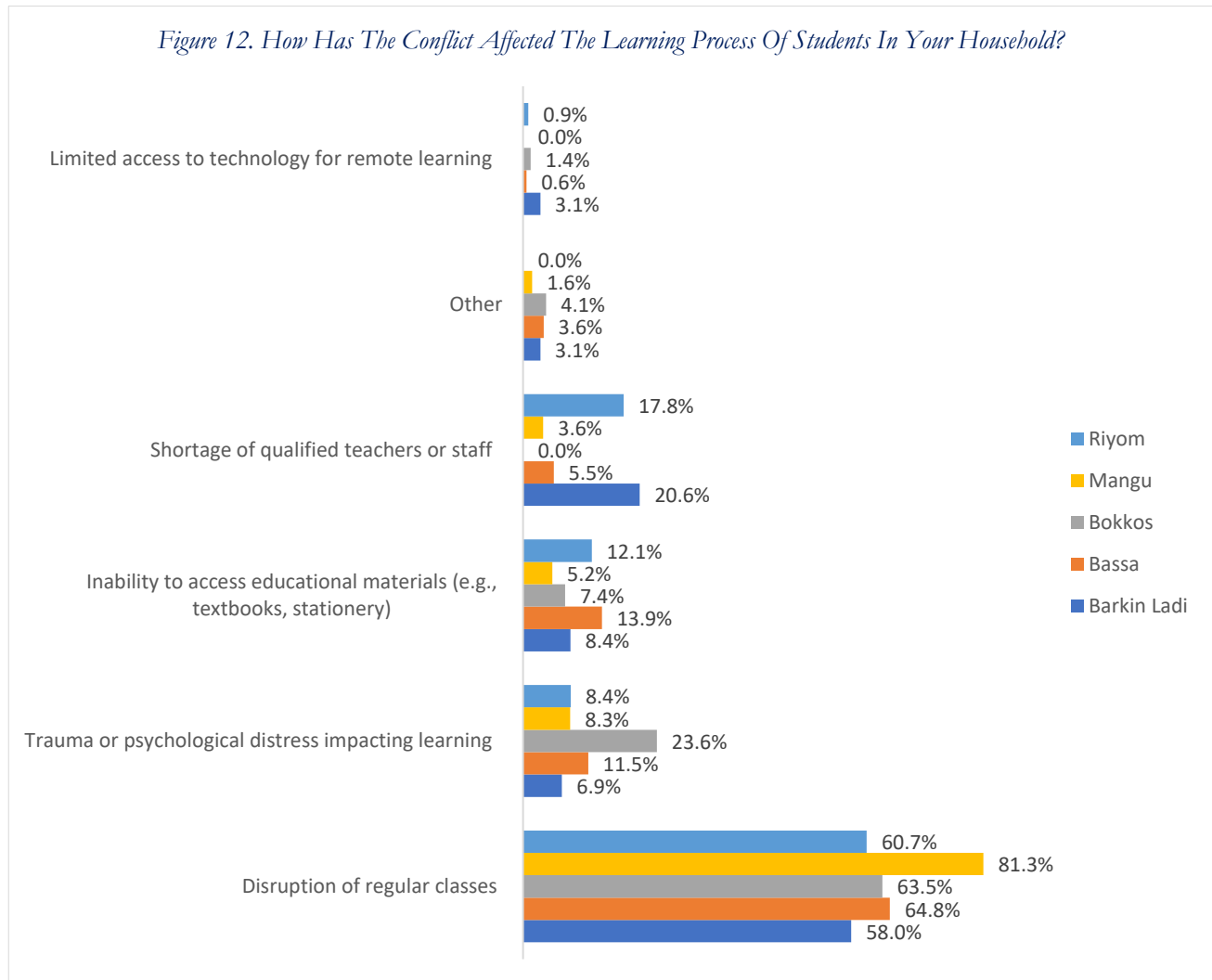
Beyond safety concerns, the economic impact of the conflict has made it increasingly difficult for families to afford school fees, uniforms, and learning materials. In **Mangu**, **73.3%** of households cited financial



barriers as a major obstacle to education, while in **Bassa** and **Riyom**, **60.9%** and **63.2%** of families, respectively, reported similar challenges. This has led to a rise in dropout rates, with many families opting to send their children to work instead of school. One parent in **Riyom** shared, *“We cannot afford to send all our children to school. Some of them have to stay home and help us earn money to survive.”*

The disruption of education is having long-term effects on students’ academic progress and mental well-being. Teachers in **Bokkos** reported that many students are struggling to concentrate due to the trauma they have experienced. In **Bokkos**, **23.6%** of respondents reported that students were suffering from trauma followed by **Bassa** having **11.5%** and similar concerns were raised in **Mangu** and **Riyom**, where **8.3%** and **8.4%** of respondents highlighted the emotional toll, the conflict has taken on children, while **Barkin Ladin** is **6.9%** indicating the lowest percentage. A teacher from **Bokkos** explained, *“The children are not just dealing with the loss of their homes; they’ve also lost their friends, their routines, and their sense of safety. It’s hard for them to focus in class when they are carrying so much pain.”*

Figure 12. How Has The Conflict Affected The Learning Process Of Students In Your Household?



The disruption has also impacted teachers, many of whom have been displaced or are unable to work due to the destruction of schools. In **Riyom**, several teachers reported feeling overwhelmed by the increase in students per classroom, with one teacher stating, *“We are now teaching double the number of students because schools have closed in neighboring areas. It’s impossible to give each child the attention they need.”*

Challenges in Accessing Quality Education

Access to quality education has become increasingly difficult due to the ongoing conflict. The destruction of school buildings and the displacement of students and teachers have made it nearly impossible to maintain the standards of education that existed before the violence. In **Mangu**, one of the worst-hit areas, students are now attending classes in makeshift structures or under trees, which lack basic amenities



such as chairs, desks, and blackboards. One teacher shared, *“We are doing the best we can, but it’s not enough. The children are sitting on the floor, and we don’t have enough textbooks. It’s not an environment conducive to learning.”*

In **Bassa**, **41.3%** of school-age children are no longer attending school, primarily due to displacement and financial difficulties. The situation in **Riyom** is equally concerning, with **43.6%** of children out of school. These figures indicate a growing education crisis, as children who miss school for extended periods are less likely to return, further widening the education gap.

The lack of qualified teachers has compounded the problem. Many teachers have fled the conflict zones, leaving the remaining schools understaffed. In **Bokkos**, one community member noted, *“We don’t have enough teachers left to teach the children. Some have left because they fear for their lives, and others have no homes to return to.”* The few teachers who remain are often under immense pressure to handle large class sizes, which affects the quality of education. In **Barkin Ladi**, **38.7%** of school-age children are no longer attending school due to the ongoing violence, displacement, and safety concerns. One community leader from Barkin Ladi shared, *“Many children have dropped out of school because it is no longer safe for them to go. The schools that remain are overcrowded, and there aren’t enough teachers. We need more support to get our children back to school.”* The lack of security around school areas, coupled with the destruction of infrastructure, has left many children with no choice but to stay at home, further deepening the educational crisis.

Support for Educational Institutions

While some support has been provided to educational institutions, it has been inadequate to meet the scale of the need. In **Riyom**, **47.7%** of schools have received financial support, primarily for infrastructure repairs. However, this assistance has been inconsistent, with many schools still lacking the necessary resources to function effectively. In **Mangu**, **16.0%** of schools reported receiving textbooks and other educational materials, but this was far from enough to address the large number of displaced students. One teacher explained, *“We received a small shipment of textbooks, but there aren’t enough to go around. Children have to share, and many don’t even have basic stationery.”*

In **Bassa**, **12.7%** of schools reported receiving some form of educational material support, but **57.3%** of respondents indicated that the schools had not received adequate assistance. This lack of support has left many educational institutions struggling to reopen or provide consistent services. A teacher in **Bokkos** shared, *“The government and NGOs have tried to help, but it’s not enough. We need more resources to rebuild our schools and provide proper education for these children.”* Support for educational institutions in **Barkin Ladi** has also been limited, with **27.5%** of schools receiving some form of assistance, but this remains insufficient to meet the overwhelming needs. One teacher from Barkin Ladi shared, *“We are still struggling to provide even the basic necessities for our students. The schools that remain open are overcrowded, and we lack enough textbooks and chairs. It’s very difficult to keep up with the educational needs of these children under such conditions.”* Community-driven efforts in Barkin Ladi have attempted to fill the gaps, but resources are limited, and families who are already dealing with the consequences of the violence are finding it hard to provide further support. A local community leader noted, *“We are doing what we can, but it is not enough. The damage to the infrastructure is too much for us to handle on our own, and we need external support.”*

Community-driven initiatives have helped fill some of the gaps. In **Riyom**, local communities have organized fundraising efforts to repair damaged schools and provide basic supplies. However, these efforts are limited in scope and often rely on small donations from families who are already struggling. One community leader in **Bokkos** noted, *“We are doing our best to help our schools, but we cannot do it alone. The damage is too great, and we need more help from the outside.”*

Gaps in Educational Support

Despite the efforts of local communities, significant gaps remain in the educational sector, particularly in the areas of infrastructure rehabilitation, teacher training, and psychosocial support for students. Many schools are operating in overcrowded conditions, and there are insufficient resources to meet the needs of displaced students. In **Mangu**, **9.9%** of respondents indicated that psychosocial services had been provided, but this was inadequate given the widespread trauma experienced by students. Furthermore, the lack of consistent financial support has left many families unable to send their children back to school. In



Bassa, 60.9% of families cited the inability to pay school fees as a major barrier to education. This figure was even higher in **Riyom**, where 63.2% of families reported financial difficulties as the primary reason their children were not attending school.

In **Barkin Ladi**, 56.3% of schools are struggling with inadequate resources and infrastructure, leaving many students without access to basic educational materials and services. One teacher from Barkin Ladi shared, “*The few schools still standing are overcrowded and lack sufficient educational materials. Many children are forced to study in unsafe conditions, which severely impacts their learning.*” This has been exacerbated by financial challenges, with 55.1% of families unable to afford school fees or materials. Similarly, in **Bokkos**, 58.4% of schools have not received adequate support for infrastructure rehabilitation, and 62.5% of families face financial barriers to sending their children to school. A parent in Bokkos explained, “*Even when the schools are open, we can’t afford to send our children due to the cost of materials and fees. It feels like an endless struggle.*” The gaps in psychosocial support are also evident, with 12.5% of students in Bokkos reporting that they have not received any form of trauma counselling, leaving many students emotionally and psychologically unprepared to return to school.





LGA-Specific Findings

Barkin Ladi LGA

Barkin-Ladi is located 9° 32' 00" N and 8° 54' 00" E, lies about 50 km on the Jos-Mangu highway. The town is situated on the Jos Plateau with an average height of 1,200 meters above sea level. The area is characterized by a large exposure of basement complex rocks and some volcanic rocks. The rocks contain large deposits of minerals such as tin (cassiterite) and columbite which have been mined on a commercial scale since the beginning of the last century. Most of the mineral ores being alluvial deposits open cast (paddock) was the main method of exploitation of the ores³ (see Alexander, 1985). With the development of hydro electricity supply from Kura Falls in the 1920s, Barkin Ladi became a major area of mechanised tin mining on the Jos Plateau. The town became a thriving small town since becoming a local government headquarters (third tier/level of government in Nigeria) in 1976. From 1976, the population has increased rapidly, from 22,720 to 45,428 in 2006 and now estimated at 71,626 (2016), with a growth rate 4.7%. With the collapse of tin mining activities from the mid-1970s and the withdrawal of foreign mining companies, the economy of the town was transformed from being dependent on the tin industry to agriculture (the mining ponds provided water for dry season farming), trading and commerce and service industries (Mendie, 2010⁴; Dung-Gwom 2012⁵).



In recent times, Barkin Ladi LGA has been plunged into series of communal clashes springing flashes of armed attacks and silent killings at different locations within the area. Insecurity has impeded the basic right of freedom of movement of people within the area. Unsuspecting villagers are attacked on their way to farm, isolated houses are besieged and burn to ashes living the people homeless⁶ (Ijeoma G.U.A., Longji I. A., 2016).

Demographic Overview

In Barkin Ladi, women make up 58.0% of the population, while men account for 42.0%. 5.3% of the population are Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), reflecting the displacement caused by conflict. In terms of education, 38.2% of the population have completed secondary education, and 32.1% hold OND, ND, or NCE qualifications. A significant portion, 5.3%, have no formal education, limiting their access to formal employment opportunities. These figures reflect a community that, despite some level of education, faces challenges in economic participation due to displacement and conflict-related disruptions.

Status of respondents in Barkin Ladi community

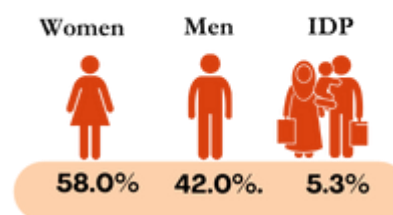


Figure. 13: Types of respondents

³ Alexander, M. J. (1985, as cited in John D. G., Musa B. D., (2018). Characteristics, Challenges and Prospects of Informal Land Use Activities in Barkin Ladi Town, Nigeria.

⁴ Mendie A. (2010, as cited in John D. G., Musa B. D., (2018). Characteristics, Challenges and Prospects of Informal Land Use Activities in Barkin Ladi Town, Nigeria.

⁵ Dung-Gwom, J. Y. (2012, as cited in John D. G., Musa B. D., (2018). Characteristics, Challenges and Prospects of Informal Land Use Activities in Barkin Ladi Town, Nigeria.

⁶ Ijeoma G.U.A., Longji I. A., (2016). The Effect of Internal Displacement and Variation in Crop Production in Barkin Ladi Local Government Area of Plateau State, Journal of Environment and Earth Science www.iiste.org ISSN 2224-3216 (Paper) ISSN 2225-0948 (Online) Vol.6, No.3, 2016 p 36.



Regarding occupations, **46.6% of the population are engaged in farming**, while **22.9% are involved in market trading**, indicating that the community heavily relies on agriculture and trade for livelihoods. These sectors, however, have been disrupted by ongoing insecurity, limiting income sources and deepening vulnerability.

Security and Governance

About **47.3% of respondents reported experiencing violence in Barki Ladi**, with **11.5% reporting physical violence** and **6.9% reporting property damage**. These figures underscore the pervasive insecurity affecting residents, contributing to displacement and loss of livelihoods. From the qualitative data collected in focus group discussions, participants shared that **insecurity remains one of the biggest threats to everyday life**. One participant stated, *“We live in fear, not knowing when the next attack will come. The government promises protection, but we rarely see any action.”*

Barkin Ladi’s respondents’ Highest educational level completed

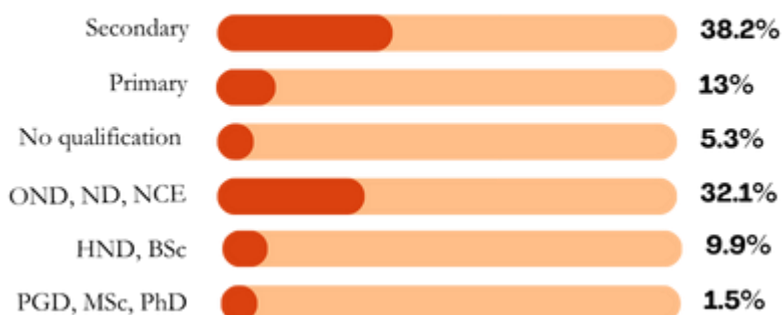


Figure14: Level of Education

Qualitative insights further revealed that the **lack of effective response from formal security forces** has led to communities organizing their own protection through informal vigilante groups. However, these groups lack resources and training to provide adequate security. This sentiment was echoed by several focus group participants who noted the challenges of relying on under-resourced community groups for protection. Ethnic and religious tensions were also mentioned during focus group discussions, with some community members highlighting the growing distrust between groups. *“We no longer trust each other like we used to. Everyone stays with their own now, especially after so many attacks,”* one resident noted.

Food Security and Livelihoods

The economic impact of the conflict has been severe in Barkin Ladi. **27.5% of households reported that their food stocks were destroyed**, and **32.1% reported crop losses**, leading to a deepening food security crisis. Insecurity has also made it dangerous for farmers to access their farmlands, further reducing food production. Many families have turned to negative coping strategies, such as **reducing the number of meals per day** or **selling off essential assets**. One farmer explained, *“We can’t farm as we used to. Every time we try, there’s violence, and we lose everything.”*

The conflict has also disrupted local markets, with **22.9% of traders reporting a decline in income** due to roadblocks and fear of attacks. A trader described the impact on local trade, *“We don’t go to the market as often because of the insecurity. Even when we do, people aren’t buying as they used to because they have no money.”* The closure of markets and fear of traveling have compounded the economic challenges, leaving many families dependent on humanitarian aid to meet their basic needs.

Health and WASH

Access to healthcare is a significant challenge in Barkin Ladi. **48.0% of households reported difficulties accessing healthcare services**, as many facilities have been damaged or are non-functional due to conflict. **The displacement of healthcare workers** has worsened the situation, leading to shortages of staff and supplies in the few functioning clinics. One healthcare provider noted during key informant interviews, *“The demand for healthcare is overwhelming, but we lack the resources and personnel to address even basic health issues.”* This strain on the health system leaves residents vulnerable, particularly women, children, and the elderly.

WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) services have been similarly disrupted. **26.0% of households reported lacking access to clean drinking water**, and many rely on unsafe sources such as streams or rivers. The reliance on contaminated water has led to **increased cases of waterborne diseases**, particularly cholera and diarrhea, as noted by healthcare providers. The lack of proper sanitation



infrastructure, particularly in IDP camps, has further exacerbated these challenges. Open defecation is common in camps, and the spread of diseases is a significant concern. “*We know it's not safe, but we don't have a choice. There are no latrines here,*” stated one displaced person living in an IDP camp.

Protection and Human Rights

The data highlights the critical protection issues faced by residents in Barkin Ladi. **47.3% of respondents reported feeling unsafe**, and **11.5% reported being victims of physical violence**, while **3.8% of women reported experiencing sexual violence**. The conflict has exposed vulnerable groups, particularly women, children, and the elderly, to high levels of violence and exploitation. These protection concerns were reinforced in qualitative data, where one woman expressed, “*There is no one to protect us. We are always afraid—afraid of violence, afraid of being taken, afraid for our children.*”

Respondents reported feeling unsafe



Figure. 15: Do you feel safe in your community?

Displacement has made it more difficult for families to safeguard themselves, and many IDPs live in overcrowded camps with insufficient protection measures. The qualitative data from focus group discussions revealed that **displaced children and women are particularly vulnerable**, with many lacking access to safe spaces or legal protection. The breakdown of family structures due to displacement has left children vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, while women face risks of gender-based violence in unsafe camp conditions. Psychosocial trauma is also widespread. Participants in focus groups mentioned experiencing **anxiety and stress** due to the ongoing conflict. A woman from the focus group stated, “*We are all traumatized by what we've seen and experienced. There's no escape from it.*”

Education

The conflict in Barkin Ladi has severely disrupted the education system. **82.4% of school-aged children are still attending school**, but the learning environment is far from ideal. **Many schools have been damaged, and teachers have either fled or been displaced**, leading to overcrowded classrooms and a lack of basic learning materials. **67.7% of households reported that school fees and associated costs** were the primary reason preventing children from attending school. A teacher shared, “*There aren't enough teachers, and the ones still here are overwhelmed. Children have no chairs, no books, and it's hard to keep them focused.*”

For girls, the situation is even more precarious. Many families prioritize boys' education, and economic pressures have led to higher dropout rates among girls. Some families have resorted to early marriages or child labor as coping strategies. “*I had to take my daughter out of school to help with the household,*” one mother explained during a focus group discussion.

Challenges for Vulnerable Students

Children with disabilities are particularly marginalized in the education system. **6.1% of children reported difficulties with mobility**, and **9.2% face hearing or vision impairments**. Schools lack the resources and trained personnel to support students with special needs, further isolating these children from education. This was confirmed during interviews with teachers, who expressed frustration at their inability to help these students. “*We don't have the facilities or skills to support children with disabilities. They are often left out because we can't give them the attention they need,*” a teacher explained.

Bassa LGA

Bassa is a Local Government Area (LGA)⁷ located in the northern part of Plateau State, Nigeria, and it shares borders with both Kaduna and Bauchi States. The administrative headquarters of the LGA is in the town of Bassa, situated at coordinates 9°56'00"N 8°44'00"E. Bassa covers a land area of 1,743 km² and had a population of 189,834 based on the 2006 census, with 94,725 males and 95,109 females⁸. The

⁷ <https://www.plateaustate.gov.ng/government/lgas/bassa>

⁸ https://citypopulation.de/en/nigeria/admin/plateau/NGA032002_bassa/

languages spoken in Bassa include Irigwe, Amo, Rukuba, Buji, Chawe, Jere, Gusu, Kurama, Limoro, Tariya, Sanga, Janji, Duguza, and Chokobo.

Bassa Local Government Area has a diverse livelihood system primarily based on agriculture. Like many rural communities, subsistence farming remains a critical part of the economy. Major farm produce includes crops like maize, yam, and millet, which are commonly grown by small-scale farmers.

Climate change has significantly affected farming activities in Bassa LGA, with unpredictable weather patterns and droughts impacting yields. Farmers in the region have adopted strategies like small-scale irrigation to mitigate the effects of climate change, which has improved household incomes and food security⁹.

Education is essential for community development in Bassa LGA, but limited infrastructure and resources pose challenges to its improvement. Climate change also indirectly affects education by reducing family income from farming, which in turn affects children's school attendance and performance.

Overall, livelihood strategies are evolving, with more emphasis on climate adaptation techniques and increasing awareness among farmers about the long-term implications of climate-related events¹⁰.



Demographic Overview

The population of Bassa shows a gender composition of **men accounting for 50.4% and women 49.6%**, illustrating a more balanced distribution compared to other LGAs affected by conflict. **5.7% of the population are Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)**, reflecting the significant displacement experienced by the community due to ongoing violence. Education levels reveal that **42.1% of the population have completed secondary education**, and **30.8% hold OND, ND, or NCE qualifications**, while **8.2% have no formal education**. This shows a relatively higher level of formal education but still highlights gaps in access to higher education.

Regarding occupations, **52.3% of the population are involved in farming**, reflecting the community's dependence on agriculture for livelihoods. Another **18.4% are engaged in market trading**, which, like farming, has been disrupted due to the ongoing conflict.

Security and Governance

Security remains a major challenge in Bassa, with **45.2% of respondents reporting experiences of violence**, including **10.8% reporting physical violence** and **8.9% reporting property damage**. Much of the violence stems from land-related disputes, exacerbated by ethnic tensions within the community. From the qualitative data, many residents expressed frustration at the lack of timely security responses from government forces. One participant noted, *"We report attacks, but help never comes on time. By the time security forces arrive, it's already too late."*

The community has also been impacted by **3.1% of respondents reporting experiences of sexual violence**, particularly affecting women and girls. The qualitative data gathered from focus group discussions highlights that **ethnic and religious divisions** have further exacerbated the violence. One elder shared, *"We are no longer united like before. Every attack deepens the divide between us."*

Community Response to Insecurity

As seen in other LGAs, the community has organized vigilante groups to protect themselves. However, the qualitative data reveals that these efforts are often insufficient due to the lack of resources and training.

⁹ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10450858/>

¹⁰ <https://www.mdpi.com/2227-7099/6/4/170>



“We do what we can to protect our people, but without real support, it’s not enough,” explained a local vigilante group leader.

Food Security and Livelihoods

The conflict in Bassa has had a devastating impact on livelihoods. **29.7% of households reported losing their food stocks**, and **33.4% reported losing crops**, contributing to widespread food insecurity. The qualitative data highlights that many farmers are unable to access their fields due to insecurity, which has significantly reduced agricultural productivity. One farmer explained, *“We can’t farm because it’s too dangerous. Our crops were destroyed, and we’re left with nothing.”*

Market access has also been severely affected, with **21.7% of traders reporting a decline in income** due to road closures and the fear of attacks on trade routes. *“We can’t sell our produce, and even when the market is open, no one is buying because people have no money,”* a local trader explained. This has led to increased dependency on humanitarian aid, as many families struggle to meet their basic needs.

Negative Coping Strategies

In response to the economic hardships caused by the conflict, many households have adopted negative coping strategies, including **reducing meal frequency**, **selling off essential assets**, and **taking on unsustainable debt**. One resident shared, *“We are selling whatever we have left just to survive, but soon we will have nothing.”* These coping strategies have deepened poverty and vulnerability, making it difficult for families to recover from the impact of the conflict.

Health and WASH

The health system in Bassa has suffered significant disruption due to the ongoing conflict. **68.9% of households reported difficulties accessing healthcare services**, citing the destruction of clinics and the displacement of health workers. One healthcare provider shared, *“Most health facilities are either non-functional or too far for people to reach, and we don’t have enough medicines to go around.”* This has placed a heavy strain on the remaining functional healthcare centers, which are often overcrowded and under-resourced.

Difficulty accessing healthcare services



Figure 16: Assessing health services

In terms of WASH services, **23.8% of households reported lacking access to clean water**, and many rely on untreated sources, which has led to a rise in waterborne diseases. **Sanitation facilities are limited or non-existent** in many areas, especially in IDP camps. The qualitative data reveals a high prevalence of open defecation, which has increased the spread of diseases like cholera and diarrhea, particularly among children.

One resident commented, *“We don’t have toilets, and the water we use is often dirty. We get sick because of it, but there’s no other option.”*

Protection and Human Rights

The protection environment in Bassa is concerning, with **45.2% of respondents reporting that they feel unsafe** due to ongoing attacks, kidnappings, and inter-communal violence. **3.1% of respondents reported experiencing sexual violence**, which, according to focus group discussions, is underreported due to the stigma associated with such incidents. **10.8% of respondents reported being victims of physical violence**, illustrating the level of personal insecurity experienced by the population.

Displacement has increased the vulnerability of IDPs, especially women and children, who are at risk of exploitation in overcrowded camps. The breakdown of social and family structures due to displacement has worsened these protection concerns. *“There is no one to help us. We are left to fend for ourselves,”* one woman explained during a focus group discussion.

Psychosocial trauma is widespread, with residents reporting symptoms of stress, anxiety, and trauma. One resident shared, *“The violence we’ve seen stays with us. We don’t feel safe anywhere.”* Despite these challenges, access to mental health services remains extremely limited.

Education

In Bassa, **72.4% of children are still attending school**, but educational quality has been significantly impacted by the conflict. Many schools have been damaged, and **teachers have either fled or been displaced**, leading to overcrowded classrooms and a lack of learning materials. **60.9% of households reported that school fees and associated costs** are the primary barriers to education, with many families unable to afford even the most basic supplies. One teacher stated, *“We have more students than we can manage, and without books or chairs, it’s impossible to teach them properly.”*

Girls are particularly affected by these barriers, with many being pulled out of school to assist with household duties or due to early marriage, as families struggle to cope with economic pressures. *“My daughter had to stop going to school because we couldn’t afford it, and she now helps with farm work,”* one father explained during a focus group discussion.

Challenges for Vulnerable Students

Children with disabilities face significant challenges accessing education in Bassa. **7.3% of students reported difficulties with mobility**, and **11.5% reported hearing or vision impairments**. Schools in Bassa lack the infrastructure and trained staff to support students with special needs, further marginalizing these children from the education system. A teacher expressed frustration, saying, *“There’s no support for children with disabilities, and it’s heartbreaking to see them excluded.”*

Bokkos LGA

Bokkos is a Local Government Area (LGA)¹¹ in Plateau State, Nigeria. The headquarters of the LGA is in the town of Bokkos, located at the coordinates 9°18'00"N 9°00'00"E. Bokkos covers an area of 1,682 km². According to the 2006 census, the population of Bokkos LGA was recorded at 178,454 people, with 88,560 males and 90,990 females¹². The primary languages spoken in Bokkos include Ron, Mushere, and Kulere.

Bokkos LGA has an economy rooted in agriculture, with livelihoods largely dependent on crop production. Common farm produce includes maize, potatoes, and yams, which serve both subsistence and commercial purposes. Farming is a primary source of income for the local population, although deforestation for agricultural expansion has been a growing concern in recent years¹³.

Climate change has significantly affected agricultural activities in Bokkos LGA, with irregular rainfall patterns and increased droughts threatening crop yields. Farmers in the region have responded by adopting climate-resilient practices, such as crop diversification and the use of drought-tolerant varieties¹⁴.

In recent years, Bokkos LGA has experienced communal conflicts, primarily driven by land disputes, farmer-herder clashes, and competition over natural resources. These conflicts have triggered a ripple effect, disrupting agricultural activities, displacing communities, deepening food insecurity, and straining social cohesion in the region.

Demographic Overview

In Bokkos, the population is composed of **32.5% males** and **67.5% females**, reflecting a significant gender imbalance, possibly linked to the ongoing conflict and displacement. **27.2% of the population are Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)**, highlighting the impact of the violence on displacement rates in

¹¹ <https://www.plateaustate.gov.ng/government/lgas/bokkos>

¹² https://www.citypopulation.de/en/nigeria/admin/plateau/NGA032003_bokkos/

¹³ <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/367191751> Deforestation and management strategies in Bokkos LGA Plateau State

¹⁴ <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/380490680> Perceived Effects of Climate change on Farmer's Livelihood in North Western Nigeria

the region. Educational attainment levels show that **38.4% of the population have no formal qualifications**, while **15.2% hold OND, ND, or NCE qualifications**, and **30.5% have completed secondary education**. This indicates a community with a limited pool of higher education graduates, potentially limiting their access to formal employment opportunities.

In terms of occupation, **69.5% of the population are engaged in farming**, reflecting a heavy reliance on agriculture for livelihoods, with another **15.9% engaged in market trading**. However, the ongoing insecurity has severely disrupted these economic activities.

Security and Governance

Security remains a major concern in Bokkos, where **58.3% of respondents reported experiencing violence**, with **28.5% reporting physical violence** and **17.9% reporting property damage**. The qualitative data reveals that community members feel insecure due to the frequent attacks and the inadequate presence of security forces. A participant from a focus group discussion mentioned, *“We are left to defend ourselves most of the time because the government’s security forces are either too late or don’t come at all.”* This sense of abandonment exacerbates the community’s vulnerability to further attacks.

The conflict has heightened ethnic tensions, as revealed by focus group discussions, where several respondents expressed feelings of distrust between different ethnic and religious groups. One respondent noted, *“The violence has left us divided, and it’s hard to trust anyone who isn’t from your own group.”*

Community Responses to Insecurity

In response to the security vacuum, vigilante groups have been formed, though they lack adequate training and resources. *“We have organized ourselves into vigilante groups to protect our people, but we are no match for the armed attackers,”* said one local leader during an interview. However, despite these efforts, insecurity remains pervasive, and residents live in constant fear of future attacks.

Food Security and Livelihoods

The conflict has had a devastating effect on livelihoods in Bokkos. **38.4% of households reported losing their food stocks**, and **43.0% reported losing crops**, leading to severe food insecurity. The inability to safely access farmlands has further reduced agricultural production, with many farmers reporting that they can only farm small plots near their homes. *“We used to grow enough to feed our families and sell at the market, but now we can’t even grow enough to eat,”* one farmer explained.

Market access has also been disrupted, with **15.9% of traders reporting a decline in income** due to road closures and insecurity along trade routes. *“We can’t sell our produce at the market because it’s too dangerous to travel. Even when the market is open, people have no money to buy,”* said one trader during a focus group discussion. This has led to increased dependence on humanitarian aid, as families struggle to meet their basic needs.

Negative Coping Strategies

Many households have adopted negative coping strategies in response to the economic hardships caused by the conflict. These include **reducing meal frequency**, **selling essential assets**, and **taking on unsustainable debt**. One respondent shared, *“We’ve sold everything we can, and now we’re just trying to survive on what little we have left.”* This cycle of poverty and vulnerability has made it extremely difficult for families to recover from the impact of the conflict.

Health and WASH

The health system in Bokkos has been significantly impacted by the conflict. **55.6% of households reported difficulties accessing healthcare services**, citing the destruction of facilities and the displacement of healthcare workers. Many health centers are either non-functional or inaccessible due to insecurity. A health worker remarked, *“We lack the basic medical supplies and staff to cater to the growing needs of the population. People are dying of preventable diseases because they can’t reach a clinic.”*

In terms of WASH services, **44.4% of households reported lacking access to clean drinking water**, relying on unsafe sources such as rivers and ponds. This has contributed to the spread of waterborne



diseases, including cholera and diarrhea, particularly in IDP camps. A respondent from an IDP camp stated, *“We drink whatever water we can find, but most of it is dirty, and that’s why we get sick.”* Sanitation facilities are also inadequate, with open defecation becoming a widespread practice due to the destruction of latrines.

Protection and Human Rights

Protection issues are rampant in Bokkos, with **38.4% of respondents reporting feeling unsafe in Bokos LGA**. Physical violence and property damage are common occurrences, with **53.8% of respondents reporting being victims of physical violence** and **33.8% reporting property damage** as the top two forms of violence associated with the conflict.

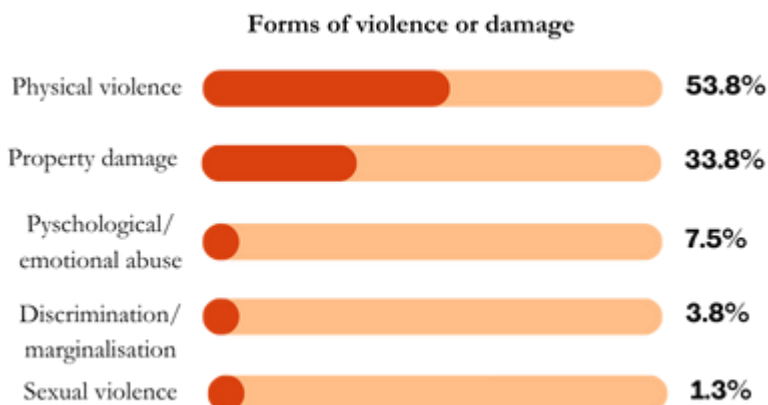
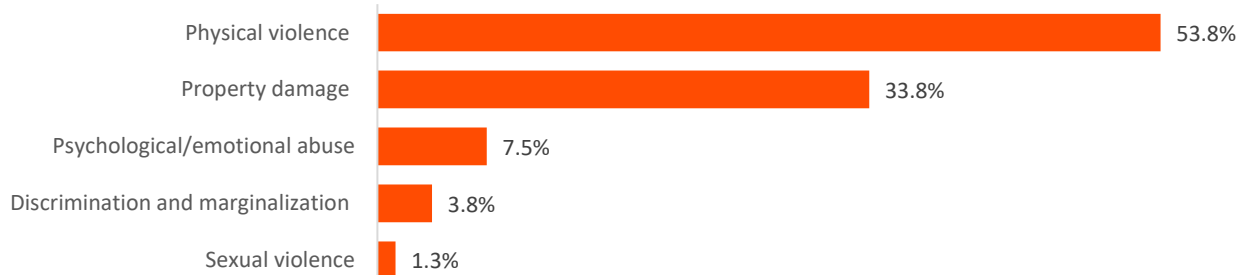


Figure 17: Do you feel safe in your community?

Vulnerable groups, particularly women and children, are disproportionately affected by the violence. **0.7% of women reported experiencing sexual violence**, though underreporting due to stigma likely means the actual figures are higher. One woman shared her fears during a focus group discussion, saying, *“We are always afraid for our daughters, especially when they go to fetch water or tend to the farms. There is no protection for them.”* Displaced populations, especially those in IDP

camps, face heightened risks of exploitation and abuse. The qualitative data reveals that there are few services available to protect against exploitation, with many children forced to fend for themselves after losing their parents to the conflict.

Figure 18. Nature of the violence or abuse



Psychosocial trauma is also a major issue in the community, with residents reporting high levels of stress, anxiety, and depression due to the ongoing violence and displacement. A respondent noted, *“The violence has left us traumatized. Every day is filled with fear and uncertainty.”*

Education

Educational services in Bokkos have been severely disrupted by the conflict. **47.0% of school-aged children are still attending school**, but the quality of education has declined significantly due to the destruction of schools and the displacement of teachers. **62.9% of households cited safety concerns** as the primary reason preventing children from attending school, as many schools are located in insecure areas. A teacher shared, *“Our schools are no longer safe, and many children are too scared to come to class. Even when they do, we have no books or chairs for them.”*

In addition to safety concerns, **20.0% of households reported that school fees and associated costs** are preventing children from continuing their education. For girls, the situation is particularly dire, with

many families prioritizing boys' education due to limited resources. *“We had to pull our daughter out of school because we couldn't afford the fees, and now she helps with the household chores,”* one parent explained during a focus group discussion.

Challenges for Vulnerable Students

Children with disabilities face even greater challenges accessing education. **3.4% of students reported difficulties walking or climbing steps**, and **8.1% reported difficulties seeing**. Schools in Bokkos lack the necessary infrastructure to accommodate these students, further isolating them from education opportunities. This issue was confirmed during interviews with teachers, who expressed frustration at their inability to provide support for children with special needs.

Mangu LGA

Mangu L.G.A is situated in the central part of Plateau State. It covers an area of about 1653km² with a population of 294,931 based on the 2006 National Census figures. The local government shares common boundaries with Pankshin LGA to the East, Barkin Ladi LGA to the West, Jos – East LGA and Bauchi State to the North while Bokkos and Quan-pan LGAs are to the South¹⁵ (NPC, 2006). Topographically, Mangu is a table land (Plateau) with plains, rocks and thick with trees and other vegetation. Agriculture is the major occupation of the people. The area has a semi – temperate climate coupled with the optimal rainfall usually recorded in the area favour the cultivation of a variety of crops such as maize, Irish potato, sweet potato, cowpeas, sugarcane and cocoyam while crops like cassava, yam and Guinea corn are grown at the Gindiri axis. Some of the crops grown during the dry season are Irish potato, maize, cocoyam, carrot, lettuce, cabbage, cucumber and a host of other temperate vegetables¹⁶ (PADP, 2005).



In Mangu Local Government Area, tensions between Fulani herders and Mwaghavul farmers had existed for years, driven by disputes over grazing routes, farmland encroachment, and resource competition. These underlying conflicts escalated in December 2023, leading to widespread violence, loss of lives, destruction of properties, and the displacement of thousands of people.

Demographic Overview

Mangu has a relatively balanced gender distribution, with **52.1% of the population being male** and **47.9% being female**. **12.8% of the population are Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)**, reflecting the impact of conflict-related displacement on the community. Educationally, **44.5% of the population have completed secondary education**, and **28.7% hold OND, ND, or NCE qualifications**, while **10.5% have no formal education**, highlighting challenges in educational attainment that may hinder access to skilled employment opportunities.

In terms of occupation, **55.6% of the population are engaged in farming**, while **19.3% are involved in market trading**. The reliance on agriculture is typical of rural communities like Mangu, though ongoing insecurity has disrupted farming activities and reduced economic stability.

Security and Governance

Security concerns remain prominent in Mangu, with **39.2% of respondents reporting experiencing violence**, including **18.4% reporting physical violence** and **7.1% reporting property damage**. Many community members cited fears of further attacks and noted the lack of timely security responses from

¹⁵ National Population Commission NPC (2006, as cited in Alabura A.U., Macido H., Dalokom, D. Y., (2020). Farmers' characteristics and adoption of recommended Practices by Dry season farmers In Mangu L.G.A Of Plateau State. GSJ: Volume 8, Issue 9, September 2020, online: ISSN 2320-9186 www.globalscientificjournal.com p 1684.

¹⁶ Plateau Agricultural Development Programme (2005, as cited in Alabura A.U., Macido H., Dalokom, D. Y. (2020), Farmers' characteristics and adoption of recommended Practices by Dry season farmers In Mangu L.G.A Of Plateau State. GSJ: Volume 8, Issue 9, September 2020, online: ISSN 2320-9186 www.globalscientificjournal.com p 1684).



formal authorities. One respondent shared, *“We inform the authorities, but help comes late, and by that time, everything is lost.”*

From the qualitative data gathered in focus group discussions, respondents expressed that ethnic tensions and land disputes contribute to the violence. *“There is always tension between groups, especially over land use. This has become a source of conflict that never seems to end,”* one community leader noted. The community’s reliance on informal security groups has grown, though many respondents reported that these efforts were insufficient.

Community Responses to Insecurity

In Mangu, community members have formed vigilante groups to provide protection in the absence of reliable government intervention. However, these groups are under-resourced and unable to adequately respond to the scale of the violence. *“We do what we can, but we don’t have the means to fight back properly,”* one vigilante group member explained, highlighting the challenges of relying on community-led security in a volatile environment.

Food Security and Livelihood

The livelihoods of the population in Mangu have been severely affected by the conflict. **36.2% of households reported losing their food stocks**, and **41.9% reported losing crops**, contributing to widespread food insecurity. Many farmers are unable to safely access their farmlands, leading to a reduction in agricultural productivity. One farmer noted, *“We can’t farm our land because it’s too dangerous. We used to have enough to feed ourselves, but now we don’t even know if we’ll have food tomorrow.”*

Market access has been similarly impacted, with **19.3% of traders reporting a decline in income** due to road closures and insecurity along trade routes. One trader shared, *“The roads are unsafe, and even when the market is open, people don’t have money to buy anything.”* The economic impact of the conflict has resulted in increased reliance on humanitarian aid, as many families struggle to meet their basic needs.

Negative Coping Strategies

In response to the economic challenges posed by the conflict, many households have adopted negative coping strategies, including **reducing meal frequency**, **selling off essential assets**, and **taking on unsustainable debt**. One respondent noted, *“We’ve sold everything we had just to survive, and now we’re left with nothing.”* This has deepened poverty levels and made recovery from the conflict more difficult for affected households.

Health and WASH

Healthcare access in Mangu has been severely impacted by conflict, with **44.2% of households reporting difficulties in accessing healthcare services** due to the destruction of health centers and the displacement of healthcare workers. The limited functionality of existing facilities, coupled with a shortage of medical supplies, has left many residents without adequate healthcare. *“We are left without proper medical care, and people are getting sicker without treatment,”* a resident commented during a focus group discussion.

The situation is equally concerning for WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) services, where **32.9% of households reported lacking access to clean drinking water**, forcing them to rely on contaminated sources, increasing the risk of waterborne diseases like cholera and diarrhoea. Sanitation services have also been disrupted, with many latrines destroyed or inaccessible. **Open defecation is common**, particularly in IDP camps, which has further contributed to the spread of disease.

One respondent noted, *“There is no clean water here, and we are getting sick because we drink from rivers and other unsafe places.”* The lack of WASH services in Mangu poses significant public health risks, especially for vulnerable populations such as children and the elderly.

Protection and Human Rights

The protection environment in Mangu is challenging, with **39.2% of respondents reporting that they feel unsafe** due to frequent attacks, kidnappings, and inter-communal violence. **18.4% of respondents**



reported being victims of physical violence, while 7.1% reported property damage. Vulnerable groups, particularly women and children, face heightened risks of violence, exploitation, and abuse, especially in displacement settings.

About 1.5% of women reported experiencing sexual violence, though qualitative data indicates that this figure may be underreported due to stigma and fear of reprisal. A woman from a focus group discussion shared, *“We are scared to even talk about what happens to us. No one is there to protect us, and speaking out is dangerous.”*

The displacement crisis has worsened protection issues, with many IDPs living in overcrowded camps that lack adequate protection and oversight. Children, particularly those separated from their families, are at risk of exploitation. The psychological trauma from ongoing violence has also led to widespread mental health challenges, with many community members reporting feelings of anxiety and fear. *“We don’t sleep at night. The fear of being attacked never leaves us,”* one resident explained.

Education

The education system in Mangu has been heavily disrupted by conflict, with 61.4% of school-aged children still attending school, but many schools have been damaged, and teachers have been displaced. 33.8% of households cited safety concerns as the primary reason for keeping their children out of school, especially given the proximity of many schools to insecure areas. One teacher shared, *“Many parents are afraid to send their children to school, and even when they come, we lack the resources to teach properly.”*

For families that remain, 26.7% of households reported that school fees and associated costs are a major barrier to continuing their children’s education. Families affected by the conflict are often forced to prioritize basic survival over education. Girls, in particular, are more likely to be withdrawn from school to support household duties, or to be married off early due to economic pressures. *“We can’t afford to keep our daughters in school, so we had no choice but to take her out,”* one parent explained during a focus group discussion.

Challenges for Vulnerable Students

Children with disabilities face additional challenges accessing education. 7.5% of students reported difficulties with mobility, and 10.3% of students reported hearing or vision impairments. Schools in Mangu lack the resources and infrastructure to support students with special needs, leading to their exclusion from the education system. A teacher stated, *“We want to help these children, but we simply don’t have the means to provide them with the support they need.”*

Riyom LGA

Riyom is situated at an altitude of about 4200ft (1280m) above sea level. It is 8° 45' East: 9° 43' North of the

Equator with an average rainfall 1300mm to 1500mm and the rainy season extends from late March to early October. The average daily minimum temperature is 17°C; the mean monthly range temperature is between 13.9°C and 31.1°C while the mean relative humidity at noon varies between 14 and 74%¹⁷. Majority of the people in Riyom LGA are peasant farmers with an average farm size of about two hectares, although some farm households are involved in non-farm jobs like trading, sewing, rock breaking, firewood breaking etc. Farming practices involve the use of hand tools and other simple implements and prominent food crops grown include, Irish potatoes, maize,



¹⁷ Dakar R. R., Umaru U. N., Adamu Y. U. & Tijjani S. (2017 as cited in Daniel V. N., Charles M., Dass P. M., Kwarpo R. S., (2022). Potential of Sweet Potato (I. Batatas) for Phytoremediation of Heavy Metals and Organochlorine Residues from Abandoned Mine Agricultural Areas of Riyom LGA, Plateau State, Nigeria. American Journal of Applied Chemistry. Vol. 10, No. 4, 2022, pp. 105. doi: 10.11648/j.ajac.20221004.15)



pepper, tomatoes, vegetables, guinea corn, carrots, sweet potatoes, cocoyam etc.¹⁸ (Agba D. Z.).

In recent times, Riyom local government has been on the threshold of a phenomenal and unceasing ethno-religious conflicts involving wanton destruction of lives and properties. Many communities have been displaced, and the hitherto harmonious inter-ethnic and inter-religious relationships have been severely strained and battered¹⁹ (Best, 2009).

Demographic Overview

In Riyom, **33.3% of the population are male**, and **66.7% are female**, showing a substantial gender imbalance. **37.8% of the population are Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)**, reflecting the extensive displacement due to ongoing conflict in the region. Educational attainment levels indicate that **12.6% of the population have no formal qualifications**, while **34.2% have completed primary education**, and **37.8% have completed secondary education**. The relatively high levels of secondary education suggest that many community members have basic skills, though ongoing conflict has likely limited their ability to pursue further education or professional opportunities.

In terms of livelihood, **89.2% of the population are engaged in farming**, demonstrating a heavy reliance on agriculture, with a small proportion involved in other activities like market trading and livestock herding.

Security and Governance

Security remains one of the most pressing concerns in Riyom. **83.8% of respondents reported experiencing violence**, and **38.7% reported property damage** during the conflict. Fear of attacks from Fulani herders was a recurring theme in both qualitative and quantitative data, with many residents expressing anxiety over their safety. One respondent mentioned, *“We live in constant fear. They come at night, and we don’t know when the next attack will be.”*

There were also numerous complaints about the absence of security forces in the area. One community leader noted during a focus group discussion, *“We have no one to protect us. The security forces are far away, and by the time they arrive, the damage is already done.”* This lack of protection has heightened the community’s vulnerability, with vigilante groups attempting to fill the gap but lacking sufficient resources and training.

Ethnic and Religious Tensions

The violence in Riyom has exacerbated long-standing ethnic and religious tensions between different groups, further dividing the community. Many respondents highlighted the increasing distrust between Christians and Muslims. One focus group participant stated, *“We used to live together peacefully, but now we are separated. Christians on one side and Muslims on the other.”* This division has made reconciliation efforts difficult, and many residents fear that the conflict will continue unless steps are taken to address these underlying issues.

Food Security and Livelihoods

The conflict has devastated livelihoods in Riyom, with **72.1% of households reporting damage to their food stocks** and **81.1% reporting the destruction of crops**. Many farmers are unable to safely access their land due to the ongoing violence, leading to widespread food insecurity. One farmer stated, *“Our crops were destroyed, and now we can’t farm. We don’t know how we’ll survive the next harvest.”* The inability to farm has forced many families to rely on humanitarian aid, but the assistance provided is insufficient to meet the growing needs of the population.

Market access has also been severely restricted, with **19.8% of traders reporting a decline in income** due to insecurity along trade routes and road closures. *“We can’t get to the markets anymore, and even when we do, people don’t have money to buy anything,”* one trader explained. This has resulted in a significant economic

¹⁸ Agba D. Z., () and Uses of Agricultural Credit by Peasant Farmers in Plateau State, A Case Study of Riyom Local Government Area. P 4 - 5. Centre For Continuing Education, Department of Banking and Finance, University of Jos. P. M. B 2084.Jos, Plateau State.

¹⁹ Best, S. (2009). Conflict and peace building. Abuja: Spectrum.



downturn in the area, with many families adopting negative coping strategies, such as reducing the number of meals per day or selling off essential assets.

Negative Coping Strategies

In response to these economic challenges, many households have resorted to negative coping strategies. **Reducing meal frequency, selling off livestock, and taking on unsustainable debt** were frequently cited during interviews. One respondent shared, *“We’ve sold everything we can, and now we’re just trying to survive. There’s nothing left.”* These coping mechanisms are unsustainable and have made recovery from the conflict even more difficult.

Health and WASH

The conflict in Riyom has had a severe impact on healthcare services, with **38.7% of households reporting difficulties accessing healthcare**. Many health facilities have been damaged or are non-functional due to insecurity, and there is a critical shortage of healthcare workers. One healthcare provider stated, *“Our clinic has been destroyed, and most of the doctors and nurses have left. We are struggling to provide even basic care.”* The lack of medical supplies has also exacerbated the situation, leaving many residents without access to life-saving treatments.

Access to clean water and adequate sanitation has similarly been disrupted, with **33.3% of households lacking access to safe drinking water**. Many families have resorted to using unsafe water sources, increasing the risk of waterborne diseases. A respondent from an IDP camp shared, *“We don’t have clean water here. We use water from the river, but it makes us sick.”* The destruction of sanitation facilities has further contributed to the spread of diseases, particularly in displacement camps where overcrowding is a major issue.

Protection and Human Rights

Protection issues in Riyom are acute, with **83.8% of respondents reporting that they do not feel safe**. Physical violence, property destruction, and sexual violence have been widely reported, with **1.8% of women reporting sexual violence**. However, underreporting is likely due to stigma and fear of reprisal. One woman shared, *“We don’t talk about what happens to us. It’s too dangerous, and no one listens anyway.”* This climate of fear has made it difficult for survivors to seek justice or receive the support they need.

Displaced populations, particularly women and children, are disproportionately affected by the ongoing violence. Many have been forced to flee their homes multiple times, and the lack of safe spaces has increased their vulnerability to exploitation and abuse. Psychosocial trauma is widespread, with many residents suffering from anxiety and depression due to the constant violence. One participant from a focus group discussion remarked, *“We don’t know what tomorrow will bring. We live in fear every day.”*

Education

Educational services in Riyom have been significantly disrupted by the conflict. **20.0% of school-aged children are still attending school**, but many schools have been damaged or destroyed, and teachers have fled the area. **63.2% of households cited school fees and associated costs** as the primary barrier to education, particularly for girls. One respondent noted, *“We had to pull our daughter out of school because we can’t afford the fees anymore.”* Safety concerns were also a major issue, with many schools located in insecure areas where attacks are common.

For children who remain in school, the quality of education has declined due to a lack of resources and overcrowded classrooms. **15.7% of students reported difficulties seeing**, but there are no adequate facilities or support for children with disabilities, making it difficult for them to continue their education. Teachers are struggling to cope with the influx of displaced children and the lack of teaching materials. One teacher shared, *“We don’t have books or chairs, and the classrooms are too small for all the students. It’s impossible to teach under these conditions.”*





Recommendations:

The findings from the MSNA highlight the severe and multidimensional impact of the conflict on communities in Plateau State. To address the identified gaps and ensure a comprehensive response, it is essential to implement targeted and actionable interventions across all sectors. The following recommendations are based on evidence gathered through household surveys, Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), and aim to guide government agencies, humanitarian actors, and development partners in their response strategies. These recommendations prioritize the immediate and long-term recovery needs of the conflict-affected populations, with a focus on building resilience and restoring essential services in the most severely impacted areas.

1. Security and Governance

- **Strengthen Formal Security Presence:** The state government should enhance the deployment of security forces in the most affected LGAs, particularly in **Riyom** and **Bassa**, where high levels of violence have been reported. This should be coupled with community-based policing initiatives to improve trust between local populations and law enforcement.
- **Reinforce Local Governance Structures:** Strengthen traditional governance and conflict resolution mechanisms by providing resources and training to local leaders. This will help mediate disputes and prevent the escalation of violence at the community level.
- **Support Disarmament and Peacebuilding:** Implement programs focused on disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) of militia groups, while promoting peacebuilding and social cohesion activities, particularly in conflict hotspots.

2. Food Security and Livelihoods

- **Immediate Food Assistance:** Scale up emergency food distribution to households in **Mangu** and **Bassa**, where a high percentage of households reported the destruction of food stocks. Food aid should be expanded to reach those experiencing poor food consumption and negative coping strategies.
- **Livelihood Restoration Programs:** Initiate livelihood recovery programs aimed at rebuilding agricultural activities by providing seeds, tools, and livestock to affected households. Establish farmer cooperatives and provide access to agricultural extension services to improve productivity.
- **Market Rehabilitation:** Support the reconstruction of local markets and transport infrastructure to enhance market access for traders and farmers. This will help restore economic activity and improve food security in the affected areas.

3. Health and WASH

- **Rebuild and Equip Health Facilities:** Urgently rehabilitate damaged health centers in **Bassa**, **Bokkos**, and **Mangu**. Ensure that these facilities are equipped with essential medical supplies, particularly maternal and child health services, which have been severely disrupted.
- **Deploy Mobile Health Clinics:** Given the limited access to healthcare in many areas, mobile health clinics should be deployed to reach remote and displaced populations. These clinics can provide immediate care while more permanent health structures are rehabilitated.
- **Improve Water and Sanitation Infrastructure:** Increase the number of safe water points in **Riyom** and **Mangu** to reduce reliance on unimproved water sources. Rehabilitate sanitation facilities, particularly in displacement camps, and promote hygiene education campaigns to prevent disease outbreaks.
- **Expand Nutrition Programs:** Scale up nutrition interventions to address the rising levels of acute malnutrition, particularly in **Mangu** and **Bokkos**. Provide targeted feeding programs for children under five and pregnant and lactating women.



4. Protection and Human Rights

- **Expand Legal and Psychosocial Support:** Establish mobile legal aid services and psychosocial support programs to address the widespread trauma, sexual violence, and property disputes. These services should prioritize women, children, and other vulnerable groups who are at higher risk.
- **Enhance GBV Prevention and Response Mechanisms:** Strengthen gender-based violence (GBV) prevention programs by creating safe spaces for women and girls, improving reporting mechanisms, and ensuring access to GBV response services, such as medical, legal, and psychological support.
- **Protect Displaced Populations:** Increase protection services for internally displaced persons (IDPs), ensuring their safety and dignity in displacement camps and host communities. Ensure that IDPs have access to adequate shelter, healthcare, and legal documentation.

5. Education

- **Rehabilitate Damaged Schools:** Focus on rebuilding damaged and destroyed schools in **Bokkos, Mangu, and Riyom** to allow children to return to safe learning environments. Prioritize schools that were most severely impacted and provide them with the necessary learning materials.
- **Provide Financial Support to Families:** Implement financial assistance programs, such as cash transfers, to help families cover school-related expenses. This is essential to address the high dropout rates driven by the inability of families to afford school fees, uniforms, and learning materials.
- **Train and Deploy Teachers:** Strengthen teacher recruitment and training programs to address the shortage of qualified teachers in affected LGAs. Teachers should receive training in trauma-informed education practices to better support students who have experienced conflict-related trauma.
- **Psychosocial Support for Students:** Implement school-based psychosocial support programs to help children cope with the trauma of the conflict. Schools should integrate mental health services, and teachers should be trained to identify and address the emotional needs of students.





Conclusion

The MSNA has provided a comprehensive analysis of the severe impact of the conflict in Plateau State, revealing significant gaps across critical sectors, including Security and Governance, Food Security and Livelihoods, Health, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Protection, and Education. The conflict has not only displaced communities and destroyed infrastructure but also disrupted livelihoods, food production, and access to essential services, leaving many households in dire need of immediate and sustained assistance.

The findings highlight the urgent need for coordinated and multi-sectoral interventions to address the pressing humanitarian needs. Food insecurity is critical, with many households reporting destroyed crops, livestock losses, and poor food consumption. Healthcare services have been severely compromised due to damaged facilities, shortages of medical supplies, and limited access to safe water, leading to increased malnutrition and a rise in preventable diseases. Protection risks, particularly for women, children, and vulnerable groups, remain high, with gender-based violence, child labor, and early marriage exacerbated by the conflict's socio-economic impact. Educational infrastructure has been decimated, and the disruption in learning is likely to have long-term consequences for the development and well-being of children. To restore stability and support recovery, immediate action is required across all sectors. This includes rebuilding critical infrastructure, restoring access to healthcare and education, strengthening protection mechanisms, and supporting agricultural recovery to ensure food security. The involvement of government agencies, humanitarian actors, and development partners is crucial in ensuring a comprehensive and sustainable response that addresses both immediate needs and long-term recovery efforts.

The assessment highlights the importance of continuing to monitor the evolving humanitarian situation and adapting interventions to the specific needs of the conflict-affected populations. A focus on building resilience, fostering peace, and restoring social cohesion will be essential to help these communities recover and rebuild their lives.





Annex

Authors and Contributors

Abdullahi Banjo, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Women and Children in Support of Community Development Initiatives (WOCCI-Nig.)

Albert Pam, Director-Partnership and Program Quality, Women and Children in Support of Community Development Initiatives (WOCCI-Nig.)

Bandin Joseph, Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, and Learning (MERL) Officer, Crest Research and Development Institute (CRADI) Nigeria.

Benard R. Okereke, Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, and Learning (MERL) Officer, CRADI Nigeria.

Chris Ogbonna, Executive Director, Safer World Foundation (SWF)

Christian Adanu, Lead Researcher, Director Research, Evaluation, and Learning, CRADI Nigeria.

Chuwang D. Sha, Director, Plateau State Emergency Management Agency (PLASEMA)

David Dasegn Pinta, Administration and Communications Associate, CRADI Nigeria.

Ema Ochinyabo, Program Associate, CRADI Nigeria.

Francis Emmanuel Tsaku, Co-Researcher, Program Associate & Partnership Lead, CRADI Nigeria.

Francis Kusanhyel Usman, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Afghan-aid Afghanistan.

Gabriel Adanu, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Officer, Dialogue and Reconciliation and Peace (DREP) Center, Nigeria.

Prof. Danny McCain, Director Centre for Conflict Management and Peace Studies (CECOMPS), University of Jos.

Rev. Fr. Agwom Blaise, Executive Director, Dialogue and Reconciliation and Peace (DREP) Centre, Nigeria.

Rinji Kwakas, Impact Lead Impactometrics International, Nigeria.

Samuel Emelis, Program Manager, CRADI Nigeria.

Silas Korkshima, Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, and Learning (MERL) Manager, CRADI Nigeria

Yonpan Dariem, National Program Coordinator, Safer World Foundation (SWF)



List of Stakeholders Present at the Validation Workshop

S/N	Names	Gender	Organizations	Emails
1.	Ogbo Chizoma Catherine	F	CAN Plateau State	Chizomacatherine@gmail.com
2.	Kaltume Auwalu Abubakar	F	FOMWAN	abubakarkaltum4@gmail.com
3.	Caesar J. Payi	M	Rep. Director of Research Govt. House, Plateau State.	Ceejaypayi@gmail.com
4.	Felicity D. Gurumzen	F	Min. of Women Affairs and Soc. Dev.	fellygurumyen@yahoo.com
5.	Kyendi Daniel	F	Plateau Peace Building Agency (PPBA)	kyendidaniel@gmail.com
6.	Farti Fuddang	M	Leader, Youth Peace Ambassadors (YPA), Bokkos	fatucys@gmail.com
7.	Mohammed Aminu Shaibu	M	Youth Leader, YPA Bokkos	masgagare@gmail.com
8.	Amuna Panam Samuel	M	Youth Mangu LGA	panansamuel@gmail.com
9.	Amos Lekkeh, Ahmadu	M	Youth Leader Miango, Bassa LGA	Amoslekeh@gmail.com
10.	Herbert John Azi	M	Youth Leaders Bassa	herbertjohnazi@gmail.com
11.	Davou Davou Peter	M	Youth Leader/B/Ladi	daffpeter@gmail.com
12.	Sambo Jonah	M	Christian Association of Nigeria	Nil
13.	Felix Jinnah	M	Relief and Hope Foundation	jinnahfelix2000@gmail.com
14.	Nanmak Bali	M	Plateau Peace Practitioner Network (PPPN) Chairman	nanmarkbali@gmail.com
15.	Lt. Col. T. T. Paave	M	HQ, Operation Safe Haven	
16.	Jacob Ogaba Onmonya	F	ASOHON	ogabaj@gmail.com
17.	Gumnayina Miyim	F	HQ Operation Safe Haven	
18.	Eboh Mary	F	JDPC	marbi5258@gmail.com
19.	Naomi M Ugede	F	JDPC	naomiugede@yahoo.com
20.	Elizabeth K. Kim	F	WOWICAN	elikimex@gmail.com
21.	Hon. Solomon S. Gujing	M	Community Leader Mangu LGA	Solomongujing0@gmail.com
22.	Kabir Abubakar	M	JNI	Kbjosone4u@gmail.com
23.	Fubure Sati	F	Ministry of Agriculture	sfubure@gmail.com
24.	Jummai Abdullali	F	FOMWAN	Jummaiabdullahisura4@gmail.com
25.	Ameh KennethSeidu	M	Peace Cord Nigeria.	amehkennth@gmail.com
26.	Shamaki Gyang	M	PRTVC	Shamakibadung3@gmail.com
27.	Chuwang Davou Sha	M	Plateau State Emergency Management Agency	wangdsha@yahoo.com
28.	Prof. Danny Maccain	M	CECOMP-Uni Jos	mccaind@gmail.com
29.	Adama Yusuf	F	UNFPA	adyusuf@unfpa.org
30.	Albert Pam	M	WOCCAI	Albertworks007@gmail.com
31.	Rev. Fr. Agwom Blaise	M	DREP Center	agwomblaise@yahoo.com
32.	Mary CleverKings	F	DREP Center	Maryking437@gmail.com



Communities of The MSNA across the Five (5) LGAs.

LGA	District	Communities
Barkin Ladi	a. Ropp	Lobiring, Bwon, Dorowa Babuje, Rapwomol, Werek, Jong, Mazat, Gana Ropp, Rakwok, Takwok, Gafat, Rakung, Sho, Gassa, Kworos (gangare), Wazang (Low-Cost), Kampany, Rahwol-yep (Katako), and Rantiya gwol (sabon-layi)
	b. Fan	Nding Lo, Nyarwar, Rayidi, Nafan, Rawuru, Rapyam, Bwagafom, Utaduk, Labere, Bwagare, Rabwak, and Sangasa
	c. Gashi	Kuzen, Kai, Nekkan (Gindin Akwati), Kurra Berom, Gashish Kuk, Zakarek, Makauli, and Dogo
	d. Heipang	Chit, Heipang Town (Tagbam), and Pwomol
	e. Forom	Bakin Kogi and Do
Bokkos	a. Bokkos	Kambar Mupeli, Makada, Mandung Ruwi, Ruwi, Mandung-Mushu, Matol, Butura Kampani, Chikam, Maikatako, Mandung Butura, Marish, Ruboi, Wumat (Ser) Butura Vet, Dares, Hurum, Maiyanga, Nghassi, Chirang, Gawarza, Lunghai, Makundang, Ngalmun, Ngha-bwok, Nghati Sharan (Tuje), Tahore, Tamiso, Wayah, Fanghalau, Farah, Fashar, Makarang, Mawuri, Mbar, Nbong, Yelwa Nono, Nghatingut, Tarangol Bodel, Mandung Mushu, Matelem, Ndun, Ngyong, Sanyang, and Sundul
	b. Daffo	Ganda, Hotom Warem, Josho, and Nghakudung
Mangu	a. Pushit	Larkat, Jipun, Gohotkung, Pyantuhul, Lamor, Tuguu, Nten, Pwaskop, Muyong, Dungpaat, Dunggurung, Mil, Sedes, Tilengpaat, Pukah, Kodol, Bindiyes, Jwakji, and Vodni.
	b. Panyam	Kwahas, Fushi, Kogul, Ajing 1, Ajing 2, Mper-Jing, Atuhun, Daika, Chagal, Washna, Kombili and Larkas
	c. Mangu 1	Angwan Mission, Ntam, Kwahas Lahir 1, Kwahas Lahir 2, Lahir Bakin Kasuwa, Sabon Kasuwa, Derkong, Dengdeng, Gaya Layout, Derdep, Angwan Madaki, Quarter 1, Shimilang, Labarki, Sarbot, Kyampus, Jwakmaitumbi, Sabon Gari, Der Alohom (Fulani), Gaude, Ntul, Ntul Kinat, Kikyau, Gonggong, Gyambwas, Kwahaslalek, Mairana 1&2, Mangul, Aloghom, Farin kasa, Gangaran Kwata, Hausa community, Sarpal, and Kantoma.
	d. Bwai	Manja, Murish, Dungmunaan, Kubwat, Fungzai, Kubon, Timnanle, Chisu, Bwai Ajing, Kuwes, Bwai, Ruvwang, Gindiri Ngok, and Mpil
	e. Mangu 2	Bungha-Dawo, Kwahas cheer, Tyop, Nomadic (Fulani) Angwan Sarki, M. S. S Mangu, Nchaya, and Tohgomhol
	f. Mangun	Kopnanle
	g. Kerang	Kurgwam and Jwak Ngang
	h. Kombun	Kulben, Kwahas-Nting, Binper, and Aper
	i. Ampang	Pishik and Ampang west
	Bassa	a. Miango
b. Kwall		Gabia Ward, Dan magu zodu Ward, Kimakpa ward, Zodu, Mai Yanga, Zrishe, Adu, Dundu, Ansa, La' ake, Rikwechongu, Ricwechongu, Whra, Kishosho, Chinke, La'ake, and Kpenrie
Riyom	a. Riyom	Dadikowa, Byei, Jebu, Kwi, Rinyan, Sambak, Gwol-hoss, Rim, Rafin Acha, Danchindo, Kum, and Fass
	b. Bachi	Dep, Gwara, Bangai Nanjahai, Nichi, Shonong, Lwa, Rakweng, Rachi, and Kak
	c. Ganawuri	Bum, and Attakar



About the Partners



Crest Research and Development Institute (CRADI) is an

independent, non-profit research institute dedicated to improving the human condition through evidence-based research, human capital development, partnership and developmental aid. CRADI established in 2022 has its headquarters in Jos, with field offices in Borno and Sokoto, Nigeria and Kampala, Uganda (East Africa). www.cradil.org



Plateau State Emergency Management Agency (PLASEMA) is the government's Firstline preventer and responder

to natural and manmade disaster in Plateau state. It coordinates all activities of humanitarian organisations in the state and provides humanitarian assistance to affected persons on behalf of the government and its partners. www.plateaustate.gov.ng/agencies/state-emergency-management-agency



Safer World Foundation is a non-governmental, non-profit organization working to reduce violence, promote peace, and enhance sustainable

livelihoods in conflict-affected communities across Nigeria. Their mission focuses on providing alternatives to violence, fostering inclusivity, and strengthening community security. The foundation engages in various initiatives, including peacebuilding, capacity building, research, and psychosocial support. www.saferworldfoundation.org



The Dialogue, Reconciliation, and Peace (DREP) Centre, established in 2011 by the Catholic Archdiocese of Jos with the backing of religious and traditional leaders, aims to address the ethnic and religious divisions in Jos and Plateau State. Its primary goal is to reduce revenge and cycles of violence, particularly among youth, and foster social cohesion and peace in the region. DREP provides a safe space for dialogue among diverse groups. www.drepcentre.com



The Centre for Conflict Management and Peace Studies (CECOMPS), at the University of Jos was established in 2002.

CECOMPS prepares professionals and academics with a broad education in conflict management and peace studies, conducts research, and participates in various kinds of peace building interventions. The Centre has carried out these as a result of partnership and with funding from governmental and nongovernmental. www.unijos.edu.ng/ccmps



Women and Children in Support of

Community Development Initiative (WOCCI Nigeria) is a national Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), enhancing access to basic services and human rights for vulnerable groups. Established in 1996, it operates in Plateau, Nasarawa and the FCT, focusing on humanitarian aid, peace building, WASH and education. WOCCI partners with donors and local networks for impactful community development. www.woccinigeria.org