

# **Nigeria: a country at war?**

## **Ongoing violence and land occupation by Fulani in Central and South East Nigeria**

**HARMONISED REPORT ON DISPLACEMENT SITUATION IN BENUE STATE**

**By the CATHOLIC DIOCESES OF MAKURDI, GBOKO, OTUKPO AND KASTINA-ALA**

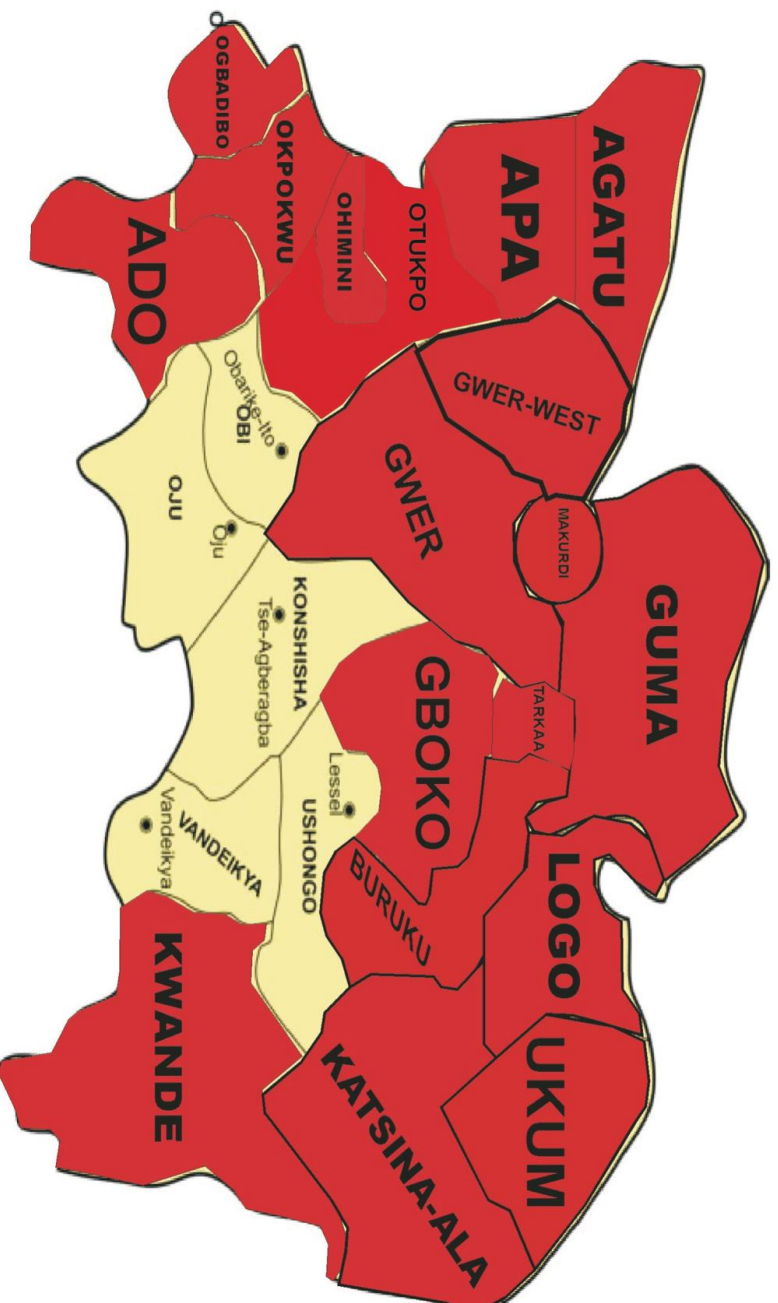
## INTRODUCTION

- The Insecurity occasioned by the killer Herdsmen attacks on Farming communities in Benue State has left in its wake a tale of woes which the country and its citizens have had to contend with over the years.
- These attacks are said to be a unique and emerging one (Burton, 2016).
- According to a recent study carried out by the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR), the attacks on farmers by killer herdsmen in Nigeria has been identified as the single most widely spread peace and security threat, affecting almost all the 36 states in Nigeria.
- In 2019 and 2020 violent conflicts perpetrated mainly by herders against farming communities in Benue state. The activities of this herds men terrorist made Nigeria to be ranked third in the global terrorist index of 2020 ( cf. European asylum support office, 2021 page 21, 22).

- To this very moment these attacks continue to register huge casualties and tension throughout almost all states of the Federation on a recurrent basis.
- Mostly reported in the Middle Belt and adjacent states (particularly the states of Benue, Plateau, Kaduna and Nasarawa between herdsman and local farmers, the clashes over farmland and/or pasture, have increasingly taken religious undertones (Muslims versus Christians). The herdsman are predominantly Muslims while the farmers are over 90 percent Christians.
- The continuing attacks undermines food security, encourages the proliferation of heavy arms and weapons and also infringes on indigenous rights. Thousands of lives have been lost, property destroyed, and communities left in disarray, with the population of the internally displaced persons totaling over a million in Benue state alone to say the least. You will find later in these slides, the names and communities displaced over the years. There are also, names of official and unofficial displaced persons camps all across the state in discussion.
- The problem we have faced is only well appreciated when one considers that as from 2016, some estimates indicated that the attacks of Fulani herdsman on farming communities in the Benue valley has claimed more lives than the Boko Haram insurgency.



# MAP OF BENUE SHOWING FULANI HERDSMEN ATTACKS IN RED





# IMPACT OF HERDERS ATTACK ON FARMERS IN BENUE STATE

- In almost all of the affected communities, children of school age are displaced from their schools since 2013 forcing their drop out from school.
- Also the livelihoods of parents and caregivers in the affected areas is completely destroyed.
- Access to health care has reduced significantly amidst increasing needs. Maternal and natal services have been halted in almost all of the affected areas. The average distance to nearby health facilities has increased from 4km to 12 Km across the LGAs.
- Food shortages in all the affected local government areas in Benue State has been deeply felt. There are increasing desperation in this regard. Many families have been forced to engage in maladaptating coping strategies such as prostitution by under-aged teens, slave labour, forced marriages, street begging, human trafficking etc.
- Post-traumatic stress disorders amongst survivals of the armed conflict resulting to increased aggression, intolerance and homicidal ideations.
- Loss of dignity, and resort to dangerous coping mechanisms like thugery and the likes.
- All of the above has contributed to a serious violation of human rights of the populations under ceaseless attacks from the marauding Fulani herdsmen or their mercenaries.
- The attacks have become so frequent that some families have suffered multiple displacements as even designated IDP camps sometimes come under attacks.
- The intensity of the killings suggest an Ethnic cleansing agenda. The Fulani herdsmen are systematically killing the local population and occupying their territories.
- and the killings have a motive of religion behind it. The Fulani killers are Muslims and the conquering of territory is paramount to large Muslim populations in Nigeria.

# WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?

It is widely believed that some of these attackers are from the neighboring countries of Niger, Senegal, Guinea, Chad and Libya.

They kill, plunder and occupy territories. (cf photos of some of the places they have destroyed)



The height of this genocide against poor villagers took place on January 1st 2018 (new year's day). More than 80 persons were killed including women and children and thousands displaced from their homes. There is a mass burial site at Genabe village, in Makurdi- Benue State that reminds all of this infamous day.





There was also the gruesome killing of two Catholic Priests of the Diocese of Makurdi who were celebrating morning Mass along with 14 other parishioners in Mbalom community of Gwer East LGA on the morning of 25th April 2018. Their bodies rest on the Diocesan prayer ground of *Sesugh Maria* at Ayati a village 16 kilometers out of Makurdi the Benue State capital.



# IMPACT OF HERDERS ATTACK ON FARMERS IN BENUE STATE



# CATTLE OPENLY GRAZING ON CROPS





# SHELTER SITUATION ON SOME UNOFFICIAL CAMPS LOCATED AT ICHWA VILLAGE, NORTH BANK MAKURDI, BENUE STATE





# INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPs) learning under trees AT UKPIAM, GUMALGA OF BENUE STATE



## POPULATION OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN BOTH OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL CAMPS IN BENUE STATE

The population of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) has bloated to over **1,000,007 (Benue SEMA, April 2021)** following renewed attacks.

An estimated 12% of this population is seeking refuge in Official Camps located at Daudu, Uikpam, Gbajimba (all in Guma LGA), Naka (in Gwer West LGA), Anyiin and Ugbah (both in Logo LGA) and Abagena (in Makurdi LGA) with a greater majority of the IDPs living in unofficial camps and host communities in nearby LGAs in the State.

## NAMES OF OFFICIAL IDP CAMPS IN BENUE STATE

**Currently, there are a total of 8 Official Camps in 4 LGAs in Benue State namely;**

1. Abagena Camp, Makurdi LGA
2. Daudu Camp 1 (UNHCR Shelter) Guma LGA
3. Daudu Camp 3, Guma LGA
4. Uikpam Resettled Camp, Guma LGA
5. Gbajimba Camp, Guma LGA
6. UBE Camp, Naka, Gwer West LGA
7. Anyiin Camp, Logo LGA
8. Ugba Camp, Logo LGA



## **NAMES OF UNOFFICIAL IDP CAMPS IN BENUE STATE**

An estimated **88% of the total** Population of IDPs in Benue displaced from their ancestral homes are seeking refuge in **6** unofficial camps and in over **45** rural Communities in Benue State. Below are names of unofficial camps hosting IDPs.

1. Abeda Camp in Logo LGA
2. Agan Camp in Makurdi LGA
3. LGEA NASME in Makurdi LGA
4. LGEA Tyodugh in Makurdi LGA
5. Federal Housing Authority in Makurdi LGA
6. Ichwa in Makurdi LGA
7. Hirnyam camp in Guma LGA
8. Ortese camp in Guma LGA
9. Udei camp in Guma LGA

## NAMES OF AFFECTED COMMUNITIES IN MAKURDI DIOCESE

S/N	HOST COMMUNITIES	LGA
1	Imande Akpo	Makurdi
2	Tse Chagu	Makurdi
3	Aston	Makurdi
4	Antor	Makurdi
5	Ukipiam	Guma
6	Torkula	Guma
7	Agasha	Guma
8	Yogbo	Guma
9	Udei	Guma
10	Ortese	Guma
11	Umenger	Guma
12	Yelewata	Guma
13	Kaseyo	Guma
14	Ikponko	Guma



## NAMES OF AFFECTED COMMUNITIES IN GBOKO DIOCESE

S/N	HOST COMMUNITIES	LGA
1	Mbakunu	Kwande
2	Mbaper	Kwande
3	Iyon	Kwande
4	Jato-Aka/Nyihemba	Kwande
5	Gungul	Konshisha
6	Agidi	Konshisha
7	Aku	Konshisha
8	Bonta	Konshisha
9	Gbinde	Konshisha
10	Tse Anyon	Konshisha
11	Guleya	Konshisha

## NAMES OF AFFECTED COMMUNITIES IN OTUKPO DIOCESE

S/N	HOST COMMUNITIES	LGA
1	Ogere	Obi
2	Aila	Agatu
3	Odugbeho	Agatu
4	Okokolo	Agatu
5	Obagaji	Agatu
6	Itakpa	Obi
7	Usha	Agatu
8	Agidigbe	Oju
9	Ogbolonkuta	Ado
10	Ogbaulu	Agatu

## NAMES OF AFFECTED COMMUNITIES IN KATSINA-ALA DIOCESE

S/N	HOST COMMUNITIES	LGA
	Iorja Community	Logo
	Tse Akpam Community	Logo
	Igbatim Community	Logo
	Tse Agure	Logo
	Tse Akau Akpor Community	Logo

## RECENT ATTACKS BY ARMED HERDSMEN

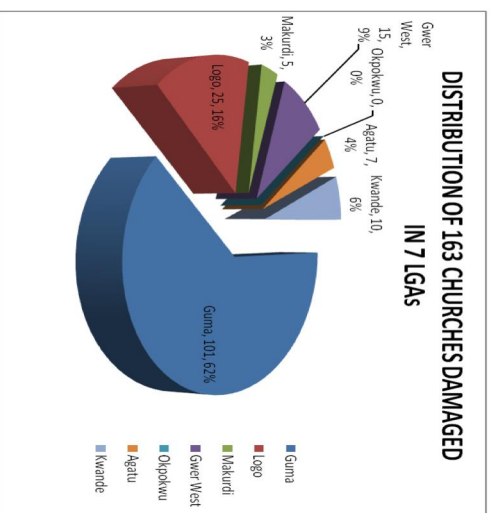
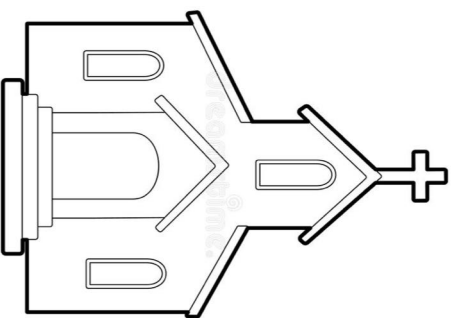
S/N	DATE	NAME OF COMMUNITY	LGA	NO. OF PERSONS KILLED
1	25/4/2021	IMANDE IKPU	MAKURDI	3
2	27/4/2021	ABAGENA	MAKURDI	9
3	29/4/2021	MBAIFU	GWER WEST	5
4	30/4/2021	SAGHEV	NAKA	3
5	1/5/2021	AGBANU	GWER WEST	3
6	1/5/2021	GOH VILLAGE	GWER WEST	2
7	2/5/2021	TSE AKUTSA	GWER WEST	3
8	3/5/2021	MBAMONDO	GWER WEST	17
9	13/7/2021	NYITI	GWER WEST	3
10	18/7/2021	GBAJIMBA	GUMA	3
11	20/7/2021	UMENGER	GUMA	3
12	22/7/2021	GIDAN SULE	GUMA	7
13	17/8/2021	ULEVKAA	GUMA	1

## RECENT ATTACKS BY ARMED HERDSMEN

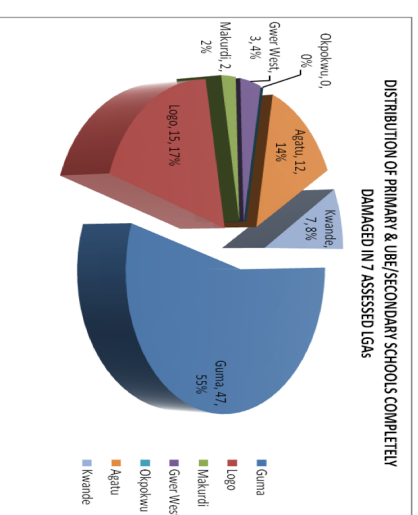
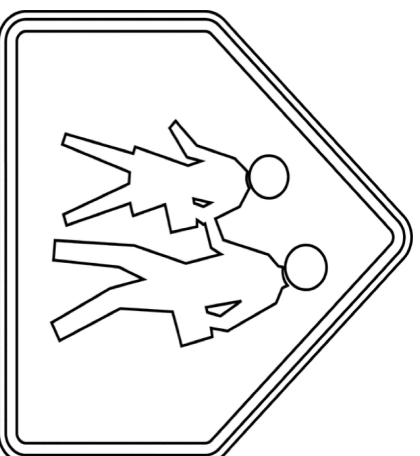
S/N	DATE	NAME OF COMMUNITY	LGA	NO. OF PERSONS KILLED
14	18/8/2021	Tswarev Ukemberagya	Logo	1
15	24/8/2021	Tse Adi	Guma	1
16	24/8/2021	Tse Ilim	Makurdi	1
17	24/8/2021	Tse jime	Guma	2
18	24/8/2021	Yelewata	Guma	8
19	27/8/2021	Tse Orkpe	Guma	3
20	21/9/2021	Uikpiam	Guma	2
21	24/9/2021	Tse Jijingi	Guma	1
22	26/9/2021	Gbajimba	Guma	3



**PROPERTY DESTROYED IN 7 LGAs: 2014 – 2018 Cont'd**  
**WORSHIP CENTERS**      **163 CHURCHES BURNT IN 7 LGAs**



**PROPERTY DESTROYED IN 7 LGAs: 2014 – 2018 Cont'd**  
**EDUCATION**      **94 Schools Burnt Completely (86 Primary & 9 UBE)**

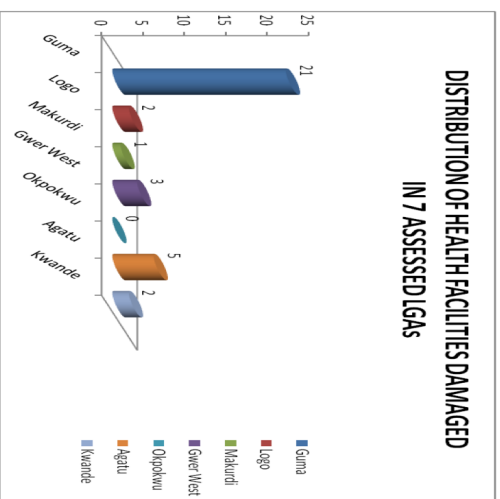
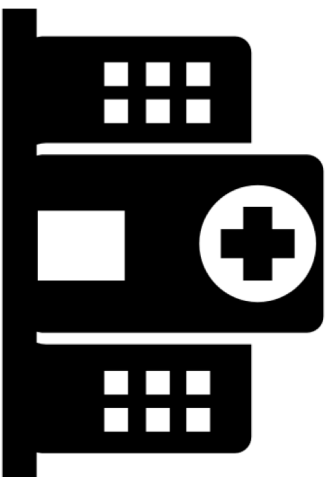


**NB. Due to security challenges, several communities could not be accessed to keep track of current destruction**

## PROPERTY DESTROYED IN 7 LGAs: 2014 – 2018 Cont'nd

PHCs/Clinics/Dispensaries

34 Health Facilities Burnt in 7 LGAs

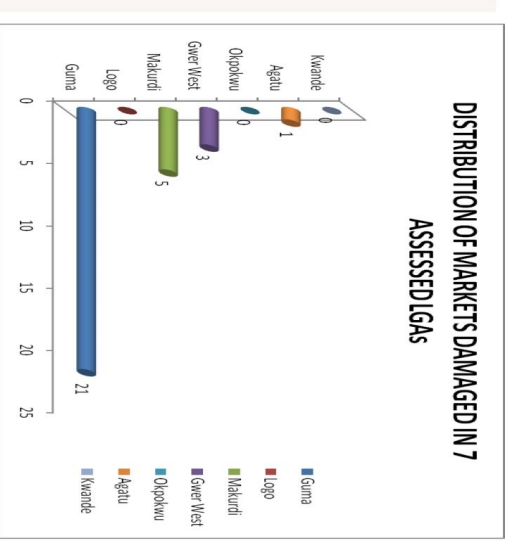
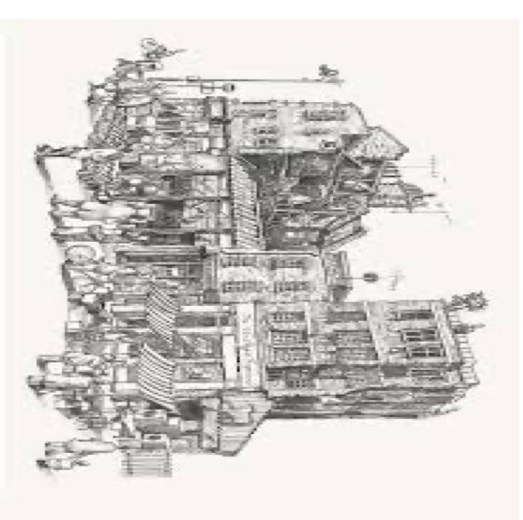


State Committee on the Assessment of Damages Caused by Farmers and Herdsmen Conflict in Benue State

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## PROPERTY DESTROYED IN 7 LGAs: 2014 – 2018 Cont'nd MARKET

25 Markets Burnt Across 7 LGAs



State Committee on the Assessment of Damages Caused by Farmers and Herdsmen Conflict in Benue State

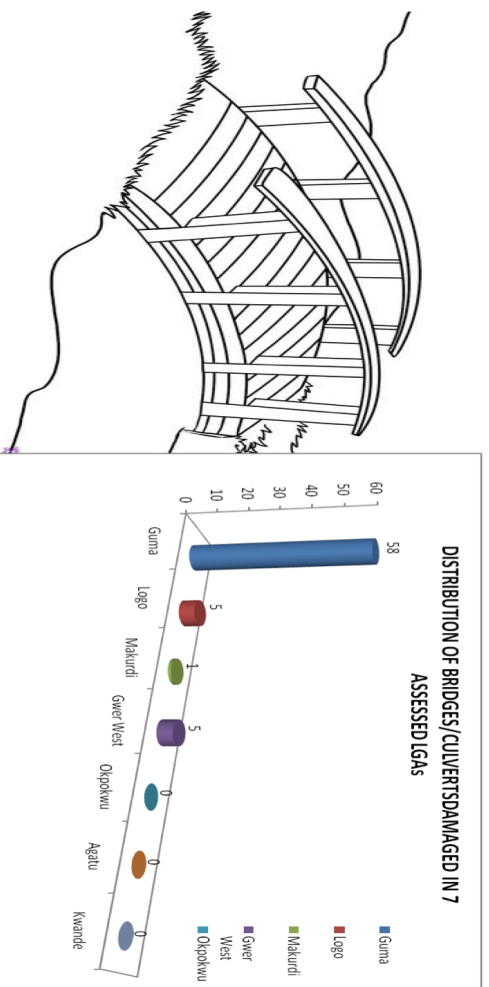
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**NB. Due to security challenges, several communities could not be accessed to keep track of current destruction**

## PROPERTY DESTROYED IN 7 LGAs: 2014 – 2018 Cont'nd

### BRIDGES/CULVERTS

69 Bridges/Culverts Destroyed Across 7 LGAs



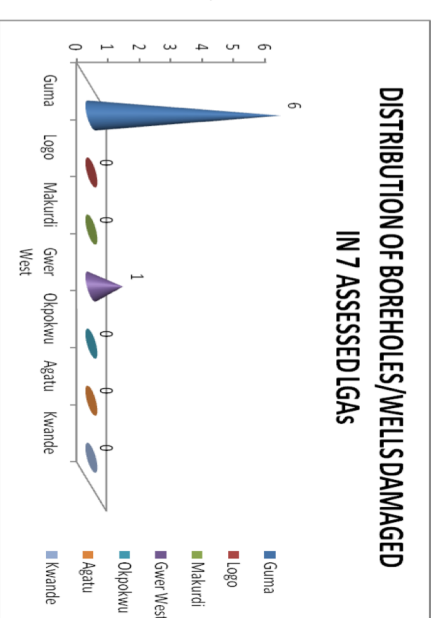
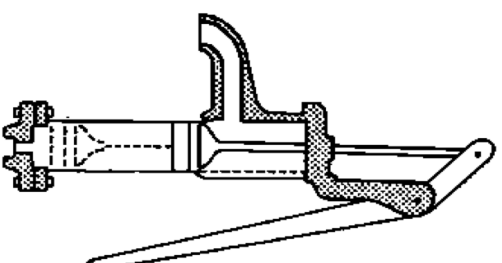
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## PROPERTY DESTROYED IN 7 LGAs: 2014 – 2018 Cont'nd

### BOREHOLE

7 Boreholes Destroyed Across 7 LGAs



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**NB. Due to security challenges, several communities could not be accessed to keep track of current destruction**

# WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

The dioceses in Benue state have shown concern towards the plight of the IDPs by working tirelessly in carrying out interventions and programs to alleviating the sufferings of the displaced persons. However, the increasing number of IDPs in the state occasioned by renewed attacks have made us seize the moment to highlight certain challenges. The Catholic church in Benue would like to emphasize the following:

1. Activate global peace diplomacy by mobilizing world powers to raise voices and take decisive actions towards ending all forms of killings, mass atrocities and gross violation of rights of vulnerable populations especially women, girls and boys.
2. Exert influence on governments to reclaim ungoverned spaces and territories seized by armed herders in Nigeria and most especially in the Benue Valley which is a major theatre of war.
3. Mobilize substantive support for coping and resilience building amongst affected populations especially in the restoration of livelihoods and durable protection solutions.
4. Influence (inter)national media to provide balanced and uncensored content on the true situation of affected populations and communities. This will neutralize distorted and erroneous perspectives that are sometimes injected into the media space to exacerbate tensions or to shield impunity.
5. Reconnect affected populations to social services especially disruptions in worship and belief practices, access to schools and health care centres. This requires reconstruction of structures destroyed during armed attacks as well as support to services that were disrupted therefrom.
6. Influence the Government to fulfil all its international obligations to the ECOWAS, AU and the UN in respect of protection of lives, rights and dignities of citizens.

# Immediate needs of IDPs

From the various emergency interventions the dioceses' have carried out, immediate needs of the IDPs could be listed as follows:

- ❖ Make shift shelters are insufficient and overcrowded. because of this, there often noticed, the high exposure of IDPs to the risk of communicable diseases and SGBV.
- ❖ In spite of efforts of well meaning persons, the IDPs lack FIs and NFIs and are exposed to risks of becoming food insecure.
- ❖ Child protection mechanisms are weak and dysfunctional.
- ❖ Water, Sanitation and Hygiene facilities are completely absent in most camps and hosting communities.
- ❖ Access to Education is greatly poor amongst the IDP population as pupils are subjected to sit on bare floor under trees. Very many have dropped out of school since the height of this attacks beginning 2014 and have not returned to school ever since.
- ❖ Even though MSf and other groups assist with issues of health, health Care facilities are generally absent. Absence of Immunizations, ante- natal and birth registration services have exposed IDPs to high mobility and mortality risk.
- ❖ IDPs are poorly protected from effects of armed conflict as they are sometimes attacked by the herders even in the camps or communities they have run to for shelter. As a result, there are families, that have experienced multiple displacements.
- ❖ Absence of post-traumatic stress counseling. Even the Makurdi diocesan office of the JDPC provides some assistance in this area, the effort is a drop in the ocean because of the huge population of displaced persons.

Wash facility at the Uikpiam idps camp



THANK YOU FOR LISTENING