

Two pregnant IDPs die in Benue community

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The Executive Secretary of the Benue State Emergency Management Agency, James Iorpuu.

By John Charles

At least two pregnant internally displaced women have died within five days in Agagbe, Gwer West Local Government Area of Benue State.

Sources told our correspondent on Monday that the women — Aondona Dooshima, 30, and Sumali Blessing, 28 — died on February 26 and March 1, 2026, respectively.

A resident of the area, Terna, who spoke on condition of anonymity, attributed the deaths to poverty and inadequate access to healthcare.

According to him, Dooshima, who was displaced from Tse Nongu Tswarev in Gaambe Ushin Council Ward, began experiencing severe abdominal pain on February 26.

“She complained of abdominal pain, but the family had no money for proper medical care. When the pain persisted, she was taken to a clinic in Agagbe, where she later died,” he said.

Terna added that while the community was still mourning Dooshima, another pregnant woman, Sumali Blessing, also died. Blessing, said to be from Tse Ameen in Mbapa Council Ward, reportedly fell ill but could not access adequate care due to financial constraints.

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“The husband later took her to a primary healthcare centre in Abani on Sunday, but it was too late. She died the following day, and her body was deposited at the Agagbe morgue,” the source added.

He noted that the deceased women and their families had sought refuge in Agagbe after being displaced by attacks in their ancestral communities. He appealed to the state government, well-meaning individuals and non-governmental organisations to provide urgent assistance to displaced persons in the area, particularly in the area of healthcare and welfare support.

When contacted, the Information Officer of the Benue State Emergency Management Agency, Tema Ager, clarified that although the women were displaced persons, they were not residing inside the official camp.

“The two women were not staying in the camp but were living within the host community,” Ager said.

The deaths have again highlighted the challenges faced by displaced families in Benue State, many of whom have struggled with limited access to healthcare, food and other basic necessities following years of attacks that forced them from their homes.

Agagbe is one of the 14 official Internally Displaced Persons camps in Benue State.