



Needs Assessment and Intervention Strategies in Providing Needs of IDPs in North-Central, Nigeria

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Abstract

In the past decade, an alarming number of people in Nigeria have had to abandon their homes and livelihoods in the face of civil conflict, natural or economic disasters as well as other threats. More people since the early 2013 are now displaced in north central, Nigeria as a result of herders and farmers crisis. This paper is set to look at the needs of the IDPs and the intervention strategies by government and non governmental agencies. The qualitative and quantitative data was used in the study. A sample size of 300 was used out of which only 186 provide answered to the questions asked. The simple percentage was used to present data. The key informant interview was also used to compliment quantitative data collected via structure questionnaire. The study found that the needs of IDPs in the area were not met. This was because government agencies did not asked them of their needs. The study revealed among others that even though there are strategies adopted but such policies were not satisfactory. Corruption among the IDPs camp officers posed a serious challenge, for they sometimes divert funds and items meant to IDPs. It was recommended among others that the evils of corruption and incompetence must be addressed to prevent suffering of IDPs in camps.

Keyword: Needs assessment, intervention strategies, IDPs, North Central, Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

The Global Report on Internal Displacement (2018) stated that there were 6.9 million new internal displacements associated with conflict and violence in 2016, primarily in sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East. This represents a 20 per cent decrease from 2015 estimates, due largely to fewer reported new displacements in Iraq, Syria and Yemen. That said, figures for new displacement by conflict still indicate an overall rising trend with an annual average of 5.3 million new displacements a year since 2003, roughly 15,000 people forced to flee their homes every day. This according to the report correlates with findings that although the number of active conflicts has declined over the same period, those being fought became steadily more lethal from 2010 to 2014 and then slightly less so in 2015 (Global Report on Internal Displacement, 2018). The downturn over the last two years should not mask significant new internal displacement not only in the Middle East, but also in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Nigeria and Yemen, as well as that associated with violence perpetrated by drug gangs and other criminal groups in Central America. In 2017, there were 30.6 million new internal displacements associated with conflict and disaster across 143 countries. This means that an average of 80,000 people were displaced every day over course of last year (Global Report on Internal, Displacement, 2018).

In the past decade, an alarming number of people in Nigeria have had to abandon their homes and livelihoods in the face of civil conflict, natural or economic disasters as well as other threats. According to Hines and Balletto (2002), as they do not cross an international border, they are considered 'internally displaced persons' (IDPs) and not refugees. More people since the early 2013 are now displaced in three states in North East, Nigeria as a result of Boko Haram insurgency (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2017).

The forced displacement of civilians remains one of the most pressing humanitarian problems in Nigeria. According to Osagioduwa and Oluwakorede (2016), the displaced lose their social, legal and economic ties and thus suffer considerable physical and psychological hardship. They often face special difficulties not shared with other conflict-affected groups that make their livelihoods insecure. Specifically these are difficulties related to re-establishing livelihoods in areas of temporary settlement or reintegration in unstable areas where traditional means of livelihoods are no longer viable (World Food Programme, 2000).

Providing the humanitarian needs of IDPs has become a huge burden for government and donor agencies especially in places where the population of the internally displaced persons is huge. In Nigeria, the outbreak of the Boko Haram insurgency in 2009 has steadily become the single greatest cause of displacement in the Lake Chad Basin region, with more than 2.3 million people becoming refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) or returnees as a result (UNHCR, 2017). The number of IDPs has more than doubled in the span of three years, from some 868,000 people identified by the Nigerian Government in the North-East region in June 2014 to 1.7 million people by June 2017 (Displacement Tracking Matrix, 2017).

The conflict has increasingly spilled into neighboring countries, with increased infiltration, suicide-bombings, attacks and recruitment by the armed group, prompting population movements from Northern Nigeria across borders to Cameroon, Chad and Niger. According to UNHCR (2017), the vast majority of IDPs in Nigeria have expressed an intention to return to their areas of origin, while almost all continue to cite significant barriers to return, including insecurity and lack of access to their home areas as well as to food and shelter. Nevertheless, significant numbers of Nigerian refugees have returned from neighboring countries of asylum, sometimes under circumstances deemed by UNHCR to fall short of international standards, including the adherence to the principle of non-refoulement. Since April 2017, significant numbers of refugees have also returned in self-organized movements, bringing the number of Nigerian returnees to approximately 135,000 registered between January and June 2017. Current trends show that similar self-organized return movements are likely to continue (UNHCR, 2017).

Two Nigerian government humanitarian agencies, the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), have been tasked with running the New Kuchingoro IDP camp (National Emergency Management Agency, 2015), but their work has not met expectations (Olanrewaju et al., 2018a; Olanrewaju et al., 2018b). The small number of men in the camp increases the burdens of these women, who are forced to eke out a living and raise children in situations that barely sustain life.

Harvey (2016), reported that access to food and drinking water, as well as meeting their basic needs, remains problematic for most displaced people, especially in semi-arid regions. Limitations in access, availability, and quality have made water the most significant source of conflict between the displaced and host communities. Numerous outbreaks of cholera and other water-borne diseases in displacement-affected areas across the region, particularly in Agan in Makurdi LGA of Benue State have been linked to this problem. Severe malnutrition has become more prevalent as the quantity and quality of available food has dramatically decreased. According to UNHCR (2017), some 5.2 million people are facing acute food insecurity in North-East Nigeria and other part of the country. Affected households have had consecutive years of restricted income levels, destruction of assets and livelihoods, and reduced food access, leading to an increase in negative coping strategies. With insecurity in Benue state, Nigeria disrupting traditional cross-border trade and herding, market prices in neighboring countries have increased, further affecting livelihood opportunities. This has called for urgent steps to address the humanitarian crisis in the state and Nigeria at large. Trying to alleviate the suffering of the IDPs has posed a huge burden on government and donor agencies. This study is therefore an attempt to investigate the needs assessment of IDPs and intervention strategies of Agan IDP camp in Benue state.

Needs Assessment

Needs assessment is a systematic process for determining and addressing needs, or "gaps" between current conditions and desired conditions or "wants". The discrepancy between the current condition and preferred condition must be measured to appropriately identify the need. The need can be a desire to improve current performance or to correct a deficiency (UNICEF, 2011).

According to Salama, Spiegel & Brennan (2001), needs assessment is a part of the planning processes, often used for improvement in individuals, organizations, or communities. It can refine and improve a product such as training or service a client receives. It can be an effective tool to clarify problems and identify appropriate interventions or solutions. Vincent & Sorenson (2001), opined that by clearly identifying the problem, finite resources can be directed towards developing and implementing a feasible and applicable solution. Gathering appropriate and sufficient data informs the process of developing an effective strategy that will address the groups' needs and wants. Needs assessments are only effective when they are ends-focused and provide concrete evidence that can be used to determine which of the possible means-to-the-ends are most effective and efficient for achieving the desired results (UNICEF, 2011).

Within a performance improvement framework, Gbervbie (2013) asserts that needs assessments play a critical role in starting the improvement process. Assessments inform future decisions; at the same time, they are informed by the results of past decisions. Needs assessments thereby link together past and future performance, guiding decisions throughout the improvement efforts. Needs assessment is therefore, an investigation to evaluation the basic needs of the IDPs in Agan camp.

Intervention Strategies in IDPs Camp

Strategies and programmes addressing the needs of IDPs usually focus on humanitarian assistance, reintegration and transition, long-term development, and protection issues. Population displacement can endure for several days, many years, or even decades. It creates acute vulnerability, triggers a wide range of needs, and stunts development. According to UNHCR (2017), intervention programmes by donor agencies are implemented in phases. These include the following:

Care and Maintenance Phase of Displacement

In the care and maintenance phase, IDPs need access to security and protection, water and food, health services, education and training, tools, microcredit, legal documents, trauma counseling, family tracing, HIV/AIDS prevention programmes, agricultural inputs and support to improve self-reliance and help IDPs and host communities to progressively meet their own needs (UNHCR, 2017). Even during this phase, some IDPs would seek to return to their areas of origin to assess conditions, harvest crops, and gradually begin the process of return and reintegration.

Long-Term Development Phase

UNHCR (2017) stated that in the long-term development phase, IDPs who have returned home or resettled elsewhere, in their respective communities, and local governments need assistance to construct or repair water systems, health systems, schools, and transportation routes. They also need access to vocational training and affordable microcredit and financial systems (for agricultural needs and short-term consumption needs). In anticipation of long-term development needs, programmes during displacement usually seek to prepare IDPs by providing training in relevant skills, including literacy and numeracy training for adults, agricultural extension services, and conflict resolution programs.

USAID (2016), disclosed that inclusion of IDPs in broader development strategies reflects a growing understanding that population displacement can negatively affect a country's stability and longer-term development prospects. In all these phases, donor agencies programmes do incorporate several approaches such as:

Empowerment and Self-Reliance: Donor agencies programmes seek to empower IDPs and promote self-reliance by engaging them as planners, implementers, and beneficiaries. As appropriate, the programmes provide health, education, and psychosocial services. The agencies also facilitate IDP relations and integration into host communities and address key issues such as HIV/AIDS; gender-based violence; access to land and land tenure; property rights, especially for women; and access to justice and democratic processes.

Differentiation of Affected Populations: According to USAID (2016) donor agencies programmes use this approach to include in all assessments, programme designs, and programme evaluations, attention to gender issues; recognition of differential impacts of conditions on children, adults, elderly persons, and persons with disabilities; and the significance of ethnic, social, or religious differences within affected populations.

Community-Based Programming: In this approach, donor agencies promote community-based programmes tailored to the needs of each community. The programmes focus on security, rehabilitation, social justice and reconciliation, social and economic wellbeing, good governance, and local democratic participation (USAID, 2016).

Comprehensive Coordination: Donor agencies in this approach coordinate financial and staff resources to ensure that bureaus, missions, other government agencies, and other partners work together with a unified strategic plan to achieve clearly stated strategic objectives that offer post conflict societies the best possible opportunity to overcome serious harm suffered.

Conflict Mitigation and Management: Donor agencies are required to conduct thorough conflict vulnerability analyses in countries experiencing current or recent conflict and where clear potential for conflict exists. Where relevant, donor agencies long-term development strategies include conflict mitigation, management, and response (USAID, 2016).

Strategic Planning: The impact of internal displacement on long-term development objectives as well as the beneficial effects development programmes can have on IDPs is integrated into country Strategic Objectives. For example, USAID missions implement, where necessary, interim strategic plans to respond rapidly and flexibly in crisis and post crisis situations. In countries prone to conflict or recurring natural disasters, missions include provisions to prevent, address, and mitigate population displacements.

Humanitarian Access: The most fundamental protection to be afforded IDPs and other vulnerable populations is access to lifesaving humanitarian assistance. The presence of humanitarian assistance staff can, in many situations, provide a degree of protection for at-risk populations. To overcome deliberate blockages of international humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations by foreign governments and insurgents, diplomatic and other appropriate measures are employed as a matter of priority, in close coordination with the UN or inter-national organizations.

Protection Lens: Donor agencies apply a "protection lens" or awareness of protection needs strategies to ensure that protection considerations are integrated into all phases of programming for IDPs, from emergency aid and medium-term relief assistance to transitional aid and long-term development assistance. Protection needs of vulnerable populations are considered in initial needs assessments, strategic plans, programme designs, programme monitoring, and evaluations.

Practical Measures: Donor agencies employ a range of flexible, practical measures to address the widely varying protection needs of IDPs. Protection activities should be tailored to meet the needs and realities of each situation.

Sensitivity to Vulnerable Subgroups: Some IDPs are more vulnerable than others because of their age, gender, ethnicity, religion, political opinions, physical locations, or other special circumstances. Humanitarian assistance and protection programs become more effective when they identify and address the differential effects of disaster on population subgroups. For example, displaced women and children separated from their families are especially vulnerable to human rights abuses and other dangers in conflict situations.

Human Needs Theory

According to Coate and Rosati (1988), human needs are a powerful source of explanation of human behavior and social interaction. All individuals have needs they strive to satisfy, either by using the system 'acting on the fringes' or acting as a reformist or a revolutionary. Human needs theory, just a few decades old, was popularized in the works of Abraham Maslow, John Burton, Marshal Rosenberg and Manfred Max-Neef. The theory posits that the basic cause of intractable conflict is the underlying desire of people to meet their needs on individual, group and societal bases. According to this theory, human beings need certain essentials if they must live and attain well-being in any ramification of life. Such essentials are known as (basic) human needs.

The argument of human needs theorists, therefore, is that the unavailability of alternative means to meet the needs of individuals or groups is what triggers violence or conflict. Other times, violence also occurs when humans require understanding, respect and consideration for their needs. These needs are not only subsistence ones such as food, water and shelter but also other biological needs such as participation, identity, understanding and recognition (Kok, 2007); security, safety, belonging [love], self-esteem and personal fulfillment [life satisfaction] (Maslow, 1973).

Burton (1990), who has been applying human needs theory more actively to social and political conflicts looks at how universal human needs often are neglected, causing groups to use violence to claim their rights and satisfy their needs. Marker (2003) believes that unlike interests, needs are untradeable, insuppressible and non-negotiable. Contrary to the belief that all needs are complementarily essential to human life; no need is inferior to another, Maslow (1973) views some needs as more urgent than others, but agrees that all needs are instinctive. Those he terms more urgent he sees as more powerful too. In his opinion, the powerful needs are subsistence needs such as food; water and shelter which he claims precede all other human needs. As Coate & Rosati (1988) recommended, 'social systems must be responsive to individual needs, or be subject to instability and forced change (possibly through violence or conflict).

This study is relevance in this study in that it explains that human being has it basic need and essentials if they must live and attain to difference functions. The IDPs in Agan and elsewhere have their basic needs. The theory is therefore suited well in the study hence its share the same variable pertinent to the study "the human needs".

Method

The study shall adopt a descriptive survey research design. This is a method of obtaining information i.e quantitatively and qualitatively about a population by interacting with only some people drawn from the population. The target population for this study comprises of all the IDPs in North central covering male and female. The sample size for this study was 300 IDPs and staff. The two states were randomly selected. They are IDPs in Benue and Nasarawa totaling about 4300 IDP. This sample size was determined using a sample size determination by Krejcie and Morgan (1970) for the population up to 50000. A set of structured (closed ended) questionnaire will be designed and distributed to the sample population in the IDP camps. Key informant interview (KII) is another instrument that was used in this study for data collection. Data from the questionnaire was scrutinized, coded, entered and processed through the use of Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) tool. Descriptive statistics was used to describe the basic features of the data in a study.

Result

Table 1: Distribution of respondents' socio-demographic characteristics

| Sex | Frequency (n=186) | Percentage=100 |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Male | 83 | 44.6 |
| Female | 103 | 55.4 |
| Age | | |
| 15-20 | 44 | 23.7 |
| 21-25 | 17 | 9.1 |
| 26-30 | 25 | 13.4 |
| 31-35 | 34 | 18.3 |
| 36 above | 64 | 34.4 |
| Educational attainment | | |
| No formal education | 105 | 56.6 |
| Primary | 70 | 37.6 |
| Secondary | 11 | 5.9 |
| Tertiary | 0 | 0 |
| Occupation | | |
| Students | 49 | 26.3 |
| Farmer | 130 | 69.9 |
| Civil servant | 0 | 0 |
| Business | 7 | 3.8 |

Source: fieldwork. 2023

The table presents the socio-demographic characteristics of respondents. The table reveal that majority of the respondents 55.4% (103) were female, while the male counterpart constituted 44.6% (83). This implies both male and female provide answers pertinent to the research. The dominant of female respondents indicates that they were more in number in the camp. The data on the age range of the respondents shows that 23,7 (44) belong to age range of 15-20, 9.1% (17) aged with 21-25, 13.1% (25) belong to the age range of 26-30, while 18.3% (34) were within the age of 31-35 and majority 34.4% (64) were within the age range of 36 above. This implies that IDPs of different age range provide basic information regarding their need and the effort of government in providing their basic need in the camp. Furthermore, the data on the educational attainment of the respondents show that majority of the respondents 56.6% (105) have no formal education, 37.6% (70) have primary school certificate and 5.9% (11) obtained secondary school certificate. This

shows the high level of illiteracy in the area. It might also be that educated ones were outside the camp for job opportunities. The data on occupation revealed that majority of the respondents 69.9 (130) were farmers, 26.3% (49) were students and 3.8 % (7) were business men and women. It can be deduce that farmers are the dominant occupation in the LGA.

Basic need of IDPs in Benue and Nasarawa

Table.2: Distribution of respondents responses on the basic needs of Internal Displaced Persons

| Needs | Yes =%(N) | No = %(N) |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Food | 67.2% (125) | 32.8% (61) |
| Good Shelter | 59.1% (110) | 40.9% (76) |
| Clothing | 69.9% (130) | 30.1% (56) |
| Effective Security system | 61.3% (114) | 38.7% (72) |
| Good Heathcare facilities | 55.9% (104) | 44.1% (82) |
| Quality Education for children | 61.3% (114) | 38.7% (72) |
| Good Toilet facilities | 53.8% (100) | 46.2% (86) |
| Good sources of Water | 66.7% (124) | 33.3% (62) |
| Counseling | 87.1% (162) | 12.9% (24) |

Source: fieldwork, 2023

The table shows the basic needs of the IDPs camp. The table indicates that majority of the respondents 56.5% (105) need good water, 67.2% (125) need good shelter, 69.9 (130) need clothing, 61.3%(114) need effective security, 55.9% (104) need good health care, 61.3% (114) need quality education, 53.8% (100) need good toilet facilities, 66.7% (124) need good source of water and 87.1% (162) need counseling services. It can be inferred that those that did not need all these facilities want to return to their original homes and as such they did not need such items in the camp as said by one of the respondents in an interview: *for me, what I need is to go back to my place. So I don't expect anything here. Government should try and make us return to our homes, simple.* However, the study found the IDPs in Agan camp need basics things to make their lives meaningful while in the camp.

Intervention strategies adopted in providing IDPs basic need in IDPs

Table 3: Distribution of respondents responses on the request of their basic needs by the government

| Responses | Frequency(N=186) | % =100 |
|-----------|-------------------|--------|
| Yes | 71 | 38.2 |
| No | 115 | 61.8 |

Source: fieldwork, 2023

The table indicates that majority of the respondents 61.8% (115) were not asked about their need when they first admitted to the camp, while 38.2% (71) said they were asked about their needs. This shows that there were no proper and well documented records or information on the individual and collective needs of the IDPs in Agan Camp. However, the government officials and other relevance authorities might assume the needs of the IDPs as pointed out by human need theory.

Table 4: Distribution of respondents' responses on awareness of the strategies adopted by government to provide their basic needs

| Area of assistant | Yes | No |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Care and humanitarian phase (food, accommodation, clothing, healthcare) | 53.7% (100) | 46.3% (86) |
| Adequate Security | 61.8% (115) | 38.2% (71) |
| Empowerment and self-reliance phase | 29.0 % (54) | 71.0% (132) |
| Re-integration phase | 6.5% (12) | 93.5% (174) |
| Children education phase | 69.9% (130) | 30.1% (56) |
| Practical measure phase | 66.1% (123) | 33.9% (63) |

Source : fieldwork, 2023

The table shows the strategies adopted by government agencies in providing the needs of IDPs camp. The table revealed that majority 53.7% (100) of the respondents were aware of the care management phase like providing of health care, food, clothing, accommodation in the camp, majority of the respondents 61.8 (115) agreed on the strategy to provide security, 71.0% (132) said they did not received any assistant in the area of empowerment and self-reliance phase. In the area of re-integration, majority 93.5% (174) said they did not received any assistant in the area of re-integration to their respective families and friends. In the area of children's education, majority 69.9% (130) said they received assistant in the area of child education. In the area of practical measure phase, the majority of the respondents 66.1% (123) said they received assistant in difference.

Table 5 Distribution of respondents' responses on receiving assistant

| Response | Frequency | Percentage |
|----------|-----------|------------|
| YES | 124 | 66.7 |
| NO | 62 | 33.3 |

Source: fieldwork, 2024

This is an opening table on research question two which sought to find out the strategies adopted in addressing IDPs basic needs. The table revealed that majority of the respondents 66.7% (124) agreed that there was some strategies in practice, while 33.3% (62) did not agreed knowing of any strategies in addressing their basic needs. It can be inferred that there were some strategies adopted by government and non governmental agencies in addressing the basic needs of the IDPs in Agan camp.

Assessment of the success and performance of intervention strategies by government and agencies in providing IDPs needs

Table 6 Distribution of respondents' assessment of the success and performance of intervention strategies by government and non-governmental agencies provide IDPs needs

| Services | Yes | No |
|---|------------|-------------|
| Adequate Security and protection | 28.0% (52) | 72.0% (134) |
| Care of management phase (Adequate Water, food etc) | 30.6% (57) | 69.4% (129) |
| Quality Education and training | 25.3% (47) | 74.7% (139) |
| Empowerment and self- reliance phase | 6.5% (12) | 93.5% (174) |
| Traumatic counseling services phase | 10.2% (19) | 89.8% (167) |
| Aids family tracing and re-integration phase | 12.4% (23) | 87.6% (163) |

Source: field work, 2023

The table provides answer to research question three that sought to assess the success of intervention strategies in IDPs camp. The table revealed that despite the efforts made majority of the respondents 72.0% (134) said adequate security were not provided in the camp, majority 69.4% (129) said that there was no adequate care and management phase (water and food etc) provided in the camp. Also, majority of the respondents 74.7% (139) were of the view that quality education and training were not provided in the camp, majority 93.5% (174) said that empowerment and self-reliance were not giving to IDPs, also majority of the respondents 89.8% (167) said that traumatic counseling services were not offered to them. The table revealed that majority of the respondents 87.6% (163) said that there were no efforts made to help trace their misplaced family. It can be inferred from the table that the success recorded by the government strategies in providing basic need of the IDPs were low meaning it was not enough. As revealed in the table all the aforementioned efforts were not enough as identified by the respondents.

Table 7: Distribution of responses on the level of satisfaction of government efforts in addressing the needs of IDPs

| Responses | Frequency (N=186) | Percentage (100) |
|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Satisfactory | 54 | 29.0 |
| Dissatisfactory | 124 | 66.7 |
| Difficult to say | 8 | 4.3 |

Source: fieldwork, 2023

The table is backup information of the previous table that sought to ascertain the level of satisfaction of the respondents. The table indicates that majority 66.7% (124) were dissatisfied with the government effort in addressing the plight of IDPs while 29.0 (54) were satisfied with the efforts. It can be summarized the respondents' assessment on the strategies in addressing their basic needs. The table revealed that majority of the respondents was not satisfied with the assistant and practical application of the strategies adopted by the government and non governmental agencies in addressing their need.

Considering the data collected and presented on the research objective three with corresponding objective found that government and non governmental agencies have adopted some strategies that could alleviate the suffering of the IDPs in Agan camp. However, such efforts were not satisfactory. This also entails that despite the execution of some strategies in helping IDPs to cope well in the camp by the government and non-governmental agencies but such effort were not enough in addressing the plight of the IDPs in Agan camp. One of the IDPs who were 43 years old said:

The government is not doing anything for us as regards our survival. Those officials working for the government agencies will just come to the camp for investigation of all the relief materials given to us by the non-government agencies and religious organisations and philanthropists Even the purpose of officials coming from the agencies is that they are the third parties between the non-government agencies and the religious organisations and philanthropists that always give us some food items. The major function of these officials is just to come and screen all these items or donations and give feedback to their authorities (interview, 2023).

Another respondent drew attention to the severity of the women's deprivation due to the government's lack of support:

Internally displaced women in Agan IDP camp are seriously suffering at the hand of the government ... Since we have been in the camp, we are struggling to survive. We are not really getting much from the government and as a result of the lack of government financial and humanitarian support, the

internally displaced women cannot get educational support, medical support and proper welfare. Many women have been dying as a result of poor medical facilities in the camp because of the living conditions and situations of things in the Agan IDPs camp (interview, 2023).

Another respondent who was 32 years old decried:

Even though the government agencies occasionally brought help, the distribution process was unfair because the items did not extend to all the women (FGD with IDW#27, July 26, 2021). "Some got the basic amenities, but many were not so lucky" (interview, 2023).

This apparently inadequate response by the NCFRMI and NEMA shows that there even when help was forthcoming, it was poorly planned and insufficient for all the women. This observation aligns with a report in the Business Day newspaper in 2020, which highlighted how the women shared their grief when the camp was given aid, yet some women received nothing

Challenges facing government and donor agencies in addressing the needs of IDPs in Camp

Table 8: Distribution of respondents on the challenges facing by IDPs in Agan camp

| Challenges | Yes | No |
|--|--------------|-------------|
| -Overcrowding | 72.6% (135) | 27.4 % (51) |
| Food shortage | 74.7% (139) | 23.3% (47) |
| Inadequate security | 57.5 % (107) | 42.5 % (79) |
| Molestation and sexual harassment | 41.9% (78) | 54.1% (106) |
| Unequal distribution of items | 54.8 % (102) | 45.2% (84) |
| Inadequate provision of healthcare services | 80.0 % (145) | 22.0 % (41) |
| Poor accommodation | 74.7% (139) | 25.3 % (47) |

Source: fieldwork, 2023

This table sought to find out the challenges face by IDPs in camp. The table reviewed that 72.6% (135) said that they faced overcrowding problem, 74.7% (139) said they faced with food shortage problem, 57.5% (107) pointed out that they faced inadequate security in the camp, 54.8% said there were unequal distribution of items brought by government and non governmental agencies. Also, 80.0% (145) posited that there were inadequate provision of health care services, 74.4% (139) agreed that they faced with poor accommodation in the camp.

Key informants interview responses by the government officials on the challenges facing in providing the needs of IDPs camp

In an interview with the one of the government officials who were said to 56 years old said that:

Corruption is the major problem facing us here in the camp. This is because the money allocated for the provision of food items are been diverted. The level of corruption in this country is worrisome, the , money allocated to us is always announce or make known to the public but practically not release to us. This is the situation we are facing here (interview, 2023)

Another officer who was said to be 42 years in an interview responded that:

Lack of coordination among the IDPs is one of the problems were facing in trying to provide their need. For instance, in trying to provide food items to the IDPs most of them are greedy and collected more than required, thereby creating difficulties to others (KII, 2023)

In addition, another respondent in an interview pointed out that:

We don't have enough funds to provide the basic need of the IDPs. As you can see, their accommodations are in a poor state, inadequate good water among others. All these are as a result of inadequate fund provided by the government to manned or catered for the welfare of the IDPs (KII, 2023)

Another respondents and government officer itemized that:

The following are the problems we are facing in providing the needs of the IDPs here such as illiteracy among the IDPs, greediness among the IDPs, and inadequate funds released by the government, sexual harassment, lose security (KII, 2023).

The agencies' officials appeared to believe they were doing their job. An NCFRMI official conceded that

Their practical help had stopped because the federal government had failed to release funds but did not explain why

Discussion of findings

The study sought to find out the needs of IDPs in Agan camp. The study found that IDPs need the good and nutritious food, good accommodation, and healthcare, education for the children, traumatic counseling, good water, clothing and security. This finding of the study is in tandem with Bamidele (2015) who posited that, there is growing recognition that food aid and other assistance can save more lives in the long term if it is also provided to those whose livelihoods are at risk of failure. This requires broadening the traditional focus of humanitarian assistance from those who have already depleted their assets and are destitute to include those who risk losing their assets. (Bariledum, 2013) said that providing IDPs need food and other relief assistance,

humanitarian organizations to prevent them from depleting their assets, thus supporting an entire community's capacity to cope with crisis today and avoiding negative impacts to their health and future well-being. Emmanuel, (2015) in addition opined that, access to food and drinking water, as well as meeting their basic needs, is very vital for healthy leaving of the IDPs.

Secondly, the study found that government adopted some strategies to provide the needs of IDPs in Agan camp. Such strategies include documentation of the IDPs, provision of food items, water, and accommodation, education for children, counseling services, and security. This tally with According to UNHCR (2017), intervention programmes by donor agencies are implemented in phases. These include the following care and management phase, long term phase, practical phase, empowerment and self reliance phase, humanitarian phase and re-integration phase.

Thirdly, the study found that government intervention strategies in Agan camp were inadequate hence IDPs faced inadequate or shortage of basic need such as water, quality education, adequate food, good accommodation, traumatic counseling service among others. It was evident that the Government of Nigeria, working through these agencies, had failed to abide by the humanitarian principles of neutrality and impartiality. This failure hindered the efficient co-ordination of interventions on behalf of the women. The principle of neutrality stipulates that humanitarian action must be free from bias, while the principle of impartiality states that aid must be given on the basis of need. The finding is in tandem with Murtala and Abubakar, (2017) who posited that it appears that the NCFRMI and NEMA requested funding only when the occasion demanded it and engaged in little forward-thinking. Government officials insisted that the status quo was the way it was because agencies misappropriated funds and acted without transparency and accountability in their operations. Government officials themselves noted that there were reports of corruption, the diversion of humanitarian aid, and the misuse of power among members of staff who had been part of government service. They had been drawn from the federal civil service, with no experience nor the necessary training for humanitarian activities.

Fourthly, the study found that there are many challenges facing IDPs and government/ nongovernmental agencies in addressing the needs of IDPs. Such challenges include corruption occasion by the diversion of the items, greediness among IDPs, lack of coordination, high illiteracy, and lack of funds, overcrowding, and shortage of man power. This finding tally with Khan (2014) that some of the factors that pose challenges to IDPs including children are problems of accommodation; water and sanitation; weather and overcrowding in camps; the widening gap between health needs and health care availability. Owajoje et al., (2016); Odusanya, (2016) that others challenges face by IDPs include bites from vectors of diseases, poor nutrition, among others. IDPs and their children can hardly afford health care during displacement (Khan, 2014).

In a related view the study found that the government officials on their part faced with so many problems that limit their performance in IDPs camp. Such problems include corruption of government officials, lack of funds, lack of accountability, misuse of power among others. This finding agreed with Murtala & Abubakar, (2017) that government officials insisted that the status quo was the way it was because agencies misappropriated funds and acted without transparency and accountability in their operations. Government officials themselves noted that there were reports of corruption, the diversion of humanitarian aid, and the misuse of power among members of staff who had been part of government service. They had been drawn from the federal civil service, with no experience nor the necessary training for humanitarian activities.

Conclusion

The unsatisfactory treatment of refugees and IDPs across Africa is huge, with external agencies mainly assisting refugees, leaving those who are internally displaced to suffer neglect at the hands of incompetent state agencies. In the Agan camp, government agencies were not efficient and effective in providing food, shelter, clothing, medical supplies, water, and sanitation facilities. The expectation was that NCFRMI and NEMA would at least co-ordinate the various responses. As representatives of the Nigerian government mandated by the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, their inability to co-ordinate humanitarian intervention and responses in the camp was a concern and a constant threat to IDPs. Apart from overseeing the welfare of displaced persons, these agencies were supposed to be arranging the rehabilitation, return and reintegration of IDPs into their home communities. Where ongoing conflict prevented this, they should have been updating the IDPs on the prognosis, and possibly making alternative long-term arrangements, as a life lived permanently in camp conditions is not conducive to the health or the progress of the nation. However, this was not the case in Agan IDPs camp. It is against this problems that the recommendations for improve performance becomes pertinent.

Recommendations

Arising from the above, the following recommendations were made:

1. The evils of corruption and incompetence must be addressed to prevent the circumstances of IDW in camps like the one in the study from deteriorating further.
2. The challenge is for the Nigerian government to demonstrate care for its citizens in fighting the war against terror and in managing those displaced by war.
3. The government must pay attention to the long-term consequences of allowing large swathes of the population to remain disenfranchised, materially reduced, and economically helpless.
4. In addition, the government needs to begin planning for the proper care, management, and rehabilitation of IDPs. Currently, one cannot but conclude that the Nigerian government pays only lip service to human rights and the international treaties to which it is a signatory.

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