

MANAGING INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN NIGERIA: THE CASE OF INSURGENCY IN THE NORTH-EAST GEO-POLITICAL ZONE



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Abstract

The issue of displaced persons in recent time has been a global problem especially in third world countries. The displacement across the globe is due to communal violence, natural disaster, internal armed conflicts, land/border conflicts, floods and drought, ethno-religious conflicts and terrorist attacks. Global experiences have shown that most displaced persons are vulnerable to threats to security and physical integrity, loss of contact with children and family members, inadequate and insecure shelter, discrimination in aids distribution, psycho-social stress, sexual and gender-based violence. The situation is the same in Nigeria, especially in the North East geo-political zone, where the emergence of Boko Haram insurgent has led to wanton destruction of lives and properties, displacement of people from their place of origin, sharp segregation of community and polarization of once generally mixed population in term of faith. The main objective of this paper therefore, was to analyze the effect of displacement on citizens' life and sustainability and to determine the extent to which the style of management of internally displaced persons (IDPs) affects the living condition of the affected population. In an attempt to address the topic under investigation, the study relied on authoritative and valid secondary source of data such as books, journals, magazines, national dailies, articles etc. The major finding of the paper revealed that crisis induced displacement can hamper development in all its ramification in developing countries including Nigeria. Further evidence showed that although the emergence of Boko Haram crisis in the North-East geo political zone has resulted in the establishment of temporary camps managed by National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and other international agencies, low priority is given by both the federal and state governments to IDPs issues. Besides, there is absence of clear cut policy and legal instruments and institutions to deal with pre-and post-displacement situations. The paper recommended, among others that the national emergency management agency and other international agencies should be well equipped, trained and financed

to meet up with current challenges. Governments should acquire the state-of-the-art facilities and infrastructures for the containment of disasters. Also, for displaced persons to be managed effectively there is need for accommodation, such that displaced persons are settled in satisfactory conditions of safety, nutrition, health and hygiene and that members of the same family are not separated. Adequate measures should be taken to ensure that government aids to displaced persons get to them instead of being diverted by corrupt government officials. Finally, for IDPs management to be effective, it must be driven across all sectors, disciplines and resources. This requires the commitment of all the tiers of government, private sector as well as civil society organizations (CSOs)

Keywords: Internally Displaced, Insurgency, Terrorism, Refugees and North East Geo political Zone

Background to the Study

The issue of displaced persons in recent time has been a global phenomenon. The displacement across the globe is due to communal violence, natural disaster, internal armed conflicts, border conflicts, ethno-religious conflicts and terrorist attacks. Irrespective of the cause of the displacement, the phenomenon always leaves socio-economic, political and physical assaults on millions of people worldwide, such as: vulnerability to security and physical threats, loss of lives and properties, loss of contact with children and family members, inadequate and insecure shelter, discrimination in aids distribution, psycho-social stress, sexual and gender-based violence. Other challenges include loss of personal documentation, hampered access to health care, adequate food, water and sanitation, education, employment, lack of access to basic services, issue of housing, land and property, and unsafe or involuntary return, local integration or relocation (United Nations Human Rights, 2011).

Becoming displaced within one's own country does not confer special legal status in the same sense as does becoming a refugee. IDPs remain citizens or habitual residents of a particular country and continue to be entitled to enjoy the rights available to the population as a whole. However, because of their special situation, specific needs and the heightened vulnerability that flow from the fact of being displaced, they are entitled to special protection and assistance (Muhammed, 2013). Recent happenings in Nigeria show that internal displacement in Nigeria is not only caused by natural and human-made disasters, ethno-religious-political conflicts, but mainly due to insurgency especially in the North-East geo political zone. The most severe problem facing Nigeria in general and North-East in particular is insurgency. Insurgency has devastating consequences on economic, religious, political and social activities of the Nigerian state, especially in the state of Borno, Yobe, Bauchi, Plateau, Kaduna, Niger, and some others. The activities of the insurgents have been damaging both physically and psychological (Danjibo, 2009, Anifowose, 2012, Abide, 2012, Ilechukwu, 2014). In fact, the activities of

Boko Haram have stimulated the other ethnic groups to embark on extra judicial adventures which can lead to anarchy and collapse of the state. Also, through Boko Haram activities, foreign direct investment in Nigeria has decreased and Nigeria's investment climate has also been declared risky and expatriates are weary of working in Nigeria due to the unsafe nature of the country.

A serious source of concern however lies with internal displacement of persons (IDPS) arising as a result of insurgents invasion of North East geo-political zone in Nigeria. The invasion of insurgent group in the region started in form of socio-political group. In 2011 it took a new dimension, when Boko Haram as terrorist group appeared in the world map. From 2011 till date, the activities of this insurgent group have inflicted serious injuries and hardship to the lives and properties of people in the area. Thousands of lives and properties have been destroyed while many people have been displaced from their permanent homes. Boko Haram attacks have undermined public safety across the country especially in the North East geo-political zone and scared it development. The attack includes daily killings, bombing, thefts and destruction of schools, home and businesses. Also, many villages were annexed and declared "sovereign state" of Boko Haram territory (Daily Trust, 2014). About 3.3 million internally displaced persons (IDPS) exist in Nigeria out of which 850,000 are from North East. This population approximately represent 10 percent and third of IDPS in the world behind Syria (6.5 million) and Colombia (5.7 million), and highest population of conflict displaced persons in Africa (Premium Times, 2015).

The increasing deadly attacks of the insurgents on various communities and the destruction of lives, properties, business and farm lands has forced many inhabitants' to flee their homes to nearby towns and villages. This situation called for government urgent intervention to usher in more sober responses to the plight of the internally displaced persons.

Statement of the Problem

It is a paradox that Nigeria is a rich country, inhabited by the poor and accounts for the highest percentage of internally displaced persons in Africa as a result of conflict and generalized violence. The increasing spread of nefarious activities of the Boko Haram sect in Nigeria and the destruction of lives and property is a serious issue that could not be dismissed with a wave of hand. In the last few years, the security situation in the country has worsened. Bombing, killing, mass murder, abduction, kidnapping and other crimes against humanity are on the increase in Nigeria as a result of communal violence, natural disaster, internal armed conflicts, border conflicts, ethno-religious conflicts and terrorist attacks (Hassan, 2014). It is instructive to state that this development has resulted into wanton destruction of lives and properties, displacement of people from their original homes, segregation of families and communities. In an attempt to reduce the citizens suffering as a result of security challenges confronting the country especially in the North East geo-political zone, various humanitarian measures have been introduced by the federal government through the establishment of National Emergency Management Agencies (NEMA) at the federal and state levels with the support of

international agencies for the effective management of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nigeria.

Boko Haram insurgency has caught the attention of international community following series of violent attacks which have led to increase in numbers of IDPs in Nigeria. Insurgency has forced many IDPs in the North-East to run to neighbouring communities that are safe, usually taking refuge in temporary shelters such as schools, public buildings and places of worship among others; having been deprived of their homes and sometimes their land and livelihoods. Most IDPs live in informal settlements or settlements within host communities and some of these arrangements lack sufficient access to food, water and sanitation, health and non-food items. Most of the places being used as camps are secondary schools, teachers' village, Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) Secretariat, NYSC camp, Arabic Teachers' College and other private places (Ocha, 2015). While some efforts are made by humanitarian and faith-based organisations and government agencies to address some of the basic needs of IDPs, their vulnerability tend to be increased by barriers to accessing healthcare services, education, employment, economic activities and information for participation in decision making affecting their lives. With some IDPs camped in school buildings, education is usually disrupted for both local communities and displaced children (Muhammed, 2013).

IDPs in Nigeria faced insecurity and all forms of exploitation and abuse, including rape, largely because IDPs are camped in congested shelters, isolated, insecure or inhospitable areas. IDPs are also largely separated from their families especially, unaccompanied children and teenagers, the elderly and sick, the handicapped and pregnant women, whose special needs and privacy are not attended to, due to fragmented and uncoordinated humanitarian response to the needs of IDPs. It was also observed that governments have not allocated sufficient human and financial resources, complemented by accountability and monitoring mechanisms to find durable solutions to IDPs.

One of the fundamental bases of existence of government in any society is the protection of lives, properties and conducive environment for the people especially during the period of crisis. It is disheartening to note that the Nigerian government, over the years, have consistently displayed incompetency in taking care of displaced persons, most especially, in terms of funding, provision of materials and facilities. Also, the government has not adequately addressed the needs of internally displaced persons through the provision of humanitarian assistance and overseeing their return, resettlement and reintegration through normal sectoral planning. In Nigeria, there is lack of standard coordinated multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary procedures and guides for government institutions, development and humanitarian agencies in planning and responding to matters of internal displacement of persons in a significant and effective manner as it is applicable in developed and most developing nations across the globe.

The findings of the research conducted by Olagunju (2006) revealed that both federal and local governments in Nigeria have failed to put in place adequate machinery to address IDPS issues. Notable scholars have also argued in respect of non-availability or limited provisions of those ingredients identified by United Nations. Onanuga (2013), Hassan (2014), Odusile (2014), Olatunji (2014), and Omeihe (2014) observed that non-availability of required United Nations Organisation (UNO) provisions in the country, most especially as it relates to the protection of the human rights of IDPs can be traceable to lackluster attitude of Nigerian leaders. The alarming situation of temporary camps for the displaced persons in Nigeria is seen by majority as a manifestation of the various ills of mal-governance in the state.

Onanuga (2013) on his part argued that the lackluster attitude of government was as a result of poor governance, lack of responsive political leadership, poor institutionalization of democratic governance and endemic institutional corruption. Most times, some of the materials meant for the IDPs are diverted for selfish interest. Onanuga noted further that about 22 camps are now established in the North East geo-political zone, most of which are temporary camps. This shows that Nigerian government has failed to plan for permanent camps with necessary facilities. Also, there is absence of clear cut policy, legal instruments and institutions to deal with pre and post displacement situations.

The gap in knowledge that this paper attempts to fill is that several studies have been conducted *on insurgency and terrorism in Nigeria and its implication on regional integration in West Africa region*. Available literatures on terrorism focus mostly on justifying the rationale behind the activities of the insurgents. Notable among them are: Salisu, Mohd, & Abdullahi, (2015), Olagunju (2006), Powell and Abraham (2006), Okoli, & Iortyer, (2014), Oduwole, & Fadeyi, (2013). Other studies includes, O'Neill, (1990), Imasuen, (2015), Hassan, (2014), Bozimo, (2010), Akpan, Ekanem, & Olofu-Adeoye (2014), etc. Though, a large body of literature exists on terrorism as shown above with the bulk of these studies focusing mainly on international perspective, however, few attempts have been made to examine the implications of internal displacement arising from insurgency on national development in Nigeria.

Objectives of the Study

The primary objective of this paper is to analyze the effect of displacement on citizens' lives and sustainability in North-East, Nigeria. It will also examine the extent to which the style of management of internally displaced persons (IDPs) affects the living condition of the affected population.

Conceptual Framework

In this section, attempts were made to explain the major concepts in the study. These include displaced persons, refugees, terrorism, and disaster management.

Displaced Persons: can be defined as a group of persons who are forced or obligated to flee or to leave their place of residence, in order to stay off the consequences of armed conflict, violations of human rights, situations of generalized violence, man-made or natural disaster, to another area that is considered relatively safe within their national borders (as internally displaced persons) or travel across an international border (as refugees) (Ladan, 2006).

In the views of Ocha (2003), IDPS are persons or group of persons who because of armed conflict, systematic violations of human rights, internal strife, or natural or manmade disasters have been coerced to flee their homes or places of habitat residence suddenly or unexpectedly to another location but have not crossed an internationally recognized state border. In essence, it is obvious that IDPS are the victims of the brutality of man against man, violence confrontations as well as various kinds of inhuman treatment perpetrated either by their own government or by other against them, such as terrorism, communal clashes, religious conflicts, riots, natural disasters and so on. Similarly, Oduwole & Fadeyi, (2013) define internally displaced persons (IDPS) as a group of people who as a result of situations of armed conflicts, mass violations of human rights, floods, earthquakes and other natural disasters, fleeing their homes for safety and protection within the country. Refugees represent the displaced persons who have crossed an international border and falls under one international legal instrument. The term refugee therefore refers to any person who:

as a result of events occurring before 1st of January 1951 and owing to well founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion is outside the country of his (or her) nationality...or owing to such fear, is willing to avail himself (or herself) of the protection of that country.... (Ladan, 2006).

The African Union Convention (1969) governing the specific aspect of refugee problem in Africa states that:

the term refugee shall also apply to every person who owing to external aggression, occupation, foreign domination or events seriously disturbing public order in either part of the whole of his (or her) country of origin or nationality, is compelled to leave his (or her) place of habitual residence in order to seek refuge in another place outside his (or her) country of origin or nationality (cited in Oduwole & Fadeyi, 2013)

Under the Cartagena Declaration, the term refugee is defined as persons who have fled their countries because their lives, safety or freedom have been threatened by generalized violence, foreign aggression, internal conflicts, massive violations of human rights or other circumstance which have seriously disturbed public order (UNHCR, 1995). Insurgency is an ambiguous concept. The United States Department of Defence defines it as organized movement that has the aim of overthrowing a constituted government through subversive means and armed conflict (Cited in Hellesen, 2008). This definition suggests that insurgent groups employ unlawful means towards achieving an end, which could be political, religious, social or even ideological. Insurgency refers to a

violent move by a person or group of persons to resist or oppose the enforcement of law or running of government or revolt against constituted authority of the state or of taking part in insurrection (Powell & Abraham, 2006). O'Neill (1990) defined insurgency as a struggle between a non-ruling group and the ruling authorities in which the non-ruling group consciously uses political resources and violence to destroy, reformulate, or sustain the basis of one or more aspects of polities.

Insurgency according to Imasuen (2015), is a struggle to control a contested political space, between a state (or a group of states or occupying powers), and one or more popularly based, non-state challengers. He further draws a line between classical and contemporary insurgencies indicating that the latter seek to replace the existing order, while the former sometimes strive for the expulsion of foreign invaders from their territory or seek to fill an existing power vacuum. It is also important to note that insurgency changes in consonance with the political, economic, social and technical condition of the global society. Contemporarily, insurgent organizations are comprised of loose coalitions of the willing human networks that range from local to global and operate across the spectrum from local to transnational territories (Reed, 2007). In Nigeria, the linkage that is established between Boko Haram and Al-Qaeda terrorist group buttresses the international network of modern insurgent groups.

Terrorism has been defined in various ways by different people. In contemporary social discourse, the concept of terrorism has been used to denote various forms of unconventional, illegitimate violence targeted by a group at the state or society, or any section of the population thereof (Okoli & Lortyer, 2014). The word 'terrorism' was first coined in the 1790s to refer to terror meted out during the French Revolution by revolutionaries against their opponents. Chomsky (2001) defines terrorism as the use of coercive means aimed at populations in an effort to achieve political, religious or even other aims.

As Bozimo (2010) puts it, terrorism can mean almost any violent act by any opponent. To other scholars, terrorism is a process comprising several phases; it is a strategy, a form of political violence approximating insurrection, rebellion, anarchy or political protests or revolution. Shobayo (2012) argues that terrorism is the aggression unjustly carried out by individuals, groups or states against human beings. According to him, it includes any violent act or threat carried out as part of individual or collective criminal plan aimed at terrifying or harming people or endangering their lives, freedom or security.

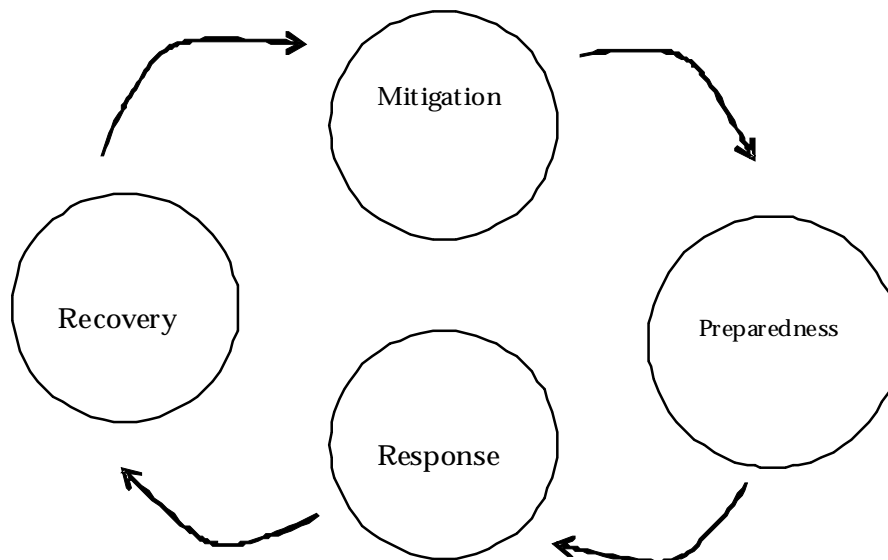
Ajayi (2012) defines terrorism as an act intended to instill fear and submission in the targeted victims. It is usually unprovoked, random and unpredictable while its commonest form is bombing. It could also take the form of hijacking of commercial aircraft, kidnapping, assassination, gun attack, arson and frontal assaults on important state institutions. The perpetrators are usually religious fundamentalists, extremist of the right and left governments and underground organizations. Bozimo (2010) defines terrorism as a calculated use of violence and non-violence, or threat or both to intimidate,

to frighten, oppress and suppress people into submission usually for the purpose of achieving certain goals. Disaster is any serious, sudden or slow disruption that affects a community leading to 10 or more deaths, or affecting 100 or more people or occurring at a scale that warrants emergency or external assistance. World Health Organization (WHO) (2010), defines disaster as an occurrence of a vast “ecological breakdown in the man-environment relationship”. In the view of Soneye (2011), disaster is an occurrence of a sudden or major misfortune, which disrupts the basic fabric, and normal functioning of a society or community and which gives rise to casualties and/or damage or loss of property, infrastructure, essential sources or means of livelihood on a scale which is beyond the normal capacity of the affected communities to cope with unaided.

Disaster management therefore means systematic or tactical measures to put in place necessary measures in order to reduce loss of lives and property and generally mitigate human suffering in the face of such calamitous happenings (Sundness & Bimbanum, 2003). Thus, disaster management is the coordination and integration of all activities necessary to build, sustain and improve the capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to and recover from threatening or actual natural or human-induced disasters. It is the coordination and integration of all activities necessary to build, sustain and improve the capability for disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery (Muhammed, 2013).

Brewster (2004) identified four phases of comprehensive disaster management which include: mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery as shown below:

Figure 1: Phases of Disaster Management



Source: Brewster, P. (2000).

Figure 1 above shows that each activity in disaster management process does not overlap but distinct and separate. Quarantelli (1986) however introduced another approach to disaster management process which include: (1) hazard, risk, and vulnerability (HRV) analysis; (2) mitigation; (3) response (including alert and warning, impact, immediate post-impact, and rescue); (4) recovery and reconstruction; (5) education and training; and (6) exercising or testing of emergency plans.

Theoretical Framework

The application of theory is essential instrument in any social phenomenon. The study under review can be viewed from group theory, theory of deprivation, system theory and conflict theory perspective. But for the purpose of this paper, social conflict theory and relative deprivation theory were adopted as the framework of analysis. Social conflict theorists emphasized the importance of interest over norms and values, and the ways in which the pursuit of interests generated various types of conflict as normal aspects of social life, rather than abnormal or dysfunctional occurrences (Marshall, 1998). Social conflict theorists agree that the existence of groups with different interests does not mean that they will be in conflict all the time. There may be periods of truce, or it may be that some social groups are persuaded that their interests are not different from those of other group nevertheless, periods of harmony do not last forever, and eventually, conflict will return (Collier et al, 2003). The main idea of social conflict theory revolves around competition over scarce resources (money, leisure, sexual partners), structural inequality in power and reward, as well as revolution and war (Ogunbameru, 2008).

From the above assumptions, the social conflict theory is apt and relevant for the appreciation of the conflicts challenges facing Nigeria most especially the Boko Haram insurgency which has led to continued rise in the number of IDPs in the North East geo political zone. It offers deep insights into the interlocking factors that sustain conflict. It presupposes that once conflict has occurred, it heightens and becomes challenging to restore peace on account of a number of factors such as ethnic pluralism, proliferation of arms, displacement of people, mass killing of people, existence of income disparities, social inequalities, domination of particular ethnic group over the other groups, existence of expensive republic of hoodlums and the activities of criminal entrepreneurs.

Relative Deprivation Theory

Understanding the applications, strengths and weaknesses of relative deprivation theory provides a vital background for all those interested in analyzing the issue of insurgency and internally displaced persons. To Sociologists, relative deprivation theory is used to explain the root causes of social movements and revolutions (Krahn & Harrison, 1992). Sociologist Samuel A. Stouffer (1900-1960) is credited with developing relative deprivation theory after World War II. Stouffer developed the relative deprivation theory while conducting research for the U.S. Army during World War II. He reported that World War II soldiers measured their personal success by standards based on experience in the military units in which they serve as opposed to the standards in the armed forces in general. Stouffer's relative deprivation theory, developed to understand the psychology of soldiers, grew to be an established theory of social science scholarship;

as such, he is remembered as a pioneer in the effort to combine theory and empirical research (Adams, 1970).

Relative deprivation theory refers to the idea that feelings of deprivation and discontent are related to a desired point of reference. Feelings of relative deprivation arise when desires become legitimate expectations and those desires are blocked by society. Social satisfaction is the opposite of relative deprivation. Relative deprivation is generally considered to be the central variable in the explanation of social movements and is used to explain the quest for social change that inspires social movements; social movements emerge from collective feelings of relative deprivation (Morrison, 1971).

Ted Robert Gurr explains in *Why Men Rebel* (1970) that instead of an absolute standard of deprivation, a gap between expected and achieved welfare creates collective discontent. This theory also applies to individuals who find their own welfare to be inferior to that of others to whom they compare themselves. Relative deprivation is the term used to denote the tension that develops from a discrepancy between the “ought” and the “is” of collective value satisfaction, and that disposes men to violence.” This gap between an individual's expected and achieved welfare results in collective discontent (Coady, 1999) For instance, clashes security forces and the Islamic Group called Boko Haram, though depicted as an ethno-religious conflict, analysts attribute the violence to weak and inefficient governance and widespread poverty (Oduwole & Fadeyi, 2013). Poor people are also more vulnerable to the effect of displacements as they are often not adequately included in disaster preparedness efforts, live in poor quality housing in marginalized areas and lack assets and access to land (UNHR,2011).

Relative deprivation theory is applied to socio-political and economic problems. The theory focuses on feelings and actions. It encourages the exploration of an individual's feelings of deprivation that may result from comparing his or her situation with that of a referent person or group as well as the behavioral effects of deprivation feelings. The central idea of relative deprivation theory suggests that individuals or groups feel deprived when their current circumstances are negatively compared to the situation of others, as been experienced by the IDPs in Nigeria. It is instructive to note that certain groups within the displaced communities faced issues of discrimination and exclusion.

An Overview of Insurgency in North-East, Nigeria

Insurgency has become a threat to global peace and security in the 21st century due to the fact that it constitutes the highest contributor to humanitarian crises in the form of rise in human casualties, internally displaced persons, refugee debacles, food insecurity and the spread of various diseases (Imasuen, 2015). Since Nigeria's return to civilian rule in 1999, records has it that thousands of people have been killed in recurring inter-communal conflicts and politically motivated violence that have also led to consistently large waves of internal displacement (IDMC, 2013).

In recent years, insurgency has become one of the most dangerous threats to world order. It is so pervasive that no country on earth can claim immunity from its violent acts of bombing, shooting, armed robbery, kidnapping, hostage-taking and bank-robbery. Insurgency is the biggest threat to global peace and stability in the contemporary times. It has grown both in strength and trend and its impact felt in different parts of the world including Africa. Nigeria has had her own share of the effects of this menace. It is evidently a challenge to national security and a sure enemy to national development.

The Boko Haram insurgency has continued to pose a serious threat to the country's security system and corporate political entity (Zenn, 2014). As noted by Ladan (2012), the membership of Boko Haram sect cut across ethnic divide with greater membership primarily drawn from the Kanuri ethnic group. Beginning as an itinerant preachment in early 2000 at Maiduguri, Borno State, Mohammed Yusuf's radical ideology gained followers among disaffected young men who became susceptible to recruits. The largest following came from semi-illiterate, unemployed youths, who were forced to make a living between the twin divide of creativity and criminality. Since the outbreak of sectarian violence in 2009, the north-east, Borno and Yobe States in particular, has ceased to know civil normalcy. Intermittent suicide and car bombings have become the part of their daily lives. Hate-filled adherents of the extremist sect called Boko Haram and other criminals assuming their identity wielding semi-automatic rifles speed through streets at intervals to shoot down, randomly at their ever widening targets.

The Nigerian state is caught in the crossfire of national insecurity arising from the insurgency of Boko Haram. Terrorists' attacks have resulted in the killings of hundreds of people and wanton destruction of property that worth billions of naira through bombings. In 2011, Boko Haram initiated a campaign of suicide bombing, a phenomenon witnessed for the first time in Nigeria's history. The Federal Government responded to these security threats by declaring an anti-terror war on the sect. The escalation of the insurgency between 2012 and 2013 led to the declaration of state of emergency on three North Eastern States of Bornu, Yobe and Adamawa. In spite of this development, the activities of Boko Haram have tended to have continued unabated. The outcome of these activities has created unprecedented humanitarian crises for the country with colossal effect on public safety and human security (Okoli & Lortyer, 2014). Nigeria's terrorism profile has since degenerated in view of the rising incidence of attacks by the Boko Haram insurgents in many parts of Northern of Nigeria. In effect, figures pertaining to casualties/fatalities of terrorism in the country have more than doubled. Since the violence re-emergence of the Boko Haram in 2010 the attacks and suicide bombing carried out by the group was increasing beyond the national boundary. Furthermore, in pursuit of their violence objective, the sect engages in bombing police station, schools and Mosques. The sect also engages in kidnapping of foreigners, and the recent tactics of kidnaping women. The group kidnaped more than 250 school girls in Chibok town of Borno state. Consequently, Nigeria is believed to have lost more than 1,500 lives to terrorist acts by 2011 (Salkida, 2012). Since 2014, the increase of violence caused by Boko Haram insurgency has triggered a massive wave of displacement in the north eastern part of Nigeria. In terms of observed incidence and prevalence, the North-east geo-

political zone of Nigeria has been worst hit by the Boko Haram insurgency (Okoli & Lortyer, 2014).

The discourse on Boko Haram insurgency clearly revealed that Nigeria is confronted with security challenges. This is made manifest in the Boko Haram murderous campaigns against securities, government institutions, religious clerics and members of the general public. Salisu, Mohd, & Abdullahi (2015) opine that the escalation of violence, with increasing attacks, suicide bombing and kidnapping have revealed the failure of government to curtail the crisis in the North East geo political zone. The Boko Haram insurgency has reduced the power and influential role of Nigeria as a de facto leader of the West Africa and the entire Africa. It is obvious that the resultant IDPs associated with it posed a serious security threat that hinders the country to continue its influential role in peacekeeping operations in many countries.

Causes and Effects of Displacement in Nigeria

The cause of IDPs in Nigeria can be traced to many events and situations all across the nation. While some of the conflicts appear to be caused by religious or ethnic differences, gains from politics, social and economic nature are generally behind the violence in the country with increasing level of poverty, low levels of education and a host of youth population with feeling of alienation (Oduwale & Fadeyi, 2013).

The Crisis Group (2014) in their report noted that bad governance, sustained economic hardship, raising inequality and social frustration are fostering the growth of radical extremist groups, which resulted into massive destruction of lives, properties and displacement of people in Nigeria. Others scholars have also argued that bad governance, poverty and corruption are fostering the growth of violence which resulted into mass displacement of people in Nigeria, especially in the Northern part of the country. It is clear that the failure of Nigerian State in the area of human development particularly in the North has contributed to the emergence of insurgents. The key human development sectors such as education, health and the judiciary are poorly funded or underperforming. For instance, in the North, millions of Almajiri students are sent to Quranic Schools far from their families and required to beg for alms (Al majiranchi) or work as domestic help to pay for their up keeping (Premium Times, 2015). Thus, the underlying causes of conflict and incidence of IDPs is economic- youth unemployment.

There is no doubt that Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria has led to the displacement of huge human population in the affected states. Available information suggests that the number of internally displaced persons and refugees associated with the insurgency has been enormous. In effect, the rising wave of Boko Haram Insurgency in Northern Nigeria has been largely responsible for the spate of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the country in the recent times. As at August 2015, with about 3.3 million displaced persons (IDPs), Nigeria has the largest populations of persons displaced by conflict in Africa. The number of internally displaced persons in Nigeria is approximately a third of IDPs in Africa and 10 percent of IDPs in the world (Premium Times, 2015).

The total number of IDPs identified in Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe states due to insurgency as shown in the table below as at February 2015 is 1,188,018 IDPs (149,357 households). Borno state with 672,714 IDPs has the highest number, followed by Adamawa with 220,159 IDPs and Yobe recorded 135,810 IDPs

Displacement Matrix in the North East Geo Political Zone

| Current Location | IDP Individuals | IDP Households | Average HHs size |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Adamawa | 220,159 | 25,807 | 8.5 |
| Bauchi | 60,555 | 9,881 | 6.1 |
| Borno | 672,714 | 76,842 | 8.8 |
| Gombe | 24,655 | 3,335 | 7.4 |
| Taraba | 74,125 | 11,599 | 6.4 |
| Yobe | 135,810 | 21,893 | 6.2 |
| Grand Total | 1,188,018 | 149,357 | 8.0 |

Source: UNHR (2015)

The plight of these displaced people in their various places of refuge can be best described as critically threatening. This is more so considering the fact that they have been dislocated from their families and social capital bases (Alkassim, 2013). According to United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) 2014 report, there have been steady rise in the number of internally displaced persons from Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states. From 2009 to 2010 IDPs rose to 100,000 and from 2010 to 2011 it increased to 130,000. From 2011 to 2012, the number of IDP's rose to 200,000. From 2012 to 2013 IDP's grew to 290,000 and from May 2013 to March 2014 it decreased slightly to 250,000. From May-June 2014, it rose again to 436,608 and from August to December IDP's drastically rose to over 600,000 persons (UN OCHA, 2014). In 2015, IDPs arising from ongoing insurgency has risen to 1, 385,298.(Oji, 2015).

The increased activities of the BokoHaram sect have increased the influx of Nigerian refugees into neighbouring nations over the years. It has been estimated that there are over 30,000 Nigerian refugees in Northern Cameroun, 1,000 Nigerian refugees in Chad (on Lake Chads Choua Island) and more than 50,000 Nigerian refugees in the Diffa region of South East Niger (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, March 2014 cited in Imasuen, 2015). The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) received about 10,000 Cameroon refugees who fled to Cameroon from Borno and Adamawa states (Duku, 2015).

According to the research carried out by Displacement Tracking Matrix (2015), the vast majority of IDPs identified in Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe have been displaced because of the insurgency (91.98%). a smaller number was forced to leave their place of origin because of community clashes (7.96%) or natural disaster (0.06%).

It must be emphasized at this juncture that apart from being displaced from their ancestral homes, IDPs have also been displaced psychologically, and emotionally, nursing the wounds and injuries sustained as a result of gunshots or other life-threatening situations they found themselves, with little or no medical attention. Moreover, the most destructive effect of violence is social dislocation, displacement of victims and creation of refugees. For instance, in 2001 about 10,000 Christians were forced out of their native towns and villages as a result of religious conflict between Muslims and Christians in Bauchi State. Refugees from this displacement were found to have taken shelter in churches and schools. Also, many refugees have died of diseases and starvation (Akowonjo, 2011).

The poor living conditions in the IDP camps has become of great concern. Report from both domestic and international agencies have shown that these camps since 2009 have lacked adequate facilities in addition to poor sanitation and the IDPs are exposed to diseases such as malaria, acute watery diarrhea, measles and pregnancy related issues.

The activities of insurgents also have wide range of implications on the Nigerian federation. It is obvious that the intensity, scope and frequency of such conflicts have shown the fragility of the Nigerian state. The tenacity to maintain 'no retreat and no surrender' by all parties in the conflict indicates the porosity of Nigerian federation. Thus, the activities of the insurgents in the North-East undermine the relative peace, stability hitherto enjoyed; with threats to social order. The conflicts have brought about fundamental problems of human security in the region particularly with regard to humanitarian crises (Ocha, 2003). Therefore, any attempt to deny any person or group his/her rights to legitimate settlement and livelihood in any part of the country under the guise of insurgency amounts to the violation of Nigeria's citizenship code (Akowonjo, 2011).

Besides, the implication of the Boko Haram insurgency and IDPs on national development cannot be over emphasized. It is important to note that development cannot be attained and sustained under the atmosphere of crisis. The humanitarian, economic, and social consequences of the conflict have been manifold. Crisis induced displacement can hamper development in all its ramifications in Nigeria in terms of industrialization, standard of living of citizens, investment, and infrastructural development. Thus, the attendant security and livelihood crises threaten the collective subsistence and survival of the affected populations. It suffices, therefore, to say that the activity of Boko-Haram and the associated IDPs in the North East geo political zone is inimical to human security, and by extension, national development in Nigeria.

Challenges of Managing Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria

Managing internally displaced persons has become a major challenge to most countries. The situation is not different in Nigeria. The institution that has some dealings with displaced persons in Nigeria is the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) which provides direct material assistance to displaced persons. NEMA was established to perform the function of organizing, providing and coordinating emergency relief to victims of national disasters throughout the federation and matters incidental thereto.

Inferring from its statutes NEMA has little to do with prevention, protection and return or resettlement of IDPs. NEMA responds to the occurrence of disasters in the country by sending relief materials and supplies to affected communities and facilitates the ability of the displaced to survive the immediate problems of displacement and dispossession. Unfortunately, these efforts are not sustained and the victims are soon left on their own (Adebowale, 2013).

In Nigeria, there are several challenges associated with managing IDPs. The government does not respond to the plight of this category of persons because it assumes that the relief materials given are adequate to meet their needs, even though these materials do not get to the target end users. These items are sometime diverted by the people who are expected to distribute them, and sold for profit (Mohammed, 2013).

Olagunju (2006) in his findings criticized governmental efforts toward effective management of IDPs which in his opinion are in adequate on the ground that relief materials do not get to them adequately. Olagunju argues further that Nigerian government, both at local and federal levels does not have adequate machinery in place to address IDPs issues. There are organizations created by government but their capacity to handle IDPs related problems is minimal. After many years of various degrees of violence including insurgency, it is inexcusable that a country with the size of Nigeria does not have a blueprint for managing internal displacement. Most IDPs in Nigeria flee to neighboring communities that are relatively safe, usually taking refuge in temporary shelters such as public building, schools and places of worship among others.

Oduwole & Fadeyi (2013) argue that government throws money at the problem of IDPs welfare and nothing much happens thereafter in respect of their basic need. The problem with IDPs welfare in Nigeria however is that government aid gets diverted and never gets to the IDPs themselves. This of course raises an issue of corruption which the country has been battling with for a while. The Emergency Manager, (UNICEF) in Nigeria, Soji Adeniyi remarks that lack of a credible data base and information management, relief agency syndrome, weak legislation and poorly funded state emergency management agency, inadequate health facilities and over population were among the challenges bedeviling effective emergency management in the country (This day, 2005). As a result of this, most IDPs prefer to stay with their families, relatives and religious members rather than staying in the camps. Ocha (2015) argues that many of them are hosted by private individuals who opened their homes to IDPs in an impressive solidarity effort. Nevertheless, some of these temporary living arrangements lack sufficient access to food, water and sanitation, health and non-food items.

Methodology

This paper aims at exploring and explaining the management for internal displaced persons in Nigeria. Based on this, the paper relied on authoritative and valid secondary source data such as books, journals, magazines, national dailies, and articles. However, statistical data were also used where appropriate as empirical evidence. To improve on the validity of the study multiple secondary sources were used to minimize the risk of

error. This was used to analyze published reports, journal, articles and other relevant sources of data.

Conclusion and Recommendations

From the foregoing, it is obvious that the measures put in place by the Nigerian government to assist and protect displaced persons are grossly inadequate. What stands out clearly as a lacuna in the protection and management of displaced persons is the fact that Nigeria has not developed adequate national laws and policies to address internal displacement. This paper examine the problems confronting internally displaced persons in Nigeria as well as the roles of the government and the agency responsible for implementing or executing security and response plans for IDPs. It is instructive to note that lack of protection for IDPs and the difficulties encountered by them in reintegrating into society has resulted in a situation whereby the Nigerian State feels threatened and undermined by IDP generating phenomena.

Due to inability of government to address the major suffering of the people such as youth unemployment, political violence, communal violence, ethno-religious violence, border conflicts, internal armed conflicts and other social vices, the issue of displacement and refugees would continue to constitute a major threat to sustainable development in Nigeria. The findings from this paper revealed that crisis induced displacement can hamper development in all its ramification in Nigeria in terms of industrialization, standard of living of citizens, investment, and infrastructural development. Although the emergence of Boko Haram insurgency encourages the establishment of National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and other international agencies towards rehabilitation, resettlement and limit psycho-social stress of IDPs, the realization of the objectives are currently unattainable due to low priority given by both the federal and state governments to management of IDPs in the country. Thus, there is the need to tow the path of countries in the industrialized world, particularly those who have gathered enough experience in the management of IDPs and the fight against international terrorism, by building a potent Intelligence Gathering Infrastructure (IGI) (Folarin & Oviasogie, n.d).

- i. It is recommended that humanitarian assistance to IDPs in the North East should consider the depth and breadth of challenges facing both IDPs and host communities. Practical efforts should be made by the Nigerian government through agencies like National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) in building a more permanent internally displaced person's (IDP's) camps that conducive in terms of availability of proper water, sanitation, hygiene, and food accessibility to IDPs. Thus, comprehensive blueprint plan should be developed by the government in order to have permanent residential areas in various geo political zones of the country due to complexity and diversity of the country. Also, IDPs camps should be equipped with adequate and modern facilities so that IDPs can be settled in satisfactory conditions of safety, nutrition and health hygiene. Government should as matter of priority address the miserable and unsafe conditions of IDPs

- and ensure that all IDPs are provided with the much needed basic amenities which would allow them to live in dignity without continuing threat of being rendered homeless.
- ii. The national emergency management agency and other international agencies should be well equipped, trained and financed to meet up with current challenges. Governments should acquire the state-of-the-art facilities and infrastructures for the containment of disasters. Also, for displaced persons to be managed effectively adequate measures should be taken to ensure that government aids to displaced persons get to them instead of being diverted by corrupt government officials.
 - iii. Government must put up sincere measures to address the high rate of poverty and unemployment particularly by modernizing agriculture and provide incentives for industrialization such as in Malaysia, India and China. Poverty and unemployment make crimes very attractive and irresistible to our teeming youths as an idle hand is the cheapest instrument in the hand of the devil. Empowerment of the youth in terms of economic capability and education must be a child of necessity which would discourage their involvement in violence either through financial or political inducements.
 - iv. Government should as a matter of urgency commence skill acquisition projects for internally displaced persons. This will afford them the opportunity of learning various trades during their stay in the camps and help open up employment opportunities and also assist the internally displaced persons (IDPs) in full rehabilitation back to the society.
 - v. The Nigerian government should wake up to its socio-economic responsibilities. Nigeria is ravaged by underdevelopment, unemployment, illiteracy, poverty, lack of basic social amenities, corruption, increased cost of living, etcetera, all of which have instigated grievances against the system and created breeding ground for terrorism and IDPs. If these issues are squarely addressed, there is the possibility that terrorism will not be attractive to the future generation. In addition, government at all levels needs to be more prudent in its management of information on terrorist groups and security matters.
 - vi. Governmental institutions and other international agencies should be properly financed so that professionals with knowledge of how to manage displaced people would be engaged and trained to meet with modern ways of managing IDPs. Governments at all levels should have respect for rule of law so as to set a good precedent for others to follow.
 - vii. Nigerian government has a responsibility of developing a standard coordinated multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary procedures and guides for government institutions, development and humanitarian agencies in planning and responding to matters of internal displacement of persons in a significant and effective manner as it is applicable in developed and most developing nations across the globe.
 - viii. States have been encouraged by the UN to develop laws to uphold the rights of IDPs. The citizenship right of the displaced persons should be upheld. IDPs

should be allowed to settle and make a living in any part of the country. Therefore, any attempt to deny any person or group his/her rights to legitimate settlement and livelihood in any part of the country under the guise of insurgency should be seen as a violation of Nigeria's citizenship code as contained in the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

- ix. A national policy should also be developed for the management of IDPs to complement national legislation. This document should clearly spell out the roles and responsibilities of national and local institutions in responding to internal displacement as well as its coordination.
- x. In the actualization of the above points, there is the need for commitment on the part of all the tiers of government in Nigeria; private sectors, international organizations as well as civil society organizations. Effective policing and well trained security personnel with modern knowledge of managing IDPs should be introduced in order to deter people from committing violence with impunity against IDPs in different parts of the country.

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