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Forced Displacement and its Socio Economic Impacts on Internally Displaced Persons in Northern Nigeria

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A b s t r a c t

Armed conflict by the extremist insurgent group Boko-Haram operating in Northern Nigeria have rendered 2.2 million people homeless and internally displaced while over 100 million people have been killed during the period 2007-2016 by the sect and of the state military campaign in North Eastern Nigeria. This research work focused on Forced Displacement and its Socio Economic Impacts on the internally displaced persons. Both primary and secondary data were sourced for the study. Three thousand five hundred (3500) questionnaires was administered using systematic random sampling covering three (3) states of North Central Nigeria. Descriptive and inferential statistics was employed to process the data. Findings revealed that there is a significant relationship between arm conflict and the number of internally displaced persons. The IDPs faced the challenge of violence, Human right violation, access to shelter, food and other basic services such as health, nutrition, water sanitation, hygiene and education. The Author advocates the following; socio economic inclusion of the internally displaced with the host communities this will strengthen resilience and self reliance of the IDPs, Re-integration and voluntary Returned of the internally displaced, inclusive governance should be adopted where every citizen are stakeholders and policy makers are accountable to the masses finally the provision of free legal service for case of abuse, human right violation against the IDPs.

Keywords: *Internally displaced persons, Armed conflict, Humanitarian aid*

Background to the Study

Insurgency by the Islamist extremist group in Northern Nigeria Boko-Haram has killed 100,000 people in a period of seven years (2007-2016) and over 2.2 million people have been forced to flee their home due to the menace of Boko-Haram insurgency and state military action in the region.



Fig 1: Boko Haram

The rise the number of internally displaced persons, as revealed by the above statistics is a concern to policy maker and international community's calling for intensified humanitarian aid worldwide.

Humanitarian aid that aim at upholding basic human right and protecting children and adult against violence, abuse and exploitation through protection and advocacy activities, conflicts, violence, human rights violations and natural disaster are forcing millions of people to leave their homes and to flee from destruction and persecution. Communal clashes between local communities and Fulani herdsmen in north central Nigeria is another source of internal displacement. The Agatu massacred in Benue State, the Jos killing, Southern Kaduna Mayhem. The Fulani herdsmen has been rated as the fifth most dreaded terrorist group in the world. The majority of the internally displaced persons live in host communities and among those who struggle with poverty and hardship. Their survival depends on availability of assistance from local community donor agencies and international communities.

In the absence of durable solution, those who remain internally displaced (IDPs) faced major challenges in terms of protection, access to shelter, food and other basic services such as health, nutrition, water, sanitation, hygiene and education. Fig 2



Fig 2: Children and women at muna garage IDP camp queuing for water supply

IDPs who live in urban areas may encounter poverty, lack of psycho-social support and difficulties in normalizing their status, violence, abuse and exploitation against the most vulnerable this emphasizes the importance of effective protection mechanisms to be put in place.

Scope of the Study

The study covered thirteen (13) States of Northern Nigeria covering the North Eastern and North Central Nigeria. Two hundred and seven (207) Local Government Areas were sampled for the study.

Objectives of the Study

The aim of the study was to determine the number of people that have been internally displaced in each state of the Northern Nigeria, between 2007-2016 in various IDPs camp.

1. To determine factors responsible for the internal displaced person.
2. To determine the challenges of the internally displaced persons.
3. To proffer solutions to ameliorate the challenges of IDPs.
4. To suggest solution toward a lasting peace in the Northern Nigerian.

Research Methodology

For the purpose of the study both primary and secondary data, were obtained from International Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC). The Displacement matrix team comprises of international organization for migration, staff, the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) Nigerian Red Cross Society and the humanitarian partners on the field. The displacement assessment were conducted with key information from Local Government Areas, ward and IDPs site as well as host communities. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyze the data.

Sample Frame Sampled Size

Questionnaire and field survey was adopted as the research instruments five thousand (3500) questionnaires was administered to respondents who were internally displaced in their various camps. Systematic random sampling techniques was used three five hundred and forty six (3540) questionnaire were retrieved from the respondents the population of the study was one hundred and thirty six thousand four hundred and eighty one 136 481 IDPs while three thousand five hundred IDPs was sampled. Descriptive statistics and inferential statistics was employed to processed the data.

Theoretical Frame Work

Internally Displaced Persons

Internally displaced person are people or groups of people who have been forced or oblige to flee or to leave their homes or place of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situation of generalized violence, violations of human right or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not cross an internationally recognized state border. (Deng 1998).

While the above stresses two important element of internal displacement (coercion and the domestic/internal movement) it is important to note that, rather than a strict definition, the guiding principles offer “a descriptive identification of the category of persons who needs are the concern of the guiding principle. Kaling (2000) in this way the document “internationally steer toward flexibility rather than legal precision. Vincent (2000) as the words “in particular” indicate that the list of reasons for displacement is not exhaustive. However as Erin Money has pointed out “global statistics of internationally displacement generally count only IDPs uprooted by conflict and human rights violations’ moreover, a recent study has recommended that the IDP concept should be defined even more narrowly, to be limited to persons displaced by violence. Money (2005) thus, despite the non-exhaustive reasons of internal displacement, many consider IDPs as those who would be defined as refugees of they were to cross an international border.

At the end of 2014 it was estimated that there were 38.2 million IDPs worldwide the highest levels since 1989 the first year for which global statistic on IDPs are available on 65 million people are forcibly displaced worldwide 21.3 million refugees, 40.8 million internally displaced 1.8 million seeking asylum UNHCR (2015). The countries with IDPs population were Syria (7.6 million) Colombia (6 million) Iraq (3.6 million) Democratic Republic of Congo (2.8 million) Sudan (2.2 million) South Sudan (1.6 million) Pakistan (1.4 million) Algeria (1.2 million) and Somalia (1.1 million) IDMC (2016). Hence, the term refugees in all but name is often applied to IDPs. It is very difficult to get accurate figure for internally displaced persons because populations aren't constant. IDPs may be returning home while others are fleeing, others may periodically return to IDP camp to take advantage of humanitarian aid while case of IDPs in large camps.



Fig 3: IDPs in Borno queuing for relief materials

Such as those in Bama Camp, Bama Local Government Area Borno State North Eastern Nigeria are relatively well reported, it is very difficult to assess those IDPs who flee to larger towns and cities. It is necessary in many instances to supplement official figures with additional information obtained from operational humanitarian organizations on the ground. Thus the 2.2 million IDPs figure in Nigeria must be treated as an estimate in urban areas.

50% of internally displaced people and refugees were thought to and be in urban areas in 2010 many of them in protracted displacement with little likelihood of ever returning home. A 2013 study found that these protracted urban displacements had not been given due weight by international aid and governance as historically they focused on rural displacement responses Hyson (2007) the study argues that this protracted urban displacement needs a fundamental change in the approach to those who are displaced and their host societies they note that reframing responses to urban displacement will also involve human rights and development actors and local and national governments they call for a change in narrative around the issue is needed to reflect infirmity and fortitude displayed by displaced population, the opportunities for self sufficiency and safety represents by urban areas, and that the displaced can make a contribution to their host societies. (Hyson 2007).

It has been estimated that between 70 and 80% of all IDPs are women and children (IDMC 2000). In 2005, the UNHCR signed an agreement with other humanitarian agencies “under this agreement UNHCR will assume the lead responsibility for protection, emergency shelter and land management for internally displaced people.

Studied Area

Northern Nigeria is located in latitude °N and °N of the equator and longitude 3°E and 15°E of the Greenwich meridian. Fig 6 at independent Nigeria is made up of three regions, the North, East and West. Kaduna was the capital of Northern part of Nigeria while Ibadan is to the West and Enugu the capital of the Eastern part.

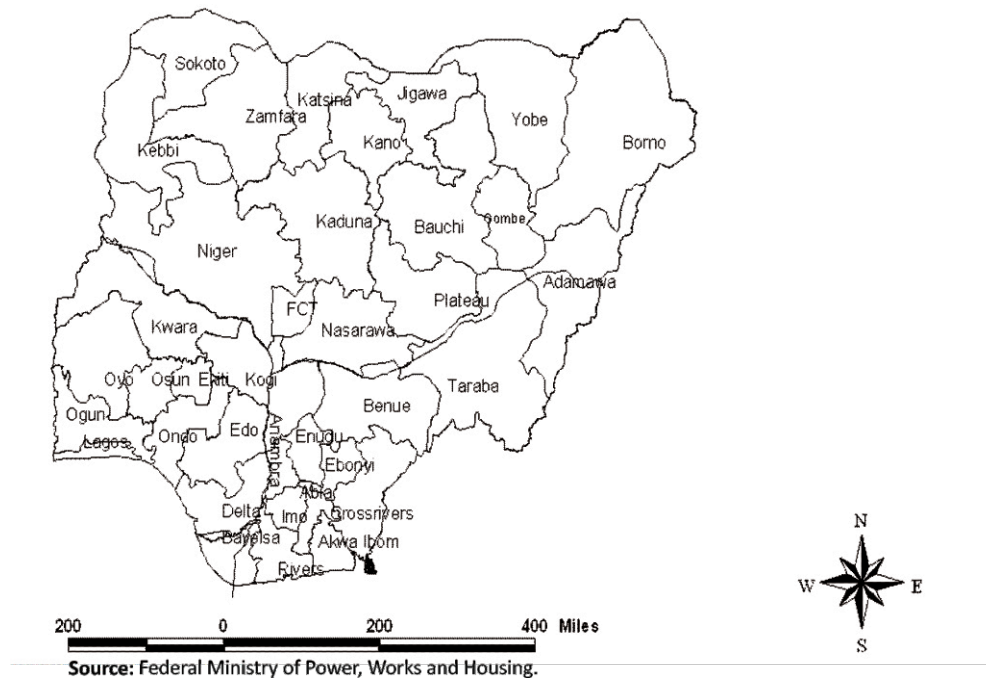


Fig 4: Map of Nigeria

Politically, the region is sub-divided into three geo-political zones namely: North East, North West and North Central. The region is bounded at the North by Niger Republic and Lake Chad and at the East by Cameroon Republic and to the West Republic of Guinea.

Data Presentation

Table 1: Sex Composition of IDPs

Sex	N	Percentage
Male	860	25%
Female	2596	75%

Age and sex composition are the most basic characteristics, of any population table 1 above revealed that 75% of the population of the internally displaced are mostly female (women). The age composition of the IDPs in the area studied as revealed by table 4 indicates that 33% of the population are children under the age of 16 years old.

Table 2: Age Composition

Sex	N	Percentage
Under 18	1,140	33%
18 to 64	2,004	58%
65 and over	312	11%
Total	3,460	100%

Source: Field Survey 2017

These are distribution findings reflects the recent publication that between 70 to 80% of al IDPs are woman and children. (IDMC 2006).

Housing Conditions

According to the field survey, the housing characteristics at IDPs camps are tents and two bedrooms Apartments most of which are built between 2014-2016.

Information regarding the different types of housing units in IDPs camps are summarized in the table below. The predominant form of housing in IDPs camp in urban areas are single detached/attached unit followed by 2-9 units structure other housing types; mobile trailer home, tents and tabernacles characterized by high density. Fig 5



Fig 5: IDPs housing condition

Table 3: Housing Types in IDPs Camp

Housing Types	N	Percentage
2-9 unit structure	312	9.0
Mobile trailer home	1,140	32.9
Tent/make shift	2,004	57.9

Source: Field Survey 2017

With the following exceptions, IDPs shelters conditions are inadequate, no public water supply high patronage of water vendors, 95% IDPs housing units lack electric power supply 98% housing units do not have public sewer services. Housing is more than shelter, it reflects standard of living of people and the opportunities that might come to one. The International Humanitarian Law general convention GC IV made the following provision for the protection of the Internally Displaced Persons: **life standards and humanitarian assistance:** should displacement take place, all possible measures shall be taken in order that IDPs' hygiene, health nutrition and accommodation condition are satisfactory GC IV Art. 49 (3) AP II Art 17 (1) CIHL 131. Failure to comply with these requirements may constitute a grave breach GC IV Art 147, AP I Art, 85 (4) (a).

Education

In international armed conflict, parties to the conflict must take the necessary measures to ensure that children under fifteen who are orphaned or are separated from their families as a result of the war, are not left to their own resources and that their education is facilitated in all circumstance GC IV, Art 24 (1) occupying power must also facilitate the functioning of educational facilities in occupied territories GC IV. Art 50 (1) in a situations of non-international armed conflict, children received an education including religious and moral education AP II Art 4 (3) (a) 28 (a).

Documentation

Every person is entitled to registration and a name immediately, at birth, especially in situation of occupation GC IV Art 50. States are specifically oblige to ensure that vulnerable groups such as refugee and internal civilians in occupied territories are provided with basic documentation GC IV Art 93 (6).

Table 4: Internally Displaced Persons by State in Northern Nigeria

State	IDPs Population	Percentage
Abuja	136,481	5.99
Adamawa	136,010	5.97
Bauchi	70,078	3.08
Benue	85,393	3.75
Borno	1434,149	63.04
Gombe	25,335	1.11
Kaduna	36,976	1.62
Kano	9,331	0.41
Nassarawa	37,553	1.65
Plateau	77,317	3.39
Taraba	50,227	2.20
Yobe	131,203	5.76
Zamfara	44,929	1.97
Total	2,274,982	100%

Source: Author's Field Survey 2017

Table 4 revealed that Borno State has the largest numbers of internally displace person of 1434, 149 representing 63%. Borno State is the stronghold of Boko Haram sect where they enjoy popular support and the theatre of war of state military action against the Islamist sect.

The processed data indicated 12.38 percent were displaced due to communal classes notably in Benue, Kaduna, Nassarawa, Plateau and Zamfara States, 85 percent were displaced due to insurgency attack by Boko Haram Islamist sect. While 2.4% percent of the internally displaced in the studied area was as a result of seasonal flooding along Rivers Niger and Benue. The decrease in the percentage of IDPs who where displaced by insurgency from 95.3 percent in August to 85 percent in December 2015 was due to the intensified military campaign in the North Eastern Nigeria, furthermore, the increase in the number of those displaced by communal clashes from 4.6 per cent to 12.4 percent in October 2016 was due to the addition of five additional states witnessing communal violence more than insurgency by Islamist group.

Table 5: Respondent Rating on Socio Economic Conditions of IDPs

SN	Items	Mean	SD	Remark
1	IDPs lack means of livelihood.	3.59	1.66	Agree
2	IDPs lack adequate shelters	3.56	1.63	Agree
3	Health care services in IDPs camp are inadequate	3.49	1.56	Agree
4	Children in IDPs camp could not go to school	3.45	1.52	Agree
5	Armed conflict are the main source of Displacement	3.59	1.66	Agree

Table 5 above shows the respondents rating of the socio economic conditions of IDPs. The internally displaced in the studied area lacks means of livelihood, shelters, food, and other basic services. Children in IDPs camp could not go to schools due to protracted crisis in the region and the human right violation. The respondents agree that armed conflicts are the major cause of their displacement from their home of residence.

Money (2005) pointed out that only those uprooted by conflict and human rights violation count in global statistics of internally displacement.

Test of Hypothesis

H_0 : There is no significant relationship between armed conflicts and internal displacement.

H_1 : There is a significant relationship between armed conflicts and internal displacement.

Table 6: Chi - Square

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	8.750a	12	.724
Likelihood Ratio	10.023	12	.614
Linear by Linear Association	.349c	1	.555
N of Valid Cases	1138		

a. 8 cell (30.8%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .45

Table 6 revealed that chi-square value 8.75 at 12 degree of freedom and $P = 0.555$. Since $P > 0.05$ it implies that there is a significant relationship between armed conflicts and the numbers of internal Displacement. Thus H_1 is accepted.

Summary and Conclusion

Armed conflict and violence cause city, town, and village to be deserted as residence are forced to flee their home to avoid persecution and destruction, on the whole 85% of the internally Displaced area are occasioned by insurgency of the Boko Haram. Similarly the communal clashes between the Fulani herdsmen and local farmers in Agatu community – Benue State, Nassarawa, Plateau, Southern Kaduna, Kaduna State and Zamfara State. These has a devastating effect on life and properties of citizen as settlement were ransack in the middle of the night, burnt down and thousand of people were killed this made many people to be displaced and have a recourse to flee their home. This account for 12.4% of the internally Displaced persons.

The occurrence of perennial flooding on places along the courses of River Niger and Benue has also displaced thousands of people during the peak period of raining season in June and September each year this phenomenon could be attributed to global warming of whose effect is rise in sea level. This account for 2.4% of total population of the internally Displaced. Findings revealed that children and women represents 75% of the total population of the Internally Displaced Persons in the studied area they are in dire need of shelter, nutrition Education and Health Services. There is a significant relationship between armed conflicts and the number of person internally Displaced.

Recommendations

Socio economic inclusion of the internally displaced persons with the host communities will strengthen resilience and self reliance of the internally displaced persons. This approach will harness the human resource of the forcefully displaced and empowered them economically through the small and medium scale enterprise so they can live meaningfully and with dignity with host community vocational. Vocational training and machine tools should be provided through victim support funds for the IDPs to provide a source of livelihood and services.

Provision of psycho social support for the IDPs so that psychologically they will not be isolated or cut-off from the rest of the society, this required advocacy support by the humanitarian agencies. The humanitarian agencies should be engaged in the provision of relief material and support services fro the IDPs. Free legal services should be made available to the Internally Displaced Persons to seek redress against injustice, human right violation and abuse.

International Humanitarian Law should be domesticated. The Kampala convention on IDPs which is a regional instrument in the protection of and assistance to IDPs. The Geneva Convention IV (GCIV) and Additional Protocols I and II (AP I and AP II) as well as in customary international law. States have the responsibility to implement these protections in internal legal framework. Registration at IDPs camp and security apparatus should be provided at IDPs camp. Re-integration return of the IDPs to their place of origin, those who are willing to return home should be assisted to go back home after normalcy have returned.

Inclusive government should be put in place where every government officials are accountable to the masses and the aggrieve persons or groups can vent their grievance so they could also contribute their own quotas to the development of the country rather than taking arms against the state, every member of the societies should be able to benefit from dividend of democracy.

The insurgents group who have surrendered their arms or who have repented should be rehabilitated and reconciliated back to the society.

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