

Assessment on Unmet Needs of Internally Displaced Persons in Maiduguri Metropolis, Borno State-Nigeria

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Abstract: *One of the gravest humanitarian consequences of armed conflict is the displacement of populations. The forced displacement of civilians remains one of the most pressing humanitarian problems in developing countries. The research is primarily empirical and was conducted through field surveys in the study area. The field survey consisted of questionnaire administrations and focus group (FGD) discussions IDPs and the host families. The study also employed secondary source of data which involved literature searches. A total of 344 IDPs was surveyed – including 216 residing in host families. – using a questionnaire that was administered individually. Findings reveals that, 38% reported inadequate water, 34% reported lack of electricity, and 27% to primary health services. The shelter/housing problems faced by IDPs in the camps included: overcrowding (46%). 25% reported lack of adequate space, 29% of the respondent reported that, the buildings are lacking doors and windows and a times none at all (5%). The study recommends Government should ensure adequate supervision and monitoring of Humanitarian Assistance to prevent misplace priority and to avoid duplication of functions among the humanitarian actors among others.*

Key words: *Assessment, Displacement. Needs, Camps and Conflict*

Introduction

One of the gravest humanitarian consequences of armed conflict is the displacement of populations (Deborah and Raoul, 2002). Whether it happens from natural disaster, environmental degradation, political fiat, or conflict, losing one's home also means losing identity, family history, livelihood, and community. This in turn, causes families to rely on the hospitality of relatives, remittances from family members or humanitarian assistance from international and national sources (Abdulrahman and Zuwaira, 2016). IDPs resides in variety of predominantly spontaneous settings, including camps, schools, public buildings and host communities Most IDPs in Nigeria having been deprived of their homes or place of

origin usually take refuge in temporary shelter such as schools, army or police barracks, hospitals, abandoned or uncompleted buildings, public building and places of worship, camps and settlements among others (Oduwpye and Fadeyi, 2013).

The forcible uprooting of people is an inevitable consequence of armed conflict (Kungu, 2015). The large proportion of persons internally displaced in Nigeria is due to violence (Salkida, 2012). Forced displacement has grown in size and became more complex in recent years (Kungu, 2015). Nigeria has witnessed unprecedented high levels of violence since its independence. This violence can be mainly attributed to three themes: ethnicity, religion and politics (Abdulrahman and Zuwaira, 2016). This has led to conflict induced displacement creating large numbers of internally displaced persons. Lately, the North-East of the country seems to be experiencing a large mass of this life-changing event called internal displacement (Gamawa, 2017).

Borno State which currently hosts seventy-five percent (1,439,953 IDPs) of all IDPs in northeast Nigeria, has also been noted as the place of origin for the majority (84%) of the displaced in Nigeria's northeast region (Serano, 2017). Violence perpetrated by the extremist group Boko Haram has affected Borno, resulting in widespread displacement and a growing humanitarian emergency. The crisis is adding to chronic under-development, food insecurity as well as general poverty, illiteracy and unemployment. Living conditions in the camps and in the informal settlements are difficult and, in most cases, deplorable, mostly due to the lack of adequate infrastructure to cater to the populations' needs. There are also security challenges in addition to a limited supply of basic food and non-food items, health facilities, education, and livelihood opportunities.

The forced displacement of civilians remains one of the most pressing humanitarian problems in developing countries (Salkida, 2012). The displaced lose their social, legal and economic ties and thus suffer considerable physical and psychological hardship. Overcoming the consequences of conflicts and internal displacement encompasses a broad range of activities that need to be undertaken by the states, NGOs and international actors, especially in the post-conflict phase (UNHCR, 2017). Nigeria's emergency humanitarian response for IDPs in the North East is funded by both the State and Federal Governments, primarily through National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA).

However, aside from some small-scale interventions, authorities have mainly focused on IDPs located in formal IDP camps. The majority of IDPs residing outside of official camps do not receive food (or cash) assistance from national authorities (Fatima, 2017). The Joint United Nations (UN) Multi-Sector Assessment conducted in April 2016 in Borno LGA, as well as Maiduguri and its surroundings, found that over 550,000 people in Borno State were severely food insecure and in need of immediate food assistance, including 180,000 in Maiduguri's outskirts, 120,000 camp residents and approximately 250,000 IDPs in newly re-opened areas. Although there has been an increase in humanitarian assistance provision in Borno in recent months, a large portion of the population remains in need of food assistance and other basic services driven primarily by ongoing insecurity and displacement (CRC, 2016).

The deteriorating security situation in and around surrounding villages of Borno State, coupled with a comparatively more stable situation in Maiduguri, has culminated into a high number of individuals fleeing into the city to seek refuge. This situation is further aggravated by the limited access to social, educational and health services for the displaced population. This research is therefore designed to assess the unmet needs of the internally displaced persons in Maiduguri metropolis, Borno state.

Problem statement

As in most parts of the world, IDPs in West Africa often lack access to basic services, but their vulnerability is difficult to assess given that IDPs in the region tend to seek refuge with their families and friends (Elizabeth and Chareen, 2012). This renders the identification of the displaced and the assessment of their needs difficult. The presence of IDPs in most cases strains host communities whose resources tend to be limited even before they take in their displaced kinfolk or friends (Serano, 2017).

The Boko Haram induced conflict has exacerbated the already poor food security situation of both the host and the IDP communities (Simon, 2016). High food prices, market disruption, the lack of employment opportunities, coupled with a situation of chronic poverty have reduced households' purchasing power and eroded livelihoods at the detriment of the access to food.

Currently, there is no coordinated or harmonized system at the Federal, State or LGA levels for monitoring or evaluating assistance to IDPs (Serano, 2017). However, the ICRC has observed that monitoring of assistance interventions takes place at varying levels within some of the Ministries and Agencies.

IDPs are more vulnerable than other residents of the city. Profiling results show that IDPs are the most vulnerable, followed by host families (ICRC, 2016). Key findings were that;

1. Living conditions are very poor, particularly in the inner city and the extreme peripheries. The main problems are unsafe, overcrowded accommodation, low tenure security and poor access to services such as good quality water, electricity, sanitation and education..
2. IDPs have poor economic stability and low asset ownership. Key concerns are high levels of food insecurity, debt and unemployment; insecure, unpredictable informal sector employment; wage disparity as compared to residents; low levels of property and land ownership and loss of productive assets (ICRC, 2016).

The impact of internal displacement can equally be devastating for States, which may lack the capacity or institutional structures needed or ill prepared for such eventualities. Hence, large-scale displacements can destabilize entire regions, posing severe security, economy and infrastructural challenges. Protection challenges can also arise when designation of people as IDPs does not include all those who are displaced. It is in line with this that the study is design to assess the unmet needs of internally displaced persons in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council.

Relevance of the Study

This study is designed to respond to the knowledge gap on current living conditions and unmet needs of persons affected by displacement. It will identify areas of primary concern for government and humanitarian actors and proposes avenues for further research. It will also provide information to the humanitarian community and government in order to develop an integrated programme response.

This study will provide a tool for assisting government and decision makers/humanitarian/ development partners to evaluate opportunities for conflict affected IDP populations in Maiduguri metropolitan council. The purpose is to provide internationally agreed standards and best practices for undertaking interventions that support IDPs in camps and host communities that are appropriate and applicable for enduring outcomes.

Theoretical Framework

This study hinges a helping solution on Milgram's Agency theory. The theory stemmed from Milgram's experimentation. Milgram (1974) explained the behaviour of participants in his study by suggesting that people actually have two states of behaviour when they are in a social situation: the autonomous state where people direct their own actions, and take responsibility for the results of those actions; and the agentic state where people allow others to direct their actions, and then pass off the responsibility for the consequences to the person giving the orders. In other words, they act as agents for another person's will the will of their principals who control them.

Literature Review

The term "conflict-induced displacement" was coined and slowly popularized in literature on forced migrations during the nineties (Patricia, 2011). The growing number of people internally displaced as a result of armed conflict and massive violence prompted the adoption of the Guiding Principles of Internal Displacement in 1998, as well as local documents on IDP protection and assistance and regional stability in Africa (Convention of Kampala) in recent years.

All definitions agree that IDPs have been uprooted from their homes but remain inside their own countries (UNHCR, 2017). U.N. Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement states that IDPs are "Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) include people who have fled their communities because they were caught in the crossfire between armed parties or whose displacement was a deliberate strategy pursued by combatants (Deborah and Raoul, 2012). According to Oduwoye and Fadeyi (2013), internal displacement consists of a three-phase *process*:

1. **Pre-displacement**, when the State's focus should be on preventing the causes leading to displacement from occurring;

2. **During displacement**, when the focus should be on protection and assistance for IDPs and affected communities, as well as steps to resolve their circumstances originally leading to displacement;
3. **Post-displacement**, after such circumstances have been resolved, when the focus should be on finding durable solutions for the affected IDPs, delivering development and humanitarian assistance and building sustainable livelihoods

The dominant classification of internal displacement, but one rarely applied in the scientific literature, distinguishes four root causes of this process (Odhiambo-Abuye, 2013). They include conflict-induced displacement, environmentally-induced displacement, disaster-induced displacement and development-induced displacement. Despite its theoretical usefulness as a basis for broad considerations, this classification somehow very rarely appears in the literature (Muggah, 2018). IDPs comprise the largest group of vulnerable people in the world (Odhiambo-Abuye, 2013). They are usually cut off from their normal jobs, healthcare and sanitation systems, schools, security networks, and means of economic and social support. Central to the framework are the concepts of internally displaced persons, IDP Durable Solutions and the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework (Lee, 2014).

However, most of the displaced population resides in “unofficial” camps, defined as such because they have been established as a result of the spontaneous settlement of one or more communities. IDPs living with their extended families are defined as residing in “host communities”. The population of IDPs in host communities is greater than those residing in camps (Elizabeth and Chareen, 2012).

Location of the Study Area

Maiduguri is the capital of Borno State, it has long been one of the dominant cities in the north eastern Nigeria, and its location close to the republic of Chad, Niger and Cameroun, gives it an increasing significance as a center of commerce, transport, education, religion and administration. It covers a total area of 543sq km which makes it the largest city in the North Eastern region of Nigeria.

The city lies on Latitudes 11°05¹North and Longitudes 13°05¹East and it stands some 350 meters above sea level. Although Maiduguri is predominantly a Kanuri town, it has always been and the host to other parts of Nigeria and Africa. The nearest major towns in Nigeria are Damaturu (about 135km), the capital of Yobe state, Bauchi the capital of Bauchi state and Kano the capital of Kano state, which are almost 450 and 600km to the southwest from the state capital.

The city is currently home to around 2.5 million people (OCHA), of which the International Organization for Migrations (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix system identifies 1.4 million as being Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), living in Greater Maiduguri. According to ICRC (2016), some 30 different locations host IDP settlements in Greater Maiduguri; however, only the 8 percent of the IDPs currently live in camps, the remaining live among host communities. Babagana et al, (2018), buttressed that, there are 15 IDP camps officially recognized by the Borno State Government, later some of the camps were migrated to others because of the government reopening of the schools. He further identified the camps as, Dalori II, GGC Camp, Madinatu, Goni Kachallari, EYN/CAN Camp, Teacher’s village camp,

Gov't College camp, NYSC CAMP, Sanda Kyarimi camp, Farm Centre camp, Bakasi camp, and ATC camp.

Methodology

The research is primarily empirical and was conducted through field surveys in the study area. The field survey consisted of questionnaire administrations and focus group (FGD) discussions targeting IDPs and the host families. The data obtained were analyzed and complemented with the qualitative data from Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). Descriptive statistic was employed for the analysis of the data. The study also employed secondary source of data which involved literature searches.

A total of 344 IDPs were surveyed – including 216 residing in host families. – using a questionnaire that was administered individually. The questionnaires were administered in 8 different locations of the selected Formal/Informal IDP camps and the host families. The selection of camps for the assessment was based on the following criteria:

- a. open at the time of data collection,
- b. contains at least 25 households (for formal camps), and;
- c. no security or accessibility constraints.

A stratified purposive sampling method was applied. Stratification, or stratified sampling, involves dividing the population of interest into sub-groups (i.e. strata) that share something in common based on criteria related to the assessment objectives. In order to achieve the proposed objectives, two main criteria defined the households'/population selection:

1. Local population and
2. IDP population. Within these two sub-groups the respondent/households were selected randomly. Therefore the information collected through this sampling frame cannot be extrapolated to the entire study area. A total of 344 IDPs, with 43 from each of the 8 camps and 216 host families were surveyed using a questionnaire that was administered to identify individuals, using the random sampling selection techniques.

Primary data was collected through face-to face interviews using a household questionnaire that focused on general socio-economic and demographic household characteristics, food security indicators, health, housing/shelter and sanitation features, income/livelihood sources, and desired assistance among others. A total of 560 questionnaires were administered in all.

Findings and Discussion

Socio-economic Characteristics and Core Needs of IDPs and Host Communities

The study was carried out in eight selected official /unofficial camps and the host families. The quantitative data were obtained by the administration of a structured questionnaire to

adult of 18 years and above. The majority of the IDPs were between age 18 – 28 (36%), women (62%), 40.8% had Qur'anic education, and 66% were married. The major challenges facing the IDPs were hunger (26%), lack of clothing (19%), regular sickness (18%) and lack of adequate shelter (10%). The items received from the FEMA/SEMA NGOs include foodstuff (27%), soap and detergents 19%, clothing materials, Beddings/Blankets 23%, and drugs 19%. The majority 46% rated their situation since they arrived in the camp very good, 52% affirmed great improvement in their situations, and 2% stated that their situations were deteriorating. 52% of the respondent indicated that food was their major priority. 32% shelter and 11% adequate health services and 5% for security.

Living conditions for IDPs vary greatly. Some live in easily identifiable camps that are officially designated by local authorities others seek shelter in created unofficial camps. (54.6%) and poor food distribution 26% reported insecurity and 10% viewed restricted movements as amongst some of the major problems reported by the selected respondents in the camps. Also on a physical aspects large proportion of the respondents reported overcrowding (45%), unconducive housing (14%), dirty environment 25% reported poor living conditions,(15%) in the camp. Living conditions in both the formal camps/informal camps and the host families are difficult and, in most cases, deplorable, mostly due to the lack of adequate infrastructure to cater for the populations. This agrees with Ali et al, (2020), that influx has put enormous pressure on the already weak and limited infrastructure and social services.

Displaced persons in host communities have mostly settled in locations that have inadequate or no basic services, The accommodation in the camp are mostly constructed using wooden support columns, covered with sack bags and tarpaulin. They are arranged in no order on the camp site and are not durable and so do not protect their occupants from harsh weathers. The shelter/housing problems faced by IDPs in the camps included: overcrowding (46%). 25% reported lack of adequate space, 29% of the respondent reported that, the buildings are lacking doors and windows and a times none at all (5%).

Findings reveals that, 38% reported inadequate water, 34% reported lack of electricity, and 27% to primary health services as amongst the basic facilities. IDPs in host communities, mostly live in open spaces or makeshift shelters, giving rise to a number of informal settlements. Hence, limited resources have become overstretched, creating additional difficulties in already poor neighborhoods as opined by Ali et al, (2020). 38%of the participants reported lack of easy and safe access to a clean toilet was perceived as a serious problem. Findings also revealed that access to insecticide-treated nets, blankets and health care facility, as well as waste disposal, were generally poor.

There are also security challenges in addition to a limited supply of basic food and non-food items, health facilities, and livelihood opportunities. Although the local authorities, particularly FEMA/SEMA and also some humanitarian and Donor agencies, provide some food and relief material, conditions in the camps, particularly informal ones, are quite difficult. Food was the main unmet need cited by 52% of those surveyed. In generally, the priority needs of IDPs are related to 36% food security, 13% housing/shelter, 16% health care, 21% income-generating sources, and 14% security. The general response was that the

beneficiaries were aware that food items were brought to them in the camp and they also affirmed that, officials wore tags/jackets that indicates they are from the NGO or Government Officials. The respondents said they had benefited in the area of health support and health-related services.

Income earning opportunities are also very difficult, as most are rural farmers with no access to land or cash, nor do they possess alternative skills to earn a decent living. Hence, humanitarian needs, including food and non-food items, shelter, and primary health care, need are inadequate FGD. The survey revealed that 57% reported the need for continuous assistance, both from the NGOs and the Government. The majority of the IDPs were trained on tailoring, 17% soap-making 27%, and 36% knitting and carpentry. Meanwhile, 42% reported lack of finance and 38% inability to earn a living with their skills as major constraints. 28% were involved in menial jobs. They were involved in activities such as sweeping (41%), hawking (32 %) and truck pushing (22%) Inadequate income, money or resources to live on were seen as also a serious problem.

Hence, IDPs can strain local health systems and the host population ends up sharing the sufferings of the internally displaced. The major sicknesses reported by the IDPs were Malaria (42%) skin infections (15%). 29%, cold/catarrh illnesses, and 14% diarrhoea, as the most commonly suffered illnesses among IDPs in the study area. These challenges could probably result from a combination of factors including the poor hygiene practices and inadequate sanitation in most part of dwellings FGD. In the same location, as reported by key informants, that the health services available were: reproductive health, and emergency. However, the survey employed self-Rated Health status. This study found that the major non-health challenges of the IDPs are lack of food and clothing, and lack of proper sanitation. These findings are in line with the reports of previous studies that enumerated the challenges of IDPs in Nigeria as "lack of shelter, food, health care, and potable water (Foronbi et al, 2019; Victor et al, 2017).

Conclusion

The findings of this study revealed that residents of IDP camps and the host families/communities live in a deplorable and unhygienic environment. Factors such as water supply, overcrowded living conditions and dirty environment are amongst some of the problems in the area. The lack of basic infrastructure in the IDP camps is indeed a substantial problem which collective efforts of governments, nongovernmental organization and individual philanthropy have not adequately addressed. This study found that prevalent health problems among the IDPs were malaria, cold and catarrh, and diarrhoea and their health needs include proper sanitation, lack of access to potable water and inadequate health care services. The lack of a systematic national and state unmet needs assessment of IDPs monitoring system is one of the critical challenge in determining the needs of internally displaced. Understanding the severity of food and non-food items is essential for determining the most appropriate response in meeting the needs of the IDPs.

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