



RESEARCH PAPER

The Challenges in Management of Refugees and IDPs in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

The study examined the challenges in management of refugees and IDPs in Narayi, Kaduna State-Nigeria spanning the period 2015-2021. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyze the quantitative data. Content analysis was also employed to analyze the qualitative data whereas statistical methods, regression and correlation analysis were utilized to analyze the quantitative data. The results of the study however, prove that there exist a significant association between the challenges of refugees and IDPs and their adaptability in Nigeria. According to the result of the regression analysis, lack of education and poor accommodation have a positive influence on adaptability while inadequate food has a negative impact on adaptability of refugees and IDPs in Nigeria for the period of study. The study therefore recommends that governments should enact a local law to compel IDPs management agencies at all levels to stringently observe the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement to the letter. In the alternative, they should adapt these principles as national laws and make them binding on all IDPs management agencies.

KEYWORDS Conflict, Education, Internally Displace Persons, Management. Refugees

Introduction

The existence of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) is often seen as an indicator of the spread and intensity of armed conflict. Refugees and IDPs are vulnerable economically, socially, psychologically and politically. Uprooted from their homes, having lost access to their accustomed livelihoods, resented by their hosts and often viewed as a burden or as opponents by governments responsible for their protection, they may be unable or unwilling to speak out when they are denied their rights and face dependence on their neighbors and on the international community.

One of the lingering problems facing Africa generally and Nigeria in particular which has degenerated into a major humanitarian crisis is internal displacement of people. The drivers of displacement in Nigeria are multi-faceted, complex and overlapping. They include Boko Haram insurgency, ethno-religious conflicts, pastoralists-farmers conflicts, armed banditry, natural disasters such as flooding, et cetera.

According to Kofi Annan, the former United Nations (UN) Secretary General, internally displaced persons are the most vulnerable of the human family, with displacement seen as the greatest tragedy of our time facing the global system and the state (Fenella, 2016). Citizens bear the consequences of insurgency, internal conflicts and natural disaster and are left to live a life they never bargained or planned for hence, they bear the title of Internally Displaced Persons in their land of origin. Displacement is an occurrence that takes people from their social, educational, economic, and cultural environment and makes them homeless within their country.

Internal displacement as a term has always been in existence and it became imperative as a concern for global society post Second World War. The violations of displaced persons' rights arise mostly from intra-state wars around the world have become dominant after the cold war ended (Olanrewaju, Omotoso & Alabi, 2018). From the time the Cold War ended Africa has witnessed series of conflicts that has led to millions of displaced persons in the continent. Even though Nigeria, the most populous country in Africa was not touched by the immediate consequences of the end of the Cold War, but the recent upsurge in internal displacement necessitated by the Boko Haram insurgency and Hausa Fulani mayhem have brought about thousands of displacement in Nigeria. The endless surge in internal conflicts is particularly disturbing knowing the enormous loss of lives, the destruction of public and private infrastructures, made people homeless has been a recurring phenomenon in the country (Olanrewaju et al. 2018).

The plight of the Internal Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees has become a global phenomenon. Countries around the world are faced with challenges to finding lasting solution to this problem. For example, in the area of study, residences are displaced from their home through various forms of attack, either by herdsmen or insurgency or through terrorism. In other parts of the world it could be through militancy, persecution or natural disaster, etc. In any form these ugly trends are witnessed, the fabric of peace is broken, lives are lost, while people are rendered homeless. These phenomena have caused untold hardship to people universally.

It is worthy to note that in every displacement, those who seek for refuge face all kind of challenges, from lack of food, clothing, shelter, to lack of medical care, school and other amenities. They lack jobs, and faced with other societal ills such as rape, diseases and basic education. Also in camps harboring the displaced persons, cases of insurgents making surprise attack are recorded.

Nigeria, like other places in the world, has not placed emphasis on the issues concerning the challenges of IDPs and this is a problem because displaced people could get involved in crime. Many may join terrorist groups like Boko Haram or the Fulani herdsmen in order to feel protected and cater for their families and their human needs. Persons in these camps could become addicted to drugs and alcohol and even become pickpockets or drug dealers. It could also lead to psychological distress, sometimes leading to mental health disorders.

The incapability of the men among the IDPs to meet up with their obligations as providers and protectors of their families during situations of conflict forces them to lose their family status and challenges their masculinity. When women earn more income than their male counterparts, the role gender plays may change, as this may affect the sexual desire and personal relationship among women and men. Generally, the consequence of this is the loss of power by IDPs men in been able to control their families. The lack of concentrated studies on the effect of challenges in management of Refugees and IDPs in Nigeria has necessitated this study's interrogation of the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria.

Literature Review

Conceptual Issues

Refugees: The 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, the cornerstone of refugee protection, defines a refugee as "a person who, as a result of 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 nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country.”

Internally Displace Persons: According to Akuto (2017) the UN, IDPs under international law are those people or individuals who were forced to leave their place or homes as a consequence of or to avoid the outcome of arm struggle, occasions of widespread hostility, man-made disaster, or human rights violations, and have remained within their country’s boundary as displaced persons. Robinson (2003) in his own contribution to the concept of IDPs using the approach of international law refer to IDPs as people obliged to flee their residence owing to staving and as a result of the effect of generalized violence, manmade or natural disaster to another location within their borders considered relatively safe.

Empirical Literatures Review

Cantor, Swartz, Roberts, Abbara, Ager, Bhutta, Blanchet, Bunte, Chukwuorji, Daoud, Ekezie, Jimenez-Damary, Jobanputra, Makhshvili, Rayes, Restrepo-Espinosa, Rodriguez-Morales, Salami and Smith (2021) sought to strengthen the understanding of the health needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in contexts of conflict or violence. Based upon a scoping review, the study identified limited evidence on IDP health, but nevertheless indicates that IDPs tend to experience worse health outcomes than other conflict-affected populations across a range of health issues; and this is due to the particularly vulnerable situation of IDPs relative to these other populations, including reduced access to health services. Further research is required to better understand these needs and the interventions that can most effectively address these needs.

Oghuvbu and Okolie (2020) investigated the responsibility to protect and the challenges of displaced men in Nigeria. The study employs the use of qualitative and quantitative research methods drawing data from primary and secondary sources. Administering 256 questionnaires to men within the IDPs camp accompany with well-structured interviews and focus group discussions with displaced men. Findings of the study shows that the challenges of the men population ranging from starvation, water, hunger, electricity, accommodation shortages and lack of sustainable occupation foretell serious human security threats for the country. The study proposes relevant policies for government and other related agencies working with the IDPs; while, concluding that government should collaborate with individuals and organizations in providing vocational skills, that will help alleviate their plights.

Nnadi, Ezeani and Nnadi, (2020) examined the national emergency management agency (NEMA) and the challenge of effective management of internally displaced persons in north eastern Nigeria. The survey (personal interview) and documentary methods of data collection were adopted in the study. Data were analyzed using content analysis method. The study found that poor record keeping by NEMA on the progressive increase in the number of displaced persons in Northeast Nigeria accounted for acute accommodation deficits in the IDP camps in the area. The study also found that lack of proper coordination of the delivery and distribution of relief materials from different aid agencies by NEMA accounted for food scarcity and poor health conditions in IDP camps in northeast Nigeria. The study recommended that the Nigeria government through NEMA should enhance its data tracking mechanisms for IDPs in the Northeast Nigeria to ensure the availability of dependable statistics of IDPs in camps and host communities. NEMA and other aid agencies should also effectively profile all IDPs and conduct needs assessment for them before procurement and distribution of relief materials. The

government should enforce existing legal framework and policy of oversight to ensure effective coordination of all interventions that would make for equity in distribution of relief materials.

Ahmad (2018) the places IDPs live in Nigeria are government buildings, schools, churches, town halls, bunk houses and tents. These shelters are not sufficient and in most cases they are asked to leave or accommodations are destroyed or damaged. The accommodations are over-crowded and un-suitable in terms of sanitation and water facilities and women have no privacy. Ahmad (2018) only spoke on insufficient shelters and the confrontations women face in regards to accommodations but did not tell us if men are the ones who live in government building, schools, churches, tents, town halls and bunk houses which is a gap in knowledge this research is going to place emphasis on.

Dunn (2018) noted that the distribution of food in camps gets to some people regularly while in some cases other persons don't receive food distribution. This is so because there is no figures of displaced people in Nigeria as the numbers of IDPs cannot be accounted for some people who have the resources when violence occurred had to relocate to where there is stability and peace with their available resources. While others left to leave with relatives in other regions in Nigeria. These reasons make it difficult to get the exact figure of IDPs. Dunn (2018) only spoke about the distribution of food and the challenges displaced persons face in food distribution but failed to state if men also are going through such challenges which this study will address.

Akuto (2017) studied the challenges of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nigeria and considers the implications for counselling and the role of key stakeholders in alleviating the plight of these persons. The study identifies the grave challenges faced by the displaced persons, points out the importance of counselling as part of measures to assist IDPs and the role of key stakeholders such as civil society organizations (CSO) and Educational Intuitions; governmental and non-governmental organizations. Thus, the challenges facing IDPs needs a collaborative effort in ameliorating their plight. Based on the reviews, the study concluded that embracing and assisting the IDPs by giving them shelter and basic needs such as food, cloth, water and so on will help them. It was recommended among others that the fundamental human rights of all citizens should be maintained at all times and adequate steps must be taken to alleviate the plight of IDPs.

Theoretical Framework

Human Needs Theory

This study is anchored on the human needs theory (HNT) proposed by Abraham Maslow in his paper "A Theory of Human Motivation" in psychological review in 1943. According to this theory human needs are universal and are not negotiable. It asserts that some needs are more significant for the well-being of human survival (Olanrewaju et al, 2018). In the views of Maslow and Burton, these needs are not just water, food and shelter. They also involve non-physical and physical essentials and other needs human beings are passionate to achieve (Marker, 2005). HNT is useful in giving an insight to the causes of conflict as well as the resolution of conflict. Scholars see HNT as an instrument for mediation, preventive peace building, and post conflict peace building (Danielsen, 2005).

HNT posit that the reason for conflict is as a result of underlying needs of persons to meet their needs as individual, as a society and at group level (Osagioduwa &

Oluwakorede, 2016). Burton (1990 cited in Danielsen, 2005), is of the view that global human needs are repeatedly ignored, resulting to groups using violence to get their rights and satisfy their needs. The study of HNT by Max Neef (1991), Burton (1990), and Maslow (1943) focus on the correlation between human needs and conflict at different levels of society ranging from intra/inter personal conflicts to conflicts within the international setting and inter-group conflict (Danielsen, 2005). The relationship between conflict and human needs rest on the premise that conflict occurs when individuals and groups needs are not met (Olanrewaju et al, 2018). Hence, conflict resolution would be more effective when human needs are met and conflict interest addressed.

Methodology

Research Design

A descriptive research is simply a study designed to depict participants involved in a research in an accurate way which could be through observation, case study or survey. For this reason, this research will use it to obtain information for the study using the sensor survey research that covers the primary data collection with the questionnaires.

Population and Sample

This study will employ the qualitative survey research design approach to analyze causal explanation. The study is social phenomena in nature which can be successfully analyze using social approach. The population under study is Two hundred and fifty-six (256) displaced persons in the Narayi IDPs Camp, Kaduna as at December, 2021.

Type of Data

The study used primary source of data through Focus Group Discussion (FGD) conducted among two major groups in the camp (Men and Women). This enable the researcher to have first-hand knowledge on challenges faced by IDPs from the victims. More so, this method is chosen because of its effectiveness, and also to reduce cost.

Method of Data Collection

Data collection is an important aspect of this study. The method for collecting data was both primary and secondary data method of collection. For the purpose of this study, data were sourced from primary sources. The primary data consist of structured questionnaires designed to provide the necessary and accurate information for this research. Primary data involves questions set in standards to ensure that information by the respondent's point of view in regards to the research conducted. Secondary sources of data for this study include journals, and research projects and internet sources.

Reliability and Validity Test

The Cronbach's alpha will show the level of validity and reliability of the questionnaire in order to reach an acceptable reliability for the questionnaire. Therefore, Cronbach's alpha in respect to outcome will show whether the questionnaire appears to be worthy of retention, resulting in a validity of the data collected from the use of the questionnaire.

Method of Data Analysis

Data collected was analyzed using both quantitative and qualitative methods using excel and Statistical Packages for Social Sciences. Data processing was carried out through editing, coding and classification. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyze the quantitative data. Content analysis was employed to analyze the qualitative data whereas statistical methods, regression and correlation analysis was utilized to analyze the quantitative data. Data was presented in various forms. The study further adopted multiple regression analysis to establish the strength and direction of the relationship between the variables (lack of education, inadequate food and poor accommodation and adaptability).

Model Specification

The dependent variable was regressed against three independent variables. A multiple regression model that was then fitted to determine the combined effect that the independent variables had on the dependent variable when acting jointly was expressed as follows:

$$AD = \beta_0 + \beta_1 LED + \beta_2 IFD + \beta_3 PAC + \varepsilon \dots\dots\dots 1$$

Where;

AD = Adaptability; β_0 = Constant (coefficient of intercept); LED = Lack of Education;

IFD = Inadequate Food; PAC = Poor Accommodation; β_1 - β_3 = Regression coefficient of four variables; ε = Error term.

Results and Discussion

Descriptive Statistics

The descriptive statistics of the data collected for the study is presented and discussed in this section. The summary of the descriptive statistics of the data collected is presented in Table 1 as follows;

Table 1
Descriptive Statistics of the Variables

Descriptive Statistics					
Variables	N	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Deviation
AD	256	1	5	2.69	1.443
LED	256	1	5	2.98	1.469
IFD	256	1	5	3.07	1.372
PAC	256	1	5	4.32	1.615
Valid N (listwise)	256				

Table 1 shows that the measure of adaptability (AD) has a minimum value of 1 and 5 as the maximum value, this indicates that 1 is the lowest value in the data set while 5 is the highest value in the data set which signifies that there are no serious outlier issues in the data set. The average value of the AD is 2.69 with standard deviation of 1.443, signifies that the data deviate from both side of the mean value by 1.443 approximately. This implies that there is a bit dispersion of the data from the mean, because of the value of standard deviation which is close to the mean.

The results from the table also indicate that the minimum and maximum values of the lack of education (LED) of the IDPs men and women are 1 and 5 respectively; this indicates non-existence of outliers' issues from the data set. The mean value of 2.98 and standard deviation of 1.469 in the data implies that there is dispersion from the mean value by approximately 1.47.

Furthermore, the descriptive result also revealed that inadequate food (IFD) supply minimum and maximum values of the inadequate food are 1 and 5 respectively; this indicates non-existence of outliers' issues from the data set. The mean value of 4.32 and standard deviation of 1.615 in the data implies that there is dispersion from the mean value.

The results from the table also indicate that the minimum and maximum values of the poor accommodation (PAC) are 1 and 5 respectively; this indicates non-existence of outliers' issues from the data set. The mean value of 3.07 and standard deviation of 1.372 in the data implies that there is dispersion from the mean value by approximately 1.37.

Regression

In this section, the regression results of the models of the study are presented and interpreted. The hypotheses formulated for the study are also tested from the results as presented in Table 2 below;

Table 2
Regression

Variables	Co-Efficient	T-Values	P-Values
Coefficient	1.233	1.434	0.159
LED	0.321	2.247	0.007
IFD	-0.215	-1.466	0.000
PAC	0.832	6.551	0.154
R ²	0.308		
Adjusted R ²	0.257		
F-stat	6.079		
F-sig	0.002		

The result shows that all the explanatory variables of challenges of refugees and IDPs have significant impact on adaptability at 1% and 5% levels of significance and one explanatory variable IFD is having insignificant impact on adaptability of the IDPs. Cumulatively the R² (0.308) which is the combined coefficient of determination indicates the extent to which the independent variables explain the total variation in the dependent variable and the remaining 69% is explained by the other factors not captured by the model of this study. Thus, it signifies that 31% of the total variation in adaptability of the IDPs is dependent on lack of education, inadequate food and poor accommodation. This indicates that the explanatory variables are well selected and combined because the R² is positive and satisfies the minimum rule of thumb. Furthermore, the F-statistics of 6.079, which is significant at one percent level of significance indicates that the model of the study is fit. The value of F-statistics which is statistically significant at one percent level of significance (0.002) means that there is a 99 percent probability of confidence that the association amongst the variables of the study is not just by chance.

Testing of Hypotheses

This section shows the analysis carried out with a view to testing the hypotheses formulated in chapter one.

Lack of Education and Adaptability.

H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between lack of education and adaptability of refugees and IDPs in Nigeria.

Lack of education (LED) found in this study to be negative and significant. Based on the regression result in table 4.3, LED has a coefficient value of -0.321, t-value of 2.247 and a significance value of 0.07. This implies that an increased quality education provided for the IDPs will lead to a increase their level of adaptability by 0.321 at 5% level of significance. This signifies that LED is positively and significantly related to adaptability of influencing the adaptability of refugees and IDPs in Nigeria. This is in tandem with the prior expectation of the researcher. Therefore, the study fails to accept the null hypothesis of the study.

Inadequate Food and Adaptability.

H₀₂: There is no significant relationship between inadequate food and adaptability of refugees and IDPs in Nigeria.

The study reveals negative and significant impact of inadequate food (IFD) and adaptability of refugees and IDPs in Nigeria. The IFD has a t-value of -1.466, co-efficient value of -0.233 and p-value of 0.000. This implies that a unit change in inadequate food will lead to an increase in adaptability by 0.233. This indicates that IFD has negative and significant impact on the adaptability of refugees and IDPs in Nigeria. This is not in line with the researcher's priori expectation and what is obtainable in reality. In line with the findings of the study, the null hypothesis is accepted and the alternate hypothesis rejected.

Work Ambiguity and Employee Performance

H₀₃: There is no significant relationship between poor accommodation and adaptability of refugees and IDPs in Nigeria.

The study reveals a statistical negative and insignificant impact of poor accommodation (PAC) on adaptability of refugees and IDPs in Nigeria. The PAC has a t-value of 6.551, co-efficient value of -0.832 and p-value of 0.154. This implies that a unit change in poor accommodation will lead to a decrease in adaptability by 0.832. This indicates that PAC has negative and significant impact on adaptability of refugees and IDPs in Nigeria. This is also in line with the researcher's priori expectation and what is obtainable in reality. Thus the study fails to reject the null hypothesis and conclude that there is an insignificant negative relationship between poor accommodation and adaptability of refugees and IDPs in Nigeria

Discussion

Lack of education results have been found to have positive influence with a p-value of 0.007 on adaptability of refugees and IDPs in Nigeria. Looking at the nature of the variable, it should be understood that individuals with quality education tend to adapt easily.

Inadequate food was found to reveal a negative but significant impact on adaptability of refugees and IDPs in Nigeria with a p-value of 0.000. This is also in line with the researcher's prior expectation and what is obtainable in reality. When individuals are well fed, it could remove depression and consequently a better adaptability.

Poor accommodation was found to reveal a positive and insignificant impact on adaptability of refugees and IDPs in Nigeria with a p-value of 0.154. This is in line with the researcher's prior expectation and what is obtainable in reality. When an individuals do not have good shelter the tendency to adapt quickly reduces.

Conclusion

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) go through severe stress due to their plight, which implies that if measure is not taken to address the situation it could lead to serious social and health problems. Findings of the study however, proves that there exist a significant association between the challenges of refugees and IDPs and their adaptability in Nigeria. According to the result of the regression analysis, lack of education and poor accommodation have a positive influence on adaptability while inadequate food has a negative impact on adaptability of refugees and IDPs in Nigeria for the period of study.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made:

- i. Governments should enact a local law in the to compel IDPs management agencies at all levels to stringently observe the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement to the letter. In the alternative, they should adapt these principles as national laws and make them binding on all IDPs management agencies.
- ii. Government should ensure that where relief materials are sent to IDPs those materials should not be diverted for other use.
- iii. Governments should endeavor to be proactive rather than responsive or even retroactive. Designated safe areas should be set aside for displacement even before they occur irrespective of the ability of government to develop or maintain them. Possibly, permanent structures should be erected in certain areas. An expanse of land may be reserved in case of displacement and when it eventually occurs, quality tents could be set up to temporarily accommodate the displaced.
- iv. Government should create avenue for vocational training programs for IDPs men and women. Most of these persons are already skilled in different vocations; this will go a long way in solving their unemployment challenges which is a major problem they face as displaced persons.

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