

**ETHICS AND MORAL VALUES: PERISCOPING INTO THE CHALLENGES OF
INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN NIGERIA. A FOCUS ON THE IDPS CAMPS IN
NORTH EAST NIGERIA**

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to establish the challenges of internally displaced persons in Nigeria. This study examines the extent at which internally displaced persons are neglected in Nigeria and how relief materials and money meant for them are diverted by the agents with unethical behavior. The research was carried out in 4 internally displaced persons camps in Nigeria. A survey questionnaire was administered on a sample size of two hundred persons in North-east Nigeria. A four point Likert-scale rating was secured as the instrument for data collection and questionnaire was face vetted and validated for data collection. The respondents indicated the extent of their agreement to the items based on the scale points; strongly agreed, agree, disagree and strongly disagree. The responses were weighted against the options and the mean score derived by summing the weighted scores and dividing by total number of responses.

Keywords: *displace, person, internally, camp, Nigeria, ethic, moral,*

Introduction

Down through the ages and indeed up till the 21st Century, philosophers and social analyst have always considered the rightness and wrongness of issues in line with what should constitute a morally and ethically accepted standard of behavior among people. Although it may appear clumsy with the constant use of the expression ethics and morality which to a large extent denotes goodness and evil. Ethical behavior therefore could be referred to as having manners consistent with one's personal beliefs and commonly held values of society Nelson and Quick, 2008. People steal, kill, lie and used their exalted position to cheat in order to achieve a desired goal, such attitude is seen as unethical. They see their action as a means to achieve result without considering it as being unethical. Anyone practicing this is making false representation, not meeting promised commitment, misleading others into belief and behavior that are unethical.

It is obvious that in spite of the existence of order in society, society is still in a state of flux because of its susceptibility to change. Generally, the process of change in a system is gradual and at times, so imperceptible that while it is obvious, it is not glaring apparent. If there are vocabularies very common on the lips of Nigerians today, there are fraud and corruption.

“Despite the relatively good agro-pastoral campaign, by June 2017, about 15.6 million people could be faced with food insecurity, including 5.5 million people in the Lake Chad Basin if no appropriate measures are taken. Alarmed by the activities of insurgents, Bandit and Cattle rustlers in the North East Nigeria, the situation is now being worrisome, Adam C (2016) is of the opinion that about 5.1 million people could face critical food and nutrition crisis.

“The persistence of the security crisis is the root cause of significant numbers of internally displaced populations in north-eastern Nigeria, estimated at 2.1 million individuals; this situation has also given rise

to acute food and nutrition insecurity, most notably in the states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe, where approximately 4.6 million people are estimated to be severely food insecure, of which 1.8 million are in an emergency situation and 55 000 are in a famine situation.

“The security environment seriously impedes the large-scale expansion of food and nutrition assistance operations for the populations in the affected areas.

“The ongoing food and nutrition crisis, combined with the destruction of livelihoods, limited access to basic social services (health, education, water, sanitation and hygiene) and the lack of protection, constitutes a high risk of weakening, over the long-term, the resilience of the affected displaced populations as well as host communities. Adam (2016)

This task is a turf one, the numbers are huge and the spread is large. Borno state alone according to research accounts for 9% of Nigeria land mass. From Yobe, Borno and Adamawa, we are facing several shortage of food, due to a number of factors, in addition to climate change. It is heartwarming that we have taken steps to address the situation, with the assistance of the international community, donor agencies, civil society groups and international financing institutions.”

Ogbeh said due to the successes recorded by the military most of the IDPs are being slowly resettled in their various communities, adding that resettlement itself is a problem because most of these communities were razed to the ground and those returning have no roof over their heads. In order to alleviate this impending danger, the Buhari’s Administration became proactive by setting up interministerial task force for the North East to coordinate all the humanitarian assistance in the region and that the government have to make sure, it provide not only food but shelter and other social necessary amenities. It is however, the considered desire of government that many good spirited individuals and organisations that have not yet come on board will be encouraged to step in as willing partners to alleviate the suffering of the people in the north east region through the offer of materials and financial support.

Anti-corruption refugee fund scandals

Numerous reports found in pages of Nigeria newspaper today, all dotted with various stories concerning implementations of funds allocated to that sector.

Nigeria has been identified with corruption for many years now. Oftentimes, governments is accused of wayward spending and lack of accountability. But many people hoped the country had taken a turn for better when, in May 2015, Muhammadu Buhari took office as Nigeria’s president Yomi Kazeem 2016.

In spite of the huge amount people and government had pumped into the internally displaced people camps and even that of the refugees the stories became worsen, leading to alarm raised, NGOs and other stake holders became alerted. The proactiveness of government led to uncovering of the billion naira misappropriated by the organ saddled with the responsibilities of implement the palliative by the anticorruption Agencies of government.

With his anti-corruption drive seemingly losing steam, Buhari now faces the embarrassing reality of having a large-scale, callous embezzlement of funds on his watch. Worst yet, the funds that were meant for millions of Nigerians in the northeast displaced by Boko Haram’s seven-year insurgency. A senate hearing investigating the spending of the Presidential Initiative for the North East (PINE) and its fund for rebuilding the northeast has uncovered troubling findings. In a [published report](#) on the state of affairs in the northeast, the senate says “so much money has been made available by government with very little to show for it. Yomi Kazeem 2016”

Goodluck Jonathan’s Presidential Initiative for the North East (PINE), Buhari’s Presidential Committee on the North- east Initiative (PCNI) and Borno State emergency agency IDPs camp financial fraud

Details of Presidential Initiative for the North East (PINE)’s spending, published as part of the Senate’s report, showed suspicious payments to contractors such as \$646,000 for “removal of invasive plant species

along river channels” and donations of \$318,000 to non-governmental agencies organizing conferences. Further, it showed \$372,000 had been spent on “supply of temporary shelters” but the senate’s report states it found “no record of these shelters anywhere.” The senate says the “rather incoherent and largely fragmented state of the procurement process so far points to a vague and corrupt scheme.” In total, PINE was unable to account for \$7.9 million of its funds at the senate hearing Reuters & Sotunde, A. (2016). While Presidential Initiative for the North East (PINE) was set up by ex-president Goodluck Jonathan which was replaced by Buhari’s Presidential Committee on the North East Initiative (PCNI), all of PINE’s payments to contractors were made during president Buhari’s administration. The first payment, a \$158,000 contribution to a conference, was made on Jan. 1 2016.

These troubling findings only come days after Nigeria’s government accused the United Nations and its agencies of exaggerating the scale of an imminent famine in the northeast. With overcrowded IDP camps and some villages still covered in rubble after being destroyed by Boko Haram, UN estimates shows that 5.1 million Nigerians in the region could face severe food shortages in a few years. But in response, Nigeria’s government claims the predictions are “blatant attempts to whip up a non-existent fear of mass starvation.” It also said predictions of famine in the country are only “being made ostensibly to draw donor support by some of the aid agencies.”

The denial by Nigeria’s government flies in the face of evidence from on-ground observers who say IDP camp residents face hunger and disease on a daily basis. Given the scale of the crisis, the World Health Organization, in August, 2016 announced a scale up of its emergency response activities in the region after its assessment estimated mortality rates in the region to be four times higher than “emergency thresholds.” (@ibrahimu14) December 7, 2016

It’s not the first time efforts to cater for IDP camps have been contaminated by corruption. In June, 2016 Kashim Shettima, governor of Borno, the state with the highest number of IDPs, ordered a police investigation after officials of the state emergency agency allegedly stole and sold relief material for profit. Yomi Kazeem

Misappropriation of IDPs fund by the implementation Agencies of government

The National Emergency Management Agency, NEMA has stated that no amount of financial and material support from the Federal Government, given to the 3.3 million Internally Displaced Persons, IDPs, is sufficient enough to end their suffering. IDPs over the years have suffered untold hardship due to the ungodly activities of Boko Haram. The extremist sect has ravaged the N/East, killing and maiming thousands, living many more homeless orphans, widows, single parent etc, since 2002 www.post-nigerias Members of the affected communities still lucky to be alive have fled into IDP camps across the country in the Federal Capital Territory, Edo, Plateau, Nasarawa and Benue while many others are helplessly roaming the streets. They have been reportedly living under deplorable conditions as they lack basic amenities like food, shelter, water, healthcare, sufficient toilets and sanitation.

When Post Nigeria, spoke to Ezekiel Manzo, NEMA’s Public Relations Officer on the welfare of IDPs, he stated that the agency in collaboration with state governments and security bodies have been working assiduously to ensure IDPs living in camps get the necessary support available.

Manzo however noted that camp situations cannot measure to normal residential circumstances, adding that no amount of humanitarian support from either government or interest groups would serve as total relief to their daily domestic challenges. *“There is no amount of support that government is giving to these people in the camp that will be enough for them”*

“Don’t forget that these people are traumatized people; you can imagine that someone who was living in the comfort of his home is now displaced, living in the camp. That boils down to the fact that no amount of support that is given to these people in the camp will be enough except if they go back to their

homes.” Ajimande, J. (2015) “So we are saying Nigerians and other individuals that want to give support can also give support,” Manzo, 2016

On how NEMA has used the Victim Support Fund, VSF, set up to harvest funds for the purposes of resettling and compensating the displaced not limited to Boko Haram victims but the vulnerable and flood victims in the country, he clarified that “VSF is a public-private partnership foundation and it composed of some people as members, which he said NEMA is only a member of the committee and as such as has no absolute control of the fund.” However insinuations from public quarters and IDPs indicate that funds and relief materials meant for victims are either diverted or misappropriated by NEMA officials or their agents, Ajimande, J. (2015)

Recently, an internally displaced woman lost her cool during the visit of the Deputy Senate President, Ike Ekweremadu at the Damare National Youth Service Corps, NYSC, camp in Adamawa State as she vented the anger of her discontentment where she publicly accused officials of misappropriation and in some cases outright diversion of relief materials and funds meant for them.

“It’s a lie. We are not well taken care of,” She screamed. “We only eat twice daily and it is only rice. They sell the materials brought to us. They also buy cows meant for our upkeep, please we want to go home” she lamented. “The woman that made that allegation at the camp; I met her on Sunday in the camp and she was speaking to the camp officials, saying she saw someone carrying firewood and charcoal, “The best thing I will say to anyone that has doubt of the conditions of the camp; the person should go to the camp and see for himself, Ajimande. 2015” alerted.

Curiously, Post Nigeria requested to know if the agency had plans for the post-insurgency era by resettling and reengaging victims whose farms and business are in shambles as a result of the insurgency, Manzo 2015 explained that NEMA’s mandate does not extent into resettlement and reengagement of IDPs “NEMA is not a business resuscitating organization. What we are doing is attending to issues that have direct bearing to the survival of the people affected by the insurgency.

“NEMA does not compensate, the issue of compensation is of a long term plan. What we are attending to are the short and medium term needs of the IDPs,” NEMA said. The management of IDPs especially those situated in camps has become a thing of concern to the Nigerian public. The Agency mandate is therefore narrow within the limit of providing for their welfare.

Analysts are of the opinion that much as NEMA has been able to handle the emergency of IDPs caused by Boko Haram they may not be able to meet up with the general public’s expectation especially now that funds and materials that have come in either through government, organizations and individuals do not seem commensurate with what filters down to the IDPs. Ajimande, J. 2016, further analyzed that providing emergency relief and deploying similar palliative to the different camps may not be enough if those within segments at each camp are not sincere. Human element are somehow difficult to control, as 100 percent success might be difficult to achieve

The two million clamor of the North-east

IDPs living within and outside Yola travel to Jimeta to collect food and relief materials, freely distributed by St Theresa Catholic Church Omeresan, C. (2017)

A recent United Nations (UN) report suggests the conflict has displaced a total of 1.64 million people – roughly the population of Surulere in Lagos State. Many of these people reside in temporary camps or have nestled into host communities, mainly in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states. Crippled by a fear of renewed violence that prevents them from returning to their homes, these domestic migrants continue to place a strain on their host communities beyond the core states affected Omeresan, C. 2017

Food is the greatest unmet need; 2.1 million are in dire need of nutritional assistance, unsure of where and when their next meal will come. Nearly half a million children age below five suffered from acute malnutrition in 2017 alone. And in the absence of other urgent needs – water, sanitation, hygiene, and security – hardship is guaranteed and death looms for the most vulnerable, particularly nursing mothers and children. www.stearing.com/...the-forgotten..THISDAYLIFE

Few year ago, Human Rights Watch reported instances of rape and sexual abuse in IDP camps, sparking a federal investigation into the matter. Shortly after, Medicins Sans Frontieres, an international medical humanitarian group, showed that a quarter of the population of under-five children in two Maiduguri camps were missing, presumed dead.

This level of human suffering is unacceptable, even in Nigeria. I dare say that even in a country where recent estimates show two-thirds of the population living in abject poverty (less than \$1.90 per day), there should be some degree of decent, if not adequate, allocation of both financial and human resources to this crisis in our neighborhood.

One culprit here is Nigeria's nefarious and elusive friend, corruption. The 'IDP fund scandal' made its rounds in 2016 when the Senate formed an ad hoc Committee on the mounting crisis. In an emotive plenary session, the Committee reported a gross mismanagement of the funds allocated to the region. Without the Senate exercising such oversight functions, more resources would have continued to fall into private pockets under the 'watch' of the Secretary to the government of Federation's Office and the Presidential Initiative on the North-East. That was our moment to act. But the government's response could not encourage enough action to be taken as to address the situation Omeresan, C.2017

With more millions pouring in, we hope that lives will be saved this time. The region looks set to receive vital funds for security and rehabilitation. In his speech to the Senate on the 2017 Budget, President Buhari highlighted a ₦45 billion (\$150 million) budgetary allocation 'provisioned for the rehabilitation of the Northeast'. Regional and international bodies have followed suit. The African Development Bank pledged a \$250 million loan for rebuilding, recovery, and stabilization while USAID announced \$92 million in additional assistance. But according to the UN, all this may still not be enough to support the total number of Nigerian refugees, both internal and external, displaced by the conflict. Illustrating the task at hand, may still be consumed by other extraneous variables of insincerity of people at the dispensing levels. Even with their interest, international agencies face palpable domestic challenges and hostility. For example, State Governors have uttered, and later retracted, criticism of their involvement in rehabilitation efforts. These are the daily hurdles we must face in the absence of good top-down leadership. Throwing money at the IDP crisis will not solve the problem if political drive is lacking. This is a problem beyond money; it is a problem that calls for a deeper understanding of the nation-state's role in securing more than just survival, but, also, the dignity of life Omeresan, C. 2017

Secretary General of Federation's Office mismanagement of the fund meant for bringing reliefs to the suffering millions in the North-East.

It is evident that most cities, towns and villages have been destroyed by the coordinated bombing attacks by armed Islamists over the past few years The will, 2016.

These victims of terrorism support fund understandably netted in billions of cash by way of donations and gifts from individuals and corporate bodies. Upon assumption of office on May 29th2015, President Muhammadu Buhari made the effective resettlement of these internally displaced citizens in the North East his top priority. He started action towards ameliorating the untold human disasters by reconstituting the powerful Presidential Committee to bring succor to the displaced Nigerians.

Essentially, the same prominent individuals were retained by President Muhammadu Buhari just as the office of the Secretary to the government of the Federation as is the practice in public service was made the

Secretariat of this multibillion Naira intervention fund. But when most people had thought that some of the manifestations of hunger and starvations of the displaced persons were about to subside going by the enormity of cash reportedly netted in by the victims support scheme, these existential problems escalated essentially because of apparent mismanagement of the fund meant for bringing reliefs to the suffering millions. <https://thewillingnigeria.com>>...>opinion

Foodstuffs such as rice meant for these citizens are diverted to the open markets even with the official bags used for the packaging. Critics have often wondered the rationale for bypassing the officially created institutions such as the National Emergency Management Agency and the Nigerian Refugees Commission to domicile this huge terrorism victims' support fund in the office of a political appointee such as the office of the Secretary to the government of the Federation. This evil practice must be disbanded. Let the relevant government institutions clothed with statutory mandates be allowed to carry out their functions stipulated by law. Thewill, 2016.

The United Nations relevant agencies on internally displaced persons and even the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) have in recent times issued global warnings of imminent death from starvation and malnutrition of thousands of children in the IDP Camps in the North East of Nigeria.

President Buhari alarmed by this red flag is also quoted to have reaffirmed the determination of his government to get to the roots of all the accusations of theft and diversion of relief materials. It has now emerged that he may not have to go too far to discover those who have become richer through the suffering of the good people of the North East of Nigeria mostly affected by these terrorism attacks. The relevant committees of the two chambers of the National Assembly have also set up separate probe panels to uncover the scandals trailing the alleged disappearances of billions of cash meant for the provision of relief materials to these internally displaced citizens running to over N12 billion. Thewill, 2016.

When the House of Representative's committee began its own investigations, little did the members expect so soon to uncover heartrending claims, counter-claims and allegations of bureaucratic corruption in the administration of the fund meant to provide relief to millions of our fellow citizens displaced by the unfortunate war brought on them by armed terrorists. One of such callous proofs of alleged bureaucratic corruption is being systematically traced to the secretariat of the victim's support fund which is domiciled in the office of the Secretary to the government of the Federation headed by a pastor and an acclaimed Engineer. He the Secretary to the government of the Federation arrogantly ignored the invitation sent to him to appear and give clarifications to the alleged monumental heist. Emmanuel Onwubiko (2017).

The extent of the involvement or otherwise of the powerful scribe of government in this damaging crime is yet to unravel but one lasting allegations that must be thoroughly investigated is that of the N270 million to clear grass/weeds at internally displaced persons' camps in Borno State.

Newspapers are reported that the House of Representative's committee investigated alleged diversion of funds and materials meant for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPS), especially the alleged use of N270m just to clear grass by the office of the Secretary to Government of the Federation (SGF) said it was being frustrated by the refusal of the then SGF, Mr. Babachir Lawal to appear before it. The committee particularly decried the failure of Secretary to Government of the Federation (SGF), Mr Babachir Lawal, to honour summon to him to appear and clarify some issues on the allegation.

The Committee on IDPs and the North-East Initiatives, mandated by the house to investigate the allegation had invited Lawal to explain how his office spent about N12 billion allocated for the IDPs' challenges. The committee is also investigating the expenditure of N270 million by the Presidential Initiative on the North-East (PINE) "on just clearing of grass". Onwubiko, E. (2017).

Also being probed by house committee is the purported allocation of N188.69 million for Nigerian refugees living in Minawao, Republic of Cameroon. Expressing disappointment with the attitude of the SGF towards the committee, Chairman of the committee, Rep. Sani Zorro, said "*The SGF who was slated to have appeared*

hasn't showed up. "He did not write to intimate us on why his office would not come to explain why issues of internally displaced persons have remained un-encouraging, in spite of the billions of naira claimed to have been spent.

The frustrated House Committee chairman had this to say, *"We also expected him to explain the implementation framework being used to spend money. "We have been inundated by reports of diversion of materials and funds meant for the rehabilitation of the IDPs, and the North-East and the scandal had led to international embarrassment for the country. "Given the issues of credibility and integrity raised against the agency in charge of the North-East Initiative (PINE) which falls under the SGF office, we had expected him to respect the invitation."*

However, testifying before the committee members, Executive Secretary in charge of the Presidential Initiative, Mr. Umar Gulani, said that N270 million was awarded as a contract. He said the contract was for the removal of 250 kilometres of "invasive plant species along river channels and simplified village irrigation scheme (phase II) in Komadugu Basin in Yobe".

In reaction, Zorro expressed dissatisfaction with the explanation, saying, "we are of the opinion that the expenditure of the magnitude you have made is not justified. Zorro a journalist stated further: "It's not acceptable that you would spend such a huge amount of money on the clearing of weeds while 2.5 million internally displaced victims of terror go hungry. "They have no shelter and medical care." The committee, therefore, demanded further details from PINE, to be submitted to it without delay. Onwubiko, E. (2017).

It is a terrible thing for a government official to use such a callous expenditure to clear ordinary weeds for the setting up of temporary camps would be imagining if this quantum of money was used to build palatial mansion for the displaced persons. President Buhari must be worried that his officials are busy staining the image his administration is building for itself as an anti-corruption crusading team if in these financially troubling times his officials would deploy N270 million to pull off weeds that prison inmates can competently uproot with less than N100, 000 (hundred thousand Naira).

Let the government do everything transparently to recover this huge money from whosoever collected it. Nigerians needs to know the identity of the contractor who procured this apparently fraud-ridden job from the office of the Scribe to Buhari. President Muhammadu Buhari must compel his SGF to render prompt and unambiguous accounts and ensure the recovery of this huge chunk of public money. There is no doubt that bureaucratic corruption is responsible for the depletion of financial resources budgeted for the provision of essential social services and building sustainable infrastructures that would have been beneficial to millions of Nigerians. Onwubiko, E. (2017).

Bureaucratic corruption is one of the reasons for Nigeria's economic recession. Igwenyi, B.O. says, *"Bureaucratic corruption manifests in a variety of situation in public service particularly when officials use their positions to obtain undeserved favours either from members of the public or from public funds under their control."* He cited the example of when the former President of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo and his Vice-President, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar were indicted for unlawful withdrawals and or embezzlement of funds belonging to the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF) to assert that it was a good case of this type of corruption.

In similar vein, when the members of the House of Representative's Ad-hoc Committee on Telecommunications indicted the Director General of Nigeria Communication Commission (NCC) for deliberately withholding issuance of operating licence to Nigeria Communication Satellite Limited (NIG-COMSAT) even when former President Olusegun Obasanjo had given the necessary approvals, it was seen as an act of bureaucratic corruption.

He said, "Just as when the former governor of Abia State (Dr. Orji Uzor Kalu); Jigawa State (Alhaji Saminu Turaki); Enugu State (Dr. Chimaroke Nnamani); Plateau State (Chief Joshua Dariye) and

Bayelsa State (D.S.P Alamieyeseigha) were arraigned in various Federal High Courts for embezzlement of their State funds constitute manifestation of this type of corruption." Emmanuel Onwubiko (2017)

These acts of corruption often arise from award of contracts mostly for unviable projects; kickbacks for all manner of services; collusion; procurement fraud; nepotism and favoritism which lower standards; personal use of official and government secrets; any improper use of position; deceit of superior officials to obtain favour, preparation of fake proposals and outright stealing of all manner of government property either alone or in agreement with others in the same establishment.

The most important thing in this case is that the SGF must render transparent account on how every penny meant for the IDPS was spent and this huge sum reportedly paid for cutting of grasses must be refunded to the government, Emmanuel Onwubiko (2017)

DIVERSION OF IDPS FUNDS AND MATERIALS

The authorities should move fast to address the worrying exploitation of the IDPs, Vincent Obia. Recent revelations about the diversion of items and funds meant for internally displaced persons in various parts of the country have inspired much discussion. Over the past few months, different institutions and organs of government have raised concerns about the astonishing and emotional issue. The authorities must rise to the occasion, and proactively move to save the IDPs from those who are out to profiteer from their situation. Government must demonstrate that they are committed and able to protect the IDPs from persons who have sold their souls to the devil.

Recently, the House of Representatives resolved to investigate allegations that donor funds and materials meant for the displaced persons were being diverted. The resolution followed a motion on matters of urgent public importance raised by Hon. Aliyu Isa, Peoples Democratic Party member from Gombe State, during plenary.

The House said in the resolution passed on June 23, 2017, "Both the federal government, local donor groups, as well as wealthy individuals have committed funds for the same purposes." It expressed worry "that despite all the donations, a large number of these IDPs are living in hunger, very deplorable and unhygienic conditions without any rehabilitation in sight." "There are series of allegations of diversion of the donated funds meant for the wellbeing and welfare of IDPs." The House mandated its committees on emergency and disaster preparedness; loans, aids and debt management; and IDPs, refugees and initiatives on North-east to investigate the donations and their disbursement.

The chairman of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, Mr. Ibrahim Magu, expressed worries over complaints of corruption in the IDPs camps. Magu said the complaints came from international humanitarian organisations and other civil society organisations that were donating relief materials to victims of the Boko Haram insurgency in the North-east, camped in different parts of the country. "*We want to be sure that there is transparency, accountability and judicious use of the money allocated to Internally Displaced Persons in Maiduguri and elsewhere,*" the EFCC chairman stated while visiting the reopened zonal office of the commission in Maiduguri. "What we are doing is gathering intelligence but the culprits behind the sufferings in the IDP camps will be invited sooner or later by the EFCC." www.vanguardngr.com>News

The main culprits are civil society groups and non-governmental organisations claiming to be working for the interest of the IDPs. But there are individuals and government officials also involved in the wicked enterprise of taking advantage of the IDPs. Recently, there were reports about some officials of the National Emergency Management Agency caught changing the bags in which rice procured by government, benevolent Nigerians, and foreign donors for the IDPs were sold, on purpose to resell them.

Not long ago, the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps in Borno State arrested some men alleged to have duped IDPs in the state into buying fake forms for relief materials to the tune of about N27 million. The suspects were said to have sold 9,000 forms at N300 each to IDPs in some camps in Maiduguri with the promise of providing them special relief materials from the federal government.

It is disturbing to note that while the funds and items meant to bring some succor to the IDPs are being siphoned, conditions in the camps are worsening everyday. The Islamic Medical Association of Nigeria, an NGO, said two ladies and a man were diagnosed with mental insanity among the IDPs at the Kukareta camp in Yobe State. Chairman of the organisation, Dr Abdullahi Nur, called for “urgent psychological therapy for the IDPs for the shock suffered from the attacks on their communities.” Umoru, H. & Erunke, J. (2016)

Over the years, progress has been made in raising funds and relief items for persons who have been displaced from their ancestral homes by insecurity caused by the Boko Haram insurgency and other forms of insecurity in the country. But the federal government needs to do more to ensure that the donated resources get to their real beneficiaries. The Victims Support Fund, which was launched on July 31, 2014 by former President Goodluck Jonathan, is a veritable means of ensuring accountability in the collection and distribution of money and aid for the IDPs. The federal government has tried to summon the needed political, social, and legal support for the victims’ fund. The former government authorised the incorporation of the fund into a trust fund to, among other things, “insulate it from political interference.” A lot of goodwill has been achieved within and outside Nigeria in terms of response to appeals for relief resources for the victims of insecurity.

But the federal government needs to harness the domestic and foreign goodwill to make a difference in the lives of the IDPs. This it can do by streamlining the process of relief materials through the Victims Support Fund, which is manned by a group of prominent and dependable Nigerians. The fund is chaired by General Theophilus Danjuma.

Empowering the Victims Support Fund to manage the issue of relief for the IDPs would be an excellent way to eliminate the disheartening and shameful reports of corruption in the IDPs aid system. It would be in line with the fund mission, to be the foremost knowledge-driven and programme-based organisation, mobilising sustainable funding and building partnerships for the support and transformation of victims of terrorism and insurgency in Nigeria.” The objectives of the Victims Support Fund include, to manage, disburse and/or administer support to the victims (of terrorism and insurgency) as appropriate; to address related challenges as may be appropriate.

Other duties of the Victims Support Fund include economic empowerment, health care, as well as educational and psychosocial support for victims of terrorism and insurgency. Umoru, H. & Erunke, J. (2016) With about 2.152 million IDPs, according to Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, an independent, non-governmental humanitarian organisation, with headquarters in Geneva, Nigeria is said to have the highest number of displaced persons in Africa. Of the figure, 12.6 per cent were displaced due to communal clashes, 2.4 per cent by natural disasters, and 85 per cent as a result of insurgency attacks by Boko Haram Islamists. The Nigerian government has a duty to give succor to the displaced and deprived citizens. Only actions that can have a significant impact in comforting the people and protecting them from further misery would make the needed difference in their lives. www.vanguardngr.com>News

Purpose of the Article

The purpose of this study was to find out the challenges of internally displaced persons in Nigeria. This study is arrived at revealing the extent at which internally displaced persons are being neglected in Nigeria and how relief materials and money meant for them are diverted by the agents with unethical behavior.

Scope of the Article

The research was carried out in 4 internally displaced camps in Nigeria;-

1. Adamawa
2. Gwarzo

3. Maiduguri
4. Yobe

Table 1
Distribution of study population by gender

S/No	Item	Male	Female	Total	%
1	Adamawa	15	35	50	0.25
2	Gwarzo	40	10	50	0.25
3	Maiduguri	12	38	50	0.25
4	Yobe	42	8	50	0.25
	Total	109(0.54)	91(0.45)	200	1

Researchers Field Survey 2021

Procedure for data collection

The researchers collected the data and organized them according to the questions formulated for the study. The data was analyzed using the mean method after weights of 4, 3, 2 and 1, had been assigned to the options as against strongly agree, agree, disagree and strongly disagree respectively. Item that had a mean score of 3 points and above, were regarded as agreed or accepted, whereas any item having a mean score below 3.00 points was considered as disagreed or rejected.

The responses were weighed against the options and the mean score derived by summing the weighed scores and dividing by total number of response.

$$\text{Mean score} = \frac{(R1 \times 4) + (R2 \times 3) + (R3 \times 2) + (R4 \times 1)}{\text{Total No of responses}}$$

Table 2
Respondents view on the challenges of internally displaced persons in Nigeria.

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	DA	SDA	TOTAL	X	REMARKS
1	The people use their position to steal in order to achieve goal.	80	110	4	6	200	3.3	Agree

2	Internally displaced people are well taken care of by the government.	20	11	80	89	200	2.0	Disagree
3	The relief materials sent by the government and the good-will people of Nigeria are mismanaged by the agents in charge of internally displaced persons	98	77	20	5	200	3.34	Agree
4	The persistence of the security crisis is the root cause of significant numbers of internally displaced populations in north-eastern Nigeria,	145	35	13	7	200	3.5	Agree
5	Buhari's anti-corruption policy drive is a huge failure.	70	99	11	20	200	3.0	Agree
6	It is evident that most cities, towns and villages have been destroyed by the coordinated bombing attacks by armed Islamists.	69	116	6	9	200	3.2	Agree
7	IDP camp residents face hunger and disease on a daily basis.	79	96	25	-	200	3.2	Agree
8	People at internally dis-placed camp lack basic amenities like food, shelter, water, healthcare, sufficient toilets and sanitation.	20	3	84	93	200	2.0	Disagree
9	The insurgency has affected the economic, social and political situation of Nigeria.	10	7	88	95	200	2.0	Disagree
10	IDPs living within and outside Yola travel to Jimeta to collect food and relief materials, freely distributed by St Theresa Catholic Church.	120	40	19	21	200	3.2	Agree

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The first item in Table 2 has the mean score of 3.3. This shows that the respondents agree with the fact that the people use their position to steal in order to achieve their goal. Item 2 has the mean score of 2.0, this shows that the correspondents disagree with the fact that internally displaced people are well taken care of by the government. Item 3 has the mean score of 3.3, this shows that the respondents agree with the fact that, the relief materials sent by the government and the good-will people of Nigeria are mismanaged by the agents in charge of internally displaced persons. Item 4 has the mean score of 3.5, this shows that the respondent agree that the persistence of the security crisis is the root cause of significant numbers of internally displaced populations in north-eastern Nigeria. Item 5, has the mean score of 3.0, this shows that the respondents agree with the fact that Buhari's anti-corruption policy drive is a huge failure. Item 6, has the mean score of 3.2, this shows that respondents agree to the fact that it is evident that most cities, towns and villages have been destroyed by the coordinated bombing attacks by armed Islamists. Item 7 has the mean score of 3.2, this indicates that the respondents agree with the fact that IDP camp residents face hunger and disease on a daily

basis. Item 8, has the mean score of 2.0, this shows that the respondents disagree with the fact that people at internally displaced camp lack basic amenities like food, shelter, water, healthcare, sufficient toilets and sanitation. Item 9, has the mean score of 2.0, this shows that the respondents disagree with the fact that the insurgency has affected the economic, social and political situation of Nigeria. Item 10, has the mean score of 3.2, this shows that the respondents agree with the fact that IDPs living within and outside Yola travel to Jimeta to collect food and relief materials, freely distributed by St Theresa Catholic Church.

Table 3

DERIVATION RESPONSES MEAN SCORES

Item	Mean Scores
1	3
2	2
3	3
4	3
5	3
6	3
7	3
8	2
9	2
10	3

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Summary of the article

It is obvious that in spite of the existence of order in society, the society still seems to be in a state of flux because of its susceptibility to change. Generally, the process of change in a system is gradual and at times, so imperceptible that while it is discovered, it is not glaring apparent. If there are vocabularies very common on the lips of Nigerians today, there are fraud and corruption. The articles summarizes that the miss management of relief materials in almost all the IDPs camps are a network of coordinated fraudsters who specializes these unethical mischiefs.

Conclusion

The research revealed that most cities, towns and villages have been destroyed by the coordinated bombing attacks by armed Islamists. The relief materials sent by the government and the good-will people of Nigeria are mismanaged by the agents in charge of internally displaced persons, State emergency agency IDPs camp embezzled the fund meant for the up-keep and resettlement of the internally displaced persons. It is essentially very disappointing and indeed shameful for items meant for a displaced population to be stolen by some agencies saddled with the responsibility to protect the same items.

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