

## **INSURGENCY AND THE MANAGEMENT OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPS) IN THE NORTH EAST NIGERIA (2009-2018)**

Obeta, Roseline Uzoamaka  
rose.obeta@yahoo.ca

Department of Public Administration & Local Government  
University of Nigeria, Nsukka  
Enugu State

### **Abstract**

The study critically evaluated the Management of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) orchestrated by insurgency in North East Nigeria. One of the major problems facing Nigeria is how to manage the rising number of IDPs especially in the North Eastern part of the country. Irrespective of the effort of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) which was established to saddle with the responsibilities of managing the IDPs yet the IDPs face grave human rights violations and abuse including lack of food, shelter, water and sanitation, limited health facilities, death, injuries, sexual abuse etc. Three research questions that transcend to three hypotheses were formulated to act as a guide in realizing the objectives of the study. Data for the research were sourced from secondary materials and were analyzed descriptively. The study was anchored on theory of structural functionalism. The findings revealed that irrespective of the rights contained in the Nigerian Constitution, IDPs are invariably and tactically denied access to these rights. The study recommended among others; the Nigerian government through NEMA should ensure that it enhances its data tracking mechanisms for displaced persons in the Northeast to ensure the availability of dependable statistics of displaced persons both in camps and in host communities; that the institutions of war against corruption must be strengthened, such that those found wanting in diverting and embezzling the funds meant for the welfare of the IDPs in the Northeast will be prosecuted and punished accordingly.

**Keywords:** Insurgency; IDPs; NEMA; Insecurity; Management; Boko-Haram; Constitution; Corruption.

## Introduction

The issue of internal displacement has taken centre stage of insurgency and insecurity discourse especially in sub-Saharan Africa, where hordes of insurgents have sacked communities from their ancestral homes and ensured that their return is impossible. Internal displacement describes situations in which individuals and groups are compelled to leave and remain away from their homes, but remain within the borders of their own countries. This usually occurs as a result of insurgency as entrenched in the North East Nigeria under the episode of Boko-Haram (Bukar, 2016). The scale of internal displacement and the inevitable problem and nature of the response by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMA) have become far more momentous in contemporary times.

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) was established by Act 12 as revised by Act 50 of 1999 as the Nigerian government's response to disasters, particularly internal displacement of people. According to the Act that established it, its objective is to coordinate resources in Nigeria to ensure efficient and effective disaster prevention, preparation, mitigation, and response. In carrying out its duties, NEMA has partnered with other governmental and nongovernmental organizations. Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camps were built in various sections of the country, and catastrophe victims were given relief supplies. For example, in 2006, NEMA evacuated around 1700 Nigerians fleeing community conflicts in Mambilla Plateau and surrounding areas to seek safety in Cameroun (NEMA Report, 2006). In 2011, more than 500 Nigerians were safely evacuated from troubled Middle Eastern countries such as Egypt, Libya, and Tunisia, as well as the West African country of Ivory Coast (NEMA Report, 2012).

Statistics from International Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC) (2013, 2015) showed that the population of internally displaced persons in Nigeria increased from 1,3538,982 in 2013 to about 2, 152,000 in 2015. This represents an increase of over one million from 2013 to 2015. The total number of internally displaced persons across Nigeria as at 2017 was 1,700,000 people ([www.internal.displacement.org](http://www.internal.displacement.org)>countries, 28/4/2019). About 279,000 displacements were due to violence perpetrated by Boko Haram insurgents and military operations against them. Between January and June, 2018, a total of 417,000 people were displaced in Nigeria due to conflicts and violence (IDMC,

2019). The obvious effect of these massive displacements was accommodation deficits for the teeming number of displaced persons. NEMA and government appeared to have been taken unawares and therefore unprepared in making adequate provisions for accommodation of very large number of displaced persons. Host communities were equally over-stretched as there existed few camps for the accommodation of these IDPs. Odunmorayo (2015) further observed inadequate and at times unavailable health services in the camps due to high number of IDPs.

Most apparently, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) instantaneously become reliant on others for their most basic needs such as shelter, food and water. At the same time, their susceptibility may be amplified by barriers to accessing health care, education, employment, economic activities, and electoral politics in their areas of displacement. Moreover, the longer displacement continues, the greater is the risk that traditional family and social structures break down, leaving Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) dependent on outside aid and vulnerable to economic and sexual exploitation. Such dependency, in turn, reduces the chances of durable solutions and sustainable reintegration into society once political and security conditions have changed to enable such solutions to take place (Ogundamisi, 2016).

These Internally Displaced Persons face grave human rights violations and abuse including lack of food, shelter, water and sanitation, limited health facilities, death, injuries, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), arbitrary detention, disappearances, forced displacement, and forced recruitment. The psychological needs of these displaced persons are particularly significant and remain largely unmet given the magnitude of the problem. Loss and fear among the displaced are aggravated by a sense of loss of dignity as many feel ashamed of their living conditions.

### **1.1 Objective of the Study**

As regards to the justification for the critical assessment of the Management of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) occasioned by insurgency in North East Nigeria, the objectives of this paper are to: find out how rapid increase in insurgency affected management of internally displaced persons in the North East Nigeria, find out how corruption impeded the management of internally displaced persons

in the North East Nigeria and identify how National Policy on IDPs strengthen the effective management of IDPs in the North East Nigeria.

### **The Concept of Insurgency and Internally Displaced Person**

In recent times, the concept, insurgency has attracted lots of interpretations, some of which are closely related and some which have completely distinct interpretation from scholars, analysts and security experts all over the world because of its regular occurrences and sophistication adopted by those that championed its cause as a mean to register their grievances either against government policies or marginalization, as well as in pursuit of selfish interests or of religious ideologies or beliefs (Mevayerore, 2019).

Abdu and Shehu (2019) see insurgency as a rebellion against a constituted authority either in the pursuit of political goal or for selfish interest. Abolurin (2011) cited in Abdu and Shehu (2019:10) described insurgency as a revolution, revolt, rebellion, riot and mutiny. By implication, those carryout rebellious acts are insurgent groups involved in insurgency. Most people have also used the term 'terrorism' to describe the term 'insurgency'. But this description is not usually correct about insurgency. Though it can only be regard as such only when it has gone extreme with the use arms and other forms of sophistication. In this respect, Curtas (2006) and Liolio (2014) cited in (Amalu, 2015:36) argued that insurgency is not terrorism, subversion, guerrilla war, conventional war, revolution, coup d'état, although some insurgent groups have adopted some of these methods in the achievement of their goals.

Hassan (2014) argued that insurgency can be seen as political struggle and necessarily not a military struggle, therefore, not amenable to a purely military solution without resorting to a level of brutality unacceptable to the contemporary global environment. Galula (1964) define insurgency as "a protracted struggle conducted methodologically, step by step, in order to attain specific intermediate objectives which often times or extreme cases lead to overthrow of existing order". The US Department of Defense, (2007) cited in Ukpong-Umo (2016) defined insurgency as an organised movement which its aim is to overthrow a constituted authority or government through the use of subversion or armed conflict.

### **Nature of Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria**

The rise in the numbers of internally displaced persons in Nigeria has become an issue of national concerns. Many Nigerians have been displaced as a result of natural disaster, ethno- religious conflicts, communal clash and the Boko Haram insurgency in the North East and some part of Northern West has increased the number of IDPS (Funmi, 2014). The insurgency perpetrated by the Boko Haram on residents on daily basis in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States in particular has increased the number of displaced citizens with some Nigerians reportedly taking refuge in the neighboring countries of Cameroon, Niger Republic and Chad (Funmi, 2014). The number of, internally displaced persons (IDPS) in the country has been increasingly in leaps and bound each passing day since the beginning of the insurgency in the North-East Nigeria. The officially registered number of conflict and disaster induced IDPS stands at 868,235 in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States (Chibuzor, 2015).

According to the 2014 report of the IDMC and the Norwegian Refugee Centre, out of the 33 million internally displaced persons all over the world, Nigeria accounts for 3.3 million or a whopping 10 percent of the total population of IDPS in the world. In April, 2014, a statement by the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFMIDS) claimed that Borno state was in the lead with Nasarawa following after it. The figures from the commission also indicated that Nigeria had IDPS in 24 states of the Federation (Adeola, 2014). Internally displaced people (IDPS) the vast majority of whom are women and children face a range of threat to their physical safety and restrictions on their freedom of movement. Many are traumatized by the violence that prompted them to flee and are afraid to return. Those whose homes have been damaged or destroyed by conflict and flooding have nowhere to go back to. Most internally displaced families live and share resources with host communities (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2014).

### **Challenges faced by Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)**

In a study conducted by Kabiru (2015) on the nature and management of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Northern Nigeria from 2012-2015, the study findings revealed the followings challenges of IDPs in Nigeria;

- **Lack of adequate and safe shelter:** - Access to adequate shelter is the most immediate need IDPs face in the initial stages of displacement. In the middle belt and parts of the north-east recurrent ethnic and inter-communal clashes frequently cause displacement as a result of the destruction of homes, schools, and markets (IDMC, 2014).
- **Basic Needs Unmet:** - IDPs are often unable to exercise their basic rights to food and essential household items such as sleeping, mats, mosquito nets, jerry can, soap and cooking utensils. They usually lose access to their sources of revenue when they flee. Assistance for those living in camps, when provided, is inadequate.
- **Poor Health and Hygiene:** - IDPs often have only minimal access to health services and their lack of access is of particular concern given that the overwhelming majorities are women and children. Most health facilities in areas of the north east affected by conflict were closed as of mid-2014 as a result of insecurity and the displacement of staff (IDMC, 2014).
- **No access to Education:** - With many IDPs sheltering in schools and humanitarian assistance often limited to life saving intervention, displaced children are generally unable to pursue their education. Boko Haram attacks against schools since 2012 and state government closure of facilities in the worst affected areas, such as Borno.

### **Legal and Institutional Framework for IDPs**

The protection of IDPs' rights demands the same measures as are necessary to protect the rights of all citizens, regardless of whether or not they are displaced. However, a central means of implementing the right to liberty and security of person is the passage of legislation setting out protections against capricious and precarious situations affecting a vulnerable group such as IDPs. Presently, Nigeria has no legislation that deals explicitly with IDPs and there is no specific institution equipped to handle matters relating to IDPs. Overwhelmed by the enormous displacement caused by Boko Haram and the lack of any legal and institutional framework for tackling such situations and in order to provide a provisional solution to the menace, the government of Nigeria was left with choice than to attempt a momentary remedy (Eni & Synda, 2016). The government set up a

committee to draft a National Policy on IDPs to assist in the registration and issuance of identity cards, prevention or reduction in instances of internal displacement and allocation of responsibilities to agencies and organs of government, non-governmental and civil society organisations. The National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons was prepared and presented to the government in 2011, but it is yet to be adopted till today (Bukar, 2016). This policy is based on the United Nations Guiding principles on Internal Displacement of 19982 and the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Ekpa & Dahlan, 2016).

### **Corruption in the Management of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)**

There are several forms of corruption in the IDPs settings which extend beyond cash bribes and other forms of financial corruption to include the fraudulent diversion or theft of resources, the denial or granting of access to resources to serve political ends, extortion of affected populations, nepotism in recruitment practices in aid agencies as well as sexual exploitation of those (predominantly women) seeking access to aid. The exact nature of corruption encountered will further depend on the form of aid being provided, whether this is shelter, food, healthcare, sanitation, longer-term infrastructure development or all-encompassing support, such as in refugee camps. It is critical to recognize that some groups of people are more vulnerable than others to various forms of corruption in these settings. Studies of gender and corruption have shown how women and girls experience corruption differently and, as primary service users, may be more adversely affected by the problem (Transparency International, 2016a).

A more recent study has also taken a gender perspective on corruption encountered during forced and irregular migration (GIZ, 2017). It highlights the vulnerability of women and girls at different stages of the migration process and the intersection between sexual violence and forms of corruption in these IDP Camps.

On the other hand, corrupt office holders in government, and in IDPs management agencies alike, have been accused on several occasions diverting funds and relief materials meant for IDPs for their personal use and for their relatives or friends. A situation that reduces the efficiency of the agencies concerned in managing IDPs (Eweka and Olusegun, 2016).

### **Challenges of Managing Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria**

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

Inferring from its statutes NEMA has little to do with prevention, protection and return or resettlement of IDPs. NEMA responds to the occurrence of disasters in the country by sending relief materials and supplies to affected communities and facilitates the ability of the displaced to survive the immediate problems of displacement and dispossession. Unfortunately, these efforts are not sustained and the victims are soon left on their own (Adebawale, 2013). In Nigeria, there are several challenges associated with managing IDPs. The government does not respond to the plight of this category of persons because it assumes that the relief materials given are adequate to meet their needs, even though these materials do not get to the target end users. These items are sometime diverted by the people who are expected to distribute them, and sold for profit (Mohammed, 2013).

### **Gap in the Literature**

So many scholars have written extensively on the subject matter, but the authors in the literature under review could not state the legal punitive actions to be taken peradventure any individual violate the laws guiding the IDPs. This is true because Nigeria has no legislation that deals explicitly with IDPs and there is no specific institution equipped to handle matters relating to IDPs. The missing link is that the available data did not show how NEMA should enhance its data tracking mechanisms for displaced persons in the Northeast to ensure the availability of dependable statistics of displaced persons both in camps and in host communities.

### **Theoretical Framework**

The study is anchored on Structural Functional approach as expounded by Sociologists such as, Herbert Spencer, Talcott Parsons, Emile Durkheim, Robert

Merton and others (Mbah, 2006:307). This approach sees society as a complex system whose parts work together to promote solidarity and stability. Functionalism addresses society as a whole in terms of the functions of its constituent elements. A common analogy popularized by Herbert Spencer presents these parts of society as “organs” that work towards the proper functioning of the “body” as a whole (Turner, 1985, Urry, 2010). The core advocates of the theory are Almond and Coleman (1960) and Almond and Powell (1996). The structural functional theory revolves around the two concepts of structure and functions. According to Durkheim, society should be analyzed and described in terms of functions (Coser, 1977). While structure refers to the arrangements within the system which perform the functions and/or roles; function denotes the consequences involving the objective as well as the process of the patterns of actions and roles. As a branch of the system theory, structural functionalism addresses the issue of what political structures performs which functions in the political system (society).

### **Tenets of the theory**

- It sees the society as a single inter-related system with each element performing a precise function.
- If a society is a system as a whole, it has parts that are interconnected.
- The entire social structure has wide aims and principles, which are mainly observed by the members of the society to maintain equilibrium.

### **Application of the theory to the study**

The emphasis of the Structural Functionalist approach on the inter-relatedness of several parts of society makes us aware of the fact that a change in one part of society, whether intended or unintended, affects other parts of society. NEMA as a federal government agency is like other structures of government viz; ministries, agencies and departments. It is charged with the responsibility of handling humanitarian issues as they arise in the country. It ensures that in emergency situations leading to humanitarian crisis, including displacements of citizens, NEMA would be able to perform its assigned function to restore equilibrium to the Nigerian society.

Thus in the emergence of Boko Haram insurgency in the Northeast Nigeria, NEMA was expected to properly handle the ensuing humanitarian situation to

ensure the sustenance of the displaced persons and their eventual rehabilitation. Merton (1957) made it clear that there is a social dysfunction referred to as any social pattern that may disrupt the operation of society. The dysfunction of the political and economic structures of the country, giving rise to corruption, gross inequality, poverty etc, adversely affected the performance of NEMA just as it affected other structures that make up the Nigerian society. This explains why in spite of NEMA's intervention, coupled with local and international interventions in the humanitarian crisis that arose from Boko Haram insurgency, NEMA could not effectively handle the situation. The inability of NEMA to keep effective records of the progressive rise in the number of IDPs, led to acute accommodation problems in the IDP camps. Its lack of proper coordination of interventions of local and international aid agencies contributed to the scarcity of food items and poor health conditions of the IDPs in the camps.

Furthermore, improper utilization of relief materials meant for IDPs from different aid agencies also accounted for the poor health conditions of people in the IDP camps. These are results of malfunctioning of the other structures in the country which had affected the entire Nigerian society. Thus, if other structures like the Federal Ministry of Budget and Planning which has the mandate to serve as clearing house for all international aid agencies did not effectively perform its oversight functions on these agencies, it has serious negative effect on the performance of NEMA.

Thus, the dysfunction of one structure affects the proper functioning of other structures, since according to the Structuralism approach, the proper functioning or dysfunctioning of any part(s) affects the whole and would give rise to the creation of other structures or functions to handle the disequilibrium resulting from the dysfunction. NEMA officials had explained that NEMA's inability to effectively handle the humanitarian crisis in the Northeast Nigeria mainly bordered on irregular and under releases of budgetary provisions, paucity of fund, and the preferences of local and international aid agencies to operate through their branches and local affiliates in Nigeria (Daiti, 2016). This scenario is not peculiar to NEMA. Other government agencies had complained of under releases of budgetary provisions or under implementation of approved budgets. Paucity of fund is a common denominator in Nigeria and in fact, in other underdeveloped countries of the third world.

## **Hypotheses**

The following hypotheses were formulated to guide the study.

1. Rapid increase in insurgency affected the management of internally displaced persons in the North East Nigeria, 2009-2018.
2. Corruption impeded the management of internally displaced persons in the North East Nigeria.
3. Legal and institutional framework can enhance effective management of the internally displaced persons in the North East Nigeria.

## **Discussion and findings**

### **Hypotheses One: Rapid increase in insurgency affected the management of internally displaced persons in the North East Nigeria.**

The number of IDPs has been on the increase especially in the Northeast Nigeria. The major cause of the displacements was the Boko Haram insurgency, which increased in magnitude as the years passed by and climaxed in 2014, and early 2015, when the insurgents occupied vast territories in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states. The number of mortalities and displacements continued to rise that NEMA was unable to handle the arising humanitarian crisis. A clarion call was made to the international community and philanthropic agencies to assist in the humanitarian crisis. Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) (2014) had reported that, as at the end of 2013, there was an estimated 1,538,982 IDPs in Nigeria. Two years later in 2015, IDMC estimated that with the rate of annual increase in IDP population, about 2,152,000 IDPs were in Nigeria. This represented an annual increase rate of about 500,000 IDPs. This figure, according to IDMC (2015) report, was based on an assessment conducted from November to December 2015 by the International Organization for Migration Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) teams in 207 local government areas covering 13 states of Northern Nigeria. The displacement assessment was conducted with key informants from local governments, wards and IDP sites (both in official camps and camp-like settings), as well as people in host communities. It was the report that revealed that out of the total figure of IDPs in Nigeria, 12.6 percent were displaced due to communal clashes, 2.4 percent by natural disasters and 85 percent because of insurgency attacks.

International Organization for Migration (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) (2014), reported that as at May 2014, there were about 650,000 IDPs in the

Northeast, while in December of the same year, the number rose to 868,355 IDPs in the region (Inter Agency Report, 2014). The program of IOM had the objective to support the government of Nigeria through NEMA in establishing a comprehensive system to collect and disseminate data on IDPs by strengthening the capacity of NEMA and other partners in the field to undertake IDP assessment in a unified and systematized manner. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) (2014) reported that there had been steady rise in internally displaced persons from Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states, and was able to tabulate the estimated number of IDPs by year as they progressed from 2009 to 2014.

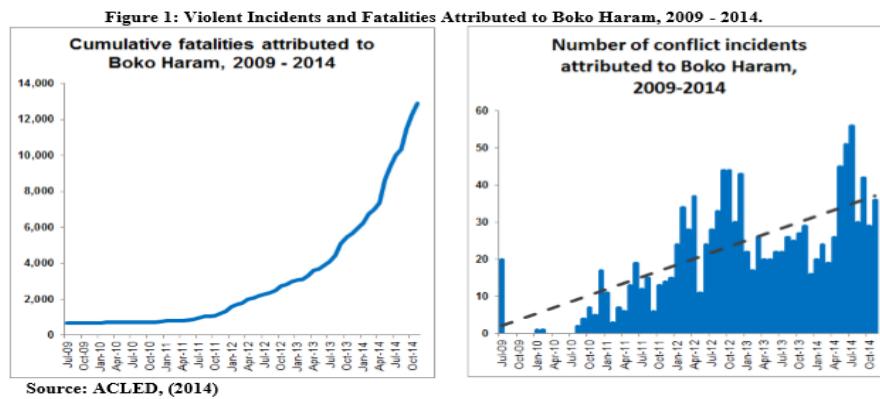
**Table 1: Progressive Increase in Number of IDPs in Northeast Nigeria; 2009 - 2014**

Year	No of IDPs	Increase by Year
2009- 2010	100,000	-
2010 – 2011	130,000	30,000
2011 – 2012	200,000	70,000
2012 – 2013	290,000	90,000
May 2013 – March 2014	250,000	(40,000) decrease
May 2014 – June 2014	436,608	186,608
August 2014 – December 2014	600,000	163,392,

*Source: UNOCHA Report, 2014*

Even though the above figures varied with the compilations of IDMC/IOM, the fact remains that these international organizations have some mechanisms on ground to keep track of IDP population in parts of the country. Although, NEMA had fragments of figures here and there on IDP population; such records do not constitute effective record keeping on the population and needs of the IDPs in the Northeast Nigeria. Armed Conflict Location and Event Data (ACLED) (2014) had reported that conflict and insecurity in the Northeast region had driven massive displacement with an estimated 1 million people reported to have fled their home communities in 2014 alone. The on-going conflicts and insecurity prevent the international aid agencies from keeping accurate track of the displaced population as some of the displaced persons eventually found their way into safer communities where security situation did not allow for proper profiling. Majority of such displaced persons remained in host communities, as some of them did not even have the idea that NEMA had established camps for IDPs. ACLED (2014)

graphically presented both the cumulative fatalities and the number of conflict incidents attributed to Boko Haram from 2009 to 2014 as follows:



The figures above show that fatalities attributed to Boko Haram insurgency in the Northeast rose from less than 1000 in July 2009 to more than 14000 in 2014 (which was the climax of the insurgency activities). In addition, the number of conflict incidents attributed to Boko Haram rose from less than 5 incidents in July 2009 to over 60 incidents in October 2014. This progressive rise in the number of incidents and the resultant progressive rise in the number of fatalities over the period also led to similar progressive rise in the number of displaced persons in the Northeast Nigeria. This scenario tallies with IOM (2015) Report that IDPs' number rose by about 1 million from 2013 to 2015. The IDMC, IOM and NEMA (2017) Reports also tabulated the statistics of the rising number of IDPs in the Northeast Nigeria from 2009 to 2016 as follows:

**Table 2: Rising Number of IDPs in the Northeast Nigeria from 2009 to 2016**

Year	No. of IDP
2009	100,000
2010	130,000
2011	200,000
2012	290,000
2013	389,281
2014	868,335
2015	1,846,999
2016	1,913,213

**Source: Compiled from IDMC (2014), IOM/NEMA (2017) figures**

The table and figure above confirm that there had been progressive increase in the number of displaced persons in the Northeast Nigeria between 2009 and 2016. The number of IDPs rose from a figure of 100,000 in 2009 to a whooping figure of 868,335 in 2014 and 1,846,999 and 1,913,213 in 2015 and 2016 respectively. This cumulative rise in the number of IDPs, no doubt, posed serious challenge to both the Nigeria government, NEMA and the intervening local and International Humanitarian Agencies. The Humanitarian Needs Overview (2014) Report showed that the situation in the Northeast had deteriorated and continued to worsen with the growing number of victims.

**Hypothesis two: Corruption impeded the management of internally displaced persons in the North East Nigeria, 2009 - 2018.**

The fund donated by the nongovernmental organization and individuals towards alleviating the plight of the troubled people has been enormous. Odufowokan (2016:7) reported that Aliko Dangote and other individuals donated 6.5 million Naira; the World Bank donated the sum of 800 million US dollars, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) donated 248 million US dollars for the rebuilding of the Northeast, out of which 24 million US dollars has been released. United States donated 200 million dollars; Saudi Arabia donated 750 million Naira, and the Australian government donated 9 million Naira respectively.

The support is not only limited to the above. Japanese government assisted Nigeria with 4.5 million US dollars, an equivalent to the sum of 1.4 billion Naira

for the purpose of responding to the needs of the IDPs in the Northeast zone (Vanguard Newspaper, 2016). In the same manner, the United Nations fund released 13 million US dollars for the upkeep of the IDPs in the Northeast (Enejeta, 2016). The Senate approved the sum of the 10 billion Naira for the resettlement of IDPs in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States, which was also accompanied by the United States assistance with the sum of 8.7 billion Naira to support the IDPs in the zone (Premium Time, 2015). Also, the media, particularly the Daily Trust have contributed financially to supporting the plights of the IDPs in the Northeast Nigeria. Daily Trust raised 230 million Naira for the funding of the welfare of the IDPs in the region (Daily Trust, 2016).

These supports coming to the Nigerian government or the state governments where the IDPs are, and sometimes, to the IDPs directly are fragmented humanitarian response because there is no financial or resource pool meant to respond to the problems of the IDPs in Nigeria. Despite the fragmented assistance coming to Nigeria as a result of the IDPs of the Boko Haram insurgency, it appears much has not been recorded in terms of improving the condition of the IDPs or resettling them. The reason for this situation is the preponderance of corruption in the process of management of financial and other related resources meant for IDPs in the Northeast Nigeria. The situations in the various camps accommodating the IDPs in the region are still facing enormous challenges of basic needs of food, shelter and clothing; water, sanitation, and hygiene as well as the safety and security challenges of their lives and families. The enrolment of IDPs children in schools has not improved because of the challenges associated with the financing of their schooling. The same challenge is also applicable to the deplorable health condition of the IDPs, which include among others their vulnerability to cholera, contagious diseases and sexually transmitted diseases due to absence of health governance (Lancelot, 2013; NEMA, 2015).

**Table 3: USAID-Nigeria Co-funding Requirements for IDPs**

Sector	Total 2015 Requirements (HAC)	Funding required for assistance conflict-affected population (180 day plans)	Funding available (HAC)	Funding Gap (2015)	
				USD	% Unfunded
Nutrition	6,100,000	2,275,924	7,504,495	-1,404,495	123%
Health	4,000,000	4,126,098	2,179,440	1,820,560	46%
WASH	3,900,000	4,959,515	2,353,600	1,546,400	40%
Child Protection	3,810,000	3,644,743	1,844,077	1,965,923	52%
Education	7,500,000	3,901,942	886,291	6,613,709	88%
Sector Coordination	1,200,000	209,857	-	-	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,510,000</b>	<b>19,118,079</b>	<b>14,767,903</b>	<b>11,742,097</b>	<b>44%</b>

**Source:** UNICEF: Nigeria Humanitarian Situation Report, Situation in Numbers (2015)

The deplorable conditions of the IDPs in the Northeast are attributed to the alleged diversion of donor funds (Odufowokan, 2016). It is in this context that the National Assembly, particularly the House of Representatives decided to probe the diversion of donor funds for the rehabilitation of the victims of Boko Haram in the Northeast Nigeria. This is because the IDPs are disenchanted with the manner of how the responses are managed and particularly, the unrealistic information about their situations. They would rather wish the donors - the foreign governments; agencies and individuals, should render direct assistance to them instead of going through the Nigerian government to reach them.

It can be deduced from the above analysis that corruption has been a bane in the management of the IDPs in the Northeastern Nigeria. This no doubt supports the hypothesis that says corruption impeded the management of internally displaced persons in the North East Nigeria.

**Hypothesis three: Legal and institutional framework can enhance effective management of the internally displaced persons in the North East Nigeria, 2009-2018**

Arguably, internally displaced persons have been under the protection of their national governments since they do not cross their national borders. IDPs are entitled to fundamental human rights which consist right to human dignity, rights to life and other inalienable rights. Their fundamental human rights need to be preserved and protected by the national government. However, the degree to which these rights can be protected is contingent to the legal framework for the protection of IDPs and the mechanisms to ensure compliance with the established laws (Hassan & Collins, 2017).

The constitution has been used as the basis upon which various organs of government operate. It empowers people to legally claim protection against any potential or real danger (Chemerinsky, 2016). Basically, a constitution is the existing national law where internally displaced people can legitimately proclaim their rights to sufficient and decent protection against any threat to their lives. The constitution obligates the national government to safeguard the citizens of the country. Consequently, the Constitution can serve as the national legal framework for the protection of the internally displaced persons. Unfortunately, Nigerian constitution does not specifically laid down any provision for the protection of the internally displaced population. This can be partly related to the rigidity of the amendment procedures of the Nigerian Constitution (Seidman & Seidman, 2017). The national responsibility needs to be effective for the protection of the internally displaced persons. In so far as the IDPs remain within the national borders of their country, the primary responsibility for their protection lie with their national authority. At the same time, the national government needs to safeguard its citizens from any displacement in the first place. This principle is in lines with the Guiding Principle on Internally Displacement and the African Union (Kampala) Convention on IDPs (Adeola, & Viljoen, 2017).

However, previous studies reveal massive violation of IDPs rights despite the existing provision of the fundamental human rights contained in the Nigerian Constitution. The IDPs protection in Nigeria has been suffering by legal problem which virtually deny IDPs adequate protection (Shedrack & Nuarrual, 2016). According to Abegunde (2017), the Nigerian response to the IDPs' predicament is

largely inadequate and fragmented because of the lack of legal framework on internal displacement.

Lack of proper laws and policies about IDPs protection in Nigeria has placed overburden responsibilities on NEMA. This is because it is the only domestic agency with the ability to quickly respond to urgent situations by virtue of its roles or functions. Although NEMA has certain unit devoted for the IDPs related issues. As a result of that the agency has been facing the problem of scarce resources to involve in all the emergency situations and this has hampered its ability to provide adequate protection to the IDPs in Nigeria (Ekpa & Dahlan, 2016).

Drawing inference from the above analysis, it is obvious that Nigeria lack legal and institutional framework to manage the ever increasing IDPs in the Northeast orchestrated by the nefarious activities of Boko-haram insurgency. There is no gain saying the fact that legal and institutional framework remains a panacea to addressing the challenges facing the management of the IDPs Camps. It is through an existing law that can guide the overall management of the Camps and give it a focus and direction, also, to reposition the administrative structure of the Camps for effective and prudent management of the financial and material resources available for the IDPs in the Northeast. This goes further to accept the hypothesis that says legal and institutional framework can enhance effective management of the internally displaced persons in the North East Nigeria.

## **Findings**

Based on the outcome of our study, the following findings were made:

- The findings of the study revealed that inspite of the rights contained in the Nigerian Constitution, IDPs are invariably and tactically denied access to these rights or are not enjoying the rights available to the general citizens.
- The study also found that the situations in the various camps accommodating the IDPs in the region are still facing enormous challenges of basic needs of food, shelter and clothing; water, sanitation, and hygiene as well as the safety and security of their lives and families.
- The findings of the study further revealed a preponderance of corruption in the process of management of financial and other related resources meant for IDPs in the Northeast Nigeria.

## **Conclusion**

The effects of the Boko Haram insurgency are great and defy explanations. It is not in doubt that the Nigerian government in its efforts to tackle the challenges faced by the IDPs in the Northeast as a result of the Boko Haram insurgency has received support from foreign governments, agencies and individuals, both national and international.

Though NEMA has recorded some measure of achievements in managing the plights of the IDPs in the affected areas, the agency has not been able to perform these tasks optimally due to the protracted nature of the insurgency and limited funding of its operations. The agency is also incapacitated by legal, coordinating, logistics, and operational inhibitions.

However, the humanitarian supports have not addressed the enormous challenges the IDPs are facing which, among others, include inadequate food, shelter, sanitation, water, healthcare facility. There are still the challenges of insecurity, inadequate protection and educational needs. One major issue bedevilling the progress of curbing the situation is primarily corruption associated with the distribution and management of the humanitarian funding to the Nigerian government, and above all, the government's inability to implement the Kampala convention on the IDPs through the legal, logistical and resources pool framework account for the poor humanitarian condition of the IDPs in the Northeast Nigeria.

The problem of internal displacement has not been directly addressed by any global legal framework. However, the Guiding Principles clearly state that the states have the primary responsibility to protect IDPs. However, there is absent of effective domestic response from the Nigerian government to protect and assist Nigerian IDPs. Therefore, IDPs suffer because of the lack of commitment by the Nigerian government to protect and assist them. Likewise, they suffer from the absence of specific international legal and institutional frameworks for their protection when their states fail to do so.

## **Recommendations**

Based on the findings of this study, the researcher recommends that:

- The Nigerian government through NEMA should ensure that it enhances its data tracking mechanisms for displaced persons in the Northeast to

ensure the availability of dependable statistics of displaced persons both in camps and in host communities.

- The institutions of war against corruption must be strengthened, such that those found wanting in diverting and embezzling the funds meant for the welfare of the IDPs in the Northeast will be prosecuted and punished accordingly.
- The Nigerian government should domesticate the long-waiting draft national policy for the protection of IDPs. This policy should be in line with the African Union (Kampala) Convention on the protection of IDPs in Africa.
- The Federal Government of Nigeria, in collaboration with the state governments should build permanent camps for the registered IDPs with schools and health clinics in order to facilitate healthy life and produce skillful human being among the internally displaced persons for the betterment of their life and the general society.

## **References**

Abegunde, B. (2017). Humanitarian law and internal displacement in Nigeria: an urgent need for legal framework. *International Journal of Law and Legal Jurisprudence Studies*. Vol. 4(3). 48-62.

Abdu, A. & Shehu, S. S. (2019). The implication of Boko Haram insurgency on women and girls in North East Nigeria. *Journal of Public Administration and Social Welfare Research*, 4(1) 9-21

Abolurin, A. (2011). *Terrorism: Nigerian and global dimensions*. Ibadan: Unique Multi-ventures.

Adeola, A. (2014). *With insurgency and communal clashes, Nigeria sees more internally displaced persons*. Retrieved from <http://www.thisdaylive.com/articles/with-insurgency-and-communal-clashes>.

Adeola, R. & Viljoen, F. (2017). The right not to be arbitrarily displaced in Africa. *African Journal of International and Comparative Law*. Vol. 25(4):459-481.

Adebawale, S. (2013). *Boko Haram: Security, humanitarian conditions deteriorating UNHCR*. "http://theeagleonline.com.ng/news/boko-

haramsecurityhumanitarian-conditions-deterioratingunhrc/ accessed August 12, 2015.

Amalu, N. S. (2015). Impact of Boko Haram insurgency on human security in Nigeria. *Global Journal of Social Sciences*. 14, pp. 35-42.

Bonnard, P. & Megan, S. (2017). *FEWS NET market guidance #4: Commodity market maps and price bulletins: Tools for food security analysis and reporting.* Available online at [http://www.fews.net/docs/Publications/MT\\_Guidance\\_Market\\_Maps\\_and\\_Price\\_Graphs\\_in\\_Analysis\\_No\\_4\\_En.pdf](http://www.fews.net/docs/Publications/MT_Guidance_Market_Maps_and_Price_Graphs_in_Analysis_No_4_En.pdf).

Bukar, B. A. (2016). *Nigeria needs to take responsibility for its IDPs*, [www.fmreview.org/en/...and.../bukar.pdf](http://www.fmreview.org/en/...and.../bukar.pdf) last assessed 22nd Feb. 2016.

Chemerinsky, E. (2016). *Constitutional law*. Wolters Kluwer Law & Business.

Chibuzor, E. (2015). *Addressing the menace of internal displacement*. Retrieved from <http://dailyindependentnig.com>.

Coser, L. (1977). *Masters of sociological thoughts: ideas in historical and social context*: 2nd Ed., Forth Worth Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc.

Curta, S. D. (2006). A new type of insurgency: A case study of the resistance in Iraq. *Graduate Thesis and Dissertation*. Scholar Commons, University of South Florida

Daily Trust (2016 July 22). *Daily trust raises N230m for IDPs*.

Datti, S. (2016 December 02). NEMA efforts in managing humanitarian crisis in the North East. *Leadership Newspaper*.

Ekpa, S. & Dahlan, N (2016). Legal issues and prospects in the protection and assistance of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nigeria. *Journal of Law, Policy and Globalization*. Vol. 6(4):49-54.

Enejeta, E. (2016). *UN fund releases \$13m for IDPs' upkeep in Northeast*, 2 July 2016, available at [www.financialwatchngr.com/2016/02/un-fund-releases-13-idps-upkeep-northeast/](http://www.financialwatchngr.com/2016/02/un-fund-releases-13-idps-upkeep-northeast/)

Eni, A. & Synda, O. (2016). Internal Displacement in Nigeria and the Case for Human Rights Protection of Displaced Persons. *Journal of Law, Policy and Globalization* 51(6):2224-3240.

Eweka, O. & Olusegun, T. (2016). Management of internally displaced persons in Africa: Comparing Nigeria and Cameroon. *International Multidisciplinary Journal, Ethiopia*. Vol. 10(1). No.40.

Funmi, F. (2014). *Coping with challenges of internally displaced persons feature, slider*. Retrieved from <http://dailyindependenning.com/2014/07/>.

Galula, D. (1964). *Counter-insurgency warfare: Theory and Practice*. London: Pearson Education Limited.

GIZ (2017). *A gender perspective on corruption encountered during forced and irregular migration*. United Nations University Network.

Hassan, M. & Collins, M. (2017). Legal and institutional framework for the protection of internally displaced persons: The Nigerian case study. The Jury: *Journal of Law Students Association of Nigeria University of Abuja*. Vol.32, No 5.

Hassan, M. (2014). Boko Haram insurgency and the spate of insecurity in Nigeria: Manifestation of governance crises. *Research on Humanities and Social Sciences*, 4(18), pp. 9-18.

IDMC (2014). *Nigeria IDP figures analysis*. Retrieved from: <http://www.internal-displacement.org/sub-saharan-africa/nigeria/figures-analysis>. Accessed May 17, 2019.

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (2016). *Global report on internal displacement*. IDMC: Grid.

International Organization for Migration (2020). *Northeast Nigeria: Displacement report*. 34 (November 2020) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM).

International Organization for Migration, IOM (2015). *Displacement tracking matrix*, Round VI Report.

Kabiru, S.A. (2015). *The nature and management of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Northern Nigeria from 2012-2015*. Unpublished B.Sc Project, Danfodiyo University, Sokoto.

Lancelot, P.B. (2013). The plight of IDPs in Nigeria. *Refugee Survey Quarterly*, Vol. 19, No. 1. Pp.23.

Liolio, S. (2014). *Rethinking insurgency: A Case Study of Boko Haram in Nigeria*. A Thesis Submitted to the European Peace University, Austria.

Merton, R. (1957). *Social theory and social structure, revised and enlarged*. London: The Free Press of Glencoe.

Mevayerore, D. (2019). Insurgency in Nigeria: The prognosis and its effects on the Nigerian Politics. *Journal of Political Science*, Delta State University, Nigeria. Vol. 13, No. 2, pp.

Muhammed, T.M. (2013). *National framework for the protection of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nigeria*." Being a presentation made at a workshop for Judges and Kadis on refugee law, organized by The National Judicial Institute, Abuja, April 20, 201375-96.

NEMA (2015). *Overview of humanitarian situation in Nigeria presentation*. January 2015.

NEMA Reports (2006). *December, (2015) February and October*, Abuja

Odufowokan, D. (2016 June 26). IDPs: Where are the donor funds? *The Nation, Sunday*.

Odunmorayo, E. (2015). The number of internally displaced persons in Nigeria growing quickly. *Ventures Africa.com, September 29*.

Ogundamisi, K. (2016). *Exploitation of internally displaced persons in Nigeria*. [www.opinionnigeria.com/exploitation-ofinternally-displaced-persons-in-nigeria-by-kayode-ogundamisi/](http://www.opinionnigeria.com/exploitation-ofinternally-displaced-persons-in-nigeria-by-kayode-ogundamisi/)... Last assessed 1st March 2016.

Premium Times (2015). *Nigeria sets new record; now has Africa's highest number of displaced persons."* Accessed from [Http://www.premiumtimesng.com/nows](http://www.premiumtimesng.com/nows) accessed on 8/4/2015.

Seidman, R. & Seidman, A. (2017). *Readings on law in developing countries in Africa*. New York: Cambridge.

Shedrack, E. & Nuarrual, H. (2016). *Legal issues and prospects in the protection and assistance of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nigeria*. Available: [www.iiste.org](http://www.iiste.org) ISSN 2224-3240 (Paper) ISSN 2224-3259 (Online).

Transparency International (2016). *Overview of corruption risk management approaches and key vulnerabilities in development assistance*. Brussels, Migration and the Security Sector Paper Series.

Turner, J. (1985). *Herbert spencer: A renewed appreciation*. Beverly Hills: Sage.

Ukpong-Umo, R. E. (2016). Insecurity in Nigeria and the challenge of nationhood. *Nigerian Journal of Rural Sociology*, 16(3), pp. 64-69.

UNOCHA (2014). *An overview and response to humanitarian crisis in Northern Nigeria*.

Urry, J. (2010). *“Metaphors” sociology beyond societies: Mobilities for the Twenty-first Century*. Rutledge p.23

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (2016) North-east Nigerian: Humanitarian emergency-Situation report No. 1

Vanguard (2016). *Japan offers \$4.5m to assist IDPs in Northeast Nigeria*, 21 April, 2016, available at [www.vanguardngr.com/2016/04/Japan-offers-4-5m-assist-idps-northeast-Nigeria/](http://www.vanguardngr.com/2016/04/Japan-offers-4-5m-assist-idps-northeast-Nigeria/)