

## THE POLARISATION OF INTERNAL DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN NORTHEAST NIGERIA

BY

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### Abstract

This study seeks to examine the internally displaced persons and humanitarian crisis in Northeast Nigeria. The ongoing problem and high rate of the Boko Haram insurgency in northeastern Nigeria have bedeviled the region where the humanitarian crisis has been high. The research engaged in the qualitative means of generating data through secondary sources from publications, articles, journals, the internet, and libraries for analysis. Notably, the paper discovered that majority of the IDPs were more faced with how to return to their local integration or resettlement than a return. Most of them are faced with issues of attack and psychological effects from the insurgency crisis. Feelings of vulnerability, the experience of violence, and hope of economic and social empowerment were significant reasons for local integration or resettlement. The regional humanitarian crisis needs urgent attention to support the various IDPs and workers in Northeastern Nigeria. The need to rebuild livelihoods and restore social and community networks were the significant factors IDPs associated with the choice of return. Conclusion: there is a sense that androcentric cultural norms give men the power to make decisions for the family shape decision-making even in emergencies. The paper concluded and recommended that the government and all private organizations support the IDPs and humanitarian work in the country's Northeastern region. Provision of security should be provided to secure lives and properties in the area.

**Keywords:** Internal Displaced Persons, Security, Humanitarian Crisis, Northeast Nigeria

### Introduction

Since 2009, insecurity in the Nigeria part of North-East has resulted to the loss of over 20,000 people and the displacement of over 2 million citizens. All over the region, livelihoods have been disrupted, and homes, public buildings, and infrastructure destroyed. Much has been lost in a part of Nigeria where 80% of people rely on agriculture for their livelihoods. People have been moved from their land, and animals has been destroyed. In many regions, land mines and other remnants of war challenge safe and voluntary returns (Abdulkareem, 2019). While Borno, Adamawa, and the Yobe States bore the brunt of the direct impacts of the conflict, the three neighbouring states of Gombe, Taraba, and Bauchi have taken in scores of people who have been displaced, taxing their societies, economic resources, social services, and amenities. Schools have been damaged, hospitals damaged, and many people have been left prone by this problem. The Government of Nigeria has made great result in retaking and stabilising large parts of the North-East, but the operations to restore the lives of those affected is just starting.

Humanitarian emergencies remain one of the most significant development challenges of the twenty-first century. Infact the growing efforts to address the challenges of poverty and inequality as they affect the most vulnerable members of developing countries, sustainable development agendas and programs, until recently, did not seem to give much attention to all categories of vulnerable individuals and groups. The initial focus of sustainable development efforts was primarily on long-term programs that aim to tackle poverty, social inequalities, environmental decline, etcetera, while also addressing structural issues that undermine growth, prosperity, and sustainability. On the other

hand, humanitarian interventions in conflict situations and areas affected by environmental catastrophes prioritize saving lives, alleviating stress, and providing relief materials (Schafer 2002). Even when humanitarian actions seek to achieve long-term solutions to violence, persecution, and displacement, such efforts often ignore how those solutions affect or are affected by the overall development programs of governments.

Recently, the scholarship on sustainability and development (Tamminga 2011; CGDEV (Center for Global Development) 2017; Blind 2019) as well as international development initiatives such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 16 has begun to recognize the importance of linking development interventions with humanitarian crises in volatile regions and areas affected by natural disasters. Several studies have explored the linkages between sustainable development and humanitarian emergencies caused by natural disasters (Schipper and Pelling 2006; Eriksen and O'Brien 2007; Strömberg 2007). A common theme in these studies is that vulnerability, poverty, and suffering that follow natural disasters have significant implications for development policy. Disasters increase poverty and reverse development when people lose their lives and livelihoods. Poverty deprives people of food, health, education, and other resources. Lack of resources further contributes to vulnerability and increases the risk of suffering (injury, death, and loss of livelihood) in the face of health hazards, natural disasters, and violence. The policy response to emergencies needs to involve long-term development interventions to enhance economic and social development, reduce poverty, rebuild sustainable livelihoods, and strengthen the resilience of populations to future shocks (Eriksen and O'Brien, 2007). Thus, addressing the underlying causes of vulnerability to the impacts of emergencies is crucial to sustainable development. Scholarly attention is also shifting towards humanitarian emergencies caused by conflicts and violence. Studies such as Blind (2019) suggest that since humanitarian crises resulting from civil wars and other violent conflicts are inherently developmental challenges, they cannot be solved using quick interventions and short-term measures. Their solutions need to include long-term development programs that can lead to stability and development (Tamminga 2011).

New waves of displacement in 2018 add to the already high numbers of people in northeast Nigeria who have fled their homes. Today 1.8 million people (440,000 women, 364,000 men, 614,000 girls, and 516,000 boys) are internally displaced, with 94 percent of the displacement attributed to ongoing conflict and over 80 percent of displaced people in Borno State. A decade into the crisis, the protracted nature of removal has eroded coping mechanisms, significantly weakened resilience, and heightened vulnerabilities. The year 2018 saw the additional displacement of thousands of people every month, many coming from inaccessible areas to main centers and in a highly prone state. Over the first 11 months of 2018, nearly 214,000 individuals, mainly women, and children were displaced, with a weekly average of 4,500 individuals. Before this, the weekly average was 1,400. Despite humanitarian resources already being overstretched due to overcrowding in the camps, tens of thousands of new arrivals passed through reception centers and accessed multi-sector humanitarian assistance through the Reception Management Strategy, including food support, health screenings, and security services. Others were supported in the camps and host societies as part of regular aid delivery activities. Further, displacement shapes were also seen throughout the year into smaller towns, including along the Monguno-axis, where the presence of humanitarian workers was typically low. A rapid scale-up in the response proved to be difficult in these areas outside of main centers, especially in light of the challenging security situation (Reach, 2018).

Since August 2015, 1.6 million people (378,000 women, 348,000 men, 510,000 girls, and 404,000 boys) have returned to or closer to their homes and moved to begin to rebuild their homes, indicating that conditions in some areas have improved to a relative extent. Adamawa State has seen the increase number of returns at over 750,000, and Borno State over 650,000. While Government-supported returns also started, including in coordination with security personnel efforts undermined by Activities 'Last Hold,' pertains remain that many areas are not conducive for safe and sustainable returns due to insecurity and a lack of gain to basic services and amenities. This is supported by the vast majority of displaced households reporting no active plans to return, citing the main reasons for insecurity and lack of access to services such as food, health, and education. This paper will critically examine the IDPs and humanitarian crisis in Northeast Nigeria.

### **Conceptual Discourse of Polarization of the Internally Displaced Persons**

In northeast Nigeria, 5.3 million people, including 2.9 million women and women, need lifestyle-saving and critical fitness services. Two-thirds of health facilities inside the states were damaged via the war – a clear indication of the catastrophic effect of the crisis on the health machine. Affected humans have a great chance of epidemic-susceptible diseases, like cholera, measles, and viral hemorrhagic fevers due to low get right of entry to vital healthcare, seasonal patterns, lack of access to potable water and sanitation infrastructure, and vulnerabilities because of continuous displacement. Women and kids are left more and more susceptible to disease outbreaks, in particular cholera. Ongoing new war-related displacement, including the inflow of IDPs, refugees, and returnees, into overcrowded and under-serviced camps and settlements in some LGAs, in particular in Borno State (Pulka, Gowza, Monguno, Bama, Dikwa, Kukawa, Ngala), exacerbates the risk of disorder outbreaks which includes cholera, hepatitis, meningitis, and measles. Estimates imply that more than 1/2 of the recorded deaths in Borno State in 2018 are due to malaria combined with malnutrition, extra than all different causes of death combined with cholera, measles, and hepatitis E. A cholera outbreak turned into declared by way of the country government in Borno and Yobe states in September 2018 at the same time as the wide variety of cholera, and Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) instances are also at the upward push in Adamawa State.

Gender-Based Violence is massive inside the area. Urgent medical care is often required as GBV critically influences all aspects of girls' fitness, specifically for a predicted 700 women and adolescent women of reproductive fitness age who might be prone to sexual violence and exploitation. As a result of the struggle, approximately 220,000 Nigerians have also been displaced into neighbouring nations (UNHCR, 2015). Of the ones, many masses have been repatriated once more to the North East of Nigerians and, in the meanwhile, are either internally displaced or had been able to go back to their areas of recurring residence. Although the state of affairs of IDPs is various and varies, counting on an expansion of factors, the giant majority of IDPs within the North East want to assist, alongside food, water, refuge, sanitation, scientific offerings, and guide in rebuilding livelihoods. Many IDPs have been compelled to break out for their lives, leaving in the lower back of land, belongings, and livelihoods and frequently witnessing and experiencing traumatic and violent activities within the gadget. Additionally, many IDPs had been separated from their family people due to the displacement and did now not recognize the destiny or whereabouts of their loved ones. For those returning to their areas of an ordinary house, the desires are also vast, specifically in regions wherein it is not but feasible to absolutely re-establish sustainable livelihoods. Given the large way of the displacement and the ongoing unstable in many LGAs within the North East of Nigeria, the Federal and State Governments were going through, and hold to stand, a crucial humanitarian scenario that isn't always predicted to cease each time soon.

As a State Party to the Kampala Convention, the Nigerian Government has the number one duty and obligation to help and shield IDPs in its territory. The Kampala Convention is the best legally binding treaty that deals primarily with IDPs through preventing arbitrary displacement and supplying a comprehensive framework for help and safety of IDPs and durable answers to displacement. Nigeria changed into one of the first international locations to sign the treaty in October 2009 and ratified the Convention in April 2012. Although the Kampala Convention has now not been included in home regulation, ratification of the treaty imposes legally binding duties on the Nigerian Government (Nigeria Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2016).

### **Drivers of Humanitarian Crisis and Displacement in Northeastern Nigeria**

The drivers of displacement in Nigeria are diverse and complicated, and frequently overlap. The militant Islamist institution Boko Haram has caused widespread displacement within the marginalised northeast of Nigeria. Because 2014. Competition among pastoralists and farmers has caused tensions within the critical place, culminating in significant violence and displacement. The long-standing ethnic war between Fulani pastoralists and Hausa farmers in north-western Katsina, Sokoto, and Zamfara states also triggers displacement. Flooding displaces heaps of humans each year. Conflict and violence brought about 248,000 new displacements across 19 states in 2019. The ongoing insurgency in the northeast induced 105,000, criminal violence in the northwest and north valuable states 88,000, and communal violence within the vital vicinity 5000. About 2.6 million people were residing in displacement as of the

cease of the yr. Flooding affected most of the united states of America in 2019 and triggered most of the 157,000 new displacements recorded.

In the first section of 2020, there were 32,000 new displacements related to war and violence and 88000 as a result of screw-ups. People internally displaced via Boko Haram within the northeast are unfold throughout thirteen states, the majorly in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe, where active struggle remains ongoing. Borno alone accounted for 1.5 million of the 2.6 million IDPs recorded in Nigeria in 2019. Displacement camps exist, but most IDPs in all affected states stay with family, pals, or in host communities. Despite military efforts to combat Boko Haram, the states hosting IDPs continue to be unstable, dwelling conditions are harsh and primary offerings are few and far between.

At the same time, massive numbers of folks who fled into neighbouring Cameroon, Chad, and Niger have returned to their regions of starting place as assets of their shelter locations have diminished. After many years of Nigerians fleeing across the border into Cameroon, a tripartite settlement became signed in March 2017 between the leaders of Nigeria and Cameroon and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) to facilitate the return of refugees. The pusher of displacement in Nigeria are multi-faceted and complex and often overlap. Livelihoods and get right of entry to water and grazing were beneath pressure for decades within the marginalised north-east of the country as the floor area of Lake Chad has contracted through 90 percent during the last 45 years. The shrinkage results from climate trade anthropogenic factors, including the damming of tributaries, unsustainable water management regulations, and overgrazing.

People have increasingly migrated south along the fringe of the Lake Chad Basin. Over time, this has caused around 70 ethnic businesses to converge, increasing opposition, tensions, and war over assets. This combination of political, social, financial, and environmental elements has created fertile ground for the emergence of militant armed agencies inclusive of, now not restricted to, Boko Haram. Founded in 2002, the institution has launched more dramatic attacks considering mid-2014, leading to an unprecedented displacement disaster in north-eastern Nigeria and the broader Lake Chad basin. Its indiscriminate attacks in opposition to civilians, including bombings, mass shootings, suicide attacks, kidnappings, and the destruction of property, have induced millions of people to flee both inside Nigeria and throughout borders to neighbouring Niger Cameroon, and Chad.

Boko Haram has also moved its operations to these nations, inflicting similar displacement there too. This concept is in element to result from militants and civilians fleeing Nigeria to get away from the navy's counter-insurgency operations, which have led to accusations of extra-judicial killings, torture, and the destruction of poverty. Despite the Nigerian government's claims that Boko Haram is near defeat, assaults and warfare persisted unabated in 2019, triggering a hundred and five,000 new displacements. The insurgency is still one of the most significant drivers of displacement in Nigeria. International attention tends to awareness on Boko Haram's brutality, but inter-communal clashes fuelled by ethnic and spiritual tensions additionally flare often for the duration of the country. Long-standing ethnic conflict between Fulani pastoralists and Hausa farmers in north-western Katsina, Sokoto, and Zamfara states brought about new displacements in 2019 because it took on new dynamics inside the shape of rural banditry and crook violence. Around 178,000 people lived in internal displacement across the three states as of the quit of 12 months.

Violence inside the critical region is caused by various elements, including ethno religious disputes, crime, cattle rustling, land disputes, and tensions among pastoralists and farmers. Clashes among farmers and herders have escalated in current years and caused 53,000 new displacements in 2019. The determine, but, ought to be considered an underestimate. The growing and shifting patterns of violence in both areas require better tracking to examine the authentic scale of displacement. Nigeria is likewise distinctly uncovered to herbal risks and is laid low with several disasters that cause displacement every year. The most not unusual are floods that arise in lowlands and river basins wherein human beings stay in densely-populated informal settlements. These are caused not handiest by way of rainfall and overflowing watercourses, however also because of water being released from dam reservoirs each in Nigeria and upstream nations.

Adamawa and Borno states, which have long been suffering from conflict, bore the brunt of flooding in 2019 during a highly lengthy rainy season. Floods in the Niger River basin additionally destroyed 2,667 homes in Niger nation in August and September. Disasters precipitated around 157,000 new displacements throughout the country. As complete and were concept to have left about 143,000 human beings dwelling in internal displacement as of the stop of the year.

### **Challenges Facing Internally Displaced Persons in Northeastern Nigeria**

IDPs' main concerns relate to food, health and shelter. The disruption of agriculture, markets and trade routes caused by violence and the presence of unexploded ordnance has contributed to widespread food insecurity in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states, where around 2.7 million people are food insecure and many depend on humanitarian assistance to meet their basic food needs. Around 1.4 million IDPs were in need of health assistance as of the beginning of 2019, and a similar number needed shelter support. Cholera outbreaks are common and cases of malaria have increased in areas with inadequate shelters and water, sanitation and hygiene facilities. About 800,000 people in Borno lives in areas inaccessible to humanitarian workers.

Protection needs are also high. Boko Haram attacks on displacement camps and retaliatory assaults on areas under military control mean that IDPs' protection space is minimal. They have also faced violent intimidation by government forces. Around 1.8 million IDPs are in need of protection support. This includes psychological services for people who have suffered trauma and abuse during the conflict, such as the thousands of survivors of abductions, forced recruitment and sexual violence (Tamminga, 2011)

IDPs' arrival often puts additional strain on host communities' already scarce resources, and the latter may struggle to accommodate the influx of more mouths to feed. Host community members tend not to receive equal humanitarian assistance, which jeopardizes IDPs' security and may trigger new and secondary displacement as competition and tensions over resources boil over (Internal Displacement Monitoring Center, 2019).

### **Policy Development and Legal Frameworks in Humanitarian in Nigeria**

Since signing and ratifying the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, also known as the Kampala Convention, Nigeria has developed a countrywide coverage on IDPs that might enshrine the protections granted by the conference into home law and facilitate a coordinated reaction to IDPs' desires. The range but continues to be under discussion inside the lower residence of parliament. The UN Development Programme (UNDP) and UNHCR have collaborated with the authorities to put in force a joint safety, return, and healing strategy for the northeast. The approach builds on other countrywide and international policy devices together with the government's 2016 Buhari Plan. UNHCR coordinated the development of a go-back method for Borno state in 2018, which is supposed to set minimal conditions for IDPs' secure, dignified, knowledgeable, and voluntary return.

Nigeria published its national catastrophe management in 2010, and a national emergency management agency (NEMA) became established as a result. It has also result to a first and second countrywide communication under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which defines the country's method. The government installed the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management, and Social Development in August 2019, a crucial step meant to improve the coordination and mobilisation of assets to prevent and respond to humanitarian and displacement crises.

### **Challenges of Curbing the Humanitarian Crisis and Displacement in Northeastern Nigeria**

#### **Inconsistent Response and Support Ecosystems**

A broad set of challenges pertains to how the state (all tiers) and humanitarian structure have answered the displacement disaster and the battle. Both strategies are intertwined in truth, but I speak them separately for analytical convenience.

### **State Responses**

In addition to the above demanding situations, the Nigerian state fails to fulfill its duties to displaced populations due to susceptible political will, fragmented laws, and rules and push aside for them, infrastructural constraints, and coordination troubles among security sector institutions (SSIs). My findings corroborate Oriola and Abdulazeez's (2018) framing as criminogenic state actions toward internally displaced men and women (IDPs) in 5 issue areas that encompass the misappropriation of alleviation substances and budget, and sexual violence towards women and girls, all at the example of a combination of state and non-state actors. This repertoire also consists of omissions concerning getting the right to fitness aid for ailments resulting from poor dwelling situations in camps. Women have challenging access to justice for sexual violence devoted in the country and foreign displacement and refugee camps in addition to throughout transit. Cultural norms about intercourse and chastity play an essential part.

However, there are challenges with institutional capacities to address this scourge. Poor resourcing and system are feeding low morale amongst SSIs in fashionable, however, the police are mainly frustrated at being marginalized by the army (IOM, 2015). Nigeria is a signatory to, but has yet to domesticate, the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention). The authorities have not followed a country law on IDPs that turned into final revised in 2012, making its reputation and the mandates of responsibility-bearing establishments uncertain.

### **Humanitarian Approaches**

As illustrated by numerous violence in opposition to aid people in Nigeria, the increasing precarity of violent contexts is a considerable humanitarian mission. It has implications for resource employees' protection and willingness to set up in such situations, whether volunteers or specialists. This in flip impacts IDPs' access to help, which is already volatile due to great demand and delivery disparities. However, challenges posed through insecurity, negative humanitarian entrepreneurialism, and the inaccessibility of faraway areas are caused by poor infrastructure. In addition to rethinking the adjustments needed in humanitarian ideas (e.G. The way to live vs the way to depart), it's also vital to confront the unintended results of present-day methods, in the main dependency among IDPs and mismatches among tangible desires and humanitarian templates.

Resourcing is a task, even for the UN, which has repeatedly stated that real giving falls ways short of pledges to Nigeria's humanitarian disaster. As of June 2017, the handiest 28 percent of the \$1.05 billion requested to preclude a starvation crisis have been raised (Sieff, 2017). NGOs, just like the Neem Foundation, are compelled to ration their sources at national and nearby ranges because there's just not sufficient to move around (Akilu, 2018). Loose regulation and poor monitoring contribute to substandard interventions through a few nearby actors. The coordination of planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of interventions using a motley organization of actors, institutions, and mandates is likewise a chief constraint on turning in an effective guide.

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

The analysis above attempts to benefit the perspectives and alternatives of each encamped and self-settled displaced humans on durable solutions to displacement due to the Boko Haram conflict. The paper analysis's significant assumption is that, despite their extraordinary vulnerabilities, IDPs are social agents with wishes, alternatives, and possibilities. Thus, sustainable solutions to the trouble of huge-scale protracted displacement are people who consider and mirror the desires and selections of the humans laid low with the consequences of violence and displacement. Therefore, the study's paper explores perspectives and troubles of IDPs and humanitarian crisis on the everlasting method to their displacement.

As the poorest and maximum prone participants of the society, displaced victims of violent conflicts deserve a unique improvement intervention so one can be targeted at enhancing their monetary self-reliance while reducing the risks of vulnerability, hopelessness, and powerlessness. If something, IDPs' voices on this look at suggest they want to reconsider the cutting-edge questioning on traditional long-lasting solutions wherein states and global businesses nearly recognize voluntary repatriation as the 'first-class' and 'ideal' solution (Long 2010, 2014) to struggle-caused displacement. IDPs count on no longer just permanent safety from violence however additionally sustainable employment, housing, schooling, and healthcare, among other critical development services and possibilities. These answers can simplest be provided if humanitarian efforts are included in the overarching improvement timetable and programs of governments.

Finally, the Nigerian authorities and improvement actors want to develop a holistic method to support those poorest and maximum vulnerable participants of the society to overcome the dangers of impoverishment as a result of war and displacement. In other words, there's a pressing need for a particular improvement intervention centered on improving their monetary self-reliance by providing them with the vital assets, talents, and other assets to construct sustainable livelihoods. Such an approach desires interaction and consists of the IDPs, humanitarian actors, and other sufferers of the conflict inside the development and planning of the interventions.

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