



## Internally Displaced Persons and Human Security in North-East Nigeria

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### Abstract

The political entity referred to as Nigeria has been quite disturbed in recent times as a result of insurgency which resulted to the phenomenon of internally displaced persons (IDPs). The present study investigated the following research questions: 1) did the inter-agency collaborative approach to IDP management address the human security crisis in North-East Nigeria, between 2015 and 2023? And did the challenge of force displacement exacerbate human rights violation in North-East Nigeria, between 2015 and 2023? The study adopted data principally from secondary sources which was analyzed qualitatively. Using the propositions of the Displaced Aggression theory, results reveal that the state's inability to provide security and solve the socioeconomic problems of its citizens is what drove the insurgency that has further resulted in the mass population displacement. The consequences of these unfavorable tendencies, as this study reveals, include loss of lives, insecurity, population displacement, ethnic and religious intolerance and above all economic misfortunes. Based on our findings, the study recommends that the government should wake up to its responsibility of providing and protecting this special population; therefore, periodic monitoring and reviews of the conditions of displaced persons in camps is strongly recommended, in addressing the plight of force displacement and human rights violations of IDPs, it should seek long-term solutions to these problems pertaining to forced migration.

**Keywords:** Economy, Forced Migration, Internally Displaced Persons, Human Security Population

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### Introduction

People who cross national boundaries against their will are known as internally displaced people. These are people who have been forced to leave their homes or places of habitual residence by crossing international recognized state borders. About seventy percent of them abandoned their



homesteads due to threats or natural calamities. Stated differently though, environmental reasons accounted for most of the global internal displacement that had occurred. More than half of these internally displaced people live in about 20 African countries, with East and Central Africa housing the greatest number. These Internally displaced individuals receive little to no attention from the authorities of the area in which they typically reside. These people move away from their secure lives to live insecure ones in other places. Internal insecurity results from this, and when the government ignores it, people are put at risk for threats to their environment, community, political future, health, and well-being. Since poor sanitation practices contribute to an increase in illnesses and diseases, the terrible living conditions of these people have caused severe concerns for both local and international authorities (Emmanuelar, 2015). Importantly, those who are internally displaced rely on others for basic requirements, whether from outside aid or members of their host community (Brookings, 2008). People who have been domestically transferred face challenges with their rights and living conditions. And these causes force displacement. According to Onaedo, Oni and Sejoro (2016) human displacement also known as forced displacement it creates the opposite of a secure environment for the individual thereby forcing the individual to leave his habitual home to seek safety in a strange environment. To Bhagwan (2013) displacement is in itself a firm pointer of the creation of insecurities to human beings. Displaced persons either cross the national border to another sovereign state or relocate to another area within their national state therefore producing refugees or internally displaced persons respectively.

Nigeria has the largest internally displaced people's population in Africa, at over four million plus (Emmanuelar, 2015). Nigeria's internally displaced population has grown dramatically since 2009, when Boko Haram Islamist, an armed group that incites violence of a different kind against the government and the elite Muslim population who have received western education, a phenomenon that has engulfed the entire region in Nigerian history started its violent activities in Northeastern Nigeria. Northeastern Nigeria is made up of six states: Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, and Yobe. It covers an area of 275,667 square kilometers. The majority of people in the region are members of the ethnic groups Balewa, Babur, Fulani, Mumuye, Tangalawaja, Tiv, and Kanuri; the Fulani and Kanuri in particular are found in Nigeria, Niger,



Chad, and Cameroun. (Nigeria Information Guide, 2013). Out of the estimated 117.575 million individuals in 2021, 10.425 million were female and 107.15 million were male, a (Egonu, 2017). Unfortunately, there have been a number of serious setbacks in Nigeria's northeast, which comprises the states of Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, and Yobe. For example, Yobe State, which at the end of 2011 had the highest unemployment rate in the federation at 60.6%. With 11,360 internally displaced people (IDPs) in the first quarter of 2012, it is the zone with the highest number of forcefully displaced people (2010)–2011. due to identity-based conflicts, which include political disagreements, ethnic-religious conflicts, and violent clashes between government troops and the militant group Boko Haram, a religious militia Muhammad (2012). These losses have contributed to radicalization and inaction through the rise of violent extremism and environmental degradation. By 2017, the war in North East Nigeria and the surrounding nations of Cameroon, Chad, and Niger had resulted in over 10 million people being displaced. Of these, 155,000 were refugees and 1.7 million were internally displaced people in Nigeria. The conflict has also resulted in the massive destruction of commercial buildings, private residences, medical and educational facilities, and agricultural assets.

He further stated that The estimated total damage in the three target states of Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe is USD 8.93 billion, with private dwellings (USD 3.32 billion) and agriculture (USD 3.7 billion) accounting for the majority of losses (79%) in these sectors. The damage to private companies is also significant, making up USD 0.9 billion, or 10% of the total damages. People find it difficult to access markets, farms, basic services, and other sources of income because of the high levels of insecurity brought on by the conflict. This has led to low levels of economic activity and high unemployment rates. As a result of the violence and relocation, many households have suffered losses pertaining to housing, means of subsistence, productive assets, and business networks. According to HRP Nigeria, (2017), the conflict has also affected access to education, with an estimated 1,200 school buildings damaged, 1500 schools closed for more than two years, and 952,029 school-age children without an education in 2017. Recent estimates based on multi-sectoral studies indicate that in 2017, the conflict had a substantial impact on nearly 14 million individuals, many of whom had precarious livelihoods. Out of them, more than a million 136,491 refugees have made their way back, with 98,118 coming from Cameroon,



35,847 from Niger, and 239 from Chad. Children make up 973,744 of these, or 55% of the internally displaced people population (Obikaeze and Onuoha, 2016)

Because of this, 95% of the internally displaced people during the coverage period are from the North East, which is ironically also home to Boko Haram, an armed group that incites violence of a different kind against the government and the elite Muslim population who have received western education, a phenomenon that has engulfed the entire region in Nigerian history. The number of internally displaced people in Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, and Yobe was 2,152,000. (Alobo and Obaji, 2016). Similarly, “13.33 percent were displaced due to communal clashes, 0.99 percent by natural disasters, and 85.68 percent as a result of insurgency attacks by Boko Haram activities in the region,” according to an analysis of the total number of internally displaced people in this region (Obikaeze and Onuoha, 2016). The Nigerian constitution assigns the government the duty of ensuring the safety and well-being of the populace (Adamu and Rasheed, 2016).

However, throughout time, the Nigerian government has failed to uphold its constitutional duties to protect the lives and property of its citizens. Because of their fear for their lives, several states have experienced insecurity as a result, and people have been forced to relocate. In an attempt to improve the status of internally displaced people in Nigeria, the federal governments of Nigeria and other African nations signed the 2009 Kampala Convention, also known as the African Union Convention for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons. The issue of IDPs' human security persists despite the federal government's creation of the National Catastrophic Management Agency (NEMA) in an effort to address and quickly respond to catastrophic events in the nation. The government of Nigeria has instituted diverse tactics aimed at ameliorating the circumstances faced by internally displaced individuals. Despite these initiatives, internally displaced people across the country continue to face problems like malnourishment, poor housing, poor sanitation, unemployment, and insecurity (Itumo and Nwobashi, 2016).

Furthermore, almost 200 local government districts in Nigeria have constructed camps for internally displaced persons. These camps are provided by charitable organizations, other international organizations, including the United Nations (UNHCR, 2014). In order to help



alleviate the situation of internally displaced people in the region, the Nigerian government has launched programs like the North-East Development Commission (NEDC) and the Presidential Committee on North East Initiative (PCNI). It seems that these attempts have had little to no impact because the country is still dealing with an internal displacement crisis. It seems that government initiatives and programs are blatantly insufficient to address the issues that IDPs in Nigeria face, despite the government's best efforts to address the internally displaced people conundrum. It seems that not much progress has been made in terms of bettering the internally displaced peoples' conditions or resettling them, despite the uneven aid that has been provided to Nigeria as a result of the Boko Haram insurgency's internally displaced peoples.

The primary reason of this situation is the pervasiveness of corruption in the management of funds and other pertinent resources meant for Northeastern Nigeria's internally displaced population. The situation in the numerous camps housing the internally displaced people in the region continue to be severely hampered by the basic needs of food, clothing, and shelter; water, sanitation, and hygiene; and safety and security for their lives and families. Internally displaced people children's enrollment in schools has not grown as a result of their financial struggles. The terrible condition of the internally displaced peoples' health, which includes, among other things, their vulnerability to cholera, infectious diseases, and STDs as a result of a lack of health care, is another issue (Lancelot, 2013; NEMA, 2015). The horrifying conditions of internally displaced people in the Northeast are purportedly caused by donor cash being misdirected (Odufowokan, 2016). In order to support the ongoing efforts being made by the federal, state, and local governments to address the issue of internally displaced people, it is imperative that new or improved approaches be developed. Consequently, this study examines the impact of internally displaced persons on human security, with a particular focus on North-East Nigeria. It is against this background that this study seeks to analyze the extent to which internally displaced person's crisis constitutes a threat to human security in the North-East Nigeria between 2015 and 2023.



## Literature Review

Internally displaced persons (IDP) as opined by the United Nations Guiding Principles (2005) as persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border' (Oladeji, 2015). In reviewing scholars' argument on the state of IDPs Emmanuelar, (2015) argued that internally displaced persons receive little or no attention from the government of their habitual residence. These persons leave their comfort for a life of uncertainty elsewhere which triggers insecurity from within them coupled with the minimal attention received from government thereby exposing these people to economic threats, health threats, personal threats, political threats, environmental threats and community threats. Great concerns have been generated by both local and international agencies due to the poor living conditions of these persons which in turn, leads to poor sanitations therefore raise in sicknesses and diseases (Emmanuelar, 2015).

Supporting the above assertion Ladan (2006) posits that internally displaced persons are a category displaced within a geographical location. Because of the displacement, they suffer several consequences as the means of their livelihood, such as agriculture and trade are dashed out as a result of violent conflicts or disaster, which could be as a result of a consequence of human or natural factor (Ladan, 2006). Therefore, IDPs experiences worsening situation of food insecurity and malnutrition; the effect is more on women and children. These situations among others create the need for a humanitarian response. Human security means (Adedoyin, 2013) to encompass the protecting of citizens from the threats of diseases, hunger, unemployment, violation of human rights, displacements and shelter problems, conflict, political repression and environmental degradation, hence, human security.

Human security refers to the value of life of the people of a particular society. Anything that reduces the quality of life, which could include; conflict, scarcity of vital resources, environmental degradation or demographic pressures, infringes on human security is considered a threat to human security (Dhirathiti, 2011). In its simplest form, issues ranging from poverty,



unemployment, conflict, violence, sicknesses and diseases, to environmental degradation, natural disasters, domestic violence, transnational crimes, and human rights abuses constitute factors which cause insecurity in individuals thereby leading to displacement of these persons from their habitual homes (Betts, et al., 2006). One of the significant symptoms of human insecurity crises is internally displaced persons' transient accommodation to IDPs (Shedrack and Nuarrual, 2016). Human security is concerned with two basic human entitlements, namely the freedom from wants (developmental security pillar) and the freedom from fear (protective security pillar).

In review of inter-agency collaborative approach to IDP management and Human right violation literature nexus, Onaedo, Oni and Sejoro (2016) argued the Nigerian government established programs to help alleviate the IDP crisis in the region such as the North-East Development Commission (NEDC), Presidential Committee on North East Initiative (PCNI). These efforts seem to have yielded little or no impact as crisis of internally displaced persons persists in the country in a bid to curb the IDP crisis in Nigeria. In examining the federal government efforts, Atala, (2011); Akume (2015); EkpaandDahlan (2016) argued that the ratification by Nigeria on the Kampala Convention in May 2012 is not being adopted in the country. At the national level, the establishment of National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in 1999 by the government was a bid to address and respond swiftly to emergency situations across the country. Due to the fact that IDPs are products of disasters which are either natural or human disasters, these persons are the concerns of the NEMA the NEMA Act specifically makes no reference to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nigeria but describes these persons as 'victims of disaster' hence serving a key loophole of the NEMA Act that affects the agency's authority as well as the capacity in mitigating the IDP crisis (Atala, 2011; Akume 2015; EkpaandDahlan 2016).

Atala (2011) further argued that the national policy on the management of IDP crisis in the country is yet to be adopted which was drafted in 2007 and revised thrice in 2009 and 2010-2011 as it still remains to be adopted by the federal government (Atala, 2011). The absence of this legal framework indicates failure of a clear definition of the roles and responsibilities hence this will restrict humanitarian and development efforts in managing the consequences of internal



displacement as a holistic approach is needed in supporting IDP's quest for durable solutions (Atala, 2011).

In reviewing empirical literature on forced displacement and human right violation, Enwereji (2009) attempted to assess interventions offered by governmental authorities and organizations to forced displaced persons and to identify gaps in services as well as to identify what needs to be strengthened. The author reviewed relevant published and unpublished documents and collected data by interviews with semi-structured questions. Twenty-five organizations and government and police departments and 55 internally displaced persons were interviewed. The result showed that none of the organizations, including governmental institutions, provided social services or assistance in prevention of HIV/AIDS to internally displaced persons. The main services provided by 17 (68%) organizations to 43 (78.2%) of internally displaced persons were provision of food, clothing and money, but these were provided on an ad hoc basis. Only 3 organizations (12%) included spiritual counselling and resolution of communal conflicts in their services.

Durosaro and Ajiboye (2011) investigated the problems and coping strategies of forced displaced adolescents in Jos Metropolis. The snowball sampling technique was used to select 200 respondents. A self-designed instrument was used to collect required information. The results showed that educational and emotional problems are most prominent among internally displaced adolescents. The emotional problems are characterized by memory of fearful events and nightmare. The major coping strategy employed by respondents is repression because they often avoid thinking about their present condition. Respondents were different in their problems and coping strategies on the basis of gender. On the other hand, they were similar in terms of their problems and coping strategies based on age and educational status. Based on the findings, it was alternative educational activities should be provided for internally displaced adolescents. Also, trauma counselling should be adequately and readily available for displaced adolescents.

Ogwo (2013) carried out a study to determine the role played by sex differences in the manifestation of aggression among the forced displaced male and female children. Participants (N=445) aged 10-15 years and drawn from two communities in Nasarawa State, Nigeria, namely,





Bassa and Igbirray. Aggression in children was measured by a 19-item questionnaire developed by the researchers to test the hypothesis that there will be no statistically significant difference in the manifestation of aggression between internally displaced male children and their female counterparts. The findings seem to suggest that armed conflict and its consequences, like internal displacement is a threat to children's general well-being because of the disruption of the environment in which they are socialized.

Oduwole and Fadeyi (2013) evaluated the state of internally displaced persons by forced displacement in Nigeria. The study elicits its information gathering using an ethnographic approach, a semi-structured interview was purposefully conducted on some of the survivors of bomb attack on UN Building at Abuja who are resident of Lagos, victims of displaced persons that experienced devastating floods that destroyed their homes and properties, relations of some of slain youth corps members that equally reside in Lagos were interviewed. The study heavily relies on authoritative and valid secondary sources of data – national dailies (Nigeria Tabloids), journals, articles etc. on the desk type of research. The major findings of the study revealed neglects on the part of the State apparatus (government) in ensuring better, effective and functional policies. Its magnitude is capable of threatening national cohesion of the country and endangering high rate of internally displaced persons across the country. The study concludes that given the magnitude and complexity of crises of internal displacement, these are inimical toward the discourse “Development”. This affects the country from achieving Millennium Development Goals goal number eight (8): rights to safety of lives and properties as equally enshrined in other international treaties choices to healthy, creative life and to enjoy a decent standard of living, freedom, dignity and self-respect and the respect of others.

Olukolajoet *al* (2014) examined the effects of crisis induced forced displacement of persons in Nigeria on real estate investment decision among the displaced. Samples of the displaced persons were drawn from Ekiti, Ogun, Ondo, and Oyo states in the South-Western zone of the country through snowballing process and data collected were analysed descriptively and inferentially. Findings indicate that 78.03% of respondents no longer consider it worthwhile, the investment/re-investment in the crisis zones for fear of losing their investment. The paper



recommends among others that governments at all levels should intensify efforts towards curbing the menace of crisis in the country. This may be made possible through integration of local communities in providing security in their domains. However, though scholars have interrogated the Internally displaced persons and Human security in Nigeria and proffered solutions to it but no satisfactory systematic analysis has been given to see Inter-agency collaborative approach to IDP management and the stimulation of Human security crisis in the country within the period of study and Force displacement and Human right violation within the study period. Hence, this study fills this gap in literature.

### **Theoretical Framework**

This paper adopts the displaced aggression theory. Displaced aggression is a Neo-Freudian hypothesis of the frustration-aggression, which attained scientific prominence with the publication of Dollard, Doob, Miller, Mowrer and Sears in their publication in 1939. Central propositions of displaced aggression theory are as follows: The displaced aggression theory postulates that aggression comes to play as a result of triggered frustration by extraneous factors, Displaced aggression is expressed when aggrieved people cannot retaliate directly against the source of provocation and instead, subsequently aggresses against a seemingly innocent target (Pedersen, Gonzales, and Miller, 2000), Miller (1948) cited in Baron and Richardson (1994) suggested three factors that aggressor's targets, which include among others: strength of instigation to aggression, strength of inhibition to aggression and the stimulus similarity of each potential victim to the frustrating agent. Moreover, the inability to get to provocateur due to "the unavailability of the provoking individual, intangible instigators, and the fear of retaliation from the provocateur" (Vasquez, Lickel, and Hennigan, 2010), the aggression is then transferred to selected people considered to be the most vulnerable targets without the capacity of retaliation.

In application of this theory to the Internally displaced persons and human security in Northeast Nigeria, the insurgent redirects their grievances to other targets given the impossibility or the lack of capacity to effectively direct their aggression toward the source of the provocation or frustration (Miller and Marcus-Newhall, 1997), therefore, the refugees and the displaced people in the Northeast Nigeria are people who became victims as a result of their vulnerability due to



the absence of the requisite capacity of possessing the monopoly of the use of force to defend themselves. The implication of the displaced aggression by the Boko Haram Islamist has been great. It includes the destruction of lives of government institutions and force-men and women, displacing of many people from their homes and their means of livelihood; the massacre of people based on their belief systems, particularly non-Muslims and moderate Muslims, who do not share their ideological principles, and the crumbling of the economy of the Northeast region. The aim of which is to establish an Islamic caliphate in the region and to return the Northern Nigeria, and, if it is possible overthrow the state to the full practice of Islam. The consequences of the displaced aggression gave rise to over three million people displace internally.

Secondly the theory proposes that the inability to get to provocateur due to the unavailability of the provoking individual, intangible instigators, and the fear of retaliation from the provocateur (Vasquez, Lickel, and Hennigan, 2010), the aggression is then transferred to selected people considered to be the most vulnerable targets without the capacity of retaliation. Accordingly, the structural explanation for insurgency deemed it that it occurs in poorly developed or inequitable political, social or economic conditions exacerbated by oppressive or corrupt regimes, ethnic factionalism, and lack of natural resources or disparities in their distribution, social stratification, or military occupation (Moore, 2007). The implication of the insurgency is the covering of a wider scope of low-intensity conflicts that manifest in the form of terrorism, leading to the internal displacement of persons. The internally displaced persons, according to the United Nations Guiding Principles (1998), are: Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border. The internally displaced persons are a category displaced within a geographical location. Because of the displacement, they suffer several consequences as the means of their livelihood, such as agriculture and trade are dashed out as a result of violent conflicts or disaster, which could be as a result of a consequence of human or natural factor (Ladan, 2006).



## Methodology

This study employed a Qualitative method of data collection based on documentary and content analysis approaches, and Time series research design. This design is most suitable for this study because it involves an in-depth investigation of a specific subject and phenomenon with the study focus on internally displaced persons and Human security. The theoretical direction of this study was guided by the premises of the displaced aggression theory. The data for this study were collected from secondary sources, including government publications, newspapers, archival materials, textbooks, and published official documents relevant to the study. The collected data from these documents were interpreted and qualitatively described to address gaps in the literature and provide potential recommendations.

## Results and Discussions of Findings

### *Juxtaposition of Management of Internally displaced persons and human security in Northeast Nigeria*

In interrogating the management of Internally Displaced persons, government has established numerous agencies to help in solving the problem of IDPs. These includes but not limited to establishment of Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) in 1998, creation of National disaster management framework (NDMF) in 2016, establishment of national/state emergency management agency (NEMA) 1999, establishment of displacement tracking Matrix (DTM) assessment in 2014, establishment of state emergency management agency's (SEMAs) in 2009 in Borno, 2016 in Gombe. In other to examine these interagency collaborative approaches, below are the states showing the IDPs camps and where these agencies work. In table 1 below

**Table 1: showing 13 main states with IDP camps in Nigeria.***Thirteen main states with IDP camps in Nigeria*

S/N	State with IDP camps	Capital city	Region Located
1.	Abuja	FCT	North-central
2.	Adamawa	Yola	Northeast
3.	Bauchi	Bauchi	Northeast
4.	Benue	Makurdi	North-central
5.	Borno	Maiduguri	Northeast
6.	Gombe	Gombe	Northeast
7.	Kaduna	Kaduna	Northwest
8.	Kano	Kano	Northwest
9.	Nasarawa	Lafia	North-central
10.	Plateau	Jos	North-central
11.	Taraba	Jalingo	Northeast
12.	Yobe	Damaturu	Northeast
13.	Zamfara	Gasau	Northwest

**Source:** Agbugah (2016); Agu (2018); DTM Report (2018).

The above list is further supported with Nigeria map showing the locations of various states where displaced persons are camped. Arrivals to some of the states are noticeable before the year 2014, in 2015, 2016, 2017 respectively (DTM Report, 2018). However, the figures shown on the map represented number of IDP in the thirteen states in 2016 to 2022. The consequence of internal displacement on IDPs themselves, as well as on the local authorities and communities that host them, can be shocking. While the act of displacement itself often may violate the human rights of those affected, the subsequent loss of access to homes, lands, livelihoods, personal documentation, family members, and social networks can deleteriously affect the ability of IDPs to assert and relish an entire range of fundamental rights. Most apparent, IDPs instantaneously become reliant on others for 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 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. In order to have a clear understanding, the map showing the population of IDP in 2022 in Nigeria is shown below.

**Figure 1: Map showing population of IDP in Nigeria**



**Source: NEMA (2022).**

Displaced persons in Nigeria often face many health challenges. Poor diet, environmental pollution, exposure to harsh weather conditions may contribute to the health challenges of internally displaced persons. Abbani (2021) and UNHCR (2020) had maintained that internally displaced women and children suffer more health challenges than any special population. Additionally, Owoaje, Uchendu, Ajayi and Cadmus (2016) posited that internal displacement often has significant health effects on the wellbeing of the affected population as well as public health. Directly, IDPs suffer most incidences of violence and injuries during displacement and escape. There have been reports of rape which could also affect the health of the IDPs victims in terms of physical injuries, sexually transmitted diseases and psychological trauma. More so, mass migration, open and overcrowded camping of IDPs has the tendency of increasing the risk of communicable diseases and pandemics such as the Covid-19, Ebola and Monkey-pox.

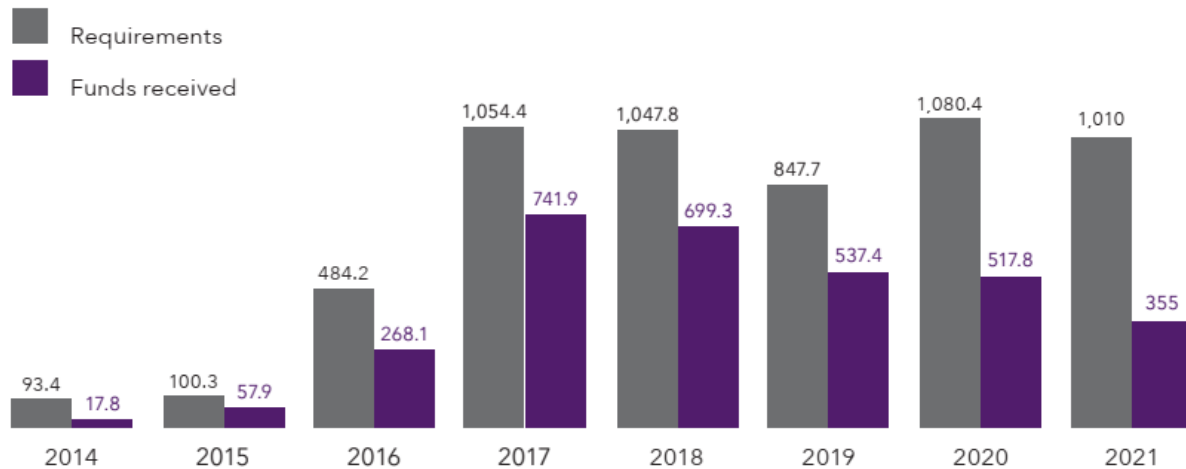


Besides, poor access to safe water, decent housing and poor waste management also bear on the health of IDPs who suffer more from lack of, or poor access to safe health care services.

The national disaster framework was established to tackle disaster and manage IDPs. Following the recovery of numerous areas by security forces, 15 camps were established by the army to house internally displaced persons from those areas. The camps were referred to by some sources as “closed camps” and one said they were “like military internment camps”. The camps were established for security reasons due to the conditions in the recovered areas that had been destroyed by Boko Haram and the levels of malnutrition and starvation among the civilian population. One army strategy was to cut supply lines to areas under Boko Haram control, but that had the greatest impact on civilians, who were left starving. Consequently, large areas were depopulated following their recovery, causing a large increase in the number of internally displaced persons. Shelter conditions in some locations are extremely basic and vast shelter needs were reported in order to protect internally displaced persons from the extreme temperatures and heavy rainfall. The Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC, 2020), Onifade and Osinowo (2016) had maintained that affording decent shelter is a major challenge for IDPs in Nigeria. Displaced from their homes, source of income and not being recognized or documented for identification and possible employment in their new destinations implies that they have to suffer bad weather if the government fails to provide decent accommodation for them. Thus, government effort to tackle this there’s a humanitarian response plan funding for this. Thus the funding trend is as follows;

**Figure 2: Showing Humanitarian Response Plan Funding 2014-2021.**

### Humanitarian Response Plan Funding Trend 2014-2021



Source: Nigeria Humanitarian Funding Overview, OCHA 2021

<https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/nigeria-humanitarian-funding-overview-1-september-2021>

The low funding in 2014 and 2015 was explained by UNOCHA (2015): in 2014, as part of efforts to curtail insecurity in Northeast Nigeria, the Central Emergency Fund (CEF) allocated a pooled fund of US\$3.3 million in response to the IDP crisis in the Northeast (Start Network, 2015). In 2015, part of the funding was allocated to sectors unrelated to IDPs and security issues. As a result, there has been improvement in humanitarian financing since 2015 OCHA (2015). However, against the background of this funding situation and the dynamics and resources ecosystem, it is evident that there is a requirement for better management and tracking of humanitarian assistance funds and resources to achieve effectiveness and efficiency. Data is vital in this instance; better tracking, coordination, gathering, and sharing data will enhance transparency, accountability, and impact. As funding increases and humanitarian architectures change, there is a need for better data in tracking and performance management processes and to ensure sustainable impact in the longer term. Despite improvements in the funding situation, the access of international donors to affected people remains difficult in BAY States (Humanitarian Response Plan, [HRP] 2018).



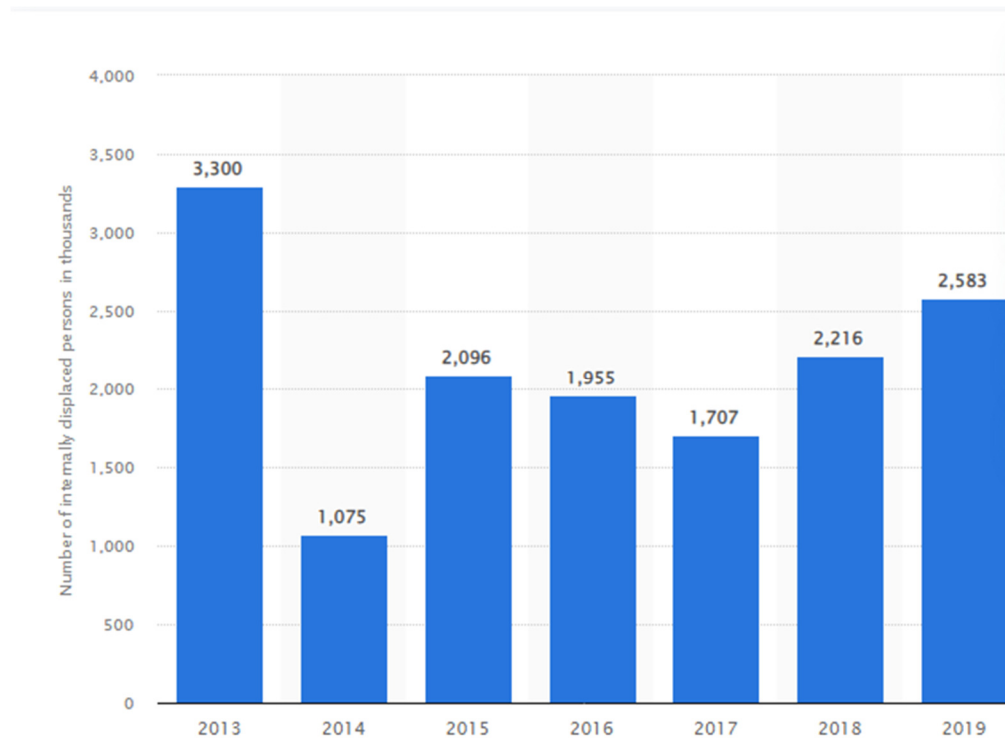


**Figure 3: Showing Nature of IDP camps in Northeast Nigeria.**



**Source: Agu 2019.**

Generally, IDP camps are usually poor coordinated and managed. According to camp experts, Nunes and Roberson (2015), the task of camp coordination and management is to ensure equitable access to services and protection for displaced persons living in communal settings, to improve their quality of life and dignity during displacement, and advocate for solutions while preparing them for life after displacement, which constitutes parts of their rights. In Nigeria, camps are managed by camp leaders or coordinators (civilians), military, Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) – a civilian militia who support the military to provide security and they live inside the camps (Amnesty International, 2018).

**Figure 4: Trend of Internally Displaced Person in Northeast Nigeria 2014-2022.**

**Source: Statista 2022**

Nigeria has the third highest number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Africa. In 2020, it counted 2.7 million internally displaced people. Overall, Africa has the largest number of IDPs in the world. Internally displaced persons are persons who are forced to leave their house but remain within their country's borders. During internal conflicts, displaced victims are confronted with wide range of physical and psychological trauma to their persons coupled with loss of their homes and other life time investments. 31% of displaced households in eight local government areas (LGAs) in Borno state include women and girls with protection needs (UNHCR 11/2016). Rape, sexual exploitation, and other forms of SGBV are high risks among displaced women and girls. Camp officials and soldiers use their position of authority, gifts of food, promises of marriage, material/financial assistance to pressure women into sex. Reports that women and girls still have to trade sex for freedom of movement in and out of camps in order to access livelihood opportunities persist (OCHA 13/01/2017). If women and girls become pregnant from such relations, they are commonly abandoned (HRW 31/10/2016; Punch 02/02/2017).

**Table 2: Gender-based violence in Northeast Nigeria**

S/N	Year	Reported cases of gender-based violence
1.	2014	1,967
2.	2015	1,876
3.	2016	1,567
4.	2017	1,657
5.	2018	2,897
6.	2019	1,654
7.	2020	2,345
8.	2021	2,678
9.	2022	2,786
	<b>Total</b>	<b>19,427</b>

**Source: Authors compilation from different media sources (2022)**

Harassment of women and girls has been reported in both camps and host communities, often in the course of conducting daily activities such as fetching water, collecting firewood, and using latrines and showers (UNHCR 11/2016). Overcrowding in IDP settlements, lack of privacy in shared accommodation, and limited WASH facilities place women and girls at heightened risk of SGBV (UN 20/12/2016). Absence of referral or reporting mechanisms for victims, and the stigma and fear of further victimisation, make it difficult for victims to seek redress and treatment where available (IOM 31/12/2016).

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, this study investigated and revealed major challenges threatening the lives of the displaced persons in camps. Major challenges identified include lack of access to health care services, employment, education, decent accommodation, abuses and protection from risks. It also revealed the absence of measures put in place by government to resolve these challenges. By implication, the national policy on IDPs, on internal displacement only operate on paper as there is no practical evidence of those policies. Further actions are therefore; necessary to protect the displaced persons therefore we put forth the following recommendations.



## Recommendations

1. Government should wake up to its responsibility of providing and protecting this special population. Sanctions should be attached to failures to respond to the needs of displaced persons as UN member nations. Periodic monitoring and reviews of the conditions of displaced persons in camps is strongly recommended. Mores NGOs/CSOs and the media should pay more attention to bringing the government closer to the Internally Displaced Persons in camps. Documentation and re-integration into farming communities will help to give true identification and create economic independence and access to other services thereby reducing the challenges confronting the displaced persons in camps.
2. In order to more effectively address the plight of force displacement and human right violation of IDPs government should seek durable solutions to internal displacement and forced migration, interventions should be addressed in such a way that it is not prolonged and in situations where return is not possible due to extreme insecurity or environmental destruction, and alternative solutions are found. It is critical to find short, medium, and long-term solutions to development deficits and to end dependence on humanitarian assistance by creating an enabling environment for the displaced to live in dignity as contributors to their host communities by fostering self-reliance. A number of factors would therefore need to be addressed, including targeting the underlying drivers of displacement. Assistance should be centered on social inclusion, education, youth employment, empowerment, natural resource management, investment in infrastructure, and environmental protection. This requires engagement from the Nigerian authorities, civil society, governments of neighboring countries, and the international community.



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