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Obstacles to service provision and the needs of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in North Central Zone of Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this study was to investigate the obstacles to the service provision and the needs of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in North Central Zone of Nigeria. The study employed a cross-sectional survey design. The data for this study were collected through primary and secondary sources. Questionnaire and in-depth interview were the main research instruments for the collection of primary data. Data was inputted into Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS), and analysed using relevant statistical tools. The study finds out that twenty related needs of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) were found in North Central Zone of Nigeria. The study found that the service provision for needs of IDPs was significantly hindered by twelve obstacles in the study area. Government should try and place incorrupt workers in charge of Internally Displaced Persons needs supplies in order to curtail the issue of insufficient supply due to corruption and mismanagement.

Key words: Obstacles, service provision, needs, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

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INTRODUCTION

The definition of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs**)** most commonly used comes from the United Nations (UN) guiding principles on internal displacement. The guiding principles define IDPs as "persons or group of persons who have been forced or obligated to flee or leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a situation of generalized violence, violation of human rights, or natural or man-made disasters and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border." They are often referred to as "refugees" although they do not fall within the current legal definition of refugees (International Committee for the Red Cross, (ICRC), 2010). Internal displacement affecting about 70.8 million people worldwide has become increasingly recognized as one of the most tragic phenomena of the contemporary world. Hundreds of thousands of people are displaced due to conflict every year globally (United Nations High Commissioner for refugees, UNHCR, 2019). Around 14.6 million new internal displacements were recorded across 127 countries between January and June 2020, according to a new report by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC, 23 Sep. 2020).

The drivers of displacement in Nigeria are multi-faceted, complex and often overlapping. Boko Haram and other Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) have triggered significant displacement in the north-east of the country since 2014. Crime, cattle rustling, land disputes, armed violence and tensions between pastoralists and farmers escalated in the central, north central, and north-west regions in 2020, following the trend of the past three years. Longstanding violence between Fulani pastoralists and Hausa farmers in the north-western states of Katsina, Sokoto and Zamfara states has become more frequent, and rural banditry and criminal violence is on the rise. Communal violence was also reported in the southern states of the country, though data on displacement is scarcer. Flooding also continues to displace hundreds of thousands of people every year during the rainy season.

In their summary and comparison of the major theories of motivation, Steers and Porter (1979) note, "The individual characteristic that has received the most widespread attention in terms of motivation theory and research is the concept of needs; "A need may be defined as an internal state of disequilibrium, which causes individuals to pursue certain courses of action in an effort to regain internal equilibrium" (p. 22). Gibson (1985) offers a complementary and more detailed definition: "Needs refer to deficiencies that an individual experiences at a particular point in time. The deficiencies may be physiological (e.g., a need for food), psychological (e.g., a need for self-esteem), or sociological (e.g., a need for social interaction). Needs are viewed as energizers or triggers of behavioral responses" (pp. 100-101). Zimbardo (1988) points out that not everyone subscribes to the same view, however: "Some, for example, prefer to use the term need only in connection with biological demands (the body's need for water). Others think need is appropriate in discussing psychological requirements also (the need for achievement)".

Surbhi (2017) defines basic needs as those requirements which are extremely necessary for a human being to live, usually the things that somebody requires in order to live in a comfortable way or achieve what they want. These needs do not belong to or are not connected with anyone else. They are connected with individual people, especially their feelings, characters and relationships. They are connected with person's mind and the way in which it works. They are also connected with the culture of a particular society or group, its customs, beliefs. They are finally connected with society and the way it is organized. In the past, things that people eat, things that people wear such as trousers, pants, dresses and jackets, and the fact of having a place to live or stay were considered as basic human needs. But today, the process of teaching, training and learning, especially in schools or colleges, to

improve knowledge and develop skills as well as the service of providing medical care are also considered as basic human needs, as they make life to become better than before. The basic human needs are things that people think are more important than other things and should be dealt with first. They make people to remain in a good condition, good health and not likely to become ill, normal and sensible. People are protected from any danger or any physical harm. That is why, if basic human needs are not met, it produces or creates the state of being physically or mentally ill and the fact of not being able to do something or it may lead to death. Individual is not going to survive if needs are not satisfied.

Idyorough (2008) defines basic needs as those things that are fundamental or inevitable for human survival, consequently every human being must access them in order to survive and develop and these needs are food, sex, and security. Basically, there are two types of foods: material and non-material foods. Material foods refer to all edible things we take into our body system for body nourishment. The non-material foods refer to the air we breathe, the spiritual and intellectual foods we take into our body system. Food is therefore inevitable and indispensable to human survival. Idyorough further argued that sex refers to a union of the likes and the opposites. It is a magnetic and satisfying interaction or union between two things that are similar or are not similar. With respect to human beings, we are referring to male and female interaction which could take place at psychological or physical levels and produce some level of satisfaction result. At the spiritual level, the result could be love or hatred and at the physical level it could be a child or physical denial of an object. The human consciousness has been programmed with creative and procreative desire and capacity. Sex is therefore inevitable to human survival. Security refers to safety of oneself. It refers to a state or feeling of being safe or protected from spiritual or physical harm or from lack of a basic need. It also includes the adequacy with which to obtain the basic needs for human survival.

Gravagna (2018) writes a list of six basic human needs. These needs include the things that people eat, the things that people wear, the things that people drink, the fact of having a place to live or stay, to rest with your eyes closed and your mind and body not active, being with people as well as a thing, person or situation that is interesting because it is new, unusual, or has not been known before. Furthermore, she is on the opinion that when we best satisfied these needs, it will enhance a feeling of being happy with your own character and abilities, protection or activities involved in protecting a person against attack, danger etc; feeling comfortable and happy in a particular situation or with a particular group of people; being real and existing; showing or feeling happiness or satisfaction, especially because your life is good.

Maslow (1954) makes a list of basic human needs in a particular order to be met. These needs include needs connected with a person's body than their mind and people have been continuing to live or exist, often in spite of difficulty or danger. The things that people eat, the things that people wear, the things that people drink, the fact of having a place to live or stay, resting with your eyes closed and your mind and body not active, a colorless gas that is present in air and water and is necessary people to live, all these are considered as basic human needs. Another stage of needs is the state of being safe and protected from danger or harm in the society. When this need is lacking, people become afraid. People therefore must enjoy freedom, which is not being under the control or the power of somebody else, being able to do what they want or say what they want without anyone stopping them, in order to have a happy life and to be free. The third stage of needs is a strong feeling of deep affection for somebody, especially a member of your family or a friend. This need is also characterized by a feeling of being comfortable and happy in a particular situation or with a particular group of people. The "love and belonging needs" exists because people enjoy spending time

with other people or doing a lot of things with other people; also the way in which two people, groups or countries behave towards each other or deal with each other. The fourth stage of needs is the feeling of being happy with your own character and abilities.

This need is characterized by a feeling of pride in yourself that what you do, say, is right and good. This signifies that the things that somebody has done successfully, especially using their own effort and skill; it has to do with the feeling that you can trust, believe in and be sure about the abilities or good qualities of somebody, as well as a belief in your own ability to do things and successful. This also implies freedom to organize your own life, make your own decision, etc without needing help from other people. A polite behavior towards or care for somebody that you think is important. "Self-esteem needs" also deals with respect that comes from other people. This involves the act of remembering who somebody is when you see or hear them because you have seen or heard them before. It also involves the act of listening to, looking at or thinking about somebody carefully, and to be grateful for something that somebody has done. The fifth level is "self-fulfillment" or "self-actualization". This means the feeling of being happy and satisfied that you have everything you want or need. Self-fulfilled people are known as people who have finished making or doing something. They feel great happiness and they cannot forget time, place and actions of joy, usually because it is so beautiful, interesting, and enjoyable.

There are a number of barriers that have negatively affected the provision of humanitarian assistance for IDPs basic needs in Nigeria. These barriers are complex and overlapping. It is often politically and logistically challenging to provide humanitarian assistance to IDPs. A majority of them do not live in camps, but are dispersed among local communities, making it difficult to identify IDP populations and their needs. IDPs may also be inaccessible to humanitarian organizations due to factors such as their fear of being identified by authorities, or their continuous movement from place to place. Displacement has a particularly traumatic impact on children, often placing them in high-risk circumstances that put them in need of specific protection measures, Women and girls are particularly exposed to the risk of sexual violence while many internally displaced children lose access to education, and many are also or forced recruitment into armed groups.

Adamu and Rasheed (2016) examine the insecurity situation in the Northern Nigeria and its effects on the IDPs. It is evident from the beginning of the paper that insecurity situation in contemporary Nigeria has forced large number of Nigerians to be vulnerable and susceptible to all forms of exploitation, abuse, neglect and many rendered homeless in the northern part of the country. The current figure or number of the IDPs camps across the country shows that the federal, states, local governments and the host communities are all suffering from the effect of insecurity in the north. As recommended in the paper, there is need for intelligence gathering and surveillance so that law enforcement agents could be proactive and reasonably predict potential crime with near perfect accuracy rather than being reactive. While one would allude to the fact that this work is relevant, it is criticized for its emphasis on the plights of IDPs in the Northern Nigeria.

Hakamies, Geissler and Borchert (2008) find that reproductive healthcare for displaced persons (IDPs) is recognized by the Inter-Agency Working Group on Reproductive Health in Refugee situations and the Reproductive Health Response in Conflict Consortium as a neglected area in humanitarian relief operations. To identify barriers to agencies providing reproductive health care to IDPs, and their strategies for overcoming these barriers, they interviewed representatives of 12 relief and development agencies providing health care to conflict-affected populations. Although material and human resources are significant constraints on agencies, the main challenge is to tackle ideological, managerial and policy

barriers, and those related to donor influence. The absence of a legal instrument that recognizes IDPs internationally has contributed to the difficulties agencies face in systematically reaching IDPs. Their findings suggest that considerable efforts are needed to close the gap between international commitments and the provision of services at field level. They recommend that agencies carry out awareness-raising activities internally and among partner organizations and donors, strengthen internal organization and inter-agency collaboration and share expertise in order to maximize benefits and save resources at the local level. These are relevant resource material for this study, but they however did not take into account the plights of those displaced by herdsmen in the North Central Zone of Nigeria.

United States Agency for International Development (USAID, 2021) observe that continued Boko Haram and Islamic State of Iraq and Syria-West Africa-related insecurity has resulted in population displacement, disrupted livelihoods, food insecurity, and protection concerns in northeastern Nigeria, primarily Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states, since 2015. Insecurity continues to restrict access to basic services, and both displaced people and vulnerable host communities are in need of emergency food assistance, safe drinking water, relief commodities, as well as health, nutrition, protection, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions. The majority of internally displaced persons in northeastern Nigeria continue to reside in host communities and camps, straining local resources and exacerbating needs among displaced and host populations. While these social evils are the existential realities in IDPs camps in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states, there is however an empirical shortcoming in his work as the study appears to dwell more on a collection of literature without any field work and clear cut research methodology to ascertain the nature of insecurity faced by the IDPs in the study area.

The empirical literature review shows that many research have being conducted on internally displaced people worldwide but failed to consider the obstacles to service provision at Internally Displaced Persons camps in North Central Zone of Nigeria. This unexplored assessment may have important implications for the welfare of Internally Displaced Persons in camps given the large magnitude of displacement experienced in North Central Zone of Nigeria. Therefore, this paper attempts to determine the obstacles to service provision at Internally Displaced Persons camps in North Central Zone of Nigeria.

From the research problem, the following question was generated to guide this study.

i. What are the needs of Internally Displaced Persons in North Central Zone of Nigeria?
ii. To what extent the obstacles to service provision affect the needs of Internally Displaced Persons in North Central Zone of Nigeria?

The following specific objectives were expected to be achieved:

i. To determine the needs of Internally Displaced Persons in North Central Zone of Nigeria.
ii. To investigate the extent to which obstacles to the service provision affect the needs of the Internally Displaced Persons in North Central Zone of Nigeria.

The study identified the following hypothesis which is stated in null form with a view to testing the outcome of the findings.

H01: There is no significant difference between obstacles to service provision and needs of IDPs in North Central Zone of Nigeria.

Theoretical framework

For the purpose of appropriateness, this study was anchored on the theory of structural-functionalism. The theory of structural-functionalism evolved from the works of the French and British philosophers, Comte, Spencer and Durkheim. The theory of structural-functionalism by these scholars was developed in response to the quest to apply biological indices in understanding and analyzing society. Its aim was primarily focused on explaining social relations, needs and systems in the society (Urry, 2000; Harper, 2011).

There is no doubt that the relevance of structural-functionalist theory to this study cannot be over-emphasized. Admittedly, this study has a strong relationship with the theory of structural-functionalism. Establishing a veritable point from the implication of the definition of the two concepts that make up the compound word, structures represent the bureaucratic set-up of the government. Again, functions stand for the various social welfare services which the structures (the bureaucracy) have to perform. In structural-functionalism, the emphasis is pitched on the fact that the relevance and survival of the system wholly depend on the functions the structures are expected to perform. In the same vein, the relevance attached to the existence of the state rests on the effective and efficient performances of its various ministries, departments and agencies in carrying out a comprehensive social welfare administration to the less privileged and socially disadvantaged persons, in this case, the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in North Central Zone of Nigeria.

METHODOLOGY

Research design

The study adopted a cross-sectional survey design. The population of Internally Displaced individuals identified in North Central Zone of Nigeria, was 657,043, and this was utilized in estimating the sample size of the study. Taro Yamane formula (Yamane, 1967) using 5% degree of freedom, was used as the statistical determinant of the sample size for this study. The sample size for this study was therefore 400 persons. In order to create room for shortage of questionnaire, the researcher increased the sample size by fifty per cent to the above result; this took care of the non-returning, poorly filled and wrongly completed questionnaires. Therefore, a formula developed and recommended by Areoye (2004) was used. In this context, 600 respondents were used as the sample size.

Sampling distribution and sampling technique

The multi-stage sampling technique was employed in the selection of the respondents. The multi-stage sampling technique was justified by the different clusters that facilitated the selection of sample and the collection of data. A study of obstacles to the service provision and the needs of the Internally Displaced Persons in North Central Zone of Nigeria targeted the entire IDPs population. For a multiple stage sample, the researcher first selected the states using simple random. Out of six states which included Benue, Kogi, Kwara, Nasarawa, Niger, Plateau, and the Federal Capital Territory (Abuja), the researcher randomly selected two states which were Benue and Nasarawa states, and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja. These two states and Abuja were the first cluster (first stage) for the study. The researcher now moved to the states admitted into the study and randomly selected one (1) Local Government Area from each state (second stage). The local government constituted the second cluster for the study.

Using purposive sampling technique, Daudu LGA was selected from Benue state, while Keana LGA was selected from Nasarawa state and Area One in Abuja Municipal Area Council was selected. This was because in recent times, frequent occurrences of displacement

have been recorded in these local government areas. People have been displaced as a result of armed clashes between herdsmen and farmers. Some have been displaced by flood.

Using the IDPs population distribution of the different LGA, proportional sampling technique was used to draw sample from each of the local government area. The formula for proportional sample developed and recommended by Cochran (1977) was given as follows:

$$CSS = \frac{PC \times SS}{TP}$$

Where, CSS = required sample size from each LGA

PC = population of each LGA
TP = total population

SS = Sample size (600)

Using the formula above, the proportional sample size calculation for each of the selected local government area was computed and shown in table 3.1.

Table 3.1 Distribution of sample size in selected Local Government Areas

States North Central	**LGA**	**IDPs Population**	**PPSS**
Benue	Guma	35,557	459
Abuja	Area 1	4,695	61
Nasarawa	Keana	6,187	80
Total		**46,439**	**600**

Source: Field Work, April 2024

PPSS = Proportional Population Sample Size

459 respondents were drawn from Guma, while 61 and 80 respondents were drawn from Abuja and Keana respectively. In order to draw representative sample, the third cluster for the study was the IDP camps. From each local government area, two IDP camps were purposively selected. The selection was based on IDP camps with known men, women and children who were displaced due to clashes between herdsmen and farmers. In order to draw representative sample from each of the IDP camps, proportional sampling selection techniques was used. The summary is shown in table 3.2.

Table 3.2 Distribution of sample per IDP camp using proportional sampling technique

LGA	IDP camps selected	Population	PPSS
Keana	Obene Prim. School	2,761	36
	Keana South Prim. S	3,426	44
		6,187	80
Guma	Daudu 1	8,335	108
	Ukpam	27,222	351
		35,557	459
Area 1	Durumi 1	2830	37
	Maleshiya	1865	24
		4,695	61
	Total	**46,439**	**600**

Source: Field Work, April 2024

In terms of IDPs distribution of respondents, Obene Primary School and Keana South Primary School IDP camps were selected to represent Keana LGA; Daudu and Ukpam IDP camps were selected to represent Guma LGA, while Durumi One, Area One and Maleshiya IDP camps were selected to represent Abuja.

Respondents for this study were actually located at the camp level. The Internally Displaced Persons camps therefore become the last cluster for the study. Each IDP camp has a coordinator or chairman with updated household's enumeration register. The researcher relied on this register as the sample frame for the selection of respondents for the study. For this purpose, systematic random sampling technique was used. This was to ensure that all households in the selected IDP camps have equal chance of participating in the study.
Using the formula:

$$X = \frac{Ss}{PHW}$$

Where X = Required sample
Ss = Sample Size for the IDP camp
PHW = Population of IDP household in the IDP camp

For instance, where the respondent needed in the IDP camp is 20 and the total number of the households in the IDP camp is 226, the researcher selected every 10^{th} household in the list until the needed 20 households are selected. Based on the selection the identified household was identified in the IDP camps. In every selected household, one youth within the age bracket of 18-30 years and one adult within the age bracket of 31-50 years were identified and administered a questionnaire. Where there was no youth or no adult within that age bracket in the selected compound, a youth and an adult were selected in the nearby compound. Where there were two or more youths and adults within the age bracket of 18-30 years and 31-50 years in the selected household, the oldest among them was administered a questionnaire. The advantage of this method is that it saves time and money.

Instruments for data collection

The instrument used in collecting data for this study was a self-developed questionnaire titled "obstacles to service provision and the needs of the Internally Displaced Persons in North

Central Zone of Nigeria" (OSPNIDPN) as well as in-depth interview guidelines. The choice of these instruments was to complement the qualitative and quantitative nature of the intending data generated. The questionnaire contained multiple choice questions measured on a scale that ranged from agree to undecided. The variables used in this work were coded; agreed with a score of two, disagreed with a score of one and undecided with a score of zero. The questionnaire was divided of three sections A-B. Section A elicited information on the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents, including age group, gender, marital status, level of education, religion and sources of income. Section B was to determine the extent to which obstacles to the service provision affect the needs of the Internally Displaced Persons in North Central Zone of Nigeria.

Additionally, a self-structured interview guide for in-depth interview was developed to probe further on each of the focus theme of the questionnaire during discussion with camp Chairmen, SEMA officers, Red Cross, traditional rulers, Religious heads, and heads of families. The above interviewees were purposefully sampled to participate in the interview because of their adequate knowledge. Specifically, the purported electronic instruments used for in-depth interview were iPhone, Techno POP 1.

The choice or justification for the use of questionnaire for this study was due to its obvious advantages over other instruments. For instance, it is most appropriate for studying a large population, it is easy to administer as it can be distributed through mail to hired research assistants. It is also useful for making a quantifiable and comparable data.

Furthermore, in-depth interviews with IDP household leaders helped to reveal experiences and understanding the impact of service provision on the needs of IDPs within the study area. The qualitative techniques were especially relevant in areas where there has been little previous research and there is need for discovery, descriptive accounts, and an understanding of how people interpret and explain a social phenomenon or personal experience (Patton, 2003).

Methods of data collection

Data for the study was collected through the use of questionnaire as well as in-depth interview guide. A mixture of questionnaire and in-depth interview was used as prime methods of data for IDP individuals. These methods were expected to complement each other during the data collection phase. Copies of the questionnaire were administered by the researcher with the help of four trained research assistants. They were employed on a temporary contract by the researcher for the purpose of assisting in academic research. This was carried during personal visitation to each location under study likewise the in-depth interview which was recorded through a recorder (iPhone, Techno POP 1) by the researcher.

Additionally, any Internally Displaced Person camp within the three LGAs visited, the researcher first visited the Chairman of the camp to inform him about the survey. A letter was sent to the Executive Secretary Emergency Management Agency Makurdi, Benue State and Lafia, Nasarawa State; to IDP camp Chairmen notifying them that there is upcoming survey on obstacles to the service provision and the needs of IDPs in North Central Zone of Nigeria that they need to inform the community. Furthermore, an IDP camp coordinator and a household head from each of the IDP camps selected were interviewed, making a total number of twelve (12) for the in-depth interview. The reason for the inclusion of an IDP camp coordinator and a household head was to ascertain some of the factors responsible for inadequate provision of services for basic needs of IDPs in their camps and find out the consequences and what the government was doing in order to improve the provision of services. Before the administration of questionnaire and interview process, the respondents

were informed on the subject matter that the fact that the study was for academic purpose. Secondary data included textbooks, journals, magazines, handbooks, internet sources and other library materials were used. The relevance of secondary data to the subject of investigation include, it saves efforts and expenses. It is time saving. It helps to make primary data collection more specific since with the help of secondary data, the researcher was able to make out what were the gaps and deficiencies and what additional information needed to be collected. Furthermore the importance of the secondary data in research can help to answer certain research questions and test some hypotheses, formulate an appropriate research design, identify key variables.

The researcher asked for permission from the Ethical Committee, Federal University of Lafia, Nigeria, and Head of Department of Social Work to conduct a research. Informed verbal and written consents were obtained from participants. Confidentiality of information was maintained throughout the study.

Methods of data analysis

The study used both quantitative and qualitative methods. The quantitative methods included univariate and bivariate methods of analysis. The univariate methods included frequency contingency tables. The bivariate analysis involved chi-square test of independence (X^2), to examine the likely relation among variables. The researcher was guided by the objectives of the study and the research hypotheses that were formulated for the study. The researcher first coded the data, and did a data entry using Excel 2010 version, which was later transferred into the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS, version 21.0) to conduct analysis. The data was presented in tables. Frequencies and simple percentages were used for analysis. The qualitative data involved in-depth interview and was analysed using manual content analysis. This was used to align responses to set study objectives and to support and strengthen quantitative data. The higher or lower the value of percentage for a particular response shows the magnitude of acceptance or rejection of views regarding the question at stake. Thus, conclusions were drawn from analysis based on the weight that a particular response carried from the questionnaire, determined by the percentage. Similarly, the data collected through interviews were analysed and used to back-up discussion of findings.

RESULTS

4.1 Data presentation on the study population

Table 4.1 Distribution and retrieval of questionnaires

S/N	LGA	Distributed questionnaires	Retrieved Frequency
1.	Guma	450 (75.00 %)	411 (68.50%)
2.	Abuja	65(10.83%)	61(10.17%)
3.	Keana	85(14.17%)	76 (12.67%)
	Total	**600 (100.00%)**	**548 (91.34%)**

Source: Field Work April, 2022

The above table 4.1 showed that the total number of 600 (100%) questionnaire were administered to the respondents, in which the total number of 548 (representing 91.34% retrieval rate) were duly filled and retrieved for data analysis. This suggests that ninety-one point thirty-four percent (91.34%) of the study population participated in the study. This was found adequate to provide answers to the research questions, hence data presented is based on

this number. The remaining 8.66 per cent were poorly filled and wrongly completed questionnaire. The demographic data of respondents is shown in the table below.

Table 4.2 Socio - demographic characteristics of respondents in the IDPs camps

Characteristics	No. of IDPs	%
Age category		
25-29	110	20.07
30-34	105	19.16
35-39	98	17.88
40-44	96	17.51
45-49	85	15.51
50+	54	9.85
Total	**548**	**100%**
Sex category		
Male (25+)	217	39.59
Female (15-49)	331	60.41
Total	**548**	**100%**
Marital status		
Married	408	74.45
Widowed/widower	59	10.77
Single	57	10.40
Separated	24	4.38
Total	**548**	**100%**
Educational qualification		
Primary	233	42.51
Secondary	168	30.65
Tertiary	89	16.24
No formal education	58	10.58
Total	**548**	**100%**
Sources of income		
Agriculture work	121	22.08
Petty trade	70	12.77
Self-employment	84	15.32
Government work	62	11.31
Construction work	56	10.21
Firewood sales	65	11.86
Domestic work	90	16.42
Total	**548**	**100%**
Religion		
Christianity	308	56.20
Islam	240	43.80
Total	**548**	**100%**

Source: Field Work April, 2022

Five hundred and forty-eight respondents participated in this study. Table 4.2 showed the socio-demographic details of the respondents such as age, sex, marital status, level of educational attainment, sources of income and religion. All respondents in the study fell within the ages 18 and above 50 years. However, majority of the study participants were from 25 to 50 years of age. This suggests that majority of the respondents were youths and adults.

Many of them were female 62.40% (N = 331). This implies that gender concern for Internally Displaced women primarily relate to two core issues: protection – safeguarding women and girls from rape, abduction, forced sexual slavery, genital mutilation, torture and upholding their rights to equal access and full participation in assistance programmes. Adams & Obiefuna (2020) argue that women especially lactating mothers and children are the worst hit as they experience all forms of abuses including sexual harassments and infringement of their fundamental human rights.

The largest percentage of the respondents 20.07% (N =110) was between the age brackets of 25 – 29 years. This was followed by those aged between 30 – 34 years (19.16%, N = 105). About 17.88%, (N = 98) of the respondents were between 35-39 years, while 17.51%, (N = 96) were within 40-44 years' age group. About 15.51%, (N = 85) of the respondents were between 45-49 years, while 9.85%, (N = 54) were within 50 years and above. Information on the age of Internally Displaced People (IDPs) is essential to assess their needs and design programmes that can support them at every stage of their lives. Assistance must be tailored to respond to the specific necessities and resources of each age group. For instance, while displacement can affect the mental health of all IDPs, it will result in different impacts and will require different responses for children or older people. Internally Displaced People ages are relevant because people have different needs and may rely on different resources at each stage of their lives. Adopting blanket approaches to supporting IDPs without taking their age into account can lead to some being excluded and further marginalized. While research has shown that internal displacement commonly affects the health, livelihoods, security, housing conditions and education of IDPs, what these impacts mean and how they should be mitigated will largely depend on IDPs age.

In the education category, about 10.58% (N = 58) of the respondents were reported to have no formal education, while 42.51% (N = 233) of the respondents were reported to have completed their primary school. The table also showed that 30.65% (N = 168) of the respondents were reported to have attended or completed their secondary. Analysis of the rest of the respondents 16.24% (N = 89) had some tertiary education.

Education is essential to prepare Internally Displaced Persons for life, for employment and for democratic citizenship. Their situation is abnormal and temporary and must be resolved either by return, integration in the host country or resettlement. Education is also difficult to attain for displaced children whose parents cannot afford to enroll them in schools outside the settlement. These children are largely restricted to IDP schools that are not sufficiently equipped to deliver adequate and quality education. Legally, every individual across the world is entitled to free elementary education. Education is essential for strengthening all other human rights, promotes individual wellbeing and empowerment, and is a basis for important economic and social benefits. Yet, the challenges for IDPs in accessing education remain stark.

In the sources of income category, the survey revealed that 22.08% (N = 121) of the respondents had their income through agriculture work, 15.32% (N = 84) were self-employed. About 12.77% (N = 70) of the respondents were petty traders, while 16.42% (N = 90) were engaged in domestic work. The table also revealed that 11.6% (N = 65) of the respondents were firewood's sellers, while 11.31% (N = 62) of the respondents were government workers. 10.21% (N = 56) of the respondents were construction workers. Government assistance is the main source of income of IDPs households with only few claiming to rely primarily on income from informal, public or private employment. These internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) including widowed women and children orphaned by the conflict, are largely catered for by international humanitarian non-governmental organisations

(NGOs) and agencies of the United Nations, in collaboration with local and federal emergency relief agencies. Despite the efforts of both the local and international humanitarian agencies, many of the internally displaced people are still exposed to debilitating hunger and disease conditions with little or no means of livelihood sustenance.

In terms of religious affiliation, a majority of them were of the Christian faith 56.20% (N = 308), while 43.79% (N = 240) were Moslems. The marital status characteristics of the respondents revealed that more than a half of the respondents were married and living with husband or wife 74.45% (N = 408). A little over 10.76% (N = 59) were widowed/widower, while 4.37% (N = 24) of the respondents were separated. The proportion of those who were in single category represented 10.40% (N = 57). There is religious response by Christian religious institutions, Islamic religious institutions and African traditional religious institutions to the plights of IDPs in North Central Zone of Nigeria. It is an attempt by these religious institutions and their charity groups in making frantic efforts to assist the needs of IDPs emotionally, spiritually, materially, psychologically and economically.

Socio-demographic details are often used to describe realized sampled and to determine sampling error. The contributions devoted to socio-demographic variables provide an overview of available survey instruments or address the measurement of individual socio-demographic variables. Obtaining demographic information is both important and advantageous in helping researchers have a better understanding of the population of interest to their research.

Research questions

What are the needs of Internally Displaced Persons in North Central Zone of Nigeria?

Table 4.3: Percentage distribution of needs of IDPs in North Central Zone of Nigeria

S/N	Variables	No serious problem Frequency	(%)	Serious problem Frequency	(%)
1.	Inadequate drinking water	17	3.10	531	96.90
2.	Inadequate food supply	68	12.41	480	87.59
3.	Lack of suitable place to live	9	1.64	539	98.36
4.	Lack of clean toilet	11	2.40	537	97.99
5.	Lack of sanitary materials	25	4.56	523	95.43
6.	Shortage of clothes, bed, bl	10	1.82	538	98.17
7.	Inadequate resources to live	17	3.10	531	96.89
8.	Inadequate health care services	21	3.83	527	96.16
9.	Feeling very distressed	14	2.55	534	97.44
10.	Feeling not safe or protected	10	1.82	538	98.17
11.	Children not attending school	12	2.18	536	97.81
12.	Not caring for family members	26	4.74	522	95.25
13.	Not getting emotional support	13	2.37	535	97.62
14.	Separated from family embers	21	3.83	527	96.16
15.	Been displaced from your home	27	4.92	521	95.07
16.	Not having enough information	26	4.74	522	95.25
17.	Inadequate aid	44	8.02	504	91.97
18.	Feeling not been respected	15	2.73	533	97.26
19.	Not able to move between places	80	14.59	468	85.40
20.	Having much free time in the day	39	7.11	509	92.88

Source: Field Work (April, 2022)

One of the specific objectives of this study was to determine the basic needs of Internally Displaced Persons in North Central Zone of Nigeria. In order to do this, respondents were asked to rate the needs of Internally Displaced Persons using a 2-point scale, which ranged from serious problem with a score (2), to no serious problem with a score (1). The summary of the finding is shown in table 4.3.

The proportion of the respondents who perceived inadequate drinking water as a serious problem was 96.90 percent (N=531) and those who perceived it as not a serious problem were 3.10 percent (N=17). The survey revealed that 12.41 percent of the respondents (N=68) were of the view that inadequate food supply is not a serious problem, while 87.59 percent of the respondents (N=480) agreed that it is a serious problem. The survey showed that 1.64 percent (N=9) of the respondents said that shortage or lack of suitable place to live in is not a serious problem, while 98.36 percent (N=539) of them agreed that it is a serious problem. The proportion of the respondents 97.99 percent (N=537) agree that lack of easy and safe access to a clean toilet, is a serious problem, while few of them 2.40 percent (N=11) said that it is not a serious problem. Some of the respondents 95.43 percent, (N=523) accept that shortage or lack of soap, water, suitable place to wash, sanitary materials are a serious problem, while those whose rejected constitute 4.56 percent (N=25).

About 98.17 percent (N=538) of the respondents agreed that shortage of good enough clothes, shoes, bedding or blankets is a serious problem, while 1.82 percent (N=10) of them said that it is not a serious problem. The survey revealed that 96.89 percent (N=531) of the respondents accept that inadequate income, money or resources is a serious problem, 3.10 %, (N= 17) of them rejected. About 96.16 per cent (N=527) of the respondents agreed that physical illness, injury, disability is a serious problem for the IDPs while those who disagreed represent 3.83 per cent (N=21). The proportion of the respondents who agree that inadequate healthcare for IDPs is a serious problem were 97.44 per cent (N = 534) while those who disagreed represent 2.55 %, (N=14). About 98.17 per cent (N=538) of the respondents agreed that feeding very distressed and worried, is a serious problem for the IDPs, while few of the respondents who disagree represent 1.82 per cent (N=10). About 97.81 per cent (N=536) of the respondents agreed that feeling you or your family is not safe or protected where you live now, while those who disagreed represent 2.18 % (N=12). About 95.25 per cent (N=522) of the respondents agreed that inability of children to attend school and get good education, is a serious problem, while those who disagreed represent 4.74 per cent (N=26). The proportion of those who agreed that inability to care for family members who live with you, is a serious problem was 97.62%, N=535, while those who disagreed represent 2.37 per cent (N=13). About 96.16 per cent (N=527) of the respondents agreed that you are not getting enough support from people in your community, is a serious problem, while those who disagreed represent 3.83 per cent (N=21).

Majority of respondents 95.07 per cent (N=521) of the respondents agreed that been displaced from your home, city or village, is a serious problem, while those who disagreed represent 4.92 per cent (N=27). The survey showed that 95.25 per cent (N=522) of the respondents agreed that you do not have enough information about what is happening in your hometown is a serious problem, while 4.74 per cent (N=26) of the respondents disagreed. The table showed that 91.97 per cent (N= 504) of the respondents agreed that you do not have fair access to the aid that is available from people in your community is a serious problem, while those who disagreed represent 8.02 per cent (N= 44). About 97.26 per cent (N= 533) of the respondents agreed that you feel not respected or humiliated because of the situation you are living in, or because of the way people treat you, is a serious problem, while those who disagreed represent 2.73 %, (N=15). About 85.40 %, (N= 468) of the respondents agreed that

you are not able to move between places or going to another village or town, is a serious problem, while those who disagreed represent 14.59 %, (N= 80). The table showed that 92.88 %, (N= 509) of the respondents agreed that you have too much free time in the day, is a serious problem, while those who disagreed represent 7.11 %, (N=39).

The summary of the opinions of respondents that participated in the study through in-depth-interview (IDI) revealed that:

> There are various basic needs in the camp, but the necessary ones are food items, empowerment, vehicle for carrying emergency, education for our children, and financial support for emergency.(Female, Age: 50 years, women leader, Durumi 1, Area 1, IDPs Support Booth, after Old Secretariat, Dunamis-Redeemed Church-Roses Hotel Way Garki-Abuja).

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC, 2015) observed that IDPs living in urban areas and host communities often encounter similar problems in accessing basic services such as clean water and sanitation, electricity, housing, primary health care and education. This situation was corroborated by an IDI, where some respondents affirmed that:

> Food, shelter, empowerment, sleeping materials, shortage of water supply, we have three water tanks but two are not working, no electricity in the camp but the host community has, inadequate health care services, no financial support, lack of clothes and cooking materials, education. (Male, Age: 37 years, Secretary, IDPs UNHCR shelter Dauda Camp 1 Guma, Along Ukpam Gbaimba Road, Guma LGA, Benue State).

Based on water supply respondents who viewed inadequate water supply were more than \those that accept adequate water supply. The respondents who accepted inadequate food supply were more than those that rejected and the respondents who accepted inadequate place to live were more than those that accept adequate place to live in. the implication of these findings show that what the internally displaced persons see as inadequate were more than expectations since these expectations are not well met, other problems can set in.

4.3 Testing of hypothesis and interpretations

An assessment of the research findings with the hypothesis was carried out in this section. The acceptance or rejection of the hypothesis was tested with regression statistical technique. The study made used of one null hypothesis. It was tested at 0.05 alpha level of significance, the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 23.0 was used for the statistical exercise. Below are the results which are analyzed.

Hypothesis 1: there is no significant difference between service provision and the needs of the IDPs in North Central Zone of Nigeria.

Table 4.3: Multiple regression analysis of the obstacles to the service provision and the needs of the IDPs in North Central Zone of Nigeria

Model	**R**	**R^2**	**Adjusted R^2**	**Std Error**		
1	0.521[a]	0.232	0.312	.43630		
2	**Sources of variance**	**Sum of squares**	**Df**	**Mean square**	**F**	**Sig.**
	Regression	376.645	12	31.387	164.885	.000[b]
	Residual	101.651	534	.190		
	Total	478.296	546			
Independent variables	Unstandardised coefficients		Standardized coefficients		**T**	**Sig.**
	B	**Std. Error**	**Beta**			
(Constant)	3.868	.054			72.021	.000
Funding	.282	.209	.217		1.346	.179
Diversion	.503	.256	.379		1.967	.050
Policies	-.235	.181	-.185		-1.295	.196
Interests	-.307	.219	-.238		-1.403	.161
Personnel	-.382	.146	-.282		-2.614	.009
Transportation	-.141	.234	-.107		-.602	.547
Host comm.	-.206	.175	-.147		-1.172	.242
Poverty	-.105	.333	-.072		-.314	.754
Coordination	.681	.249	.487		2.735	.006
Terrains	-.506	.097	-.375		-5.243	.000
Insecurity	-.776	.333	-.535		-2.331	.020
Discrimination	-.076	.185	-.055		-.411	.681

Source: Field Work (April, 2024)

From the result in table 4.3, the R-square of the regression analysis is 0.232. This finding suggests that 23.2% of the variances in the dependent variable (needs) was accounted for by the twelve independent variables (obstacles). The result of the test as shown in the ANOVA table shows an F – cal value of 164.885 at the associated significant level of .000[b.] . However, the analysis of variance (ANOVA) confirmed the existence of significant differences among the variables in the influence they exerted [F (12, 534) = 164.885, p < .000]. Following the conventional statistical rule for hypothesis testing, a null hypothesis is rejected and the alternative hypothesis is accepted when the level of significance is less than 0.05. By this statistical rule, since the ANOVA test showed a level of significance that is less than the conventional significant level of 0.05, hence hypothesis 1 is rejected. The alternative hypothesis which is there is significant impact of obstacles to the service provision on the

needs of IDPs in North Central Zone of Nigeria, is therefore accepted. It is concluded that there is sufficient reason to believe that needs contributed to the obstacles to the service provision for basic needs of IDPs in North Central Zone of Nigeria.

The coefficients of the independent variables revealed that out of the 12 variables tested, only five (coordination, diversion of relief materials, insecurity, personnel, terrains) exerted significant impact on needs of IDPs (all Ps < .05). The standardized coefficients (Beta weight) suggests that lack of coordination of IDPs management agencies exerted the greatest impact out of the five significant obstacles to provision of services (beta = .487, t = 2.735, p < .006). An increase in the IDPs management agencies would likely increase in needs by .681 units, if all other variables in the equation are held constant. Diversion of funds and relief materials meant for IDPs also exerted a significant beta weight (0.379, t = 1.967, p < .050). A unit increase in diversion level will result in .503 increase in needs. Personnel (beta weight = -.282, t = -2.614, p < .009), a unit decrease in personnel will result in -.382 decrease in needs, if all other variables in the equation are held constant. Terrains (beta weight = -.375, t = -5.243, p < .000); a one unit decrease in terrains could result in -.506 decrease in needs, if all other variables in the equation are held constant. Insecurity (beta weight = -.535, t = -2.331, p < .020); a one unit decrease in insecurity could result in -.776 decrease in needs, if all other variables in the equation are held constant. Low supply of funds to manage IDPs (beta weight = 0.209, t = 1.346, p > 0.179). A one unit increase in low supply of funds will result in a 0.282 increase in needs in the study area.

The regression result reveals the following equation slope: needs = 3.868, low supply of funds = 0.282, diversion of relief materials = 0. 503, overlapping policies = -.235, clash of interests = -.307, personnel (-.382), transportation (-.141), attitude of host communities (-.206), poverty and hunger (-.105), lack of coordination among management agencies (+.681), terrains (-.506), insecurity (-.776), discrimination (-.076).

Mrs. Msendoo Victor, a United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) IDP protection monitor in Ukpam IDP Camp, Makurdi, Benue state, recounted what happened after a delivery of relief materials including rice, milk and soap arrived at Ukpam town. Mrs. Msendoo Victor said:

> Surprisingly, after the materials were delivered and received by the authorities of the local council, only very few of the IDPs benefitted from the materials. The NEMA officials bribed the local council officials by giving them a portion of the items while they carted away the bulk of the reliefs.

The vast majority of the IDPs outside the state system receive scant help from the government. They have to depend on their host families, who also have very little and take any menial job available. Mr. Denis Iornya, Coordinator IDP camp Keana South Primary School, Nasarawa State, revealed that:

> We don’t get any support from government, our people go to the bush to fetch firewood and sell. Others survive on rats which we cook and eat.

Summary of findings

This study aimed at investigating the obstacles to service provision and the needs of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in North Central Zone of Nigeria. Two research questions and two specific objectives guided the study. The summary of the findings is itemized below:

1. Twenty related needs of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) were found in North Central Zone of Nigeria. They include inadequate drinking water supply; inadequate food supply; lack of suitable place to live in; lack of easy and safe access to a clean toilet; lack of sanitary materials; lack of clothes, shoes, blankets; inadequate resources to live on; inadequate health care for us, feeling very distressed and worried. Others are feeling not safe or protected; inability of children to attend school and get good education; inability to care for family members who live with you; not getting enough support from people in the community; been separated from family members; been displaced from home or village and not having enough information about what is happening. Furthermore, lack of fair access to the aid that is available from people in your community; humiliation because of the situations in the IDPs, not been able to move between places or going to another village or town; and too much free time in the day.

2. The service provision for needs of IDPs was significantly hindered by insufficient management agencies to meet the increasing needs of IDPs in the country, low supply of funds to manage IDPs, inadequate machinery to address IDPs issues, office holders in IDPs management divert funds and relief materials meant for IDPs, overlapping policies hinder agencies in the discharge of duties, clash of interests affect provision of basic needs in IDP camps, inefficient personnel, insufficient transportation, attitude of host communities.

Recommendations

1. Government should try and place incorrupt workers in charge of Internally Displaced Persons basic needs supplies in order to curtail the issue of insufficient supply due to corruption and mismanagement

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