

EMERGENCY RELIEF MATERIALS ADMINISTRATION AND THE WELFARE OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN MAIDUGURI, BORNO STATE

MUHAMMAD SANI YUSUF, HADIZA MUHAMMAD BARKA, DEBORAH UMARU

Department of Public Administration, Federal University, Gashua, Nigeria. Email: eljarawee@gmail.com

Received: 15 October 2022, Revised and Accepted: 23 December 2022

ABSTRACT

The study focuses on interrogating emergency relief materials administration and the welfare of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Maiduguri. Internal displacement has rendered over 2 million people in Nigeria homeless, with Maiduguri hosting over 1.6 million as at May, 2021. These IDPs are camped by governments across the nation, while some of them went to stay with friends or relatives who reside in neighboring local government areas or states. The study adopts Joseph's prebendalism theory which explains a situation in which public officials use their position of trust to amass wealth through criminal means. Both primary and secondary sources of data collection were used. The primary source employed the use of Focus Group Discussion from among the IDPs in selected camps as well as IDPs outside camps. Key Informants Interviews with government officials at NEMA and SEMA, etc., was used; while online newspapers, radio reports, etc., served as secondary sources. The findings of the study show that some officials of the national and state emergency management agencies divert emergency relief materials meant for IDPs for their personal gains. It also shows that this diversion of relief materials affects the general welfare of the IDPs. The study recommends among other things that an agency should be created to coordinate and monitor the activities of the national and state emergency management agencies and all other agencies and NGOs with regard to the collection and distribution of relief materials and rehabilitation of IDPs.

Keywords: Emergency relief materials, Internally displaced persons, Administration, Welfare, IDP camp, Humanitarian.

© 2023 The Authors. Published by Innovare Academic Sciences Pvt Ltd. This is an open access article under the CC BY license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>) DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.22159/ijss.2023v11i1.47083>. Journal homepage: <https://innovareacademics.in/journals/index.php/ijss>

INTRODUCTION

Emergency relief materials are meant for people who have been displaced from their homes and find themselves in dire need of assistance due to the emergency situation they find themselves. These emergency situations arose as a result of violent conflicts, natural disasters, fear, and insurgency. Emergency relief material administration has been problematic in most parts of Africa as a result of corruption and maladministration, just like in Sudan and Somalia where cases of diversion of relief materials are reported (Tribune, 2016; HCRI Report, 2012).

At the end of 2021, the total number of people globally who were forced to flee their homes as a result of conflicts, violence, and fear of persecution and human rights violations was 89.3 million. This is more than double the 42.7 million people who remained forcibly displaced a decade ago and the most since World War II. Now with millions of Ukrainians displaced and further displacement elsewhere in 2022, total forced displacement now exceeds 100 million people. This implies that in every 78 people on earth, 1 has been displaced, a landmark that few would have thought of a decade ago. The Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, South Sudan, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen saw increases of between 100,000 and 500,000 people displaced internally in 2021 (UNHCR, 2022).

Nigeria currently has 2.182 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) (those displaced by the Boko Haram insurgency), a reduction from the 2020 figure of 2.37 million which was the second highest number of IDPs since 2013. The highest number of IDPs was recorded in 2013, with a total of 3.3 million persons (Kareem, 2022; Varrella, 2021). In Nigeria, Boko Haram and other non-state armed groups as well as clashes between herders and farmers, and the effect of bandits and kidnappings for ransoms have pushed some 3.0 million Nigerians (as of November 2021) out of their homes, especially in parts of North-East Nigeria, North Central and also in North-West Nigeria (Schönbauer, 2022). Borno State alone hosts over 1.6 million IDPs as at May, 2021 (Mustafa, 2021). Not all displaced persons are recorded in Nigeria,

and besides that, different figures are given by different organizations every day.

Nigeria, particularly, has been finding it increasingly difficult with its plethora of IDPs (Emeka and Olusegun, 2016). IDPs are facing serious challenges in the North East. The challenges range from food scarcity, inadequate health facilities, poor hygiene, etc., Emmanuel (2015) stated that:

Borno and Yobe have been facing critical acute food insecurity, and Adamawa State equally facing stressed acute food insecurity according to famine early warning system network. An assessment by NEMA in March, 2014 also shows that in Borno State, 70% of IDPs living with host families declared that water and sanitation facilities were not enough.

The welfare of IDPs is in a sorry state as far as the administration of relief materials is concerned. Allegations are rife as for the reason(s) why the welfare of IDPs continues to be this appalling.

Maiduguri in Borno State has been hosting most of the IDPs displaced by the Boko Haram insurgency from its environs in several camps within its metropolis. Every day comes with news about the worsening conditions of IDPs in these camps. As mentioned earlier, accusing finger is being pointed at emergency management officials at all levels. Myriads of reports relating to raping of women, prostitution for food, child delivery under deplorable and unhygienic conditions, hunger, malnourishment, as well as alleged diversion and stealing of relief materials by emergency management officials abound.

Therefore, this study intends to look at emergency relief materials administration in Maiduguri, Borno State, the allegations against the diversion of relief materials and how this affects the welfare of IDPs, as well as proffer solution(s) to authorities concerned on how to better administer emergency relief materials to these IDPs, particularly, in Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria.

Statement of the problem

There is no gainsaying the fact that millions of dollars have been and are still being expended on IDPs in North East Nigeria. These monies come from Nigerian governments, NGOs, multinational corporations, other countries, the United Nations, as well as individuals and groups. In spite of the enormous amount of relief materials being collected on behalf of IDPs, there is still little to show with regards to improvement in their living conditions. There have been a lot of reports on emergency relief materials distribution in the IDP camps where in some cases are said to be inadequate, missing and sometimes sold. According to African News (2018) "there is a syndicate in Borno State diverting relief materials meant for IDPs in the North East. The syndicate which is within NEMA and SEMA has been engaging in this unwholesome act for a while. The syndicates are hoping and praying that insurgency does not end." As a result of this diversion, IDPs are facing serious challenges which range from food scarcity, inadequate health facilities, very poor hygiene, etc.

Emergency management agencies were created at the national and state levels across the country to manage emergency situations such as floods, victims of violent conflicts, victims of insurgency, and natural disasters. The National Emergency Management Agency was established by Act 12 as amended by Act 50 of 1999, to manage disasters and other related issues as well as coordinate responses to all emergencies, and provide relief through the establishment of concrete structures and measures in Nigeria. Part III of the 1999 NEMA Act focuses on the establishment of state emergency management committees for each state in Nigeria (Mohammed, 2017). But yet there is still a lacuna in the administration of emergency relief materials to these vulnerable groups, especially in Maiduguri. It has been observed that emergency relief materials most often do not get to IDPs who prefer to stay with relatives, friends, and other well-meaning people who offer to accommodate them. "It is the right of an IDP to choose whether to live in camp or outside camp. Under Article 5 of the Kampala Convention, the State has the primary responsibility to without any discrimination provides protection and humanitarian assistance to all IDPs within their territory or jurisdiction whether they are in camps or out of camps (Erong, 2017)". In most cases the figures being reported of IDPs are of those staying in camps, excluding majority who stay out of camps. According to VOA, among the over 2 million displaced persons in North East of Nigeria, only 10% stay in camps, 90 percent of IDPs stay with relatives or friends in neighboring states or elsewhere (VOA, Hausa, 2016). Therefore, with this in mind, the amount of emergency relief materials being sent to IDP camps ought to have overwhelm and inundate the IDPs staying in camps that only constitute 10% of the total number of IDPs. Yet, the cry continues, that emergency relief materials are inadequate, hence the appalling condition of the IDPs in Maiduguri, Borno State. Therefore, these problems of mal-administering of relief materials and the consequent effect on the welfare of IDPs in Maiduguri will be interrogated with a view to offer useful suggestions to the authorities concerned on how to better administer emergency relief materials to IDPs not only in Maiduguri, but in all parts of the country.

Objective

The main objective of this research is to determine the veracity or otherwise of the allegations against emergency management officials on maladministration of emergency relief materials meant for IDPs in Maiduguri, Borno State.

1. To determine whether government agencies especially NEMA and SEMA who are responsible for administering emergency relief materials to IDPs are performing to expectations.
2. To identify the challenges faced by IDPs in Maiduguri.
3. To proffer possible solution(s) to the problem(s) of emergency relief materials administration and on how to improve the welfare of IDPs in Maiduguri, Borno State, and in other parts of Nigeria.

Research questions

Are the allegations against emergency management officials on maladministration of emergency relief materials to IDPs in Maiduguri, Borno State true?

1. Are the government agencies especially NEMA and SEMA who are responsible for administering emergency relief materials to IDPs performing as expected?
2. What are the challenges faced by IDPs in Maiduguri?
3. What are the possible solution(s) to the problem(s) of emergency relief materials administration and to the deplorable welfare of IDPs in Maiduguri, Borno State, and other parts of Nigeria?

Theoretical framework

Prebendalism is associated with the discourse of neo-patrimonialism, patron-clientelism, and the existence of trust networks that enable corruption to find provincial applause with every new appointment. This attitude is so common among Nigerians. Whenever one is appointed to hold an office of trust it is usually celebrated by the appointee and his kinsmen in the belief that the person has finally been blessed. Syphoning trust to personal use is a sign of success and prosperity as far as public officials in Nigeria are concerned. Prebendalism in this sense means that the distinction between the public and the private domains has become blurred and power, which has become a major source of wealth has become personalized. Richard Joseph is thought to be the first person to use the term "prebendalism" to describe a central feature of Nigerian politics (<https://news.northwestern.edu/stories/2014/01/is-prebendalism-a-global-phenomenon-today/>). Joseph wrote in 1996, that "According to the theory of prebendalism, state offices are regarded as prebends that can be appropriated by officeholders, who use them to attract material benefits for themselves and their constituents and relations (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prebendalism>)." Nigeria has gone far in this unhealthy practice. Ordinarily, a prebend is an allowance to which clergymen are entitled-like tithes. The Catholic Encyclopedia defines a prebend as the "right of member of chapter to his share in the revenues of a cathedral." Joseph used the term to demonstrate the feeling of entitlement that many people in Nigeria have to the revenues of the Nigerian state. Elected officials, government workers, and members of the ethnic and religious groups to which they belong feel they have a right to a share of government revenues (<https://www.definitions.net/definition/prebendalism>). Joseph derived his concept from this and theorized that Nigerian officials have a sense of entitlement to state revenue even if this entails the use of criminal means to access it (Bello, 2017). Reports are rampant about officials of the national and states emergency management agencies diverting relief materials meant for IDPs for their personal gains by selling them to businessmen, and thereby creating serious and myriads of hardship to IDPs as well as sabotaging governments in their efforts to assist IDPs in Maiduguri and other parts of the country.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (2008) defined emergency relief as:

The immediate survival assistance to the victims of crisis and violent conflict, most relief operations are initiated on short notice and have a short implementation period (project objectives are generally completed within a year). The main purpose of emergency relief is to save lives (Reliefweb, 2008).

Emergency relief could also refer to those activities intended to address a need which, if left unattended, may result in significant consequences for victims. Emergency relief may include assistance required immediately following the crime as well as activities needed during the investigation and prosecution of an act of terrorism or mass violence (<https://www.lawinsider.com/clause/violence>).

According to Stanley (2014), emergency relief is the provision of assistance to people in need. It consists of the provision of financial and material aid to meet an immediate need, and a referral service to link people with specialist in community service. Corlez opined that emergency management is the work of a public authority (government), a group of professions such as police officers and soldiers, or an interdisciplinary research field (Stanley, 2014).

The 2014 World Confederation for Physical Therapy opined that emergency relief is a coordinated multi-agency response to reduce the impact of a disaster and its long-term results... Emergency activities include rescue, relocation, providing food and water, preventing diseases and disability, repairing vital services such as telecommunications and transport, providing temporary shelter and emergency healthcare (Stanley, 2014). How well these activities are administered in Maiduguri is a source of worry to well-meaning and concerned Nigerians and even non-Nigerians. It was in the light of this that Goldwin-Gill (1996) opined that in international law it is the responsibility of the government concerned to provide assistance and protection to IDPs in their country. National Emergency Management Agency and State Emergency Management Agencies have been created by Nigerian government for this purpose. It is, therefore, a challenge for the Nigerian governments to look for ways to address the problems associated with emergency relief materials administration to IDPs in Maiduguri, Borno State.

Deng, (1998) defines IDPs as:

IDPs are people or group of people who have been forced or obliged to flee or leave their homes or place of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situation of generalized violence, violation of human rights or natural or human made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border.

In Maiduguri in particular, and the North East in general, most of the IDPs were displaced by the Boko Haram insurgency, and not by natural or man-made disasters.

IDPs are people who have not crossed an international border to find safety, but still remain within their home country. They stay within the borders of their own countries and remain under the protection and responsibility of their government (Schönbauer, 2022).

Polinaidu (2004: 2) defines administration as a rational human activity, which is inherent in any organized social life, public or private. With focus on what is done by collectivities in the form of administration.

Administration has been viewed by Simon, Smithbourg and Thompson that in its broadest sense administration can be defined as the activities of groups co-operating to accomplish common goal (Sharma, *et al.* 2013: 3). Here, it entails the co-operation taking place between the different tiers of government national, and internationally including non-governmental organizations in the provision of emergency relief materials to IDPs. In other words, administration has to do with cooperation between groups as it is evident that the administration of relief materials involved so many organizations trying to accomplish the common objective of humanitarian assistance to IDPs in Maiduguri, Borno State.

Data collection method and sources

The research drew heavily on both primary and secondary data. The primary data were collected through Focus Group Discussion with IDPs in camps and outside camps and through Key Informant Interviews (KII), from community based humanitarian volunteers/NGO officials and NEMA/SEMA staff. For the IDPs in camps' Focus Group Discussion, a total of 12 people were gathered at Muna Kumburi IDP Camp, 15 at Muna Elbadawi IDP Camp, 13 at Custom House IDP Camp, and 10 IDPs outside camp at Dalori quarters. As for the KII, a total of 12 officials from NEMA/SEMA, NGOs, Camp officials and community based humanitarian volunteers were interviewed secretly. This few number was to enable us have control over the interaction as well as to guide them in discussing the topic of Emergency relief material administration and the welfare of IDPs in Maiduguri. Secondary data were generated from academic publications, online news reports, radio reports and from both international and local organizations such as UN agencies that have been assisting in addressing the plight of IDPs.

Snowball sampling methods were used in identifying and reaching out to both the IDPs and the KIIs. For both the IDPs in camps and those outside camps, the snowball sampling method was used. "The snowball sampling technique is used in locating hard-to-find participants FGD and KII (Erong, 2017)." It is also applied in cases of confidentiality of an organization respondent or where no official list of names of members are available and are difficult to locate like the IDPs outside camps (<https://www.questionpro.com/blog/snowball-sampling/amp/>). As the camps are being closed down by the state government in Maiduguri, less attention is being giving to these IDPs especially those at Muna Kumburi and Muna Elbadawy camps. Locating and finding those willing to participate in the FGD were difficult as most of them were avoiding the interaction. We had to use one or two people from town who they know and in whom they are confident to help convinced them to accept to be part of the discussion. One confidant led to another of his confidant and so it snowballed to the required number of participants. And this was the situation in all the three camps as well as those outside camps and including the few humanitarian volunteers, NEMA and SEMA officials and camp officials that formed the KII participants.

Table 1 shows the total number of IDPs that participated in the FGD and their ages, including the total number and ages of all those involved in Key Informant Interviews.

Table 2 shows the number of IDPs in camps, those outside camps as well as their sexes, i.e. male and females and their age range. The same thing applies to the key informants.

FINDINGS/DISCUSSION

Our findings are limited to the few IDP camps we found existing. By the time we started the research, most of the IDP camps in Maiduguri metropolis were closed down by the Borno State government, and the IDPs resettled back in their former towns and villages from where they were displaced. Yet, we were able to identify some few IDP camps that still exist. The IDP camps we found and interacted with are Muna Elbadawy, Muna Kumburi and Custom House IDP camps.

At Muna Kumburi Camp, where most of the IDPs come from Krenuwa, Marte Local Government Area of Borno State, and housed about 760 IDPs, the IDPs were unanimous in claiming that among all those that were present for the FGD, only two of them are receiving food relief material from government since they started living in the camp for the past 9 years. Most of them said they have never received food from NEMA or Borno State Emergency Management Agency (BOSEMA) or even directly from the Borno State government. They have been fending for themselves and their families all this 9 years through assistance from unaffected relatives, individuals or by engaging in manual labour like cutting down firewood. The tents we found them living in were said to have been built by the Norwegian Refugee Commission (NRC) while the lavatories were built of zinc or corrugated sheets by the Catholic relief service. According to them, some of the IDPs in the camp if allotted tents by NRC, they sell them to buy food. An elderly lady among them was full of praises for the Alliance for International medical actions (ALIMA) and UNICEF for providing them with health care facilities especially for pregnant women and children of 5 years old and below. She said even when cases of sickness are beyond the capacity of the camp clinic, they are referred to secondary or tertiary hospitals in town and the bills are settled by these humanitarian organizations. But they lamented seriously over the shortage of food they are experiencing (FGD, August, 2022).

At Muna Elbadawy Camp, the problems are not far different from that of Muna Kumburi. Most of the IDPs here come from Boboshe, Dikwa Local Government Area, and Mafa Local Government Area of Borno State. But they claimed that SEMA used to provide them with relief materials in the form of food after every 2 months. They give them 5 kg of rice, 5 kg of beans, 5 kg of maize, 2 l of cooking oil and 9 bar of soaps which was later reduced to 6 bars, to sustain them for 2 months for a family of 7-8, while for a family of 3 or 4, less is given. For the soaps, they have since stop

given them. They said earlier before now Red Cross used to provide them with food stuff directly too. They were unanimous in alleging that relief materials brought for IDPs by SEMA are often diverted by the officials in their presence. Sometimes the camp officials call their people or buyers from the town to come and collect or buy and then take away the relief materials in their presence. Their makeshift houses are made of thatched grasses with leather trampoline over them to protect them against rain. They said the trampolines were given by the Red Cross since they first came to the camp. Unlike the IDPs at Muna Kumburi, they erected their own makeshift houses themselves since they first came about 7 years ago. Recently, they experienced fire outbreak twice which engulfed almost a complete row of the houses affecting many people. But the only assistance they got was from the current Governor, Prof. Babagana Umara Zulum, who visited the victims and donated to the affected ones a trampoline and a mat. The leather trampolines were later given to them but selectively by the camp officials. Those who were not affected were given while some whose houses were burnt down were not given. Where they (affected ones) need the trampolines they have buy from those not affected at an exorbitant price of up to 10,000.00 naira.

Lack of food has forced them to start farming in nearby villages where they plant millet, and beans. But they have also stopped it due to frequent raids by Boko Haram at the farms. They said members of Boko Haram used to raid them whenever they learned that they are in farm to kidnap them and demand for ransom. Recently, they said, a boy of about 12-13 years was kidnapped at a farm and a ransom of 3 million was demanded from the poor parent who could barely eat to survive. The IDPs decided to raise some money collectively to help pay the ransom. By the time they went to pay, they found the boy's dead body and were told by Boko Haram kidnapers that they no longer need the money. As at the time of this FGD, they told us that two other IDPs have been kidnapped and are still in the hands of the kidnapers including an old man. As a result of this, they no longer go to farm any more. Life on its part is not treating them kind and every means of survival is becoming more and more elusive and gloomy. A lady among them said, their biggest challenge is food. But on the issue of healthcare and education, UNICEF is trying. Medical care is given for free to pregnant women and children of 5 years and below. As for the adults, less attention is given for their medical care. The primary school located in the camp which was said to have been provided by UNICEF is manned by unqualified staff. They said it is their own children who have completed secondary schools that are asked to teach their younger ones in the school.

Water is also a challenge at the camp. Although, there are two functional boreholes provided by WASH Intervention, the queue we saw of women and children waiting for their turn was alarming.

The situation is not much different at the Custom House IDP Camp where majority of the IDPs come from Boboshe, Dikwa Local Government Area and Mafa Local Government Area too. The IDPs complained of shortage of food just as in the other camps. Food and other relief materials are given by NEMA/SEMA once in 2 months which does not last a day and at most a week depending on the size of the family. According to them, Governor Zulum once came to the camp and shared to them a bag of rice and 5 l of cooking oil to each family. The women were given one pair of wrapper and 5,000.00 naira each. They said some of them have not collected any relief material from any organization including the State government for more than 4 years now.

One of the youths said some women among the IDPs have resorted to prostitution to survive, especially those whose husbands were killed by Boko Haram insurgents and are left with little children to look after

Health-care facilities are available for pregnant women and children of 5 years and below by ALIMA and UNICEF for free at the camp. Where the case is beyond the capacity of the camp clinic, they are referred to secondary and tertiary facilities outside the camp and they pay for the treatment for the IDPs. A middle aged lady IDP, who said she was born and brought up in Lagos, but an indigene of Borno State from Mafa LGA,

said she is one of the volunteers who assist in the camp clinic, and she was full of praises for the care given to women and children in the camp. Recently, a tricycle ambulance was provided by the United Nations Population Fund; and referral to secondary and tertiary health facilities is done and paid for the IDPs women and children. She said they also treat adults for free in the camp, except in referral cases, the adults pay for themselves. They have fewer lavatories which are not sufficient. When they are filled up, the authorities don't come to evacuate them. As a result, women queue up the same way they do for water.

Save the children has provided a primary school for the IDPs children. But they complained about none qualitative teaching. A youth complained that the school only offers western education but Qur'an and other Islamic lessons are completely not offered in the school, and they seriously need that for their children to grow up with the fear of God (FGD, 2022).

The IDPs complain of connivance between NEMA/BOSEMA officials, camp officials and the security officials in diverting relief materials. They said, sometimes they would be informed that certain relief materials are coming. Their names will be written, ration cards issued to them, but when the relief materials arrive, they will be asked to sign against their names signifying they have collected the relief material, and that is the end of it. They will not be given what they have signed for. At the end, they will see those relief materials being taken out of the camp in trucks (FGD, August, 2022).

Our finding from IDPs outside camps at Dalori Quarters is not any different. On their own part, they claimed that they have never received any relief material in the name of aid from anybody including the state government, except from members of the host community, and other well-meaning individuals and relatives (FGD, August, 2022).

Key informants who among them were both BOSEMA and camp officials corroborated most of the findings during the FGD with IDPs in the camps we visited (Key informants interview, August, 2022).

Emergency relief material administration and the welfare of IDPs in Maiduguri: Interpretation and analysis of findings

According to Soyombo (2016), in October 2016, the Nigerian senate began probing the alleged diversion of funds and relief materials meant for IDPs in Borno state. Soyombo, said, after disguising as a relief-aid donor for 8 days in November 2016 in order to penetrate an IDP camp and the BOSEMA, he presented a report that points the Nigerian Senate to the directions where it should beam its searchlights if it is any serious about apprehending and prosecuting the government and camp officials who have been piling more misery on people whose lives have already been made difficult by the Boko Haram insurgency.

He reported that an infant girl at the tender age of three, named Halimat went through a harrowing experience of a torture that even a 30-year-old would struggle to withstand. At the 110 bed Inpatient Therapeutic Feeding Centre of the Médecins Sans Frontières in Gwange, Maiduguri, where she was first spotted in early November, 2016, Halima lets out a cry every time she turns on her sick bed. Almost every part of her slender body was swollen, wrinkled or bruised; half of it was bandaged. She was suffering from severe acute malnutrition, worsened by constant diarrhea and edema — a buildup of body fluid that results in a swollen body and causes severe pain. Halima found herself in this state of pain for two reasons: first, she was let down by her country, which failed to protect her when Boko Haram insurgents attacked her household in Bama in 2014; s, she found food hard to come by, not just because of the enormity of the feeding burden on the government but because of the inhumanity of emergency managers and camp officials who "keep diverting" IDP foodstuffs. Being the ones in closest contact with the displaced persons, the SEMA and camp officials supposed to be the ones most sympathetic to these IDPs. Unfortunately, findings from visits to the IDP camps point out contrary (Soyombo, 2016). This report corroborates the findings we made from these IDP camps. IDPs greatest

challenge is food as lamented by the participants in our FGD. The food given to them does not take them anywhere as mentioned earlier. Donor agencies, foreign countries, federal, and state governments are giving out food and other relief materials which to many ought to have exceeded the needs of the IDPs especially those in camp. However, the reverse is the case.

Mac-Leva (2021) also reported that IDPs say food is in short supply. Banditry in the North East and North West has contributed to the shortage of food in the camps. Food supplied for the camps used to be purchased from Kebbi, Zamfara, and Katsina but with the rising incidences of banditry there, farmers no longer produce food. This has led to a shortage of food and also its high cost as it has affected supply to this place, said an official at the camp who preferred anonymity. The official also revealed that the pathetic situation at the Bakassi camp had forced many female IDPs into prostitution to survive, a development that has resulted to several unwanted pregnancies.

Mac-Leva also found out that shady deals by the BOSEMA have contributed to the deplorable conditions of IDPs in the state. He said a humanitarian worker in Maiduguri accused BOSEMA of shortchanging IDPs in terms of food and other supplies. Food supply for the IDPs comes from government and NGOs. Earlier on, NGOs used to supply food directly to the camps but it was later changed. What obtains now is that all donations of food to IDPs from NGOs are now channeled through government state emergency agency including UN agencies' interventions which allows little room for accountability, said a humanitarian worker who preferred anonymity for fear of being victimized.

"Corruption is perpetrated by SEMA staff who keep food meant for IDPs in their stores but do not distribute it. Instead, half of the food items meant for IDPs are distributed to BOSEMA staff while sometimes fake and expired food items are given to IDPs. They even repackage the food in bags and sell (Mac-Leva, 2021)". According to a member of the Civilian joint task force, whose work covers the Muna Garage IDP camp, relief materials generally, not only food do not get to IDPs because of

the "bad character" of the men in charge (Arewa Research Development Project, n.d.). These reports have also given credence to the claims of the IDPs in Muna Kumburi, Muna Elbadawi and Custom House IDP camps. The IDPs alleged that sometimes their names are even written, ration cards are issued to them and on the day of distribution they are asked to sign against their names as evidence that they have collected relief materials when nothing was given to them. This weighty allegation was corroborated by a person that once worked as a driver at the SEMA office in Borno where relief materials are stored. In fact, he said there are times when SEMA receives aid and keeps all, not just half to itself (Arewa Research Development Project, n.d.).

Due to these diversions of relief materials by SEMA officials, many hungry IDPs go out of their way to look for food and in the process, they run into social problems such as prostitution and other crimes. The women, in most cases end up with unwanted pregnancies and HIV. Mac-Leva (2021) said that there is a particular IDP camp in Maiduguri where abortion is done and unwanted babies buried in soak-away. This also confirms the statement made by one of the youths at the Custom House IDP Camp where he stated that women whose husbands were killed and left with small children to look after often resort to prostitution in order to feed their children.

Similarly, the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corp intercepted several IDP relief materials in Borno State according to a report. The agency said it had also intercepted the diversion of cartons of assorted food donated to the state by the World Food Programme to combat malnutrition in the insurgency-ravaged state. It also announced the arrest of a suspect at a motor park in Borno State allegedly trying to divert books and other educational materials donated to schools in the state by the United Nations (Haruna, 2018).

There was a report also that in May 2017, a Borno State High Court sentenced a former local government chairman and one other top politician to 2 years in prison for stealing rice donated by foreign donors to IDPs (Haruna, 2018).

RFI Radio Hausa also reported a case of a trailer load of maize meant for IDPs with government seals on the bags impounded in Jos at Grand Cereal Company (RFI, Hausa, 2017). Similarly, seventy one trailer loads of rice and other grains meant for IDPs were discovered missing in Adamawa State (The Guardian News, 2016). "A former staff of SEMA said that the former chairman of SEMA used to give at least 300 bags of rice to each IDP camp every month. But now, each camp gets 50 bags monthly. In the night, they cart the food way and nobody knows where they move it to. And it's always in the night (Arewa Research Development Project, n.d.)".

All these reports bring home that the allegations being leveled against those officials saddled with the trust of ensuring better welfare for IDPs but compromised for self-aggrandizement and wicked accumulation at the expense of these vulnerable victims of Boko Haram insurgency seem to be true.

Table 1: Summary of FGD and KII participants by age and number

| Age group | Male | Female | Total |
|--------------------------|------|--------|-------|
| Focus group discussions | | | |
| 18-29 years | 6 | 4 | 10 |
| 30-39 years | 10 | 4 | 14 |
| 40-49 years | 8 | 3 | 11 |
| 50-59 years | 9 | 3 | 12 |
| 60 years and above | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Total | 35 | 15 | 50 |
| Key informants interview | | | |
| 20-60 | 8 | 4 | 12 |

Field Research, 2022

Table 2: Summary of IDPs inside camp and IDPs outside camp who participated in FGD and KII

| Age group | Male IDPs inside camps | Female IDPs inside camp | Male IDPs outside camps | Female IDPs outside camps | Total |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------|
| Focus group discussions | | | | | |
| 18-29 years | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 11 |
| 30-39 years | 8 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 13 |
| 40-49 years | 6 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 11 |
| 50-59 years | 7 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 12 |
| 60 years and above | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Total | 28 | 12 | 7 | 3 | 50 |
| Key informants interview | | | | | |
| 20-60 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 12 |

Field Research, 2022

Limitations of the study

In every study of this kind one is bound to encounter some encumbrances whether financial, social, technical, or even bureaucratic. The limitations encountered during this research were numerous. Part of it was the noncompliance of the officials of NEMA/BOSEMA who openly refused to grant us audience to discuss the subject matter of the study. Only few availed themselves secretly to us to have a discussion on the reliability or otherwise of the allegations leveled against the agency's officials by IDPs. On the part of the IDPs, it was a bit difficult getting those who would volunteer to participate in our FGD because of the fear of being identified and victimized by camp officials for exposing them. Language barrier also hindered the outcome of the research as some of the FGD participants could not understand both Hausa and English language except Kanuri. Getting research participants/assistants was part of our limitations because it took us several days more than we expected to have suitable and qualified research assistants as well as the required number.

CONCLUSION

Wicked accumulation has found a place in the hearts of many Nigerians. The get rich quick syndrome has made most people to lose their humanity. These vulnerable IDPs in Maiduguri are experiencing the worst level of helplessness that can be imagined. A lot of them live like walking corpses, divested of any hope of living a dignified human life. They are no different from stateless citizens floundering in the air not knowing the direction the wind will carry them. These vulnerable men, women and children, and some government officials who are entrusted with the responsibility of assisting in alleviating their sufferings by ensuring they live life like any other citizen, have turned their misery into a source of wealth. Government officials, especially those of Borno State Emergency Management Agency connive with humanitarian volunteers, IDPs camp officials and security agents to divert both food and non-food relief materials meant for the well-being of IDPs for personal gains such as selling the relief materials to business men, inviting their friends and relatives to claim relief materials meant for IDPs, and sometimes deliberately diverting relief materials to their personal use, hence, denying the IDPs these relief materials, thereby putting their lives in the most deplorable state of being. There are lot of stakeholders who think that the amount of relief materials collected and given to IDPs by both Nigerian governments, foreign countries, NGOs, United Nations agencies and individuals ought to have overwhelmed the IDPs, both those inside and outside camps. But unfortunately, in spite of all this, IDPs are faced with lack in almost every aspect of their lives and the consequences had pushed some of them into serious dangers including being kidnapped victims, death, and women into prostitution for food and unwanted pregnancies and diseases including HIV. All this was simply because these IDPs found food hard to come by, not just because of the enormity of the feeding burden on the government but because of the inhumanity and wickedness of emergency managers in cahoots with camp officials and other some humanitarian volunteers who divert these food and non-food relief materials to non IDPs and for self-aggrandizement.

With strong support from the UNO and other humanitarian agencies and commissions, if a separate agency is created by the Federal Government to monitor and coordinate NEMA/SEMA in relation to collection and distribution of relief materials and rehabilitation of IDPs, it will be effective in carrying out its mandates by strictly complying with the provisions of the Guiding Principles on IDPs.

Recommendations

The following are our recommendations:

An agency should be established to monitor national and states emergency management agencies to better administer relief materials meant for IDPs, and to comprehensively coordinate all activities of other agencies of government, NGOs both national and international with regard to the collection, distribution, and rehabilitation of IDPs.

Stiffer punishment should be administered on any erring official(s) that is found wanting of diverting relief materials meant for IDPs to serve as deterrent to others.

Proper records of both IDPs inside and outside camps should be maintained by governments through community leaders from the local government area they are displaced. The location of those outside camps should be properly identified. This will help in reaching out to all the IDPs during the distribution of relief materials as well as identify non IDPs who come in to disguise themselves as IDPs.

Skills acquisition programs should be emphasized in IDP camps to provide them with new sources of income generating skills that shall eventually be of great benefit to them during their stay in the camps and after leaving the camps or resettled back to their homes.

Qualified teachers should be employed to teach in IDPs children schools. Religious knowledge should be emphasized too to further unveil to them the dangers of Boko Haram creed as well as inculcate in them good social and religious morals. This will in no small measure help in preventing them from being led wayward and taken advantage of by any person or group.

A secret channel for lodging complain to the created monitoring agency by IDPs against illegalities and criminal acts in camps should be provided so that they can escaped being threatened or victimized by camp officials, security agents, and state emergency management officials.

REFERENCES

- Haruna A. Boko Haram victims dying of starvation as Borno Officials steal relief material, Premium Times 2016. Available from: <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/20589-boko-haram-victims-dying-starvation-borno-officials-steal-relief-materials.html> [Last accessed on 2023 Jan 03].
- Arewa Research Development Project. Investigative Reports on the Affairs of IDP Camps and the Education Sector in Borno State: Being Source Materials for Town Hall Engagement Meetings. Chicago: MacArthur Foundation; (n.d.).
- Bello K. Nigeria: To be Restructured or not to be Restructured, First Seminar Presentation of the Department of Political Science. Gashua, Yobe State: Federal University; 2017.
- Joseph R. The logic and legacy of prebendalism in Nigeria. *Democracy and Prebendalism in Nigeria: Critical Interpretations*. London: Palgrave 2013:261-280
- Deng FM. Report of the Representative of the Secretary-General, Francis M. Deng, submitted pursuant to Commission [on Human Rights] resolution 1997/39.1998. Available from: <https://digitalibrary.un.org/record/251017> [Last accessed on 2023 Jan 02].
- Emergency Relief Definition 2022. Available from: <https://www.lawinsider.com/dictionary/emergency-relief>
- Emeka O, Olusegun TO. Managing internally displaced persons in Africa. *Comparing Nigeria and Cameroon*. *Afr Res Rev* 2016;10:193-210.
- Emmanuel I. Insurgency and humanitarian crises in Northern Nigeria: The case of Boko Haram. *Afr J Polit Sci Int Relat* 2015;9:284-96.
- Stanley E. The Administration of Emergency Relief Programme in Nigeria: A Case of Flood Incident in Delta State: A Research Dissertation Submitted to the Department of Public Administration and Local Government, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Nigeria, Nsukka; 2014.
- Erong C. Community Hosting of Internally Displaced Persons in Maiduguri Borno State-Nigeria. Netherlands: International Institute for Social Studies; 2017.
- Goodwin-Gill GS. *The Refugee in International Law*. Oxford: Clarendon Press; 1996.
- Haruna A. How Books, Food Donated by UN, WFP to Nigerian IDPs are Repackaged and Sold-NSCDC; 2018. Available from: <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/north-east/262307-how-books-food-donated-by-un-wfp-to-nigerian-idps-are-repackaged-and-sold-nscdc.html> [Last accessed on 2022 Aug 12].
- Horn of Africa Region. *The Humanitarian Crisis and International Response*; 2012. Available from: <https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/R42046.html>

- Kareem K. Chart of the Day; 2022. Available from: <https://www.dataphyte.com/latest-reports/security/chartoftheday-in-2021-number-of-displaced-persons-in-nigeria-reach-2-18-million> [Last accessed on 2022 Aug 14].
- Leopold W. Is “Prebendalism” a Global Phenomenon Today?; 2014. Available from: <https://news.northwestern.edu/stories/2014/01/is-prebendalism-a-global-phenomenon-today> [Last accessed on 2022 Aug 22].
- Mac-Leva F. Benue, Borno IDPs: Sacked by Insecurity, Fleeced by Aid Workers; 2021. Available from: <https://www.dailytrust.com/benue-borno-idps-sacked-by-insecurity-fleeced-by-aid-workers> [Last accessed on 2022 Aug 22].
- Mohammed FK. The Causes and Consequences of Internal Displacement in Nigeria and Related Governance Challenges. Working Paper FG 8. Berlin: Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik German Institute for International and Security Affairs; 2017.
- Mustafa K. Relief Materials Meant for Nigerian IDPs are Ending up in the Wrong Hands; 2021. Available from: <https://www.humanglemedia.com/relief-materials-meant-for-nigerian-idps-are-ending-up-in-the-wrong-hands> [Last accessed on 2022 Aug 22].
- Polinaidu S. Public Administration. New Delhi: Gogolia Publications Pvt. Ltd.; 2004. Prebendalism; (n.d.). Available from: <https://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/prebendalism> [Last accessed on 2022 Aug 22].
- Reliefweb. Glossary of Humanitarian Terms; 2008. Available from: <https://www.reliefweb.int/glossaries> [Last accessed on 2016 Jun 19].
- Schönbauer R. Internally Displaced People; 2022. Available from: <https://www.unhcr.org/ng/idps> [Last accessed on 2022 Aug 14].
- Sharma MP, Sadana BL, Harpreet K. Public Administration in Theory and Practice. Allahabad: Kitab Mahal; 2013.
- Snowball Sampling: Definition, Method, Advantages and Disadvantages; (n.d.). Available from: <https://www.questionpro.com/blog/snowball-sampling/amp> [Last accessed on 2022 Sep 01].
- Soyombo F. Undercover: In: Borno, Children are Dying at IDP Camps, Foodstuffs are ‘Disappearing’ at SEMA Store; 2016. Available from: <https://www.thecable.ng/undercover-investigation-borno-children-dying-idp-camps-foodstuffs-disappearing-sema-store> [Last accessed on 2022 Aug 27].
- Sudan Tribune. Gogrial Community Protests Diversion of China Relief from Needy People; 2016. Available from: <https://www.reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/gogrial-community-protests-diversion-china-relief-needy-people> [Last accessed on 2022 Aug 14].
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Global Trends Report; 2022. Available from: <https://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends.html> [Last accessed on 2022 Aug 14].
- Varrella S. Number of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa 2020, by Country; 2021. Available from: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1237268/number-of-internally-displaced-persons-in-africa> [Last accessed on 2023 Jan 03].
- RFI Hausa (Radio); Trailer load impounded with relief materials meant for IDPs at Grand Cereals, Jos). Radio France International Hausa service. aired, 2017.
- The Guardian News. Missing 71 trailers of rice for Adamawa IDPs Should be probed 2016. Available from: <https://m.guardian.ng/news/lawmaker-seeks-probe-of-missing-71-trailers-of-idp-rice/>
- VOA Hausa (Radio); Condition of IDPs in Borno, Voice of America, Hausa service 2016.