

# Boko Haram insurgency and the management of internally displaced women in Nigeria: A situational analysis

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## Abstract

**Background:** This paper evaluates the management of displaced women in Nigeria in a formal (government) camp in an attempt to contribute to finding lasting solutions to displacement and promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies towards the attainment of sustainable development (SDG-16).

**Objective:** Attention was given to interrogating whether the management of the displacement has advanced the achievement of the sustainable development goals or otherwise. It generates information on the management of displaced women through the eyes of the human need theory.

**Method:** The study employed focus group discussions and interviews for data collection, and content analysis techniques for data analysis.

**Result:** It found that the management of internally displaced women in the camp has been below international standards.

**Conclusion:** Government must find lasting solutions to the challenges of displacement through the promotion of accountable and inclusive institutions.

**Keywords:** Insurgency, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), IDP Camp, Management of IDPs, Nigeria, Sustainable Development, Women IDPs

## Introduction

Internal displacement is a definitive illustration of global crisis with negative experiences and devastating effects on its victims (Fayemi, Muchenje, Yetim & Ahmed, 2016). These effects include human rights violations, loss of livelihood, loss of shelter, family disintegration, insecurity, looting of property, social disintegration, loss of status, exposure to forced labour and conscription into militia groups (Oyefara & Alabi, 2016). Internally displaced persons (IDPs), upon arrival at their temporary places of abode are in dire need of basic necessities such as shelter, food, clothing, potable water, security and healthcare. The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (1998) argued that national governments that have ratified the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement have the primary responsibility to protect IDPs and alleviate their suffering by providing them these basic needs. International organizations, faith based organizations (FBOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) however provide supplementary supports to the government in managing the IDPs in camps and host communities alike.

In the literature related to internal displacement, scholars have expressed concern about the uneven proportion of displacement among women, children and men (ed. Lennard, 2016; Knezevic & Olson, 2014; Plumper & Neumayer, 2006). Displaced women are often more vulnerable and susceptible than men and their needs also differ (Assessment Capacities Project, 2015). During disasters and conflicts, girls and women are at increased risk of gender based violence such as forced labor, sex trafficking and sexual coercion. They are at times approached by caregivers for sex in exchange for protection and assistance. These vulnerabilities are due to the exacerbation of gender inequities and the destabilization or destruction of systems that usually protect them (Dynes, Rosenthal, Hulland, Hardy, Torre & Tomczyk, 2016).

The effective management of internal displacement is very crucial to the attainment of the sustainable development goals (SDGs). The SDGs are part of the global agenda for solving the world's problems of poverty, insecurity, health crisis, uneven/underdevelopment, internal displacement amongst other social, economic and political drivers of societal issues (Solanke, Amoo and Idowu, 2018;

Oyero & Salawu, 2018; Okorie, Loto and Omojola, 2018; Abioye, Oyesomi, Ajiboye, Omidiora & Oyero, 2017; Wusu & Amoo, 2016; Olurinola, Fadayomi and Ola-David, 2014; Wusu & Amoo, 2014). This is premised on the claims that interactions between underdevelopment and other social, economic and environmental exploitative drivers such as corruption, lack of inclusive societies and transparent/accountable institutions at all levels, pave the way for violence and conflict that lead to displacement. Without sustainably managing internal displacement, integrating IDPs and addressing the causes of displacement, the attainment of SDGs (SDGs-16) in 2030 could be undermined and could lead to uneven development gains (Wallcki, 2017; Fayomi, Ndubisi, Ayo, Chidozie, Ajayi, Okorie, 2015). While studies by Lenshie & Yenda (2016), Eweka & Olusegun (2016) and Ferris (2002) have examined the management of displacement in Nigeria, there is paucity of studies on IDP management and SDGs.

In addition to the above, it is imperative to mention that, gender specific perceptions of intervention to internal displacement are often omitted in the study of the management of IDPs. Without a feminist perspective founded on observation and empirical data, studies on the management of IDPs in Nigeria may not be adequate. This is because, the perception of women to the evaluation of internal displacement management is necessary; as already established, they are amongst the most vulnerable in every conflict and displacement situation. To this end, the aim of this study is to investigate whether IDP camps provide adequate solutions to the challenges of internally displaced women in Nigeria or not. The study also examines whether the management of internal displacement in Nigeria has been a positive adventure in the pursuit and realisation of the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

#### **Literature review and theoretical framework**

This study is anchored on the human need theory (HNT). HNT is based on the idea that human needs are non-negotiable and universal. It argues that there are certain needs necessary for human survival and the attainment of human well-being. In order to live, all humans make efforts to fulfill them. These may go beyond the basic necessities of food, shelter and water. They also include both physical and non-physical essentials, and other needs humans are impulsively driven to achieve (Marker, 2003).

There is wide acceptability of the usefulness of HNT in offering valued insights into the causes of conflict as well as the resolution of conflict. Practitioners see HNT as a tool for preventive peacebuilding, post-conflict peacebuilding, mediation

of violent conflict and restorative justice structure (Danielsen & Pró-Paz, 2005). The analysis of the HNT by Burton (1990), Maslow (1943) and Max-Neef (1991) centers on the nexus between human needs and conflict at various levels of society ranging from inter and intra personal conflict, to inter-group conflict and conflicts within the international setting. The linkage between human needs and conflict is hinged on the assumption that conflict occurs when expected groups and individual needs are not met. Put differently, unmet needs breed grievances (Danielsen & Pró-Paz, 2005). Effective conflict resolution would therefore border on meeting human needs and addressing conflicting interests.

Traditionally, the role of government centers in providing public goods and defining collective interests. Governments are decision-makers and solvers of social problems. The activities of the government are essential components of successful management due to the impact they have on policy development and the provision of services (Fayomi, Azuh, Ajayi, 2014). The evolution of society and the complexities of globalisation in addition to other factors have distanced the government from the people thereby bringing about frustration and dissatisfaction of human needs. This led to the establishment of institutions to attend to the needs of citizens within their jurisdiction and reach. Burton (1990) avers that these institutions are capable of satisfying the needs of all parties to a conflict—and subsequently building genuine peace (Walsh, 2015).

In the light of the above, debates on state failure are fundamentally about the interactions between forms of authority, institution building and political control (Williams, 2007). In most literature on the subject, the notion of 'failure' is used in two major dimensions, which are, the "failure to promote human flourishing" and the "failure to control". The failure to promote human flourishing centers on the state's failure to provide public goods to the entire population or a particular segment of it either because of lack of political will or lack of capacity. The state's failure to control starts manifesting when the state cannot ensure physical security, manage conflicts, minimize violence, provide essential services, offer development opportunities and protect human rights (Zartman, 1995). In particular, failures to meet the survival needs of its citizens, respond effectively to human or natural disasters, and provide emergency protection and assistance are elements of bad governance, poor management of the affairs of the state and characteristics of failing and failed states (Duruji & Oviasogie, 2013). A successful state therefore is one that lives up to an optimum degree of responsibility to protect its citizens and others under its jurisdiction as well as

provide for their general welfare. These responsibilities also include managing diversity, containing violence, developing and implementing sound economic policies that balance growth with equitable distribution, respecting democratic values and fundamental rights, and forging cooperative relations (Dorff, 2005).

Although African governments have enviously defended traditional ideas about non-intervention and sovereignty, in recent years the notion of responsibility to protect has made noteworthy advancement. In contrast, state institutions especially in Africa have fallen short of their responsibility of catering for the peoples' needs. The case of Nigeria amongst other African countries highlights how the failure of states to provide social needs could cause conflict and result in various patterns of displacements (Joshua, 2018; Olanrewaju, Olanrewaju, Loromeke & Joshua, 2017; Joshua & Olanrewaju, 2015). The Boko Haram insurgency for instance has been attributed to various issues like unmet economic goals, underdevelopment, poverty, unemployment, leadership ineptitude, corruption and religious incompatibilities which emanated from state failure (Duruji & Oviasogie, 2013).

Managing internal displacement in Nigeria has reflected the failure of state institutions and lack of political will amongst public officers. Reactions from IDPs show that the management of internal displacement and meeting the needs of IDPs in Nigeria have been a far cry from the expected intervention (Hamzat, 2013). IDPs are faced with several problems. Health wise, there is increasing prevalence of diseases such as HIV, including other grappling infections precipitated in most cases by sexual violence (Adekola, Allen, & Tinuola, 2017; Enwereji, 2009). There is also insufficient healthcare and health workers (Tunoh & Ajibola, 2017). Security wise, government's efforts have been deplorable. There have been cases of suicide attacks on IDP camps. The July 24, 2017 incidences in Dalori I and II IDP camps in Borno State, the February 9, 2016 incident in Dikwa Local Government Area (LGA) of Borno state and the September 11 2015 attack inside Malkohi IDP camp in Adamawa State are examples (UN OCHA, 2017; Aluko, 2017). Reports also show that IDPs have been malnourished which has led to various degrees of reactions and protests from IDPs. There was also an outbreak of violence and protest in the Gubio IDP camp over the delay in food distribution and insufficient quantity of food brought in for distribution. In addition to these, there is also shortage of water and poor education amongst displaced children (Tunoh & Ajibola, 2017; Joshua & Olanrewaju, 2016).

Knowing fully well that needs cannot be traded, suppressed or bargained for, Coate & Rosati (1988) argued that social systems must take responsibility to be responsive to both individual and group needs in order to prevent instability and forceful change often carried out via conflict and violent revolution. Since poverty and uneven development is at the root of displacement in Nigeria, the government needs to ensure effective management of internal displacement by effectively pursuing the implementation of the SDGs because this would address the causes of displacement, prevent future reoccurrences and address the human rights violations experienced during displacement.

## Methods and materials

### Study design

This study used focus group discussions (FGD) to investigate the extent to which IDP camps provide relevant solutions to the challenges of internally displaced women in Nigeria. Focus Group Discussions allowed for the extraction of logical, narrative and descriptive data to explain the relationship between internal displacement and the protection of the rights of women while they lived in IDP camps. The choice of this method was deemed necessary in order to enrich the realization of the objectives of the research.

Components of framework analysis were used to analyse the data. As observed by Green and Thorogood (2004), framework analysis involves chains of interconnected states stretching from the familiarization of the researchers with data, identification of thematic framework, indexing, charting, mapping and interpretation (cited in Amoo, Omideyi, Fadayomi, Ajayi, Oni & Idowu, 2017). Additionally, this technique allows themes to evolve from both the responses from participants and the research questions (Srivastava & Thomson, 2009). Framework analysis is appropriate for applied research that is concerned with annexing opportunities to offer solutions to problems.

### Study location

This study is a part of an unpublished PhD thesis. The study was conducted in Malkohi IDP Camp (MIC) in Adamawa State. Adamawa is the state with the second highest rate of displacement in the country (United Nations Office of Humanitarian Affairs, 2017). The IDP site was selected because of its rich ethnographic composition. The camp visited was selected based on convenience. Permission was obtained from the management of the camp.

### Recruitment of participants

The multi-stage sampling technique was adopted for the recruitment of participants for the study. At the first stage, the purposive sampling technique was employed in the selection of the displaced persons camp that was visited which is Malkohi IDP Camp (MIC) in Yola, Adamawa State (formal camp). The camp was picked from the list of camps available for convenience especially in terms of security and accessibility. At the second stage, the stratified random sampling technique was used for the categorisation of women into various FGD groups. The population was distributed into homogenous sub-groups based on gender, age and socio-marital status. The various categories of FGD were elderly women (50 years of age and above), married women (between the ages of 20 and 49), single mothers (between 20 and 49 years) and single girls (between the ages of 7 and 19).

However, this study allowed for age flexibility amongst the FGD participants because of the cultural and marital peculiarities of Northern Nigeria. Participants of the FGDs were only women who were displaced by Boko Haram terrorist activities. At the third stage, a simple random sampling technique was engaged to select women into each of the FGD. Purposive sampling technique was adopted to select the choice of key participants for the in-depth interview sessions.

### Data collection

FGDs were organised in locations void of distractions within the camp. These locations allowed participants to be very comfortable to discuss the issues. Four FGDs were conducted in the camp split into four groups (the elderly women, widows, married women and single girls) with 10 participants in each group. Age categorisation was also considered in selecting members of the groups. In all, there were a total of 40 discussants in the FGD sessions. Participants were volunteers. The number of FGDs was controllable and provided adequate data. Each of the FGDs lasted between 105 mins and 150 mins. Discussions were allowed to continue until theoretical saturation was reached and there were no more new information provided by the groups.

The FGDs were moderated by a post graduate student chosen to avoid bias and any form of misrepresentation of the management of IDPs; discussions were held in Hausa (local dialect in northern Nigeria), however some individuals combined pidgin English and Hausa. The focus group guide was adopted from Kruger (2002). Respondents were asked about their experiences and knowledge of their challenges as IDPs, the state of IDP camp as

well as the efforts of government and other relevant actors in ameliorating their plights as IDPs.

### Validity and integrity of the data

The variety of participants' social characteristics (social-marital status and age) made the findings more representative and assisted in comparing and contrasting views amongst the participants. To further guarantee the validity and integrity of data, participants revised the notes to ensure accurateness.

The transcriptions were also appraised by other researchers who were not part of this study but had qualitative expertise. Transcripts were read several times in order to identify themes, to ascertain that the same approach to transcription was followed and to eliminate prejudice in the indication of themes. In addition to this, the results of the analysis and suitability of the results were also determined by non-participating colleagues and women.

### Data analysis

During all the focus groups and interview sessions, field notes were taken. Responses from respondents were first transcribed and then analysed via 'systematic-content-analysis' (Franzosi, 2007). The field notes and transcripts were read numerous times to have a general understanding of the data. Intermittent answers and common themes were categorized using the 'scissors and paste' approach (Amoo et al., 2017; Mitchell, King, Nazareth & Wellings 2011; Green & Thorogood 2004). Concepts were coded and thereafter structured into groups for each transcription and then fused together. Themes were further refined by adding more concepts, split or combined (Amoo et al. 2017). Responses that could not be directly grouped into the themes were discussed among reviewers and thereafter re-grouped. The significance of responses and the relationship with other themes were debated.

An Excel Sheet was created detailing responses to each answer and focus group. Each question was inserted on separate sheets within an Excel sheet. In each excel sheet used, five columns were labelled accordingly: one column for participants' Identities (ID); one column for coding; one column for responses of FGD participants; one column was for the themes of the coding categories and the last column was for the analysis of questions. The responses were later cross-tabulated by social groups for easy evaluations and comparisons. The results were supported with existing literature. Data analysis conformed to qualitative research review guidelines (RATS). RATS sees research questions as critically significant. It also critiques the appropriateness of methods while also ensuring the transparency and reliability of the interpretive approach (Clark, 2003).

Presentation of data and reporting of findings was done/accomplished with the consolidated criteria for reporting qualitative research (COREQ) (Tongi, Sainsbury & Craig 2007). The FGD participants were referred to “A1 to A10”; “B1 to B10”; “C1 to C10” and “D1 to D10” for the groups. “A1 to A10” was used to represent the single girls groups; “B1 to B10” used to represent the elderly women groups; “C1 to C10” used to represent the various groups of widows and “D1 to D10” used to represent the married women groups.

**Results**

The characteristics of the participants were described in terms of marital status and age. Single girls

(represented with letter ‘S’) were 10 representing 25%, elderly women (represented with letter ‘E’) were 10 (25%), married women (represented with letter ‘M’) were 10 (25%), while the widowed group (represented with letter ‘W’) had a representation of 10(20%). 14.66% of the respondents were between the ages of 7 and 20, 32.94% were between the ages of 21 and 39, 9.88% of the respondents were between 40 and 49 years, 39.80% were between 50 and 79 years while 2.72% were from 80 years and above.

Questions were asked to know the quality of interventions IDPs received on camp. The first question asked was “How would you describe the quality of food you are served in your camp”?

**Quality of food provided to IDPs**

Table I contains the responses given on the quality of food IDPs eat in the camp.

Coding Themes	S	M	W	E	Total
Food is not tasty	2 (5%)	3 (7.5%)	-	-	5 (12.5%)
Unbalanced diet	1 (2.5%)	4 (10%)	-	-	5 (12.5%)
Inadequate quantity	-	-	10 (25%)	-	10 (25%)
We eat thrice	5 (12.5%)	3 (7.5%)	-	10 (25%)	18 (45%)
We eat thrice unbalanced diet	2 (5%)	-	-	-	2 (5%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Note:** S= Single Girls, M = Married Women, W =Widow, E = Elderly Women  
**Source:** Fieldwork, 2017

5% of the single girls’ respondents as well as 7.5% of the married women respondents opined that the food was not tasty. 2.5% of the single girls’ category and 25% of the married women argued that the foods served to them in the camp were not balanced diet. Only 10% of the widows in the camp opined that the quantity of food was insufficient. Single girls had 12.5% responses, widows 7.5% and elderly women had 25% support for the claim that camp authorities sufficiently provided three meals per day for the displaced persons. Surprisingly, only 5% of the single girls’ respondents argued that although

they ate thrice daily, the meals were not balanced diet although the quantity was sufficient. The following are excerpts from IDPs on the description of the food in the camps:

*They give us three square meals a day but not a well-balanced dieted food (C5)*

*We eat food three times a day, we are satisfied but the food does not have enough Maggi and ingredients to make it sweet (A6)*

### Quality of shelter in the IDP camp

Table 2 presents the responses of respondents on the quality of shelter available to displaced women in the selected IDP camp.

**Table 2: Quality of shelter in the IDP camp**

Coding Themes	S	M	W	E	Total
Rooms are leaking	2 (5%)	1 (2.5%)	1 (2.5%)	2 (5%)	6 (15.0%)
Rooms are congested	1 (2.5%)	4 (10%)	4 (10%)	3 (7.5%)	12 (30.0%)
Rooms are leaking and congested	6 (15%)	4 (10%)	5 (12.5%)	0 (0%)	15 (37.5%)
Rooms are not conducive	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Rooms are comfortable	1 (2.5%)	1 (2.5%)	0 (0%)	5 (12.5%)	7 (17.5%)
Total	10	10	10	10	100%

**Note:** S= Single Girls, M = Married Women, W =Widow, E = Elderly Women;

**Source:** Fieldwork, 2017

The paper identified the major issues associated with shelter in the IDP camp. 5% of the single girls, another 5% of the elderly women, 2.5% of the widowed group as well as 2.5% of the elderly women respondents indicated that the major issue associated with the shelter is that the rooms were leaking and when it rained their rooms were dredged with water. 2.5% of the single girls, 10% of the married women, 10% of the widowed group as well as 7.5% of the elderly women affirmed that the rooms were highly congested and over-crowded due to the limited structures and the over population of the camp. 15% of the single girls, 12.5% of the widowed group, 10% married women and 0% of the elderly women attested to the claim that the rooms were leaking and congested. There was no support

for the coding theme “rooms are not conducive” from all the FGs. It was observed that the elderly women respondents (12.5%), married women respondents (2.5%), 2.5% of single girls respondents and 0% of the widowed respondents opined that the rooms were habitable for living and comfortable. The following are some of the thematic descriptions of the state of the shelters by IDPs:

*Some of the tents are leaking when it rains and are over populated (A8).*

*Some of the rooms are leaking from the roof and it is over populated. Hence, lack of ventilation (B2).*

### Assessment of the quality of health facilities

In Table 3, the responses provided by respondents on the quality of healthcare services they access in the IDP camp are presented.

**Table 3: Assessment of the quality of health facilities**

Coding Themes	S	M	W	E	Total
Poor	-	-	-	-	-
Fair	-	-	-	-	-
Good	-	-	-	-	-
Very Good	10 (25%)	10 (25%)	10 (25%)	10 (25%)	40 (100%)
No score at all	-	-	-	-	-
Total	10	10	10	10	10

**Note:** S= Single Girls, M = Married Women, W =Widow, E = Elderly Women

**Source:** Fieldwork, 2017

The result shows that 100% of the respondents acclaimed that the quality of healthcare facilities available had been very good. That is, all the categories of respondents in the camp had the same response rate of 25% each. More explicitly, respondents argued that the healthcare in the camp was exceptional. It had a standard dispensary or pharmacy room, a large reception, record room, ANC/Infant welfare clinic and a maternity ward. Furthermore, the healthcare facilities was effectively supported by international organisations such as International Response Committee (IRC) and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) amongst others. These organisations donate drugs to IDP clinics and provide technical support to health workers. The collaborating international organisations signed memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the government hospitals such as Federal Medical Center, Specialist Hospitals and other private hospitals where surgeries and other treatments that could not be handled by IDP clinics were referred to.

Some thematic responses on healthcare include:

*Our health facilities are ok, when we are sick they take care of us, if the sickness is serious, they transfer us to the hospital for better treatment (D7).*

*Our health facilities is ok. When we are sick we get medical attention. They also pay attention to our children's health. Pregnant women also go for antenatal checkup (C4).*

### **Evaluation of the quality of education available to displaced children**

Ensuring inclusive and equitable education remains one of the sustainable development goals (G4-SDGs). The first sub-section of G4-SDGs drives free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education for all boys and girls. It was observed that 2 of every 5 single girls' respondents; 1 of every 10 married women respondents, and 3 of every 10 elderly women respondents argued that education was good because the children could read and write in English.

There were more positive responses from respondents on how often formal learning took place. This explained why education was able to positively influence the ability of children to read and write in English. Specifically, 3 of every 10 single girls' respondents; 1 of every 2 respondents from the married women category; 3 of every 5 respondents from the widowed and elderly women categories claimed that formal learning occurred 5 days of every week. 3 of every 5 single girls respondents; 2 of every

5 married women and widowed respondents as well as 1 of every 10 elderly women respondents in the camp argued that the quality of education was good in the camp because children could read and write in English coupled with the well patterned schooling system that runs uninterrupted for 5 days of the week.

Some challenges were identified that negatively affected the quality of education from key informants. 1 of every 4 respondents opined that there was lack of adequate and qualified teachers. 1 of every 8 respondents argued that the classes were not conducive for effective learning. 1 of every 16 respondents were of the opinion that the challenges were a combination of lack of adequate and qualified teachers as well as the poor state of the classes which are not conducive for effective teaching and learning. A little fraction of 3 out of every 16 respondents argued that the lack of adequate teaching materials such as books, and writing materials amongst others had hindered education on the camp premises. They also argued that the textbooks donated by international organisations such as United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) were westernized and had not been very helpful in aiding learning amongst the children. However, 3 of every 8 respondents argued that there was adequate teaching and learning materials.

Below are some of the thematic illustrations of the perception of displaced women on education in IDP camp:

*Our children are doing great in terms of formal education; thank God they can now read and speak little English (A10).*

*They can read and write but they are not in the position I want them to be (D9).*

### **Effects of empowerment schemes on the economic power of displaced women**

In line with the attainment of Goal 5 of the SDGs, efforts were made by the government in alliance with NGOs and international organisations to empower girls and women in order to achieve gender equality. Observations however show that attempts at boosting the economic power/access to wealth of displaced women have not achieved much success. Specifically, 2 of every 5 married respondents, 1 of every 2 widowed respondents and 1 of every 5 elderly women respondents affirmed that they earn money weekly from the skills they learnt in the camp. Also, 2 of every 5 single girls' respondents, 3 of every 10 married women respondents as well as 2 of every 5 widows and elderly women respondents argued that they earned money monthly from the skills they learnt. 1 of every 10 widowed respondents, and 3 of

every 10 elderly respondents argued that it took between 3 to 6 months to earn money from the skills they had learnt in the camp.

However, 1 of every 10 elderly respondents admitted that they did not learn any skills in the camp. Thematic excerpts on the effects of skill empowerment programmes on the income of IDPs are below:

*All efforts to ensuring that the acquired knowledge is translated into wealth was futile due lack finance/manpower and adequate knowledge of the skill acquired (Women Leader, MIC).*

*I earn little money from the skills, but it takes a long time (D1).*

### **Evaluation of government's efforts towards meeting the needs of displaced women**

Observations showed that all respondents across the various FGD categories agreed that government's effort at caring for displaced persons was very good. The reasons for this centrally dwells on the fact that the government's presence is very felt in the camp as most of the supports IDPs get as regards meeting their immediate needs such as food, clothing and shelter is provided by government. Put differently, it was an appreciation of the effort of government in a number of ramifications even though the interventions have not been absolutely laudable. Below are excerpts from participants:

*The government is trying very well by meeting most of our demands (C7).*

### **Discussions**

This study provides evidence on the levels of support IDPs get while in IDP camp and the extent to which the interventions have ameliorated their plight as displaced persons. The findings of the study extend beyond existing studies on the management of internal displacement (Lenshie & Yenda, 2016; Eweka & Olusegun 2016). Besides adding to the existing body of knowledge on management of IDPs and their plight as displaced persons, the study also helped in addressing the challenges displaced women face in the study location and by extension sub-Saharan Africa. This study dealt exclusively with women's perception of the management of displaced persons.

Amongst the important contributions of this study is the discovery that IDPs have not had adequate justice/support as relating to the protection of their rights to foods, clothing, shelter, education, empowerment and healthcare amongst others. This is not farfetched when the poor level of accountability amongst public office holders as well as

the absence of effective and inclusive institutions of government are taken into consideration. For example, feedbacks on the quality of food, shelter, education, effects of empowerment skills on income levels of displaced women have not been overwhelmingly positive. For instance, food served in the camp had nutritional deficiencies that have devastating consequences for the well-being of the women; more disturbing are the effects on lactating mothers and their breastfeeding babies. In addition to the above, IDPs live in shelters less dignifying for humans. These emergency shelters and makeshift tents do not meet the criteria for "adequate housing standard" defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948. The findings of Obikaeze & Onuoha (2016) support this position.

It was also discovered that while attempting to protect some aspects of the human rights of the displaced women, other rights were infringed on. The national government and humanitarian workers have been mandated by principles 16 and 17(3) of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement to maintain family ties and respect family life. These principles were outrightly violated in the camp in the bid of preventing sexual violence against women. The separation of males and females as a birth control mechanism infringed on their right to have ties with their family members. Therefore, while the disruption of the family unit is one of the effects of the insurgency, it also remains one of the negative fallouts of the government's interventionist strategies.

Another instance in this regard was presented from responses on the security of the camp. The successful implementation of principle 10(2d) which states that "camps of displaced persons should be protected against attacks because all human beings have inherent right to life," denied them the right to be free as the non-displaced persons. Put differently, due to the need to ensure adequate security of the life and properties of displaced persons, their rights to free movement was restricted in the camp. For example, IDPs requesting to leave the camp are given identification tags that grant them access away from and into the camp. The tags contain the name of the IDPs and are numbered. The disturbing issue about this is that there is a limit to the number of tags given out to IDPs per day (Chidi, personal communication, 2016). This means that IDPs that have cogent reasons to leave camp are denied free exit out of camp to their own detriment. This limits the ability of IDPs to be economically empowered and quickly reintegrated into the society. Therefore, measures to restrict movement must be carefully re-considered in order to ensure that such restrictions do not further increase the vulnerabilities of IDPs.



As evident in Goal 4(4.5) of the SDGs, vocational skills are parts of the government's efforts to empower displaced women. Women have been targeted by skills empowerment programmes to reduce their exposure and vulnerability to socio-economic shocks and disasters (Goal 1.5). Despite this, IDPs have not been economically independent as most of them did not earn much from the skills acquisition programmes. This is due to none viability of the skills learnt within the short term. For instance, tailoring within an IDP camp has not been viable because the available customers are mostly "IDPs" that do not have enough money to buy new cloths as they do not earn much (if they do at all) talk less of paying a tailor to make new cloths. While the government and other humanitarian agencies have tried to provide cloths to IDPs, making new clothing is not top on the list on the agenda of displaced persons. Thus, investment in some of such skills that have long term viability have not helped in achieving the goal of empowering vulnerable groups such as women. This study therefore advocates that more viable trades (such as the making of Kunu, koko both made from maize) requiring little capital and having larger customers base within the camp should be invested in to effectively empower IDPs.

There has also been the violation of IDPs' right to access justice in the light of the protection of their human rights. Government officials have neglected some of their responsibilities as it relates to ensuring and protecting the rights of IDPs. This is not divorced from the poor proportion of government spending in managing internal displacement. As against indicator 1.a. of the SDGs which centers on ensuring adequate government spending and mobilization of funds to providing essential services such as education, healthcare and social protection, in actual sense, allocation of funds to meeting the needs of displaced persons have been inadequate and incommensurate with the level of needs. For instance, while there is no discrimination amongst the sexes of children that access quality education on camp and inequitable discrimination exist on the basis of the quality of education that displaced children and their non-displaced counterparts enjoy. Efforts to ensure inclusive education for all have been poorly implemented due to lack of teaching and learning materials amongst other challenges.

#### **Limitation of the study**

The limitations of this study include the use of a convenience sample of an IDP camp which restricts the generalizability of the research findings. The confinement of the FGDs to women alone could also be a limitation to the scope of the study. The study evaluated women's perception of the extent to which

camp constituted answers to the problem of displacement in Nigeria. Responses by men were not collected. Another limitation of the study is language barrier. In bridging this gap, the researcher employed the service of a knowledgeable Hausa interpreter to interpret the information provided by the IDPs in Hausa language so as to have an in-depth and value free information. Conversely, problems with the translator used could have existed even though the translator spoke English and Hausa as some words could have been lost in translation. Therefore, because the reliability of the gathered empirical material may have be negatively affected by the factors mentioned above, the study was strengthened by the fact that a number of interviews were conducted and compared with data from the FGDs.

#### **Conclusion and recommendations**

The study has added to the body of knowledge on the management of IDPs. This study concludes that the plight of IDPs should be urgently addressed by the national government. Their cases become even more peculiar when the SDGs pursued by the government is considered. With particular reference to the achievement of Goal 2 of the SDGs which centers on ending hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition as well as sustainable agriculture in Nigeria, the study recommends that government can promote sustainable agriculture through more effective empowerment of IDPs. It recommends that government must find lasting solutions to the challenges of displacement by promoting inclusive and accountable institutions that would effectively care for displaced persons and prevent future reoccurrences of displacement. Policy documents must make provisions for the incorporation of displaced persons in various camp settings other than the formal ones in government management plans.

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