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Humanitarian Response for Internally Displaced Women and Children in North-East, Nigeria

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**Humanitarian Response for Internally Displaced Women and Children in
North-East, Nigeria.**

A Thesis by

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Orange, CA

Wilkinson College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Arts in International Studies

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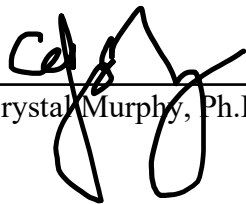
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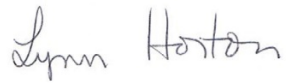
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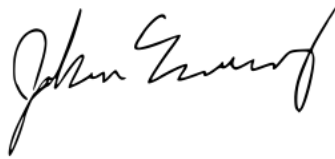
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March 2021

Humanitarian response for Internally Displaced women and children in North-East,
Nigeria.

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ABSTRACT

Humanitarian response for Internally Displaced women and children in North-East,
Nigeria.

by Aitiya Simon

The insurgency created by Boko Haram in the North-Eastern Region of Nigeria has displaced over 2.7 million people. From 2009 to the present day, millions of women and children are forced to seek refuge in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe state. The focus on women and children is because women and children account for the majority population in the displaced camps. IDP camps provide a place of refuge for people however, critics have recognized the local and international communities' failure to improve the camps' conditions especially for the women and children.

This thesis focuses on the humanitarian response to women and children in IDP camps in North-Eastern Nigeria. In this thesis, I intend to explore the unique roles of different actors in curbing the challenges of women and children in IDP camps and analyze why the needs of the women and children are not fully met. Furthermore, I examined the role of the stakeholders who contribute to the development and functioning of available IDP camps. These include the Nigerian government, the executors of the projects designed to provide aid to the women and children in the camps, the international community, NGOs, and grass root organizations. This study analyses the stakeholders' different perspectives on the limitations of addressing the issues of women and children in IDP camps.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<u>Abbreviation</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
CEDAW	Convention on Eliminating All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CRC	Convention on The Rights of The Child.
FD	Family Disintegration
FL	Financial Lack
GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition
GBV	Gender Based Violence
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
ISSC	International Social Sciences Council
MAM	Moderate Acute Malnutrition
NEDC	North East Development Commission
NEMA	National Emergency Management Agency
NSAG	Non-State Armed Groups
LAC	Lack of Adequate Care
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PCNI	Presidential Committee on The North East Initiative
PE	Poor Education
PINE	The Presidential Initiative for The North East
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
SEMA	State Emergency Management Agencies
SSI	Safe Schools Initiative
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UNICEF	The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNCHOA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
VSF	Victims Support Funds
WFP	World Food Program
WHO	World Health Organization

1 CHAPTER ONE - Introduction

1.1 Background to Study

Internal displacement is the forced migration of persons from their homeland due to some unpleasant conditions that the affected or their government could not resolve immediately. Internal displacement is associated with personal or group losses, abuses, deprivation and dependency. The affected persons are desirous of immediate protection and assistance away from their original homes (Akume 2015).

Internally Displaced persons stay within their own home country and remain under the protection of its government. Different factors lead to internal displacement, these include, conflicts, natural disasters, violation of human rights and sometimes the government.

The UNHR defines internally displaced persons according to the guiding principles on internal displacement as “persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes and place of habitual residence ,in order to avoid armed conflicts, violation of human rights ,national disasters and who have not crossed an internationally recognized border”(UNHRC) .The UNHCR's annual Global Trends Report estimates the total number of displaced persons to be around 79.5 million people as at the end of 2019, with most of these people displaced within their home countries. Displacement patterns worldwide most often are a result of communal violence and internal armed conflicts. While some of the conflicts are said to be caused by religious or ethnic differences, many have recognized the benefits of a political, social and economic nature as general drivers of violence in countries with endemic poverty, low levels of education and a large and alienated youth population (UNHCR, 2020).

The U.N. refugee agency has recorded more than 2 million internally displaced persons in Nigeria, and 244,000 Nigerians seeking refuge in neighboring countries. These people have been displaced from as far back as 2009 till present. The United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) also records 1.4 million children displaced within this period.



Figure 1-1: Number of Displaced Individuals 2018
Source: relief web 2018 report

The figure 1 above shows the number of displaced individuals as of 2018. This research focused mainly on women and children because the data above shows that the number of women and children is significantly higher in terms of the percentage of individuals found in IDP camps. The early days of the crises disproportionately consumed Adult males as they were either recruited or killed. The women and children make up to 79% of the IDP population. Therefore, there is a need to properly coordinate extra help for the women and children as they reside in the IDP camps.

Akume 2015 states that the reasons for IDPs in Nigeria are as a result of various causes such as “violence perpetrated by the government against some citizens with dissenting voices or by other causes such as communal clashes, terrorism, political or religious conflicts, natural disasters, government policy of urban renewal or outright discrimination”. (Akume 2015).

Historically Nigeria has been rooted in intra, inter-ethnic conflicts and religious conflicts, over the years. Group relationships were characterized by intra and inter-tribal wars and conquest which resulted in displacements amongst communities.

The current conflict in North-eastern Nigeria has a long and complicated history. Even though the Boko Haram insurgency began in 2009, the conflict's underlying basis was laid earlier. A persistent divide between northern and southern Nigeria dates to the British colonial rule's days and its economic upswing of the south. In contrast, the North remained mostly underdeveloped and has been so ever since. Dapel (2018) states that “in Nigeria poverty wears a Northern cap if you are looking for a poor man get somebody wearing a northern cap”, in a study conducted to understand the bridging gap between the North and South. Using data from 1980 -2010 Dapel examines the possibilities for poverty divide, the gap showed up after democracy was overturned and followed by military until 1999, these three military heads were from the North. Dapel states that the North-South divide widened during the 1960s and 1970s .Dapel states that despite the political dominance of the North, the latter’s growing economic inferiority may have been the root of the reluctance of the Northern elites to rely on mechanisms or to relinquish control over the distribution of oil revenue” In recent years and for this reason, the plight of displaced persons has become a formidable problem of global significance and implications, especially for women and children in the northern regions of Nigeria.

Hogendoorn (2018) suggests that the humanitarian crisis in Nigeria can be fixed internally with the help of international organizations. He draws our attention to the main drivers in fixing the ongoing conflicts in Nigeria. Hogendoorn suggests that Nigeria's problem should be addressed internally at the country’s Federal and state levels. He lays crucial emphasis on drivers such as, "poor coordination, mainly military, response; multiple security challenges that stretch the army

to the breaking point; and elites' unwillingness to address the unsustainable status quo." In his writing, he recommends international actors such as the E.U to urge the Nigerian government to give more assistance and device pivotal policies that can help curb the humanitarian crisis in Nigeria. As long as this crisis exists in Nigeria, different areas and factors need to be altered to improve the living conditions of these women and children, especially in terms of hygiene and health care resources.

In every conflict situation, especially one that has to do with ethnic and religious differences, there is often a considerable impact on those displaced. Therefore, in every conflict situation, humanitarian needs are essential for internally displaced citizens to move from one place to another, seeking safety and protection. Except deliberate efforts are made by humanitarian actors educate on the long-term effects of ethnic and religious conflicts while providing aid, all normal targeting methods may disproportionately underserve those groups.

Most times, the displaced women and children fall victim to even further challenges while seeking a safe space. In 2017 USAID emphasized on the need for women to have safe spaces due to Boko Haram continuous abduction of women and girls who were used to execute suicide bombings. (USAID, 2017.) UNFPA in its 2019 report on women and girls targeted by insurgent violence in Nigeria emphasizes on the need to create protection and safe spaces due to an increase in sexual violence due to weak law enforcement, deeply rooted social stigma and limited humanitarian assistance (UNFPA 2019). This is usually because the women and children are identified as the weaker group amongst the IDP group.

The increase in violence caused by Boko Haram has triggered a massive wave of displacement in the North-eastern part of Nigeria since 2011. Boko Haram violence have displaced more than 2

million people, some of them fleeing to countries such as Cameroon, Chad, and Niger, who are also affected by the Boko Haram crisis. Boko Haram is a radical Islamist group. This group actively heightened the state of insecurity and become a major destabilizing force in Nigeria and surrounding countries. Boko Haram which is also known as “Jama’atu Ahlus-Sunn ah Lidda Awati wal Jihad”. The origin of Boko Haram can be its origin can be traced back to 2002 when its leader was Mohammed Yusuf, in Maiduguri, the Borno State capital. Mohammed Yusuf instilled in the group an extreme Islamic ideology and a high disregard for western principles and culture. Boko Haram can be translated from Hausa to English, means “western education is forbidden.” (Adesoji 2018) Boko Haram became popular in July 2009 when it commenced its attacks by killing of police forces and the bombing of government officials, bombing of official buildings, places of worship, public institutions and innocent civilians.

These women and children have been deprived of their normal way of lives as a direct consequence of Boko Haram's attacks on civilians and also as a result of clashes between the Nigerian Armed Forces and Boko Haram. For this reason, most of the women and children are traumatized by the violence they had witnessed or fled from.

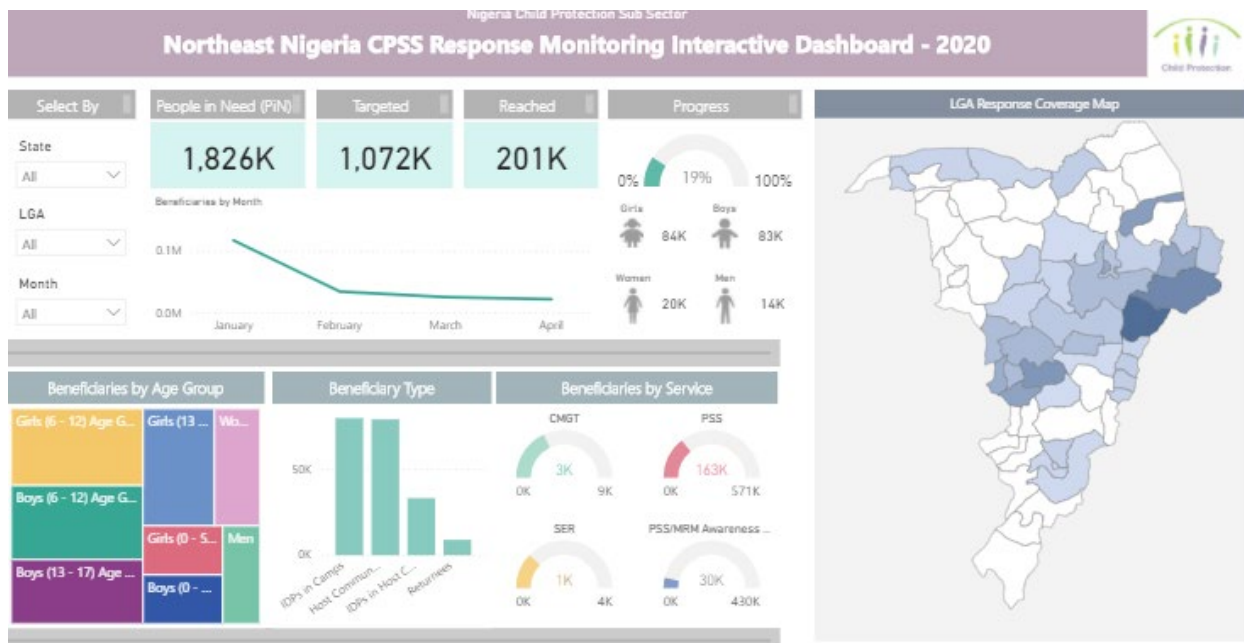


Figure 1-2 Child protection Response North East Nigeria

Source: North East Nigeria child protection interactive response monitoring Dashboard (OCHA 2020)

The figure above shows the impact created by activities of Boko Haram and the Nigerian military there is still a huge gap people in need and people targeted.

1.2 Boko Haram targeting women and children.

The widely publicized attacks led to the transitions of IDP camps. The humanitarian efforts and buzz from the international community, created what we now see on the ground. The dire need for an increase in humanitarian assistance came in 2014. An important case highlighting the vulnerability of women and children is the case of the Chibok girls kidnapped by Boko Haram in 2014. Bloom narrates the ordeal of a total of 276 girls being held captive from their school and loved ones (Bloom, 2016). This sparked the global #BringBackOurGirls movement across the world. She also emphasizes how women children were taken advantage of by Boko Haram and used as suicide bombers to cause havoc in communities mainly in the North-Eastern region of Nigeria. Till today about 112 Chibok girls are still missing.

Similarly, 110 girls were kidnaped from Dapchi, Yobe State. Leah Sharibu, one of the captives, has been taken as a wife by a Boko Haram member. It has been reported that she is still being held because she refused to convert from Christianity to Islam. The group continues to use women as a bargaining chip to negotiate with the Nigerian government. In 2015, Boko Haram released a video demanding the release of their people who had been arrested by the Nigerian security forces.

.The humanitarian response to women and children gained rapid attention in 2016. As of 2016, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) records " 80 local and international organizations that collectively employed an estimated 4,000 aid workers. As at the end of 2019, these included: 37 Nigerian local and national NGOs (L/NGOs); 34 international NGOs (INGOs), eight U.N. entities (including OCHA and the International Organization for Migration (IOM); and four Nigerian government entities)"(USAID 2019).

This thesis will explore the humanitarian response to women and children in IDP camps in North-Eastern Nigeria. In this thesis, I intend to explore the unique roles of different actors in curbing the challenges of women and children in IDP camps and analyze why the needs of the women and children are not fully met. This study analyses the key issues women and children face and the stakeholders' different perspectives on the limitations of addressing the issues of women and children in IDP camps. This study examines the different roles played by each of the humanitarian actors. The research focuses on how the various actors have targeted the humanitarian response structure to provide aid for internally displaced women and children. This research makes an effort to answer the big question; Why aren't the humanitarian needs of women and children adequately met despite the various actors in play.

2 CHAPTER TWO – Research Design

2.1 Methodology/Data Analysis

This research uses secondary qualitative and quantitative data on reports and assessments prepared by non-governmental organizations and the Federal Government of Nigeria. The analysis method is qualitative and inductive. The population of this study included all publicly available reports on women in Nigeria displaced by Boko Haram terrorists who were living in the selected IDP camps. By way of analysis of secondary sources. This thesis draws insights from scholarly analysis, policy reports, and empirical historical evidence. These secondary sources (include: publications of the federal and local government ministries, annual reports, statistical statement, reports of government departments, various publications by the government and international community, foreign humanitarian organizations such as the United Nations, International Rescue Committee and a host of other organization ion the field in Nigeria, reports from international bodies and their subsidiary research reports prepared by research scholars, universities, economists in different areas, books of various authors, magazines, and newspapers, multiple sources from university libraries, technical and trade journals of activities, programs that have been implemented by these organizations.

The research also examines data and reports gotten from the websites of Humanitarian organizations based in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states.

The analysis herein compares the theories made by the various stakeholders. The comparison draws upon statistics of the data obtained from the respondents, as well as publications released by Non-governmental organizations working in these core Northern states affected by Boko Haram. The secondary data analysis was presented from previous responses studies to various

items that fits into the variables . The results ,findings were presented in tables .figures gotten from Different scholarly articles, Humanitarian websites and government websites.

2.2 Significance

Nigeria is a signatory to different treaties under the United Nations with the aim to protect the rights of women and children. Nigeria has signed and ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Convention on eliminating all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). In the convention on the rights of the child article, 22 states:

“Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure that a child who is seeking refugee status or who is considered a refugee under applicable international or domestic law and procedures shall, whether unaccompanied or accompanied by his or her parents or by any other person, receive appropriate protection and humanitarian assistance in the enjoyment of applicable rights outlined in the present Convention and in other international human rights or humanitarian instruments to which the said States are Parties.” (UNOHCR).

Nigeria needs to protect its women as a signatory to the convention on eliminating all forms of discrimination against women.

The U.N. humanitarian guidelines highlight some main points by which their member states Nigeria inclusive should adhere to. Some of them include:

- Supporting lifesaving activities and alleviating suffering through integrated and coordinated humanitarian response focusing on the most vulnerable.
- Enhance access to Humanitarian assistance and protection services through principled humanitarian action.

- Foster resilience and early recovery, strengthen the humanitarian-development nexus by working toward collective outcomes, find durable solutions for displaced individuals, and eventually restore them to healthy lives.

Despite the U.N. humanitarian guidelines, the objectives above are yet to be achieved for all displaced women and children in northern Nigeria. The rate and methods by which humanitarian interventions are carried out is dissatisfactory. This research is thus significant because it addresses the drivers of the shortcomings by identifying the obstacles that hinder the achievements of the humanitarian objectives.

3 CHAPTER THREE – Literature Review

3.1 Assessing the problem with published literature and statistics

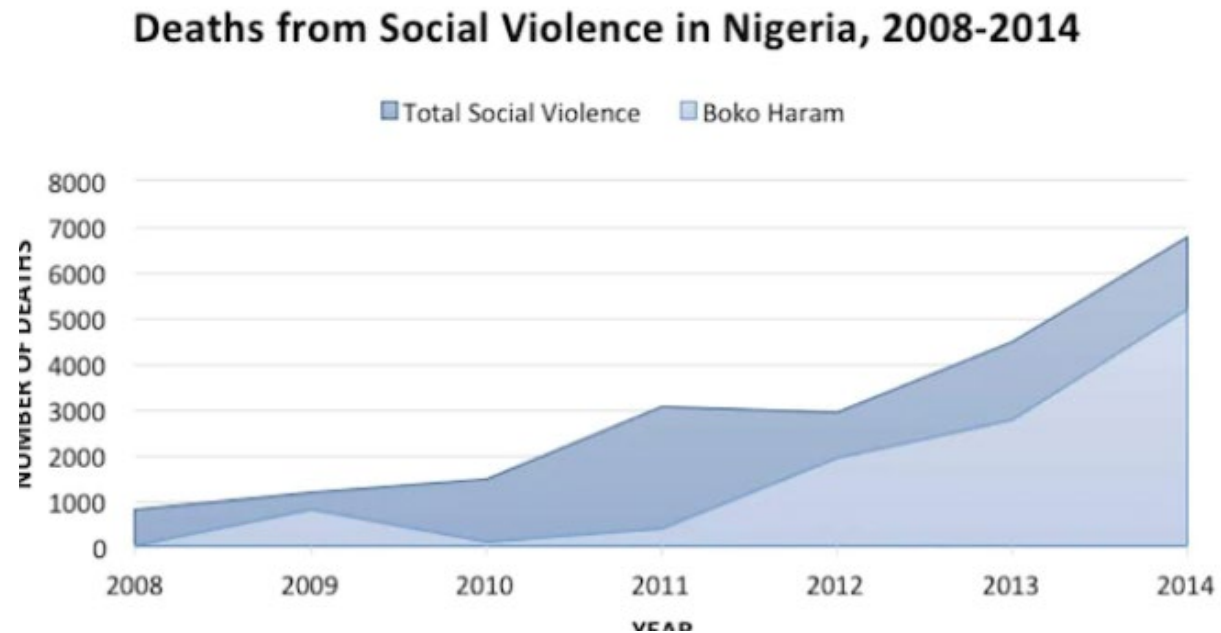


Figure 3-1 Deaths from violence in Nigeria

Source: Washington Post: The Boko Haram insurgency, by the numbers, (2014)

According to an article from the Washington post, the ongoing Boko Haram conflicts have caused about 30,000 deaths as of 2009 and counting. The insurgency has displaced 2.7 million individuals and has violated human rights (Ismail, 2020). The Government of Nigeria has been in a long and continuous battle with the group known as Jama'atu Ahlus-Sunnah Lidda'Awaiti Wal Jihad, also known as Boko Haram. The attacks by the sect have increased viciously. Idaya Hassan (2016) argues that Boko Haram and the military in Nigeria have inflicted pain on the civilian population in Nigeria, thereby leaving the homeless to continuously move in fear. The author argues that there have been vast crimes against humanity created by this group. In his article, he draws attention to the need to provide justice for the Nigerian civilians affected by the group. He further suggests

that the past ethnic and religious conflicts that Nigeria has faced is one of the reasons why dealing with Boko Haram seems to be delayed in that region. He draws the attention of the need for the office of the Human rights commission while, urging the Nigerian government to take control of the situation and bring the sect to justice ensuring they pay for their crimes.

Isokpan Aisosa (2016) describes the humanitarian crisis in Nigeria as a combination of factors including terrorist activities, deplorable environmental conditions, and ethnic and religious violence. The activities of the radical Islamist armed group Boko Haram proven to be the singular most important factor in the increasing number of IDPs in the country. Even when their activities were more lethal and proved to be highly destructive in the north-eastern states of Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe. Boko Haram's brutal attacks triggered the displacement of most citizens who presently occupy many of the IDP camps across the country.

The level of destruction undermining physical security and livelihoods instilled deep fears in the affected population, significantly reducing the possibilities of return. Women and children who are the majority in the IDP camps have been exposed to several human rights violations, which include sexual violence, transactional sex, and inadequate distribution of food in camps

As the conflict now enters its eleventh year, more women and children are added to the camps with a total of 26 million Nigerians having been affected by the crisis, with an estimated 2.7 million people internally displaced in north-eastern Nigeria (UNHCR, 2020). This shows that 26 million people were affected either directly or indirectly by the crisis but were not left displaced. For example, the bomb blast that occurred at Jimeta modern market Adamawa state in 2015 injured and killed 30 people. Amongst the victims were survivors that were treated and discharged. This means that each of these survivors were affected by the crisis in one way or the other. This group of people require more immediate attention such as ambulances, emergency control teams and

antiterrorist squads to assist them during the crises because without immediate response, they would end up displaced.

An example of such critique is from the Journal of Interpersonal Violence where Olusola Oladeji, an emergency worker for UNICEF in South Sudan advocates the need for local and international humanitarian response teams to pay more attention to the on growing number of Sexual Violence–Related Pregnancy among Internally Displaced Women in IDP Camps in Northeast Nigeria. His argument is that the possibility of pregnancy during an insurgency is always high but response teams do not do enough to protect the women in these IDP camps and control the numbers. This leads to an escalating number of unwanted pregnancies, apparently, abortion in IDP camps is unattainable (Olusola Oladeji, 2018). Another example can be seen in the health care provided for women and children. Oluwakemi C. Amodu, a fellow in the Faculty of Nursing, University of Alberta estimated ‘that 60% of preventable maternal deaths, 53% of under-five deaths, and 45% of neo-natal deaths take place in settings of conflict and displacement’ (Oluwakemi C. Amodu, 2020). These alarming statistics alone should encourage humanitarian organizations to pay special attention to the women and children in IDP camps. Women and Children also suffer from mental health or post-traumatic stress disorders. This is majorly because these women and children must have experienced some level of violence before they got to the camp. Mental health should be taken seriously in IDP camps because poor mental health can lead to death. The problems women and children face in the IDP camps would be dealt with if the terrorist group is dealt with. Consequently, there would be no need for IDP camps.

The Nigerian Government is not actually improving the standard of living in the IDP camps as well as finally putting a stop to the insurgents. The women and children are mostly affected by this because they are the majority group in the camps, and they are vulnerable to various challenges

that can arise because of the shortcomings of the government. Okoli describes the plight of these individuals as critical and threatening because they have been displaced from their homes and families and the end and means to curb this problem seems far.

Emmanuel, Imasuen (2015) adopts a theoretical framework of using survey methods involving the use of questionnaires and in-depth interviews, which focus on three internally displaced Camps in the region for analysis in the North East. The empirical findings in this article indicate a significant relationship between the Boko Haram insurgency and humanitarian crises. Emmanuel explores variables such as the impact on human casualties, food insecurity, and internally displaced persons loss of livelihood and the government response to emphasize on the need for the Nigerian government to put an end to the insurgency going on and unite displaced families back together.

3.2 Issues women and children face in the IDP camps.

The previous section gave an overview on the Boko Haram situation and Internally displaced women and children, the section below would talk about the gender analysis on issues faced by women and children. Rescuing is just one step fixing them.

The Boko Haram insurgency has resulted in a dire humanitarian situation looking at issues such as human casualties, human rights abuses, population displacement, livelihood crisis, and public insecurity. This section focuses issues faced by women in the IDP camps on the strategies used by the Nigerian government humanitarian committees and NGOs on ground to curb the problem.

Table 3-1 Needs assessments of Nigeria population in North East

SECTOR	PEOPLE IN NEED (in million)	TOTAL PEOPLE TARGETED	BREAKDOWN OF PEOPLE TARGETED (in million)				BY SEX AND AGE		REQUIRED FUNDS US\$ (in million)
			IDPs	RETURNEES	HOST COMMUNITY	INACCESSIBLE	% FEMALE, MALE	% CHILDREN, ADULT, ELDERLY	
Food Security	2.7	2.7	1.2	0.7	0.7	0.2	55% 45%	56% 37%	263.6
Nutrition	2.8	2.0	0.4	0.3	1.1	0.2	71% 29%	62% 38%	106.3
Health	5.3	5.0	1.4	1.3	1.5	0.8	55% 45%	74% 20%	73.7
WASH	3.6	3.2	1.1	0.9	0.4	0.8	53% 47%	58% 37%	68.8
Shelter and NFIs	3.5	1.9	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.8	53% 47%	61% 35%	60.5
Early Recovery	5.6	4.6	1.0	1.6	1.9	-	53% 47%	57% 36%	53.7
Education	2.2	1.5	0.7	0.3	0.1	0.4	54% 46%	98% 2%	48.3
Protection	5.2	4.7	1.8	1.6	0.4	0.8	54% 46%	56% 37%	30.6
GBV	3.0	1.3	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.2	86% 14%	57% 38%	38.2
Child Protection	3.2	1.5	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.6	55% 45%	83% 17%	36.6
Logistics	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28.0
DMS (CCCM)	1.3	0.3	0.8	0.1	-	0.5	54% 46%	60% 37%	19.5
Coordination	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16.5
ETS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.4
OVERALL	7.1	6.2	1.8	1.6	2.0	0.8	54% 46%	58% 37%	848

Source: UNOCHA humanitarian response (2019)

The figure above shows the needs assessment of the Nigerian population in the North East. The figure above shows that women and children are the majority. This data indicates that a large population is in dire need, while millions are still inaccessible.

The importance of focusing on women and children cannot be over emphasized because most of them make up 79% of the IDPs population in the IDP camps. Despite being the majority group in the population of the IDP camps, the response to the needs of women and children has been relatively low. Women and children have been vulnerable to sexual violence, unwanted pregnancy, hunger, diseases, and death in most cases. These trials are majorly unique to them because they are seen as the vulnerable group in the population. For example, distribution of food can be challenging for women . Some women can be bullied off their food if there is not enough supervision in the camp and if there are bullies around. Undoubtedly, these trials can also be

experienced by the men in the camp but is less likely to happen to a man. Aisha in an interview recalled how “At night, a male camp official picked up young girls like Aisha who returned from the bush surrounding Bama and took them to tents occupied by soldiers and other security officials. This was usually at a roadblock in Tango. The next morning, they were given N1500 and returned to the IDP camp. I did not hear about it; it was done to me and at least two others that I know,” she thought she had to emphasise. “There is no way to cater to yourself here without surrendering to the sexual assaults of officials.” (Kunle ,2020) Women are also more prone to diseases and infections because of the lack of environmental hygiene as well as being sexual predators for men. Nigeria faces challenges in facing unique spaces for women and children. Displaced citizens tend to be hosted in groups in camps or within host communities by the people who identify with them in one way or another .This means that the minorities or the disadvantage like in this case the women and children group are always in a vicious cycle.

Abama Elizabeth (2009), in "Violence against women in Nigeria: How the millennium development goals address the challenge, "focuses on violence being a major obstacle to growth and development. Violence against women hinders progress in achieving development targets in Nigeria. Despite the growing recognition of violence against women as a public health and human rights concern, especially in conflict areas. The writer focuses on the obstacle it poses for development.

3.3 GBV Cases in camps

“Gender-Based violence refers to harmful acts directed at an individual based on their gender. It is rooted in gender inequality, the abuse of power and harmful norms”(UNHCR). With a large group of women looking shelter and confined in spaces in IDP camps, it’s been recorded that

women face gender-based violence such as sexual violence, rape, harassment, and non-sexual violence

3.4 Rape

Women and children also suffer from sexual violence such as molestation and rape in the IDP camps. These women and children are already seen as the weaker population and this weakness present itself as vulnerability to sexual predators in the camps. Women and children should always have extra security for this reason but most IDP camps and host communities insecurity for women and children.

Stigmatization of rape victims and babies born by rape victims is also common in these camps. Former child soldiers face discrimination in camps as well. Most camps lack the proper assistance to re-orientate the minds of the People who live in these camps to stop the discrimination against others. The Nigerian government has contributed to solving the humanitarian crises alongside international organizations, but more needs to be done. The impact on humanitarian assistance restricted due to the ongoing attacks, threats by Boko haram to attack, inaccessible roads, military restrictions on humanitarian organizations, and host communities that are willing to help contributes to an ineffective humanitarian response.

3.5 Sexual exploitation

Women and children are faced with severe protection risk while living in the camps. OHCA records in 2019 the risk of young girls and boys who miss their parents due to the conflict faced in the internally displaced camps. These risks vary from Gender-based Violence, including sexual exploitation and abuse, forced early marriage, recruitment, and use of children for child labor. The OCHA sites an example in its 2019 report on how easy it is for sexual exploitation to occur in the

camps, its records estimate that “only 38 percent of latrines in IDP sites are sex-aggregated and 31 percent have no locks. Women and children are also vulnerable to attacks based on how most IDP camps are designed”(OCHA ,2019).

3.6 Harassment

Due to the long distances they travel to get water and firewood which is far away from the crowd, the women and children are being exposed to harassment, abduction, and GBV, particularly for girls and women by Boko haram members and sometimes those in charge of protecting them. The World Food Program (WFP) introduced fuel efficient stoves to families displaced by the conflict in Northeast Nigeria to reduce the protection risks faced by women and girls, when they must collect firewood from unsafe areas (Patrick ,2018)

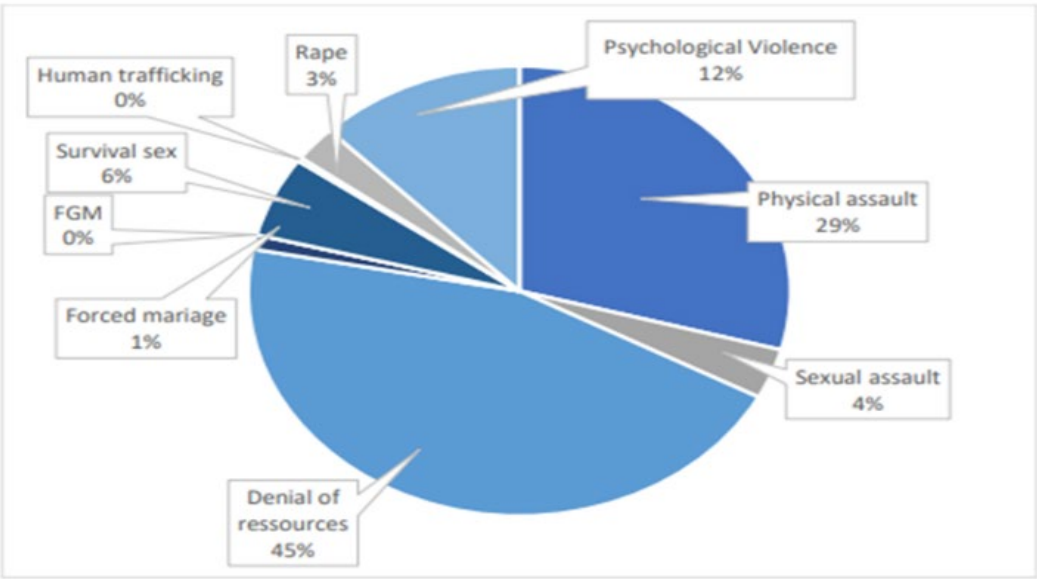


Figure 3-2 Types of Gender Based cases on women in IDPs and returnees
Source: Relief wed reports (2020)

The above graph shows one of the prevailing cases occurring. In IDP camps, denial of resources seems to be a significant issue in tackling the problems women face. The question regarding the denial of resources is why necessary resources are lacking, who are the actors accountable for the denial of resources.

3.7 Food Security

Food security has been an ongoing issue for women and children throughout the crisis, with 2.7 million children and women needing immediate nutrition services. "Global acute malnutrition (GAM) in children aged 6-59 months remains highly concerning, with over one million children having malnutrition rates exceeding the WHO threshold of 10 percent. In this, an estimated 368,00 children suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and 727,000 from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), with extremely worrying rates of new arrivals from inaccessible areas at 34 percent SAM and 55 percent MAM"(OHCA 2019)

3.8 Lack of access to Education.

Due to Boko Haram conflict situated around the opposition of “western education” children have been robbed of the right to go to school and have safe spaces where they can be able to attain an education. Isopkan focus is on the impact of Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria and the child’s right to education by assessing the role of the Nigerian government and how it has lived up to its obligation to ensure that the child has the right to education in the face of the insurgency. Isopkan (2016) emphasizes on the impacts that armed conflicts bring on children because they stand to be the most vulnerable group during armed conflicts. They are robbed off their innocence and, most notably, their childhood as they are exposed to various human rights violations. These conflicts take a toll on their education, health, provision of food, and losing their parents.

Isokpan focuses on the children's education because, from 2014, the children's education was targeted by Boko Haram due to the attacks on the children's schools, teachers, and educational infrastructures. Isokpan uses a normative framework for the right to education under the child's right to education and regional human rights instruments to discuss the impacts of armed conflicts on the right to education and the effective steps taken by the Nigerian government to secure the rights to education while dealing with the insurgency.

4 CHAPTER FOUR – Findings and Lateral Learnings

4.1 Discussions

4.1.1 Role of Key players

This section would focus on the role of different actors/key players involved with providing solutions to the basic needs of women and children in North East Nigeria. This section would examine the role played by the Nigerian government, the role played by the military, African nations, the politics played by Nigerian actors in curbing the issues face by women and children, and reasons why some of these actors have not been able to curb the humanitarian issues in Nigeria.

4.1.2 The role of the Nigerian Government

In Nigeria, several actors can contribute to the success of providing aid to these displaced women and children. These actors can halt the aid expected to improve the living situations of these women and Children. They include The Federal Government of Nigeria (the executive, legislative and judiciary arm), the military, the state actors/Governors, and the humanitarian organizations in the field. The legislative arm of the government makes laws to protect women and children in this IDP camps. The executive arm approves the laws and then charges the judiciary arm to implement those law. The military are the major implementers of these laws via the help of the state governors and humanitarian organizations. If any of these actors fail to do their parts, there would be a halt in the aid expected to improve the living situation of women and children in IDP camps. For example, if the president refuses to sign off a law because it would cost the nation money. This would create a ripple effect in the aid distribution structure.

4.1.2.1 Dependency Theory/Nigerian government dependence on International donors.

The international recognition of Boko Haram brought in several international NGOs and international donations. The dependency on international donors can be one of the issues why the end of Boko haram and insecurity would be far from being solved.

Tory Smith (1979) argues that third world countries cannot do without dependence on western countries because the world has been structured to depend on the industrialized countries. African countries strongly depend on their western countries to fix the problems in Africa. Data shows that the U.S. and other allies regularly donate to Nigeria.

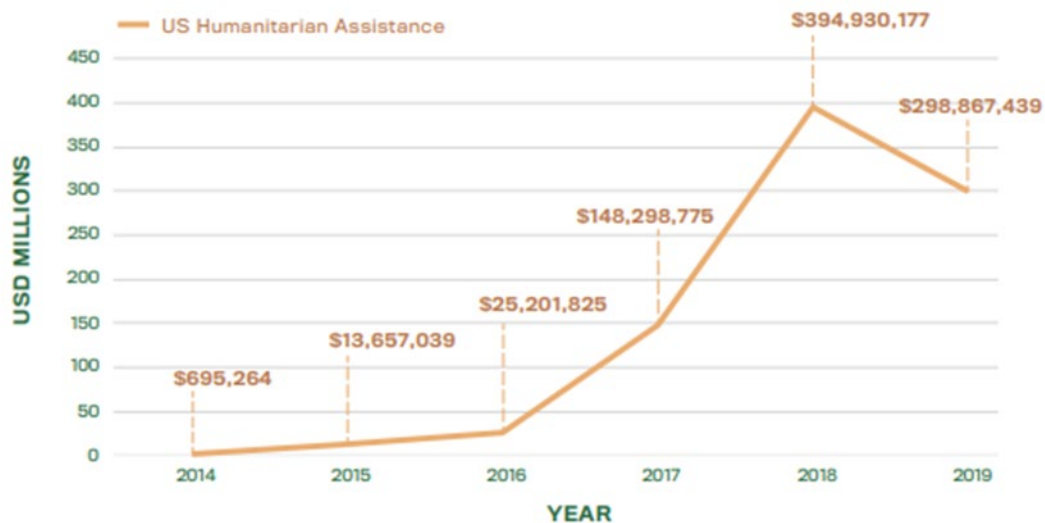


Figure 4-1 United States Assistance to Nigeria.

Source: Foreign assistance (2019)

From the graph above, the U.S. donations to Nigerian governments keep increasing by the year. The only year that the donations had reduced was in 2019. The idea of dependency contributes to the Nigerian government not fixing the problem, but instead, the government depends on foreign bodies to fix its problems. From the graph above, the United States is one of the largest donors in

Northern Nigeria. In the year 2019, the foreign assistance gotten by Nigeria was about 700 million dollars in that year. The U.S. contributed to about 300 dollars. The total amount received from the beginning of the crisis amounted to 1 billion dollars. Yet, Nigeria has still not made a significance effort in providing for and protecting women and children. Dependence brings about corruption, Moyo (2009) states that "Africa governments view aid as a permanent, reliable, consistent source of income and have no reason to believe that the flows won't continue into the indefinite future." (Moyo,2009).The operating environment in Nigeria can be seen as a challenging due to the ease of diversion of funds by government officials. In 2015 General Dauski was charged with diverting \$ billion arms deal, which was meant to use to defeat and provide protection in the North East for his own personal use. Accountability of the Nigerian Government to their international donors and humanitarian partners must improve to ensure greater efficiency and accountable spending of resources and better humanitarian response. Ewalefoh, Jobson (2016) focuses on the crisis in North East, Nigeria as it remains one of the world's most severe humanitarian crises. The focus is on the nature of Nigeria's insecurity and its influence on the attainment of sustainable development with an emphasis on Boko-Haram violence in the North East, Nigeria. It uses secondary data to examine a number of variables and concluded that politics has a role to play in the Boko Haram crisis. He examined variables such as state failure, sustainable development, conflicts, and insurgency in Nigeria. Jobson focuses on the need for the state to provide security and a secure environment for its citizens, but Nigeria is still struggling. Addressing the problems on security issues and providing the necessary infrastructures to combat security issues to sustain democratic values in Nigeria is essential in tackling the humanitarian crisis in Nigeria. Jobson explores the rationale of the state, the implication of state failure in insecurity in Nigeria, managing insecurity, and its influence on the economy of the North East. Emphasis on security is highlighted as one of the very

important functions of the state. Jobson emphasizes that the state cannot perform its primary responsibilities unless there is peaceful co-existence. He emphasizes the need for adequate and sustainable development as it is an essential aspect of national security. Jobson (2016) suggests that when a state deteriorates from its constitutional responsibility of protecting lives and properties, it becomes irrelevant and obsolete to its citizens. Hence the citizens start to lose confidence in its government in safeguarding them and begin to look for other means to protect themselves. He suggests that the Nigerian government's inability to stop the insurgency in Nigeria as the country is in its eleventh year in fighting Boko Haram creates a perception that limits international bodies and countries from fully supporting the country's fight in the ongoing humanitarian crisis. He suggests that the inability to end the conflict in Nigeria further taints Nigeria as a failed state, with the features attached to a failed state such as corruption, insecurity, and economic threats, unreliable electoral process thus, the Nigerian case exemplifies the difficulties of implementing effective local-level stabilization efforts while working with a host government that lacks political commitment, transparency, and coordination. At the same time, local-level programs have shown positive impacts in various areas. International organizations have struggled to gain full traction, mainly since donors often work through or depend on the government to operate human rights violations, which can taint the state's image.

Table 4-1 Nigeria's rank in Peace keeping.

Year	Global Peace Index	Global Peace ranking	Position
2018	2.873	148	15 th
2017	2.849	149	14 th
2016	2.877	149	16 th
2015	2.910	151	15 th
2014	2.710	151	17 th
2013	2.693	148	16 th
2012	2.707	146	14 th
2011	2.613	137	14 th
2010	2.628	131	15 th
2009	2.599	127	15 th
2008	2.574	125	18 th

Source: Jobson (2019)

Jobson argues that one of the reasons why Nigeria would have limits in humanitarian assistance and foreign investments is that Nigeria has not passed is the 18th position in terms of the definition of a failed state. The constant and ongoing attacks by Boko Haram and different herdsmen question Nigeria's ability to protect its citizens' lives, especially those who have been affected by the insurgency. Jobson also highlights that Nigeria has led many successful peacekeeping operations in Sierra Leone and Liberia but has failed to do so in their own home country. Nigeria is ranked as the 6th position in contributing to peacekeeping in Africa.

Jobson states, "Political struggles among the political class, politics of rancor and bitterness, ethnic-based politics and intimidation of opposition groups, and the use of state apparatus to undermine others are the major sources of insecurity in the Nigerian state."

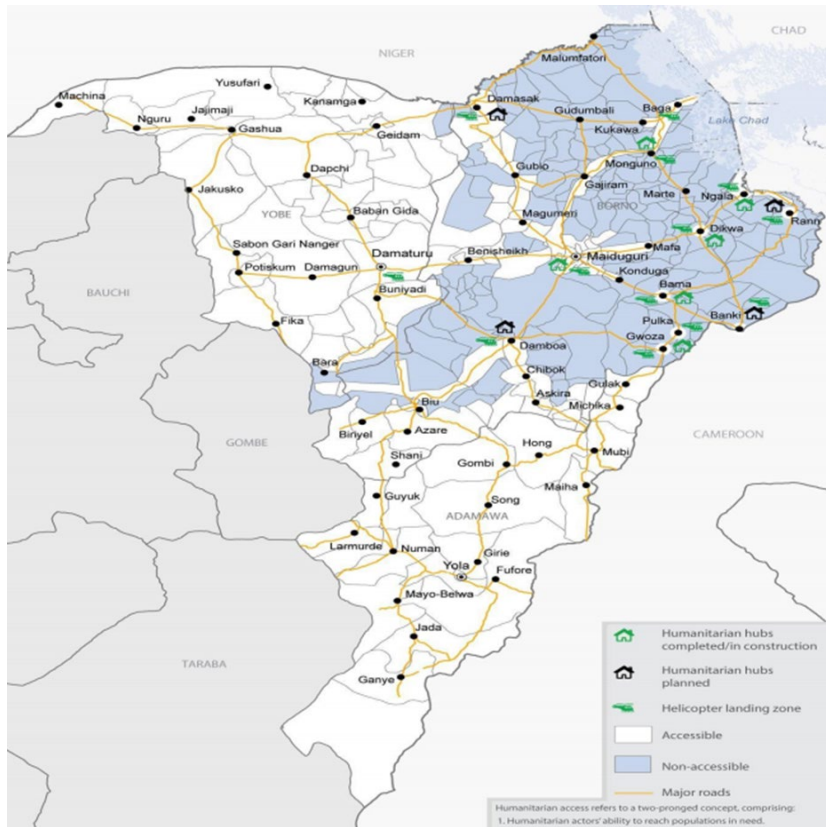


Figure 4-2 Accessible and inaccessible areas in Nigeria seeking Humanitarian assistance.

Source: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Human Rights Affairs (OCHA) Survey (2018)

Above shows the assessable and inaccessible areas for humanitarian organizations due to insecurity in the North East, these shows that even with humanitarian hubs presents the inability to curb the security issues in the region would limit the ability to offers humanitarian assistance, hence limiting access to supplies in various IDP camps and since for women and children make up 79% of these camps, they are affected the most

4.1.2.1.1 4.3 Boko Haram vs the military

Imasuen advocates the need for the Nigerian government to focus more on reducing human casualties, loss of livelihood, food insecurity, and more focus on rehabilitating internally displaced persons back to society. Imanuesuen advocated that the Nigerian government need to nip the

threats emanating from the humanitarian crises and Boko Haram insurgency in these regions with the help of international organizations.

Imasuen focuses on insurgency being a threat to global security and peace. He stressed that the rise in human casualties during the war, the increase in internally displaced persons, food insecurity, the rise of refugees around neighboring countries, and the potential spread of diseases are a threat to global peace. Imasuen analyzed the impact of the Boko Haram insurgency on humanitarian response and crisis in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe state. Adopting a theoretical framework of state fragility and a quantitative method using surveys, Imasuen focuses on how the increase in the activities of Boko Haram continues to halt humanitarian response and increase humanitarian consequences in these North-Eastern states. He focused on these IDP camps and deduce that using variables such as food security, human casualties in the ongoing crisis, and the displacements of people, he established that there is a significant relationship between a continuing crisis and an active response to the humanitarian crisis in that region. Imasuen recommends that the Nigerian government needs to pay attention to fixing the ongoing crisis as well as paying attention in the rehabilitation process of the internally displaced persons back to their communities

While various Nigerian government levels have taken action such as the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), its statutory mandate has sustained its humanitarian support to the teaming Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The agency has established a humanitarian cell in Borno State and sub-cells in Yobe and Adamawa States. It has deployed its personnel and critical assets to the North-East to continue to meet up with the burgeoning humanitarian needs of the affected population.

Abada, Ifeanyichukwu (2009) investigates whether the ineffective curtailment of the activities of Boko Haram had implicated the increasing vulnerabilities of internally displaced persons. The

study used a qualitative method in generating its data, while the theoretical framework was anchored on the Marxist theory of the post-colonial state. The study revealed that the Nigerian state's ineffective management of Boko Haram is one of the major factors influencing the increase in rising vulnerabilities of women and children in internally displaced persons. This is as a result of the decrease in hope that the government would eventually eradicate Boko Haram as a whole. Less hope for success over the insurgence translates to more vulnerability in these women. The study focused on the qualitative method to solve and provide an analytical basis to the understanding and appreciation of the matter investigated. The writer used secondary data collection methods and was systematically analyzed, bearing the study contents in mind. Statistical data and graphs adopted were quite vast and adequately analyzed.

The author gives a background study of the internally displaced citizens, their vulnerability, efforts the government has put in place to tackle the insurgents. The writer provides a complete description of the situation at hand and the Nigerian government's contribution in contributing to the suffering of the internally displaced citizens. Nigerian Army remains unable to assure regional peace. Borno State is effectively paralyzed, its people all refugees or internationally displaced persons (IDPs). One of the worst recent examples of military weakness was the Boko Haram attack on a Nigerian military base in Mettle near the border with Niger and Chad, which reportedly left around 100 Nigerian soldiers dead and more than 150 missing, though the army insists the death toll was 23(ODUMUNC 2019,PG.7)

NEMA has strategically prepositioned emergency food and non-food items in its warehouses in Adamawa, Borno, Gombe and Yobe states for easy distribution to the IDPs living in both camps and amongst host communities.

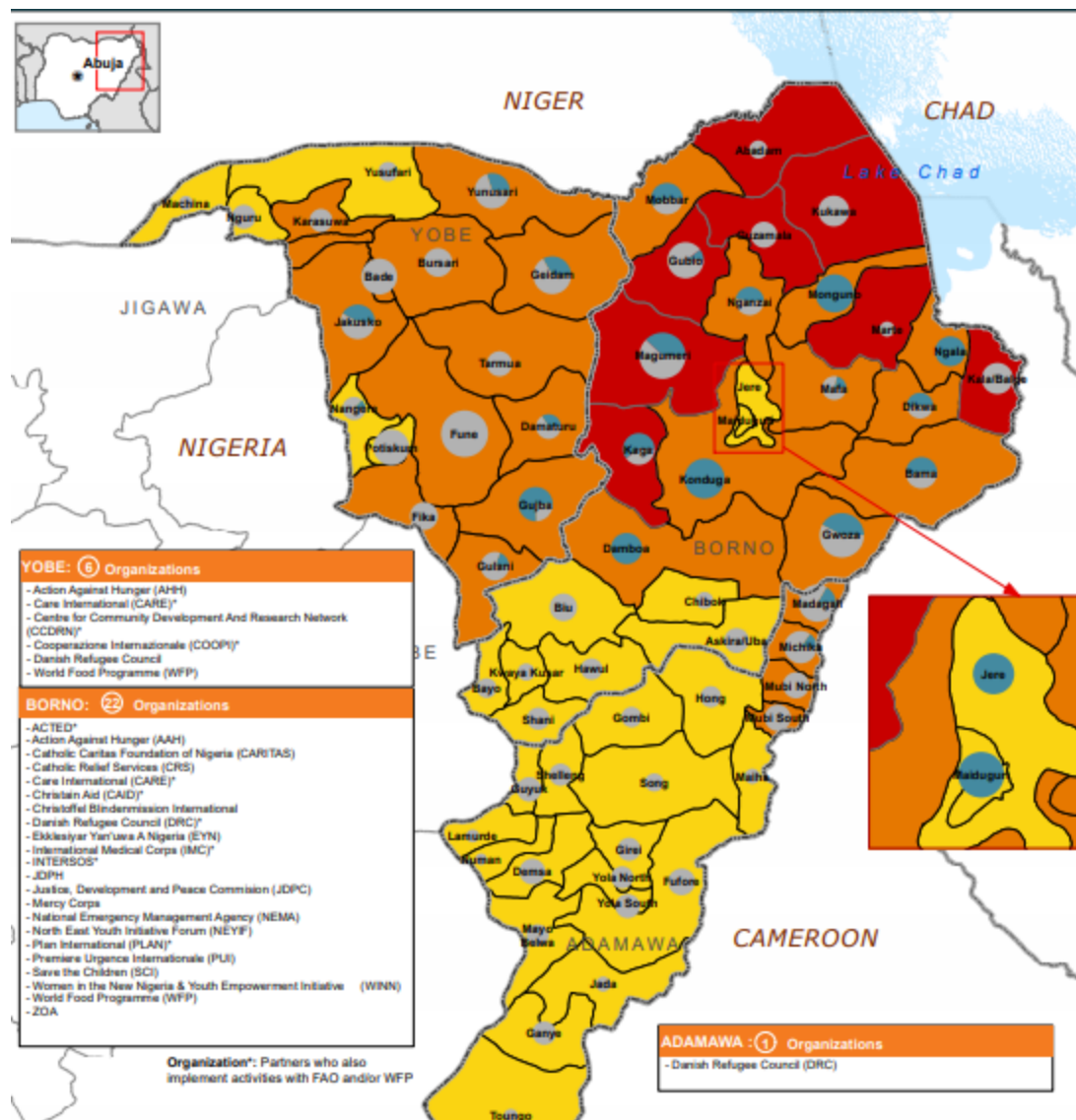


Figure 4-3 Humanitarian organizations in affected areas by Boko Haram.

Source: Food security sector (2020)

Onyemachi et al. (2020) focus on managing the number of internally displaced persons by the National Emergency Management Agency. The study focuses on significant challenges with the effective management of IDPs by NEMA. Using a quantitative method with the use of surveys. Onyemachi discovers that the National Emergency Agency lacks proper coordination of delivery and distribution of relief materials to the IDPs. The study shows that NEMA needs to conduct an actual needs assessment while distributing relief materials as this is lacking. Onyemachi stated that

‘The international organization of migration (IOM) reported in their round 31 displacement tracking matrix that there cannot accurately give the number of displaced persons in Northeast Nigeria because of the lack of coordination in the distribution of relief.’ (Onyemachi et al. 2020) The findings from this study urge the Nigerian government to ensure effective coordination for all relief distribution in the IDP camps.

4.1.3 The Nigerian government and the North East

Itumo, Anthony's study shows the challenges IDPs in Northeast Nigeria face using qualitative methods in carrying out its investigation on the challenges of IDPs in the Northeast. This study discovered that the IDPs in the Northeast suffer problems of starvation, lack of accommodation, unemployment, school dropouts, sexual harassment, child labor, early marriage, poor health, and sanitation.

His findings imply that the situation constitutes a setback to Nigeria development as its further compounds and complicates the existing challenge of poor living standards in the Northeast. The study recommends, among others, that the government should make more concerted efforts to provide the needs of the displaced persons, especially women and children. At the same time, it expedites actions to end up the insurgency. The study is equally recommended for the international humanitarian agencies' interventions, philanthropic organizations to give aid to the IDPs.

Itumo, Anthony, and Nwefuru (2016), in his book the Nigerian State and Responses to Plights of Persons Internally Displaced by Boko Haram Insurgents, argues using qualitative methods in carrying out its investigation, the challenges of IDPs in the Northeast. This study discovered that the IDPs in the Northeast suffer challenges of starvation, accommodation, unemployment, school dropouts, sexual harassment, child labor, early marriage, poor health, and sanitation.

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4.1.4 Politics in Nigeria

Politics over planning in Nigerian should be aggressively addressed. Politicians play a massive role in the inefficiency of the government in fixing the issues faced in the IDP camps and finding a plan for these women and children to eventually go back to their communities. The Nigerian government's dysfunctional situation plays a massive role in hindering of aid to the women and children in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe state. The Nigerian government is supposed to be working in the front line to provide a solution first to the conflict going on and secondly to provide the basic needs for its displaced citizens. Politics, elections, and the constant change of government coupled with the need to change policies and committees set in place to help these Internally displaced persons is an issue that has been present for so long. The government's first issue was the inability to have a policy that guides all actors while dealing with IDPs. A policy was eventually created in 2012, but due to the constant change in government, this policy is not actively implemented by state actors.

The constant change of government programs once there is an elected president contributes to these governments' inefficiency. There are a lot of committees both at the federal level and at the state level, which were created to perform the same task. The creation of several communities

brings an issue of overlapping and constant disagreement between these federal and state actors. President Muhammad Buhari being elected in 2015 changed the existing presidential task force in charge of Humanitarian needs to the Presidential Committee on the North-East Initiative (PCNI)., There were also another national and state management agencies, and then there was the North East Development Commission (NEDC). The creation of these communities with the same objectives and purpose brought conflicts within these organizations.

The Northern leaders use the situations in northern Nigeria to their advantage in terms of their political ambitions. One of the reasons why these women and children lack the basic amenities they require is that politics plays a significant role in hindering aid as opposed to providing aid. One of the main hindrances for proper assistance is the need for present state governors to rerun for their positions. They intend to rerun for elections to portray the success of defeating Boko Haram and painting a picture of the success of the state in solving the problems of the internally displaced persons in their States.

Alexander (2018) explores the politics in the Nigerian governments involvements in IDPs while preparing for elections. In 2017, in a bid to paint a picture of an ideal camp and to get vote from women and children. There were transfers made by government official of IDP to camps that were not fully ready for anyone to live in. The government in a bid to get more votes painted a false picture. In that year Borno state recorded the highest number of Governor Candidates.

Without a change in the political agenda and a political solution to the crisis in the North-Eastern part of Nigeria, particularly Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe, the Boko Haram crisis is likely to continue with no end in sight. The continuation of this crisis creates room for a rise in the population of Internally Displaced persons as well as inaccessibility to provide aid in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe.

Alabi focuses on the problems of displaced individuals and how to adopt a coping mechanism for the women and children in IDP camps. Using a qualitative approach, Alabi explains the significant problems these women and children go through from forced displacements. He adopts the use of focus group discussions using a sample size of women in different categories (single, married, divorced) to get the responses for the study. His findings identified the lack of adequate care and financial assistance as one of the main challenges that women and children face in IDP camps.

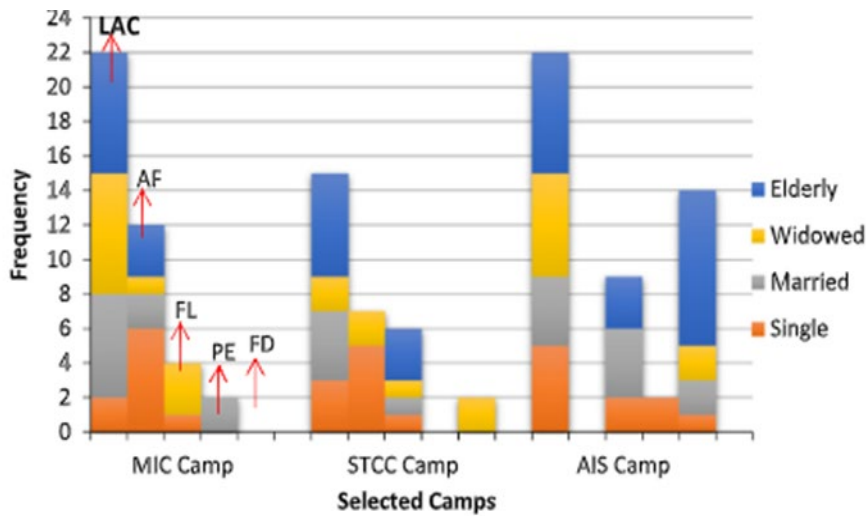


Figure 4-4 Challenges Women and children face in IDP Camps.

Source: Dataset on the challenges of forced displacement and coping strategies among women in selected displaced camps (2018)

The above figure shows the challenges these women and children faced in the selected IDP camps. These challenges range from lack of adequate care (LAC), absence of freedom (F.L.), financial lack (F.L.), and poor education (P.E.) to Family disintegration (F.D.). From the findings, Alabi suggests that with the tightening of security in camps one of the challenges the women face is the loss of their freedom the women and children emphasized on the need of the Nigerian government and management agencies in the IDP camps to provide means of financial independence, financial

and economic support as well. Most of the women emphasized on the need for economic opportunities such as skill acquisition, vocational services training in trade and provision of financial assistance to be able to fend for themselves by humanitarian organizations and the Nigerian government. Inadequate care for displaced children was one of the issues observed in the focus groups by the women as well.

4.1.5 Role of African Nations

Cedric De Coning (2016) focuses on the role of African regional actors in peace and security play in order to settle the affected communities. African peace operations, the involve challenges that adjustments need to be made for a more effective peace operation. Coning gives an overview of peace operations. A typical peace keeping mission in Africa involves the deployment of military forces from a particular country to the region of crisis. This would usually involve a lot of intel and observation before the deployment takes place. After deployments, these military forces are supposed to establish a communication line with affected local communities in order to track the whereabouts of the terrorist group. Unfortunately, the African peace operations do not work like this. They send in troops to local communities they know nothing about, and this presents a lot of difficulties for the military forces. He focused on these difficulties in creating peace. These difficulties include, language barrier, lack of knowledge of the political climate in Nigeria, and inaccessible terrain. The author focuses on the African Union Standby Force and the African Capacity for immediate response to the crisis. He explains that the African Union forces are capable of eradicating Boko Haram but the strategies they implore to make the mission successful needs to be improved. The Boko Haram's forces and its negative contribution to African peacekeeping is one of the issues the author highlights in his works. With the contribution of several authors Coning, states organizational challenges and political challenges as one of the

major problems in tackling peace operations in Africa. Concerning the case of Boko Haram and other African nations, regarding peace operations, the author implied a conclusion that one of the major challenges in ensuring peace operations in Africa are the difficulties rising from getting supplies and problems in logistics for the forces who are on the field. The authors also point out the inability of peace operations to create a multidimensional approach where everyone is involved in peace operations. By multidimensional, the authors emphasize the importance of civilians in peace operations. The author recognizes that African leaders have made significant progress in working together in achieving peace operations in Africa technically and strategically. Still, he also emphasizes the need for political changes within leaders in the African Union for African Nations to establish a strong force in carrying out significant peace operations.

4.1.6 The Role of the Military

Ezeonwuka Innocent-Franklyn (2016) argues that in order to achieve orderliness, minimize casualties and complications in the crisis in Adamawa, Maiduguri, and Yobe, detailed and proactive attention must be given to IDPs carried out by Humanitarian professionals of both private and governmental institutions/organizations. Using a quantitative and qualitative approach with primary and secondary information on the vulnerability of individuals in the IDPs. Ezeonwuka argues that in the same way, Internally Displaced Persons could be quartered in camps and taken care of in the same way IDPs are at a risk of possibly becoming instruments in aiding terrorist networks or equally face harassment, infections, rape, kidnapping among other ills. He stated that 'It is disheartening to observe that the displaced people were not officially taken care of until 2009, when the Federal government set up camps in different places to take care of them' (Ezeonwuka .2016). This means that there was no record of displaced people before Boko Haram and these formerly displaced people could easily be recruited to aid terrorism. Hence, there is a need to

scrutinize, organize, protect, and oversee designated IDP camps in Nigeria. Ezeonwuka emphasizes the three R's for the Nigerian government to maintain security and needs for the citizen's especially that of the displaced individuals. The three R's being reconstruction, rehabilitation, and restitution (Innocent-Franklyn 2016).

Olusegun (2019) analyses the international protection of children both in humanitarian laws and legal protection in Nigeria. He points out in his research the challenges of children in IDP camps and the challenges of effectively protecting them. He states that children need greater protection during armed conflicts have deprived the child of their right to life, health, education, and a standard way of living. Olusegun points out that little attention has been given to the children placed in IDP camps alongside three different variables that describe the challenges children face in IDP camps.

Firstly, one of the challenges children face is the lack of security. Physical security stands as one of the challenges children face in the IDP camps because they are faced with security threats, used as weapons, and sexual harassment in the camps. An example of one of the security challenges children faced in the IDP camps was the twin suicide attack in Dikwa Borno State, where more than sixty people died, and seventy-eight injured. This incident highlights one of the instances where IDP camps that host children lack adequate security presence.

Secondly, Olusegun lays emphasizes on access to education for the children in the camps. He suggests that Boko Haram has made it a mission to continually attack the education system in Nigeria with its attacks on schools in 2014 and Maiduguri's kidnapping in 2017. These factors have been identified as hindrances for children to go to school with constant attacks by Boko Haram. Most IDP camps have been left inaccessible, making it difficult for a humanitarian organization to provide adequate education services.

The third emphasis is on sexual abuse. Children in IDP suffer from various forms of abuse from within and threats of these abuses from outside because they are used as weapons on war. Women and young girls have been forced into participating in transactional sex to get basic needs to survive, such as food, water, and medicine. The abusers of this vulnerable group include the security forces, peacekeepers, and humanitarian works who are supposed to protect them

The military's approach to the response of conflicts has raised concerns from aid workers on the field, the military who oversee most IDP camps and garrison towns. The military oversees dictating who gets what and why. International organizations access to help individuals in need. Suppose the military termed an area inaccessible it's often difficult for international organizations to reach individuals in need. The military puts restrictions on organizations from getting into areas not entirely under the control of the Nigerian government. The abuse of power has been an issue in providing aid. International partners have been cautious in ensuring the reduction of abuse in the security sector. International organizations are disturbed that the pressures created by the military would stop these organizations from losing access

4.1.7 Humanitarian Response plan in Nigeria from organizations on ground.

Humanitarian response in Nigeria has been a great deal since 2015, Isokpan emphasizes the safe school initiative launched by the U.N. special envoy for Global Education following attacks on children in schools provided international support to Nigeria. UNICEF has contributed to establishing temporary schools and putting children in schools. In 2015 UNICEF recorded contributing temporary spaces in Borana in Yobe State, enrolling 4737 displaced children in schools, and providing makeshift tents for children between 3-5 years old. The organization recorded putting 6,300 students in 2015 through the UNICEF program, which is not enough. This support is only limited to some camps, thereby not reaching a fraction of the IDPs. Isokpan

suggests that the problem lies between the Nigerian governments having regard for its international rights and obligation to address the issues facing the persons internally displaced by Boko Haram. Iskponan also suggests that one of the problems the government might be facing is the inability to focus on humanitarian needs because the IDPs' current needs outweigh the capacity and the funds to fix them. The efforts to respond to these IDPs' needs have been left to the host communities because the Nigerian government's response is uncoordinated and inadequate. Most IDPs live in host communities with little access to Humanitarian assistance due to insecurity. With the constant attacks by Boko Haram, there is a steady influx of IDPs who cannot sustain themselves due to their inability to reach them. Isokpan stressed on the direct need for children living in IDP camps. Most of these kids require formative education in order for them to have the necessary skills required to function in the society. This particular research reflects more on the need for humanitarian actors to improve the educational system for kids in IDP camps.

Table 4-2 NGOs and INGOs and the sectors they focus on.

ORGANIZATION	REQUIREMENTS (US\$)	SECTORS	PROJECTS
GOALPrime Organization Nigeria	0.3M	Child Protection	1
Goggoji Zumunci Development Initiative	0.3M	Child Protection	1
Green Concern for Development	0.4M	Child Protection	1
Grow Strong Foundation	0.4M	Child Protection	1
International Organization for Migration	1.1M	Child Protection	1
International Rescue Committee	0.5M	Child Protection	1
Life At Best Development Initiative	0.5M	Child Protection	2
Mercy Corps	0.7M	Child Protection	1
Plan International	0.8M	Child Protection	1
Relief Rescue Initiative	0.1M	Child Protection	1
Restoration of Hope Initiative	0.5M	Child Protection	1
Save the Children	1.1M	Child Protection	1
SOS Children's Villages	0.2M	Child Protection	1

Source: OCHA HUMARITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN 2020

ORGANIZATION	REQUIREMENTS (US\$)	SECTORS	PROJECTS
Life At Best Development Initiative	0.3M	Gender Based Violence	1
Médecins du Monde France	0.4M	Gender Based Violence	1
Mercy Corps	0.7M	Gender Based Violence	1
Plan International	0.8M	Gender Based Violence	1
Rehabilitation Empowerment and Better Health Initiative	0.2M	Gender Based Violence	1
Sanitation and Hygiene Education Initiative	0.3M	Gender Based Violence	1
Street Child Organization	1.0M	Gender Based Violence	1
Taimako Community Development Initiative	0.4M	Gender Based Violence	1
United Nations Children's Fund	0.9M	Gender Based Violence	1
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	2.4M	Gender Based Violence	1
United Nations Population Fund	8.7M	Gender Based Violence	1

Source: OCHA HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN 2020

These international organizations and non-governmental organizations have committed to helping women, children, and men who are internally displaced in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe. These organizations are invested in their objectives and goals to provide humanitarian assistance for individuals in need. The sole purpose of these organization is to provide a long-term solution to serve the people after these organizations leave Nigeria, Edward Kallon the resident and humanitarian conductor states that the UN approach for its programs “is to help people survive and maintain their dignity ,the humanitarian response integrates approaches where and when possible, to reduce the dependency on aid “(OCHA 2020).

4.2 Lateral Learnings

4.2.1 Addressing the needs of IDPs

The previous section examined the roles of the different actors in charge of handling IDPs in Nigeria, this section would examine why addressing the needs of women and children seems difficult in the fields. This section would examine the restraints involved such as language barriers, poor communication, attack on aid workers, accessibility and conflicts between the military and aid workers.

In order for humanitarian organizations to focus on development and key issues on the needs of IDPs, they tend to focus on asking the host communities and IDPs on ways they can fix the camps. A 52 person focus group discussion was conducted in 2019 by the OCHA with women, men, boys, and young girls across 14 local government areas in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe to discuss living standards and coping mechanisms of IDPs. These discussions were carried out to find gaps in humanitarian assistance. The reports record the perception of humanitarian assistance in their dire situation. They recognized the challenges with food and security. The women identified access to livelihood, including jobs and skill acquisition to survive, insufficient provision for the women to have sanitation facilities, food insecurity, and lack of education as issues that pose as gaps in humanitarian assistance.

These organizations are committed to providing aid to affected individuals without any discrimination. They focus on providing security and protection services for IDPs to ensure that they have basic amenities such as clean water, food shelter, education and all they may need. Relief web report in 2017 shows that these organizations provide food to almost 2 million people every month in the North East. This includes providing drinking water to about 2.4 million community

members and displaced individuals in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe. In 2017, they also recorded providing education to 1 million children (relief web report 2017).

Table 4-3 Donations and funds received by Ngo’s on the field in North-East Nigeria.

Organisation	USD
Caritas	146.200
Danish Red Cross	906.440
Danish Refugee Council	292.254
ICRC	4.386.000
Save the Children	102.340
UNHCR	835.972
Total	6.669.205

Source: Danish Refugee report 2017

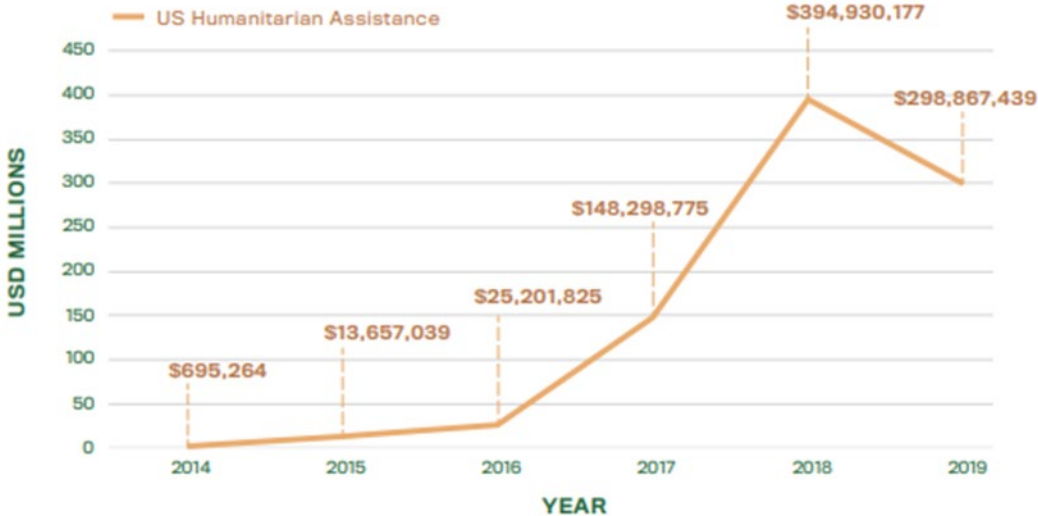


Figure 4-5 United State assistance to Nigeria.
Source: Foreign assistance govt explore 2017

In 2017 \$740 million was received from international donors from different countries to fix the Nigerians humanitarian crisis, which is enough to solve the crisis. Many organizations have been deployed to reduce the plight of internally displaced women and children in the IDP camps. The various humanitarian organizations that provide aid to women and children in the IDP camps in Northeast Nigeria often emphasize on lifesaving assistance, enhanced access, and protection services to women and children as well as resilience and durable solutions to vulnerable citizens during conflicts. These efforts carried out by humanitarian organizations to keep women and children safer in IDP camps exists, but their strategies are not adequately effecting change in the number of women and children exposed to certain threats. For example, most of the humanitarian organizations managing IDP camps in northeast Nigeria do not provide a special health care package for women and children. This is to say that only one military clinic or outpost could be available to treat all kinds of illnesses in the camp. Imagine a woman with a vaginal infection, who will not be properly examined because the clinic has no technical knowhow or staff to carry out a simple vaginal swab. Also, some women require special need and care during their menstrual period some women even need to be admitted to a sick bed during this period. Unfortunately, because of the crowd in the camps, a woman cannot be given a hospital bed space for her period. There are so many ways this could go wrong. The woman could die of excessive pains, lack of hygienic menstrual practices and emotional trauma from period hormones. From the children's angle, humanitarian organizations do not provide adequate learning opportunities for these kids. A child's early stages are the formative years of the child's life therefore, it is important to teach them the basic skills needed for survival in the society. Most humanitarian organizations have a school for kids in their camps but the content being taught are repetitive. They are only taught how to speak better English language. A child needs more than just a language skill during his formative

years. As stated earlier, these efforts exist but there is a growing need to improve the strategies used by humanitarian organizations to keep women and children safer in IDP camps in Northeast Nigeria.

In the internally displaced person camps in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe), the vast majority constituting millions are women and children that face a range of threats to their physical safety and restrictions on their freedom of movements. However, some Humanitarian organizations like the U.N. have recorded success stories of rehabilitating Nigerian women who have fled from their homes, then lived in an IDP camp and or have regained their independence. An example is Bage, who Boko Haram took captive for three years Bage gives an account of her ordeal in captivity in which she states

“I lost my husband in Maiduguri, Nigeria. They beheaded my husband right in front of me. I lost my sight temporarily from the shock I couldn't see.” The Boko Haram militants then came back for her. “I left my village with only one of my boys, he was four years old at the time,” she recalls. “They made the women cover themselves in a burqa and read the Quran. They lined up a group of men, and then the women would be asked to choose a man to marry. They would give us three chances to make a choice. If a woman didn't pick a man by the third time, they would slaughter her.” She refused twice. On the third time, she accepted to marry.” (U.N. women 2019).

Bage was able to gain her freedom from Boko Haram when the military raided their homes. Bage was taken to an IDP camp where she received proper counseling and training in tailoring, now Bage is one of the Nigerian women that has benefited from the U.N. programs targeted to rehabilitate these women back to society. Unfortunately, these Humanitarian organizations write their own press releases and some of such stories may not reflect the actual occurrence in reality.

The possibility of such propaganda in Nigeria was a major limitation in collecting data for this research.

Apart from humanitarian efforts made by organizations such as the UN, national and state governments also make some efforts to provide special aid for the internally displaced women and children in Northeast Nigeria. The national and state government majorly provide security and financial support in IDP camps but their efforts to address the needs of women and children are inconsistent, and sometimes have a negative effect on the issue at hand. For example, the government would always send soldiers to protect IDP camps but there are soldiers who rape vulnerable women and sometimes, children. This example perfectly describes a negative effect on the issue of women and children safety in IDP camps

4.2.2 Poor communication and access undermine IDP services

There is poor communication and access between IDPs and government officials so there is a high rate of corruption which leads to the inconsistency of the provision of aid. This inconsistency means more support from international agencies, and moreover, the Nigerian civil society is also limited. People who live in or near camps receive some assistance, but often not enough to meet their basic needs because of the inconsistency in aid caused by corruption in the hierarchy. Aliyu Salisu, a Social Science Fellow of the International Social Science Council (ISSC) Paris concludes that ‘There is a lack of transparency, accountability and efficiency in the way government organizations in Nigeria administer resources meant for IDPs’ (International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), 2016) This shows that the corrupt practices of the Nigerian Government as a whole extends to the officials managing the IDPs resources. This in turn leads to lack of enough materials to meet their basic needs and the opportunity for international organizations to conveniently step in. The International Committee of the Red Cross in 2016 acknowledged the humanitarian

situation in North-East Nigeria as complex. Each case is diverse and varies. The ICRC also published a report after the Kampala convention in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states which highlighted the needs and the challenges in meeting these needs. The report acknowledged that the vast majority of IDPs which are mostly women and children in the North east need Humanitarian assistance, including food, water, shelter, sanitation, medical services, and support in rebuilding livelihoods. Though efforts are being made by the government and humanitarian organizations, the above mentioned basic need remains inherent for the vast majority of the IDPs. (International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), 2016). The aim of the ICRC in this report was to provide recommendations on how the government can meet the needs of the IDPs regardless of the challenge.

4.2.3 Language and cultural barriers

An example is the language barrier between government workers and local communities. Many IDPs have been forced to flee for their lives, leaving behind land, property, and livelihood to a camp filled with strangers. Language is definitely a barrier and the ICRC recommend that the government should train the staff to speak the local languages.

Role of ongoing violence in limiting humanitarian response

The humanitarian situation in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe in recent times has deteriorated. Saskia Brechenmacher, a fellow in Carnegie's Democracy, Conflict, and Governance Program focuses on the different reasons why the humanitarian task seems complicated: in Nigeria in her article titled 'Stabilizing Northeast Nigeria After Boko Haram' Brechenmacher concludes that these complications come from lack of access to rural agencies due to military presence to indiscriminate violence by those in charge of protecting lives, politics over planning, and dependency of the Nigerian government on international donors. Brechnmacher argues that the complications

experienced by Humanitarian response is due to the difficulties of implementing. She mentioned that “effective local-level stabilization efforts while working with a host government that lacks political commitment, transparency, and coordination is unrealistic.” While local-level programs have shown positive impacts in various areas, they have struggled to gain wider traction, particularly since donors are often working through or dependent on the government to operate” (BRECHENMACHER, 2019). These issues have made it quite challenging to respond adequately to their aid.

4.2.4 Accessibility

Accessibility to women and children in IDP camps seems to be one of the challenges faced by humanitarian actors. The UNCHOA in 2018 estimates 87percent of the target population 6.2 million people can be reached with assistance, whether displaced or not. The U.N. also an estimate of 823,000 people internally displaced that remain hard to reach by humanitarian actors(UNCHOA,2018).

Humanitarian actors have been denied access to these inaccessible camps, especially with the Nigerian military overseeing operations in the North East. Request by humanitarian workers to gain access independently has been rejected. The international organizations have tried to get assurance from the non-state armed groups (NSAG) for humanitarian workers and humanitarian operations. Efforts to get the NSAG to help in assessing and assisting IDPs who are inaccessible have been.

4.2.5 The Military vs. Aid Workers

Different actors play a role in the problem women and children face. The military plays a huge role in the lives of the displaced persons in North-East, Nigeria. The military is one of the main government actors. They control how humanitarian organizations operate in the North. At the

beginning of the Boko Haram crisis, most IDP camps were run by the military, not until several humanitarian organizations took an interest in the situation in Nigeria. On the arrival of several Humanitarian organizations, the Government of Nigeria required these organizations to require permission to operate in that region. In the UN humanitarian report the humanitarian assistance coordinator response to military intervention states that “ The restrictions of movements of personnel or assistance by military or civilian authorities and threats of attacks by armed groups remain constraints on humanitarian access in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe states”(OCHA 2020). One Major actor of one of the significant factors that contribute to halting the progress of organizations who come to the aid of the women is the military.

The decision to leave the military in charge of handling almost all the Humanitarian activities caused rifts between the humanitarian organizations willing to help these displaced women and children. Constant disagreements between the military and different Humanitarian organizations that work on the field have been continuously amongst the reported hindrances for progress in coming to aid these women and children. The human rights watch has actively reported the role the military plays in hindering aid in the North. The 2020 report of Humanitarian watch shows that Aid agencies are at the mercy of military and civilian authorities.

The gap between the military and humanitarian organizations affects women and children in the long run. These consequences include the inability to save lives, loss of livelihood, the camps getting over congested without having the required supplies to manage them. As of 2019, the U.N. recorded that four local governments in Borno state are inaccessible to aid workers due to area termed high-risk zones for humanitarian actors

One of the reasons why these organizations cannot respond effectively is due to the operational requirements that have been imposed by these authorities who represent the Nigerian Government.

The U.N. 2020 report reveals the hostility these organizations face from the military authorities placed in the North. Interviews between November 2019 and 2020 with "military officials and nine aid organizations revealed that the military activities prevent aid workers from reaching millions of people and cause safety concerns as other parties to the conflict may see aid workers taking the government's side in the conflict.

In September 2019, the military decided to close different aid organizations in Northern Nigeria. The organizations affected by these decisions were Action Against Hunger and Mercy Corps in Borno State and Maiduguri under the guise of corruption, which was never proven. The closure of these aid offices definitely impacted the aid provided to women and children. Action Aid and Mercy Corps lost the ability to provide assistance to a number of people. About 400,000 people were left with no aid for about two months. The constant disagreements that the military and aid organizations have can be seen as a hindrance for women and children to get the assistance they needed.

Humanitarian organizations have expressed their grave concerns about the operations of the military in Borno Adamawa and Yobe state. Most organizations are skeptical of the approach used by the military. The Humanitarian organizations in the North feel like the presence of the military does not follow the core principles of "Humanity, impartiality, and independence." Most organizations fear that the individuals in the IDP camps would not be transparent with them because they feared that they had to follow the military's priorities instead of focusing on the needs of the people.



Figure 4-6 Soldiers camping to stop NGOs from operating
Source: relief web (2019)

Above is a picture of a soldier camped in front of Mercy corps. The aim is to stop them from assessing their office. This happened on September 25, 2019.

4.2.6 Attack on aid workers

The constant attack on aid workers and the kidnapping of aid workers contribute to the effectiveness of providing aid to women and children in the IDP camps. In 2020 the U.N. and the European Union civil protection and Humanitarian aid released a joint press statement on the concerns of the kidnapping of aid workers in the North-Eastern states of Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe. In The report of the commissioner, Janez Lenracic, expressed was his concern on the upscale of the violent attacks on aid workers in the states. This concern came from the fact that twelve aid workers were kidnapped and brutally murdered by armed groups in the year 2019. In the year 2018, two aid workers Alice Loksha and Grace Taku were held hostage by the sect groups. These aid workers are still held hostage.

Table 4-4 A representation of workers attacked while providing aid

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Kidnapped	0	1	1	7
Killed	0	3	5	3
Injured	2	1	0	0
	2	5	6	10
Complex attack	0	0	5	0
Shooting	0	4	0	1
Kidnapping	0	1	1	9
Unknown	2	0	0	0

Source: USAID 2019 report on humanitarian response in Nigeria (2019)

The above figure shows the number of humanitarian workers that have been attacked in Borno state while rendering aid. The attack on aid workers has restricted the military from granting access to humanitarian workers to reach vulnerable women and children who need help in inaccessible IDP camps.

Table 4-5 A representation of attacked aid workers

ID	Month	Day	Year	Country	UN	INGO	LNGO and NRCs	ICRC	IFRC	Other	Nationals killed	Nationals wounded	Nationals kidnapped	Total national staff	Internationals killed	Internationals wounded	Internationals kidnapped	Total international staff	Total victims	Gender Male	Gender Female	Gender Unknown	Means of attack
1623	Dec	6	2013	Nigeria	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	Shooting
2092	May	19	2016	Nigeria	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	Shooting
2474	Sep	13	2017	Nigeria	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	Shooting
2480	Jun	18	2017	Nigeria	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	Kidnapping
2653	Apr	19	2019	Nigeria	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	Shooting
2694	May	11	2019	Nigeria	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	Shooting
2149	Jul	27	2016	Nigeria	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	Unknown
2470	Sep	15	2017	Nigeria	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	Kidnapping
2494	Aug	17	2017	Nigeria	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	Bodily assault
2803	Dec	12	2019	Nigeria	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	Kidnapping
2822	Sep	22	2019	Nigeria	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	Kidnap-killing
3004	Jun	2	2020	Nigeria	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	Kidnapping
2341	Dec	17	2017	Nigeria	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	Shooting
2335	Nov	13	2017	Nigeria	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	4	4	2	2	0	Kidnap-killing
2455	Sep	13	2017	Nigeria	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	Bodily assault
3024	Jun	29	2020	Nigeria	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	3	Kidnapping
2582	Jul	9	2018	Nigeria	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	5	5	0	0	Kidnapping
2385	Mar	1	2018	Nigeria	4	0	0	2	0	0	5	0	1	6	0	0	0	0	6	0	2	4	Complex attack
2737	Jul	19	2019	Nigeria	0	7	0	0	0	0	6	0	1	7	0	0	0	0	7	3	1	3	Kidnapping
1394	Feb	8	2013	Nigeria	0	0	9	0	0	0	9	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	9	1	5	3	Shooting
2821	Dec	22	2019	Nigeria	0	10	0	0	0	0	4	0	6	10	0	0	0	0	10	4	2	4	Kidnapping
2223	Jan	17	2017	Nigeria	0	0	14	0	0	0	6	8	0	14	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	14	Aerial bombardment
1148	Aug	26	2011	Nigeria	46	0	0	0	0	0	9	37	0	46	0	0	0	0	46	8	0	38	Vehicle-born IED
Total					58	35	34	2	0	1	46	56	23	125	2	0	3	5	130	39	14	77	

Source: aidworkers.org security data

The above data shows the number of aid workers who have been kidnapped and attacked. The constant attacks on aid workers and the Nigerian military not putting a stop to the insurgency make it hard for the aid workers to carry out their duties.

The abduction of humanitarian workers in 2018 contributes to why the military is always bumping heads with humanitarian workers to access inaccessible areas. The UNOCHA reports in 2018 on the bureaucratic challenges that limit humanitarian response. These limits include barriers of importation of goods and drugs that are intended to use to save the lives of IDPs. The delays in securing import permits and tax waivers by international humanitarian agencies to get goods necessary for providing aid is one of the setbacks in getting humanitarian aid across to women and children who need them in North-East Nigeria. INGOs have reported that there are relief materials

in Nigeria ports waiting for clearance for the Nigerian authorities due to the bureaucratic blocks. These bureaucratic blocks halt the assistance of the women and children as it increases the cost to clear them and delays the process of getting these materials to those who need them.

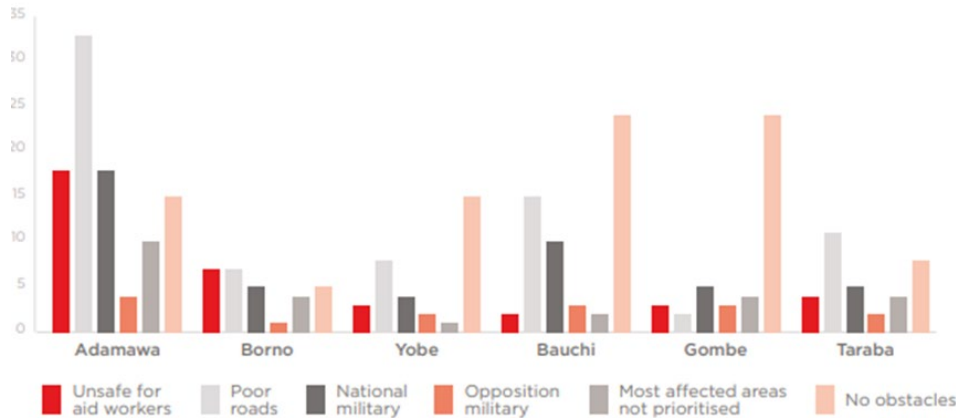


Figure 4-7 A representation of Inaccessibility issues faced by Humanitarian workers.
Source: UNOCHA report 2018

The above figure shows the inaccessibility Humanitarian workers face while by the military, poor road, and places tagged to be inaccessible in Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa.

4.2.7 Humanitarian actors taking advantage of victims

Hoggeran (2015) argues that the military overseeing protecting the IDPs reduces the chances of women and children opening to the humanitarian workers. He argues that women and children have been victims of the soldier's ill-treatment at the beginning of the insurgence. He further states that most wives and children of Boko Haram members who were displaced as well were forcefully detained and questioned on the involvement of their husbands, an issue they barely knew about. The military made women targets. Amnesty International and Human rights watch have documented the use of detention and sexual abuses by soldiers who were left in charge of

protecting the women in the IDP camps. Reports have shown an increase in sexual abuses and exploitation of women and children in IDP camps.

Monthly trends of identified SGBV cases among IDP's



Figure 4-8 Monthly Trends of SGBY cases in IDPs
Source: UNHCR relief report (2019)

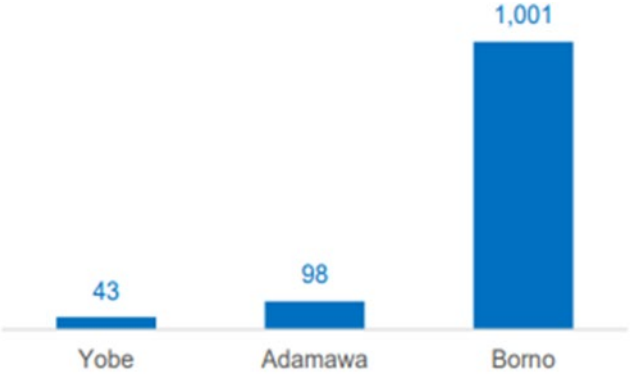


Figure 4-9 Sexual reports in affected areas by Boko Haram
Source: UNHCR reliefs report (2018)

The figures above show the increase of reported sexual abuse cases with new arrivals in the IDP camps. The second graph shows that Borno has the highest number of sexual situations reported. This is due to the fact that Borno has a substantial military presence compared to Adamawa and Yobe.

3. Identified SGBV cases by Local Government Areas (LGA)

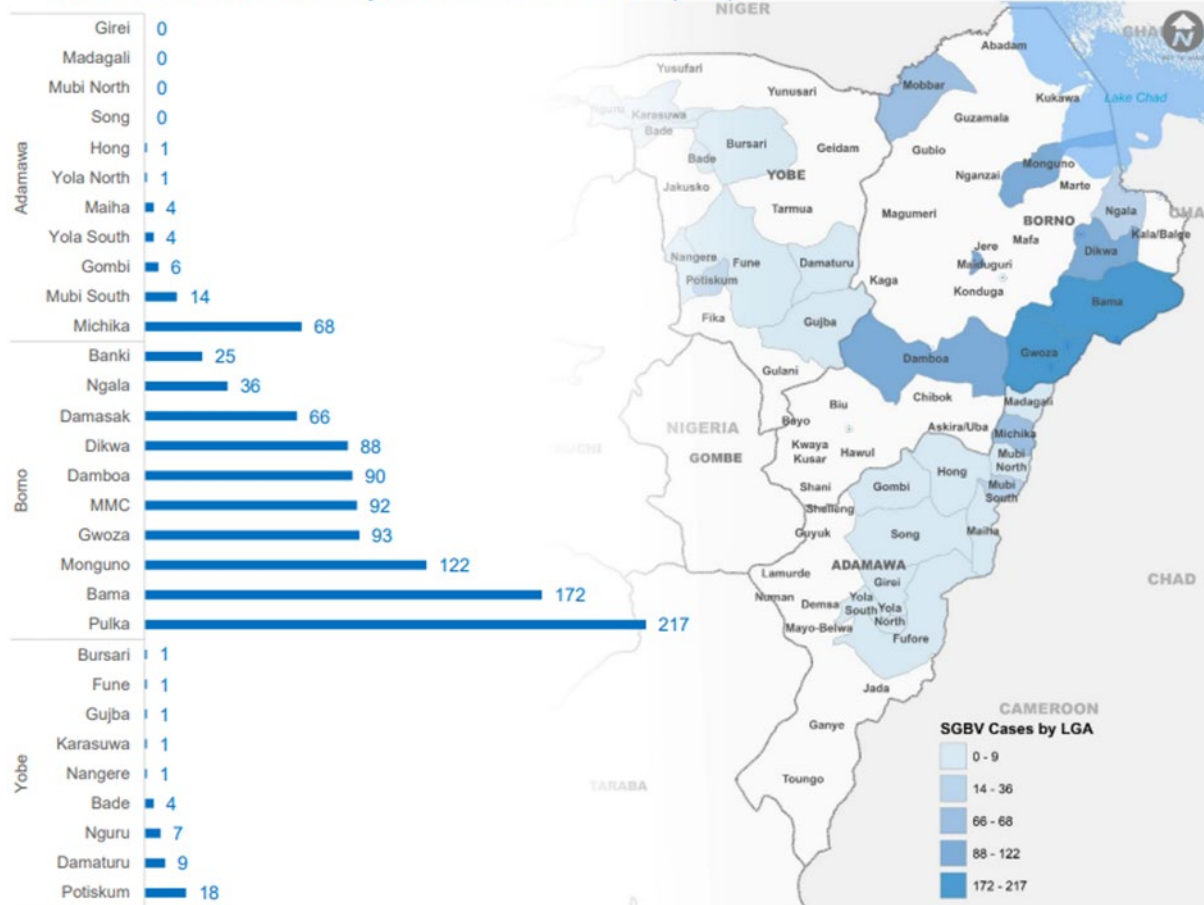


Figure 4-10 SGBV cases by Local Government Areas
Source: UNHRC relief web

According to reports, most sexual abuse cases reported by arrivals and those already camped in the IDP camps reveal that these women and children have faced sexual abuses both inside and outside the field. In 2018 the United Nations reported that some of the accusers reported by the women and children were the military, humanitarian workers, and the Civilian Joint Task Force members as their abusers. In its reports, the U.N. acknowledges women testimonies of these workers who are in charge of their well-being force and sexually exploit them into having relationships. The Human Rights Watch also narrates the experiences of some of the victims of sexual violence and harassment in the camps. A 16-year-old recounts her experience as follows:

"He knew my parents were dead because he is also from Baga. He would bring me food items like rice and spaghetti, so I believed he wanted to marry me. But he was also asking me for sex. I always told him I was too small [young]. The day he raped me, he offered me a drink in a cup. As soon as I drank it, I slept off. It was in his camp room.

I knew something was wrong when I woke up. I was in pain, and blood was coming out of my private part. I felt weak and could not walk well. I did not tell anyone because I was afraid. When my menstrual period did not come, I knew I was pregnant and just wanted to die to join my dead mother. I was too ashamed to even go to the clinic for pregnancy care. I am so young! The man ran away from the camp when he heard I delivered a baby six months ago. I just feel sorry for the baby because I have no food or love to give him. I think he might die." (Human Rights Watch, 2016)

Taking advantage of people should always be unacceptable. If people in charge of/situated around a vulnerable group would trade aid for sexual benefits, they might push them to their psychological edge resulting in depression or other illnesses due to the lack of safety anywhere. From escaping death or capture in the hands of Boko Haram to being abused in what is supposed to be their haven. What then happens to the women and children who deny these sexual predators? In most cases, they will not get the basic needs they require to survive. Sexual abuses should not be tolerated at all, humanitarian worker acting in inhumane ways.

During the Focus group discussion organized in Bama by UNHCR's partner AIPD, women and girls reported that they experienced sexual exploitation from NSAG during captivity. Women and girls described how Aid workers and Civilian JTF members are taking advantage of the lack of food and basic needs, such as condiments to coerce women into unwanted sexual relationships, some of which involve being available for sex on an ongoing basis.

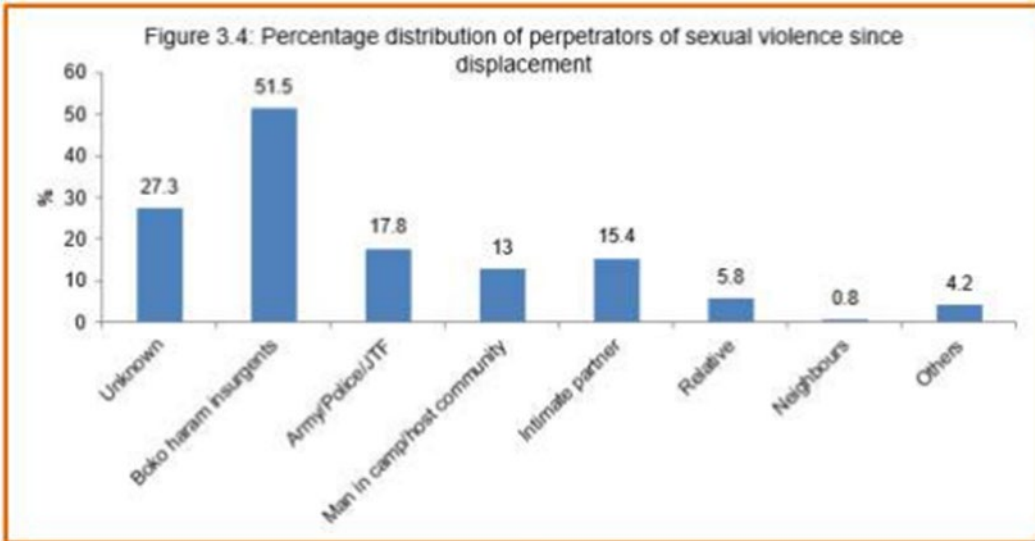


Figure 4-11 A graph showing sexual Perpetrators aside Boko haram
Source: relief web (2018)

From the above data in 2018, the highest percentage of sexual perpetrators aside Boko Haram members are the military, unknown and intimate partners where humanitarian workers can be placed under.

5 CHAPTER FIVE – Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusion and Recommendations

Boko Haram has resulted in an unprecedented increase in the internal displacement of people in the North-Eastern region of Africa. This research has explored how the crisis affects women and children who have fled crises to IDP camps, and the complications involved in providing humanitarian assistance. There is empirical evidence that most organizations have put in some of the necessary efforts by conducting programs that aid and assist women and children in IDP camps. However, these same assessments, which we have reviewed in this paper, reveal that IDPs' situation fails to meet the IDP protection standards set by the U.N. in their guideline principles on internal displacement. As a result, there is more to be done, and there are factors that are hindering proper assistance to women and children.

Interventions are urgently needed to improve the health team's capacity, combat health issues, sexual and gender-based violence, and psychological issues women and children face in conflicts. Community-based committees for the prevention of such violence will also be of immense benefit in reducing the occurrence of the various forms of related health issues. Multiple authors recommend that the government makes more concerted efforts to provide the needs of the displaced persons, especially women and children, in order for the interventions of the international humanitarian agencies, philanthropic organizations give aid to the IDPs

In order to tackle these issues, there needs to be some transformational change pushed from the Nigerian government, as the overarching authority in the region. The Nigerian government tends not to prioritize issues pertaining to women and children. Women in Nigeria have limited agency and freedom. There is a conscious sociological culture of shaming the victims of rape. It is often thought that a woman who has been raped possibly brought it upon herself through her dressing

or by patronizing night clubs (Amucheazi 2019). Law enforcement agencies also adopt this view in most cases, which means women's lives are not adequately protected against rape cases in their daily life. Let alone those who have lost everything and are seeking refuge in IDP camps. This should be the first area of concern for the Nigerian government, there should be an increased focus on women's rights and women's issues. The law should be upheld when people report rape cases, and perpetrators should be punished to the full extent of the law.

The Nigerian government also does not appear to see population displacement as a serious national issue. The former Minister of State for Budget and National Planning, Zainab Ahmed, said on Thursday that the federal government and the six North-east states spent \$6.4 billion on North-east interventions between 2016 and 2017. However, due to corruption, most of the money does not go to the right areas where they are needed but are siphoned by government officials. As a result, those who are in the camps do not have sufficient resources. Meanwhile, the government is actively setting up rehabilitation programs for the captured Boko haram members. Although this is a good directive, the lives of innocent women and children who are in the IDP camps should be prioritized.

Over two million Nigerians have been displaced, and yet there is no comprehensive data on who these people are or what their needs are. The IDP camps should be made to be a transitional domain for people (Salisu 2018). The government should work hand in hand with international or local NGOs to provide quality facilities with security services to ensure that IDPs are well cared for and protected.

A more effective way to alleviate the plight of displaced people would be to attempt to restore their autonomy to prevent continual dependency on the government or organizations. One way this can be done is a method proposed by Collier and Betts in their book *Refuge* (2017) — they

present a humanitarian approach integrated with a new economic agenda that provides people with jobs, restores freedoms, and rebuilds people's ability to help themselves and their societies. Collier and Betts (2017) boast of several success stories sprouting from this method among displaced communities. This can be achieved by providing people with direct monetary assistance. This way, people can provide for their immediate needs and invest some of the money into entrepreneurship prospects they might have to benefit themselves and their families. Nevertheless, this can only be achieved with a proper documentation system in place in order to keep records of who is displaced and in need of the funds; otherwise, the money might be swindled by officials.

Overall, the international and local communities need to petition the Nigerian government to do better by its citizens to protect them and their human rights. Not until the people are a priority to the government, the change coming from civil society will not be enough to make a difference in most people's lives.

The Nigerian government needs to be effective in handling the security crisis as defeating Boko Haram, and providing adequate security would improve the availability of resources. On a daily basis, international actors struggle with the dilemma of whether to assist IDPs who return or relocate even though they were informed that conditions are not safe or IDPs, where they are located are inaccessible.

One of the issues women and children face is financial independence. INGOs, local NGOs, and the Nigerian government need to make it a priority for them to have financial independence. Financial independence seems to be a priority in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe by the displaced women. Humanitarian actors need to focus on the long-term solutions to provide opportunities for them and children to provide for themselves without relying entirely on the government and other

humanitarian actors. The strategy would help these women build the resilience of the affected communities and populations as they eventually settle back into their communities.

Actors who are in charge with providing aid to these women need to also be held accountable for their actions. The Nigerian government, in regard to humanitarian response, would always be a complicated issue. There needs to be a change in governance, the rule of law, checks and balances the government needs to actively ensure that these displaced individuals are able to get their essential needs and eventually enforce their rehabilitation into society but, in order for these to happen the bottlenecks created by all the actor's involved needs to be checked.

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