

Challenges of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPS) and Peace Building Process (A Study of Barkin Ladi Local Government Council of Plateau State)

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ABSTRACT

The displaced persons go through these numerous challenges despite the fact that home government, international organizations and nongovernmental organizations offer one form of assistance in support of these displaced persons, but instead to end their sufferings, they continue to experience untold hardship without any lasting solution. The objective of this study is to examine some of the challenges faced by internally displaced persons in the context of peace building process. The study adopted qualitative research design which is descriptive in nature and purposively sampled 30 respondents from various groups represented in the camp. Focus group discussion method was used to collect data. Findings from the study has however prove that IDPs go through numerous challenges, from shortage of food supply, poor sanitation and health care, to lack of security, and the prevalence of rape and abuses in the camp. It therefore conclude that peace building process of reconciliation, rehabilitation and reconstruction are the most crucial component to resettlement of these vulnerable people. Government need to take proactive steps in providing the needed incentives and provide security for the IDPs. Again, good governance is a panacea to peaceful coexistence.

Keywords: challenges, internally displaced persons, peace building, process

INTRODUCTION

The world in recent times is faced with challenging situations which affect human lives and existence. Almost all continents of the world are faced with various kinds of conflict that the resultant effect is displacement of persons from their habitual homes. While several persons scattered to various places in search of refuge.

The United Nations Humanitarian Commission on Refugees (UNHCR, 2007) estimated that about 25 million people fall into these categories among the world population, Africa shares a significant figure of about 12.8million people displaced, while Nigeria has about 5 million people suffering displacement. Some of these people flee to neighbouring countries as refugees, while many are within their country in either relations homes or harboured by friends, or at government established camps as Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

In Nigeria, the Northern region especially the North-East and North-Central are the most affected in this violent conflict, and with several people displaced from their homes, and sheltered in relations homes, or in friends homes, or in internally displaced camps. Anywhere these persons find shelter, they are faced with various kinds of challenges ranging from inadequate food, shelter or healthcare facilities, with cases of malaria, traumatized situation, lack of proper security in camps, and various kinds of abuses of women and children as they are the most populated and vulnerable. For those who find shelter in homes of friends or relations' constitute burden on their host.

In view of these challenges, effort must be geared towards finding solution to the plight of people displaced by either ameliorating their plight, or by finding lasting solution to the challenges they (IDPs) are faced with. This would be achieve when all stakeholders put in efforts in addressing all forms of grievances to deescalate conflict situations, and enhance provisions of needs of people who are facing all kinds of displacement through the peace building process.

This study is focused on the challenges faced by people who are displaced from their houses to other areas in Barkin Ladi Local Government Area (B/Ladi LGA). The challenges they faced as displaced persons and efforts put in place to ameliorate and address these challenges through the peace building process.

Statement of Problem

The plight of the Internal Displaced Persons (IDPs) has become a global phenomenon. Countries around the world are faced with challenges to finding lasting solution to this problem. For example, in the area of study, residences are displaced from their home through various forms of attack, either by herdsmen or insurgency or through terrorism. In other parts of the world it could be through militancy, persecution or natural disaster, etc. In any form these ugly trends are witnessed, the fabric of peace is broken; lives are lost, while people are rendered homeless. These phenomena have caused untold hardship to people universally.

It is worthy to note that in every displacement, those who seek for refuge face all kind of challenges, from lack of food, clothing, shelter, to lack of medical care, school and other amenities. They lack jobs, and faced with other societal ills such as

rape, diseases and basic education (IDPs). Also in camps harboring the displaced persons, cases of insurgents making surprise attack are recorded.

Research Questions

This study is guided by the following questions:

1. Does conflict in Barkin Ladi leads to displacement of people in the area?
2. What are the challenges of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)?
3. How adequate has government policies been in addressing issues of IDPs through the peace building process within the conflict communities?

Objectives of Study

The general objectives of the study are to examine the challenges of internally displaced people and the need to address the plight of these vulnerable people through the peace building process.

Among the specific objectives include the following:

1. To establish a relationship between conflict and displacement of people in B/Ladi LGA.
2. To identify the challenges of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in B/Ladi LGA.
3. To determine the effectiveness of government and other stakeholders policies in addressing the challenges/plight of IDPs in B/Ladi LGA.

Literature Review and Theoretical Framework

The six regions in the country which are North – East, North – West, North – Central, South – East, South – West, and South – South has faced a fare share of violent conflict situations. But the first three regions are most hit, with gory pictures of destructive of lives and properties, with numerous displacement of person within all these regions. Government effort including other stakeholders has not been adequate to cater for these displaced persons. While their number (displaced persons) continue to escalate. In Nigeria alone, the official figure of displaced persons is more than three million persons nationwide. These figures are for only those that have registered officially as displaced persons.

Challenges of Internally Displaced Persons

The challenges of the IDPs cannot be overemphasized. Apart from leaving their home professions, friends and relations, they faced untold hardship as displaced persons. Moreover, there are those who do not have access to government facilities under the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), instead, are haboured by relations and friends.

Survey carried out to ascertain the living condition(s) of the IDPs pointed the gory situation(s) of these victims. With even support from government and other stakeholders, there is inadequate supply of food, shelter and healthcare, not to talk of other amenities which they require. Women and children are the most vulnerable, they faced series of abuses, sometimes they suffer attack and, or relocation from one IDPs camp to another. Some of these children came to these camps without their parents. "Most of them came especially the children had eye diseases, malaria, fatigue, hungry and traumatized". Women came to the camps with either pregnancies or are been raped; there is acute job opportunity and inadequate school to cater for the population.

The Role of the International Organization (IO)

Human Right are said to be "inalienable rights" to which all human beings are equally entitled to irrespective of creed, nationality, race, political opinion, colour, social affinity or sex. These rights are rights to personal liberty, right to dignity of human person, right to freedom of conscience and religion, right to education etc. (Howard, 1986). In addition the International Community is confronted with the monumental task of ensuring protection for person forcibly uprooted from their homes by violent conflicts, gross violations of human rights and other traumatic events, but who remain within the border of their own countries. Nearly always they suffer from severe deprivation, hardship and discrimination. It is to meet this challenge that the United Nations developed what is known as the "Guiding Principles on Internally Displacement". These Guiding Principles addresses the specific needs of IDPs worldwide. They identify rights and guarantees relevant to the protection of persons from forced displacement and to their protection and assistance during displacement as well as during return or resettlement and reintegration. Taking these into consideration, the pertinent question is whether all these rights, and the Guiding Principles of international instruments actually been effective in protecting these vulnerable peoples?

To a large extent, Hugh (2000) believe the "challenges faced by these IDPs are made, if at all on an ad hoc and arbitrary basics". Moreover, the methodologies used, and consequently, the conclusions reached differ among actors, often dramatically. This is why there is increase in the global rate of IDPs. For examples the IDPs database reports that before the 19th Century, the world recorded less than 18 million displaced persons, but at the beginning of 2007, there are an estimated 24.5 million IDPs globally.

All efforts by actors to ameliorate the plight of the displaced persons, are faced with numerous challenges, hence, the need to proffering lasting solution to this issue, which is the fulcrum to this research work.

Various stakeholders have tried to define who an IDP is, but the most recognized definition comes from the United Nations (UN) Guiding Principles, which defined IDPs as:

Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border.

These Guiding Principles (GP) are Thirty (30) in number, and divided in to five (5) sub-sections, which are voluminous to be listed in this research work, therefore, it will be summarized. It is also important to note that these GPs recognizes the instrument of internationally Laws, the International Humanitarian Laws (IHL), and also the Human Rights as protected under the United Nations, and adopted by the African Union (AU). The sub-sections of the GPs are as follows:

Section One (I) is concern with the **General Principles** which states that:

IDPs shall enjoy, in full equality, the same rights and freedoms under international and domestic laws as do other persons in their country. They shall not be discriminated against in their enjoyment of any rights and freedoms on grounds that they are internally displaced.⁵ These Principles are (applied) without prejudice to individual criminal responsibility under international law.... Or applied without discrimination of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion or belief, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, legal or social status, age, disability, property, birth, or on any other similar criteria, etc.

Section Two (II) deals with **Principles Relating to Protection from Displacement**, which states that:

All authorities and international actors shall respect and ensure respect for their obligations under international law, including Human Right and Humanitarian Law, in all circumstances, so as to prevent and avoid conditions that might lead to displacement of persons... Every human being shall have the right to be protected against being arbitrarily displaced from his or her home or place of habitual residence...displacement shall last no longer than required by the circumstance. While states are under a particular obligation to protect against the displacement of indigenous people(s), minorities, peasants,

pastoralists, and other groups with a special dependency on and attachment to their lands.

Section Three (III) relates to **Principle relating To Protection during Displacement**, which states that:

Every human being has the inherent right to life which shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his or her life. Internally Displaced Person (IDPs) shall be protected in particular against Genocide, Murder, Summary or Arbitrary Executions, and enforced Disappearances, threatening or resulting in Death. IDPs shall be protected in particular against: Rape, Mutilation, Torture, Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and other Outrages upon personal dignity....

Section Four (IV) is about **Principles relating to Humanitarian Assistance**, which states that:

All humanitarian assistance shall be carried out in accordance with the Principles of Humanity and impartiality and without discrimination. International Humanitarian Organizations and other appropriate actors have the rights to offer their services in support of the internally displaced. Such as offer shall not be regarded as an unfriendly act or interference in a state internal affairs and shall be considered in good faith.... All authorities of concerned shall grant and facilitate the free passage of humanitarian assistance and grant persons engaged in the provision of such assistance rapid and unimpeded access to the internally displaced.

Section Five (V) relates to **Principles relating to Return, Resettlement and Reintegration**, which stated that:

Competent authorities have the Primary duty and responsibility to establish conditions, as well as provide the means, which allow internally displaced persons to return voluntarily, in safety and with dignity, to their homes or places of habitual residence, or to resettle voluntarily in another part of the country, such authorities shall endeavour to facilitate the reintegration of returned or resettled IDPs. ...all authorities concerned shall grant and facilitate for international humanitarian organizations and other appropriate actors, in the exercise of their respective mandates rapid and access to internally displaced persons to assist in their return or resettlement and reintegration.

Supporting these Guiding Principles is the Human Rights Law. The Human Rights are said to be an "inalienable rights to which all human being are equally entitled,

irrespective of creed, nationality, race, political opinions, colour, social affinity or sex...." These rights are in the following:

....Right to life; Right to personal liberty; Right to dignity of Human person; Right to freedom of conscience and religion; right to education; Right to work; Right to freedom of expression and Publication; Right to freedom and family life; Right to property; Right to fair hearing; right to social life and social amenities; Right to vote and be voted for at elections; Right to serve in any public office; Right to criticize the government;...Rights to just and favourable condition of service, namely: fair or minimum living conditions, equal pay for equal work; Right to social security; right to an adequate living standard,....Right that guarantee individuals participation in politics. Such rights include freedom of movement, expression and assembly....rights to peaceful co-existence....

Furthermore, the scope and purpose of these Guiding Principle (is made to) address the "specific needs of internally displaced persons worldwide. They identify rights and guarantees relevant to the protection of persons from forced displacement as well as during return or resettlement and reintegration". The pertinent question is whether all these international instrument do protect IDPs? An Advisory Service on International Humanitarian Law Posit that:

There is no universal instrument specifically addressing the plight of IDPs but in 1998 the United Nations (UN) General Assembly and the UN commission of Human Rights took note of the Guiding Principles in on Internally Displacement. While these Guiding Principles do not constitute a binding instrument, they have received large support from the international community. More recently, in 2009, the African Union adopted the Kampala Convention on IDPs. This regional instrument is an important step forward in the protection of and assistance to IDPs in one of the continent most affect by displacement.

Again, a germane question to ask is when does internally displacement end, in other words, when in any particular situation, should internally displaced persons (IDPs) no longer be regarded as such?

Resettlement and reintegration of IDPs must be process through the peace building process. Peace building "consists of a wide range of activities associated with capacity building, reconciliation, and societal transformation. Peace building is a long process, which occurs after violent conflict has subsided or ended. It is that peace process that follows exhaustion peacemaking and peace keeping" (Reychler, 2001).

Moreover, there are the effort efforts of some “international agencies and organizations such as International Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs), as well as Community Based Organizations (CBOs), and religious Bodies that partake in the peace building activities” (DFID 1998).

Peace building functions by using three (3) dimensions in the following: the Structural; the Relational; and the Personal Dimensions.

In applying the structural dimension to peace building is to focus on the social conditions which promote violent conflict. It is “widely acknowledged that sustainable peace is a product of social, economics, and political opportunities on equal terms, which take care of the entire people or parties. However, there can never be sustainable or positive peace, if the root causes of conflict are not attended to by the parties or the third party mediator(s)”.

The Relational dimension is “aimed at limiting the effects of war-related hostility through the repair and transformation of damage relationships. Therefore, it focuses mainly on reconciliation, forgiveness, trust-building, and future imaging. While it strives to play down poorly functioning communication and optimally increase mutual understanding between parties”.

Looking at the personal dimension to peace-building we focused on the desired changes that occur at the individual level. If individual do not enjoy any healing process, it may result in a greater political and economic consequences”. Furthermore, peace building will not be attained without social integration of people. Social integration is “achieved when certain, variables such as **globalization** and **security, marginalization** and **identity**; and **democracy, representation** and **accountability** are taken into account”. These are cardinal and can be seen as “a dynamic and principles process where all members participated in dialogue to achieve and maintain peaceful social relations”. It is also important to understand that social integration does not mean coerced assimilation or forced integration as this is not the case in Barkin Ladi Local Government Council and its environ.

Empirical Works by Different Authors

To assert that the plight of IDPs has become a burning issue in global circle is trite. In one of its publications, the United Nations Humanitarian Commission on Refugees (UNHCR, 2007) stated that:

At the beginning of 2007, there were estimated 24.5 million such people, hounded out of their homes by war or persecution (or attack), in at least 52 countries. As outcasts in their own lands, they often have very limited legal or physical protection and face an uncertain future.

However, this situation has brought an untold hardship to people displaced, who have remain within the confined of their country as IDPs than those who fled across

the International recognized border to other countries as refugees, while both are treated differently:

....refugees normally receive food and shelter as well as safe place to stay in their host country, with a well-defined body of international laws and conventions to protect them from abuse...while IDPs often face a more difficult situation. They may be trapped in an ongoing internal conflict. Their government, which may view them as "enemies of the states", retains ultimate control of their fate. There are no specific international legal instruments covering the internally displaced, and general agreements such as the Geneva Conventions are often difficult to apply. Donors are sometimes reluctant to intervene in internal conflicts or to offer sustained assistance.

Survey study carried out in 2007, described those mostly affected by displacement as follows:

Internally displaced persons....are civilians – mostly women and children – who have been forced to abandon their homes because of conflict or persecution. Millions more IDPs are placed in a separate category – these are the victims of natural disaster such as earthquakes and floods, or people that have been impelled to leave their homes because of development projects.

However, the problem(s) of IDPs has recently become more widely debated. Hence, UNHCR has stepped in to look into their plight with the aim of providing assistance to ameliorate their suffering, as thus posted:

In the past, people displaced inside their own countries received limited assistance or sometimes none at all...a debate in the late 1990s and in 2005 – acknowledging a widespread failure to adequately help internally displaced civilians – they adopted what is intended to be a more coordinated, expansive and 'predictable' method of tackling the problem: The so-called 'cluster approach'....the agency's mandate specifically covers refugees, but in the last 30 years it has assisted in more than 30 IDPs operations around the world....by the beginning of 2007, UNHCR was assisting and protecting between 1.1 million and 1.6 million IDPs respectively... The overall number of internally displaced person has remained relatively stable at around 25 million since the beginning of the new millennium...half of them in Africa. UNHCR currently helps care for 12.8 million people from this group.

Moreover, in their efforts to protect and safeguard these vulnerable people, the United Nations General Assembly through its Commission on Human Rights and adopted the African Union in Kampala Convention in 2009, lends credence to the

International Humanitarian Laws (IHL, 1998), and the Guiding Principles for the protection of vulnerable people who are displaced:

Because of their situation of being displaced, IDPs suffer from particular vulnerabilities. IDPs must be treated humanely and shall not be discriminated against on the grounds of their displacement or for any other reason. It is important that nothing in the existing law singles out IDPs for less favourable treatment than the general population. Protected persons shall be treated with the same consideration without any adverse distinction.

However, both the IHL and the Guiding Principles has not been adequate in the protection of IDPs as stated by an Advisory Service on IHL, hence:

There is no universal instrument specifically addressing the plight of IDPs but in 1998 the UN General Assembly and the UN Commission on Human Rights took note of the Guiding Principles on internal displacement. While these Guiding principles do not constitute a binding instrument, they have received large support from the International Community...

Lending credence to this assertion is the fact that figures of IDPs continued to escalate instead of reducing. Albert (2001) asserts that:

Currently, decisions on when internal displacement ends are made, if at all, on an ad hoc and arbitrary basis. Moreover, the methodologies used and, consequently, the conclusions reach differ among actors, often dramatically.

While it is important for these IDPs to be sure when they will leave those camps to either return home or find a more conducive places to live. This will also set for a specific agenda for the stakeholders to focus their attention and resources in a specific direction, hence:

Knowing when internal displacement ends is also important to determining when national as well as international responsibility, attention and resources should shift from a specific focus on the needs and vulnerabilities of IDPs to a holistic, community-wide approach of rehabilitation and development for societies as a whole. However, every displaced person yens to go back to his/her respective home, or any other places that life is more conducive and tolerable than IDPs camp which offers little or no opportunity to be productive and expand. Therefore, there is the need for all stakeholders involved in the peace building process to facilitate processes through which peace is restored to conflict areas. Thus, Boutros Boutros – Ghali (1994), state that:

Peace building involves addressing not only the triggers, which are the immediate variables that mechanize the outbreak of any armed

conflict.... These triggers or proximate causes of conflict are only those factors that could be said to be responsible for the outburst of a given conflict, which are instrumental, but not sufficient to accentuate violent situation. By and large, peace building does not only take care of the triggers, but also address the root causes of the conflict in order to generate a true and sustainable reconciliation and peaceful coexistence.

Theoretical Framework

Issues that affect society are both sociological and psychological since it is concerned with human behaviour and mental capacity of human beings, which is also an aspect of social sciences that empirically study social phenomena.

The situation that resulted to cause people to flee from their homes in search of shelter elsewhere is a criminal type", is according to Cesare Lombroso (1836-1919), whilst the violent crime against others (persons) is only one of the maladies afflicting modern society. But crime against humanity is as old as man itself.

Naturally, people who committed crime are supposed to be tried and sentence, but in the case of this violent crime, the perpetrators are faceless only the victims that are seen.

Wright and Randall (1970) postulated that "an increase in crime may be the result of a decline in moral standards in a society, but a crime has a connotation. Current moral standards may be in opposition to the law", for example you hear of attacks and reprisals. But for every conflict, there must be a causal explanation. Either, a serious disagreement or incompatibility, or struggle for scarce resources, or a misinformation etc. David Hume (1711-1776) asserts that "the concept of cause is controversial". While some scholars believed that "causality exist in the world in what they called existing reality and researches have only found evidence for it. Others say that causality is only an idea that exists in human mind, it is a mental construct; it is not real. Often people imagine many things. But whatever position we hold of causality, researchers will still have to look for causal relationship". We need to know conflict and the effects of conflict.

In particular, people displaced in Nigeria are mostly as a result of destructive, conflict while government makes effort to build camps to take care of these people, other displaced persons find refuge in relations or friend's homes, which government does not take responsibilities, while such person's plights are better imagine than stated.

Moreover, the IDPs that takes refuge at government recognized camps who are mostly women and children face various challenges, ranging from improper feeding that lead to malnutrition and death, cases of abuses and rape, over-crowded populations in camps, lack of adequate medical care etc. above all these mirage of

challenges, is the uncertainty of when these IDPs will return to their various homes, or any other places that is more conducive and safe, as stipulated in the Guiding Principles that "return or resettlement to occur voluntarily and in 'safety and dignity'".

In order for the IDPs to either return to their house, or resettled in other places of their choice, and or integrate with the rest of society, efforts must be employed through the peace building process in reconstruction, reconciliation, rehabilitation, demilitarization etc.

METHODOLOGY

This study will employ the qualitative survey research design approach to analyze causal explanation. The study is social phenomena in nature which can be successfully analyzed using social approach. The population under study is about Twenty Five thousand (25,000) displaced persons in the camp. This study will adopt the purposive sampling technique method where 30 (10 each from men, women and children) from the IDPs in camp were selected.

The research primary source of data is through Focus Group Discussion (FGD) conducted among three major groups in the camp (Men, Women and Children). This will enable the researcher have first-hand knowledge on challenges faced by IDPs from the victims. Moreso, this method is chosen because of its effectiveness, and also to reduce cost. The analysis of data will be qualitative and content analysis is employed.

DATA ANALYSIS

Focus Group Discussions

Focus Group Discussion with the Men

Question 1: Are you with your family in the camp or they are elsewhere?

The first man said "I don't even know their where about. I am alone here?"

While the second opened up that "I am here with part of my family, while the rest I do not know where they are right now".

The third added that "most of us are in the camp with our complete families. Just few were unable to escape with all their families' members.

Question 2: How are you able to cope being away from your profession for this period of time?

First respondent said:

...we exist here by the mercy of God, we redundant, idle and useless. Doing nothing to help ourselves...

Others said:

...our staying here could lead to hypertension because doing nothing throughout the day may cause over thinking and possibly death...

Another one also added

...God will certainly see us through. Difficult times doesn't last tough men do...

Question 3: Do you solely rely on government assistance or you have other sources to augment what you are provided with by government and other charitable organizations?

The respondent was of the view that:

...we count on government most but other sources like the NGOs are not left out in term of assistance....

Another source mentioned:

...the government is doing their best but in most times we rely on individuals and donors too...

Additionally a respondent was of the view that:

...A part from government, NGOs and Donor, we rely also in sources like the Community Based Support (CBS). They both help and assist us in one way or the other in supplying food stuff, clothes, financial assistance, provision of health care programme and many other relief materials etc...

Question 4: Do you undergo stress due to these numerous challenges you go through daily?

The first participants said:

...we is passing through hell. Our situation is terrible. No adequate feeding, no freedom our right has been denied and curtailed, we are plagued by contagious disease, no good water, and we stocked and congested in an unventilated structure. Infact we are incapacitated...

Another respondent added:

...we is living in hell-holes old structures without maintained. Broken floors with prisoner's insects, scorpion and reptiles, what hope do we have. The stress is more than much...

Question 5: Have ever thought of relocating from this camp, either to another or for greener pasture?

The respondents have different opinion on this issue: to some; We have seriously considered moving from this camp, but the question is where do we go to? Our village is still not safe from attack.

To some:

All we can say is that we give God the Glory for all that we are go through. We are living, we still have hope, may be one day things will change for good.

Focus Group Discussion with the Women

Question 1: For how long have you been in this camp and how would you compare this environment to the community back home?

The participants said:

...how can this place where no windows or doors, no bed be compared with my home?...

Others said that "we feel as if we are living in prison, no freedom". While some opine that "we are too much for this place, plenty of us the sleep for one room including women, children and men".

Question 2: Living far from relations and friends is always difficult, so how do you cope with this situation?

...It is not easy and very painful, because my uncle who has been taking us to school and buying us clothes and food we need is no longer with us...

Another added that:

...we are trying our best to accept what happen and change our mindset in order to survive here.....

Question 3: Do you get enough food stuffs to feed your family?

First respondent said:

....capital no! you can even see it in my body. Even see how my children look very lean. Infact, the other one is even sick...

The second add that "the food is not even well prepared. No ingredients and always half cooked".

Question 4: How do you take care of health related issues here in camp?

...we report to the authority and they provide drugs and some time send medical personnel's... sometime NGOs or individual use to supply drugs

and carry medical checkup... - the first and second respondents argued.

Question 5: Are there cases of rape and abuses of women or adolescent in the camp?
If yes, how is it handled?

All the women agreed and said:

...sure there are many cases of rape and abuses of women and adolescents here. Most of the women suffer in the hand of authority that controls the camp. They force us every day and yet nothing is done about it...

One added:

...Even me. Last week a man came and asked me to follow him to where the food is stored so that he can send me to others. Reaching there he pushed me down and struggled with me. Thank God I overpowered him...

Question 6: Apart from assistance rendered by government, do you get any assistance from outside?

Respondents said:

...Yes, the previous week, a group of persons brought some clothes and food stuff. We also received medical checkup and treatment from another organization called Community Based Organization CBO.

one added that:

...Governments are doing their best because they provide virtually all our needs, but the NGOs also help us in terms of supplying relief materials.

Another one also said "the role of Donor" is commendable as it is of great assistance.

Focus Group Discussion with the Children

Question 1: Do you get to eat regularly as you used to eat at home

The first respondent said "some give us ones only and it use to be small". Another one added that "it doesn't satisfy us". They always provide us with type of food we don't like", the third replied.

Question 2: Do you have cloth as you usually do while at home?

The first respondent postulated that... when my parents asked us to run, we could not pick most of our good clothes, reaching here we have only what is our bodies. Some people bought some clothes to us but yet they don't size us perfectly... Another added that...the clothes are muslin's type and we are not used to wearing such... while the third one said the clothes "are oversized".

Question 3: How do you find this environment compared o where you used to be?

"...very unfriendly" the first responded the second added that "...mosquitoes use to disturb us". "Sometimes we use to feel as if something will catch us", another added. And the last one said "they hardly sleep at night.

Question 4: Are you able to go to school or you just sit at home all day?

A child pointed.....sir; you can see the building in red zinc and blue paint. It is all class rooms. Teachers use to come from outside to give us lessons on daily bases....

Another one said....The classes has fans, they are new as compared to the one in my home which are lipped by cracked walls, broken floors and sagging roofs...

Question 5: Do you play as often as you used to at home?

Some of the children agree that they play as often as they wish, while some disagree that the environment is not much conducive to the one at home for them to feel comfortable to play.

According to one of the boys:

"If I go outside to play, my mother will beat me. She no want me play outside".

CONCLUSION

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) go through severe stress due to their plight, which implies that if measure is not taken to address the situation it could lead to serious social and health problems. The peace building process of Reconciliation, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction are the most crucial component to resettlement of these vulnerable people. Therefore, consultation by government is necessary and should be widely sought so that experts can render advice on grey areas in order to come up with a more workable solution to this issue of displacement.

Findings from the study has however prove that IDPs go through numerous challenges, from shortage of food supply, poor sanitation and health care, to lack of security, and the prevalence of rape and abuses in the camp.

This study has been able to establish the fact that the prevailing challenges is as a result of stakeholder's lack of commitment in providing the needed incentives and security through the peace building process. Hence, these challenges causes

untold psychological trauma, and also hinder both human and economic development of these displaced persons.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings and conclusion of this study, the following recommendations are made:

- i. Government need to take proactive steps in providing the needed incentives and provide security for the IDPs. Again, good governance is a panacea to peaceful coexistence.
- ii. Awareness campaign is necessary, since most of this violence occurs as a result of poor information management. Therefore, the Non-Governmental Organizations and media has a task to enlighten people properly.
- iii. The United Nations Humanitarian Commission on Refugees (UNHCR) need to stipulate a time frame on when the status of displacement will end for people to return back to their respective homes or communities.
- iv. All cases of rape and abuses in the camps must be properly handled to serve as deterrence against future recurrence.

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