

**ASSESSMENT OF THE CHALLENGES FACING INTERNALLY
DISPLACED WOMEN IN OVIA NORTH EAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AREA OF EDO STATE**

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BENIN CITY**

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**A PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADULT AND
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CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this project was carried out by Evelyn Ighomo OSARENREN in the Department of Adult and Non formal Education, Faculty of Education in partial fulfilment for the award of B.Ed Degree in Adult Education, University of Benin, Benin City.

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DEDICATION

This project work is dedicated to God Almighty for his abundant mercies.

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ABSTRACT

The study was undertaken to assess the challenges facing internally displaced women in Ovia North East Local Government Area of Edo State. Four research questions were raised to guide the study.

The descriptive survey design was adopted for the study. The population and sample size of the study was made up of 112 internally displaced women camped in Uhogua Centre for Missions IDP camp in Ovia North East Local Government Area, Edo State. The instrument for the study was a questionnaire. Simple percentage method of data analysis used in analyzing the data gotten from the respondents.

The findings in the study revealed that Internally displaced women face challenges such as quality of labour force is reduced, internally displacement has multiple effects on the health of the population such as outbreak of communicable diseases, strategies such as raising national awareness, creating a legal framework for upholding the rights of internally displacement, preventing all causes of displacement, ensuring active participation of internally displaced and implementing and reviewing national policy on internal displacement, Agencies like NEMA, International organizations, communities and government have all been effective on the strategies in addressing internal displacement in the society, agencies in charge of internal displacement are faced with corruption, lack of appropriate legal and policy framework on addressing the affairs of internally displaced women. Based on the findings, the study recommended that Government should find lasting solutions to the challenges of displacement by promoting inclusive and accountable institutions that would effectively care for displaced persons, policy documents should make provisions for the incorporation of displaced women and persons in various camp settings other than formal ones in government management plans, and the resettlement of women in IDPs should be taking as a high priority and rebuilding process should hasten in areas that are considered now safe for the return of IDPs.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background to the Study

Internal displacement is a definitive illustration of global crisis with negative experiences and devastating effects on its victims (Fayemi, Muchenhje, Yetim & Ahhmed, 2016). These effects include human rights violations, loss of livelihood, loss of shelter, family disintegration, loss of property, social disintegration, loss of status, exposure to forced labour and conscription into militia groups (Oyefara & Alabi, 2016).

Internal displacement is one of the greatest tragedies of our time and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are among the most vulnerable of the human family” (United Nations [UN] Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs [OCHA], 2017, p. 1). This is because the intensity of internal displacement, arising from different factors, which include violent conflicts, man-made and natural disasters, has become a global problem. In fact, in the past few years, reports of internal displacement have increased around the world, bringing about a change from large-scale refugee flows to amplified internal displacement. The internal displacement of civilians and their need for human rights protections remain one of the vital human rights concerns of the post–Cold War era (Kalin, 2010).

In Nigeria, internal displacement is a common consequence of inter-communal and political violence, flooding, and forced evictions (IDMC, 2018). This implies that the internal displacement of persons could be triggered by

natural disasters or human-induced conflict which leads to violent clashes. Irrespective of the cause of displacement, the phenomenon always leaves negative socioeconomic marks on people affected. Internal displacement arises from violent clashes, injustices, violent confrontations, perpetrated against the people by agents of communal clashes, riots, terrorism, natural disasters, religious conflicts, amongst others (Hamzat, 2016). A serious source of concern however lies with the internal displacement of persons arising from human-induced violent clashes and conflicts in recent times.

Under international law, internally displaced persons are persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obligated to flee or to have cause to leave their homes or place of habitual residence in particular, due to or in order to stave off the effect of armed conflict, violations of human rights, situations of generalized violence, natural or manmade disasters, to another place considered relatively safe either within their own national borders (Ladam, 2006).

Although, internally displaced persons are often defined as those uprooted by conflict, human rights violations and natural or human-made disasters. Robinson (2003) expanded the scope to also include those displaced by development projects. Most times, the focus of sympathetic attention and international aid centre round those displaced by disaster rather than victims of development. In 2008, Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions and the Social and Economic Right Action Centre suggested that over 2 million people were forcibly

evicted from their homes between 2000 and 2007 in cities such as Abuja, Port Harcourt and Lagos following government urban maintenance and or renewal programs (CHRESERAC, 2008).

Nigeria has about 3.3 million persons displaced by conflict – the highest number in Africa. This information is contained in a report ‘Global Overview 2014: people internally displaced by conflict and violence’ released by the Internal Displaced Monitoring Centre (IDMC) and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) (naij.com, n.d.).

According to the report, there are about 3.3 million IDPs in Nigeria and 470,500 individuals were displaced in 2013 alone (naij.com, n.d.). On a global scale, Nigeria is only ranked behind Syria with 6.5 million IDPs and Colombia with 5.7 million IDPs (naij.com, n.d.). The report explains the unprecedented rise in IDPs in Nigeria last year by the increased number of Boko Haram attacks, heavy-handed counter insurgency operations, and ongoing inter-communal violence. After Boko Haram insurgents were pushed out of major towns in the north-east following the declaration of a state of emergency in Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa states in May 2013, they focused their attacks with increased brutality on towns and villages close to Nigeria’s borders with Cameroon, Niger and Chad.

Internal displacement in Nigeria has not only produced vulnerability of the victims, but it has also led to high rate of poverty, a threat to national security, resulting into loss of property, underdevelopment, violation of human rights,

inequality, malnutrition of the displaced children and widespread of disease. Children and women have become the victim(s) of rape, child-labour, lack of good health, and lack of good education. The victims of displacement, lack adequate basic amenities especially women.

Edo State and Ovia North East local government area is not an exception in the displacement of persons especially women, most of the incidences of internal displacement occur because of violent conflicts with ethnic religious and/or political undertones (National Emergency Management Agency, 2019). Thousands are annually internally displaced as a result of natural disasters including flooding, erosion, oil spillage and development projects in Edo State (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2018). Some incidences also occur because of clashes between Fulani herdsmen and farmers and between government forces and armed groups.

Recent studies like that of Opara (2019), have also shown that people's vulnerability to internal displacement in Edo State is not only due to natural and human-made disasters, armed conflict, ethno-religious-political conflicts but also worsened by extreme poverty, lack of equal access to socio-economic resources and balanced development, high unemployment rate among able-bodied and frustrated youths as well as development and environmental-induced displacements. One of the key factors compounding the plight of the IDPs lies in the weak or non-existent process of enabling IDPs make an informed and

voluntary decision as to whether to return to their home communities, remain where they are, or settle elsewhere in the country (Akuto, 2017).

Statement of Problem

The rate of internally displaced persons in the Nigeria occasioned by the violent attacks perpetrated by the Boko Haram insurgency and other natural disasters is highly alarming. The Boko Haram insurgency and other natural and human disasters has led to the humanitarian crisis which put women into what seems to be an endless protection risks and increases the rate of Gender Based Violence (GBV) that requires, attention from government and NGOs (Alli, Ummu Atiyah, Nazariah & Oladipo, 2017). The insurgency group has been around since 2009 and actively carrying out various forms of attack such as suicide bombing, kidnapping among others, which has led to the displacement of people especially women and thereby becoming homeless and vulnerable. They are mostly exposed to different forms of vulnerability and needs (Enwereji, 2009).

As at December 2015, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre estimated that there nearly 2,152,000 IDPs in Nigeria, the IDP population is composed of 53 percent women and 47 percent men. Displaced women and girls tend to be at greater risk of deprivation, insecurity, abuse, neglect and a general deterioration of their wellbeing. Their sex and age also often impede them from making their voices heard or participating in decisions on matters that affect them. (UNHCR, 2019).

The government has made efforts to address the plights of IDPs by providing IDPs camps; the IDPs still are facing severe socio-economic, health and environmental challenges, such as joblessness, insecurity, lack of foods and good drinking water, overcrowding and poor sanitation in their camps. This situation has in some occasions forced the IDPs to even flee the camps for their safety, and thus, some of the victims end up sleeping in abandoned public buildings or in the open, an action that worsens their predicaments.

In Ovia North East Local Government Area of Edo State, the Uhugua IDP camp has also had its own share of these challenges with most of the women affected being traumatized. Hence, the need for this study.

Research Questions

The following research questions were raised to guide the study:

1. What are the challenges associated with internally displaced women in Ovia North East Local Government of Edo State?
2. What are the strategies employed in addressing the challenges faced by internally displaced women in Ovia North East Area of Edo State?
3. How effective are the strategies for addressing the challenges faced by internally displaced women in Ovia North East Area of Edo State?
4. What are the problems faced in implementing these strategies employed in tackling challenges faced by internally displaced women in Ovia North East Area of Edo State?

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to assess the challenges facing internally displaced women in Edo State. The study will seek to:

1. identify the challenges associated with internally displaced women in Ovia North East Local Government of Edo State,
2. find out the strategies employed in addressing the challenges faced by internally displaced women in Ovia North East Area of Edo State,
3. find out the level of effectiveness of the strategies employed in addressing the challenges faced by internally displaced women in Ovia North East Area of Edo State, and to
4. identify the problems faced in implementing these strategies employed in tackling challenges faced by internally displaced women in Ovia North East Area of Edo State.

Significance of the Study

The findings of this study would be of tremendous benefit to the governments and policy planners of Nigeria in the sense that they shall be resourceful in coming up with improved managerial techniques for handling the internally displaced as well as for tackling the causes and reducing the impacts of internal displacement on citizens.

They shall likewise benefit governmental and humanitarian agencies, national and international, that are concerned with the welfare of the internally

displaced. Besides, the findings of the research shall help citizens of Nigeria become well aware of their right not to be displaced. The internally displaced themselves shall gain from the findings of the research: they shall become aware of the rights and privileges accruing to people of their status.

Again, the findings of the research shall contribute to knowledge in the field of displacement, especially internal displacement which appears to have a relatively scanty volume of literature.

Scope and Delimitation of the Study

The study shall cover the assessment of the challenges facing internally displaced women in Edo State.

This study is delimited to IDP camp in International Christian Centre for Missions, Uhogua in Ovia North East Local Government Area of Edo State.

Operational Definition of Terms

Challenges: The situation of being faced with. An obstacle to overcome.

Strategies: A plan of action designed to achieve a long-term or overall aim.

Implementing: To put (a decision, plan, agreement, etc.) into effect.

Effective: The act of being successful in producing a desired or intended result.

Employed: To make use of a strategy in achieving a goal or set objective

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter reviewed literatures that are relevant to the topic under the following sub-headings:

- Theoretical Framework
- Internal Displaced Persons
- Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria
- Strategies in Addressing the Challenges faced by Internally Displaced Women
- Challenges associated with Internally Displaced Women
- Summary of Reviewed Literature

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework for this study is hinged on the theory of Forced Migration and theory of Social Inclusion. The Forced Migration theory can be traced to the establishment of the League of Nations and its High Commissioner for Refugees in 1921 as a reaction to the large scale displacement caused by the 1917 Russian Revolution and the oppression of the Jews by the Nazis in Germany and with the dissolution of the League of Nations and the Second World War, over 30 million people were displaced hence the creation of the United Relief and Reconstruction Agency (UNRRA) in 1944 (Benz & Hasenclever, 2009). Forced migration theory entails the involuntary movement of people from their places of

habitual residence as a result of events which are threatening to their lives or their safety (Benz & Hasenclever, 2009).

Prior to the Cold War, trends in the number of people seeking political asylum from their countries were alarming not until the end of the Cold War that the trend took another perspective to include numbers of people seeking refuge in their own countries as a result of being displaced by one activity of the government or the other. From the above it can be deduced that categories of person who are internally displaced include those displaced by armed conflict, natural disasters, environmental disasters as well as developmental projects. All these are the works or activities of the government. Forced migration increases fears of the inability of the government to control the state especially within the context of recent concerns about migration and security (Castles, 2003). The forced migration theory tries to explain the dramatic increase of involuntary movement of people in the post- Cold War era and describes the harsh conditions in which these persons strive for a living.

The limitation of this theory is the inability of the theory to include the responsibility of the government as being obligatory in curbing the excesses of the forced migration either internally or externally. Nevertheless, in the context of this study, the theory of forced migration explains the involuntary movement of the people internally displaced and explains the vulnerabilities of these people within their countries.

It is on this note that the second theory, the theory of Social Inclusion is adopted for the research. The Social Inclusion theory is concerned with groups of people who need assistance due to their prevailing situation. The theory is easily associated with ‘Social Exclusion’ as a theory and is traced to the French notion of *les exclus* in 1970 with the authorship of the expression credited to René Lenoir (Robo, 2014). This theory postulates that in a socially inclusive society, everyone is valued and their basic needs are supplied to them. This in turn leads to a sense of belonging amongst the people. However, there are some values that form the basis of the social inclusion theory such as: everyone needs support, can learn, can contribute, can communicate, is ready and together we are better (Robo, 2014).

Social inclusion is a result of the action taken positively to change the circumstances of these people. In a lighter form, social inclusion is the opposite effect to the social exclusion theory (Charity Commission, 2001). This theory is best understood when explaining social exclusion theory as both theories are ‘the inseparable side of the same coin’ (Robo, 2014). The Social Inclusive theory is apt for the purpose of this study as it supports the integration of the internally displaced persons into the larger society. In Nigeria, if the internally displaced persons are well integrated into the society, this alignment would allow for better management of the crisis and enhanced security of persons in the country. This in turn would enhance human security.

Internal Displaced Persons

Displaced persons under international law are persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obligated to flee or to have cause to leave their homes or place of habitual residence in particular, due to or in order to stave off the effect of armed conflict, violations of human rights, situations of generalized violence, natural or manmade disasters, to another place considered relatively safe either within their own national borders (as internally displaced persons) or travel across an internationally recognized state border (as refugees) (Ladam, 2006).

Internally Displaced persons are mostly victims of the brutality of man against man, various kind of injustices or violence confrontations, perpetrated either by their own government against them or by others, such as terrorism, communal clashes, religious conflicts, riots, natural disasters and so on. Ocha (2003) described IDPs as persons or groups of persons who because of armed conflict, systematic violations of human rights, internal strife, or natural or man-made disasters have been forced to flee their homes or places of habitual residence suddenly or unexpectedly, to another location but have not crossed an internationally recognized state border. It is expedient to clearly distinguish between refugees and IDPs. The displaced persons, who have crossed an international border and falls under one of the relevant international legal instruments, are considered as refugees. Although, internally displaced persons

are often defined as those uprooted by conflict, human rights violations and natural or human-made disasters, Robinson (2003) expanded the scope to also include those displaced by development projects. Most times, the focus of sympathetic attention and international aid centre round those displaced by disaster than for victims of development. Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions and the Social and Economic Right Action Centre in 2008 suggested that over 2 million people were forcibly evicted from their homes between 2000 and 2007 in cities such as Abuja, Port Harcourt and Lagos following government urban maintenance and or renewal programs (CHRESERAC, 2008).

In situations of armed conflict, IDPs, like any other person benefits from international humanitarian law and the legal protection of international human rights law. However, while they continue to benefit from all of the international human rights instruments and legal protection available to other persons, they are excluded from the specialised protection of international refugee law because they have not crossed an international border.

Ibáñez and Moya (2007) opined that the fact that they are displaced from their homes exposes them to a situation of vulnerability to poverty and human right abuses.

Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria

The full scope of displacement in Nigeria is unknown (Egwu, 2011) as there is limited capacity of the state to collect data and the complex nature of

displacement patterns IDMC (2013) observed that no comprehensive survey on internal displacement has been conducted and there are no mechanisms to monitor durable solutions. The available estimates only include people who have sought shelter at temporary IDP camps; whereas, most IDPs had reportedly preferred to seek shelter with relatives, rather than living in camps.

The head of National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced - Hajiya Hadiza Kangiwa estimated at the sensitization rally to commemorate 2013 World Refugees' Day that Nigeria currently has 4.4 million internally displaced people (News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), 2013). The cause of IDPs in Nigeria can be traced to many events and situations all across the nation. While some of the conflicts appear to be caused by religious or ethnic differences, gains from politics, social and economic nature are generally behind the violence in the country with increasing level of poverty, low levels of education and a host of youth population with feeling of alienation (Oduwale & Fadeyi, 2013). Nigeria has had cause to contend with the issues of internally displaced persons who were affected by disasters in different parts of the country. However, the number of the displaced induced by disasters far outweighed those from natural circumstances such as floods, landslides, ocean surges, fire, etc (Manzo, 2011).

Olagunju (2006) traced the numerous violent communal conflicts in Nigeria to mid-1960s when the Western Nigeria witnessed violent ethnic conflicts when the duo of Obafemi Awolowo and Ladoke Akintola, parted ways based on

political differences. The event gave birth to a series of crises and clashes which led to a state of emergency being declared in the Region. The Northern Nigeria started witnessing crisis when Ahmadu Bello - an undisputedly most powerful politician in Nigeria in the early fifties to mid-sixties, and leader of the ruling Northern Peoples' Congress in control of the Federal Government with headquarter in Lagos – was assassinated in the coup d'état of January 15, 1966. The failed coup d'état led by Kaduna Nzeogwu, a person of Ibo ethnic origin which is mostly located in Eastern Nigeria led to the civil war of 1967-1970, basically between the Ibo and the Hausa but with other ethnic groups in the federation fighting on the side of the Federal government, which was headed at that time by a Northerner - Yakubu Gowon. After the civil war there was relative peace in the country until the 1990s.

Since Nigeria's return to civilian rule in 1999, records has it that thousands of people have been killed in recurring inter-communal conflicts and politically motivated violence that have also led to consistently large waves of internal displacement (IDMC, 2013). According to Bamidele (2012), the widely held view by experts is that the politicization of religion and ethnicity in Nigeria has been responsible for the formation of groups such as the Oduduwa Peoples' Congress (OPC), Egbesu, the Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB), Arewa Peoples' Congress (APC), the Bakassi Boys, Igbo Youth Congress (IYC), Igbo Peoples' Congress (IPC), Niger Delta

Volunteer Force (NDVF), Niger Delta Resistant Movement (NDRM), Movement for the Survival of the Izon Nationality of the Niger Delta (MOSIEND), the Nigerian or Yobe Taliban, Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), Jama'at Ahlus al-Sunnah Liddawati Wal-Jihad or better known as *Boko Haram*. The activities of these groups as at one time or the other contributed to increasing number of internally displaced persons in Nigeria. Notable among these groups is *Boko Haram* which has its base in North-Eastern Nigeria. IDMC (2013) reported that increased violence by the radical Islamist group *Boko Haram*, inter-communal violence between Muslims and Christians and clashes between farmers and pastoralists led to burgeoning human displacement. Although, Nigerian government is yet to compile reliable figures of the displaced, not less 63,000 people were documented as newly displaced by violence. Terrorism, whether domestic or transnational has a devastating effects. For instance, Oriakhi and Osemwengie (2012) observed that attacks from Islamic sect - *Boko Haram*-menace in Nigeria has led to loss of many lives, destruction of properties worth billions of Naira, severe damaged to infrastructure, loss of investment and income to mention but a few.

Strategies in Addressing the Challenges faced by Internally Displaced Women

The initially, challenge encounter by Nigerian state in managing the plights of IDPs was the absence legal institutional frame responsible for providing

short, medium and long term measures for their plights. In the absence of a legal framework or institution, provision of assistance, protection, reintegration and resettlement for IDPs is mostly undertaken by agencies of government on an ad hoc and reactive basis.

In order to address this gap and ameliorate the plights of the IDPs, the Federal Government of Nigeria set up a committee to draft a National Policy on IDPs to assist in registration and issuance of identity cards, prevention or reduction in instances of internal displacement, and allocation of responsibilities to agencies and organs of government, non-governmental and civil society organizations (Bukar, 2011). The committee's work culminated in a National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons which was prepared and presented to government in 2011 but it is yet to be officially adopted. The draft Policy is based on the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (the 'Kampala Convention') of 2009.

The draft National Policy aims to guide the different branches of government, donors and humanitarian agencies in preventing displacement and in providing protection and assistance to those displaced. It also allocates responsibilities to the appropriate government bodies for different aspects of the short, medium and long-term response to internal displacement, with the existing National Commission for Refugees (NCFR) as the governmental focal point with

responsibility for coordinating the activities of all agencies, including international humanitarian agencies. Furthermore, it empowers the National Emergency Management Agency, the Human Rights Commission and the Institute of Peace and Conflict Resolution to partner with the NCFR to support the activities of the states and local governments in implementing the Policy within their respective spheres of activities. The Policy starts by re-affirming the fundamental rights of all citizens under the 1999 Constitution but also acknowledges the particular vulnerabilities of women and children, according them special guarantees. It then includes measures to protect against being displaced and sets out standards pertaining to the delivery of humanitarian assistance by national and international humanitarian agencies. To this end, the Policy envisages the application of various laws and institutions to the protection of IDPs under what it terms a ‘humanitarian framework of cooperation’ of all relevant ministries, states, local governments, departments and agencies as well as international organisations and charitable institutions. The Policy also identifies some circumstances under which a person ceases to be an IDP (Bukar, 2011).

It goes on to outline in general terms national and international legal principles applicable to IDPs. These principles are reflections of fundamental rights of individuals as guaranteed under the Constitution and under international instruments, including freedom from discrimination, freedom of movement, freedom of association, and the rights to dignity and family life. While the Policy

guarantees the protection of the above mentioned rights, it at the same time prohibits acts that are capable of causing internal displacement such as ethnic cleansing or large-scale development projects not justified by public interest. It outlines strategies for the prevention and management of conflicts including the involvement of communities and ethnic groups in the economic, political and social activities of the government, and promotes dialogue, consultation, inter-ethnic marriages, religious harmony through interfaith relations, education and a fair and equitable distribution of economic resources among the people and communities. Where, however, displacement becomes inevitable, and then all the rights of citizens equally accrue to IDPs.

The NCFR is enjoined to create a conducive atmosphere for the return, resettlement or reintegration of IDPs. In planning for return, resettlement or reintegration, the Commission is equally enjoined to ensure participation of the IDPs through their chosen representatives. The Constitution declares that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government; accordingly, government at all levels and its agencies are the first referral point in the implementation machinery of the Policy. However, the Federal Government has delegated most of its responsibilities to the NCFR. This now has ultimate responsibility for rehabilitation, resettlement and reintegration of all IDPs as well as for the prevention of conflicts or disasters leading to displacement along with specific other agencies which have responsibility for emergency management,

protecting human rights or designing and implementing programmes to prevent the breakdown of peace and to prevent conflict that would lead to displacement.

One of the major problems is the fact the Policy has no legal status and is therefore incapable of enforcement either by the government or the delegated actors. In addition, there is no body or organization responsible for monitoring implementation by the NCFR, which is anyway under-funded. Recognising the scale of the funding difficulties, the government has proposed the establishment of a Humanitarian Trust Fund to attract funding from individuals, corporate bodies, international agencies and others for activities in aid of IDPs.

Similar funding bodies should be established for other government agencies that complement the work of the NCFR. However, even if there were adequate funding, there is the problem of lack of accountability by those entrusted with public office and funds. Currently there are monumental challenges relating to prevention of displacement, assistance, return and relocation of IDPs. The National Policy has come at a time when the country actually requires a strong legal and institutional framework – rather than a mere policy – and effective implementing institutions.

Following a year-long survey, Nigeria's National Emergency Management Agency reported in late 2011 that there were some 370,000 IDPs in the country, including some 74,000 in camps. Previous estimates by government and other agencies only included people who had sought shelter at temporary IDP camps,

and did not reflect the many who had taken refuge with family and friends. In the absence of mechanisms to monitor IDPs' ongoing situations, it has been impossible to determine how many may have recovered and achieved a durable solution.

Other responses include: Reconstruction of Social Amenities Destroyed by Boko Haram; Establishment of IDPs Camps; Provision of Security at the IDPs Camps; Provision of Health and Sanitation facilities; and Supply of Foods, Beddings and Clothing.

Challenges associated with Internally Displaced Women

Nigeria's experience with IDPs can be traced back to the aftermath of the Biafran War (1967-1970), which resulted in the displacement of ten million people (Global IDP Project, 2002). Ever since, various internal turmoils such as interethnic, religious, and agrarian conflicts have resulted in the establishment of various IDP camps across the nation. These camps were supported by foreign agencies such as UNICEF and the International Committee of the Red Cross, and NGOs like the Catholic Relief Services and Medicines Sans Frontières, all providing aid to Nigeria's internally displaced (Global IDP Project, 2002).

Nigeria's post- Boko Haram insurgency era is not immune from the problem of internal displacement, as many displaced persons have been compelled to find homes in IDP camps across the country. The northeastern region has suffered the highest number of internally displaced since the wake of

the Boko Haram insurgency. The September 2017 United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) operational report in Nigeria documented 5.2 million people suffering from food insecurity, 3.4 million experiencing acute malnutrition, and 1.7 million displaced in only two of the states in the affected region (UNOCHA, 2017). Poverty, lack of access to jobs, denial of social supports, and negative attitudes from local neighborhood and camp officials have been the daily experience of IDPs in Nigeria (Akume, 2015).

According to the UNOCHA 2014 report (as cited by Omilusi, 2016) there has been a steady rise in IDPs from Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa states. From 2009 to 2010, the number of IDPs rose to 100,000, and from 2010 to 2011 it increased to 130,000. From 2011 to 2012, the number rose to 200,000, growing to 290,000 the following year before decreasing slightly to 250,000 between May 2013 and March 2014 it decreased slightly to 250,000. From May to June 2014, it rose again to 436,608, and from August to December, IDP numbers rose drastically to over 600,000 persons (Omilusi, 2016, p. 53). The National Population Commission declared that 80% of the 2.2 million people displaced as at 2015 were women and girls (Ogbebo, 2015).

Although, the UN, AU, and other organizations agreed to the crucial impact of rehabilitation in reintegration processes, the agreement has hardly borne fruit amongst Nigeria's women IDPs given their circumstances (Oyelude & Osuigwe, 2017). The National Commission for Refugees identified "lack of

experience in dealing with IDPs' issues, inadequate funding, and competing mandates between institutions" as constraints that have continually hindered the Nigerian government's few attempts to reintegrate and resettle these people. Assistance received by IDPs has hardly gone past the immediate response to crises and emergency (Omilusi 2016, p. 54).

Even though the Kuchingoro IDP camp is located in the country's capital, Abuja –one of the most expensive cities in Nigeria– the camp is still recorded to be infested largely with kwashiorkor (edematous malnutrition) and marasmus diseases, lack of clean water, and common amenities, even though these IDPs are located in proximity to the seat of the government. The only seeming fortune these IDPs have is the land they occupy. Diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria, measles, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), HIV, and childhood diarrhea are rampant (Oleribe & Taylor-Robinson, 2016). Female IDPs are also forced into non-brothel prostitution, which is often accompanied by inherent risk of HIV, hepatitis B, and other STDs, while others get involved in hard drugs as a source of finance (Oleribe & Taylor-Robinson, 2016). While there are common challenges faced by all IDPs, there are specific challenges peculiar to women who have in times past been used as pawns and weapons of war in Boko Haram's activities through abductions, detentions, and other tactical gender-based violations including the most notable abduction of 276 Chibok secondary-school girls on April 14, 2014 (Oriola, 2017; Osita-Njoku & Chikere, 2015). Empirical studies

with displaced persons in Nigerian IDP camps have proven that women and girls are not only vulnerable to nepotism, sexual assault, and exploitation in camps, but a handful of them have experienced such violations from men in positions of authority in the camps.

A 16-year-old girl, narrating her experience of rape by a camp official in Maiduguri, said to Human Rights Watch (2016):

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 really 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.

Another young single mother, describing nepotism as a lingering characteristic of the camp experience, said:

Life is difficult in the camp, hardly enough to eat. There is food but whoever gets it, gets it. We are not allowed to go out to find work or get extra food. Sometimes I go to the kitchen to scrape pots to get something to eat. They [officials] distribute tickets, some get tickets, and some don't get. If you don't get a ticket you get no food. The IDP elders distribute the tickets, so they distribute amongst themselves, they make sure their families get first. Usually distribution of tickets take place at odd times such as at midnight (HRW, 2016).

Meanwhile, since the wake of the upsurge that led to large-scale displacement in this region in 2009, most humanitarian actors, even the UN, did not have an operation in Nigeria until 2016 (Loewenberg, 2017). It is worthy of note that this research seeks to take a forward step to contributing to the limited study that focuses on examining both the UN interventions and reintegration process for Nigerian displaced persons in a generic form, and the need of specific gender-driven attention to displaced women and girls in these camps. Given the above review of literature on UN-IDP policies and ground works, it is evident that the organization approaches the issue with a “pick and choose” (Crisp *et al.*, 2007, p.12) method.

The issue of lack of funding has also repeatedly become a force of limitation to the UN bodies in carrying out their duties to these displaced persons (UNHCR, 2008). The prospect of a successful reintegration, being embedded in

the sustenance and longevity of implemented programmes, has suffered from lack of adequate funding, thereby inhibiting a large-scale success of reintegration (Omata & Takahashi, 2016). The behavioral patterns of displaced persons in post conflict eras are often influenced largely by their experiences during the conflict, which also inform what expectations they should have of the future (Jacob, Abia-Bassey, Nkanga & Aliyu, 2016); therefore, it is important to note that the inability to cater for such people appropriately poses a threat to the peacekeeping of the affected nation, neighboring countries, and ultimately the international community (Akume, 2015; Wille, 2006).

Summary of Reviewed Literature

This chapter underscored the meaning of internally displaced persons and most importantly the challenges faced by internally displaced women in Nigeria as a whole. The study adopted the notion of forced theory of migration and social inclusion theories which entails the involuntary movement of people from their places habitual residence while the social inclusion theory is a result of the action taken positively to change the circumstances of the displaced persons.

The study also reviewed the meaning of internally displaced persons in Nigeria, challenges associated with internally displaced women and the strategies in addressing the challenges faced by internally displaced women.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

This chapter deals with the methodology and is organized under the following sub headings:

- Design of the Study
- Population of the Study
- Sample and Sampling Technique
- Research Instrument
- Validity of the Instrument
- Reliability of the Instrument
- Method of Data Collection
- Method of Data Analysis

Design of the Study

The descriptive survey was employed in this study. According to Omorogiwa (2006), a descriptive survey research design is aimed at collecting data on, and describing in a systematic manner, the characteristic features and fact about a population of study.

Population of the Study

The population of this study is the one hundred and fifty five (155) internally displaced women camped in Uhogua Centre for Missions, Uhogua in Ovia North Local Government Area of Edo State (Uhogua Centre for Missions, 2021).

Sample and Sampling Technique

The sample frame consists of one hundred and twelve (112) internally displaced women in Uhogua Centre for Missions IDP camp in Ovia North East Local Government Area of Edo State. A simple random technique was employed in selecting the 112 respondents (women) from the sampled internal displaced camps in the study area using the Yamane (1967) formula.

Calculation of Sample Size using Yamane (1967) formula

$$N = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

n = Sample size

N = Population size = 155

e = 0.05

Therefore:

$$n = \frac{265}{1+265(0.05)^2} = 111.7 = 112$$

Research Instrument

A questionnaire was designed to elicit information from the respondents. The research instrument for collecting data was divided into two sections namely:

Section A and Section B. Section A contained information on the personal data of the respondents, such as Gender, Age, marital status, level of education while Section B contained item statements to be formulated with respect to the research questions raised.

Validity of the Instrument

In order to ensure that the questionnaire is valid, it was scrutinized by the project supervisor. The suggestions and corrections were corrected and effected in the final copy of the research instrument.

Reliability of the Instrument

To determine the reliability of the instrument, the test-retest reliability was used. This involved administering the questionnaire to about 20 respondents. Their responses were correlated and subjected to Pearson product moment correlation test to obtain the reliability coefficient of which a coefficient 0.75 was obtained using Cronbach alpha statistics.

Method of Data Collection

The researcher distributed the questionnaire personally to the respondents. The respondents were advised to answer the questions honestly after administering the questionnaires to them. The researcher equally guided the respondents with regards to filling the questionnaires. All questionnaires distributed were filled and collected back for the purpose of analysis.

Method of Data Analysis

The data collected was properly organized and tabulated. The responses were statistically analyzed by the use of simple percentage, mean and standard deviation.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION OF RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

This chapter deals with the presentation of data and discussion of results.

Table 1: Socioeconomic Characteristics of Respondents

	Variables	Frequency (N)	Percentages (%)	Mean
Age (years)	16 - 30 years	33	29.5	38.5
	31 - 45 years	51	45.5	
	46 - 60 years	11	9.8	
	> 61 years	17	15.2	
State of Origin	Edo	49	43.8	
	Kaduna	16	14.3	
	Adamawa	19	17.0	
	Katsina	12	10.7	
	Borno	4	3.6	
	Delta	3	2.6	
	Benue	9	8.0	
Marital Status	Single	15	13.4	
	Married	36	32.1	
	Divorced	7	6.3	
	Widowed/Widower	54	48.2	
Occupation	Trader	42	37.5	
	Farmer	49	43.8	
	Civil servant	08	7.1	
	Artisans	13	11.6	
Cause of displacement	Natural disaster	12	10.7	
	Inter-communal clashes	23	20.5	
	Farmers-herders conflict	33	29.5	
	Armed banditry	15	13.4	
	Boundary disputes	29	25.9	

Source: Field survey, 2021

The information in Table 1 shows the personal data of the respondents in the study area. From the data in Table 1, most (45.5%) of the respondents are within the age bracket of 31 – 45 years. The information in Table 1 also shows that most (43.8%) of the internally displaced women are from Edo State, 17% are from Adamawa State, while 14.3%, 10.7%, 8.0%, 3.6% and 2.6% were from Kaduna, Katsina, Benue, Borno and Delta States respectively. 48% of the respondents are widows, 32.1% are married, 13.4% are single, while 6.3% are divorced.

On the cause of displacement, 29.5% of the respondents are caused by farmers-herders clashes, 25.9% are caused by boundary disputes, 20.5% are caused by inter-communal clashes, 13.4% and 10.7% are caused by armed banditry and natural disasters respectively.

Research Question One: What are the challenges associated with internally displaced women in Ovia North East Local Government of Edo State?

Table 2: Challenges associated with internally displaced women

S/N	Items	SA		A		D		SD	
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1	The quality of the labour force is reduced tremendously	55	49.1	32	28.6	10	8.9	15	13.4
2	Internal displacement projects in the region is non functional	18	16.1	25	22.3	45	40.2	24	21.4
3	Internal displacement has multiple effects on the health of the population such as the outbreak of communicable diseases	63	56.3	31	27.7	12	10.7	6	5.4
4	The food industry in the region has been cut short due to internal displacement	14	12.5	21	18.8	23	20.5	54	48.2
5	Increase in the level of insecurity such as crime rates, human trafficking, child soldiers amongst the internally displaced persons on the nation	11	9.8	13	11.6	44	39.3	44	39.3

Source: Field survey, 2021

Table 2 shows information on challenges associated with internally displaced women in Ovia North East local government are of Edo State. 77.7% of the respondents agreed that the quality of the labour force is reduced tremendously, while 22.3% of the respondents disagreed. Most (61.6%) of the respondents disagreed that internal displacement projects in the region is nonfunctional. Most (84.0%) of the respondents agreed that internal displacement

has multiple effects on the health of the population such as the outbreak of communicable diseases. 68.7% of the respondents disagreed that the food industry in the region has been cut short due to internal displacement. 78.6% of the respondents also disagreed that increase in the level of insecurity such as crime rates, human trafficking, child soldiers amongst the internally displaced persons on the nation.

Research Question Two: What are the strategies employed in addressing the challenges faced by internally displaced women in Ovia North East Area of Edo State?

Table 3: Strategies employed in addressing the challenges faced by internally displaced women

S/N	Items	SA		A		D		SD	
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1	Raising national awareness of the problems of displacement	59	52.7	41	36.6	8	7.1	4	3.6
2	Creating a legal framework for upholding the rights of internally displaced women including domestication and implementation of the Kampala Convention	72	64.3	33	29.5	3	2.7	4	3.6
3	Preventing all causes of displacement in Nigeria and minimise its adverse effects	112	100	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	Ensuring the active participation of internally displaced persons especially women in decision making	65	58.0	33	29.5	9	8.0	5	4.5
5	Implementing and continuously reviewing a national policy on internal displacement	112	100	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: Field survey, 2021

The result in Table 3 shows the response on strategies employed in addressing the challenges faced by internally displaced women. The result shows that 89.3% of the respondents agreed that raising national awareness of the problems of displacement should be employed in addressing internal displacement. 93.8% of the respondents also agreed that creating a legal framework for upholding the rights of internally displaced women. The result in Table 3 further shows that all the respondents agreed that the strategy on preventing all causes of displacement in Nigeria and minimize its adverse effect should also be employed. 88.3% of the respondents agreed that strategy on ensuring the active participation of internally displaced persons especially women in decision-making should also be employed. All the respondents agreed that implementing and continuously reviewing a national policy on internal displacement.

Research Question Three: How effective are the strategies for addressing the challenges faced by internally displaced women in Ovia North East Area of Edo State?

Table 4: Effectiveness of the Strategies Employed

S/ N	Items	SA		A		D		SD	
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1	The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has been effective in addressing the IDP crisis	73	65.2	33	29.5	6	5.4	-	-
2	International organizations have been highly supportive in addressing the IDP crisis	51	45.5	55	49.1	3	2.7	3	2.7
3	The IDP camps provided by the government have contributed to reducing the crisis of internally displaced women	64	57.1	32	28.6	10	8.9	6	5.4
4	Host communities have aided the internally displaced women by accommodating and sharing resources with the IDPs	80	71.4	42	37.5	-	-	-	-
5	The government addresses the IDP crisis on emergency basis	69	61.6	32	28.6	9	8.0	2	1.8

Source: Field survey, 2021

The result in Table 4 shows the response on effectiveness of the strategies employed in addressing internally displacement in the study area. The result shows that most (94.7%) of the respondents agreed that the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has been effective in addressing the IDP crisis. 94.6% of the respondents agreed that international organizations have been highly supportive in addressing the IDP crisis. 85.7% of the respondents agreed that IDP

camps provided by the government have contributed to reducing the crisis of internally displaced women. All the respondents agreed that the host communities have aided the internally displaced women by accommodating and sharing resources with the IDPs. 90.2% of the respondents also agreed that the government addresses the IDP crisis on emergency basis.

Research Question Four: What are the problems faced in implementing these strategies employed in tackling challenges faced by internally displaced women in Ovia North East Area of Edo State?

Table 5: Problems faced in implementing these strategies employed in tackling challenges faced by internally displaced women

S/ N	Items	SA		A		D		SD	
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1	Lack of an appropriate legal and policy framework on addressing the affairs of internally displaced women	80	71.4	20	17.9	12	10.7	-	-
2	The NEMA is not well funded to address the IDP crisis therefore service delivery is not satisfactory	112	100	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Long term goals such as reintegrating these displaced women are absent hence the short term goals were adopted for the immediate basis of intervention towards the IDPs	112	100	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	Attitude of the host communities have not been pleasing nor accommodating to the internally displaced women	73	65.2	23	20.5	10	8.9	6	5.4
5	Corruption affects the proper alleviation of the crisis of internally displaced women.	112	100	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: Field survey, 2021

The result in Table 5 shows the response on the problems faced in implementing these strategies employed in tackling challenges faced by internally displaced women in the study area. From the result, 89.3% of the respondents agreed that lack of an appropriate legal and policy framework on addressing the affairs of internally displaced women is a problem facing internally displaced women. All the respondents agreed that NEMA is not well funded to address the IDP crisis and long-term goals such as reintegrating internally displaced women are absent respectively. Most (85.7%) of the respondents agreed that attitude of the host communities have not been pleasing nor accommodating to the internally displaced women. All the respondents agreed that corruption affects the proper alleviation of the crisis of internally displaced women.

Discussion of Findings

The result shows that women in internally displaced women face challenges such as quality of labour force is reduced, internally displacement has multiple effects on the health of the population such as outbreak of communicable diseases. This finding is in line with the findings Omilusi (2016) who reported a steady rise in health challenges in IDP camps in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States.

The result in this study also shows that strategies such as raising national awareness, creating a legal framework for upholding the rights of internally displacement, preventing all causes of displacement, ensuring active participation

of internally displaced and implementing and reviewing national policy on internal displacement were all agreed on. This is to enable the agencies reduce the rate at which women are being displaced in the society. This finding is in agreement with the findings of Bukar (2011) who reported that a committee should be set up to draft a National Policy on IDPs to assist in registration and issuance of identity cards, prevention or reduction in instances of internal displacement, and allocation of responsibilities to agencies and organs of government, non-governmental and civil society organizations.

The result in this study further shows that the respondents agreed that agencies like NEMA, International organizations, communities and government have all been effective on the strategies in addressing internal displacement in the society. This finding is in line with the findings of Robinson (2003) who also reported the effectiveness of policies in internal displacement.

The result in this study revealed that the agencies in charge of internal displacement are faced with corruption, lack of appropriate legal and policy framework on addressing the affairs of internally displaced women.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

This chapter presents a summary of the research findings, conclusion and recommendations of the study.

The research was a study, which assessed the challenges facing internally displaced women in Ovia North East Area of Edo State. Four (04) research questions were raised to guide the study.

The following are the research questions:

1. What are the challenges associated with internally displaced women in Ovia North East Local Government of Edo State?
2. What are the strategies employed in addressing the challenges faced by internally displaced women in Ovia North East Area of Edo State?
3. How effective are the strategies for addressing the challenges faced by internally displaced women in Ovia North East Area of Edo State?
4. What are the problems faced in implementing these strategies employed in tackling challenges faced by internally displaced women in Ovia North East Area of Edo State?

A descriptive survey research was adopted for the study. The population of study consists of one hundred and fifty five (155) internally displaced women in Uhogua Centre for Missions IDP camp in Ovia North East Local Government

Area of Edo State while the sample size was one hundred and twelve (112) internally displaced women in Uhogua Centre for Missions IDP camp. The instrument used for data collection is a questionnaire. The questionnaire was developed by the researcher after thorough review of relevant alternatives.

The validity of the instrument was done by submitting a copy of the questionnaire to the researcher's supervisor. The reliability of the research instrument was obtained using Cronbach alpha statistics which yielded a reliability value higher than 0.5. Research question one to four were answered using frequency and percentages

Findings

1. Internally displaced women face challenges such as quality of labour force is reduced, internally displacement has multiple effects on the health of the population such as outbreak of communicable diseases.
2. Strategies such as raising national awareness, creating a legal framework for upholding the rights of internally displacement, preventing all causes of displacement, ensuring active participation of internally displaced and implementing and reviewing national policy on internal displacement.
3. Agencies like NEMA, International organizations, communities and government have all been effective on the strategies in addressing internal displacement in the society.
4. Agencies in charge of internal displacement are faced with corruption,

lack of appropriate legal and policy framework on addressing the affairs of internally displaced women.

.Conclusion

Based on the findings from this study, it was concluded that women face challenges in the IDP camp and it has multiple effects on health. It was also concluded that strategies on internal displacement should be employed while agencies such as NEMA should be empowered to carry her roles which it was established to achieve.

Recommendations

Based on the conclusion of this study, the following recommendation were made:

1. Government should find lasting solutions to the challenges of displacement by promoting inclusive and accountable institutions that would effectively care for displaced persons.
2. Policy documents should make provisions for the incorporation of displaced women and persons in various camp settings other than formal ones in government management plans.
3. The resettlement of women in IDPs should be taking as a high priority and rebuilding process should hasten in areas that are considered now safe for the return of IDPs.
4. It is urged that the government existing relationship with both national and international non-government organizations (NGOs) should be

strengthened especially in the area of health and economic empowerment of women in IDPs.

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APPENDIX

DEPARTMENT OF ADULT AND NON-FORMAL EDUCATION FACULTY OF EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF BENIN BENIN CITY

QUESTIONNAIRE ON: ASSESSMENT OF THE CHALLENGES FACING INTERNALLY DISPLACED WOMEN IN OVIA NORTH EAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF EDO STATE

SECTION A: Personal Data

Please tick (√) the appropriate options and provide answers in the blank space.

1. Age: _____ years
2. State of Origin: _____
3. Marital Status: (a) Single (), (b) Married (), (c) Divorced (), (d) Widowed/Widower ()
4. Occupation: (a) Trader (), (b) Farmer (), (c) Civil servant (), (d) Artisans ()
(e) _____ Others, _____ please _____ specify
5. Cause of displacement: (a) Natural disaster () (b) Inter-communal clashes ()
(c) Farmers-herders conflict () (d) Armed banditry () (e) Boundary disputes
() (f) _____ Others, _____ please _____ specify

SECTION B: Challenges associated with internally displaced women

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD
1	The quality of the labour force is reduced tremendously				
2	Internal displacement projects in the region is non functional				
3	Internal displacement has multiple effects on the health of the population such as the outbreak of communicable diseases				
4	The food industry in the region has been cut short due to internal displacement				
5	Increase in the level of insecurity such as crime rates, human trafficking, child soldiers amongst the internally displaced persons on the nation				

SECTION C: Strategies employed in addressing the challenges faced by internally displaced women

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD
1	Raising national awareness of the problems of displacement				
2	Creating a legal framework for upholding the rights of internally displaced women including domestication and implementation of the Kampala Convention				
3	Preventing all causes of displacement in Nigeria and minimise its adverse effects				
4	Ensuring the active participation of internally displaced persons especially women in decision making				
5	Implementing and continuously reviewing a national policy on internal displacement				

SECTION D: Effectiveness of the Strategies Employed

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD
1	The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has been effective in addressing the IDP crisis				
2	International organizations have been highly supportive in addressing the IDP crisis				
3	The IDP camps provided by the government have contributed to reducing the crisis of internally displaced women				
4	Host communities have aided the internally displaced women by accommodating and sharing resources with the IDPs				
5	The government addresses the IDP crisis on emergency basis				

SECTION E: Problems faced in implementing these strategies employed in tackling challenges faced by internally displaced women

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD
1	Lack of an appropriate legal and policy framework on addressing the affairs of internally displaced women				
2	The NEMA is not well funded to address the IDP crisis therefore service delivery is not satisfactory				
3	Long term goals such as reintegrating these displaced women are absent hence the short term goals were				

	adopted for the immediate basis of intervention towards the IDPs				
4	Attitude of the host communities have not been pleasing nor accommodating to the internally displaced women				
5	Corruption affects the proper alleviation of the crisis of internally displaced women.				

Key:

- SA** - Strongly Agree
- A** - Agree
- D** - Disagree
- SD** - Strongly Disagree