

**THE REFUGEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN
NIGERIA: THE PLIGHT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS**

Dr. Theresa Nfam Odeigah
Faculty of Arts
University of Ilorin
Nigeria

Dr. Abdulsalami Muyideen Deji
Faculty of Arts, Management
& Social Sciences
Nigerian Army University, Biu
Nigeria

Dr. Mohammed Oladimeji Alabi
Faculty of Arts, University of Ilorin
Nigeria

Keywords: Refugees, Internally displaced persons, Internally displaced persons' Camps, Women, Girls.

Summary:

Women and girls suffer socio-economic, emotional and psychological deprivation as Internally Displaced Persons in various camps in Nigeria as a result of lack of basic amenities. The affected women and girls are usually physically overwhelmed by the extreme physical conditions and adversity they are suddenly exposed to in the camps. Many scholars have researched on Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees, but only few have looked critically at the plight of women and girls who are the most vulnerable. The main thrust of this paper is to critically examine the causes and the challenges that the women and girls face as Refugees in Internally Displaced Persons camps in Nigeria. The study explored the economic and cultural dynamics associated with this problem. This study adopted a historic-structural approaches, making use of both primary and secondary sources. The

primary sources included oral interviews of woman, girls and men. This was also obtained from officials of government agencies, non-governmental agencies, faith based as well as community-based organisations. The secondary sources were from journals, books and the internet. The paper concludes that women and girls suffer unimaginable deprivation, sexual exploitation, torture and several other challenges in the Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons' camps in Nigeria.

Introduction

Nigeria is currently witnessing an increase in the number of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). This is the outcome of conflicts between cattle herders and farmers, illegal migration, cattle rustling, land disputes, natural disasters, climate change and problems of religious fundamentalism. Refugees and internally displaced persons are mostly women and girls who are confronted with numerous challenges in their various camps where they are usually temporarily relocated (Alobo & Obaji, 2016). These challenges could take the form of denial of nationality as well as human rights abuses. In some of the camps these women and girls additionally experience gender based abuses such as sexual molestation and unplanned pregnancies (Hamzat, 2016). The women and girls also lack access to basic necessities of life such as nutritious food and water which are very important for the young girls and women. This is because they will need to function optimally in their reproductive responsibilities of giving birth to new off-springs (Olanrewaju, Omotoso, Alabi, 154-156, 2018).

The affected women and girls are usually physically overwhelmed by the extreme physical conditions they are suddenly exposed to in the camps (Oduwale& Fadeyi, 4-16, 2013). Despite the efforts of government in tackling the *Boko Haram* insurgency, banditry, kidnapping, natural disasters, disputes and inter-communal conflicts among other conflicts in Nigeria, the level of insecurity is still high and Nigeria has consistently ranked the lowest in the global peace index

(<https://www.nsacc.org.allposts>, 2020). In recent times, Nigeria is ranked as the country with the third highest number of internally Displaced Persons in Africa. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees which is the United Nations Agency for refugees' safety and welfare reported that 3.2 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and 80,000 refugees were domiciled in Nigeria. Most of the Refugees are from Cameroon and other neighbouring countries.

Historical overview of Internally Displaced Persons

Since the beginning of human history, the displacement of people from their homes to other land has remained a reality. It however became more rampant during the fight between the protestant Huguenots following their persecution in France after the revolution of the Edict of Nantes in 1685. This therefore gave the people the opportunity to flee from their countries to other countries. The political crisis between Europe and Latin America in the 19th century also gave room for people to seek asylum in other countries (Oduwole & Adebayo, 2013). This continued until the first and second World Wars, in which Nigeria participated. In the Second World War in 1939, the United Kingdom declared war on Nazi Germany, Nigeria then as a British colony was selected to participate in the war on the side of the Allies and at the end of the war, a significant number of Nigerians were displaced, although it was not so glaring compared to that of other European countries (Korieh, 2020).

This displacement of persons resulted in the appointment of Dr F. Nansen in 1921 as the first Commissioner for Refugees. In Nigeria Internally displaced persons became a major issue and the number increased as a result of the Nigeria/Biafra War, insurgency and conflicts among others. These wars, conflicts and their effects caused a lot of displacement of people in Nigeria⁵. Historically the introduction of the different British policies especially the introduction of the British taxation policy in 1928, brought about resistance and conflicts between the British government and the indigenous people which led to the Aba women riot in the

south Eastern part of Nigeria in 192 (Ibrahim, 2018). It was not just a riot, but a war because the British troops were well equipped with guns and the indigenous women were not well armed (Ishita, 2022). According to international laws and conventions, the internally displaced persons can be seen as people who were forced to leave their indigenous home due to violence, armed conflict, inter-tribal wars, natural and sometimes human-made disasters or any problem which can be defined as a violation of human rights. Such persons can also be called refugees if they leave their national borders. At present there is no universal or legally binding instrument that supersedes that of 1951 which rightly addressed the plight of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons and it should be noted that almost all the countries in the world have incorporated them into their laws (Jane, 2019)

Internally Displaced Persons according to the United Nations are persons or group of individuals who have been forced to flee their place of habitual residence, in respect of violence, conflict, natural or man-made disasters and even violation of human rights. Conflicts have from time to time forced a lot of women and girls to leave their ancestral homes to other parts of their country and in some cases to neighbouring countries (Roberta, 1999). This had led to several women and girls taking temporary sheltering in public places such as schools, police stations, camps, churches and uncompleted buildings with poor security and sanitary conditions. The camps where most of these Internally Displaced Persons are kept pose a lot of challenges to women and girls. These challenges include insecurity, starvation, malnutrition, unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases and lack of basic amenities among others (Akuto, 2017).

In recent times, the number of refugees entering into Nigeria has also increased especially from the Cameroon, Niger and Mali. The refugees are fleeing from the South-West and North West regions of the Cameroon because of political conflicts, to take shelter in Nigeria and this has further increased the number of refugees in the country as well as the attendant problems. It must be emphasised

that majority of these refugees are mostly women and girls. These refugees are kept in temporary camps in Cross River, Edo and Akwa Ibom states in the South -South, Benue State in the North Central, Lagos in the South West, as well as Adamawa and Taraba states in the North East geo-political zones of Nigeria (Jane).

The major causes of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria

It is pertinent to note that a combination of factors have resulted in a number of people being displaced internally in Nigeria. In 2019 the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNCHR) announced that the number of people displaced in the world has increased to 70.8 million (Abimbola & Adesote, 2012). Some of these factors are;

Uprising and political violence: In 1929, the imposition of indirect tax system by the British government resulted in the Aba Women's riot also called "Women's War" in Igbo history, which led to massive revolt against colonial policy imposed by the British. The revolt witnessed some violence leading to the displacement of several people (Anthony & Nwabughuogu, 1981). It is important to note that the riot began when Lord Lugard then Governor General of Nigeria, introduced the policy of indirect rule in the Eastern part of Nigeria with the appointment of Warrant Chiefs and the imposition of tax on market women. This policy led to the agitation from the women because they felt the policy would disrupt their businesses. The policy was criticised, grievances increased and this led to the Aba women's riot (Odeigah & Mawere, 237-239, 2018).

From 1999 till date several ethnic clashes, political and religious conflicts have occurred in Nigeria leading to displacement of women and girls. Post-election violence and mayhem in Nigeria has also resulted in the displacement of women and girls who are the most venerable in the society. For instance, in the oil producing Niger Delta Region of Nigeria some women find it difficult to go to the farms because of fear of being attacked and even killed by political thugs (Agency Report, 2019). During the 2019 general elections in Kogi State a prominent People's

Democratic Party (PDP) women leader Salome Abuh who hailed from Ochadamu ward in Offu Local Government Area and was representing the women in the main opposition party was attacked in the home, locked up and the house was set ablaze. Her remains were not recognizable at the end of the day. Violent incidents such as these are partly responsible for the low participation of women in politics in Nigeria. In recent years, the menace of the herdsmen has also led to low productivity of agricultural produce and the farmers living in perpetual fear (Olufemi, 2019). In 2017 ten were killed and over three thousand five hundred women left their homes in *Obio-Usiere* in *Eniona Abatin Odukapni*, in Cross River State and over 65% of those who left their homes were women and girls. Some women over the years had been attacked in the most remote communities of Borno State. The notorious bandits, who lived in remote places such as *Sambisa* forest located in Borno State of Nigeria had eventually become synonymous with terrorism. Most times the bandits come from their hideouts invade communities at night setting ablaze houses and neighbourhood rendering women homeless and displaced (Abimbola & Adesote, 2012). These attacks could be frequent giving the impression that the bandits have over-powered the security agencies. In the first quarter of 2020, bandits killed and abducted several women and girls in *Muya* Local Government area of Niger State and it took the Nigerian Army more than three weeks to rescue some of girls (Nasir, 2022).

Communal conflicts: One of the most remote causes of displacement of women and girls is the ethnic clashes within and between the communities. Nigeria has over 250 ethnic groups and most of these ethnic groups often experience conflicts with other neighbouring communities. One of the major problems fuelling these communal conflicts is the disagreements over boundaries and farm lands (Agnes, 2021). In the 1980s, the *Ntamante* people located in *Boki* Local Government of Cross River State had a serious communal crisis with their *Ekajuk* neighbours in *Ogoja* Local Government of Cross River State. This conflict led deaths, destruction of

property and livestock as well as displacement of people (Etu, 2022). In Nigeria Middle Belt Region the *Jukun* of Taraba State and the Tiv of Benue State have been engaged in a long-drawn and recurring conflict over land ownership. This conflict over the years have caused displacement of people from their homes (Tseer, 2020). The problem in the area has affected the social and economic lives of the people. These communities find it difficult to live in peace because of fear and mutual suspicion. Examples of other communal clashes abound such as the persistent conflicts between *Erin-Ile* and *Offa* in Kwara State, leading to the loss of houses, businesses, farmlands and produce as well as massive displacement of people (Tribune Online 2021).

The people of Cross River State in the *Bakassi* peninsula on the Gulf of Guinea have also suffered several setbacks because of recurring border conflicts with their Cameroonian neighbours. The *Bakassi* area has remained impoverished due to intermittent conflicts. It is of historical importance to note that in the 1884 scramble for Africa by the colonialists, the British government exercised control over all the areas including the *Bakassi* peninsula partly lying on territories now belonging to Cameroon and Nigeria. The oil reserves in the area have made it prominent and have generated the interest of foreign countries and Multinational Oil Companies. The *Bakassi* peninsula is described as an oil rich area with several other mineral deposits (Bayo, 2012). *Bakassi* is a peninsula in the Gulf of Guinea and is close to Calabar within Cross River State of Nigeria. The *Bakassi* border conflict has also increased insurgency in the area leaving the women helpless and this came to a climax in the year 1994 when Cameroon took Nigeria to the International Court of Justice. About eight years later the ruling of the International Court of Justice was in favour of Cameroon. This resulted to more conflicts during which people were killed including women and girls (Nneamaka & Akwen, 242-253, 2019).

The peninsula sometimes has aroused conflicting interests from several foreign oil companies because of the high quality of crude oil in the area. Some oil companies such as the China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation discovered oil in commercial quantities in the *Bakassi* area (Eweka & Olusegun, 198-204, 2016). Because of the enormous oil and gas reserves in the peninsula, tension and conflicts have continued to rise among various companies and between Nigeria and Cameroon until the case was taken to the International Court of Justice at Hague and the Verdict was given in favour of the Republic of Cameroon. Since the verdict by the International Court of Justice on the 12th of November, 2007, there has been displacement of people, especially women and girls due to recurrent conflicts. When the predominantly riverine people go for fishing, the Cameroon gendarmes would seize their boats and fishing materials and this has continued till date, causing conflicts and resulting in displacement of people. Women and girls have specifically suffered from increasing poverty in *Bakassi* as a result of the conflicts, because they are unable to carry out their economic activities such as fishing and trading in their camps (Bassey, 2022).

Religious Intolerance: Ethno-religious conflicts are common in Nigeria as a result of the multi-ethnic and multi-religious nature of populace. The inability of the people to tolerate and accommodate the opinions of one another in this ethnically and religiously diverse country has always resulted to conflicts. In 1987, in *Kafanchan*, in Northern Nigeria, conflicts erupted between the Christians and the Muslims as a result of a Muslim convert who allegedly made a blasphemous statement about the Quurán during the process of preaching. Many churches were destroyed and some women were alleged to have been killed while some left their homes to neighbouring towns (Eweka & Olusegun, 195- 208, 2016).

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) reported on January 10th, 2020, the outbreak of violence in Jos in the middle Belt region of Nigeria between the Muslims and the Christians over the mode of worship and location of churches

in the area. This led to displacement of several people and the majority of the affected victims were women. Before the violence could be brought under control over 1000 people including Muslims and Christians were killed. Most of the displaced people initially were sheltered in military barracks and police stations before they were transferred to some temporary camps built for displaced people (Rob, 2011). Over 40 of these women gave birth while in these temporary camps without access to basic antenatal facilities and care. The Nigerian Red Cross and Crescent (NRC) a humanitarian organization with the capability to respond quickly during humanitarian crises also corroborated this information on the plight of women and girls in temporary displaced persons' camps in Nigeria.

Insurgency: Another major cause of displacement is the insecurity created by the *Boko-Haram* insurgency in the country. The *Boko-Haram* is a fundamentalist Islamic sect in Nigeria that began its armed operations against the Nigerian state in 2009. The group is against Western education and their activities have brought hardship to the people causing a lot of poverty and insecurity in the country. In it's a little over a decade of insurgency in Nigeria's North East millions of people, mainly women and girls have been displaced. These women not only lost their means of livelihood but also were declared homeless and sexually abused (Odeigah & Mawere, 239-238, 2018).

In the North eastern states of *Adamawa*, *Borno* and *Yobe*, insurgency has forced people especially women and girls to become refugees in some of Nigeria's neighbouring countries such as Niger Republic, Cameroun and Chad among others. It is also important to mention here that the upsurge in the *Boko Haram* Islamic fundamentalism started in the North Eastern part of the country with the sect stopping school enrolment of girls. They partially achieved this by creating fear and confusion in the minds of the parents and the girls. On the 14th of April, 2014, 276 girls were kidnapped by the *Boko Haram* from their hostels in Government Girls Secondary School in Chibok in Borno state Nigeria. Till today

over nine years after the abduction about a hundred of the girls cannot be accounted for (Helon, 2014). The world was shocked to hear of the kidnap and abduction of the 276 Chibok secondary school girls from their school hostel in Chibok community of Borno State Nigeria. Till date, some of these abducted school girls have not returned to their parents and cannot be accounted for by the country's security services. Some are still being held by the *Boko-Haram* terrorists as wives of their commanders, while others have reportedly become mothers with children while in captivity. The terrorist organization has continually been recruiting young girls and women whom they use as suicide bombers in their several attacks on markets, churches, mosques and schools (Okenwa, 2021).

The activities of the *Boko-Haram* continue to attract military operations under the Multinational Joint Task Force. These persistent attacks have disrupted economic activities unleashing untold setbacks on trade, investments and farming among others (Doukhan, 2020). Security operatives and humanitarian organisations have been especially exposed to attacks by the insurgents because they are among the targets of the insurgents. In *Banki* town, Borno State, police men and humanitarian workers were attacked and some of them were either killed or left with varying degrees of injuries. The insurgents also attacked the *Banki* Internally Displaced Persons camp and the women and the girls were sexually molested. Women have been kidnapped in difference parts of Nigeria (Murtala, 2020).

Some of the kidnapped women have been killed in difference parts of Nigeria. Mrs Adaga whose picture is shown below, was abducted alongside her two children in January, 2020. She was murdered in captivity after been held for two weeks and her children were released to their father. Her abductors demanded for two million naira ransom but unfortunately she was killed before their demand could be met.



Wife of Dr. Philip

Herders/farmers conflicts: Conflict between cattle herder's and crop farmers is one of the major challenges Nigeria is facing in recent times. This has resulted in loss of lives, property and investments. Benue State in North Central Nigeria is an essential route for grazing land for the herdsmen moving from the North to the Southern part of Nigeria. This route has become very necessary and important because of global warming and climate change which has made alternative routes no more viable (Abimbola & Adesote, 2012). This route has become necessary and important for herdsmen because of global warming, human activities and climate change that has made alternative routes not viable. Global warming is having remarkable effects on the planet causing limited rain fall and increased human activities resulting in the grazing routes been built up because of rapid industrialisation. This traditional Benue route has caused several conflicts between the farmers and herdsmen leaving most women displaced with some ending up in the Internally Displaced Persons camps (Chuke, 2018). In the last quarter of 2014 suspected Fulani herdsmen were alleged to have killed Mrs Margaret Udiamchi in *Ekpoma* community in Esan West Local Government Area of Edo State. Many of such incidents have frequently occurred in other states of Nigeria. The people have suffered recurrent and unprecedented killings and hardship from the activities of herdsmen. The women suffered loss of economic opportunities and the resulting poverty because they are predominately farmers

who could not continue with their farming activities for fear of being killed on their farm lands (Kehinnde & Ose, 2017).

On January 1st 2018, herdsmen invaded Benue State in the Middle Belt region of Nigeria and left over 73 people dead, property destroyed and thousands of people displaced. These attacks on *Logo* and *Guma* Local Government Areas of Benue state on New year's day caused national and international outcry because children and pregnant were also killed in the invasion (Terwase, 2013). The herdsmen after causing the mayhem disappeared into the forest in typical guerrilla warfare style making it difficult for the security agencies to apprehend them. In Taraba and Adamawa as well as Delta, Cross River and Edo States in the southern part of Nigeria, Fulani cattle herders destroyed farm lands and crops and killed people in targeted communities. The challenge presented by the insufficient water supply in the North and the unwillingness of cattle herders to ranch their livestock forced the herdsmen to migrate to the South in search of water and fodder for their livestock (Odeigah & Mawere, 238-237). Climate change, global warming, globalisation and industrialisation have made the traditional method of ranching cattle not acceptable to Nigerians especially from the Southern part of the country (Chinago, 2022). The changes in the various communities along the old grazing routes taken over by the pastoralists have been tremendous because roads, bridges, schools and personal houses have been built across the roads making them no more viable for grazing. This is important because it is at the root cause of the conflicts that resulted eventually in the women and girls being displaced (Bukola, 2018).

Natural disasters and poverty: Natural disasters across Nigeria have left mostly women and girls homeless. Affected families have been forced to migrate to other towns and villages in search of new shelters and new means of livelihoods. The people of Calabar in Cross River state and others in Kogi, Lagos, Kwara, Niger and Benue states have all suffered flooding that left in their trails the loss of lives and destruction of property. In the Niger Delta region of Nigeria, bush fire, oil spillage

and gas flaring have devastated several communities. In *Eni* in Delta State in the Niger delta oil producing area of Nigeria for instance, since 1956 over 820 incidents of oil spillage had occurred in the area making agriculture unproductive. Because of the degradation of the eco-system and oil pollution affecting the aquatic environment, the women find it generally difficult to carry out their indigenous economic activities. These generally have negative impacts on women and girls in the communities

In Nigeria because of the recurrence of natural disasters the Federal Government established the National Emergency Management Agency by Act 12 and amended by Act 50 of the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The National Emergency Management Agency is to handle disasters and their management in the country and to give assistance and rehabilitation to the internally displaced persons. In actualising its mandate the National Emergency Management Agency has developed some protocols to ensure the successful management of disasters in Nigeria such as the National Disaster Response Plan, the National Nuclear Regulatory plan, Early Warning Systems on Epidemics and Rescue/Epidemic Evacuation among others. All these protocols of the Agency were put in place to ensure that the Agency meets its mandate as a Federal Agency Managing Emergencies. The National Emergency Management Agency which is a parastatal of the Federal Government of Nigeria is still encumbered by the civil service bureaucracy, poor funding, late response to disasters and corruption in the Agency especially during the distribution of relief materials to IDPs (Nnadi, Zeani, Nnadi, 15-33, 2020).

Flood disasters are common especially in the low flood plains of Benue state and the riverine communities of the Niger Delta. In 2012, more than 7,000,000 people in different parts of Nigeria were displaced by flooding alone. A similar incident was recorded in 2019 in *Bosso* and *Chanchage* Local Government areas of Niger State where over 500 people were displaced. Adamawa, Kogi and Kwara

states were among the states that experienced flood disasters in Nigeria. Most women and girls affected by the flood lost their houses and were forced to take shelter in makeshift camps provided for displaced people by government, non-governmental organisations or public spirited individuals (Tribune, 2021).

Internally Displaced People and Refugee Camps

Camps are temporary homes provided for the people who have left their homes forcefully because of violence, natural disasters and conflicts. Some of these camps were established in *Lugbe* and *Kuje* in Abuja Nigeria's Federal Capital, Calabar and Ogoja in Cross River State, *Ibeju-Lekki* in Lagos State, Borno State as well as Edo and Niger states among others. In Nigeria there has been an increase in the number of women and girls moving into IDP camps Nnadi, Zeani & Nnadi, 20-31). The biggest IDP camp in Nigeria is situated around *Ibeju-Lekki* area in Lagos state. In Borno State the number of the Internally Displaced Persons is put at more than one million four hundred and thirty-four thousand, one hundred and forty-nine (1,434,149) people residing in the area. Other bigger IDP Camps are in Maiduguri the Bornu state capital where there are four big IDP camps. In Abuja the biggest IDP camps are the *Lugbe* IDP Camp, New *Kuchingoro* IDP Camp, Area One IDP Camp and *Kuje* IDP Camp. There are also other smaller camps that even the government has not identified because of their very remote locations and they are being supported by public spirited Nigerians and some non-governmental organizations and humanitarian organizations (Abdullahi, 2019).





At IDP Camp in Biu, Bornu State of Nigeria

Source: Students of Department of Military History under the guide of Dr Abdulsalami M. Deji, during a visit to IDP Camp at Government Girls' Secondary School, Biu, Borno State, Nigeria. on November 2, 2022.

These camps help internally displaced persons find temporary refuge pending when their homes or communities are re-built. They also help internally displaced persons and refugees find refuge until their homes are safe for them to

return. There are also displaced Nigerians who are taking shelter in Niger Republic, Chad and the Cameroun because of the violence and insurgency in Nigeria. There are formal and informal camps for the Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria. Formal camps are temporary shelters provided by government for those who are displaced to take refuge. Informal camps are houses of relations, friends or neighbouring communities among others in this category. Because of conflicts or violence people flee from their homes to live with their friends or relatives in other states. Sometimes, those who have enough funding move to new locations to begin small businesses and start a new life with their families. Some of the women and girls in this situation take to begging and hawking. The protection for the women and girls is better in the camps because for some of the women to survive they have to be involved in some high risk behaviour. Some of the women and girls get involved in transactional sex to get money for the upkeep of their children especially buying of medicines or in exchange for food from the camp managers or officials. The women could also be involved in high risk sexual behaviour for them to be given enhanced roles such as in food distribution. This high risk sexual behaviour could also be because they want the camps officials to allow them limited time out of the camps for them to temporarily hawk their wares to generate extra income for the family. The women and girls are also allowed to learn some skills such as trade, sowing and hair dressing among others while in the camp (Grisp, 2012).

Problems of Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees

Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees are often faced with enormous challenges because they are mostly victims of inhuman treatment or violence. People who are forced to leave their homes are exposed to several risks and vulnerability in diverse ways. It is the primary responsibility of the Nigerian Government to shoulder the responsibility of IDPs. But because government response have not been proactive, IDPs were faced with epidemics among other challenges in their different camps. Internally Displaced Persons have a higher

mortality rate, poor shelter, suffer from sexual assault, abduction, lack of food, poor infrastructure and lack health facilities and suffer from all forms of criminality. Volunteer groups and humanitarian organizations also contribute to the welfare of Internally Displaced Persons in the various camps in Nigeria. Other problems also include emotional and psychological problems such as anxiety and depression. All these are problems being faced by refugees and internally displaced women and girls (Falobi, 2014).

The Response of Government and International Organisations

The Federal government of Nigeria through the National Emergency Management Agency had on many occasions distributed relief materials to Internally Displaced Person in different camps located across Nigeria. These efforts have not really solved the problems of Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria. Individuals and families need to help the IDPs and refugees with relief materials (Bitiyong, 28-37). The problem of sexual abuse of women and girls in the camps is not uncommon and this has reduced the safety and confidence of the women and girls. In the process of curbing this menace a bill called the National Grazing Reserve bill was sponsored by Senator *Zinat Kure* one of the very few female senators in Nigeria's National Assembly, which proposed and empowered states to have Cattle Reserves. The senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria however did not favour this bill. Government owes the IDPs the responsibility of adequately providing some comfort such as good shelter and general humanitarian support in the Internally Displaced Persons camps (Ibenegbu, 2017):

International Agencies such as the World Health Organization, United Nations Children Emergency Fund and some other important Non-government agencies have been important partners in supplying vaccines and other medical services to some Internally Displaced Persons in the different camps in Nigeria. The World Health Organization has trained volunteers at different levels, such as senior supervisors, community leaders, health care workers and mentors among others to

handle the situation in the camps. One of the major health problems faced by these workers is the unavailability of the vaccines and other issues in the distributions of the vaccines and services. The government of Nigeria using health workers was able to give the Yellow Fever vaccination to the inmates of most IDPs camps (Obina, 2012). The North East Development Commission (NEDC) is another interventionist institution of the government of Nigeria set up to ameliorate the challenges of Internally Displaced Persons in the North East and to develop the Northern East economically. The Nigerian military and multinational Joint Task Force have also been involved in containing with the insecurity in the North East, but the citizens are yet to have confidence to return to their communities. The Nigerian Army has been heavily involved in fighting crime and criminality in Nigeria, but not much has been achieved in bringing insurgency or banditry to an end (Adamu, 2022).

Conclusion

The Internally Displaced Persons and Refugee crisis in Nigeria has been exacerbated by the *Boko haram* insurgency, Fulani herders/farmers clashes, natural disasters, ethnic conflicts and religious intolerance have all contributed to the women and girls forcefully fleeing their homes. These combinations of factors have become the major tragedy confronting Nigeria today. The protection risk of the women and girls is higher and they are involved in high-risk sexual behaviour such as transaction sex for them to have enough resources for their families. The multifarious problems confronting the women and girls have increased their vulnerability and this is affecting them psychologically, socially and economically. Despite the efforts of government and humanitarian agencies, the number of Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees has been increasing. These camps have imposed many challenges to the women and girls causing hardship, unwanted pregnancies and increased criminality in the camps. All these factors have contributed to the problems of women and girls who are Internally Displaced in Nigeria.

References

- Abdullahi Abubakar, (2019): IDPS Situation in Nigeria—Prevention, Protection and Solutions, <https://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/wp-content/uploads>. Accessed 5th Feb, 2020
- Abimbola, J. O. and Adesote, S. A. (2012). The Challenge of Domestic Terrorism in Nigeria” Issues, Trends and the way forward, 22nd Annual National Conference of Nigerian Society of international
- Abimbola, J. O. and Adesote, S.A. (2012). The Challenge of Domestic Terrorism in Nigeria” Issues, Trends and the way forward, 22nd Annual National Conference of Nigerian Society of international,
- Abimbola, J. O. and Adesote, S.A. (2012). The Challenges of Domestic Terrorism in Nigeria” Issues, Trends and the way forward, 22nd Annual National Conference of Nigerian Society of international and <https://www.legit.ng/nigeria.html#1111624>. Html Accessed 16th January, 2020
- Adamu Moses, (2022). North East Development Commission Internally Displaced Persons, <https://nedc.gove.ng>. Accessed 19th May, 2020
- Oral interview with Radda Shehu, aged 78+ years, occupation farmer, place of interview, Borno State, date of interview 8th April, 2022
- Oral Interview with Bulama Hadi, aged 56 years, NGO staff at IDP Camp, Government Girls’ Secondary School, Biu, Borno State, Nigeria 2nd November, 2022
- Oral Interview with Ajili Inusa, aged 58 years, Civil Servant, Biu, Borno State, Nigeria 2nd November, 2022
- Oral Interview with Hajara Muhammad aged 40 years, Inside IDP Camp, Government Girls’ Secondary School, Biu, Borno State, Nigeria 2nd November, 2022
- Agency Report, Salome Abuh, (2019). PDP Women Leader Burnt to Death, buried Amid Tears. <https://www.premiumtimesng.com>. Accessed 20th March. 2020
- Akuto .W. Grace, (2017). Challenges of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nigeria: Implications for Counselling and Role of Key Stakeholders, Accessed 8th March. 2021
- Alobo, .E. & Obaji, .S. (2016). Internally Displaced Persons and case for Human Rights Protection of Displaced Persons. Journal of Law, Policy and Globalisation. 15.
- Anthony .I. Nwabughuogu (1981). The Propaganda in the Development of Indirect Rule in Nigeria, 1890-1929, the International Journal of African Historical Studies, vol.14, No.1. 65-91, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/218114>.
- Bayo Francis, (2012). Implications of the Bakassi Conflict Resolution for Cameroon, <https://www.britannica>place>. Accessed 20th March. 2020.

Bitiyong Zemo, J. Amina and Sheriff Ghali Ibrahim. The Plight of Internally Displaced Persons in Unofficial Camps in the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria, Abuja. African Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Research, 28-37. <https://abjournals.org>.

Bukola Adebayo, (2018). <https://edition.cnn.com/africa/ni>. Accessed 4th December, 2020

Chinago Budnukaeku Alexander, (2022). Climate Change: A Factor to Farmers/Herders Crisis in Benue State. North Central, Nigeria, 2022, MOJ Eco Environ Sci 7(5):154.160.DOI: 10.15406/mojes,

Chuke Udeze, (2018). Fulani Herdsmen Attack in Enugu, Benue and Lagos Nigeria, - Here's all you need to know, <https://buzznigeria.com/fulani.her>. Accessed 14th January, 2020

Doukhan David, (2020), Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) Against Boko Haram Reflections, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/resrepp30929>. Accessed 10th December, 2022

Etu Gboshe, (2022). Post Conflict Resolution, the Case of Ekaju/Osokom Conflict, 1982 -2013 in Cross River State, pp108-113, <https://www.academicexcellencesociety.com>. Accessed 20th January. 2023.

Eweka Osagioduwa & Olusegun T. O. (2016). Management of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa: Comparing Nigeria and Cameroon, <https://www.ajol.info/viewfile>. Accessed 1st March, 2020

Eweka Osagioduwa and Olusegun T. O. 2016 Management of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa: Comparing Nigeria and Cameroon. *An international Multidisplanary Journal*, Ethiopia, 10 (1), 195-208

Falobi, F. (2014). Nigeria: Coping with Challenges of Internally Displaced persons. AllAfrica. Available online www.m.allafrica.com. Accessed 9th November, 2022. Or <https://www.legit.ng>. Accessed 12th February, 2020

Grisp, J. (2012). Forced Displacement in Africa: Dimension, Difficulties and Policy Direction. Refugee Survey Quarter. Available on www.oxfordjournals.org. Accessed 16th July, 2022

Hamzat, A. O. (2016). Challenges of the Internally Displaced persons and the Role of the Society. <https://www.thenigerianvoice.com/news/113484/challenges-of-internally-displaced-persons-and-the-role.html>. 12th July, 2020.

Helon Habila, (2014). The Chibok Girls: The Boko Haram Kidnappings and Islamist Militancy in Nigeria. <https://www.amazon.com/chibok>. Accessed 7th December, 2020

Ibenegbu George, (2017). Problems of Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria, 2017 www.legit.ng. Accessed 14th January, 2020.

Ibrahim Anoba, (2018). The Aba Women's Riots of 1929: Africa's Great Tax Revolt, <https://www.africanliberty.org>the>. Accessed 6th January. 2021.

Oral Interview with Bassey Etta, (2022). Aged 80+ years, occupation fishing, place of interview, Cross River State, date of interview 8th April, 2022 and Eweka Osagioduwa and Olusegun, T. O., Management of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa. Comparing Nigeria and Cameroon

Ishita Chandra. (2022). Treaties and Conventions as a Source of International Law, <https://www.legalseerviceindia.com>. Accessed 27th December, 2022 and the Tax Crisis of 1929 in Ibibio-land, <https://www.africabib.org>rec>. Accessed 6th January. 2021.

Jane Freedman, (2019). Grand Challenges: Refugees and Conflicts: <https://www.fronhershin.org/atticles/10.3389/thumd.2019.00001/full>. Accessed 12th, 2021

Kehinde Osagiede/ Ose Ehebha, (2017). Tension in Ekpoma as Herdsmen Kill EKpman Edo Govt. ask Police to Unmask Killers, <https://www.nigerianobservemews.com>. Accessed 14th March, 2020

Korieh Chima, (2020). Nigeria and World War 11: Colonialism, Empire, and Global Conflict, Cambridge University Press. ISBN.

Murtala Abdullahi, (2020). Boko Haram Attacks Banki Town in Borno, 2020, <https://humanglemedia.com>just-in>. Accessed 7th December, 2021

Nasir Ayitogo (2022). 220 people killed, 200 kidnapped in Niger State between Jan 1st -17th, <https://www.premiuntimesng.com>. Accessed 20th March. 2022.

Nnadi Godwin Onyemaechi, Zeani Onyebuchi Emmanuel, Nnadi Helen Chinedu, (2020). The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the Challenge of Effective Management of Internally Displaced Persons in the North Nigeria. 25, 5, (7). 15-33

Nnadi Godwin Onyemaechi, Zeani Onyebuchi Emmanuel, Nnadi Helen Chinedu, (2020). The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the Challenge of Effective Management of Internally Displaced Persons in North Nigeria. 20-31

Nneamaka Obodo and Gabriel Akwen, (2019). Bakassi Peninsula & Nigeria Cameroon Border Relations. A History Analysis of the Bakassi Peninsula Region, 242-253, <https://www.researchgate.ng>.

Obina Mbanugo, (2012). The State of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria: A Legal Review, www.ajol.info/index.php.inaujili/article/view/136331. Accessed 14th March, 2020

Odeigah Theresa and Mawere Munyaradzi, (2018). Herdsmen Farmers and the National Security under Threat: Unveiling the Farmers and Fulani Herdsmen Violence and Conflict in Niger Delta Region Nigeria, (ed), Munyaradzi Mawere, in Development Naivety and Emergent Insecurities in

the Monopolized World, The Politics and Sociology of Development in Contemporary Africa, Cameroon: Langaa RPCIG, pp 237-239

Oduwale, T. A. & Adebayo, F. (2013). Issues of Refugees and Displaced Persons in Nigeria, Journal of Sociological Research, 4. 1. 3-15.

Okenwa Lillian, (2021). Chibok Girls and the Value of Quality Education, <https://www.guardian.ng>. 3rd January, 2021 and Abimbola, J. O. and Adesote, S.A. The Challenge of Domestic Terrorism in Nigeria" Issues, Trends and the way forward, 22nd Annual National Conference of Nigerian Society of international, 2012.

Olanrewaju, F., Omotoso, F., & Alabi, J. O. (2018). Datasets on the Challenges of Forced Displacement and coping Strategies among Displaced Women in Selected Internally Displaced Persons' (IDPs) Camps in Nigeria. 154-156. <https://www.researchgate.net>figure>.

Olufemi Alfred, (2019). Killer of Kogi PDP Women Leader Gets 12 Years Jail Sentence, <https://www.premiumtimesng.com>>.

Rob Walker, (2011). Jos Violence: 'Everyone Lives in Fear of His Neighbour' <https://www.bbc.co.uk>. Accessed 21th May. 2020.

Roberta Cohen, (1999). New Challenges for Refugee Policy: Internally Displaced Persons, 1999. <https://www.brookings.edu>. Accessed 16th January, 2020

Security Challenges in Nigeria and the Implications for Business Activities and Sustainable Development, 2020. <https://www.nsacc.org.allposts>. Accessed 3rd January. 2021.

Terwase Shabu, (2013). Flood Water in Makurdi Town/ download scientific Diagram-Research Gate. <https://www.researchgate.net>figure>. Accessed 6th March, 2020

Tribune Online 2021: Age-Long Communal Crisis: Offa Rejects Boundary Demarcation with Erin-Ile, (2021). <https://www.tribuneonlineng.com>. And E. O. Ojelabi, Communal Clash and Conflict Management and Investigation of Erin-Ile and Offa Crisis, 2006-2018, <https://www.tandfonline.com>. Accessed 25th May. 2022

Tribune Online: Age-Long Communal Crisis: Offa Rejects Boundary Demarcation with Erin-Ile, 2021, <https://www.tribuneonlineng.com>. And E. O. Ojelabi, Communal Clash and Conflict Management and Investigation of Erin-Ile and Offa Crisis, 2006-2018, <https://www.tandfonline.com>. Accessed 25th May. 2022

Tseer Tobias, (2020). Implications of the Tiv-Jukuns Conflicts in Taraba State, <https://www.researchgate.net>3421>. Accessed 20th March. 2020.

اللاجئون والنازحون داخلياً في نيجيريا: محنة النساء والفتيات

د . تيريزا تقام أوديجه

كلية الفنون - جامعة إيلومرين

نيجيريا

Odeigah.tn@unilorin.edu.ng

د . عبد السلام محي الدين ديجي

كلية الآداب والإدارة والعلوم الاجتماعية

جامعة الجيش النيجيري، بيو- نيجيريا

Abdulsalami.deji@naub.edn.ng

د . محمد اولديميجي العلي

كلية الآداب - جامعة إيلومرين

نيجيريا

Alibi.om@unilorin.edu.ng

الكلمات المفتاحية: اللاجئين، النازحون، مخيمات النازحين، النساء، الفتيات.

الملخص:

تعاني النساء والفتيات من الحرمان الاجتماعي والاقتصادي والعاطفي والنفسي باعتبارهن نازحات داخلياً في مخيمات مختلفة في نيجيريا نتيجة للافتقار إلى وسائل الراحة الأساسية. عادة ما تكون النساء والفتيات المتأثرات مرهقات جسدياً بسبب الظروف البدنية القاسية والمصاعب التي يتعرضن لها فجأة في المخيمات. لقد أجرى العديد من الباحثين أبحاثاً حول الأشخاص النازحين داخلياً واللاجئين، لكن القليل منهم فقط نظروا بشكل نقدي في محنة النساء والفتيات الأكثر ضعفاً. الهدف الرئيسي لهذه الورقة هو إجراء دراسة نقدية للأسباب والتحديات التي تواجهها النساء والفتيات كلاجئات في مخيمات النازحين داخلياً في نيجيريا. واستكشفت الدراسة الديناميكيات الاقتصادية والثقافية المرتبطة بهذه المشكلة. اعتمدت هذه الدراسة المنهج التاريخي البنيوي مستفيدة من المصادر الأولية والثانوية. وشملت المصادر الأولية مقابلات شفوية مع النساء والفتيات والرجال. تم الحصول على هذا أيضاً من مسؤولي الوكالات الحكومية والوكالات غير الحكومية والمنظمات الدينية وكذلك المنظمات المجتمعية. وكانت المصادر الثانوية من المجالات والكتب والإنترنت. ويخلص التقرير إلى أن النساء والفتيات يعانين من الحرمان الذي لا يمكن تصوره، والاستغلال الجنسي، والتعذيب والعديد من التحديات الأخرى في مخيمات اللاجئين والنازحين داخلياً في نيجيريا.