

Insurgency and the Rights of Women; a Study of Internally Displaced Women in the North Eastern Part of Nigeria.

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Abstract

Nefarious activities of Boko Haram insurgency sect in North East Nigeria since 2009 led to the displacement of over two million people and majority are women, which has created adverse humanitarian consequence in the North East zone. Life in the various communities of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states, such as Kawuri, Baga, Konduga, Bama, Shuwa, Ajigin, Gaboru, Giwa, Chibok, Gwoza, Madagali, Geidam to mention a few, have been characterized in the famous words of Thomas Hobbes where life is nasty, brutish and most times short (Salkida, 2012). Women displaced by Boko Haram insurgents faced numerous challenges of violation of their rights; such as lack of adequate shelter, lack of proper hygiene, hunger, threat of diseases, sexual molestation by camp officials and security personnel, inadequacy of safe water, force prostitution, force and early marriages, unwanted pregnancies and lack of participation in decisions

affecting their lives. It is against this backdrop this paper sought to examine the rights of internally displaced women in the North Eastern part of Nigeria. Data in this paper were source from both primary and secondary sources and the paper adopts the human needs theory by Abraham Maslow. The paper concludes that, strict adherence to Kampala convention and National policy on the rights of IDP women, improving socio-economic situation of the IDPs, resettlement of the IDPs back to their original places of residence and good governance; which will reduce unemployment and poverty will reduce the vulnerability of the IDP women in the North east.

Introduction

Boko haram is an extremist religious sect in North-Eastern Nigeria seeking to establish an Islamic state governed by its ideology, which has stepped up its violence against the Nigerian state and its citizens, unleashing a systematic campaign of bombings, kidnappings and shootings occupying diverse government and civilian targets (Agbiboa, nd).

Boko Haram took over many local government areas in the Northeast in attempt to actualize its dream of establishing Islamic state, destroying many lives and properties, bombing government structures, worshipping centers and displacing millions of people in the process, particularly women. The displacement in Northeast Nigeria has been going on for several years. For instance, in July 2009 when the group became aggressive and took arms against the state, 4,000 people were temporarily displaced from Maiduguri in Borno State, following clashes between security forces and the BH insurgents (Integrated Regional Information Networks, 05/08/2009; 31/07/2009; 29/07/2015).

Clashes and militant attacks by BH then continued to cause sporadic displacement of people, particularly in Maiduguri. From 2011, the frequency of

violent attacks increased (Integrated Regional Information Networks, 18/07/2011). Large-scale displacement followed a string of attacks in December 2011 in Damaturu, Yobe State, with estimates of up to 90,000 displaced. Those displaced often stayed with host families, camps and on the streets, worshipping centers, barracks, and government buildings, complicating relief efforts (Integrated Regional Information Networks, 19/01/2012).

The IDP population is composed of 53% women and 47% men. More than 56% of the total IDP populations are children of which more than half are up to 5 years old, while 42% are adult. 92% of IDPs were displaced by the insurgency. The IDPs come mainly from Borno (62%), Adamawa (18%) and Yobe (13%). 87% of IDPs lived with host families while 13% live in camps, in horrible situation (DTM, 2015).

There are efforts by both Federal and State governments to alleviate the suffering of the IDPs but without commensurate result. In spite of the enormous amount of relief materials and resources spent and delivered in the name of the IDPs, the situation of the IDPs is becoming more pathetic. This is as a result of the improper management of the camps, discrimination/stigmatisation, preponderance of corruption among camp official, security personnel and humanitarian agencies and above all the failure of the Nigerian government and its humanitarian agencies to adhere to the Kampala convention principles and National policy on the rights of IDPs. Living the IDPs in a sorrowful situation of inadequate shelter, lack of proper hygiene, hunger, threat of diseases, sexual harassment by camp officials and security personnel, inadequacy of safe water, lack of justice in cases of violation of their rights, loss of their dignity, poor sanitation and unwanted pregnancies, psychological trauma and force prostitution as 'negative coping mechanism'. To the extent that, the IDPs prepared donor countries and philanthropic individuals to give them direct humanitarian assistance, rather than passing through the government or humanitarian agencies to reach them.

The humanitarian situation in North East Nigeria has further deteriorated, due to the lack of access by various humanitarian agencies to rural areas where these displaced people are because of violence and insecurity. This has made it difficult for most humanitarian agencies to respond to the needs of internally displaced persons within these rural areas, leaving thousands of IDP's with little

access to food, clean water or healthcare in North East Nigeria (Integrated Regional Information Networks, 2014). Of all the North-eastern States, Borno is the worst hit being the spiritual headquarter of Boko Haram. Borno has the highest number of attacks, casualties and internally displaced persons (IDPs) especially among women and children (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2016).

Violence against rights of IDP women is a widespread menace, in not only Nigeria but also Africa at large, due to lack of adequate laws, and lack of enforcement or adherence to existing laws or conventions. Specific forms of violence against women include forced prostitution, physical and psychological torture, forced and early marriage, rape, sexual harassment/assault. That is why they are call ‘vulnerable group’.

In light of the above that, this paper sought to operationalize the rights of IDPs women in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe state, through the framework of the Kampala Convention 2009 and the Nigerian National policy on IDPs 2013. In the course of that, the paper sought to look into the challenges faced by IDP women in the Northeastern Nigeria and come up with recommendations to improve their situation, because of their vulnerability as women.

Conceptual and theoretical discourse

As defined in the Convention, IDPs are:

“persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border.” The Convention applies to IDPs who are displaced for many reasons as a result of armed conflict. While the Convention does not apply to asylum seekers or refugees who have fled across an international border, it does apply to asylum seekers and refugees who have returned – either voluntarily or forcibly – to their country of origin and are displaced internally (Kampala Convention, 2009).

According to Ladan (2006), the internally displaced persons are a category of people displaced within a geographical location. Because of the displacement, they suffer several consequences as the means of their livelihood, such as

agriculture and trade are dashed out as a result of violent conflicts or disaster, which could be as a result of a consequence of human or natural factor (Ladan, 2006).

Insurgency has to do with the desire to overthrow power from, subvert or displace a legitimate government for gaining control of a population or a particular territory, including its resources (O'Neil, 2002).

Insurgency, involves rebelling or insurrection against a constituted government or an existing authority using civil resistance. It often, takes the form of a protracted violent conflict in which group sharing the same ideology seek to overthrow or fundamentally attempt to change the political or social order in a state or region through the use of organised violence, subversion, social disruption, and political action (Moore, 2007).

Like other social science concepts, woman as a social category have no commonly acceptable definition. "Women" mean persons of the female gender, including girls (Kamapala Convention, 2009).

The term 'woman' is usually reserved for an adult, with the term girl being the usual term for a female child or adolescent. The term woman is also use to identify a female human, regardless of age, as in phrases such as "women's rights". Women with typical genetic development are usually capable of giving birth from puberty until menopause. With regard to gender, a woman may also be a person whose sex assignment does not align with their gender identity or those who have sexual characteristics that do not fit typical notions of male or female (Deana, F. Morrow and Lori Messinger, 2006).

Abraham Maslow, John Burton, Marshal Rosenberg and Manfred Max-Neef propounded the human needs theory. According to this theory, human beings have certain essentials needs if they must survive and live in peace. Such essentials needs are called basic human needs. The argument of human needs theorists, therefore, is that the unavailability of alternative means to meet the needs of individuals or groups is what leads to insecurity and violence. Other times, violence also occurs when humans require understanding, respect and consideration for their needs. These needs are not only subsistence ones such as food, water and shelter but also other biological needs such as participation, identity, understanding and recognition (Kok 2007); security, safety, belonging

(love), self-esteem and self actualisation (life satisfaction) (Ikejiaku, 2009: Maslow 1973).

According to Burton (1997), there are conflict and stability in third world countries because people are deprived of not only their biological needs, but also their basic needs such as foods, shelter, water and health (Ikejiaku, 2009).

According to Maslow (1973), some needs are more urgent than others, but agrees that all needs are instinctive. In his opinion, the powerful needs are subsistence needs such as food, water and shelter, which he claims, precede all other human needs (Ibid). As Coate & Rosati (1988) recommend, 'social systems must be responsive to individual needs, or be subject to instability and forced change, possibly through violence or conflict. They argue further that, when government neglect people's basic needs, it creates frustration and exacerbates conflict in society (Banks, 2014). This partially explained the rise of Boko Haram insurgency and high rate of immorality among IDPs women, due to governments' failure to provide some of the basic needs of the citizens or lack of access to some of their basic needs. That is why Professor Umaru Kaoje, posits that, "Morality is the first victim of economic crisis", that is, when people are in dire need, they do not think of what is right or wrong in order to have access to some of their needs (Kao'je, 2003). This explains the high rate of immorality such as prostitution, trade of sex for food, shelter and money among IDPs across the Northeastern states of Nigeria.

Overview of insurgency and internally displaced persons in the North Eastern part of Nigeria

As a result of the activities of Boko Haram Insurgency, more than 1.76 million people are internally displaced in the North Eastern region of Nigeria. The total number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the North East and North central Nigeria is estimated at over 2 million people, making Nigeria host to the six largest IDP populations in the world (International Committee of the Red Cross, 2016: IDMC, 2016).

Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states currently have the largest number of IDPs, with approximately 1.68 million persons who have been displaced as a result of the conflict, including approximately 528,000 IDPs in Maiduguri Metropolis, Borno State (ICRC, 2016).

According to Nigeria's National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA, 2014), nearly 300,000 people were forced to flee violence in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States in 2013 (National Commission on Refugee and Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 14/05/2014). Escalation of Boko Haram-related violence in 2014 caused a surge in displacement. Estimated figures, however, differ between agencies. A UN multi-sectoral assessment in May, 2014 reported 650,000 IDPs in the Northeast, mainly from Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe and Taraba states. By December 2014, International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported 390,000 IDPs in Adamawa, Bauchi, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe, while NEMA reported an increase to nearly 870,000 IDPs in the Northeast by December 2014. NEMA had previously indicated as many as 1.5 million IDPs in September 2014 (IOM & NEMA, 2014; OCHA, 29/09/2014).

As at December 2016, the Borno State Emergency Management (BOSEMA) estimated that, there are a total number of 111, 388 registered displaced persons (Mohammed, 2017).

In 2017, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) estimated 110,338 persons in Borno IDPs camps of which over 80% (90,534) are women and children (NEMA, 2017).

In 2018, there was outrageous increase in the number of IDPs in the Northeast, with estimated 1.8 million IDPs, (OCHA, 2018: World Bank, 2016) with women accounted for 440,000, 364,000 men, 614,000 girls and 516,000 boys, who are internally displaced. 94% are displaced because of the ongoing conflict and 80% displaced are from Borno (OCHA, 2018).

As at January 2019, 1.9 million people were internally displaced from the northeast (IDMC, 2019). From the above figures, we can see that women and children have the highest percentage of internally displaced persons in the Northeast, who are in serious humanitarian crises. From 27 May to 2 June 2019, 5,998 people were displaced as a result of Boko Haram related attacks, including 5,494 arrivals and 504 departures (Displacement Tracking Matrix, 2019).

Why women are more Vulnerable and IDPs in Conflict situation

In explaining the vulnerability of women in conflict, Ibeanu and Sanda asked;

What happens to women and their children during and after conflicts? Women and children in conflict are portrayed as innocent victims of male violence and aggression, who require protection, possibly by the international community. Essentially, analysts saw women and children as refugees, internally displaced, sexually exploited/abused, physically brutalized and socially disadvantaged in conflict situation and in the course of their displacement (Ibeanu, and Sanda, 2007).

In Nigeria, women and children have been the worst affected by the various conflict. Women have lost their breadwinners and are made to fend for themselves (Okoye, 2000). Women are group of helpless lots who are not capable of any action or decision of their own. Rather, they are seen as “weaker sex” whose problems and issues are the same as those of their children (Abdu, 2002).

In his analysis of Numan conflict, Mijah (2007), posit that, women and children are victims of structural conflict, especially during crises. He argued that these categories are incapable of responding to the exigencies of their vulnerabilities. He challenged the view that women and children too have been identified as actors in the crises by stressing the question, do women and children take part in conflicts and crises as a result of conscious and deliberate plan or do they just take part because the rest of society is in crises? He maintained that the answers to these questions may not be easy to provide. He argued further that, women and children might not be aware of their vulnerabilities, as a result of which they suffer different extents of violence, or be consciously ready to challenge same.

Furthermore, women are the part of the dependent population, who depend on their men for survival and the men in most conflicts are dead victims and casualties, leaving the women to fend for themselves and that of their orphan children, these forced them to carry on their shoulders the role of father and mother at the same time (Mijah, 2007). Children in this predicament will heavily depend on their mothers while the mothers have no option than to resorts to legitimate or illicit activities (like prostitution) to cater for the helpless children, this will consequently lead to frustration, hypertension, heart failure and death in most cases. While young girls and widows that have lost family link restore to prostitution, menial jobs or begging, because they have lost their

dignity, all these make women more vulnerable (Ibid). ‘A woman without her husband is nothing’.

As Ibeanu and Sanda (2007), rightly said, “As conflict deepen violence against women and their children increase, vulnerabilities expand, while coping capacity declines. This means that as conflict situation become worsen, women and children became defenseless and helpless” (Ibeanu & Sanda, 2007).

Rights of Internally displaced women as Enshrined in Kampala convention and Nigerian National policy on IDPs

Rights of Internally Displaced Women;

Women are the most vulnerable categories among IDPs and that some of them have been victims of different forms of indignity and abuses, the Federal Government, through this National Policy, without prejudice to the national gender policy, here by provides as follows:

- a. That the sanctity of Nigerian womanhood shall not in any way be violated;
- b. Every woman in an IDP camp shall have the rights to her privacy;
- c. Women in IDP camps shall not be subjected to any form of indignity; including beating, forced labour, sexual abuse, or forceful stripping either for medical examination or other reasons whatsoever without her consent;
- d. Under no circumstance shall women and men be lumped together in a room except as husbands and wives or as members of the same family;
- e. It is the policy of government to protect Internally Displaced Women from forced marriage. Thus, nobody shall determine the partner of, or the period within which internally displaced women ought to get married;
- f. Women in IDP camps shall be entitled to hold any position of authority in camp without any form of discrimination; Women in IDP camps shall be free to take micro-credit and other financial assistance with or without the consent of their husbands for economic self reliance;
- g. Women in IDP camps have the right to own property and disburse the property with or without the consent of their spouses;
- h. Every woman in an IDP camp has the right to embark on any form of lawful economic activity of her choice to enhance her well-being and that of her family;

- i. Women in IDP camps are entitled to self-development, particularly in the area of education and skill acquisition.

Kampala Convention on the Obligations of States Parties Relating to Protection and Assistance during Internal Displacement

Article 9 of Kampala Convention states that;

- a. No discrimination against such persons in the enjoyment of any rights or freedoms on the grounds that they are internally displaced persons;
- b. Genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and other violations of international humanitarian law against internally displaced persons;
- c. Arbitrary killing, summary execution, arbitrary detention, abduction, enforced disappearance or torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;
- d. Sexual and gender based violence in all its forms, notably rape, enforced prostitution, sexual exploitation and harmful practices, slavery, recruitment of children and their use in hostilities, forced labour and human trafficking and smuggling; and Starvation.
- e. Provide internally displaced persons to the fullest extent practicable and with the least possible delay, with adequate humanitarian assistance, which shall include food, water, shelter, medical care and other health services, sanitation, education, and any other necessary social services, and where appropriate, extend such assistance to local and host communities;
- f. Provide special protection for and assistance to internally displaced persons with special needs, including separated and unaccompanied children, female heads of households, expectant mothers, mothers with young children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities or with communicable diseases;
- g. Take special measures to protect and provide for the reproductive and sexual health of internally displaced women as well as appropriate psycho-social support for victims of sexual and other related abuses;
- h. Respect and maintain the civilian and humanitarian character of the places where internally displaced persons are sheltered and safeguard such locations against infiltration by armed groups or elements and

disarm and separate such groups or elements from internally displaced persons;

- i. Take necessary measures, including the establishment of specialized mechanisms, to trace and reunify families separated during displacement and otherwise facilitate the re-establishment of family ties.
- j. Take necessary measures to safeguard against environmental degradation in areas where internally displaced persons are located, either within the jurisdiction of the State Parties, or in areas under their effective control;
- k. States Parties shall consult internally displaced persons and allow them to participate in decisions relating to their protection and assistance;
- l. Take necessary measures to ensure that internally displaced persons who are citizens in their country of nationality can enjoy their civic and political rights, particularly public participation, and the right to vote and to be elected to public office.

Insurgency, Internal displacement and the rights of women in the North Eastern Nigeria

The rise in the activities of the Boko Haram has brought about adverse effect on the population especially on women and children evident in the increased number of widows and orphans in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states (BBC News 21st May 2013). The rise in gender and sexual based violence has been on the increase due to the increased activities of the sect since 2009. Gender and sexual based violence is believed to be a widespread phenomenon among female internally displaced persons, both at various camps and in host communities (Mashi, 2017: International Displacement Monitoring Centre, May, 2014).

Boko Haram insurgency forced people especially women to leave their original place of residence, destroyed and, looted their properties. 70 percent of IDPs in the northeast were displaced as a result of BH attacks, others were displaced as a result of government counter insurgency operations in order to avoid collateral damages, while others were displaced indirectly by BH, due to economic hardship in their communities after BH attacks or the fear of BH attack on their communities.

Some of these IDPs fled to neighbouring communities that they considered are safe to them, usually taking refuge in temporary shelters such as uncompleted buildings, schools, police stations, military barracks and worshiping centers. In spite of the continental and national policies that categorically spelt out the rights of IDP women, IDP women in the Northeastern Nigeria are face horrible challenges and violation of their rights as women. Problems such as sexual abuse/harassment, force/early marriages, discrimination, threat of diseases, food insecurity, malnutrition, lack of access to proper shelter, lack of participation in making decisions affecting their lives and lack of justice in the case of violation of their rights, this is the situation of women IDPs in the North east, which have led to the frustration.

Assessment conducted by world food programme (WFP) indicates that, there are about 2.9 million IDPs in the North-eastern Nigeria, which are facing food and nutrition challenges (WFP, 2019). This made some of these IDPs particularly women to resort to 'negative coping mechanism' (Sex for food) to survive.

According to United Nations office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, there are cases sexual violence against IDP women in the Northeast including rape, sex for food and other dehumanising situation, 6 out of 10 internally displaced women in the northeast experienced one form of gender-based violence or the other (GBV) (OCHA, 2017; UNFPA, 2016).

UNHCR, (2017), also observed that, inadequate humanitarian assistance in the northeast has led to high level of sexual abuse and exploitation. Many women are reportedly forced into 'survival sex' in order to obtain food for themselves and their children (UNHCR, 2017). Women and girls are the ultimate victims and casualties within the current environment, with many reports of 'sex' in exchange for food, money and freedom of movement within and outside the camps (OCHA, 2017). This exposes these women to sexually transmitted diseases including HIV, hepatitis, unwanted pregnancies, and obstetric fistula caused by sexual violence, leading to overall poor sexual and reproductive health outcomes, these have significantly affected the dignity of women and their female children in the northeast (OCHA, 2017).

To give life to the above assertions, Maryam Abatcha, a widow and a mother 3 in Mongolis IDP camp, narrated how she sleep with men outside the camp for

money, just to feed herself and her children. According to her, “sex for money is my only option, because there is no enough food and other basic needs in the camp” (Maryam, Personal Interview, 23 June 2018, Mongolis).

According Hajia Hadiza a petty trader in NYSC camp, she was displaced by Boko Haram during an attack on Baga market. She said in that faithful day, they were in the market around 12pm when they heard a loud explosion, which was followed with sporadic shootings from all corners of the market leading to loss of hundreds of lives and many properties. She narrated further that, she escaped only with the little money from the sales she made in the morning before the attack. It was that little she has used to start a petty trading in the camp as the condition in the camp becomes unbearable, it is the proceed from these petty trade that I use to feed myself, this is a better option for me than to involve in immoral behaviour to survive. Most of the widows and adolescent girls you see here have turned to commercial sex workers, for food and other basic needs (Mashi, 2017: Interview, April 18, 2017, NYSC Camp).

Nana Modu (not real name), narrated how three camp officials have been sleeping with her in return for favour when it comes to the distribution of relief materials. Even at that, I do sleep with men outside for money. I have been regretting the act of committing adultery for material things, as an IDP, but God knew it is beyond my control. “What am even now afraid of is contacting disease, as most of the men I sleep with don’t use protection” (Nana, Personal Interview, 22 June, 2017, Teachers Village).

According to 13 year old Maimuna Sirajo, “Yan boyes (civilian JTF), do stop us and sexually harassed us, whenever we went to fetch and any objection they will beat the hell out of us, but some of them give us some incentives for the act and warn us not to tell anybody” (Maimuna, Personal Interview, 23 June 2018, NYSC Camp).

All these claims were supported by a staff of IOM, who opined that, lack of some basic needs among IDPs both at the camps and in host communities have exposed women and young girls into ‘negative coping mechanism’ (sex for food). Some were expose to sexual abuses such as rape, tortured and other dehumanising condition from camp officials and security personnel. She argued further that, from 2015 to 2017, there were about 30 cases of unwanted pregnancies among IDPs women (Mashi, 2017: Anonymous, 2017). This is to

tell you the level of food insecurity bedevilling IDP women in the Northeastern Nigeria.

Contrary to the Kampala Convention and National policy that kicked against discrimination and stigmatisation on IDP women, a high percentage of displaced women and girls, who are victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), face stigmatisation when they return to their communities and in the process of distribution of food and non-food items women faces discrimination and torture from officials. Widows who are still active and energetic adolescent girls, with good physical appearance receive special packages and preferential treatment from officials in exchange for illicit affairs to the detriment of others. However, in an interview with a NEMA official pointed to a different direction, according to him, “We do not discriminate against any IDP on the ground of sex or age; we give them equal treatment” (Tijjani Elbadawy, Personal Interview, 24 June 2017, NEMA Office, Borno State).

Women that have been freed from BH captivity, carrying BH pregnancies, babies or those raped by BH faced stigmatisation both in camps and in host communities. In an interview with one of the freed BH victim, she narrated how people in the camp call them all sort of names. “They call us ‘Yan Book Baram’ (People of BH), Annoba (Disaster), Jinin BH (Blood of BH), at food distribution center and when we went to fetch water with our children. To the extent that, some parents in the camp don’t allow their children to play with our children” (Falmata, Personal Interview, 24 June 2017, Maiduguri).

In a focus group discussion in Teacher’s village camp, Aminatu, Sa’adatu and Zuwaira, narrated that, beautiful unaccompanied women, widows and girls receive almost three shares of a family household, even though they do not even have dependants, they received more than enough food items and leaving large families with no food to eat for days. They narrated further that, members of civilian JTF subject women to beating and torture during the distribution of food and non-food items, whenever we failed to join the queue. Zuwaira, even shows some signs of beating on her back and legs (FGD, 2018).

Contrary to the National Policy, which suggest that, special queues should be provided for older people at food distribution and health centres to avoid them being stampeded or pushed down by large crowds struggling for same services

on a “survival of the fittest basis”. However, in the Northeast, the old, sick and those with disabilities were force to join long queues, which in most cases before it reach to their turn everything finished, because they lack the energy to move forward the queue. This means that, whenever there is the distribution of relief materials, the old women, sick, those with disabilities and children are the major casualties of stampede and losers. This is evident on the recent stampede that happened on the 17 of February 2020, where 20 people mostly old women and children lost their lives and 10 people seriously injured during food distribution by the Borno state governor Babagana Umara Zulum, in Diffa (*Guardian*, 2017).

Women displaced in the Northeast lack proper hygiene and other health related assistance from both the government and humanitarian agencies. Women in particular do not have access to quality sexual and reproductive health, basic obstetric care, immunization and other health services (OCHA, 2019). These made them vulnerable to infectious diseases like cholera and hepatitis E, especially during the rainy season (June through September) (OCHA, 2016). There are cases of Malaria, pneumonia, measles, stillbirths and pregnancy related complications are the leading causes of death amongst women and children IDPs in Yobe state (OCHA, 2019).

Most of the camp’s clinics lack antenatal care, menstrual pad, enough medication, no provision for pre-marital medical examinations in the camps and inability to cover referral fees for IDPs who require secondary health care at a hospital. There is also concern that the quality of health care available in some of the IDP camps is deteriorating due to increasing attention focused on IDPs located in more remote areas (ICRC, 2016).

In an interview with a female SEMA official Halima (not real name), she narrated that, “there are nothing like medical facilities in most of the camps, talk less of vaccines, drugs and injections, which are all lacking” (Halima, Personal Interview, 27 June 2018, NYSC Camp).

In another interview with Rabi Mustapha, (not real name):

There is no provision for menstrual pad and some of us that have been using it cannot afford it any more. I restore to the use of tattered clothes as menstrual pad, this has exposed me to infection for almost two weeks now. I went to the

camp clinic and nobody is there to attend to me (Rabi, Personal Interview, 23 June 2018, Teacher's village).

There are about 230,000 IDP pregnant or nursing women that are acutely malnourished in the Northeast. Health assessments warn of the particular risks faced by severely acutely malnourished children with medical complications, who are at high risk of dying due to the near absence of secondary health care facilities that can handle such cases (OCHA, 2017).

According to Jidda Yusuf, a pregnant woman in Bakasi camp:

There is nothing like antenatal care or proper attention for pregnant, breastfeeding women, no provision for baby foods, and there are no skilled midwives that could assist women under labour, only few give birth successfully. Some had miscarriages already in the camp (Jidda, Personal Interview, 23 June 2018, Bakasi Camp).

There is no particular attention for women that are victims of rape, who are in dire need of life-saving medical treatment. Victims of sexual violence and/or physical assault have only a few hours to get medical care that may mean the difference between life and death. For instance, GBV survivors have only 72 hours to receive medical treatment that prevents the potential transmission of HIV/AIDS and other deadly diseases (OCHA, 2017).

Women also lack access to justice in the case of violation of their rights, Gender-based violence (GBV), especially sexual violence, is grossly under-reported due to very legitimate fears of retaliation by the perpetrator, stigmatisation by communities and family members, and limited availability and confidence in response services, particularly within the Health sector (OCHA, 2017). According to the 2013 Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey, 45 per cent of women who experienced sexual violence never sought help or told anyone about the violence. Women and adolescent girls in particular are at constant risk of violence due to overlapping protection concerns, at the same time they are being attack while engaging in everyday activities such as fetching water and going to the latrines (OCHA, 2017: Plan International, 2017).

In an interview with a member of ICRC at Teacher's village camp, she narrated that, "most of these girls you see here have experience GBV in one way or the other and nobody is there to seek justice for them, because IDPs are seen as

second-class citizens. There are no appropriate authorities in the camps, where both the victims and their parents can report their ordeal” (Anonymous, 2018). Similarly, according to Aisha Mamman (not real) in Mongolis IDPs, My daughter complained to me almost three times what an official have been subjecting her to, there is nothing I can do about it, for two reasons. One is that I do not know who to report the case to and the fear of ejecting me out of the camp or deprive me of my relief materials, but I leave him with God (Aisha, Personal Interview, 25 June 2018, Mongolis Camp).

Contrary to the principle against forced marriages, IDP women particularly widows, who have lost their husband to the conflict were subjected to forced marriages by camp committees and elders in the camp, the most worrisome part of this marriage is that, there is no provision for pre-marital medical examinations before the marriage. The reason they gave is to provide privacy for both partners, as only married partners are entitled to a room in the camp. Those that are single are jam-pack in single room, where you see 10 to 8 women squatting, which is against the National policy on IDP women, which says: “Under no circumstance shall women and men be lumped together in a room except as husbands and wives or as members of the same family” (National policy, 2012). This shows that, there is congestion in the camp and there are no adequate and proper shelters for these women. An assessment conducted by OCHA indicates that, more than half of the IDPs in and outside camps in the Northeast do not have adequate shelters, majority are women and their children (OCHA, 2016). Some lives in partially damaged or self-made shelters like huts and others lives in tents, provided by humanitarian agencies.

In a study conducted by OCHA indicates that, women and girls did not move at night for fear of being attacked and some living in camp-like settings felt their shelter did not provide adequate protection from sexual perpetrators (OCHA, 2016: International Alert, 2016).

In FGDs, some of the IDP women revealed that:

There are no doors, lightening, windows and proper roofing in some of the rooms they lived, these made some of us vulnerable to rape from sexual predators, due to the insecurity nature of the rooms. They laments further that, whenever rain comes we cannot sleep in the rooms, we have to hang somewhere up until the rain finish, due to the condition of the roofing (FGD, 2018).

There is lack of psychosocial intervention, for women that are victims of rape or those whose husbands were kill or their daughters raped in their presence and those faced with psychological trauma due to negative feeling and anxiety due to their displacement and loss of means of livelihood. For instance, ICRC assessments in Yola in September 2015 and Maiduguri in May 2016 indicate that, a high number of IDPs in Maiduguri have complaints relating to the effects of the conflict (e.g. intrusive memories, nightmares, fear, dizziness and headaches). They also indicated that IDPs lack income to cover basic and peculiar needs and lack of privacy in the camps, which led to high degrees of stress, anxiety, worry, somatic and hopelessness about the their future (ICRC, 2016). Women in this situation are in “catch 22 situation” as there are no neuropsychiatric, that can assist in providing solution to their predicaments. In all the conflict states in the northeast only Borno state has neuropsychiatric services for IDPs or newly displaced persons, that have been traumatised (Ibid). From the foregoing, we can see that, the rights of internally displaced women as enshrined in the Nigeria National policy on IDPs and Kampala Convention 2009 have eroded and violated.

Summary of the major findings

1. There are gross violations of IDPs women and girls rights in the Northeastern Nigeria, which is against the Kampala convention and National policy on the rights of IDP women.
2. IDP women faced live threatening security challenges ranging from food scarcity, discrimination, malnutrition and threat of deadly disease.
3. IDP women in the Northeast are forced into prostitution as negative coping mechanism within and outside the camps.
4. Women and girls were forced into ‘force/early marriages’ respectively, by their IDP parents who feared the terrible conditions in the camps, which include sexual abuse, unwanted pregnancies, and for them to have privacy.
5. Women were subjected to rape, beating, torture, discrimination/stigmatization, harassment and other dehumanizing situation from camp officials, security personnel and even members of the joint task force.

6. IDP women in the northeast lack access to justice in the case of violation of their rights.
7. IDP women lack access to healthcare, water, hygiene, sanitation, and psychosocial support; for women and girls that have been traumatized psychologically.
8. There is congestion in most of the camps and absence of adequate and proper shelters and inadequate lighting, which has led to the deteriorating living condition of the IDP women and girls.

Conclusion

Boko Haram insurgency has led to the displacement of millions of people in the northeastern Nigeria, in an attempt to realize its dream of establishing an Islamic state, governed by its ideology in the northeast Nigeria. This resulted in the loss of lives and properties, bombing of government buildings, military formations and displacement of innocent people particularly women, from their original places of residence. In the process of displacement, these women faced horrible security challenges of their lives and loss of their dignity as women, despite the existing laws formulated to safeguard and protect them. Problems such as rape, sexual assault, prostitution, forced and early marriages, threat of diseases, improper shelter and absence of medical facilities both in camps and in the host communities. Resettlement, adherence and enforcement of the Kampala Convention and National policy on IDPs and improving the socio-economic situation of the IDP women will reduce their vulnerability.

Recommendations

1. Government humanitarian agencies (NEMA and SEMA) and non-governmental humanitarian agencies present in the northeast should ensure strict adherence to the continental convention (Kampala Convention 2009) and Nigerian national policy for the protection and assistance for IDPs; this will go a long way in ameliorating the suffering of the IDPs.
2. Frantic efforts should be put in place by the Nigerian government in clearing Boko Haram insurgents, to enable the resettlement of all internally displaced persons back to their original place of residence.

3. Government should ensure active participation of the IDPs in making decisions that affects their lives. It will be of utmost importance to get the opinion of the IDPs on their needs before providing them with some assistance, to avoid misplacement of their priorities.
4. Government should make provision for the needs of the IDPs, in line with global best practices of managing humanitarian crisis.
5. Sexual predators especially camp officials, security personnel and members of CJTF should be investigated and ensure they face the full wrath of the law. This will serve as deterrence to others.
6. A special panel of investigation or commission against GVB should be setup; this will serve as a mechanism in protecting the dignity of women and girls and government should come up with anti-discrimination/stigmatization law against IDP women.

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