

**AN EVALUATIVE STUDY OF MASS MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE PLIGHTS OF  
INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN NIGERIA  
(A STUDY OF CHANNELS TV)**

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**NOVEMBER, 2022**

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**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MASS  
COMMUNICATION, SCHOOL OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION  
TECHNOLOGY, AUCHI POLYTECHNIC, AUCHI  
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**NOVEMBER, 2022**

### **DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that this project entitled “**An Evaluative Study of Mass Media Coverage of the Plights of Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria (A Study of Channels TV)**” was written by me and it is the record of my research. To the best of my knowledge, it has not been presented in any previous application for an academic award. All sources of information have been acknowledged using references.

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**Mohammed Rashidat Divine**

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**Date**

### **APPROVAL**

This project is approved based on the student's declaration and its compliance with the requirement of the Department of Mass Communication, Auchi Polytechnic, Auchi; in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of Higher National Diploma (HND) in Mass Communication.

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**Mrs. Agboh Chioma**  
**(Project Supervisor)**

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**Date**

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**Mr. Joseph Ikerodah**  
**(Head of Department)**

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**Date**

## **DEDICATION**

To God Almighty for His love, mercies, provision and protection

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I sincerely want to give God all the glory for making this a reality. It wasn't easy but He always come through for me.

I express profound gratitude to my project supervisor, Mrs Agboh Chioma, thank you for your selfless and relentless work towards the success of this project. May God bless you beyond description; and also to all lecturers of mass communication, thank you for the knowledge you impacted in me. I remain grateful.

Special thanks to my father, Mr Musa Mohammed Igbekhe, whose contributions have collectively assured the accomplishment of this project.

And to my friends and coursemates, I say thank you and see you at the top. To those names not mentioned, I am still grateful and God bless you all.

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## **ABSTRACT**

Nigeria is bedeviled by many crises in various parts of the country. This situation brings about high number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) especially in the northern part of the country. The IDPs rely on humanitarian assistance for survival since they lost their means of livelihood. For them to get such assistance, their conditions need to be known by the general public in order to come to their rescue. Part of the press responsibility in the society is to effectively inform the citizens about happenings in their localities and the country as a whole. It is in the light of this that this study evaluates mass media coverage of the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria. Four research questions guided this study. This study is hinged on the agenda setting theory. The survey design was deemed as the most suitable research design for this study and data were collated through the use of well-structured questionnaire. Findings show that the media creates awareness about the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria; also, the media educates people on the dangers of internal displacement and it guides public conversation about internal displacement. This study recommends that the media should give a high level prominence to issues that affects the welfare and well-being of IDPs via front page stories, editorials, columns and feature stories so that Nigerians will be better informed on the situation of IDPs in camps

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1. Background of the Study**

Evidence has shown that Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa, with a total population of over 180 million and 250 ethnic groups, and the country is marked by diversified religion and political fault lines characterised by frequent violence. This has resulted in numerous internally displaced individuals since the return of democracy in 1999. This situation has been exacerbated by the emergence of the Boko Haram insurgency in the north-eastern part of the country, heightening the numbers of internally displaced persons in Nigeria.

Nigeria is a country that is prone to crisis due to its multi-ethnic and multi-religious setting. The crises vary in nature and impact on the affected areas. The recent Boko Haram Insurgency which devastated the north-eastern part of the country brings about high number of internally displaced persons (IDPs). The IDPs rely on humanitarian assistance for survival since they lost their means of livelihood. For them to get such assistance, their conditions need to be known by the general public in order to come to their rescue. Part of the press' responsibility in the society is to effectively inform the citizens about happenings in their localities and the country as a whole. A United Nations International Children Education Fund (UNICEF) report 2016 indicates that there are 2.5 million malnourished children in the various IDP camps in Nigeria and about three hundred of them will die in 2016 unless they are aided while, Doctors without Borders in 2016 say at least 30 of them die every day. This highlights one serious condition in the IDP camps especially in Borno state where thousands of people were displaced from their homes. This indicates the pathetic condition of the IDPs and the need to come to their rescue. The media can play an important role especially through its agenda setting function to solicit assistance to the IDPs as well as getting a lasting solution to the remote cause of the problem.

Displaced Persons under the International Law are persons or groups who have been forced or obligated to flee or leave their homes as a result of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or man-made disasters. According to Tajudeen and Adebayo (2013), displaced persons can be categorised into two; Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Refugees. The Internally Displaced Persons are those who remain within their own national borders, while Refugees are those who have crossed into an internationally recognized state (Ladan, 2006).

The term refugee, according to the 1969 OAU now AU Convention shall apply to every person, who, owing to external aggression, occupation, foreign domination or events seriously disturbing public order in part or the whole of his/her country of origin or nationality is compelled to leave his (or her) place of habitual residence in order to seek refuge in another place outside his/her country or nationality.

Also, the Cartagena Declaration cited by the United Nations Human Rights Commission on Refugees (UNHCR) (1995) say, the term “refugee” is defined as including “persons who have fled their countries because their lives, safety or freedom have been threatened by generalized violence, foreign aggression, internal conflicts, massive violations of human rights or other circumstances which have seriously disturbed public order. Contributing to the foregoing, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre [IDMC], (2016) says, refugees cross international border in search of refuge, and this gives them legal refugee status which entitles them to certain rights and international protection. The interest of refugees, however, is protected by the refugee convention of 1951 and the 1967; protocol relating to the statute of refugees (Tajudeen & Adebayo, 2013).

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), on the other hand, are people who as a result of situations of armed conflicts (or the threat thereof) and mass violations of human rights, as well as floods, earthquakes and other natural disasters, flee their homes to neighbouring and far reaching community to seek succour. The IDMC (2016) say, IDPs, who unlike refugees are still under the jurisdiction of their own government and may not claim any rights additional to those shared by their fellow citizens. The United Nations (2004) explain that, IDPs are persons or groups who have been forced to flee their homes or place of habitual residence suddenly or unexpectedly as a result of armed conflict, internal strife, systematic violations of human rights or natural or man-made disasters, who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border.

A Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID, 2016) launched at the Chatam House, London in May 2016, shows that, in 2015, a total of 27.8 million people were displaced by conflict, violence and disasters in 127 countries of the world. This figure is an illustration of how internal displacement associated with conflict and violence has ravaged people’s lives globally. According to the report in the Middle East alone, 4.8 million people were displaced, while Iraq, Syria and Yemen accounted for over half of the total. Elsewhere, Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Colombia, Nigeria, South Sudan and Ukraine experienced the highest numbers of IDPs. Nigeria is one of the countries with internally displaced persons due to some multi-faceted factors. The National Policy on Internally

Displaced Persons (NPIDP, 2012) notes that, thousands of Nigerians are annually internally displaced as a result of conflicts and natural disasters, including flooding, erosion, oil spillage as well as development projects. Similarly, there are over 400,000 returnees that were internally displaced from the oil rich Bakassi Peninsula that was handed over by Nigeria to Cameroon in 2008 resulting from the 10th October, 2002 ruling of the International Court of Justice. However, the IDMC (2015) observes that the leading factors of displacement in Northern Nigeria are inter-communal conflicts, religious, sectarian and electoral violence, Boko Haram insurgency and recurrent flooding.

Furthermore, in the north east, more than 85,000 people fled their homes between January and August, 2014, in the states affected by Boko Haram insurgency (Nigeria Security Tracker cited in IDMC, 2015). And as a result of increasing conflict, particularly in the north east of the country due to Boko Haram Insurgency, the overall humanitarian situation in Nigeria has deteriorated (IOM, 2016).

Although, getting an exact figure of displaced persons in Nigeria is difficult as some of the displaced persons live in unrecognized IDP camps, the National Commission for Refugees (NCFR) in February 2014 reported that, there were 3.3 million IDPs in Nigeria as of 31st December 2013 while as of February 2015, the Displacement Tracking Index reports that, there are 1,235,294 IDPs in Northern Nigeria with Borno State (672,714 IDPs); Adamawa (220,159) and Yobe (135,810). The Displacement Tracking Index (2015) further shows that, the IDPs population is composed of the following;

- 53 per cent women and 47 per cent men;
- 56 per cent of the total IDP populations are children of which more than half are up to 5 years old, while 42 per cent are adults.
- 92 per cent of IDPs was displaced by insurgency;
- 79 per cent was displaced in 2014;
- The IDPs come mainly from Borno (62 per cent);
- 87 per cent of IDPs live in host families, while 13 per cent live in camps

Also, Between November to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2015, there are about 2,152,000 Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in 207 Local Government Areas (LGA) across 13 states of Northern Nigeria including Abuja (13,481 IDPs); Adamawa (136,010); Bauchi (70,078); Benue (85,393); Borno (1,434,149); Gombe (25,332); Kaduna (36,976) Kano (9,331); Nasarawa (37,553); Plateau (77,317); Taraba (50,227); Yobe (131,203); and Zamfara (44,929). And 12.6 per cent of the population was displaced due to communal clashes, 2.4 per cent by

natural disasters and 85 per cent as a result of insurgency attacks by Boko Haram Sect and the vast majorities are women, children and the old. Of this population, 87 per cent of the Internally Displaced populations are staying in host families while 13 per cent live in camps or camp like setting and over 40 of such camps or sites are in Adamawa, Borno, and Taraba states hosting more than 150,000 IDPs (IOM/NEMA, 2016).

Despite efforts of the United Nations, its organs and non-governmental organizations in collaboration with the government of Nigeria to ameliorate the conditions of IDPs and rehabilitate the victims, there are daunting challenges confronting internally displaced persons (IDPs) in various camps. Among the major problems confronting government recognized IDPs camps in Nigeria include welfare, security and rehabilitation (Premium Times, Dec., 28, 2015). What about sexual harassment, corruption etc.?

There are allegations of corruption in the handling of IDP camps in Nigeria as food materials made available by government and private individuals are siphoned by officials responsible for distributing them. For instance, on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2016, the Guardian Newspaper reported that, 71 trailers of rice and other grains meant for Adamawa IDPs went missing. Another case of theft was reported on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> August 2016 by same newspaper, where the Secretary, Taraba State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) Mr Nuvalga Dan-Habu disclosed that, a full truck of relief materials sent to Taraba State by President Muhammadu Buhari for distribution to the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) went missing. This indicates the spate of theft among people at the helm of affairs seizing the opportunity of hardship to loot.

Unfortunately, evidence has shown that the Nigerian media often does not bring matters of human rights abuses of the IDPs high enough on their news agenda to sufficiently capture local and international attention to enhance the remediation of the situation. The mass media in Nigeria, especially the traditional outlets have often been criticized for failing to carry out these roles adequately. These criticisms become justified when one considers the high rate of occurrence of human rights abuses which are reported on social media, but which the traditional media ignore in their reporting. This study aim to realize how the media in Nigeria are covering and reporting the issues of IDPs. The researcher also felt it was necessary to understand between the government and private media in Nigeria, which has more interest in the rights abuses that are prevalent in the IDP camps in Nigeria. Indeed, the portrayal of specific issues on-screen can influence the public's knowledge and beliefs as well as attract the attention of stakeholders with the corresponding possibility for policy formulation and implementation that will assist the IDPs.

## **1.2. Statement of the Problem**

It has been observed that some sections of Nigerian society perceive that the mainstream media are biased when framing and covering the factual state of affairs surrounding internally displaced individuals, because they perceive that the stories are misrepresented and have significant bias. As such, their experiences are sometimes neglected. Why then should it be concluded that the main-stream media in Nigeria may not entirely and objectively cover the issues of internally displaced persons and that the new media has made considerable efforts to increase the awareness of the public? In response to this question, studies have noted that the mass media in Nigeria have not been timely in their reportage and have not effectively played a surveillance role, nor have they displayed a high level of objectivity in their reporting (Afolabi, 2010), and this can partly be attributed to the fact that most media organizations in the country are owned by state (sub-national) governments and individuals, and as such, they are primarily used to promote the interests of their owners.

Intrinsically, Nigeria media is characterized by manipulation and distortion to suit the ideology or political agenda of the nation, as well as the media house or prominent individuals. Consequently, this affects the actual stories of internally displaced persons, as they are not adequately covered and disseminated and is usually lost amid statistics and reports of humanitarian responses. It could also be said that the media, particularly the government media, might decide not to cover the issues of the internally displaced persons objectively in order not to implicate those in power. Indeed, portraying the issues of the internally displaced persons in a more truthful manner would inform the public regarding the extent to which the government is intervening, and in turn, will demonstrate the competence or incompetence of the government. Sadly, the government-owned mainstream media are largely skeptical when it comes to criticism of the government in power (Apuke, 2017), while the private media who rely mostly on profit through various financiers, advertisers and special interest groups, would not be far from unbiased reporting (Cissel, 2012).

Therefore, the problem necessitating this study is how can we evaluate mass media coverage of the plight of internally displaced persons in Nigeria?

## **1.3. Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of this study are as follows;

- i. To determine the role of the mass media in the coverage of the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria.

- ii. To ascertain the effectiveness of the media in the coverage of the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria.
- iii. To examine the factors militating against the media in the coverage of the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria.
- iv. To proffer solutions to the factors militating against the media in the coverage of the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria.

#### **1.4. Research Questions**

Based on the above objectives, the following research questions were formulated;

- i. What is the role of the mass media in the coverage of the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria?
- ii. How effective is the media in the coverage of the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria?
- iii. What are the factors militating against the media in the coverage of the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria?
- iv. What are the solutions to the factors militating against the media in the coverage of the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria?

#### **1.5. Scope of the Study**

This study evaluates mass media coverage of the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria. Based on the nature of this study, it will be time-consuming, if not totally impossible to study all the mass media outlets in Nigeria on the subject of discourse. Therefore, the researcher limited the scope of this study to Channels Television.

#### **1.6. Significance of the Study**

This study is timely because it provides detailed information on mass media coverage of the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria. Drawing from this, it provides an opportunity for governments to invest heavily in human development and eradicate societal vices as poverty, illiteracy or unemployment as measures to help avert insurgency and terrorism.

Admittedly, the collective responsibility espoused in this study is not just for the security of Nigerians but also for the wellbeing of all humans regardless of their respective country. So if various governments become very much aware that the prevalence of insurgencies and terrorisms in various parts of the world is heavily connected to

governmental lapses or bad governance and work tirelessly to adopt some of the measures suggested in this study, the scourge of insurgencies and terrorism would be immensely reduced.

Finally, this study will be important to students and future researchers who may like to embark on similar or related study, thereby creating the desired knowledge and understanding the effectiveness of the print media.

### **1.7. Limitation of the Study**

Every research work has its limitations and shortcomings; therefore, this is not an exception. During the course of embarking on this research, the researcher encountered series of problems and some of them include: sourcing materials for effective research because there were no adequate research materials for the research topic.

The respondents did not also help matters because some of the questionnaires given them were not returned to the researcher while few were wrongly filled. Apart from the fact that the researcher is constrained by time, the most serious limitation to this study is the lack of sincerity on the part of some respondents to the questionnaires administered.



## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

#### **2.1. Review of Relevant Literature**

The fulcrum of this review is to critically analyse literary works of some scholars, authors as well as students that have been established as bodies of knowledge related to the topic under study. The literature review is divided into sub-headings in line with Ohaja's (2003) assertion that the literature review should be broken into sub-units and presented in a logical order to enhance readability. In the light of the above assertion, this study is therefore, broken into the following sub-headings;

- Concept of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)
- Causes of Internal Displacement in Nigeria
- Security Challenges of Internal Displacement in Nigeria
- Legal and Institutional Framework for Addressing Internal Displacement in Nigeria
- Challenges of Rehabilitating Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria
- Unveiling the Plights and Narratives of Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria
- Factors Responsible for the Failure of the Media in Addressing the Plights of IDPs

#### **Concept of Internally Displaced Persons**

There is no legal definition for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) as there is for Refugees. However, the United Nations report, Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement posit that IDPs are groups that are forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or homes, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border. The 'push' and 'pull' factors are often due to armed conflict or violation of human right(s) or man-made disasters. Refugees are displaced persons who, due to one of the reasons as mentioned earlier, migrate to another state. Salama (2001) noted that refugees have a unique status in International law. That the United Nation High Commissioner for Refugee has an international responsibility to protect the rights of affected victims and coordinate both human and fundamental needs was espoused by the UNHCR in 2001. In international law, there are two classifications of displacement; Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons with acronym IDPs. A refugee is a group of people who flee from their home country to neighbouring state to seek protection outside their state border due to a threat to life while the internally displaced persons flee from their homes but stay in the country where the conflict occurred (Chimni 2000). According to the Guiding Principle of the United Nations, Internally Displaced are often

referred to as those who flee their residence as a result of insecurity caused by violence and systematic abuse of human right. They change their residences, away from such violence and the deprivation.

Questions still loom if these persons are considered as a part of the political, social and economic order, especially when references are made to undeveloped nations. The case for this concern stems from the fact that the IDPs in these countries are more often than not, forgot or left to their fate, and directly or indirectly further deprived of some fundamental human rights, not limited to the deprivation that precipitated their displacement. They are not catered for; neither is the cause of their movement tackled with seriousness, particularly in Nigeria. The aftermath of the Boko Haram insurgency led to the outgrowth of the IDPs and displacement problems, lay credence to the above argument.

IDPs are people whom involuntary migration from their homes as a result of armed conflict or drought and disasters in such critical situation that the relocation of an affected population becomes inevitable. Ibeanu (1999) submitted that IDPs are those who seek relocation due to a conflict in their region. However, Hampton (2013) opted that people that flee their homes to seek safer net within the confines of their national borders or home country are classified IDPs. It was recent that IDPs was given attention, before this time the focus of discourse was on Refugees. In 1988, the special Representative Security General the United Nations issued a Guiding Principles for IDPs; this was a framework that helped in curtailing the challenges faced by the internally displaced persons. Similarly, IDPs encounter greater challenges and uncertainty in camps which ranges from the right to property to dehumanizing conditions. They are scourged by poverty and hunger, diseases, neglects and feelings of alienations among others. All these conspire to worsen their status as internally displaced persons to psychosocially and emotionally displaced persons.

Salama (2001) noted that the group of IDPs who migrate to other places does so unwillingly; hence they can be categorized under the term “forced displacement.” A phenomenon where the existence and magnitude of which are at best the subject of political discussion and the dynamics of which remain predominantly in the hands of individual actors (Meerton). To show the remarkable difference between the IDPs and Refugees, Cohen (2004) observed that unlike refugees, IDPs often fall within a vacuum of responsibility within their countries. There is no clear international responsibility for assisting and protecting the internally displaced aside the general international humanitarian law, whereas, for refugees, the UNHCR exercises that responsibility on a clear ground. Cohen (2004) has thrown up something that ordinarily would have remained elusive and vague to us thus; the

distinction is better understood from the 'internal-external' angles of displacement. The fact that the plight and welfare of the IDPs are not adequately treated, the same respects like the well-being of the refugees remain contentious.

Wille (2006) opined that the experiences of internally displaced persons are highly sensitive, with a potential to trigger deep divisions among states if not handled sensitively and promptly. From it, we have been able to unearth the grave neglect of the IDPs in the society where in some circumstances their basic needs are not met. This insensitivity is reflected in government policies, in which little or no protection is given to this class of people, not even as a part of citizens. Thus, previous studies on the subject matter have given some quantitative estimates of the population of the internally displaced people in the world however; the estimates are amenable to change from time to time. These are primarily due to the increasing rate of armed conflict, violence and social unrest, which has uprooting people (Meerton). In 1999, the US Committee on IDPs stated that there were 21 million people worldwide who had been displaced. The latest study by IDMC in 2021 (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre) has shown that this figure has increased to 38.8 million people. With the annual percentage growing at 2.5% vis-à-vis the alarming increment rate of armed conflict, violence and social unrest in many countries of the world, it is expected this number would round off by 60 million by the end of 2030.

According to Egwu (2011), the full scope of displacement is unknown in Nigeria. He based his argument on the capacity and resource of accurate data from a complex nature of IDPs. Consequently, the report of the IDMC (2012) shows that there had not been an actual survey on displacement and no mechanisms to monitor for a durable solution. Rather what have been is mere estimate of those in IDP camps or sight whereas researcher has not taken into consideration those with families and relatives outside the camps. Consequently, no official government report has given the accurate number despite the growing concerns. Oduwale (2013) traced the factor responsible for displacement to the push and pull factors involved; stating that one must take into cognizance violent conflict coupled with increasing level of poverty and low levels of education particularly in the northern Nigeria where the IDPs in high. The number of recorded cases of displacement caused by manmade circumstances supersedes those from nature such as flooding, ocean surges, fire, tsunamis, etc. The democratic transition in Nigeria in 1999 clearly showed the increase of people affected by diverse conflicts. Thus, since then the numbers of IDPs in Nigeria have been on the increase.

Politicization of religion and ethnicity in Nigeria led to the emergence of groups like Oduduwa Peoples' Congress (OPC), the Arewa Peoples' Congress (APC), and of late the Movement Jama'at Ahlus al-Sunnah Liddawati Wal- Jihad styled as Boko Haram and others (Bamidele 2012). The same goes to the Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) movement of 1966 which led to the dreaded Nigerian-Biafran War that gulped about three million people and displaced many. The emergence of these groups had resulted in the growing number of IDPs for decades in Nigeria. But the most radical of the group is the Boko Haram with reported cases of violence with and across the shores of Nigeria. Attacks from this Islamic sect have resulted in the destruction and damage of infrastructure worth billions (Oriakhi and Osemwengie 2012). People flee almost every day, and are still forced into repeated displacement, when there are limited safe places, as a safe place today may turn unsafe the next day. Some scholars have argued that the victims suffer not only displacement but also, dislocations. The situation of displacement is very critical that the government of Nigeria is even yet to have an up-to-date number of IDPs.

It is trite to note that terrorism whether domestic or transnational often has a devastating effect on the society. Hampton (2013) observed that immediately after the end of the Cold War the world had seen new forms of conflict which range from the birth of radical sect, terrorism, and fundamentalist group. The sovereignty of states is put to test by various secessionist groups' demand for autonomy while the innocent citizens affected are exposed to all forms of human right violation in conflict scenario.

Consequently, since the year 2009, Boko Haram gained recognition from international media and Western society particularly in the April 2014 tragic event that led to the abduction of over 250 Chibok school girls (Zenn, 2014). Scholars like Akpan, Ekanem et al. (2014); stated that within 2002-2013 an estimated number of 10,000 persons have lost their lives to the insurgency while over 100 million dollars of property destroyed by the sect which led to massive displacement of persons. Scholars have argued that Nigeria spends 25% revenue on security. However, despite the enormous amount that is channeled to security the situation remains unaddressed. Many critics have attributed the failure to the Nigeria to address the growing increase of IDPs as politically motivated factors.

Ibeanu (1999), stated that due to the survey conducted it estimated that over 300,000 persons are displaced as a result of communal conflicts in the South-eastern part of Nigeria alone. The report submitted by National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) also confirms that Boko Haram had displaced over 60,000 people who had fled across the neighboring borders of Cameroon, Chad and Niger becoming refugees. No doubt the

increasing numbers of IDPs in the country remains a problem to the international community. IDPs face diverse security challenges that remain unaddressed by the affected state. He further observed that it portrays a lack of political wills by the state.

Hampton (2013), maintained that displaced victims often settle in “forests or jungles” and become affected by contagious diseases or suffer human deprivation. It becomes evident that victims are in economic hardship, they are often deprived of contributing positively to the economy of the own state. Every year there are cases of hundreds and thousands of people fleeing their homes to seek refuge outside their communities “buffer zone” (Hampton, 2013).

Omotola (2008) had contended that the poverty remains the toughest problem that Nigeria is facing in her drive to development. It has been argued elsewhere that the failure of government had led to the high rate of poverty and unemployment. This is in line with the position of Onimode (2017) about the vicious cycle of poverty that Africa is weak because of the mismanagement of the state resources by corrupt political gladiators. Ayegba (2015) notes that violence is due to “frustration that led men to act aggressively.” Thus, if the state lacks the political will to handle protection from hunger, poverty, disease, fear and wants, in such situations crimes become the order of the day.

### **Causes of Internal Displacement in Nigeria**

The definition of IDPs by the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement hints at the following general causes of internal displacement: armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters. In Nigeria it cannot be correct to talk of these as causes of internal displacement without adding the often immediate dynamic motivators for them, which in most cases are things like religion and ethnicity/tribe. It is for this reason that the National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nigeria states that most of the incidences of internal displacement in Nigeria occur because of violent conflicts with ethnic religious and/or political undertones. This reality creates a particular local nuance to the causes of internal displacement in Nigeria. Therefore, the following are some of the causes of internal displacement in Nigeria;

- **Inter-Ethnic Rivalries:** Nigeria is a country of over 250 ethnic nationalities and rivalry between these nationalities sometimes degenerate to armed conflicts resulting in IDPs. The Tiv and Jukun inter-ethnic conflict in October 2001 displaced between

300,000 and 500,000 people (Ben, 2012). In February 2002 the inter-ethnic clash in Lagos between Yorubas and Hausas from the North displaced more than 2000 people. There are cases of intra-ethnic conflicts like the Ife-Modakeke conflict that left in their trails IDPs. Inter-Ethnic conflicts are sustained by the indigene/non-indigene discriminations that thrive heavily in the country in spite of the constitutional guarantee of freedom from discrimination in section 42 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended).

- **Religious Clashes:** Christianity and Islam are the religions of the majority of Nigerians and both are rated to enjoy numerical parity; with Muslims more amongst the Hausa-Fulani in the North, while Christians more in the other ethnic groups in the Middle Belt and Southern part of the country. Records show that since the enthronement of the Sharia law in twelve Northern States from the year 2000, Nigeria has witnessed more clashes between Muslims and Christians than ever particularly in the North, which leave behind thousands of IDPs. The distrust between the adherents of these two religions colours many inter-ethnic conflicts between the Muslim majority Hausa-Fulani and the other ethnic nationalities. The Boko Haram terrorism that has produced million of IDPs is religiously motivated.
- **Agricultural Policies:** The Global IDP project reports that agricultural policies in Nigeria have favoured large-scale agricultural projects which have forced farmers away from their land. According to it this resulted directly in communal violence, often of an ethnic character over borderlands and fishing waters. This however, is not present in most parts of Southern Nigeria.
- **Armed Pastoralists (Herdsmen):** The violence of armed pastoralists, otherwise known as herdsmen, is another major cause of IDPs today in Nigeria. With their cows and other livestock they invade people's farms and kill and sack the people from their villages at any least resistance to the ravage of their farms. Conflicts between herdsmen and their host communities have resulted to many people being displaced from their homes while the herdsmen take over their homes and farms. This again has ethno-religious character because the herdsmen are generally Hausa-Fulani and so Muslims. Thomson Reuters Foundation reported in February 2017 of 27,000 people

in Kaduna having been forced to flee their homes due to violence between Muslim herdsmen and largely Christian farmers in Southern Kaduna which killed at least 800 people. Thousands of Agatu people in Benue State have also been displaced by the same Fulani herdsmen in 2016 and 2017.

- **Land Conflicts:** Land conflict is another cause of IDPs. Conflicts over large parcels of land particularly between towns and states can result to internal displacement. This kind of conflict can be intra-ethnic, as in Ife-Modakeke, or inter-ethnic as between Anambra State and Kogi State.
- **Displacement Related to Oil Exploration:** Oil exploration, production and transportation have entailed huge environmental devastation such that life has become impossible in the oil producing areas particularly in the Niger Delta with the result that many people are displaced from their homes and communities. Corroborating this point, Terminski (2008) noted that long-lasting environmental degradation has forced Ogoni people to protest campaign against Shell and other oil companies. Following protests in 1993, about 27 villages were raided, resulting in the death of 2,000 Ogoni people and the displacement of 80,000 persons. More than 2,000 Ogoni people have been forced to leave Ogoniland and escaped to neighboring states.
- **Natural Disasters:** Flooding, drought and desertification are instance of natural disasters that force people out of their homes or places of residence. In the recent times the overflow of River Niger along its banks in Nigeria produces thousands of IDPs. The drying up of Lake Chad is held responsible for the southward movement of herdsmen.

### **Security Challenges of Internal Displacement in Nigeria**

Security in Nigeria demands that not only that Nigeria should be free from external aggression but also that inside the country people should be free from threats to their physical existence as well as to the rights and conditions on which their physical well-being is based. IDPs has become a major threat to Nigeria's security given the millions of people who have been uprooted from their homes, residences and environments, and thrown into the wide uncertainties and deprivations connected with being displaced persons. According

to Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (2013), about 3.3 million people were displaced in Nigeria essentially as a result of insurgency. The same high figure of 3.3 million was quoted for the succeeding year, 2014. The statistics is not much different for the following year, 2015, when it was put at 2,152,000. The figures could be higher taking into cognizance the fact that these figures are mostly accounted for by insurgency by Islamists in the northern part of the country. The IDMC reported that at December 2015, the total number of IDPs identified in Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe amounted to 2,152,000 people. This is the figure the agency quoted as the estimate of IDPs for Nigeria for the entire 2015. But there are other causes of IDPs in Nigeria such as natural disasters and the herdsmen terrorism. An IDMC report published in 2015 noted that after a conflict between herdsmen and farmers in central Plateau State, about 258,000 people were displaced. Today, herdsmen terrorism has extended to virtually all the seventeen States of Southern Nigeria.

Security challenges created by the phenomenon of IDPs include loss of home, loss of traditional livelihood and sources of generating income, break-up of families and community support networks, loss of intangible goods, and loss of documentation. Home is not just shelter, or abode, but is much more than that. It includes the spiritual, emotional, psychological, social and cultural attachments that surround the physical shelter or abode. Cultural attachments to home for instance include kinship and traditional relationships which are over time. With the loss of home the right to life of the IDPs is threatened on different dimensions; they are exposed to the harsh weather conditions of the heat of the sun and rains, privacy and environment for family life are lost. Consequently, the loss of home becomes a traumatic destabilization of life which in the case of the IDPs amounts to serious national insecurity.

Another stark reality facing IDPs is the loss of traditional livelihood and sources of generating income. Usually people' jobs and means of livelihood are tied around their homes. Either they choose a job because it is close to their home or they establish business close home. Some other times people find a home where they have a job, business or means of livelihood. Whichever way it is looked at, their home is crucial to their means of livelihood such that any displacement from home or residence means a loss of means of livelihood. In most cases, loss of home goes with being cut off from one's land which is a huge economic resource for purposes of agricultural activities. Being an IDP usually goes with the break-up of family and community support networks. Family is defined as the smallest cell of the society because members of a family establish support network amongst



themselves and, their kith and kin around their established homes. Internal displacement breaks this support network and throws people into difficulties. Studies show that children are worst for it as displacement not only disrupts their education and normal development but also frequently results in their being separated from their families in the chaos of flight, left to fend for themselves and at heightened risk of abuse.

Problems associated with IDPs is not only in the loss of physical and tangible resources like homes, farms and jobs, but also it goes with the loss of intangible goods like friendship, cultural heritage and a sense of belonging to a particular place.<sup>1</sup> Loss of documentation is perhaps a very critical consequence of internal displacement. As the society gets more and more literate, people have to do with a lot of documentation such as bank papers, academic certificates and property titles. During flight these documents could be lost, confiscated or destroyed. For instance during the December 2004 Tsunami, it is estimated that more than 70 percent of survivors lost their documentation.

### **Legal and Institutional Framework for Addressing Internal Displacement in Nigeria**

A jurisprudential issue with the legal protection of internally displaced persons is the justification for taking IDPs as a category for particular concern. Those against such recognitions argue that IDPs should be treated as ordinary victims of conflicts. But this view presumes erroneously that every internal displacement is as a result of conflict. Internal displacement as we have seen could result also from natural disaster or in anticipation of conflicts. Another point from this school of thought is that singling out IDPs for special consideration would privilege them and lead to discrimination against others. On the other hand, persuasive arguments are advanced from the vulnerability of internally displaced person to support their being isolated for particular concern. On the vulnerability of IDPs, Mooney (2009) note that once it occurs, internal displacement brings about a set of circumstances that renders those affected highly vulnerable. Most obviously, it forces people from their homes, depriving them of shelter and the basic protection it can provide. Cut off from their land, traditional livelihood and means of generating income, and compelled to leave all but a few possessions behind, IDPs suddenly find themselves stripped of their means of survival. At the same time, it breaks up families and community support networks.

It is on this philosophical ground that Nigeria adopted the National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nigeria in 2012 as a manifestation of particular

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concern for the IDPs which is geared to responding to their human rights needs. Nonetheless, the policy has only remained a policy and not a statute. By a Presidential fiat, the statutory mandates of National Commission for Refugees established in 1989 were extended in 2002 to cover migrants and in 2009 to embrace IDPs protection and assistance. With these extensions, the hitherto National Commission for Refugees became National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Person (NCFRMI). Yet the needed amendment to the original Act to reflect these changes in scope has not been made. Without this amendment the activities of the Commission in the area of internally displaced persons remain outside of law. Thus, Ekpa and Dahlan (2018) opined that a change in the name of this Commission to reflect the newly ceded mandates remains a mere window dressing in the absence of appropriate legislative amendment, and thus it is preposterously akin to new wine in an old bottle. Hence there is no particular statute regulating internal displacement in Nigeria.

All the same, the 1999 Constitution (as amended) is a bulwark for the obligation of government to respond to the human rights needs of the IDPs. The power given to the Federal Executive by section 5(1)(b) of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) to execute and maintain this Constitution includes seeing that the human rights of IDPs, particularly as enshrined in Chapter IV, are protected. It is pursuant to this obligation that the National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nigeria 2012 was drafted and adopted by the Presidency. Parts of the legal framework for the regulation of IDPs in Nigeria are treaties and other international instruments relating to human rights and humanitarian law which Nigeria is legally bound to comply with. Among them is the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, (otherwise known as the Kampala Convention) of 2009 which Nigeria ratified in 2012 and which in Article 4 calls on States-party to respond to human rights needs of IDPs. But this Convention is yet to be domesticated in Nigeria pursuant to section 12 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended). Another framework is the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internally Displacement of 1998.

The overriding aspiration of the policy is the achievement of the durable solution to internal displacement. Durable solution, according to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons, is achieved when internally displaced persons no longer have any specific assistance and protection needs that are linked to their displacement and can enjoy their human rights without discrimination on account of their displacement. The policy adopts a definition of IDPs that is very broad

covering human induced displacements, whether through violence or through violations of human rights, natural disaster and any other cause of displacement.

To ensure that the human rights of the IDPs are protected even under displacement, the policy in chapter three recognizes certain rights for the IDPs, which rights are classified into general and specific rights. The general rights belong to all displaced persons and they include the right to protection from displacement, right of every displaced person to protection and assistance during and after displacement, and right of IDPs to voluntary return, local integration and relocation. On the other hand, the specific rights are rights guaranteed for particular categories of persons needing special attention. The rights include the rights of internally displaced children, the rights of internally displaced women, the rights of internally displaced persons with disabilities, and rights of internally displaced elderly persons. Though the rights are for all displaced persons, they, nonetheless, do not guarantee for displaced non-citizens rights that they cannot enjoy if they were not displaced, such as the right to vote or be voted for in public elections. The policy also has obligations for the IDPs. They must be law abiding and personally responsible for any crime committed under international and municipal law. They are also to respect the culture and norms of host communities and abide by rules and regulations in collective settlements.

In chapter four the policy places varying degrees of responsibilities on major stakeholders in the IDPs issue; government, humanitarian agencies, host communities and armed groups. Government at all tiers is recognized as the primary bearer of the responsibility of preventing internal displacement and when it occurs, it has the responsibility of protecting and assisting IDPs in Nigeria. This duty consists of three dimensions: first, being responsive, that is, aiming to prevent imminent or stop on-going violations that lead to displacement; second, being remedial, that is, aiming to provide redress (e.g. access to justice, reparation or rehabilitation) for past violations. The third is environment-building, that is, aiming at creating the necessary legal and institutional framework, capacity and awareness that is necessary to promote respect for human rights of internally displaced persons and prevent future violations. Humanitarian agencies operating in Nigeria and working with the IDPs have the obligation to comply with law, both international and municipal law, and policy guidelines on IDPs.

Aware that sometimes preoccupations of government and humanitarian agencies with displaced persons lead to conflict between the displaced persons and their host communities, the policy recognizes the rights of the host communities which government and humanitarian agencies must respect pursuant to the principles of impartiality and non-discrimination. These

rights include socio-economic rights, right to security of life and property, right to adequate and appropriate compensation, right to food security, right to safe environment, and right to quality health. At the same time the host communities bear responsibilities which include providing adequate security and safety for internally displaced persons settled or resident in their communities, and allowing IDPs the freedom to express their cultural, religious and political beliefs without undue discrimination, molestation or inhibition (Emeka, 2021).

The overall implementation of the policy is assigned to the IDP Focal Coordinating Institution<sup>i</sup> to be created in the presidency pursuant to chapter 5.3.1 of the policy. The responsibilities of this institution are listed in chapter 5.3.1(a-m) and they include advising the president, government and intergovernmental agencies and donor partners on IDP policy issues;<sup>2</sup> and identifying, mobilizing and coordinating camp management agencies and other sectoral partners, ensuring that there is coordination among other sectors. For predictability, speed, effectiveness, leadership, coordination, collaboration and accountability this chapter breaks down the needs of the IDPs into sectors which *inter alia* include the nine listed in chapter 5.3.2g (i-ix). They include the Food Aid and Agriculture Sector,<sup>3</sup> Human Rights and Protection Sector, and Education Sector. The chapter lists institutions, public and private, which shall, supposedly under the IDP Focal Coordinating Institution, integrate the responsibilities for protection and assistance of internally displaced persons into their core mandates, and shall perform such roles as required by the sector arrangements to which they shall be assigned. These institutions include National Commission for Refugees, National/State Emergency Management Agency, National Human Rights Commission, Private Sector Institutions, and Mass Media. Chapter six, the last chapter, provides the mechanisms for funding the policy which involve not only federal government financial interventions but also appeals to donor agencies and recourse to loans/grants from international organizations like the UN and African Union (AU). This chapter prescribes also for the establishment in the IDP Focal Coordinating Institution a special monitoring and evaluation unit for monitoring and evaluating the implantation of the policy.

### **Challenges of Rehabilitating Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria**

The following constitutes to the challenges facing the Nigerian state in addressing the rehabilitation of displacement in Nigeria. These challenges will be discussed in themes.

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- **Lack and Absence of Appropriate Legal Frameworks on IDPs**

In 1998, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights kick started the process which led to the emergence of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement as an international standard setting norm on IDPs. Part of the ideals set out in the Guiding Principles is the call on states to replicate the principles contained therein into national laws and policies on internal displacement (Sayne, 2012). Similarly, the African Union Convention for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons which reflects the international guidance provided in the Guiding Principles enjoin states party to domesticate the provisions of this Africa's first human right treaty into domestic law as a way of strengthening protection and assistance for IDPs within their respective borders. The Nigerian Government in 2003 set up a committee saddled with the onerous mandate to draft a national policy on IDPs as a means of addressing the gaps in the protection of IDPs in line with existing norms. The committee came up with a 51 page draft policy which was presented to government in 2011. Surprisingly, despite the severity characterized by the interminable surge in internal crises in the country which has disreputably provoked massive human loss, wreckage of infrastructures and displacement of people, the said draft has continued to sink in oblivion given the fact that it is yet to become operational. This is notwithstanding the fact that the draft national IDP policy restates all the rights and freedoms recognized under the Guiding Principles, Kampala Convention, and the Nigerian Constitution, the inordinate delay in its adoption and eventual implementation by government also adds to the issue of non-enforcement and compliance of its set out standards even before domestic courts in Nigeria (Ashiru, 2010). In addition, Nigeria has ratified the Kampala Convention but up to this present time, there is no domestic legislation that mirrors the legal and institutional frameworks on IDPs protection ingeniously contemplated for states party in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

Owing to absence of clearly delineated area of responsibilities for each of the relevant institutions such as National Emergency Management Agency and National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons sharing concerns on IDPs issues, the requisite synergy is also lacking regarding humanitarian intervention in Nigeria resulting in wasteful duplication of responsibilities as well as in the provisions of material needs for victims.

- **Lack and Dearth of Reliable Statistics on IDPs**

The actual number of persons displaced by recurring internal conflicts need to be determined before any meaning planning and eventual intervention can be effectively undertaken. In Nigeria reliable data in this regard is lacking, and this constitutes one key constraint that undermines effective protection and assistance of IDPs in Nigeria. The capacity to gather relevant data is potentially inefficient due to poor communication and transportation networks. Most of the IDPs are uprooted away from their homes into areas that are virtually not easily accessible. The National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons and National Emergency Management Agency by virtue of their enabling statutes collate data on IDPs in Nigeria without any agreeable standards in terms of methodology. Data derived from these sources are therefore questionable, inaccurate and misleading. For example, after many years, the National Refugee Commission publicly released an estimated figure of 1.5 million persons as internally displaced due to internal crises in Nigeria, this figure to say the least is doubtful given that they are not usually disaggregated by sex and age (Shedrack & Nuarrual, 2016). The cumulative effects of the above development leads to the continued distortion of the true pictures and understanding of the severity and dynamics of internal displacement in Nigeria even before national authorities and international communities for the purposes of any feasible and result oriented intervention.

- **Absence of Designated Camps for IDPs**

There are also challenges that are tied to the absence of IDP camps and other facilities. It is common to see that whenever there is an emergency resulting in the displacement of people; victims are hurriedly relocated to available public infrastructures like schools and other public places on temporal basis. But situations of internal displacement are not like a scorpion bite and so it does not freeze away with ease (Olukolajo, Ajayi, & Ogungbenro, 2014). There are deaths of IDPs' camps of permanent nature in Nigeria. Make shift camps are porous and not specially constructed to ensure adequate security to forestall secondary attack on the victims. A large proportion of IDPs in Nigeria resides with their family and friends who at times are members of their host communities. For example, in the IOM Round IX Reports, it was reported that out of the 97 IDPs sites in Nigeria's North Eastern States of Adamawa, Borno, Taraba and Yobe assessed by the IOM team which comprises of NEMA, IOM and Nigerian Red Cross Society, 22 are located in open air

settlements called camps, 73 are in collective settlements (pre-existing structures) such as public schools and government buildings, while the remaining 2 sites are transitional centre which only provides transient accommodation to IDPs (Shedrack & Nuarrual, 2016). Given the nature of facilities stated above, medical facilities are also lacking in the so called IDPs' camps as outbreak of diseases are on the increase because of competition for space and other related factors. These embarrassing situations threw to the wild wind any assurance that durable solutions in the form of return, resettlement and rehabilitation can be achieved for IDPs whose numbers and identities are unascertainable. More so in Nigeria there are no specially tailored housing development projects for vulnerable population like IDPs.

- **Ineffective Mechanisms for Accountability and Repatriations to IDPs**

This is one of bulging concerns in the legal frameworks for the protection of IDPs. The unending impunity characterized by lack of adequate domestic mechanisms to guarantee accountability of perpetrators of internal conflicts is indisputably problematic. Successive administrations in Nigeria are quite unsuccessful in applying the appropriate penal laws to ensure that perpetrators of violence of whatever descriptions incur responsibility for the wrongs committed against innocent citizens including IDPs. Several commissions and investigative panels has been set up by government at the end of every crises to probe into remote and immediate causes, unfortunately their reports of the so called board of inquiry and their eventual implication have not seen the light of the day, they are kept in archive of history. Most of the times, the setting up of commissions to probe violence are greeted with terse legal disputes due to underlining diverse ethnic, religious and political interests in the affected areas thereby stalling their effective take off. The setting up of so many adhoc commissions to probe violence in violence has not able to achieve the needed deterrence as the approach is seen as deferring of government responsibility in favour community and religious leaders' wishes and a time buying tactics to douse tensions and avoid criminal prosecutions. At the end faults are not apportioned because of lack of political will. This study would not differ but to agree with an opinion expressed by an author that "the use of commission is where genuine and legal controversies go to die". Government officials who are charged with the responsibility of prosecuting perpetrators see violence more of a political problem requiring political solution rather than criminal prosecutions. Rioters are often celebrated as heroes instead of rogues based on divides to which they belong. There is often a limit to how much the society can preach peace without accountability for unprovoked and wanton destruction of lives and properties as well displacement. The foregoing explains the

corresponding endless urge to revenge at the slightest opportunity thereby making victims to live in an atmosphere of perpetual displacement. In the absence of fruitful criminal prosecutions and convictions of culprits for the mass atrocities they have committed either individually or collectively as evident in the various internal crises plaguing the nation, people will continue to engage themselves in this ignominious warfare with brazen impunity and rascality (Shedrack & Nuarrual, 2016). Coupled with the foregoing is the dearth of credible evidences to support the effective prosecution of perpetrators of internal conflicts given the fact that victims and witnesses prefer to stay away from the courts to avoid reprisal attacks on their persons and property in the hands of arrested culprits. This situation has led to a number of cases thrown out of court for lack of evidence with which to establish the guilt of culprits.

In addition to the foregoing challenge, there is also lack of effective reparations for victims of internal displacement in Nigeria. Unlike in other jurisdiction like Sri Lanka where there exist a purpose driven and designated remedial regime in favour of victims of crime and their witnesses, in Nigeria, there is yet no active mechanisms in place to guarantee effective reparation for personal injuries and loss of properties during displacement. Even though, the right to seek remedy for compulsory acquisition of landed property is well conceptualized, the same cannot be the case with IDPs in Nigeria as government except in development induced displacement and evictions are not responsible for such violations for the purposes of granting affected person any form of reparation. Aside this too, the right to redress provided for in the Nigerian Constitution is not absolute. IDPs by virtue of their predicaments are poor and thus incapable of activating the judicial process contemplated in the Constitution, more so that the legal assistance conceived therein are not specifically meant to be enjoyed by IDPs alone even in the face of their peculiar vulnerability (Shedrack & Nuarrual, 2016).

Bearing this dilemma in mind, victims of internal displacement finds it extremely difficult returning to original place of abode even after the end of crises for fear of nowhere to put their heads. Reclaiming their property upon eventual return is also problematic especially where government has designated such places as crises zones. Victims run the risk of having their properties declared abandoned by government instead of being compensated.

### **Unveiling the Plights and Narratives of Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria**

While the story of the abducted Chibok and Dapchi schoolgirls gained the attention of the internal media, the situation of thousands of people who have become “refugees” in their own country stares us in the face. It was two years ago that over 9000 Nigerian refugees



returned home from the Our Lady Queen of the Refugees Camp, Minawoa village in the state of Maroua de mokolo, Cameroon (Dyikuk, 2017). The camp was “home to about 58 thousand refugees from Borno State, Nigeria who fled from the marauding claws of Boko Haram insurgents” (Dyikuk, 2017). These refugees were subjected to untold hardship. For instance, apart from the cry about food and education for their children, some lamented about some unethical practices going on in the camps. They disclosed that they were given “a measure of rice per person for a month plus a pack of condom” (Dyikuk, 2017).

Back home, the situation of most of the former refugees did not change much. If anything, they only took on the new status of becoming Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). Because the IDP camps are made up of civilian populations, periodically, the insurgents take advantage of the poor security situation there to launch attack on the camps. At other times, they use guerrilla tactics or recruit women and girls of school age as suicide bombers.

A careful scrutiny of the insurgent’s strategy reveals the use of women and girls as sex slaves, cooks, suicide bombers and human shields. What this means is that most of the women in IDP camps are traumatized because they have been abused through rape and physical torture. Some of the children they have were seared by the militants. The sight of the children often brings back the memories of the untold experience they went through. Because of cultural and religious reasons, many of the women especially those who are either carrying pregnancies or living with HIV aids are suffering in silence. This increases the psychological trauma they are going through.

Women and children are often at the receiving end of any crisis. When Boko Haram attacks any village, most men run for their lives leaving their wives and children at the mercy of the attackers. Those of them who are unable to escape are either killed or conscripted into the ranks of the insurgents. This accounts for why there are more women and children in IDP camps. Besides, some men claim that the pride of an African man would not allow them to stay in camps. This is why they prefer to migrate to neighboring Taraba or Gombe States to stay with other relations than live in the IDP camps with their wives and children. As such, the women are left alone to cater for their children. The loss of ancestral home, absence of a partner who would support her and the tempting environment makes it tough for women in the camps.

Reports have indicated that sexual offenses against women and girls are perpetrated by “by civilian militias, members of the military and the national and state governments’ emergency management cadres” (Read, 2017). Although security agencies have always denied complicity in this matter, there are indications that some of their men sexually harass

and molest women and girls. In the midst of this, the lack of good drinking water, food, shelter, education, gainful employment, electricity has made the Boko Haram insurgency a dire humanitarian crisis. Indeed the story of IDPs in Nigeria is a tale of helpless victims seeking for help. In 2018, it was reported that an estimated number of 30,000 people have lost their lives as a result of the insurgency (Combating Terrorism Center, 2018). In its account, the government maintained that “Boko Haram has devastated much of the countryside in northeastern Nigeria and neighboring regions of Cameroon, Chad, and Niger. Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps are scattered across the border regions of these countries, and the task of returning IDPs to their homes has been as difficult as it has been dangerous.

The Internally Displacement Monitoring Centre disclosed that in 2018, 541,000 new displacements were recorded in Nigeria, 200,000 of which took place in the Middle Belt region and the rest as a result of the Boko Haram insurgency in the North-East. About 2.2 million people remained displaced due to these conflicts as of the end of the year. The centre gave the figures for disasters as 613,000 with new displacements between 1 January 8 31 December 2018; for conflict and violence 541,000 with new displacements from January to December 2018; total number of IDPs as at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2018 stand at 2,216,000 and number of IDPs who have made partial progress towards a durable solution as 311,000. It noted that the drivers of displacement in Nigeria are many and complex. The centre stressed that the appearance of Boko Haram in the northeast has increased the number of displacements since 2014. It emphasized that the Middle Belt region is bedeviled by rivalry between pastoralists and farmers leading to violence and displacements.

### **Factors Responsible for the Failure of the Media in Addressing the Plights of IDPs**

Here, we shall deal with certain factors that are responsible for the failure of the press in Nigeria to address the plight of IDPs. These are lack of professionalism, lack of synergy/partnership amongst media corporations, vested interest, media compromise, poor funding and lack of policy framework and exclusive insurance cover. We shall highlight them thus:

- **Complacency and Mediocrity:** Some scholars have identified complacency and mediocrity as the bane of the media in Nigeria (Adeniyi & Suleiman, 2017). This may be responsible for the failure of the press in Nigeria to address the plight of IDPs. The media in Sub-Saharan Africa appears to be dwarfed by a localized thinking that does

not seem to produce results. What may be responsible for the mediocrity is that many journalists may be comfortable with the status quo. Truth is, it is this complacent behaviour that limits progress in media studies and career.

- **Lack of Professionalism:** Interestingly, complacency and mediocrity often lead to unprofessional output. The dearth of professionalism in media practice in Nigeria is what is keeping many media houses from reporting human angle stories which is the heart of journalism. What is clear is that the point at issue is a human interest story which every media organisation that is worth its salt should cover. However, what keeps stalling progress in reporting the story of IDPs is lack of professionalism. Many journalists think that being professional means reporting high profile political stories without knowing that that mentality actually proves lack of professionalism.
- **Lack of Synergy/Partnership:** In many places in Africa like Nigeria, the press has not been able to hold its head high because of lack of teamwork and knowledge sharing amongst journalists or media corporations. This creates an impression that media professionals in the country have not realized the importance of partnerships, co-operatives and collaborations in the industry. A divided media is a weak media which any dictatorial government easily rides on. The case in Nigeria is not different because the expected synergy or partnership amongst media firms is lacking. This provides way for the fifth columnist to have its way. As it relates to the predicament of Nigerians who are pushed out of their houses by criminal elements, the media has not been able to be of help to them because the much needed synergy to galvanize support for them is lacking.
- **Vested Interest:** Closely related to the lack of synergy is the issue of vested interest. Sometimes, this vested interest is tied to pecuniary reasons: “Majority of journalists are not interested in story that will not enrich their pocket so, pocket first others follow” (Talabi & Ogundeji, 2012). Every media organisation has its philosophy and guiding principle. It therefore becomes a herculean task to speak with one voice on behalf of the vulnerable. Besides, a careful study reveals that the media in Nigeria is controlled by government, religious organisations and business men and women. Because the saying goes that he who pays the piper calls the tune. Vested interest prevents the press in the country from fighting for the cause of IDPs.

- **Media Compromise:** Just as we identified that vested interest is a clog in the wheel of progress for the media to defend the vulnerable, media compromise is another monster. According to media experts: “The media has been accused of contributing in the worsening state of insecurity and conflicts escalation in Nigeria due to their pattern of reportage which primarily aim at maximizing profit by manipulating the audience” (Ngige, Badekale & Hammanjoda, 2016). There are times that some media organisations compromise the ethical standards of the profession by keeping monies received from donor agencies for coverage and reportage of the situation of IDP in various camps. Others receive the money but compromise by relaying on other media outfits to report their stories. This may be why some scholars are of the view that: “The death of vibrant and radical journalism is worrisome in Nigeria even those who have attained formal education engage in an unprofessional conduct, turning journalism to “money journalism” (Talabi & Ogundeji, 2012).
- **Poor Funding:** In Nigeria as is the situation in other sister African countries, the issue of poor funding and remuneration of media workers is a recurrent decimal. He further opines that this is often blamed for the rising cases of graft, brown envelope syndrome or quack as it is popularly called among journalists. Media groups that may have the desire to care for the plight of victims of Boko Haram are often constrained. This financial handicap limits their reportage since they cannot buy equipment or send reporters to the field (camps).
- **Lack of Policy Framework:** The scholarly debate in favour of broader interventions in media policy making presupposes a lacuna in media policy decisions. Aside from the code of ethics for journalists, there is apparently no clear cut policy from academics, the press or government which draws attention to the role of the media in Nigeria in mitigating the migration of IDPs. This presents a lacuna in media and migration and further limits the prospects of the press as the voice of the voiceless. Where there is lack of clear guidelines and media related policy framework for covering insurgencies, the press cannot thrive in its constitutional duty of surveillance and gatekeeping.
- **Lack of Insurance Cover:** Unlike other climes where journalists are well paid and have exclusive insurance covers, the situation in Nigeria does not encourage the

average journalist. Because journalists who engage in risky investigative journalism end up dying without any form of payment or compensation for their families, most journalists would rather not go to IPDs camps to report cases. This is because most of them fear for their lives.

## **2.2. Theoretical Framework**

This study is anchored on the agenda setting theory. The main thrust of the Agenda Setting Theory is that while the mass media may not be powerful enough to determine for us what and how we actually think, they are obviously influential in determining what we as a nation, society or group think about at a particular time: they pre-determine what issues are regarded as important at a given time in a given society. For instance, they set the agenda for political campaigns; they “help” to keep political and other crises alive; they help to bring some people to public prominence and fame (or notoriety). The elements through which the media (consciously or unconsciously) prosecute agenda setting include:

- The quantity or frequency of reporting on an issue;
- Prominence given to the reports — through headline display, pictures and layout in newspapers, magazines, film, graphics; or timing on radio and television;
- The degree of conflict generated in the reports; and
- Cumulative media-specific effects over time.

In addition to politics and elections, research on agenda-setting, theory and research later focused on racial unrest, student riots, crime statistics, inflation, drug abuse, etc. Additional examples that could furnish relevant research materials in Nigeria include “June 12”, military/political interventions, ethnic rivalries, “419”, and paid assassination. Kunczick (1988, p.192) points out that the opportunity for agenda-setting by the mass media becomes enhanced when the value structure of a society is in a state of flux.

As Kunczik (2004) further points out, appropriate procedures for examining agenda setting involve comparisons between media content over a certain period and the subjects that most people in the society are discussing. The greater the consonance, the more the agenda-setting hypothesis is confirmed. There have been criticisms of the agenda-setting hypothesis, but it is generally agreed that it has a strong enough basis in logic and experience. As Marshall McLuhan concludes that the media can colour events by using them in a particular way, or refusing to use them at all. The theory is relevant to this study because the agenda setting role of the media is very vital in raising awareness about the problems of the society

and finding solutions that will enhance a positive development and peaceful co-existence. By constant reportage of the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria, the media helps to shape debate around the discourse of the plights of internally displaced persons by determining the importance of the issues and featuring them in news broadcasts or commentaries and articles. This theory describes the media as the main entity that selects what news stories to report and priorities based on what they think people might care about.

Therefore, by constant reportage of the plight of internally displaced persons in Nigeria, media audience will be able to see the daily pains and agonies of these IDPs and the audience automatically have greater salience than news stories with less perceived importance.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1. Research Design**

This study adopted survey research design. Survey is highly useful in the field of social and behavioural sciences and indeed, in any study that has to do with human action and studies that have individual as unit of analysis. This method was considered appropriate for this study since, it provided all demographic and psychographic information, judgmental views and opinions from respondents on the topic that was investigated.

#### **3.2. Population of the Study**

Population, according to Nworgu (1991) is the limits within which the research findings are applicable. It is defined in such a way that the results of the investigations are generalized". Wimmer and Dominick (2003) defined population as a group or class of subjects, variables, concepts or phenomena. Dermer and Nicholas (1989) lend credence to this by saying that population is the group or elements about which you are planning to make your generalizations while Obaze and Onosu (2009) define population as a theoretically specified aggregation of survey elements.

Therefore, the population used for this study are residents of Auch. The population is estimated at 150,000 (National Population Commission, 2006). The justification for using this figure as the population of the study is due to the fact that the figure was arrived at during the last census held in 2006. Till now, there have not been any census to ascertain the current population of Auch.

#### **3.3. Sample Size**

The sample size for this study is 400 which were drawn from the population. This sample size is made up of individuals who have been selected randomly from the population.

In getting the sample size of 400, the researcher employed the Taro Yamane's formula;

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(0.05)^2}$$

n = sample size

N = Population

0.05 = Margin of error

$$\begin{aligned}
n &= \frac{150,000}{1 + 150,000 (0.05)^2} \\
&= \frac{150,000}{1 + 150,000 (0.0025)} \\
&= \frac{150,000}{150,001 \times 0.0025} \\
&= \frac{150,000}{375} \\
&= 400
\end{aligned}$$

### **3.4. Sampling Procedure**

As a result of large population, the purposive sampling technique was employed to determine the sample size of the study. According to Ikeagwu (1998), “the basic assumption behind purposive sampling method is that, with good judgment and appropriate strategy, one can hand-pick the cases to be included in the sample and this develops sample that is satisfactory in relation to ones needs.” Those that met the requirement of this research in the chosen population sample are adult male and female who have access to media reports of internally displaced persons in Nigeria.

### **3.5. Validity of the Instrument**

Questionnaire was the valid instrument used for the study. The survey questionnaire was rightly structured to measure the independent and dependent variables identified in the research questions. The questionnaire consisted of close-ended questions appropriate to elicit the desired information. The questionnaire was chosen as a valid instrument for this study due to its ability to standardize the research questions to ensure uniformity of answers from respondents. The questions were brief and direct for easy responses allowing approximately 30 seconds for each question.

### **3.6. Reliability of the Instrument**

The measuring instrument was constructed in a way that the items in the questionnaire were used to measure the research questions and relevant variables which led the respondents to answer the questions in the instrument. Therefore, the test-retest method was used to ascertain the reliability the instrument. The research instrument was pre-tested among twelve respondents in order to ascertain whether they understand the questions raised in the questionnaire or not.



### **3.7. Method of Data Collection**

Data was collected by use of structured questionnaire. The questionnaire was designed to ask respondents to tick only the options that best agreed with the survey questions asked as well as indicating their opinions in writing where necessary. The questionnaire for the study consisted of both closed and open ended questions. Four hundred (400) copies of questionnaires were distributed for the purpose of this study. Out of the 400 copies of questionnaire that was administered for the purpose of this study, 20 were invalid, making the return rate of copies of questionnaire distributed 380, representing a response rate of 95% percent of the respondents.

### **3.8. Method of Data Analysis and Discussion**

The data collected were analysed using the simple percentage analysis and were presented with the aid of tables. The simple percentage data analysis was adopted to enable the researcher fully explore and plain the data that were collected and collated from the questionnaire without the use of complex mathematical models which are generally not easy to grasp.

Below, is the formula for calculating simple percentage which was used;

$$\text{Percentage} = \frac{\text{actual response}}{\text{total sample size}} \times \frac{100}{1}$$

Where actual response = number of respondents.

Total sample size = total number of respondents.

The data were measured in terms of the frequency and percentage distribution of the different categories of variables that were displayed in the tables. The percentage method was adopted for presentation of data that was analyzed with regards to its efficiency, wide use and ease of understanding.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

#### 4.1. Preamble

This chapter is concerned with the presentation and analysis of data collected through the use of questionnaire.

During the course of this research, 400 copies of questionnaires were printed and distributed to the respondents. Out of the 400 copies of questionnaires that were administered to the respondents, 20 copies were wrongly filled and 380 copies were returned. Therefore, the data collected is shown in the tables below

#### 4.2. Analysis of Respondents' Bio-Data

**Table 1: Gender of the Respondents**

RESPONSES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
Male	217	57
Female	163	43
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2022

**Table 2: Age Range**

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
18-25	111	29
26-45	200	53
46 and above	69	18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2022

**Table 3: Marital Status**

RESPONSES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
Married	179	47
Single	201	53
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2022

**Table 4: Educational Qualification**

<b>RESPONSES</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE (%)</b>
FLSC/SSCE	17	4
OND	130	34
HND/BSC	209	55
Others	24	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field Survey, 2022**

**Table 5: Occupation of Respondents**

<b>RESPONSES</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE (%)</b>
Students	109	29
Civil Servants	217	57
Self Employed	54	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field Survey, 2022**

#### **4.3. Presentation and Analysis of Psychographic Data Collected**

**Table 6:** Do you agree that the media play any significant role in the coverage of the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria?

<b>RESPONSES</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE (%)</b>
Strongly agree	244	64
Agree	136	36
Disagree	0	0
Strongly disagree	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field Survey, 2022**

**Table 7:** What role did the media play in the coverage of the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria?

<b>RESPONSES</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE (%)</b>
Creating awareness about internal displacement of persons	197	52
Educating people on the dangers of internal displacement	144	38
Guiding public conversation about internal displacement	39	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field Survey, 2022**

**Table 8:** Do you think that the media has been effective in the coverage of the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria?

<b>RESPONSES</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE (%)</b>
Yes	380	100
No	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field Survey, 2022**

**Table 9:** How will you rate the effectiveness of the media in the coverage of the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria?

<b>RESPONSES</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE (%)</b>
Excellent	104	27
Very good	76	20
Good	93	24
Moderate	71	19
Poor	26	7
Very poor	10	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field Survey, 2022**

**Table 10:** Do you agree that there are certain factors militating against the effectiveness of the media in the coverage of the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria?

<b>RESPONSES</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE (%)</b>
Strongly agree	249	65
Agree	131	35
Disagree	0	0
Strongly disagree	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field Survey, 2022**

**Table 11:** What are some of the factors militating against the effectiveness of the media in the coverage of the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria?

<b>RESPONSES</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE (%)</b>
Lack of security proper architecture	95	25
Conflicts	84	22
Media ownership	14	4
Weak legal system	100	26
Lack of adequate legislation	87	23
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field Survey, 2022**

**Table 12:** Are there solutions to the myriads of challenges facing the media in the coverage of internally displaced persons in Nigeria?

<b>RESPONSES</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE (%)</b>
Yes	380	100
No	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field Survey, 2022**

**Table 13:** Which of the following can help solve the challenges of the media in the coverage of internally displaced persons in Nigeria?

RESPONSES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
Resolving insurgencies	187	49
Vibrant legal system	102	27
Legislation	52	14
Sensitization of people	39	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2022

#### 4.4. Discussion of Findings

All the data collated in this study will be discussed here;

**Research Question 1:** What is the role of the mass media in the coverage of the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria? The objective of this research question is to determine the role of the mass media in the coverage of the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria. The data on Table 6 and 7 were used to answer this research question. The data on Table 6 shows that 244 respondents (64%) strongly agree that the media plays a significant role in the coverage of the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria while 136 respondents (36%) agree. The data on Table 7 shows that 197 respondents (52%) noted that the role of the media in the coverage of the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria is that the media creates awareness about internal displacement of persons while 144 respondents (38%) noted that the media educates people on the dangers of internal displacement and 39 respondents (10%) noted that the media guides public conversation about internal displacement.

Based on the above, the media creates awareness about the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria; also, the media educates people on the dangers of internal displacement and it guides public conversation about internal displacement.

**Research Question 2:** How effective is the media in the coverage of the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria? The objective of this research question is to ascertain the effectiveness of the media in the coverage of the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria. The data on Table 8 and 9 were used to answer this research question. The data on

Table 8 shows that all the respondents answered in the affirmative that the media has been effective in the coverage of the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria. The data on Table 9 shows that 104 respondents (27%) which constitute majority of the respondents rated the effectiveness of the media in the coverage of the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria as excellent. This was closely followed by 93 respondents (24%) who rated it as good while 76 respondents (20%) rated it as very good. Also, 71 respondents (19%) rated it as moderate while 26 respondents (7%) rated it as poor and 10 respondents (3%) rated it as very poor.

Based on the above, the media has been highly effective in the coverage of the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria.

**Research Question 3:** What are the factors militating against the media in the coverage of the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria? The objective of this research question is to examine the factors militating against the media in the coverage of the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria. The data on Table 10 and 11 were used to answer this research question. The data on Table 10 shows that 249 respondents (65%) strongly agree that there are certain factors militating against the effectiveness of the media in the coverage of the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria while 131 respondents (35%) agree. The data on Table 11 shows that 95 respondents (25%) noted that lack of proper security architecture is one of the factors militating against the effectiveness of the media in the coverage of the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria; 84 respondents (22%) choosed conflicts; 14 respondents (4%) choosed media ownership while 100 respondents (26%) choosed weak legal system and 87 respondents (23%) choosed lack of adequate legislation.

Based on the above, lack of proper security architecture, conflict media ownership, weak legal system and lack of adequate legislation are some of the challenges the media encounter in the coverage of internally displaced persons in Nigeria.

**Research Question 4:** What are the solutions to the factors militating against the media in the coverage of the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria? The objective of this research question is to proffer solutions to the factors militating against the media in the coverage of the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria. The data on Table 12 and 13 were used to answer this research question. The data on Table 12 shows that all the respondents answered in the affirmative that there are solutions to the myriads of challenges

facing the media in the coverage of internally displaced persons in Nigeria. The data on Table 13 shows that 187 respondents (49%) noted that resolving insurgencies can help solve the challenges of the media in the coverage of internally displaced persons in Nigeria; 102 respondents (27%) choosed vibrant legal system while 52 respondents (14%) choosed legislation and 39 respondents (10%) choosed sensitization of people.



## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1. Summary**

The activities of insurgents in the North East Nigeria are showing no sign of abating, going by reports from different agencies in and outside of the country such as (amnesty international, 2015, International Organization for Migration, 2015 & Eme & Ugwu, 2016). Apart from concerns about the escalating number of internally displaced persons (IDPs), the poor living conditions in IDP camps is alarming and calls for more commitment from all concerned. The growing number of IDPs from the North East is much a threat to insurgency itself. Reports from International Organization for Migration (2015) has it that the few available camps lack adequate facilities and in addition, their poor sanitation situation makes them breeding grounds for diseases that could balloon into epidemics; something Nigerian government cannot control. The situation in north east, Nigeria, where insurgents have held sway for a long time now, leaving blood and tears in their wake has worsened recently, has taking over some towns in the region by the insurgents. Fortunately, many of them have been reclaimed by the military and many of them have been killed and subdued by insurgents. In spite of this success recorded by the military, it is not yet time for residents and indigenes of the affected towns, many of whom are currently forced to take refuge in camps across neighboring countries of Chad, Cameroun and Niger and states, where they face the challenges of insufficient food and water, and poor sanitation. The Borno State government has reportedly spent over N20billion in the last three years to assist and resettle IDPs across the state and rebuild their houses, IDMC, (2014). Sadly, the houses have been destroyed again by the defiant insurgents. It is almost two years now since about N58billion was raised by the federal government to support victims of terror in the country, but since the ceremony, nothing more has been heard. Could it be that those who promised funds are yet to redeem their pledges? And what is the committee on the funds doing about it, so that the support these victims urgently need can be provided.

Besides, available statistics shows that Nigeria has the highest number of displaced persons in Africa which is estimated at 3.3 million as at the year 2014 (Internally Displaced Monitoring Center (IDMC, 2014). The figure includes those displaced as a result of Boko Haram attacks, communal conflicts, floods disaster and incessant clash between farmers and Fulani herdsmen in Northeast Nigeria. On a global scale, Nigeria is ranked behind Syria, with 6.5 million IDPs and Colombia with 5.7 million. IDMC (2014) asserts that the IDPs figures have risen unprecedentedly in the preceding years due largely to increase number of Boko

Haram attacks, heavy-landed counter-insurgency and ongoing intercommunal violent conflicts in some communities across the country. For instance, the clashes between farmers and Fulani herdsmen in states of Benue, Taraba, Zamfara, Borno, Adamawa and Kaduna displaced 100,000 persons in 2014. Over the years, the growth of IDPs figure in Nigeria is quite alarming. As at April, 2015, IDMC estimates that 1,538,982 people were forced to flee their various homes in Nigeria. This figure includes people displaced as a result of brutal attacks by Boko Haram insurgency, the government led counter-insurgency operations against the group. The biggest rise in the number of IDPs was recorded in Borno state, one of the North-eastern state ravaged by Boko Haram insurgency, followed by Adamawa, and Yobe states.

## **5.2. Conclusion**

Internally displaced persons in this study are considered people in Nigeria who have been forced to leave their homes as a result of the incessant attacks on their lives and properties by the terrorist group called Boko Haram (Enwereji, 2008). By the end of 2014, there were approximately 38.2 million internally displaced persons worldwide and the number of internally displaced persons in Nigeria had increased to about 3.3 million due to Boko Haram's constant attacks. Sambo (2017) found that most of the internally displaced individuals in Nigeria find the condition of the camps to be inadequate due to a lack of support, medical attention, accommodation, food, inadequate living conditions, exposure to violence and sexual abuse as well as government policies and corruption.

The two media report the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) as people in need of assistance who need to be salvaged from various challenges facing them. These challenges include shelter, security, hunger, diseases and even government neglect. With the foregoing, the media could play a key role in creating awareness on the conditions of the IDPs as well as make their lives worth living. The media can also play a pivotal role in mobilizing the government, individuals and organization to take up the challenge of assisting and rehabilitating the Internally Displaced Persons in various camps.

## **Recommendations**

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made;

- i. The media should give a high level prominence to issues that affects the welfare and well-being of IDPs via front page stories, editorials, columns and feature stories so that Nigerians will be better informed on the situation of IDPs in camps.

- ii. The media should give priority to soliciting assistance for people living at various IDP camps in order to ease their suffering as well as rehabilitate them.
- iii. There is need for an integrated rehabilitation approach towards addressing the IDP challenges in Nigeria. The strategies for integrative rehabilitation should give clarity to the roles available to the Federal, state and Local governments, public and private donors, national and local leaders, and international actors to address and respond to the growing number of challenges confronting displaced persons in Nigeria. If not explored, the vulnerability of the IDPs may instigate intolerant attitudes, more radicalism, and theft among other social vices that promote unrest.
- iv. Nigerian government should provide for more adequate humanitarian assistance, including food, water, shelter, medical care and other health services, sanitation, education, and any other necessary social services, and where appropriate, to extend assistance to local and host communities. In keeping with this standard, the Nigerian government should conduct needs assessment of internally displaced people and host communities, and take steps to organize and improve relief activities, in cooperation with local nongovernmental organizations and international agencies. The federal government should also review the activities of the body coordinating humanitarian activities in order to protect and assist internally displaced people. The federal government should establish and assign responsibilities to appropriate agencies aside from NEMA for the protection and assistance, and for cooperating with relevant international organizations or agencies, and nongovernmental groups, in accordance with article 3(2) (b) of the Kampala convention.

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## **APPENDIX**

### **APPENDIX A**

Department of Mass Communication,  
School of Information and Communication Technology,  
Auchi Polytechnic,  
PMB 13,  
Auchi

Dear Respondent,

I am a final year student of Auchi Polytechnic, Auchi and I am currently carrying out a research on **“An Evaluative Study of Mass Media Coverage of the Plights of Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria (A Study of Channels TV)”**.

This study is in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of Higher National Diploma in Mass Communication. Therefore, to accomplish this research work, you are expected to kindly help the researcher by responding to these questions. This is purely an academic exercise and the confidentiality of information you give is assured.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Yours Faithfully

---

**Mohammed Rashidat Divine**  
**(Researcher)**

## **APPENDIX B**

### **INSTRUCTION**

Please tick appropriately in the space provided. The questionnaire is divided into two parts namely: Section A which consist of your personal data and Section B.

### **SECTION A: PERSONAL DATA**

#### **1. Gender of Respondents**

- a) Male ( )
- b) Female ( )

#### **2. Age Range**

- a) 18-25 ( )
- b) 26-35 ( )

#### **3. Marital Status**

- a) Married ( )
- b) Single ( )

#### **4. Educational Qualification**

- a) FLSC/SSCE ( )
- b) OND ( )
- c) HND/BSC ( )
- d) OTHERS ( )

#### **5. Occupation of Respondents**

- a) Student ( )
- b) Civil Servant ( )
- c) Self Employed ( )

## SECTION B

6. Do you agree that the media play any significant role in the coverage of the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria?

- a) Strongly agree ( )
- b) Agree ( )
- c) Disagree ( )
- d) Strongly disagree ( )

7. What role did the media play in the coverage of the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria?

- a) Creating awareness about internal displacement of persons ( )
- b) Educating people on the dangers of internal displacement ( )
- c) Guiding public conversation about internal displacement ( )

8. Do you think that the media has been effective in the coverage of the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria?

- a) Yes ( )
- b) No ( )

9. How will you rate the effectiveness of the media in the coverage of the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria?

- a) Excellent ( )
- b) Very good ( )
- c) Good ( )
- d) Moderate ( )
- e) Poor ( )
- f) Very poor ( )

10. Do you agree that there are certain factors militating against the effectiveness of the media in the coverage of the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria?

- a) Strongly agree ( )
- b) Agree ( )
- c) Disagree ( )
- d) Strongly disagree ( )



**11.** What are some of the factors militating against the effectiveness of the media in the coverage of the plights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria?

- a) Lack of security architecture ( )
- b) Conflict ( )
- c) Media ownership ( )
- d) Weak legal system ( )
- e) Lack of adequate legislation ( )

**12.** Are there solutions to the myriads of challenges facing the media in the coverage of internally displaced persons in Nigeria?

- a) Yes ( )
- b) No ( )

**13.** Which of the following can help solve the challenges of the media in the coverage of internally displaced persons in Nigeria?

- a) Resolving insurgencies ( )
- b) Vibrant legal system ( )
- c) Legislation ( )
- d) Sensitization of people ( )

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