



Exploring the implications of forced displacement on sustainable development goals in Nigeria: Evidence from the lived experience of internally displaced persons in Maiduguri - Nigeria

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Abstract

In the midst of rising displacement profile, Nigeria strives to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) come 2030. This study aims to explore the implications of forced displacement on the SDGs. To understand the nexus, the study adopted a qualitative research design premised on the phenomenological approach. The study used the Kinetic Refugee theory and the Bio-ecological theory to explore the lived experience of IDPs in Maiduguri and its implication for the SDGs. Two IDP camps were selected for the study and data were collected from 68 participants. 58 participants were selected from the IDP women while 10 participants were sampled from camp officials. Semi-structured interview, Key Informant Interview and Focus Group Discussion were used for data collection. Thematic analysis was used in data analysis. The findings revealed participants dissatisfaction with the unstable supply of food. Also, neglect in the provision of "dignity kits" affected women's health and hygiene and caused difficulty with living in the camps. Participants linked the emergence of transactional sex in the IDP camps to these shortfalls in basic needs. Substance abuse was reported by participants as fallout of the phenomenon of transactional sex. The need for economic empowerment was strongly expressed by the participants as a sustainable way of meeting their daily needs. These findings impact SDGs 1,2,3 and 8. Recommendations towards addressing the challenges include sufficient provision of basic needs cum feminine needs; introduction of sustainable economic empowerment schemes; and initiation of drug abuse campaigns amongst other measures.

Keywords: Forced Displacement; Internally Displaced Persons; Sexual Exploitation; Sustainable Development Goals; Transactional Sex

1. Introduction

The rising spate of insecurity in Nigeria has detonated the country's displacement figures thereby signifying a humanitarian crisis. Currently, the country has over 3.2million displaced people (Nnodim, 2022), a number said to be the third largest in Africa (Sasu, 2022). The North East bears the highest burden of displacement owing to the war with *Jama'atul Ahlul-Sunnah lil da'awati wal jihad* (JAS) members popularly known as *Boko Haram*. The region accounts for 2,171,652 IDPs as of March 2022 (International Organization for Migration [IOM], 2022). The growing displacement profile in Northern Nigeria

has made the phenomenon of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps a commonplace within the region. Such camps have become points of relief to the displaced people, 80% of whom are women and children (United Nations Development Programme [UNDP], 2021). Meanwhile, as fighting persists between the government forces and the insurgents, the number of IDPs has continued to surge especially in Borno State which has an estimated 1,613,019 IDPs (IOM, 2022). In turn, the increasing rate of displacement has resulted in acute shortages of necessities such as food, water, clothing, and medical supplies in the IDP camps (Oyelude & Osuigwe,

2017; Emmanuel, 2022). Thus, for the IDPs, escaping death or abduction eventually marks the beginning of new challenges such as extreme hunger, malnutrition, disease epidemics and sexual harassment (Oyelude & Osuigwe, 2017). This study aims to explore the implication of the forgoing challenges on the SDGs.

Statement of the Problem

Globally, there is a burning desire to achieve the SDGs by 2030. Unfortunately, countries with challenges of armed conflict have continued to dim this hope due to mass displacements. In North East Nigeria, the insurgency has continued to undermine efforts aimed at developing the region. This is as the UNDP (2021) projects a loss of 1.1million lives in the North East by 2030 should the situation in the region remain as is. The 2021 UNDP report observes most death casualties are due to indirect consequences of displacement such as hunger and lack of access to resources rather than direct attacks. This report underscores the need to investigate the effect of displacement on the SDGs. Meanwhile, the need to understand the nexus between displacement and sustainable development is yet to engender significant IDPs-SDGs-informed studies in the North East. Most studies on IDPs in the North East dwell independently on specific problems bothering the IDPs. For example, Onaedo, Samuel, and John (2017) undertook a study of the impact of displacement on human security in Northern Nigeria; Gire and Ibaishwa (2019) studied substance abuse among IDPs in the North East; Kamta and Scheffran (2021) examined the potential conflict between IDPs and their host communities in the Lake Chad region; United Nations High Commission for Refugees [UNHCR] (2016) studied human trafficking among the IDPs in the North East; Raji, Adekayaoja, Agaku, Akujobi, and hamzat (2021) assessed the response capacity of National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to the plights of IDPs in the BAY

(Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe) States; and Ukwumonu (2019) investigated the need for entrepreneurship education as a means of empowering IDPs.

Studies exploring the nexus between internal displacement and the SDGs are emerging. Shehu and Abba (2020) examined the effect of the humanitarian crises arising from displacement on sustainable development. The study situates the humanitarian efforts within the overall framework of sustainable development. Similarly, Ndirangu, Tuikong, and Okuto (2020) investigated the effect of internal displacement on the SDGs among Congolese refugees. This study is driven by the appetite to add to this emerging body of knowledge through an empirical exploration of the implications of internal displacement on the SDGs. The evidence from this study essentially connotes a methodological departure from the preceding studies as it captures the lived experience of the Maiduguri IDPs and peruses it in understanding the impact on the SDGs.

Research Questions

The study is guided by the following research questions

- i. What are the lived experiences of the women in Maiduguri IDP camps?
- ii. What are the implications of the lived experiences of the women on the SDGs?

Research Objectives

The following are the research objectives

- i. To explore the lived experiences of the women in Maiduguri IDP camps;
- ii. To understand the implications of the lived experiences of the women on the SDGs.

2. Literature Review and Theoretical Framework

Forced Displacement: Emerging Challenges and the Role of Transactional Sex as a Coping Mechanisms

In Nigeria, civil strife and armed conflicts are major drivers of population

displacement (Shuaib, 2010). This study conceives forced displacement as the mass ejection of people from their places of habitual residence to unknown destinations due to the effects of the Boko Haram insurgency or armed violence. Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are victims of violence, conflict or natural disaster who flee their residential areas but remain within the boundaries of their country (Emmanuel, 2022). Women being the major victims of displacement in North East (IOM, 2022), have been exposed to life-threatening challenges. Studies reporting the increasing rate of hunger, poor housing, sexual exploitation, and substance abuse amongst the IDPs in Nigeria abound (Idowu, Olaoye, Ifegbesan, Abdul, & Olawale, 2012; Formson & Hilhorst, 2016; Haruna, 2018; Gire & Ibaishwa, 2019). This confirms the persistence of survival challenges for the IDPs. The establishment of IDP camps as government's way of responding to the rising humanitarian crises is yet to impact the lives of the IDPs significantly. The increasing number of IDPs has been largely responsible for abject poverty, malnutrition, transactional sex, and limited access to basic healthcare in the IDP camps (Emmanuel, 2015; Emmanuel, 2018). The persistence of these challenges on a vulnerable population such as women makes them susceptible to exploitative tendencies in a bid to eke out a living.

In this regard, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs [OCHA] (2016) observes that many girls and young women in the IDP camps in the north east Nigeria are faced with life-threatening challenges due to which they tend to resorted to risky survival strategies such as transactional sex. While this strategy may be helping out with meeting of basic needs in the short run, it may come at a price especially as transactional sex has been identified as a risk factor for HIV/AIDS (Magni, Christofides, Johnson, & Weiner, 2015; Emmanuel, 2018). Other consequences of

transactional sex include human trafficking and substance use (Nya, 2018, Emmanuel 2022). The emergence of transactional sex as a coping strategy to shortfalls in basic needs renders the SDGs vulnerable to stagnation due to the multifaceted effects of transactional sex on human health and security. Onaedo, Samuel, and John (2017) observe that the Boko Haram crisis in the north east has affected the region immensely such that its development had been stagnated and human security endangered. Similarly, Shehu and Abba (2020) argue for inclusion of humanitarian actions in the development agenda of the region if the long-term needs of the IDPs are to be met. Owoaje, Uchendu, Ajayi, and Cadmus (2016) observed series of health problems among the IDPs in Africa and concludes that the limited health information on IDPs is major problem which should be investigated by successive studies. Given that transactional sex affects health, studies which generate data on the sexuality of IDPs can avail valuable information needed to inform policy on IDPs health needs.

This study is anchored on two theoretical frameworks, the Kuntz's Kinetic Model of Refugee theory and Bronfenbrenner's bio-ecological theory. In the Kinetic Refugee theory of Kuntz, displaced persons are categorized into anticipatory refugees and acute refugees (George, 2010). The anticipatory refugees have a foresight on an impending displacement. As such, they plan their migration and move in relative comfort to their new location. However, for the acute refugees, there is no prior information on impending displacement. This renders them to the shock of fleeing without preparation thereby leaving without family members and the necessities for their survival. This plunges the acute refugees into crises for survival. This theory suits the category of the IDPs within the prevailing scenario of displacement in the North East. The theory was used to explain the nature of displacement amongst

Congolese refugees by Ndirangu, Tuikong, and Okuto (2020). In this study, the IDP women are the acute refugees who face displacement without preparedness to its eventualities. This subjects them to adopting risky and unhealthy survival strategies.

The second theory, the bio-ecological theory is adopted to understand the consequences or implications of the displacement on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The theory is espoused to cater for studies with quantitative, qualitative, or mixed method designs (Onwuegbuzie, Collins & Frels, 2013). In this theory, Bronfenbrenner encapsulates the underlying connection between four distinct but interconnected environmental factors. The four environmental levels – the microsystem, the mesosystem, the exosystem, and the macrosystem, have a complex interplay which impact an individual and vice versa. The first level is the microsystem which represents the closest system to the individual and has the highest influence on the individual's behavior. At the second level, mesosystem, the individual's engagement between microsystems is the point of emphasis. In this case, events which the individual engages in between the school, family, and neighborhood may all have influences on the individual. At the exosystem level, the active role of the individual is relegated while events that occur at that level have significant effect on him. Events at this level are between mesosystems which have direct impact on the individual. At the macrosystem level, the social system as a whole affects the behavior of the individual. The laws, policies, belief systems and communal practices are all situated at this level. In this study, the IDP women's experience is at the microsystem and the implications of their experiences to the remaining three systems are adequately explained by the theory. The SDGs which belong to the macrosystem is

analyzed from the impact of the microsystem.

3. Methodology

The study was conducted in Maiduguri, the Borno State capital. Two IDP camps, Bakassi and Teachers Village camps, were selected within the metropolis. Purposive sampling was used to sample 58 participants from the IDP women. 32 participants were selected from Bakassi camp while 26 participants were selected from Teachers village camp. Participants were recruited using age (18>) and their duration of residency in the camps (minimum of three years residency period) as the criteria for inclusion in the study. Data saturation determined the sample size. In addition, five Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) were conducted in each camp with two camp leaders (a male and a female); a member of camp management committee; one security personnel; and an NGO official.

The study was premised on the phenomenological approach. Thus, the qualitative research design was adopted. Semi-structured interviews, key informant interview (KII) and focus group discussion (FGD) were used as instruments of data collection. Semi-structured interview and FGD were used to elicit information from the IDP women. The KII was used to collect data from the key informants. In all, four FGD sessions were held. Each camp had two FGD sessions. One session with unmarried women and another with married women. A total of 68 respondents were used for the study.

All data were transcribed verbatim into English language and were analyzed using thematic analysis. Meaning units were extracted from the submissions and emphasis was paid to the emerging themes. In order to guarantee the reliability and validity of the findings, data were triangulated to ensure extraction of accurate and objective data (Puvanesvary, Abdul Rahim, Naidu, Badzis, Mat Nayan, & Abd Aziz (2008). Three themes emerged from

the analysis as follows: challenges of forced displacement; coping strategies; and implications for the SDGs.

Ethical approval for the study was obtained from the relevant authorities. Also, permission to conduct the study was granted by the camp authorities who ensured the guiding rules for the research in the camps were observed. All participants

were required to give verbal consent before voluntarily taking part in the study. Participants' identities were unreferenced in order to guarantee their anonymity as part of the ethical requirement. Codes were generated using the camp identification number (e.g. C1) and participant assigned number (e.g. R10) to describe participants.

4. Results and Discussion

Table 1: Socio-demographic descriptions of sampled girls/women and Key informants

Sociodemographic feature	Frequency	Percentage
Sampled Girls/Women		
Age		
18-27	27	46.6
28-37	16	27.6
38-47	9	15.5
>47	6	10.3
Total	58	100
Marital Status		
Single	14	24.1
Married	28	48.3
Separated	16	27.6
Total	58	100
Educational Attainment		
Formal education	16	27.6
No formal education	42	72.4
Total	58	100
Occupation		
Formal employment	9	15.5
Self Employed	26	44.8
No employment	23	39.7
Total	58	100
Estimated monthly income		
<10,000	8	13.8
10,000-20,000	42	72.4
>20,000	8	13.8
Total	58	100
Key Informants		
Category		
Camp officials	2	20
Security personnel	2	20
NGO officials	2	20
Camp leaders	4	40
Total	10	100
Sex		
Male	5	50
Female	5	50
Total	10	100

Source: Field work 2021

From the analysis of data, three themes emerged as illustrated in table 2.

Table 2: Emerging themes and sub-themes

S/N	Theme	Sub-theme
1	Challenges of forced displacement.	a. Inadequacy of basic needs; b. Lack of provision for feminine needs c. Lack of economic empowerment opportunities
2	Coping strategies to forced displacement.	a. Initiation of transactional sex b. Securing NGOs empowerment intervention c. Scouting for menial tasks
3	Implications of coping strategies for SDGs.	a. Rising hunger prevalence b. Rising poverty rate c. Spread of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) d. Substance abuse among IDPs

Theme one: Challenges of Forced Displacement

The lived experiences of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) were explored. Data generated from the exploration of the lived experiences revealed varying challenges faced by the IDPs as a result of the displacement. The challenges include shortages of basic necessities such as food and shelter, and lack of provision for feminine needs. In addition, lack of sustainable income-generating opportunities further worsened their living conditions. The major challenge, feeding, has remained top of the list as majority (88%) of the respondents reported acute shortage of food as their major concern in the camp. This shortage implies hunger prevalence. The IDPs mostly rely on the aids provided by government and non-governmental organizations (in the areas of both food and non-food items). However, the provisions were not sufficient to satisfy their needs. One of the IDP women submits thus:

“Food has been our major problem in this camp. We don’t have enough and we have children to cater for. That is why we always have to go out in search of other means to feed our

families (CIR3, 33years, FGD).”

Furthermore, as the activities of the insurgents continued to displace more communities, the number of IDPs within Maiduguri metropolis swelled and the camp facilities became overstretched. In addition to food challenge, shelter also became a major challenge. A 36-year-old key informant in one of the camps reveals that

“The camp had a total population of 41,865 people in a facility designed for 10,000 people. As such, most camps were overcrowded.”

Even when tents are erected to meet up with the housing needs, the rains often times results in flooding and this affected most household residing in the tents.

Also, loss of livelihood was a major problem experienced by women. Most (78%) of the respondents reported forfeiting their source of livelihoods during their escape from insurgent attacks. Majority of them are farmers, and had to flee for their lives with the invasion of their villages. This has made them economically incapacitated with the rise of insecurity in the region. A mother of three submits thus:

“We have hardly faced food shortage before the insurgency.

But now, we have almost turned beggars because food is being measured for us and it is always not enough. We struggle to find other menial tasks to feed ourselves and the children (C2R6, 36years, FGD)."

Despite easing of the movement restriction, it did not make a big difference as the IDPs could hardly secure a good job except for some few who secure small grants from some NGOs to start up small businesses or handwork. This further worsened the economic challenges of many IDPs. This culminated in a situation where the IDPs craved for alternative sources of feeding given that the little resources have been overwhelmed.

In addition, while providing for the needs of the IDPs, there is observed neglect of some basic needs which are peculiar to the women. A young girl reveals her ordeal with her monthly circle thus:

"Most times it comes with pains and at a time when I can hardly raise money for sanitary pad. Sometimes, I pray it delays until there is money for pad." (C1R13, 21 years, Interview)

A 25years old key informant with an NGO corroborated this finding where she submits that

"Camp authorities do not make provision for "dignity kits" which is essential for women health and hygiene. This has exposed young girls to sexual exploitation by men who were willing to provide them such items. The dignity kits consist of items such as sanitary pads, toothbrushes, detergent, shaving sticks, wrappers, hijab, and head-ties which are needed to maintain the dignity of a woman. And being a non-negotiable biological process, menstruation cannot be avoided. Rather, only

proper preparations can be made ahead of time."

The foregoing explains the major ordeals faced by the IDPs in their daily struggle for survival in the IDP camps.

Theme two: Coping Strategies of IDPs

The foregoing challenges have been accompanied by adoption of risky and unhealthy coping strategies. Some of these strategies include begging, doing casual work, sales of donated items, and engagement in transactional sex. In her submission, a woman explained that:

"The future of our children is uncertain as only God can help them. We have tried to see how to make life better for ourselves but nothing has changed. Those we beg from sometimes get tired of us and while others complain of economic hardship. Jobs are very difficult to get around here and I can't join the women who sell their bodies. So, if I have something to sell, I do sell it to get additional food." (C2R36, 45 years, Interview).

Furthermore, the sales of these donated items happened within or outside the camp depending on the availability of buyers.

The phenomenon of transactional sex as a coping strategy amongst the women was pervasive. Transactional sex which is seen as a means to make up for the shortfalls in basic needs became a norm for the IDP women. The act was very prevalent among the young women and was very difficult to curtail. A 34 years old key informant maintained that:

"The phenomenon was embarrassing to the camp officials but all attempts to get the parents of the girls to rebuke them on the act had no yielded any result."

In fact, another informant corroborates this claim. He noted that some parents praise their wards for engaging in the act given the

returns they receive from such children. His submission is as follows:

“There are some girls that enjoy parental approval because of what they bring home after an outing. Like three of the girls, I had interrogated confessed their parents had approve of their engagement in the ‘business’ and they return some percentage of the proceeds home for the family upkeep.” (C1R23, 29years, KII).

It is pertinent to note that the act of transactional sex comes with numerous challenges. The following challenges were identified by some respondents as the aftermath of transactional sex: spread of Sexually Transmitted Infections; illegal abortions; drug abuse; marital instability; culpable homicide; permanent relocation from camp, and human trafficking.

The response from a key informant indicates that the IDPs were very reluctant in responding to free counseling and testing of HIV/AIDS services. In fact, the use of meal-denial strategy is sometimes used to get the men to respond to testing.

“Most at times, the men run away from testing and we fear they may infect the innocent wives who may even be breast feeding. So, anybody we suspect is told to avail himself for test or will not be given his next ration.” (C2R14, 37 years, KII).

The respondent added that in most cases, the affected individuals test positive to HIV/AIDS. When this is detected, the wives are immediately summoned for testing. Most of them test positive while some few others test negative.

Theme Three: Implications for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Both challenges of forced displacement and the coping mechanisms adopted by the IDP girls and women have varying consequences for the SDGs.

Forced Displacement and SDGs 2

SDG 2.1 targets ending all forms of malnutrition and hunger in all categories of people especially the poor and people in vulnerable situations (such as IDPs and refugees); and ensure access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round. Meanwhile, food shortages in the IDP camps persist due to reduction in grain rations. A woman stated that

“The quantity of food given us was reduced because there was food shortage in the country. Initially we used to be given 50kg of grains and it was reduced to 30kg due to the shortage (C1R12, 38years, FGD).”

A camp official who was part of the key informants disclosed that the food shortage in the country was attributed to the rising insecurity in the Northwest and flooding which affected many farmers and the farming season. This scenario puts the women to threat of severe hunger. As the inadequate government supply dwindles, the women have to cope with the problem of rising hunger. One of the participants also disclosed that, there were logistic issues which occasionally delay the delivery of the food items to the camps.

“Sometimes, there are serious delays from the warehouses and the IDPs begin to suspect diversion of the food items. In fact, there was a protest in this camp some time ago over issues of suspected food diversion. But, in the real sense, it was just logistics issues that delayed delivery.” (C2R14, 37 years, KII).

The implication this has on the SDGs is that the women have gone hungrier than they were before the displacement and the subsequent reduction in their monthly rations. Thus, with millions of IDPs struggling to feed sufficiently, the achievement of SDG 2 may be slowed to the extent of possible stagnation.

Forced Displacement and SDGs 1

In SDG 1, the target is to achieve zero poverty by 2030. To achieve this, there must be deliberate attempt at halting the prevailing retrogressive scenario where people lose their source of livelihood in high rates. With the displacement, most IDPs complained about lack of income generating opportunities. This has undoubtedly thrown more people into poverty as their standards of living have drastically fallen. In this submission, one of the women confessed to finding unease with the current arrangement of going to look for food for the family:

“Before the displacement, I only support my husband through farming and petty trade. But since his disappearance after the invasion of our town, I have been the one taking care of our children. This task is not easy for me especially that this place (the camp) lacks opportunities for economic engagements.”
(C2R33, 28 years, Interview).

Most IDPs who left their farm lands in search of safety in the cities have become redundant with no substitute at hand. This inadvertently increases the number of people in poverty thereby endangering goal 1. In SDG 1.3, the target is to provide social protection systems for the poor and vulnerable with a view to protect them from the deleterious consequence of poverty. Unfortunately, such protection systems have not been identified in any of the camps studied. Most IDPs rely on aids to make a living. This scenario creates a huge gap between what is targeted and what actually obtains. Worse still, the alarming rate of displacement gives little hope to the IDPs of a better economic fortune. Eventually, most of the IDPs are likely to remain poor given the twin problems of fragile security situation and the uncertain economic eventualities. Therefore, there are chances goal 1 is stagnated and likely to retrogress at the slightest provocation. This means that the goal may hardly be achieved by 2030.

Forced Displacement and SDGs 3

The emergence of transactional sex has grave implications for health-related goals of the SDGs. The prevalence of HIV/AIDS is not in doubt. Although the specific data on the number of cases is not available, findings strongly suggest there may be higher cases than being estimated. This is supported by the percentage of the IDPs avoiding free testing for HIV/AIDS due to fear of testing positive to the virus. One of the participants highlights this position thus:

“Sexual activities are rampant in the camp. The rate deliveries in the camp are high (15-20 per week). Likewise, the rate of illegal abortions is alarming. Most times, those who abort pregnancies fear social rejection because they are not married. The problem with this is that they may be carrying and spreading Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) within the camp and even outside.” (C1R12, 35 years, KII).

Given the above trend, SDG 3 may clearly be endangered due to the rising cases STIs among the women. In addition, the accompanying high rate of illegal abortions is a major indicator of dangerous reproductive health practice which may increase maternal-related deaths. In fact, some women who conceive from the sexual engagement murder the infants due to fear of rejection. Two cases of culpable homicide had been reported and arrested in one of the camps under study. Thus, this puts the life and health of the children born to this act in jeopardy. Therefore, SDG 3.2 and 3.3 may experience setback due to this kind of practices. Similarly, lack of dignity kits faced by young women exposes them to people (especially men) who have ulterior and thus utilize it for sexual exploitation. With the prevailing sexual exploitation, victims of sexual violence and poor reproductive health may increase thereby impacting SDG 3.7 adversely.

In addition, substance abuse among the IDPs has also been reported. This is attributed to the emergence of transactional sex, and the proceeds from the sales of substances. The sale and uses of substances suggest a turbulent trend for the SDGs. Specifically, SDG 3.5 which targets a prevention of drug use and treatment of affected people may not get to fruition should the spate of substance use in the IDP camps continue.

Forced Displacement and SDGs 8

The emergence of transactional sex also affects SDGs 8 which seeks to eliminate sexual exploitation and provide people with employments and a decent life. Transactional sex is not a conventionally approved occupation. Besides, for a vulnerable population such as the IDPs, it constitutes sexual exploitation and violence. While it may be argued that the women engage in it consensually, it must be noted that the event of displacement is the predisposing factor leading to the act. As postulated by Kuntz in the Kinetic Refugee theory, it is the acute displacement of the women that is responsible for their difficulty. Thus, transactional sex is not a decent work which can guarantee human safety and security. As such, goal 8 of the SDGs may be hampered if the phenomenon of transactional sex persists. Also, begging has been identified as a coping strategy of the women to shortfall in their basic needs, this also suggests the magnitude of economic retrogression being faced by the women which needs serious intervention.

Discussion of Findings

The study explored the lived experience of the IDP women and the implications for SDGs. Food shortage and delays were major concerns raised by most participants. This corroborates the findings of Emmanuel (2022) who identifies food scarcity and inadequate shelter as some of the challenges facing IDPs in Nigeria. The food shortage was occasioned by reduction of grains ration from 50kg to 30kg due to negative effects of banditry and flooding on

farming activities in the North West. This quantity for a household (considered to be six persons) was grossly inadequate. Secondly, the available stock faced serious logistics challenges and delayed arrival at the camps. This combined to increase the spate of hunger among the IDPs. With the prevailing rate of hunger in the camps, chances are that goal 2 of the SDGs may not be achieved. The effect of hunger on achievement of the SDGs cannot be overemphasized as it is capable of facilitating negative coping mechanisms which have severe consequences for the SDGs. With regards to shelter, the surge in the number of IDPs greatly affected the adequacy of shelter for the IDPs. Camp facilities were overstretched and tents were used to augment the available facilities. This finding is consistent with the submissions of Gire and Ibaishwa (2019). Also, the respondents were unsatisfied with their economic redundancy which had kept them in perpetual poverty. Most of them are not able to meet up their daily responsibilities. Being that most of them are women without husbands, the responsibility providing for the family becomes too hectic to bear. This underscores the need to introduce sustainable interventions to better the lots of the women as canvassed by Ukwumonu (2020). The foregoing life difficulties are as a result of the acute displacement highlighted by the Kinetic refugee theory. Such discomforts arising from the acute displacement happen within the microsystem identified by Bronfenbrenner. As noted in the bioecological theory, the personal events in the microsystem produce consequences for the macrosystem which is the realm of the SDGs. Specifically, hunger prevalence impacts goal 2; and the increase in poverty affects goal 1.

However, the issue of “dignity kits” happens to be relatively new. Previous studies have not reported the concept and as such, this study reports it as an emerging phenomenon among young women in the

IDP camps. The marginalisation of women needs has led to total neglect of the peculiar things needed by women to maintain good hygiene especially during menstruation. This neglect has opened opportunities for sexual exploitation by people who are willing to provide the items needed by the girls and women alike. Therefore, the study captures this as an addition to the growing number of needs of the IDP women. Reason for this neglect is attributed to poor involvement of women in camp management teams, engagement of women with little knowledge of humanitarian crises management, and political interference in the running of the camps.

The prevalence of transactional sex among the women as a coping mechanism confirms the findings of Ukwajunor, Abanobi, Ebirim, Ibe, and Nwachukwu (2020). One major consequence of the phenomenon is the spread of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs). The prevalence of STIs is a function of transactional sex. Most IDPs who engage in transactional sex are likely carriers of STIs due to the unsafe nature of their engagements. The implications of these challenges on the SDG 3 underscore the usefulness of the bio-ecological model in explaining the relationship between the experiences of the women and its attendant effect on the SDGs.

5. Conclusion and Recommendation

Conclusion

Despite Nigeria's woeful performance in the MDGs, the country faces imminent failure in the SDGs owing to plethora of prevailing challenges faced by IDP women. Challenges such as food shortages, shelter inadequacy, lack of economic empowerment and lack of dignity kids were major challenges identified by the women. Furthermore, this led to the emergence of transactional sex as a coping mechanism. Ultimately, the challenges and coping strategy adopted by the IDPs negatively affect goals 1,2,3, and 8 of the SDGs. The study concludes that without effectively

addressing the challenge of insecurity and its consequences in the North East, the journey to success in the SDGs may be truncated.

Nevertheless, this study is limited to investigating the lived experience of IDP women and the implications for the SDGs. Nevertheless, future studies are needed to explore the wider implications of displacement for other goals not captured in this study. Also, the limitation of qualitative study in terms of generalization provides justification for investigation of similar problem in other IDP camps across the country.

Recommendation

The paper therefore recommends the following:

- i. Provision of welfare needs in the camps should care for sufficiency and peculiarities. In other words, there should be provision of adequate feeding and shelter while feminine needs should be taken care of as well. This can be achieved through needs assessment of the IDPs rather than mere assumption of the needs of the IDPs. This will bridge the gap but the needs of the IDPs and what is provided.
- ii. Introduction of public education on sexual and reproductive health are pertinent in order to reduce the scourge of STIs; encourage proper menstrual hygiene practices especially among the adolescent girls; and prevent opportunities for sexual exploitation.
- iii. State Governments in collaboration with Entrepreneurship Development Institutes (EDIs) should avail the IDPs with opportunities for skills acquisition in order to provide them income generating opportunities. This will reduce their dependency on the relief materials which are grossly insufficient.
- iv. Lastly, the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) joined by a team of competent social workers should collaborate to tackle the issue of substance use among the IDPs. This



will help create awareness on the dangers of drug use and help to rehabilitate users. At the same time, there should be decisive actions taken against peddlers who smuggle the drugs into the camps for use.

Competing Interest

The authors have no competing interest to declare.

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