

Post-Insurgency Challenges on Children at IDPS Camps, a Survey on, Some Selected IDPS Camps in Jere L G, Borno State

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***Abstract:** The post-insurgency challenges faced by children at IDP camps in Jere Local Government, Borno State, Nigeria, are significant and multifaceted. This survey assess the living conditions of children in internally displaced persons' (IDPs) camps with a focus on determining the number of children residing in the IDP camps, examining their access to humanitarian assistance, evaluating the observance of their rights to education, and prioritizing their needs within the camp setting. The study utilized a Human Rights Approach to analyze the situation and make recommendations for addressing the challenges faced by these vulnerable children. It is concluded that children are found to be the most vulnerable group in the whole of the IDPs in Jere L G of Borno State.*

***Keywords:** Community Support, Educational Access, Post-Insurgency*

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Borno State was known as the most peaceful state in the country. This is not unconnected with the fact that despite her numerous ethnic nationalities and religious diversities, the people had coexisted in peaceful harmony. This gave the State the title of the “*Home of Peace*” being considered then as the epitome of peace in the country.

But recently, terrorism stormed the state thereby jeopardizing the growth and development of the area (UNDP, 2019). These terrorists (Boko Haram) main doctrine is that ‘western education is prohibited’. Moreover, they claimed Islam but, still they don’t allow for any Islamic doctrine apart from their own. However, children education is of paramount importance, and also right of children. The terrorists (Boko Haram) going by their doctrine of waging jihad against anybody that opposes their doctrine entered almost all the towns and villages in most parts of the state resulting into displacement that further led to mass migration of people out of their ancestral homes. Some migrated to neighbouring countries as refugees. Most however are internally displaced.

Maiduguri and Jere received huge number of these internally displaced persons and settled them in various camps in the towns.

World over women and children are the most vulnerable people in such a situation where they are subjected to various forms of torture and abuse. According to UNHCR (2020 p12) “Estimated 50 percent of the 26million people internally displaced by armed conflicts are children and youth under the age of 18.” It is believed that the better life of these children is the backbone for the future development and growth of any nation. And this anchored on sound moral and intellectual development of the child. The insurgency in the Northeast has however, denied the vast majority of the children in the zone in general and Borno State in particular, the right to both western education, religious and moral teachings. This is because the insurgents are against western education and anything that is associated with it.

Terrorism has left the state stagnant and denied it access to basic amenities and social services,(IOM 2021), these are drivers of any meaningful growth and development. The provision of these amenities like, water, food, shelter, medical care and other health services, sanitation and education are not only essential but obligatory. Of all the social services, education is the most important to the child. But unfortunately most of our children in Maiduguri the state capital and all that were living in the rural areas are out of school. This is due to the fact that these schools have been destroyed and some of their teachers and colleagues have been killed by the insurgents. Some of the children have been abducted by the Boko Haram insurgents, thus, keeping the children out of school.. This is perhaps why some of these children have become easy recruits for the insurgents, as confirmed by UNHCR (2019,p12) that, “children who lack educational opportunities are at increased risk for recruitment as child soldiers, criminal activity, forced labour and exploitation.” This is typified by the recruit of the minors as bomb merchants and suicide bombers especially girls.

Therefore attending to children’s need is of paramount importance as it can help in mitigating exploitation of the children and its attendant consequences. It is in light of the need to see that children are properly brought up and trained, that triggered the need for this study. The study is designed with the goal of assessing the life of displaced children in the IDPs camp in Jere.

1.1.Statement of the Problem

The terrorism in Borno State has left the state for quiet long time without access to basic amenities and social services, which are drivers of any meaningful growth and development. The provision of these amenities like, water, food, shelter, medical care and other health services, sanitation and education in not only essential but obligatory (UNDP,2019). Of all the social services, education is the most important to children. But unfortunately most of our children in Maiduguri the state capital and all that were living in the rural areas are out of school. This is due to the fact that these schools have been destroyed and some of their teachers and colleagues have been killed by the insurgents. Some of the children have been abducted by the Boko Haram insurgents, thus, keeping the children out of school. And an idle mind they say is a devil workshop. This is perhaps why some of these children have become easy recruits for the insurgents, as confirmed by UNHCR (2019) that, “children who lack educational opportunities are at increased risk for recruitment as child soldiers, criminal activity, forced labour and exploitation.” This is typified by the recruit of the minors as bomb merchants and suicide bombers especially girls.

Therefore, attending to children needs is of paramount importance as it can help in mitigating exploitation of the children and its attendant consequences. It is in light of the need to see that children are properly brought up and trained, that triggered the need for this study. The study designed with the goal of assessing the life of displaced children in the IDPs camp in Maiduguri.

1.2. Aim and objectives

Aim of the study is to assess the life of children in internally displaced persons' (IDPs) camps in Jere. And to do this, the study intends to achieve the following objectives.

- i. Determine the number of children living in the IDP Jere camps.
- ii. Examine the children's access to humanitarian assistance in the camps.
- iii. Determine whether the rights to education of children are observed in the IDP camp.
- iv. Prioritise the needs of the children in the IDP camps.

1.3 Research questions

- i. How many children are living in the IDP camps in Jere?
- ii. Do children in the IDPs camp have access to humanitarian assistances?
- iii. Do the children in the IDPs camp have access to their right to education?
- iv. What are the priority needs of the children in the IDPs camps?

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Internally displaced persons are 'individuals that are forced out of their homes for the same reason as refugees but, unlike refugees, have not crossed international border' (Kushner and Knox. 1990). This definition has identified two basic elements of internal displacement thus: (1) Involuntarily forced out of their homes (2) Not crossed international borders. However, it has not identified reasons why they are forced out of their homes. According to Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC. 2007), internally displaced persons (IDPs) 'are people who have been forced to flee their homes because their lives were in danger, but unlike refugee have not crossed international border'. IDCM's definition has considered the movement only when their lives is in danger, which means that it has to be based on disasters or wars, not considering developmental projects that triggered movement devoid of danger. Ladan (2014 p4) gave more elaborate definition of internally displaced persons as:

"Persons or group of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence in particular, as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflicts, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized border"

The above definition has taken into consideration all aspect of internal displacement and also presents the reasons why they must flee such as: armed conflicts, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters but has not recognises the developmental projects that are also legal cause of internal displacement and are not either of violation of human rights nor disaster.

Therefore, internally displaced persons covers people who are obliged to leave their homes and place of residence and move to another place within their national boundary because of conflict and large scale human right violation as well as disasters and developmental projects.

2.2 Causes of Internal Displacement

According to most of the definitions of internal displacement of persons factors are usually identified as the causal factors of internal displacement to such things like; disaster be it human or natural, armed conflict, large scale violation of human right among others. These factors really constitute major reasons or causes at which people are forced to move out of their homes. Hamza (2013) identified causal factors nowadays particularly in developing countries to human induced violent clashes and violent. He further buttressed that injustices or violence confrontation, perpetrated against people by their government or agents of communal clashes, riots, terrorism, natural disasters, and religious conflicts as among the causes of internal displacement particularly in Africa. However, Mazo (2011) considered that, causal factors of internally displacement of persons in Nigeria has been linked to many unfortunate developments over unfounded arguments on religious beliefs, under-development, poverty, unequal distribution of wealth, ethnic tensions, unemployment, political and economic subjugation of minorities, absence of democratic procedures, intolerance, and many other factors. Therefore, all these causal factors can be readily summarised into three main groups such as: physical which entails all natural and environmental disasters such as drought, flood, desertification, forest fires, oil spillage, salination etc.; social factors are all factors that associated with ethnic and religious conflicts, intolerance and absence of democratic procedures. Whereas, economical factors are tied to things related to growth and development, of community and the country at large. Examples are development projects, poverty, unemployment, unequal distribution of wealth. It can thus be summarised in a diagram below.

Table 1: Causes of internal displacement.

Physical factors	Social factors	Economic factors
Draught Flood Desertification Forest fires Oil spillage Erosion Earthquake Earth movement Volcanic eruptionetc.	Religious conflict Ethnic conflict Intolerance Absence of democratic procedures	Poverty Unemployment

2.3 Education of Internally Displaced Children in Camps

Internal displacement has various stages from the period of the disaster or emergency to the recovery period. According to Ellen M. and Kudzai C. (2013), it was “discovered that education was completely unavailable to the children in the emergency phase of displacement as international and national actors focused on security and provision of basic necessities of life.” However they added that, “as time went on and the displacement became protracted, more attention was devoted to education, though not sufficient to meet the needs and expectations of the IDPs; as the availability of education (in camps) depends on government policies.” Added are lacks of personnel as well as lack of cooperation from unsatisfied and underpaid government workers is also affecting the education of children in camps.

In some camps the IDPs were enrolled in schools of the host communities. Ellen M. and Kudzai C. (2013) discovered that 65 % of the primary school going age was enrolled in the local primary schools while the other 35% was not in school.

The inability to enrol the IDP children in schools is associated with various problems like lack of documentation of these internally displaced and unavailability of teachers to cater for the population upsurge. This can result from either the natural or artificial cause of the displacement. Camps often face a shortage of qualified teachers and education in camps are only at the primary level or come from communities with limited access to education, severely limiting the number of qualified teachers.

Some of the children were not in school because of the need for them to work to earn money to support the family while some were staying at home to take care of their siblings so that the mother can work. While extended family may have played this role of child-caring back home, in displacement, the nuclear family often needs to provide these services, which means an additional burden on children.

2.4 Theoretical Framework:

2.5 Human Rights Approach

In addressing the post-insurgency challenges faced by children at IDP camps in Jere Local Government Area (L.G.), Borno State, a Human Rights Approach can be instrumental. This approach emphasizes the protection and promotion of human rights as enshrined in international human rights instruments and conventions. Numerous scholars and legal experts have contributed to the theoretical framework of human rights, including Langlois, Anthony (2013), Goodhart, Michael (2013 and others who have explored various aspects of human rights theory and practice.

These authors have played significant roles in shaping the philosophical basis and content of human rights as a fundamental moral doctrine that aims to protect individuals' inherent dignity and well-being.

When applied to the context of IDP camps, especially those affected by insurgency, it ensures that the rights of children are respected, protected, and fulfilled despite the challenging circumstances they face.

The Human Rights Approach focuses on safeguarding the fundamental rights of children living in IDP camps (Langlois, 2013). This includes ensuring their right to life, survival, development, education, health, and protection from violence, abuse, and exploitation. In the case of post-insurgency challenges, children may have experienced trauma, loss of family members, displacement, and disruptions in their education. Implementing this approach involves creating a safe environment for children within the camps, providing psychosocial support services, and preventing any form of discrimination or harm.

One key aspect of the Human Rights Approach is ensuring access to quality education for all children, including those living in IDP camps (Goodhart, 2013). In post-insurgency settings where schools may have been destroyed or disrupted, efforts should be made to provide educational opportunities within the camps. This includes setting up temporary learning spaces, training teachers on trauma-informed approaches, and incorporating psychosocial support into the curriculum to address the emotional needs of children affected by conflict.

Another critical component is promoting the health and well-being of children in IDP camps. This involves ensuring access to healthcare services, nutrition programs, clean water, sanitation facilities, and hygiene promotion initiatives (Goodhart, 2013).. Children who have been exposed to conflict may have specific health needs that require attention, such as mental health support for trauma-related issues or specialized care for injuries sustained during the conflict

The Human Rights Approach also emphasizes the participation and empowerment of children in decision-making processes that affect them(Goodhart, 2013).. In IDP camps, children should be given opportunities to express their views, contribute ideas on improving their situation, and participate in recreational activities that promote their social and emotional development. Empowering children through education and skills training can help build resilience and prepare them for a better future beyond the confines of the camp.

By applying a Human Rights Approach to address post-insurgency challenges faced by children at IDP camps in Jere L.G., Borno State, stakeholders can work towards ensuring that the rights of these vulnerable populations are upheld despite the difficult circumstances they endure.

3.0 Methodology

3.1 Data Acquired

Data acquired for the purpose of this study includes the demographic characteristic of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) such as age, sex among others and their status. The social, economic and health status; these can be acquired from the nature of shelter in the IDPs camp, beddings, feedings, education, toiletries, medication, rights abuse and protection. How accessible they are to social amenities and other sporting facilities.

3.2 Data sources

The data for this research was sourced from both the primary and secondary sources of data. All the data relating the socio-economic, education and health status of the children in the camp was primarily sourced from the IDPs using interview and observation as tools to generate the data. While the population of the children relied on the secondary sources of the data which are available with the IDPs camp managers. These included the role of the agencies was not only primarily sourced from the IDPs, but the records from the agencies managing the camps were collected.

3.3 Sampling and sampling procedure

Multiple sampling techniques was applied to achieve this research because of the fact that the population is not stable but displaced, these include random, purposive and stratified sampling. Out of the eighteen (10) IDPs camp 4 camps will be selected among which will be purposively selected base on heterogeneity of IDPs, camp such camp Muna Camp, Buzu Faye, Modu Sulumri and Baduwi Camps were selected among others. When others were stratified sampled based on the population concentration of the IDPs. One camp was selected from the most populous camp Muna camp with 8, 304, and then the other camp from moderately populous IDPs, where Modu Sulumri camp with 2,888 IDPs was selected. The other one was selected from the least populous camp, which was Buzu faye camp with only 224 IDPs and Baduwi with 408.

In the most populous camps three groups of children were interview in the camp and two groups from the moderately populous camps, whereby, in the least populous camps only a group was interviewed in the camp.

3.4 Data Analysis

Data from this research was analyzed using descriptive statistic like measures of central tendency such things like mean, ranges, simple percentages and frequency distribution table. The charts and graphs were also used in data analysis.

4.0 DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

Table 1: Demographic structure of the Women and Children in Camps

S/N	CAMPS	MEN	%	WOMEN	%	CHILDREN	%	TOTAL
1	Muna camp	4128	44	1245	27	2931	29	8,304
2	Buzu Faye	32	26	30	22	162	52	224
3	Modu Sulunri	519	26	1519	42	850	33	2888
4	Baduwi	30	15	56	34	322	52	408
TOTAL		4709	34	2850	20	4265	46	11,825

From table 1, the number of women is the least with only 20% of the whole IDPs population followed by men that constituted 34%. Children being the most vulnerable among the population have 46% of the IDPs in Jere camps. They are more than double of the men’s population. Most recorded percentage of men is only found in MUNA camp where men have 44.2% of the IDPs in the camp. Women’s population is only greater than children population in Modu Sulumri and BADUWI camps having 56% and 15% against 52% respectively. Highest percentage population of children is observed with 52% in BUZU FAYE camp and least observed in MODU SULUMTRI with 33% of the percentage population of the IDPs.

4.1 Accessibility to Education among IDPs in Maiduguri camps

Education as one of the basic needs for any meaningful growth and development, more over is another basic rights of child as is enshrined in the UNOs resolution. It does not exempt the IDPs from accessing this basic right however according to the survey (Fig.1) 65% of the IDPs particularly children and women have no access to education at all this is more pronounce in MUNA camp and MODU SULUMTRI where 65% of the IDPs are not accessing any educational services whether basic, religious or moral. (However, only 20% of the IDP children have access to the basic western education (fig. 10) with 50% of the children in BADUWI camp having access to basic education. Religious and moral instruction received only 7.5% each among the IDP children with higher percentage in MODU SULUMTRI and BUZU FAYE, having 30% access to religious education in MUNA camp and 20% moral instruction received in camps respectively.

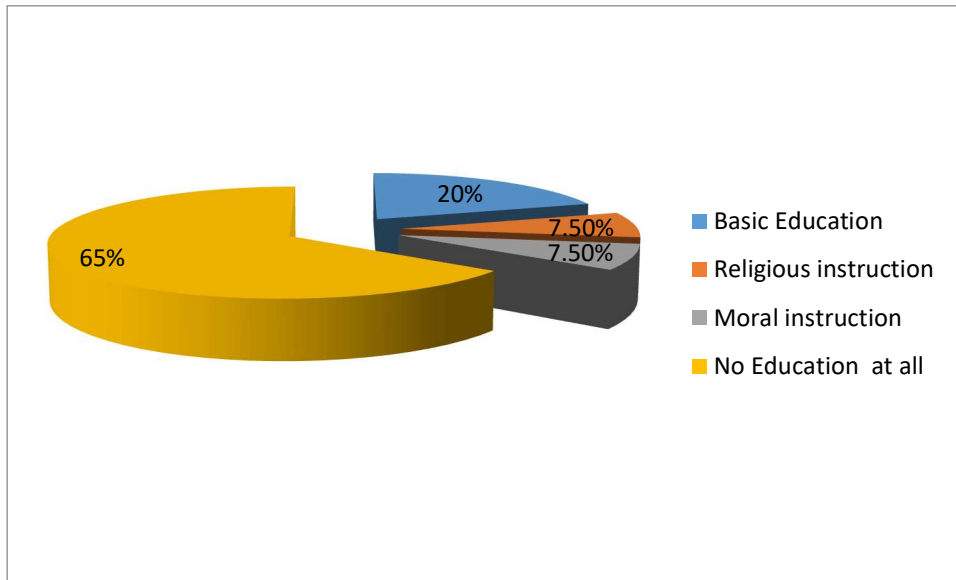


Fig. 1: Access to Basic Education and Moral instruction among the IDPs in Maiduguri camps Source: Field Survey 2023

4.2 The Children prioritization of their Needs in the IDPs Camps

Table 2: Accessibility to basic social services in Maiduguri IDPs camps

IDPs Camp	No. of Interviewee	Basic Social Services /Amenities					
		Access to Communication Facilities			Access to Recreational services		
		Full	Limited	No	Full	Limited	No
Buzu Faye	10	0	10	0	0	0	10
Baduwi Camp	20	0	10	10	0	0	20
Muna Camp	30	0	20	10	0	20	10
Modu sulumtri	30	0	20	10	0	10	20
% Response	90	0%	66.70%	33.30%	0%	33.30%	66.70%

Source: field survey 2018

Basic services like access to communication and recreation are also part of basic rights of persons including displaced children, therefore the result of the study as contained in Table 2 showed that 66.7% have limited access to communication they only access radio and their personal mobile phones while other things like television and satellites are not accessible children at all. Similarly only few have personal radio and mobile phones, which is mostly among men. 33.3% have no access at all to the communication facilities. The camps that have more men accessible to the communication base on the survey are MUNA CAMP and MODU SULUMTRI in which more than 65% of the men either have radio or mobile phone or both (table 2).

Provision of recreational facilities particularly for children is also a right of any child. The survey in IDPs camp in Jere has as presented in the table 4.3 that IDP children are not accessible to recreational services. 66.7% of the IDPs have no access at all to any recreational facilities in the camp. Only 33.3% have limited access to recreational services. The most recreational services accessible by the children are that football field and some play Cards and Drafts.

No any people among IDPs have full access to either communication or recreational services in Jere camps (Table 2).

5.0 SUMMARY CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Summary

Following the Boko Haram insurgency there was displacement of people and subsequent influx of the displaced into Jere and Maiduguri metropolitan. They are camped in various camps in Jere where they were attended to agencies who provide them with basic need. The study was conducted on the distribution of the IDPs in the camps which revealed that the most vulnerable groups are women and children in which it was discovered that 80% of the IDPs to be women and children having 34% and 46% respectively.

On right to education, it was discovered that 80% of them lack access to basic education. Their right to health care is also limited, where only 11% are fully accessible to medical care in relation to medical personnel and essential drugs. The remaining percentages have either limited access or no access at all.

It was also found that the humanitarian assistance rendered is mostly those relief materials given to the IDPs which include the foods materials (cereals, milk) water, beddings (mats, mattresses) and the kettles, plastic basins and buckets among other things.

Nine agencies both national and international are found to be catering for the wellbeing of the IDPs in various camps

5.2 Conclusion

The study concluded that the problems faced by the IDPs in relation to education and medical facilities are caused by greed and corruption among the camps officials not from the death of the relief materials. That the IDPs right to education is grossly violated and access to medical care is also poorly attended to as most do not have access to the healthcare.

It is concluded that women and children are found to be the most vulnerable groups in the whole of the IDPs. They are also the most populous in all the camps.

It is also concluded that the environmental conditions of the IDPs camp is good in terms of environmental sanitation, as they have no open defecation around and latrines are fit for use. Although, despite the good conditions of the camps' conveniences, there is inadequacy of the conveniences as IDPs have to queue before access any form of services in almost all the camps.

5.3 Recommendation

Base on the findings of this study the following recommendations were made:

- i. The food quality should be given priority as the quality matters most in people health not quantity. By so doing the possibility of contacting diseases will be minimal particularly malnutrition among children.
- ii. Alternative study-system should be provided in the camps for children to attained basic education within age. This will pave way for them to access various employment opportunities in the future to avoid being lured by culprits in to wrong acts.
- iii. There is strong need for the Government and NGOs to rehabilitate the unaccompanied children and the orphans to avoid been recruited into evil acts?
- iv. Close supervision of the activities of the officials in all the camps will reduce the rate of corruption among them, thereby improving the quality of the children's life IDPs in the camp.
- v. Learned and skilled staff in disaster and risk management should be employed in organizations that are catering the plight of the IDPs because of both familiarity and knowledge base in management of this kind of situation.
- vi. More research is recommended on the resettlement programs of the IDPs as the Boko Haram insurgency is drastically fading away.

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