



Internally Displaced Persons and Emerging Socio-Economic Challenges: An Assessment of the Odukpani and Bakassi Refugee Camps in Cross River State, Nigeria

¹Emeka, Josephat Owan, Ayuk. A. A. & Egidi, Stephen Achuen

¹Department of Sociology, University of Calabar

²Postgraduate Student (Demography) University of Calabar, Calabar

Correspondence E-mail: josephemeka34@gmail.com

Phone: +2348133560343

Received November, 2018; Accepted and Published December, 2018

Abstract

The emerging security and demographic challenges in most developing countries of the world has midwife the emergence violence situation leading to the emergence of internally displaced persons, refugee camps as well as asylum seekers. These have become an issue of national, international and intellectual discourse. Many indigenous inhabitants have been displaced due to insecurity and violent crime orchestrating some socio-economic challenges at these camps. It is therefore the intention of this paper to do a critical assessment of these internally displaced persons and emerging socio-economic challenges within these refugee camps in Odukpani and Bakassi in Cross River State, Nigeria. The peculiar socio-economic challenges include food insecurity, overcrowding, hygiene and health challenges. The work adopted Frustration Aggression Displacement Theory by John, Neal, Leonard, Orval, Robert (1939). The data for the study was generated through the secondary sources and analyzed using qualitative technique. The finding revealed that the socio-economic challenges faced by these internally displaced persons at these refugee camps are a bane to the well being of the IDP. Hence, it was recommended that Humanitarians International Organizations should partner with Federal and State Governments to improve the state of the arts of the infrastructure at the IDP camps.

Keywords: Internally displaced persons, socio-economic challenges, Refugee camps, Assessment, frustration Aggression Displacement.

Introduction

The idea of the philosopher king according to Plato was to put in place good government that will protect the lives and properties of the citizens. But in contemporary Africa and other developing world, there is high level of avalanche of communal conflicts, war, political crises, religious upheaval, insurgency, terrorism, militancy among others. This has caused displacement of the residents especially women and children leading to migration from ancestral homes into asylum seekers, refugees, migrants, internally displaced persons (IDPs) among others. According to the United Nation High Commission for Refugee (UNHCR, 2016), an internally displaced persons (IDP) is an individual or group of persons who are forced to flee from their ancestral home, but remain within the same country's borders. Therefore, the internally displaced persons are persons displaced by violence leading to human right violation. The result of constant conflict in Odukpani Local Government and international boundary disputes in Bakassi Local Government areas of Cross River State had led to the internal displacement of the inhabitants of these communities within Cross River State, Nigeria. Hence, these displaced persons are faced with demographic and

Internally Displaced Persons and Emerging Socio-Economic Challenges:.....

socio-economic problems like food insecurity, inadequate water supply, low income, electricity, health challenge, school dropout, poor hygiene, clothing and overcrowded accommodation among others.

Ladan, (2012) argued that displaced persons are those individual or group of community with ancestral lineage who have been forced to migrate or leave their place of indigenous place of habitation to avoid the impact of emerging armed conflict or disaster instigated by man or nature (manmade or natural disasters). These forced migrants are seen as internally displaced because they are within the country. Durosaro and Ajiboye (2011) posited that there are two perspectives to the understanding of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) that is, the coercive or forced and voluntary migration. According to the United Nation High Commission for Refugee (UNHCR) as cited by Olukolajo, (2014) Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nigeria and other countries of Africa migrate to the neighboring communities that are relatively safe, share geographical proximities and seeking temporary accommodation in public buildings, schools, places of worship, market building among other public places of refuge, after being displaced from their ancestral home and disengaged from their sources of livelihood.

In a study conducted by the United Nation High Commission for Refugee (UNHCR, 2014), the result of the analysis shows that 91.4% of IDPs displaced in 2014 tend to reside with their relatives, 7.6% lives within the camps. The IDPs social welfare is always promoted by their family, government and non-governmental organizations. The social welfare of the IDP varies from one camp to another, depending on their degree of displacement. The growing level of IDPs shows that 56% of every displaced person is children and 42% are adults, 92% of the IDPs were displaced by communal conflicts, while 13% live in camps (Olawale, 2015). IDPs are faced with legions of challenges, although no adequate data and documentation on the challenges of the IDPs were available. After the “resettlement” the returnees now sees themselves as “political orphans” (Ukwayi and Basseyy, 2017). Hence, government must put mechanism through the traditional authorities to mitigate possible causes of conflict that might result to the displacement of the inhabitants; this can be achieved during the period of reconstruction.

Studies by Syed and Altaf, (2010); Ogbonna, Nomura & Aoyagi, (2013); Olawale, (2015) have shown that virtually in every clime globally, internally displaced persons (IDPS) are usually faced with the demographic and socio-economic challenges among which include:

1. Food insecurity: Food has been identified as a physiological need of man for body nourishment and for survival. African Foods Brief (AFSB) cited in Isa and Saheed, (2017) estimated that approximately one out of every three persons in the sub-Saharan Africa is undernourished especially those that are internally displaced (Isa and Saheed 2017). The basic components of food security among the IDPs camps include:

(a) Availability: In most of the IDPs camps in Nigerian, especially those of Bakassi and Odukpani of Cross River State are faced with the problem of food insecurity. According to Dankumo, Riti and Ayeni (2015) food availability connote that food have to be physically, socially and economically considered to be sufficient and available to nourished the human population. Food availability must satisfy the dietary needs and preference of any food by the people. Food availability is the function of local food production, imports, stock levels, as well as net trade in food items.

(b) Utilization: Utilization implies the pattern in which the body makes use and benefits from the food availability especially for the campees (Ogbonna, Nomura and Aoyagi, 2013).

(c) Stability: Food stability encompasses food components like availability, accessibility and utilization. Food security has remained a key target of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, over 60 countries made attempt to meet the target of food security. In spite of the attempt, food insecurity has been a bane to the IDP in sub-Saharan Africa. Food insecurity has remain an uphill task for the IDPs and the camp official, (Isa and Saheed, 2017).

Studies have also shown that in Nigeria, Nigeria food security outlook of Famine Early Warning Systems Network (NFSOFEWSN, 2013), has witnessed an unprecedented flooding between July and October, 2012. This natural disaster has caused internal displacement and food insecurity. Among the IDPs, there are severe acute malnutrition among women and children because of food insecurity; this has caused child morbidity and mortality (Ukwayi & Bassey, 2017). According to the UNICEF report cited in Eweka & Olusegun, (2016), more than 100,000 children with severe acute malnutrition have been admitted to the IDPs therapeutic feeding programs (Eme, et al., 2017). Food availability is extremely limited and there has been inadequate food production in conflict affected areas. The conflict or natural disaster that engendered IDPs has caused depletion in the household economy and food stock of the market. Forced displacements as the product of armed conflict have greatly impacted on agricultural production, as thousands of farmers have been rendered landless affecting food production in the affected area. The Bakassi and Odukpani IDPs camps have limited economic resources which are a bane to food security at the IDP camps, (UNHCIR 2016). According to the World Food Summit (1996), “food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life”.

Food security at the IDP camps is the accessibility of food, right to eat and absence of risk to food shortage.

The Challenge of Overcrowding and Poor Sanitation at the IDP Camps

Eme, et al., (2017) found that the global estimate shows that the number of people displaced has geometrically increased since 2003. The displacement is thereafter metamorphosized into overcrowding, crime situation and poor sanitation at the camp, (Eme, Obioma, Tumininu and

Internally Displaced Persons and Emerging Socio-Economic Challenges:.....

Eniola, 2017). Their study revealed that due to the challenge at the IDPs camps, it has resulted to acute respiration infections (4%), diarrheal infection (18%-24%), measles (19%-31%) and meningococcal meningitis (0.5%). The study further deducted that overcrowding and poor sanitation has made the displaced persons vulnerable to physical and mental health challenges. Within the IDP camps, epidemics of infectious disease are quite common due to overcrowding and the poor camp sanitation conditions and their housing types. As a result of overcrowding, women and girls have become victims of physical and sexual assaults (violence) in the IDP camps. Specifically, women are at the high danger of unwanted/unplanned pregnancies, unsafe abortions, maternal morbidity and mortality, (Amowitz, et al., 2002).

In another study by Eme, Obioma, Tumininu & Eniola, (2016) on the health problems of the internally displaced persons in Africa, these authors found that the internally displaced persons (IDPs), especially those affected by communal and other forms of conflict like the Odukapni IDP camp in Cross River State are at the high risk of mental challenges which is midwife by the camp sanitation and overcrowding. This sometime result to post-traumatic stress disorders (PTSDs) in relation to the camp stress and overcrowding. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) upon displacement and arrival at camp are always clustered in small space of unreasonable shelter which they sometimes co-habit with the host communities. The overcrowding at the IDP camps sometimes result to hostility, and most often, by segregation which are based on gender, robbery and form of attacks (Eweka and Olusegun, 2016). The IDP camps in the study areas are susceptible to overcrowding and camp poor sanitation which affect both the physical, mental state and general health and well being of the displaced persons (Durosaro & Ajiboye, 2011).

Health Challenges of the IDP

The internally displaced persons (IDPs) by armed or violent conflict or natural disasters have been faced with myriad of health challenges. In a study conducted by Eme, Obioma, Tuminiv, Eniola (2016) , these authors found that the common health challenges of the IDPs include malaria 85% among children, 48% among adult, malnutrition 24% among children, 6% among adult, diarrhea; 62% among children, 22% among the adult, respiratory infections 45% for all campees, mental and post-traumatic stress disorder 42% for children, 54% for adult; acute depression, 31% for children, 67% for adult, (Dankumo, Riti & Ayeni, 2015).

The incidences of health challenge are on the increase among the IDPs, because of inadequate comprehensive health care system at the camp. These tend to limit their life span. The public health system of the IDP camps have engendered the health challenges, these include the large volume of the influx of the displaced persons leading to overcrowding, environmental degradation, unsafe water supply and poor waste management. Most IDPs camps are often not

considered for routine immunization services thereby making the IDPs susceptible to diseases and outbreak of epidemics at the camp. Also, in IDPs camps, there are hardly any professional services from psychologist or social workers to promote psycho-therapeutical services; hence, it has promoted post-traumatic depression and mental disorder among the IDPs. This has increased the vulnerability of the IDPs to a myriad of infectious and non communicable diseases (Austine, Guy, Lee-Jones, McGinn and Schlect, 2008).

The health challenges of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) have become a global concern because of the vulnerability of these persons. This has lead to the emergence of humanitarian service organization like Doctors without Boarder, Red Cross and other Health Agencies of the United Nations. Internally Displaced Persons IDPs are seen as the victims of man's inhumanity to man (Akuto, 2017). Because of the constant health challenges at the IDPs camp, the displaced persons live in bitterness, denial and pain of separation from their families, spouses and others (Bassey, 2017).

Hygiene Challenge at the IDPs Camps

Poor hygiene practices have remained one of the greatest challenges of the Displaced Persons in developing countries. The high influx of the IDPs like the Bakassi and Odukpani to IDP camps has over stretched the basic facilities for their healthy living. Within the IDPs camps, there is poor personal, environmental and menstrual hygiene. The poor environmental hygiene at the IDPs camps manifest in poor housing system, poor latrines, poor waste disposal, open defecation, indiscriminate disposal of children defecation, poor bathing places, poor hand washing system, lack of clean drinking water, poor manicure and pedicure systems, unclean cooking and eating utensils (Syed and Altaf, 2010). The IDPs poor hygiene system in the camp is been crystallized by lack of water, soap, washroom and other camp medical facilities.

Theoretical Discourse

The work adopted the Frustration Aggression Displacement theory which was propounded by John, Neal and Leonard Orval Robert in 1939. The basic assumption of the theory rest on the belief that aggression is the consequence of frustration and displacement, which may be socially, emotionally, psychologically or residentially. Frustration creates anger, which may in some people generate aggression, especially in the presence of an aggressive cue (Myers, 1996). The theory also assumed that when people perceived that they are being prevented from achieving their socio-economic rights; their frustration is likely to turn to aggression, in this case, frustration in the theory connote thwarting of goal response.

Internally Displaced Persons and Emerging Socio-Economic Challenges:.....

The theory is apt to the work because the refugees in Bakassi and Odukpani camps are constantly faced with frustrating situations like food insecurity, poor hygiene, and overcrowding, poor medical services among other displacement issues, thereby producing aggression among the IDPs themselves, the government and the host. However, the shortfall of the theory rest on the argument, that the theory never make recommendation to promote the welfare of the IDP. But however, the theory is apt to the work.

Taking a close look at the entire process of accommodating, housing, feeding, taking care of the medical needs and the livelihoods of those who are compulsorily forced to relocate and find asylum in IDP camps in Bakassi and Odukpani, one is poised to ask how they cope with other life challenging situations, especially their socioeconomic challenges?. It is based on this emerging scenario that this research is designed to assess the emerging socio-economic challenges faced by the internally displaced people living in the refugee Camps in Bakassi and Odukpani LGAs of Cross River State, Nigeria.

Two research questions were formulated for the study thus:

- ❖ What is the emerging socioeconomic challenges confronting the internally displaced people (IDPs) in their resettlement camps in Bakassi and Odukpani LGAs?
- ❖ What are the causes of these emerging socioeconomic challenges confronting these IDPs?

Methodology

The research design adopted for this study is the survey research design, this is the best design because it allows for the selection of a representative fraction of the population for in-depth study and result gotten from the study can then be used for valid generalization about the entire population.

Area of study

The area of study is the Odukpani and Bakassi internally displaced people (IDPs) camps. Odukpani Local Government Area is one of the Local Government Areas in Southern Senatorial Districts of Cross River State. By ancestral genealogy, the Odukpani people are Efik. They have thirteen (13) political wards that is: Adiabo Efut, Creek Town 1, Creek Town II, EKori, Eki, Obomital, Odot, Odukpani Central, Onim, Ikoneo, Ukwa, Okoyong and Inuakpa. Odukpani is a semi rural area whose main occupation is farming and fishing, (Bassey, 2017). The ethnographic review of the Bakassi people revealed that Bakassi is a peninsula on the Gulf of Guinea and geographically, the peninsula lies between latitudes $4^{\circ}25^1$ and $5^{\circ}10^N$ and longitudes $8^{\circ}20^1$ and $9^{\circ}08^1E$. The peninsula is located between the Cross River estuary closed to Calabar urban in the West, but sequel to the International Court of Justice Judgment (ICJ Reports, 2002), the peninsula is

now governed by the Federal Republic of Cameroon. The population of Bakassi has been a subject of debate but however, the population is put between 150,000 and 300,000 people (Nowa, 2004). Bakassi is blessed with rich economic landscape. Bakassi is a coastal region which is rich in fish farming, shrimps and variety of maritime activities. Hence, the people see fishing as a major occupation. However, Bola and Akinterinwa (2002) noted that the peninsula is seen as “oil rich” community. Against this background, at least eight multinational oil companies have participated in the exploration of the peninsula and its offshore waters. Following the ICJ judgment, Nigerian governments have established a resettlement camp for the people in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State.

Instrument for data collection is a structured questionnaire which is divided into two sections; Section A sought to elicit respondents socio-demographic data, while section B sought for data to address the emerging socioeconomic challenges facing the IDPs. The instrument is designed with the modified four point Likert scale type response option covering the variables of the study. Using the stratified sampling technique, a total of six hundred respondents were selected from the two IDP camps. The researchers personally administered the questionnaire and collected same back. Pie chart and simple percentage was used to analyze data generated from the field to address the two research questions.

To measure the emerging socioeconomic challenges confronting people at the IDP camps, the following issues were raised from the field as indicators for measuring the socioeconomic challenges thus: No sustainable sources of income; No functional skills to engage in other ventures; Poor business climate in the IDP camps; capitals for business are usually used to buy food and other things; the rate of crime in the IDP camps are very high; social vices are on the rise everyday; goods are always collected on credit with very minimal chances of repayment; poverty level in the IDP camps are very high; there is serious hunger in the camps, no land for the inmates to cultivate their vegetable farms and other crops for sustenance and above all, the camp officials rather used the provisions to the IDP camps for their personal use instead of for the IDPs (see table 1).

Results and discussion

The result of data analysis using simple percentage is shown on table 1. The result of the simple percentage analysis as shown on table 1 indicates that out of the six hundred respondents selected as sample for the study, 451 respondents, representing 75.2% agreed that the cause of the emerging socioeconomic challenges facing the internally displaced people's camp is the absence of

Internally Displaced Persons and Emerging Socio-Economic Challenges:.....

sustainable sources of income in the camp, 134 (22.3%) respondents rejected that the absence of sustainable sources of income is not the cause of the emerging socioeconomic challenges facing the internally displaced people's camp in Odukpani and Bakassi local government areas, while 15 (2.5%) were undecided about the socioeconomic challenges.

Table 1: Emerging socioeconomic challenges among IDPs in their camp

Emerging causes of socioeconomic challenges	Agree	%	Disagree	%	Undecided	%	Total
1 No sustainable sources of income	451	75.2	134	22.3	15	2.5	100
2 No functional skill	235	39.2	365	60.8	60.8	-	100
3 Poor business environment	445	74.2	154	25.7	1	0.2	100
4 Funds for business are often used to buy food	468	78.0	129	21.5	3	0.5	100
5 The crime rate in the camp is very high	467	77.8	133	22.2	-	-	100
6 Goods are always collected on credits	421	70.2	158	26.3	21	3.5	100
7 Poverty in the camp is very high	491	81.8	100	16.7	9	1.5	100
8 There is serious hunger in the camp	435	72.5	165	27.5	--	--	100
9 No land to cultivate crops for sustenance	546	91.0	54	9.0	-	-	100
10 Corrupt nature of camp officials						0.8	100
	465	77.5	130	21.7	5		

Source: Fieldwork, 2018

This result confirmed that the near absence of sustainable sources of income in the IDP camps contributes to the emerging socioeconomic challenges facing the IDP camps. The result on table 1 further shows that the lack of functional entrepreneurial skills among the inmates of the IDP camps is another major cause of the socioeconomic challenges faced by the inmates in the IDP camps. 235 respondents (39.2%) agreed that functional skill is a causative factor influencing the socioeconomic challenges facing the IDP camp inmates, while 365 respondents (60.8%) completely disagreed that lack of functional skill does not influence the socioeconomic challenges facing the IDP camps inmates in Bakassi and Odukpani LGAs.

It was also alleged that poor business environment in the IDP camps is a factor orchestrating the socioeconomic challenges facing the IDP camp inmates. The result of the simple percentage analysis as shown on table 1 revealed that 44 respondents (74.2%) agreed that the poor business environment in the IDP camp has a significant contribution to the socioeconomic challenges been faced, while 154 respondents (25.7%) disagreed that poor business environment cannot be responsible for the emerging socioeconomic challenges, while 1 respondent (0.2%) was undecided

about how poor business environment influence the socioeconomic challenges faced by the inmates in the IDP camps.

Question four posited that funds that would ordinarily be used for business is always being used to buy food in the IDP camps, to address this, result from table 1 shows that 468 (78.0%) agreed that most often, the funds they would have used for business are rather used for the purchase of food; 129 respondents representing 21.5% disagreed that they do not use the money that would have been used for business to buy food, while 3 (0.5%) respondents were undecided. This implies that most inmates in the IDP camps use the money they would have used for business to buy food, hence there is every tendency that business cannot thrive well here because they grossly lack the capital to start any functional business. It was also stated that there is very high crime rates in the camp, this does not encourage thriving socioeconomic activities. This is shown on table 1, which shows that 467 respondents (77.8%) agreed to the postulation that there is very high crime rate in the IDP camps, 133 respondents (22.2%) disagreed to this postulation. Therefore there is a very high crime rates in the IDP camps. The result on table 1 further shows that goods are always collected on credit and debts are hardly paid, so many businesses always crumble because there is the poor or lack of capitals to rejig the business. This is shown on table 1 as 421 respondents (70.2%) agreed, while a paltry 158 respondents (26.3%) disagreed.

In answering the question as to the extent of poverty in the IDP camps, 491 (81.8%) respondents observed that poverty in the IDP camps is very high, 100 (16.7%) of the respondents said poverty is not very high in the IDP camps, while 9 (1.5%) were undecided as to the extent of poverty in the camps. From the opinion of the population of those who agreed that poverty is very high in the IDP camps, it is observed that poverty is actually very high in the IDP camp, hence influencing the emerging socioeconomic challenges in the camps. Another issue raised that is influencing the socioeconomic challenges facing the IDP camps is hunger, 435 respondents (72.5%) observed that there is serious hunger in the camp, 165 (27.5%) disagreed that there is no serious hunger in the camp. From the result on table 1, respondent's opinion shows that there is serious hunger in the camps, this influences the socioeconomic challenges faced by the inmates in the IDP camps.

Since a lot of factors contribute to the socioeconomic challenges faced by inmates in the IDP camps, it would have been necessary that people should engage in peasant or subsistent agriculture to get a living from these ventures, but one serious factor that is seen to have negatively influenced the engagement of people in subsistence agriculture is lack of land in the IDP camps. 546 respondents representing 91.0% observed that there is no land for subsistence growing of crops by inmates, while 54 respondents (9.0%) said there was land for those who wish to engage in crop production to do so. From the opinion of the respondent's population, there is no land for the camp

Internally Displaced Persons and Emerging Socio-Economic Challenges:.....

inmates to engage in subsistent agriculture in the IDP camps in Odukpani and Bakassi local government internally displaced people’s camp. Another major issue raised in the instrument was the corrupt nature of the camp officials, 465 respondents (77.5%) agreed that most of the camp officials are very corrupt, 130 (21.7%) respondents said camp officials are not corrupt, while 5 respondents (0.8%) were undecided as to the extent of the corrupt nature of the camp officials. From the result so far, most camp officials are very corrupt.

This result was further computed using pie chart to further clearly identify those factors that contribute to the emerging socioeconomic challenges confronting the inmates in the IDP camps of Bakassi and Odukpani Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. This is shown on figure 1.

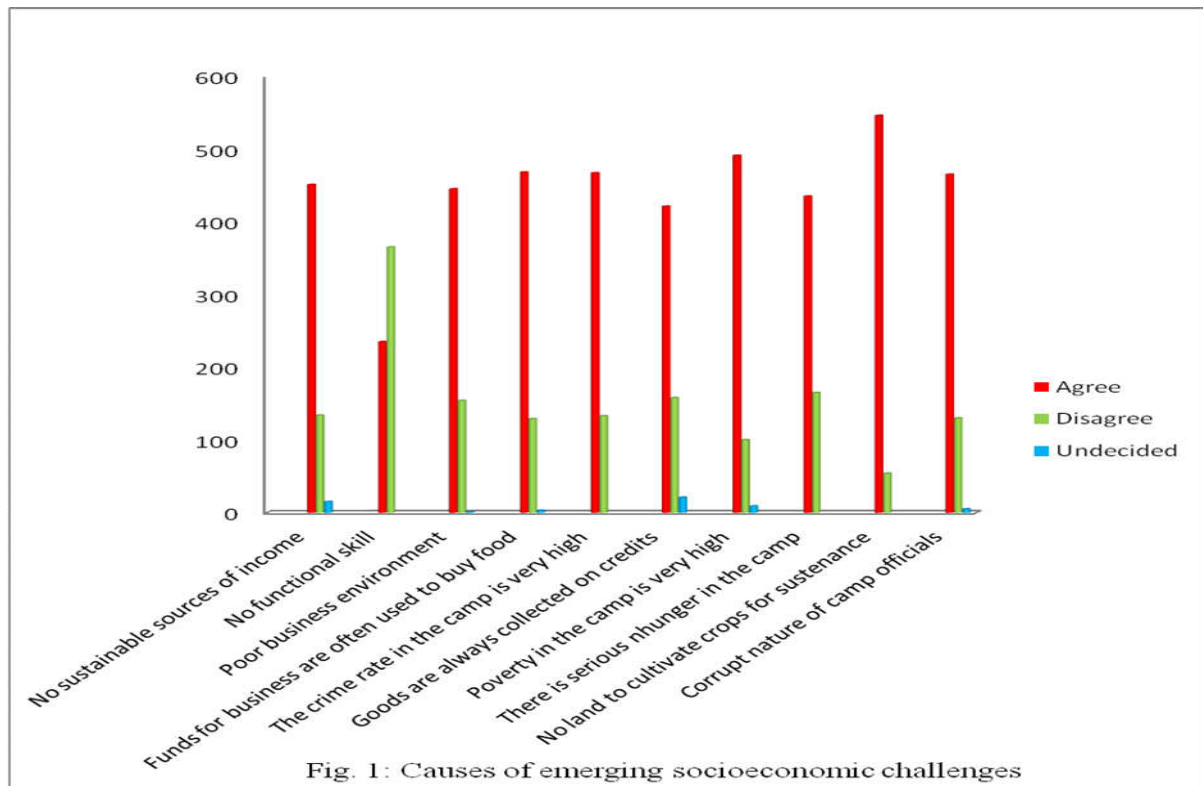


Fig. 1: Causes of emerging socioeconomic challenges

Results from the simple percentage analysis shows that the emerging socioeconomic challenges faced by the inmates of the IDP camps include no sustainable source of income, no functional skills to engage in business ventures, poor business environment, conversion of business capital to buying of food, the high rate of crime, debt collection and recovery, poverty, shortage of accommodation, serious hunger, no agricultural land for inmates to grow crops and market gardening and the corrupt nature of the camp officials. This result is a confirmation of the results of Olawale, (2015) who found that the Nigerian internally displaced people’s camps in Nigeria is in

dire need of serious intervention to improve the living conditions of the inmates; the author posited that food shortage, poverty, high crime rates, poor entrepreneurial skill, illiteracy, poor sanitation and personal hygiene conditions of the inmates, lack of functional health system and lack of portable drinking water among others. This finding is also in line with the earlier finding of Akuto, (2017) who found that the internally displaced persons are victims of natural or manmade disaster, and during their relocation or immediately after relocation, there should be the urgent need to fix some facilities where they will be relocated to cushion the effect and shock or trauma from the disaster, one of such effect cushioning strategies is to give them adequate medical attention, food, provision and security. Unfortunately, the provision and food supplied to most of the camps are rather taken by the camp officials for their own personal use, instead of for the inmates.

This situation is worrisome, especially in camps like those in Adamawa, Borno, Taraba and other disaster affected states. Provision made available to inmates are diverted by camp officials in connivance with security agencies, this has further widened the gap between provision and service delivery to the inmates in the camps. In most situations, drugs meant for the camps are sold to local drug vendors and chemists, toiletries are siphoned and sold to local provision stores, while inmates wallow in serious deprivations and want. Little wonder Bassey, (2017) observed that because of near deprivation of inmates, most persons suffer from untold hardship which ordinarily they would not have suffered. This author posited that most camps and their inmates have very serious challenges, socially, economically, health and accommodation.

The finding of this paper is also a confirmation of the work of Durosaro & Ajiboye, (2011) who found that hunger, poverty and high crime rates are major concern in almost every IDP camps, because a hungry man is an angry man, a man who is poor and hungry in akin to frustration, anger and bitterness, and where he cannot meet his daily needs, he may resort to crime and this will further worsen the situation in the camp, because depending on the nature and extent of the crime, people may be forced to live in fear and perpetual psychological stress. In every IDP camp, some socioeconomic challenges must exist, created either naturally or by human factors. Based on the finding of this research, a lot of emerging socioeconomic challenges have been observed and these have been attributed to the factors enumerated above. When all these challenges are addressed, it is strongly believed that the situation can be used to improve the living condition of every inmate in the internally displaced people's camp in Bakassi and Odukpani IDP camps and also in other places.

The violent crime and insecurity in some part of the country has remained a threat to lives and properties. The forced migration due to the displacement has resulted to IDP camps. The crisis of the internally displaced persons has remain a challenge to the Nigerian political, social and economic spheres. The vulnerability of the IDP camps has created poor standard of living among

Internally Displaced Persons and Emerging Socio-Economic Challenges:.....

these people. By all standards, the IDPs are physically, spiritually, socially and psychologically displaced because of force migration from their ancestral homes to the IDP camps as refugees. In the IDP camps, women and children are the most vulnerable to health and other environmental challenges. Curbing the challenges of the IDPs, it has been identified as the responsibility of the state to provide succor due to the sudden displacement of the people/inhabitants leading to loss of home, love ones, sources of economic activities, prosperities among others. The intervention of the government and other humanitarian organization is to mitigate challenges like the Past Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), insomnia, eating disorder, depression, hallucination psychotic and other suicidal attempts.

The challenges of Internal Displacement have remains a great issue in African and other developing countries like Nigeria. However, displacements in some region have drastically subsided due to the cessation of hostilities and reintegration of the IDPs to their ancestral homes. This study therefore maintained that it is apt for the government to secure the territorial sovereignty to mitigate internal aggression within the country.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Arising from the outcome of this research, it is pertinent to state that the internally displaced persons are faced with some socioeconomic challenges based on their conditions in the IDP camps, some of these challenges are manmade, while some are natural as a result of the actions and inactions of the IDP inmates, the camp officials and other external factors beyond the reach of these inmates. It was established that some causes of the emerging socioeconomic challenges in the IDP camps include lack of skills to cope and develop other means of survival, no capitals to begin their own business, hunger, poverty, shortage of accommodation, poor health facilities, and insecurity among others. Emerging socioeconomic challenges in the IDP camps include poor business capital base, credit and refusal to pay, high crime rates, hunger and poverty, poor business environment (climate), lack of sustainable sources of income, corrupt nature of camp officials and lack of fertile arable land for the cultivation of market gardening and crop production among others. Unfortunately, the same emerging challenges faced by the IDP camps inmates are almost the socioeconomic challenges faced by these inmates in the camps.

From the findings, it was recommended that:

- a. At the IDP camps, government should provide a soft loan to willing inmates who have the requisite skills to begin their one small scale business including artisans and other trade that can help them generate income for their daily livelihoods.
- b. Government should acquire some land for those who will want to engage in agricultural ventures including poultry farming, goatry, fish farming etc

- c. Skill acquisition programs should be introduced through entrepreneurial programs in the IDP camps’
- d. Government should as a matter of urgent public interest provide functional medical services to all the IDP camps in Nigeria.
- e. There should be regular monitoring and evaluation of all government programs tailored towards ameliorating and improving the living conditions of the inmates at all IDP camps across the country.
- f. Government should design a framework in collaboration with the United Nations High Commission for Refugee and other humanitarian organizations to promote the welfare of the IDPs camps especially in Odukpani and Bakassi Local Government areas of Cross River State.
- g. The indigenous people should develop mechanism and the spirit of solidarity and communal living to avoid communal conflict and other violent crimes to check displacement and force migration.
- h. In addition, government should establish offices at the Local Government or Area council for internally displaced persons. The Local Government is apt for this because it is the third tier closer to the people especially the internally displaced persons.

References

- Akuto, G. W., (2017). Challenges of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nigeria: Implications for Counselling and the Role of Key Stakeholders *International Journals of Innovative Psychology and Social Development*. 5(2): 99-119
- Amowitz, L. L., Reis, C., Lyons, K. H., Vann, B., Mansaray, B. and AKinsulure, S. M. (2002). Prevalence of War-Related Sexual Violence and other human rights Abuse among Internally Displaced Persons in Sierra Leone. *JAMA2002*; 287:513-21.
- Austin, J., Guy, S., Lee-Jones, L., McGinn, T. and Schlecht, J. (2008). Reproductive Health: A Right for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons. *Journal of reproductive health matters* 16(10): 123-134
- Bassey, I. (2017). *Bakassi Resettlement: FG Urged to Probe N37.5bn Relief Materials Sent to Cross River*. This Day, June, 29
- Bola, A. and Akinterinwa, Y. (2002). Equatorial Guinea and the Bakassi Dispute. *Nigerdeltacongress.com, April*.
- Dankumo, A., Riti, J. S. and Ayeni, B.S. (2015). Contribution of Agricultural and Industrial growth. *Journal of Business, Management and Allied Science*, 2(21): 78-92

Internally Displaced Persons and Emerging Socio-Economic Challenges:.....

- Durosaro, F. C. and Ajiboye, U. (2011). Nigerian Vulnerability to Terrorism: The Imperative of a Counter Religious Extremism and Terrorism. Retrieved from <http://222.monitor.upeace.org/innerp> 16/12/2018.
- Eme, T. O., Obioma, C. U., Tumininu, O. A., and Eniola, O. C., (2016). A Review of the Health Problems of the Internally Displaced Persons in Africa. *Nigerian Postgraduate Medical Journal* 23(4): 108-203
- Eme, T.O., Obioma, C. U., Tumininu, O. A., and Eniola, O. C. (2017). A Review of the Health Problems of the Internally Displaced Persons in Africa. *Nigerian Postgraduate Medical Journal*. 23(4): 27-41
- Eweka, O and Olusegun, T. O., (2016). Management of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa: Comparing Nigeria and Cameroon. An *International Multidisciplinary Journal, Ethiopia*. 10(1)114-129
- ICJ Reports (2002). *The Land and Maritime Boundary between Cameroon and Nigeria*. (Cameroon, Nigeria: Equatorial Guinea intervening), Judgment.
- Isa O. E. and Saheed, M. (2017). The Challenges of Food Security in Nigeria. *Open Access Library* 4(4): 89-04
- Ladan, E. W. (2012). Insecurity in Nigeria: Political, Religious and Cultural Implications *Journal of Philosophy, Culture and Religion* 5(6): 119-128
- Myers, D. G. (1996). *Exploring Social Psychology*, 3rd ed. New York: Worth Publishers.
- Nowa, M. M. (2004). Impoverishment or Social Justice?. A Model for Planning Resettlement. In: *Development Projects and Impourishment Risks*. London: New York.
- Ogbonna, J. C., Nomura, N. and Aoyagi, H. (2013). Bioenergy Production and Food Security in Africa. *Academic Journals* 12(7):199-208
- olawale, R. (2015). IDPs in nigeria and a Call for Urgent Intervention. Premium Times, Newspaper December 28.
- Syed, S., N., K. and Altaf, U., R. (2010). Assessing and Addressing Hygiene Issues of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) of Swat, Bnner and Dir. South Asia Hygiene Practitioners' Workshop.
- Ukwayi, J. K. and Basse A. (2017). Internally Displaced Persons and Emerging Security Challenges: An Assessment of the Bakassi Refugee Camp in Cross River State, Nigeria. *International Journal of Development Strategies in Humanities, Management and Social Sciences*. 7(2).....