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# Challenges Facing Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency (ADSEMA) in the Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Internally Displaced Persons 2010-2015

### Abdulrazak Aide<sup>1</sup>, Umar Adamu<sup>1</sup> and Zadok Nathaniel Shamaki<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Public Administration, Gombe State University, Gombe State. <sup>2</sup>Department of Crime Management, Adamawa State Polytechnic, Yola, Adamawa State.

### Corresponding Author's Email: abdulrazak.aide2018@adamawap

oly.edu.ng

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### **Abstract**

This study was designed to examine the challenges facing Adamawa State Management Emergency Agency in the rehabilitation and re-integration of Internally Displaced Persons. Two objectives, two research questions, and two research hypotheses were formulated to guide the conduct of the study. This study is based on The Capability Approach Survey research design was adopted for the study where a 17 item questionnaire designed by the researchers was administered to a sample of 385 respondents categorised as 55 ADSEMA staff, and 330 IDPs selected using stratified and purposive sampling techniques. The data collected for the study were analysed using the mean and Standard Deviation and the t-test method of data analysis to answer the research questions and test the hypotheses respectively. The finding of the study revealed that ADSEMA's roles in the rehabilitation and reintegration of IDPs was faced with varied challenges like insecurity, corruption and lack of political will. Based on the above conclusion, the study recommends that: adequate security mechanisms should be put in place at the campsites to relax the apprehensive minds of the IDPs while there and the Nigerian government should fight corruption and ensure a direct link between the management agencies and the IDPs.

**Keywords:** Challenges, Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency, rehabilitation, re-integration of and Internally Displaced Persons

### 1.0 Introduction

Nigeria's return to democratic rule in 1999 is characterised by waves of insecurity in every region of the country and ranges of violent conflicts across the country, these violent conflicts include militancy in the South-South (Niger-Delta Region) with kidnapping, cultism, communal clashes in other states in the Southern region, terrorism, and insurgency in the North while the Northeast as part of the six (6) geo-political zones of the country has experienced waves of insurgency attacks from the Boko Haram sect which also extended to other Northern states and across other neighbouring countries (Aide & Lawson, 2018).

Since Boko Haram insurgents began their campaign of terror against the Nigerian state in the northeast in 2009, many lives have been lost while properties worth millions of naira have been destroyed, forcing many people to flee their homes for safety areas. The most affected persons are vulnerable groups such as children, aged, and women who are exposed to severe socio- economic and political challenges (Mike, 2016).

According to Isaac (2021), one of the major challenges facing the Nigerian state is how to provide succor to the plights of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), occasioned by incessant violent attacks perpetrated by the Boko Haram insurgents in the north-eastern part of the country. It

is on record that the government has responded and is still responding to the IDPs in Nigeria at the local, state, and federal levels (UN, 2011). This is corroborated in the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre's (IDMC) report on Nigeria, which explains how local, state, and federal governments intervene to assist the IDPs. The report indicated that the national responsibility to respond to displacement lies with the local governments, and only if they are unable to cope are state governments called in. When this second level of response is ineffective, then the state government appeals to the federal government for support. The President takes the final decision on whether the federal government intervenes. At the federal level, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) coordinates emergency relief operations and assists in the rehabilitation of victims where necessary. (IDMC, 2010)

NEMA's mission is to coordinate resources toward and effective efficient disaster prevention. preparedness, mitigation, and response in Nigeria. It acts in the following areas: Coordination, Disaster Risk Reduction, search and rescue; policy and strategy; Geographic Information System, Advocacy, education, administration, finance and logistics; relief and rehabilitation; planning, research, and forecasting. The state governments in Nigeria have established and replicated such agencies. In Adamawa State for instance it is called Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency (ADSEMA)

According to Anthony & Nwobashi, (2016) despite the efforts by the government (through the National and State Emergency Agencies) to address the plights of IDPs by providing IDPs camps, there are still challenges of overcrowding, poor sanitation, joblessness, and insecurity in the IDPs camps across the states of Northeast. It is this void that this study strives to fill. It is in line with the above that this study is designed to examine the effectiveness of the roles of the Adamawa State Emergency Agency in the rehabilitation and re-integration of Internally Displaced Persons.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The main objective of this study is to assess the effectiveness of the roles of the Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency in the rehabilitation and re-integration of Internally

Displaced Persons. Specifically, the study is designed to:

- i. Identify the need for the rehabilitation and reintegration of Internally Displaced Persons in Adamawa State.
- Examine the challenges facing the Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency in rehabilitating and re-integrating the Internally Displaced Persons in Adamawa State.

### **Research Questions**

The following research questions were raised to guide the conduct of the study.

- i. What is the need for the rehabilitation and reintegration of Internally Displaced Persons in Adamawa State?
- ii. What are the challenges faced by the Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency in rehabilitating and reintegrating the Internally Displaced Persons in Adamawa State?

### **Research Hypotheses**

Two research hypotheses were formulated to guide the conduct of the study. The hypotheses were tested at a 0.05 level of significance. The research Hypotheses are:

HO<sub>1</sub>: There is no significant relationship between the mean response of the Internally Displaced Persons and Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency officials on the need for the rehabilitation and reintegration of Internally Displaced Persons in Adamawa State,

HO<sub>2</sub>: There is no significant relationship between the mean response of the Internally Displaced Persons and Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency officials on the challenges faced by Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency in rehabilitating and reintegrating the Internally Displaced Persons in Adamawa State.

### Review of Related Literature Concept of Internally Displaced Persons

According to Anthony and Nwobashi, (2016), Internally Displaced persons are mostly victims of the brutality of man against man, various kinds of injustices or violent confrontations, perpetrated either by their government against them or by others, such as terrorism, communal clashes, religious conflicts, riots, natural disasters and so on. The

United Nations describes Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) as individuals or groups of individuals forced or obliged to run away from or leave or usual residences, consequent to or so that they can avoid the harmful effects of armed conflict or terrorism, situations of generalized violence, abuse of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internally recognized State border (UN, 2006). Ocha (2003) as cited by Anthony and Nwobashi, (2016) described IDPs as persons or groups of persons who because of armed conflict, systematic violations of human rights, internal strife, or natural or man-made disasters have been forced to flee their homes or of habitual residence suddenly unexpectedly, to another location but have not crossed an internationally recognized state border as such persons are regarded as refugees.

### **Needs of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)**

Based on the circumstance they find themselves, IDPs are known to be facing several challenges, with some favouring a return to their violence-prone communities despite their concerns for their safety, whereas others tend to support migration to other parts of the country (Crisp, 2010; Mashi et al., 2019; Nnadi, 2020). The consequence of internal displacement on IDPs themselves, as well as on the local communities that host them, can be shocking. While the act of displacement itself is a violation of the human rights of those affected, the subsequent loss of access to homes, lands, livelihoods, personal documents, family members, and social networks can affect the ability of IDPs to relinquish a range of fundamental human rights (International Conference of the Great Lakes Region, 2006).

According to Eni and Synda (2016) IDPs are reliant on others for basic needs such as shelter, food, and water. At the same time, their susceptibility may be amplified by barriers to accessing health care, education, employment, economic activities, and electoral politics in their areas of displacement. Moreover, the longer displacement continues, the greater the risk that traditional family and social structures break down, leaving IDPs dependent on outside aid and vulnerable to economic and sexual exploitation. Such dependency, in turn, reduces the chances of durable solutions and sustainable reintegration into society once political and security conditions have changed to enable such solutions to take place. Internally displaced persons have

peculiar and generic needs and potential vulnerabilities beyond the conflict or disaster that displaced them.

- **Documentation and legal protection:** Although it is the responsibility of the state to protect Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), and provide for their needs, many IDPs are not officially recognized by the states and so, the states do not take up these responsibilities. In such situations, the IDPs are often left to their fate and sometimes fall at the mercy of individual donors and Humanitarian Organizations. Tull (2019), Kull (2019), and IDMC (2020) observed that IDPs face documentation challenges in many parts of Africa. Not being recognized by the state could encourage numerous violations of human rights of IDPs who do not also get any officially established international response because they remain within the country of displacement. Cohen (2006) referenced the 1984 Ethiopian crisis that put the destiny of hundreds of thousands of people on the choice of either crossing the border to get a refugee status to access help from the United Nations or staying within the country and endlessly waiting on its government. In the same year, at least 250,000 people died in Sudan having suffered from the combination of drought and economic problems to which the government did not respond but rather refused humanitarian aid coming from the international community who volunteered to help (Mayotte, 1994; Cohen, 2006).
- 2. Health challenges / lack of Access to health care services: Displaced persons in Nigeria often face many health challenges due to lack of access to health care services and facilities. Abbani (2021) and UNHCR (2020) maintained that Internally Displaced Persons suffer health challenges. In addition, Owoaje, Uchendu, Ajayi, and Cadmus (2016) stated that internal displacement is characterised by significant health challenges on the well-being of the Internally Displaced Persons.
- 3. Lack of Emotional Support: Internally Displaced Persons need to be shown acceptance and empathy and these mentioned right here are things that they hardly get. According to Ladan (2011), Internally Displaced Persons need emotional support,

- they need to be valued, loved, and cared for. In most cases Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) and the government when they decide to support internally displaced persons do this by merely giving them food supplies and nothing more which may be essential but isn't enough (Ochiaka, 2021).
- 4. Lack of financial support: When an individual is displaced from his home, the individual in most cases loses a lot because of that internally displaced persons need financial support (Ekpa, & Dahlan, 2016). Despite the fact that the governmental organizations and Non-governmental Organisations are trying, they can only give what they have as such the Internally Displaced Persons are bound to suffer from financial support (Erunke, 2021).
- 5. Lack of Security: The security of life and property is the primary function of every government and a fundamental right to be enjoyed by all citizens (FGN, 1999). Failure to protect life and property is a major cause of internal displacement. For example, because of the state of insecurity in most villages in north east, residents are displaced and will not return until they perceive the area to be safe.
- 6. **Post Internal Displacement trauma**: Most internally displaced persons suffer from traumas which can lead to their death or mental disorders, this is because internal displacement brings with it a level of heightened vulnerability. Nobody plans to be homeless, even when you do you will still be stunned by the fact that you are now homeless not just homeless but also helpless (Owoaje, 2016).
- 7. **Protection risks:** Majority of Internally Displaced persons camped in open places with tents serving as houses. Besides, the camps are overcrowded (IDMC, 2018; 2020; Davies, 2012). IDP camps that are exposed can further heighten protection risks of the IDPs. In addition to the above, IDPs are more at risk of abuse of their fundamental human rights (Akuto, 2017, UNHCR, 2020; UN, 2019 & Wirtz, 2014).
- 8. **Protracted situations:** If IDP crises become protracted, and is not controlled, there is the tendency that displaced persons will become

- involved in political violence and be susceptible to militant recruitment (Olukolajo, 2014), thereby developing into highly organized and militant states-in-exile. Further, host societies are likely to become less hospitable the longer an IDP crisis lasts.
- 9. Resettlement: Many Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) desire to return to their homes. UNHCR (2017) and Akuto (2017) have acknowledged the desire of many IDPs to return to their original homes. The 2009 African Union Convention (Principle "a") and the National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons (FGN, 2012) came into place with provisions to protect and assist the IDPs towards resettlement. Nigeria is a signatory to the UN Guiding Principle on Internal Displacement (UNGPID, 1998) and the Economic Community of West African States. All these guidelines were geared towards the resettlement of internally displaced persons among others.
- 10. **Violence**: There have been several reported cases of rape, molestation, and physical assault by officers against internally displaced persons who ordinarily should be under their protection and care. Teenagers and underage girls/boys are daily abused but hardly do the survivors or their families speak out (Haruna, 2021).

### Challenges Facing ADSEMA's Efforts in the Rehabilitation and Reintegration of IDPs

IDP camps created in response to Boko Haram's incessant attacks have been reported to be experiencing increasing numbers of people and the challenges they must face (Mashi et al., 2019). The state of these camps has deteriorated through mismanagement and the security concerns associated with the various challenges. However, there are indications that the Nigerian government has not demonstrated a strong political will in the provision of basic needs and protection of life and the fundamental human rights of Internally Displaced Persons in their various centres. Not much has been seen from the government in responding to the psychological, economic, health, security, and other fundamental human needs of Internally Displaced Persons (Raji et al, 2021; Akume, 2015). The analysis of the challenges faced in rehabilitating and reintegrating IDPs in Nigeria produced the

following findings the challenges considered centred on insecurity, corruption, and discrimination against IDPs, lack of education, and lack of finance and feeding. Other challenges include: Insecurity of security threats (Olawale, 2016), Insufficient shelter (Alobo and Obaji, 2016), Malnutrition (Olawale, 2016), Health Challenges (Alobo and Obaji, 2016), Corruption (Kayode, 2015) and Absence of Designated Camps for IDPs (Olukolajo, Ajayi, & Ogungbenro, 2014).

### Theoretical Framework

This study is based on The Capability Approach. The Capability Approach, developed by Amartya Sen (1999). A theoretical framework known as the Capability Approach highlights the significance of freedom in achieving well-being. Its two main normative tenets are that people's freedom to pursue well-being is morally significant in the first place and that well-being ought to be viewed in terms of an individual's capacities and functioning. The term "capabilities" describes the range of things people can accomplish if they so choose, such as becoming married, well-fed, or educated. Functioning, on the other hand, are the realized capabilities. According to the Capability Approach, whether individuals can convert resources and public goods into functioning (capabilities) depends on personal, sociopolitical, and environmental conditions known as conversion factors. The Capability Approach is a theoretical framework that emphasizes the role that freedom plays in attaining well-being. Its two central normative tenets are that it is morally significant for people to pursue well-being in the first place and that well-being should be understood in terms of an individual's capacities and functioning. The word "capabilities" refers to the variety of things that individuals can achieve, such as getting married, having a healthy diet, or receiving an education. On the other hand, realized capabilities are known as functioning.

### Research Methodology

This research adopted a survey research design. The survey research design was used because It is Cost-Effective, it can be used in Extensive Data Collection, it is Flexible in Administration, it gives dependable Responses and Quantitative and Qualitative Insights This study was conducted in Adamawa State. Adamawa State was chosen for this study because it was among the states that

experienced the most attacks by Bokoharam after the Borno and Yobe States. The population for the study consist of the staff of Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency and the internally displaced persons in Adamawa State. The Z-Score method of determining sample size was adopted for the study. Using a confidence level of 95%, a margin of error of 5%, a population proportion of 50%, and an unlimited population size, the sample size was 385. The sample population for the study was 385 respondents comprising 55 ADSEMA staff and 330 IDPs. The methods of sampling used for this study were stratified sampling and purposive sampling techniques. Stratified sampling was used to ensure that all the target population of internally displaced persons and government officials of organizations such as ADSEMA intervening in the rehabilitation and reintegration of IDPs in Adamawa State are fully involved in the study. In using purposive sampling, the researcher decides what needs to be known and finds the people who can and are willing to give information as a result of their experience or knowledge (Etikan, Musa, and Alkassim, 2016).

The researchers used a questionnaire to collect data from the respondents who are rehabilitated and reintegrated IDPs in Adamawa State, Nigeria. The questionnaires used were well-structured 17 closed-ended items designed using the Likert modified 4-point scale of strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed, and strongly disagreed. The questionnaire was administered to the respondents using face to face method of questionnaire administration.

Two methods of data analysis were used for analysing data for the study:

- 1. The mean and Standard Deviation methods of data analysis were used to answer the research questions raised. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 21 was used to determine the mean and the standard deviation for data analysis. An item was accepted if the mean score is greater than or equal to 2.5 while an item was to be rejected if the mean score is less than 2.5.
- 2. The t-test method of data analysis was used to test the two hypotheses formulated in the study. A t-test is an inferential statistic used to determine if there is a significant difference between the means of two groups. A hypothesis was accepted if the calculated t-test is less than the table value of "t". While a

hypothesis was rejected if the calculated "t" is greater than the value of "t".

#### 3.0 Result and Discussions

**Research Question One:** What are the needs for the rehabilitation and reintegration of Internally Displaced Persons in Adamawa State?

Table 1: the need for the rehabilitation and reintegration of Internally Displaced Persons

		ADSEMA Staff			IDPs		
S/N	ITEM	Mean		SD	Mean	SD	
1	Socio-economic challenges		3.18	0.95	3.09	0.45	
2	Lack of grievance expression mechanism for the IDPs		3.73	0.6	3.73	0.6	
3	Documentation and legal protection needs		3.52	0.98	3.47	0.75	
4	Host community incapability and will to accommodate		3.5	1.2	3.43	0.86	
	the IDPs						
5	Lack of Access to health care services		3.2	1.03	3.28	0.63	
6	Lack of Emotional support.		3.79	0.6	3.71	0.69	
7	Lack of financial support		3.29	0.45	3.42	1	
8	Lack of Security		3.42	0.6	3.37	0.92	
9	Post Internal Displacement trauma		3.47	0.75	3.42	0.67	
10	Resettlement needs		3.79	0.6	3.52	1.14	
			3.49	0.776	3.44	0.771	

Source: Survey, December, 2023

The analysis of the results generated from the questionnaire in Table one revealed that: the need for the rehabilitation and reintegration of Internally Displaced Persons are: Socio-economic challenges, Lack of grievance expression mechanism for the IDPs, Documentation and legal protection needs, Host community capability and

will to accommodate the IDPs, Lack of Access to health care services, Lack of Emotional support, Lack of financial support, Lack of Security, Post Internal Displacement trauma and Resettlement need. This assertion is supported by calculated mean scores of 3.49 and 3.44 for ADSEMA staff and IDPs respectively.

What are the challenges facing ADSEMA in the rehabilitation and reintegration of IDPs

Table 2: Challenges facing ADSEMA in the rehabilitation and reintegration of IDPs

S/N	ITEM	SA	A	D	SD
1	Security challenges	3.11	0.62	2.92	0.63
2	Challenges of corruption	3.01	0.76	2.95	0.92
3	Discrimination of victims	3.20	0.67	3.04	0.77
4	Lack of education	2.79	0.81	2.82	0.77
5	Lack of political will	2.82	0.78	3.11	0.67
	TOTAL	2.99	0.73	2.97	0.75

Source: Survey, December, 2023

The quantitative result generated from the questionnaire in table two revealed that, challenges facing ADSEMA in the rehabilitation and reintegration of IDPs are:

Security challenges, Challenges of corruption, Discrimination of victims, Lack of education and Lack of political will. This assertion is supported by calculated mean scores of 2.99 and 2.97 for ADSEMA staff and IDPs respectively.

### **Testing the Research Hypotheses**

**HO**<sub>1</sub>: There is no significant relationship between the mean response of the Internally

Displaced Persons and Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency officials on the need for the rehabilitation and reintegration of Internally Displaced Persons in Adamawa State.

Table 3: T-test summary analysis for testing Hypothesis One

Group	Mean	SD	N	Df	Level of sig	Cal t	P. Value	Decision
ADSEMA Staff	3.49	0.78	55					
IDPs	3.44	0.77	330	386	0.05	0.41	0.68	Accepted

From the t-test summary in table three above it is clear that at 0.05 and with a degree of freedom of 383 it is clear that the calculate t of 0.41 is less than the P-value of 0.68 therefore hypothesis two is accepted because the means are not significantly different. This means that there is no significant relationship between the mean response of the Internally Displaced Persons and Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency officials on the

need for the rehabilitation and reintegration of Internally Displaced Persons in Adamawa State.

HO<sub>2</sub>: There is no significant relationship between the mean response of the Internally Displaced Persons and Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency officials on the challenges faced by Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency in rehabilitating and re-integration the Internally Displaced Persons in Adamawa State.

Table 4: T-test summary Table for testing Hypothesis Two

Group	Mean	SD	N	Df	Level of sig	Cal t	P. Value	Decision
ADSEMA Staff	2.99	0.73	<b>5</b> 5					
IDPs	2.97	0.75	330	386	0.05	0.18	0.86	Accepted

From the t-test summary in table 10 above it is clear that at 0.05 and with a degree of freedom of 383 it is clear that the calculate t of 0.18 is less than the P-Value of 0.86 therefore hypothesis five is accepted because the means are not significantly different. This means that there is no significant relationship between the mean response of the Internally Displaced Persons and Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency officials on the challenges faced by the Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency in rehabilitating

and reintegrating the Internally Displaced Persons in Adamawa State.

### Discussion of the Findings

## Objective One: needs for the rehabilitation and reintegration of IDPs.

The finding from the result in table two indicated that both ADSEMA staff and IDPs agreed that there are a variety of needs for the rehabilitation and reintegration of IDPs. This finding agreed with the findings of Tull (2019), Kull (2019) and IDMC (2020) observed that IDPs face documentation challenges in many parts of Africa, Abbani (2021) and UNHCR (2020) maintained that internally displaced women and children suffer more health challenges than any special population, Ekpa, and Dahlan, (2016) that IDPs need financial support that they in most cases cannot get and Akuto (2017) have acknowledged the desire of many IDPs to return to their original homes and the inability of government to meet this need at the IDP camps.

### Objectives Five: challenges facing ADSEMA in the rehabilitation and reintegration of IDPs

The finding from the result in table five indicated that both ADSEMA staff and IDPs agreed that, challenges facing ADSEMA in the rehabilitation and reintegration of IDPs are: Security challenges, Challenges of corruption, Discrimination of victims, Lack of education and Lack of political will. This finding agreed with the findings of Raji et al, (2021) and Akume, (2015) who revealed that Nigerian government has not demonstrated a strong political will in the provision of basic needs and protection of life and the fundamental human rights of Internally Displaced Persons in their various centres, Olawale (2016) who find out that security threat is one of the challenges inhibiting the rehabilitation of IDPs in Nigeria and Kayode (2015) who reiterated that funds meant for caring for IDPs are redirected, embezzled and used for personal gratification.

### Conclusions

This study drew two conclusions from its findings. Firstly, the need for the rehabilitation and reintegration of Internally Displaced Persons are Socio-economic challenges, Lack of grievance expression mechanism for the IDPs, Documentation and legal protection needs, Host community capability and will to accommodate the IDPs, Lack of Access to health care services, Lack of Emotional support, Lack of financial support, Lack of Security, Post Internal

Displacement trauma and Resettlement need. Secondly, the challenges facing ADSEMA in the rehabilitation and reintegration of IDPs are Security challenges, Challenges of corruption, Discrimination of victims, Lack of education, and Lack of political will.

Based on the findings of the study and the above conclusion, this study puts forward the following recommendations:

- 1. Government should also carry out sustainable programs that are geared towards the rehabilitation and reintegration of the IDPs into society while it expedites actions to end the insurgency.
- 2. The study equally recommended the interventions of international humanitarian agencies, philanthropic organizations, and public-spirited individuals to ameliorate the plights of the IDPs.
- 3. Adequate security mechanisms should be put in place at the campsites to relax the apprehensive minds of the IDPs while there
- 4. The Nigerian government should fight corruption and ensure a direct link between the management agencies and the IDPs. The role of intermediary played by government agencies such as NEMA and SEMA should be discouraged, and in fact, discontinued
- 5. There is need to have a national policy on IDPs amongst others. There should be general awareness creation and sensitization programme on the sociosocio-economic rights of IDPs and their effect on national development

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