REHABILITATION OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS, IN NIGERIA'S NORTHEAST: CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

Israel Oluwasanmi OLUWOLE[1], Okechukwu Innocent EME[2] and Rowland ALOH[3]

[1, 2, & 3] Department of Public Administration & Local Government, University of Nigeria, Nsukka.
E-mail: israel.oluwole@unn.edu.ng, & okechukwu.eme@unn.edu.ng

Abstract
This paper investigated the challenges facing the rehabilitation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in North East Nigeria. The deadly activities of the Boko Haram insurgency have contributed immensely to the challenges via the high rate of influx of persons into IDPs camps. Boko Haram insurgency since its inception in 2009 has been a serious threat to the security, peace, IDPs camps, and stability of the Nigerian government. The deadly attacks and activities of the group have affected all facets of human endeavor in Nigeria, especially in the north east geo-political zone, leading to loss of lives, properties and displacement of persons in the area. The paper, therefore, examined the challenges facing the rehabilitation of internal displaced persons in North East region Nigeria. In doing this, communication theory was adopted for the purpose of this paper while documentary method like the use of books and journals was used to gathered data; the findings were analyzed through content analysis which indicates that the funds and materials that are donated to internally displaced persons by the Nigerian government, United Nations, international organizations, philanthropist, and individuals were not properly utilized for internally displaced persons but for camp officials, National Emergency Management Board (NEMA). Thus, the paper recommended among others that the Nigerian government should explore new strategies and mechanism in rehabilitating the internally displaced persons by ensuring that the funds and materials donated to them are properly monitored and utilized for the purpose of their rehabilitation.

Keywords: Boko Haram, Insurgency, Internally Displaced Persons, Rehabilitation & Northeast Nigeria.

Introduction

The humanitarian crisis resulting from activities of insurgents in the North East of the country is showing no sign of abating, going by reports from different agencies in and outside of the country such as (Amnesty International, 2015, International Organization for

Migration, 2015 & Eme & Ugwu, 2016). Apart from concerns about the escalating number of internally displaced persons (IDPs), the poor living conditions in the IDPs camps is alarming and calls for more commitment from all concerned. The growing number of IDPs from the North East is as much a threat as the insurgency itself. Reports from International Organization for Migration (2015) has it that the few available camps lack adequate facilities and in addition, their poor sanitation situation makes them breeding grounds for diseases that could balloon into epidemics; something Nigerian government cannot afford. The situation in that part of the country, where insurgents have held sway for a long time now, leaving blood and tears in their wake has worsened recently, with the taking over of some towns in the region by the insurgents. Fortunately, many of them have been reclaimed by the military and many of the insurgents killed and subdued.

In spite of this success recorded by the military, it is not yet uhuru for residents and indigenes of the affected towns, many of whom are currently forced to take refuge in camps across neighboring countries of Chad, Cameroun and Niger and states, where they face the challenges of insufficient food and water, and poor sanitation. The Borno State government has reportedly spent over N20billion in the last three years to assist and resettle IDPs across the state and rebuild their houses. Sadly though, the houses have been destroyed again by the defiant insurgents. It is almost two years now since about N58billion was raised by the federal government to support victims of terror in the country, but since the ceremony, nothing more has been heard. Could it be that those who promised funds are yet to redeem their pledges? And what is the committee on the funds doing about it, so that the support these victims urgently need can be provided?

Besides, available statistics shows that Nigeria has the highest number of displaced persons in Africa which is estimated at 3.3 million as at the year 2014 (Internally Displaced Monitoring Center [IDMC], 2014). The figure includes those displaced as a result of Boko Haram attacks, communal conflicts, floods disaster and incessant clashed between farmers and Fulani herdsmen in Northeast Nigeria. On a global scale, Nigeria is ranked behind Syria, with 6.5 million IDPs and Colombia with 5.7 million. IDMC (2014) asserts that the IDPs figures have risen unprecedentedly in the preceding years due largely to increase number of Boko Haram attacks, heavy-landed counter-insurgency and ongoing inter-communal violent conflicts in some communities across the country. For instance, the clashes between farmers and Fulani herdsmen in states of Benue, Taraba, Zamfara, Borno, Adamawa and Kaduna displaced 100,000 persons in 2014.Over the years, the growth of IDPs figure in Nigeria is quite alarming.

As at April, 2015, IDMC estimates that 1,538,982 people were forced to flee their various homes in Nigeria. This figure includes people displaced as a result of brutal attacks by Boko Haram insurgency, the government led counter-insurgency operations against the group. The biggest rise in the number of IDPs was recorded in Borno state, one of the Northeastern state ravaged by Boko Haram insurgency, followed by Adamawa, and Yobe states.

As at April 2015, Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) assessment, set up by the International Migration Organization (IOM) identified 1,491,706 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in states of Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe with about 6% of this figure attributed to inter communal clashes while the remaining 94% of these figure was caused by Boko Haram attacks. NEMA also recorded an additional 47,276 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Plateau, Nasarawa, Kaduna, Kano, and Abuja Federal Capital Territory (FCT), in February, 2015 (International Organization for Migration [IOM], 2015). This brings the total number of registered internally displaced persons in 2015 to 1,538,982 in northeast states of Nigeria. This paper seeks to address the challenges facing the rehabilitations of the IDPs in the North East. The paper is divided into six segments. Next to the introductory section is contextualizing insurgency and its typologies. The next two sections after conceptualization are methodology and theoretical framework of analysis. After them is the crux of the debate. The recommendation and conclusion follows.

Contextualizing Insurgency and Its Typologies
    Scholars and theorists have given different definitions of insurgency. While some of these definitions are closely related, others are not so related though contain common elements and this still makes the subject technically difficult. Perhaps insurgency is best understood by first considering what it is not. Insurgency is not terrorism or conventional war for example, though it shares with them some similarities such as the use of force or guerrilla tactics to achieve an end which is often political. Basically, the difference between insurgency and terrorism lies in the scope and magnitude of violence. While for instance, terrorism rarely brings about political change on its own, insurgency attempts to bring about change through force of arms. Similarly, terrorists often apply a wide range of damages when compared to insurgents. On the other hand, while conventional war involves adversaries more or less symmetric in equipment or training, insurgency involves adversaries that are asymmetric, weak, and almost always a sub-state group (Samson, 2013).
    Traditionally however, insurgencies seek to overthrow an existing order with one that is commensurate with their political, economic, ideological or religious goals (Gompert & Gordon 2008: 23). According to Kilcullen, "Insurgency is a struggle to control a contested political space, between a state (or a group of states or occupying powers), and one or more popularly based, non-state challengers" (Kilcullen, 2006a: 112).Kilcullen also try to draw a line between classical and contemporary insurgencies by positing thus: while the latter seek to replace the existing order, the former sometimes strive for the expulsion of foreign invaders from their territory or seek to fill an existing power vacuum (Kilcullen 2006: 112).
    In all, insurgencies connote an internal uprising often outside the confines of state's laws and it is often characterized by social-economic and political goals as well as military or guerrilla tactics. Put differently, it is a protracted struggle carefully and methodically carried

out to achieve certain goals with an eventual aim of replacing the existing power structure. To launch their anger on the state, insurgents often target civilians and infrastructures.

Basically, insurgents often pursue some common objectives targeted at undermining the legitimacy of the government while increasing their own ties with the population. According to the 2012 "Guide to the Analysis of Insurgency" published by the US Government, insurgencies seek to accomplish the following: (i)Undercut the ability of the government to provide the population security and public services, including utilities, education, and justice. An insurgent group may attempt to supplant the government by providing alternative services to the people, or it may be content to portray the government as impotent. (ii) Obtain the active or passive support of the population. Not all support has to be—or is likely to be gained from true sympathizers; fear and intimidation can gain the acquiescence of many people. (iii) Provoke the government into committing abuses that drive neutral civilians toward the insurgents and solidify the loyalty of insurgent supporters. (iv)Undermine international support for the government and, if possible, gain international recognition or assistance for the insurgency. From the above excerpt, insurgencies thus represent a race wherein the loyalty of mostly an uncommitted population or general public is sought by the insurgents on one side and the counter-insurgent on the other. The success of both parties thus lies on their ability to successfully persuade the general public. In what Robert Thompson describes as the "build-up phase of insurgency," insurgents try to discredit the reigning government by breaking down their ability to provide services and security to the people while also trying to reinstate their own legitimacy and provide service for the people (Thompson, 1966: 19-20).

A government who has continually failed to provide the population with basic infrastructures has little chances of convincing and winning the hearts and minds of the people. The government must also apply caution with regards to her brutality in fighting the insurgents otherwise she loses supports from the people, and here lies another chance of the population supporting the insurgents (Weinstein, 2007: 37). It is also important to note that every insurgency has its specific goal often reflected in its modus operandi though they largely share common features such as being internal and its use of force. Additionally, modern insurgents' warfare is characterized by a protracted strategy, general lack of front, asymmetric methods and unconventional military tactics such as guerrilla.

Insurgent Typologies Insurgencies have been categorized in different ways such as by; goal, tactics, size, region, duration, international significance and the character of the regime being challenged (Gompert and Gordon, 2008: 23-24). Many insurgencies also exhibit a combination of these characteristics or such may evolve during the course of the conflict. In line with the base of supporters, John Mackinlay developed the typologies of insurgencies into lumpen, clan, popular and global (Mackinlay, 2002: 43). Drawing the types of insurgencies from their specific goals, the US Government noted the following five typologies: (i) Revolutionary insurgencies seek to replace the existing political order with an

entirely different system, often entailing transformation of the economic and social structures. (ii) Reformist insurgencies do not aim to change the existing political order but, instead, seek to compel the government to alter its policies or undertake political, economic, or social reforms. (iii) Separatist insurgencies seek independence for a specific region. In some cases, the region in question spans existing national boundaries. (iv)Resistance insurgencies seek to compel an occupying power to withdraw from a given territory. (v) Commercialist insurgencies are motivated by the acquisition of wealth or material resources; political power is simply a tool for seizing and controlling access to the wealth.

Although the above gives a clear picture of the different types of insurgency, it fails to take into account the issue of contemporary global insurgency. In pointing out the extent to which globalization affects the ends, forms and means of insurgency, Gompert and Gordon identified four types of insurgencies thus: local insurgency, local international insurgency, Global-local insurgency and Global insurgency (Gompert & Gordon, 2008: 25-30). They argued that globalization has also increase the danger of global "insurgency by enabling strong bonds to form among members of transnational communities" (Gompert & Gordon, 2008: 29). In the same vein, local insurgencies have greater propensity of being bait to external forces.

For our purpose, insurgency could be defined as a econo-political and ethno-military organization that aims to de-legitimize a recognized political entity by the international community as a result of their control of a given geographic territory by means of guerrilla warfare, terrorism, organized crime and various propaganda machineries for political mobilization. Boko Haram activities fit this definition. This is because before March 2015, they were taking Nigerian territory and establishing caliphates by attacking both military and civilian institutions. They funded their activities by taking people hostage and trading them for ransoms, bank robberies and kidnapping, cyber crimes, human, drug, and wildlife trafficking and herds taking and propagate their ideology, terrorist deeds and crimes using YouTube, the international media and leaflets.

Theoretical Frame of Analysis

This study is anchored on communication theory. Communication theory was developed by Karl Deutsch in 1963 to analyze the whole process of governmental functioning and its inability. Deutsch, by adopting the communication theory, analyzes the actual functioning of government and politics as a process of steering and coordinating human efforts to attain or achieve certain sets of goals. He uses the concepts and methods of the science of cybernetics to analyze not only the existences but also the growth of political systems and predict the consequences of change that affect the structures of the systems. It became a way of thinking and studying solutions to every societal problems and challenges. Karl Deutsch was greatly influenced by the principles of cybernetics in describing the political phenomenon which may involve any sort of challenges. Deutsch, (1963) posits that

there are similarities in the processes and functional requirements between living things, electronic machines and social organizations. A cybernetic model directs the analyst to specific aspects of any system. He is led or guarded to analyses the amount of variety of information, the structure of the information network, the structure of sub- systems, and the feedback system. According to Deutsch, information represents the strength and the ability in solving all kinds of challenges that may be facing individuals, organizations or governments.

The aim of politics is the attainment of social goals and with this objective, decisions are made with respect to address the whole society problems and these decisions must be enforceable in order to promote the attainment of social goals. Deutsch argued that governmental decisions are obeyed and carried out by the problem over a period of time due to habit and fear of authority (cited in Hara Das and Chrouldbury, 1997:73). Consequently, Deutsch comes to the conclusion that the inner source of political power is the relatively coherent and stable structure of memories. However, habits and values depend on existing facilities for social communication both from the past to the present and between the present.

According to Deutsch (1963), government in a political system is analogous to the steering of a ship and is a form of administration of communication channels. He argues that self- regulation and coordination involve the steering of information, rather than the exercise of power over the individuals. In a political system, controls involve transmission of messages and the understanding of control processes. The function of the government should be, therefore, this kind of steering rather than predominantly involving the use of power (Hara Das and Chouldbury, 1997:72).

The sub- system is a political system like parties, pressure groups and interest groups are also viewed by Deutsch as miniature communication systems. Failures of the steering facilities lead to conflicts between political systems or between the sub- systems of a single political system (Hara Das and Chouldbury, 1997:72). The success of a political system, therefore, has to be analyzed in this context of its capacity to apply the acquired information in the following spheres: (i) Increasing its openness, that is to refining the channels through which it receives information; (ii) Increasing its capacity to respond effectively to its environment and challenges: and (iii) Increasing the range and diversity of the goals which it has the capacity to set itself to pursue and achieve results.

Deutsch places emphasis on the feedback approach and argues that it refers to a communicating network that produces actions in response to problems and challenges. A government changes its behavior in pursuit of the goals, in the light of information transmitted back to it, which was as a result of its decisions and actions. The capacity of government to react prediction about the future challenges and consequences of decisions and actions is known as load (Das and Bouldbury, 1997:74).

In the course of the pursuit to addressing the challenges of the internally displaced persons in Northeast Nigeria. Communication theory has been graciously used to explain the role and responsibility of government in providing possible and lasting solutions to the challenges of internally displaced persons, such challenges includes funding, corruption, lack and absence of appropriate legal framework, lack of reliable statistics, absence of designated camps, ineffective mechanisms for accountability and repatriations, lack of implementation and enforcement of existing norms, inefficiency of security and corruption practices among government agency, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) who are charged with fundamental responsibility of overseeing the activities and management of the displaced persons and their camps. However, the following has constituted to the task saddled to NEMA among others: (i) To see to the welfare of the displaced persons. (ii) Provision of designated camps. (iii) Provision of suitable and conducive environment. (iv) To provide emergency services to IDPs. (v) Distribution of food and other relief materials. (vi) Getting accurate statistics of IDPs. (vii) Distribution of donated materials given by the Nigerian government, Non- governmental organizations, Individuals, Philanthropist among others has not properly been used or utilized for the purpose they are meant for (IDPs).

Karl Deutsch explained that it is fundamental responsibility of every government in delivering governmental functioning which involves the strength and ability to see and to proffer solutions to the plights and challenges of the internally displaced persons in society by rehabilitating them back fully to the society. NEMA as the government agency in charge of IDPs and their various camps has also contributed immensely to the challenges of internally displaced persons in the area of corrupt practices among the NEMA officials. Most of the materials and donations given to IDPs were not properly utilized for the IDPs but for camps officials (NEMA). Deutsch stressed further that the aim of politics is the attainment of social goals and with the objectives in its decision making process. To underscore this point, the 2011 National Crime and Safety survey report by The CLEEN Foundation, shows that the percentage of people fearful of becoming victims of crime has increased from 72% in 2011 to 75% in 2012. Robbery has increased from 11% in 2010 to 17% in 2012. Demand for bribe according to the Foundation had increased from 20 per cent in2011 to 24 per cent in 2012, while kidnapping and wanton bloodshed tendencies as manifested in the North –east, North-west, South-east and South-south have risen tremendously.

Most worrisome is that the survey revealed that only about 2 out of 10 crimes are reported to the police-a key indicator of the people's lack of trust in the police force. The mistrust in the police has resulted in some citizens in society resorting to self-help and vigilantism. The country does not need a crystal ball to know the implications if this is allowed to continue .Secondly, the rise of Boko Haram terrorist group has posed a key challenge to Nigeria's security. Over the past two years, they appear to have increased their capability. A sign of their growth, and increasingly daring nature was the bombing of the

police headquarters in Abuja and many police stations and military formations in the country.

To worsen the situation, the group seems emboldened by the slow response of the police to their new level of intensity. The CLEEN Report (2011) indicated that (54%) were dissatisfied with the performance of police in the fight against terrorism. Thirdly, the call for state police has become deafening. This agitation was triggered by the perceived lack of capability of the present police apparatus in dealing with modern day security needs. In truth, the performance of the police has been hampered by years of under- funding, poor welfare situation, low morale and inadequate training. Daily reports of low performance and lack of interest in the job abound.

Methodology

The necessary data / information required to prosecute this study were all sought from secondary source. For this purpose, books, journals, periodicals, monographs, seminar papers, unpublished research works, periodicals, newspapers, magazines, internet materials, conference papers, documents, and policy pronouncements constitute sources of data/ information for the study. Thus data/ information were collated from these sources and studied. Rigorous method of content analysis of written records and documents was adopted in our data analysis. This is a research technique for the objective, systematic and quantitative description of the manifest content of communication.

The central objective of content analysis is to convert recorded data or information into data which can be treated in a scientific manner so that a body of knowledge may be built up. The justification behind the use of content analysis of documents and other secondary data is that it allows research on areas where the researcher cannot have physical access to the respondents and thus, cannot study by any other method.

This study was conducted through a qualitative approach that combined a number of research modules, across countries, in order to develop a comprehensive picture of the migration flows across the Mediterranean. The various modules were: Secondary research/literature review; Key informant Focus Group Discussion interviews with individuals who have a good sense of migration dynamics in their area; these modules are described in greater detail below.

Focus Group Discussion Focus Group Discussion ran from November 2015 until July 2016 and culminated in a total of 40 key informant interviews The locations for this study were: Lagos, Abuja, Benin city, Sokoto, Kaduna and Kano Locations include border cities and border crossing points, cities of settlement, cities of employment, ports and departure points, detention centres, and administrative centres.

Rehabilitation   Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nigeria: the Challenges

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

Lack and Absence of Appropriate Legal Frameworks on IDPs In 1998, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights kick started the process which led to the emergence of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement as an international standard setting norm on IDPs. Part of the ideals set out in the Guiding Principles is the call on states to replicate the principles contained therein into national laws and policies on internal displacement. (Sayne, 2012). Similarly, the African Union Convention for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons which reflects the international guidance provided in the Guiding Principles enjoin states party to domesticate the provisions of this Africa's first human right treaty into domestic law as a way of strengthening protection and assistance for IDPs within their respective borders.

The Nigerian Government in 2003 set up a committee saddled with the onerous mandate to draft a national policy on IDPs as a means of addressing the gaps in the protection of IDPs in line with existing norms. The committee came up with a 51 page draft policy which was presented to government in 2011. Surprisingly, despite the severity characterized by the interminable surge in internal crises in the country which has disreputably provoked massive human loss, wreckage of infrastructures and displacement of people, the said draft has continued to sink in oblivion given the fact that it is yet to become operational. This is notwithstanding the fact that the draft national IDP policy restates all the rights and freedoms recognized under the Guiding Principles, Kampala Convention, and the Nigerian Constitution, the inordinate delay in its adoption and eventual implementation by government also adds to the issue of non-enforcement and compliance of its set out standards even before domestic courts in Nigeria (Ashiru, 2010).

In addition, Nigeria has ratified the Kampala Convention but up to this present time, there are no domestic legislation that mirrors the legal and institutional frameworks on IDPs protection ingeniously contemplated for states party in accordance with the provisions of the Convention. By a Presidential fiat, the statutory mandates of National Commission for Refugees established in 1989 was extended to cover migrants and IDPs protection and assistance, profound as this initiative seems to be, it falls short of legal approval as it has remained mere executive directives given the non-passage of the amendment to the Act since 2012. (Shedrack and Nuarrual, 2016) The change in the name of this Commission to reflect the newly ceded mandates has remained mere window dressing in the absence of appropriate legislative amendment, and thus it is preposterously akin to 'new wine in an old bottle'. The absence of appropriate laws and policies governing IDPs protection and assistance in Nigeria has placed unnecessary burden on the National Emergency Management Agency which is the only body with capacity to respond swiftly to emergency situations given its mandate. Even though this agency has a unit dedicated for IDP related

issues, the obvious challenge too is that, since it virtually intervene in almost all known emergency situations in Nigeria, it is most likely that its dependence on the meagre funds that accrue to it from the national revenue would hamper its service delivery.

Owing to absence of clearly delineated area of responsibilities for each of the relevant institutions such as National Emergency Management Agency and National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons sharing concerns on IDPs issues, the requisite synergy is also lacking regarding humanitarian intervention in Nigeria resulting in wasteful duplication of responsibilities as well as in the provisions of material needs for victims (Higaz, 2010).

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

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

Society, 22 are located in open air settlements called camps, 73 are in collective settlements (pre-existing structures) such as public schools and government buildings, while the remaining 2 sites are transitional centre which only provides transient accommodation to IDPs (Shedrack & Nuarrual, 2016). Given the nature of facilities stated above, medical facilities are also lacking in the so called IDPs' camps as outbreak of diseases are on the increase because of competition for space and other related factors. These embarrassing situations threw to the wild wind any assurance that durable solutions in the form of return, resettlement and rehabilitation can be achieved for IDPs whose numbers and identities are unascertainable. More so in Nigeria there are no specially tailored housing development projects for vulnerable population like IDPs.

Ineffective Mechanisms for Accountability and Repatriations to IDPs This is one of bulging concerns in the legal frameworks for the protection of IDPs. The unending impunity characterized by lack of adequate domestic mechanisms to guarantee accountability of perpetrators of internal conflicts is indisputably problematic. Successive administrations in Nigeria are quite unsuccessful in applying the appropriate penal laws to ensure that perpetrators of violence of whatever descriptions incur responsibility for the wrongs committed against innocent citizens including IDPs. Several commissions and investigative panels has been set up by government at the end of every crises to probe into remote and immediate causes, unfortunately their reports of the so called board of inquiry and their eventual implication have not seen the light of the day, they are kept in archive of history. Most of the times, the setting up of commissions to probe violence are greeted with terse legal disputes due to underlining diverse ethnic, religious and political interests in the affected areas thereby stalling their effective take off.

The setting up of so many ad-hoc commissions to probe violence in violence has not able to achieve the needed deterrence as the approach is seen as deferring of government responsibility in favour community and religious leaders' wishes and a time buying tactics to douse tensions and avoid criminal prosecutions. At the end faults are not apportioned because of lack of political will. This study would not differ but to agree with an opinion expressed by an author that "the use of commission is where genuine and legal controversies go to die". Government officials who are charged with the responsibility of prosecuting perpetrators see violence more of a political problem requiring political solution rather than criminal prosecutions. Rioters are often celebrated as heroes instead of rogues based on divides to which they belong. There is often a limit to how much the society can preach peace without accountability for unprovoked and wanton destruction of lives and properties as well displacement. The foregoing explains the corresponding endless urge to revenge at the slightest opportunity thereby making victims to live in an atmosphere of perpetual displacement. In the absence of fruitful criminal prosecutions and convictions of culprits for the mass atrocities they have committed either individually or collectively as evident in the

various internal crises plaguing the nation, people will continue to engage themselves in this ignominious warfare with brazen impunity and rascality (Shedrack & Nuarrual, 2016).

Coupled with the foregoing is the dearth of credible evidences to support the effective prosecution of perpetrators of internal conflicts given the fact that victims and witnesses prefer to stay away from the courts to avoid reprisal attacks on their persons and property in the hands of arrested culprits. This situation has led to a number of cases thrown out of court for lack of evidence with which to establish the guilt of culprits.

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

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

Implementation and Enforcement of Existing Norms on IDPs in Nigeria One of the salient means of guaranteeing protection and assistance of IDPs lies in the implementation of laws and policies insofar as it relates to IDPs' rights and entitlements and their consequential enforcement upon actual breach or threatened infraction of the same. Most of these laws and policies that entrench protection for IDPs in Nigeria are either in the nature of soft laws and treaties which also lacks effective monitoring system to ensure implementation and compliance by states party, in addition to their domestic application which is evidently limited also by the provisions of the national laws.

Nigeria's dualist legal system in particular where international law and domestic law are considered as two distinct legal systems require reception legislation before treaty becomes applicable in national courts, also contribute to the growing concerns regarding non\nation and enforcement of IDPs norms. There are no national institution with the mandate to

ensure implementation   and enforcement of IDPs norms in Nigeria as it were in other jurisdiction like Uganda where the National Human Rights Commission is saddled with this onerous responsibility. More so, we shall examine the various strategies for rehabilitating of IDPs, strategies for prevention of internal Displacement, strategies for protection and Assistance of IDPs during displacement, strategies for return, relocation local integration of IDPs and achieving durable solutions to internal displacement in Nigeria.

Recommendations

There is need for an integrated rehabilitation approach towards addressing the IDP challenges in Nigeria. The strategies for integrative rehabilitation should   give clarity to the roles available to the Federal, state and Local governments, public and private donors, national and local leaders, and international actors to address and respond to the growing number of challenges confronting displaced persons in Nigeria. If not explored, the vulnerability of the IDPs may instigate intolerant attitudes, more radicalism, and theft among other social vices that promote unrest.

In view of the above, we challenge our leaders; particularly the de-tribalized statesmen and women of goodwill and positive disposition to rise up to the demand of history and work towards peaceful resolution of all political and ethno-religious conflicts in the country. It is counterproductive for Nigeria to strive towards development while at the same time struggling to manage massive humanitarian crises as a result of avoidable bloody conflicts.

Under the African Union's Kampala Convention on the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons, which Nigeria has ratified, African countries are obligated by article 9(2) (b) to protect internally displaced people to the fullest extent practicable and with the least possible delay. The countries are also obligated to provide adequate humanitarian assistance, including food, water, shelter, medical care and other health services, sanitation, education, and any other necessary social services, and where appropriate, to extend assistance to local and host communities. In keeping with this standard, the Nigerian government should conduct needs assessment of internally displaced people and host communities, and take steps to organize and improve relief activities, in cooperation with local nongovernmental organizations and international agencies.

The federal government should also review the activities of the body coordinating humanitarian activities in order to protect and assist internally displaced people. The federal government should assign responsibilities to appropriate agencies for protection and assistance, and for cooperating with relevant international organizations or agencies, and nongovernmental groups, in accordance with article 3(2) (b) of the Kampala convention.

Human Rights Watch has documented in several reports and news releases that Boko Haram attacks since 2009 have killed thousands of people and that the government in its response to the violence has carried out arbitrary mass arrests. The government has detained without trial scores of young men and boys, many of whom have forcibly

disappeared. In a 2012 report, "Spiraling Violence," and Amnesty International (2015),"'our job is to shoot, Slaughter And kill', Human Rights Watch analyzed the pattern and scope of the violence that has engulfed communities in northeast and central Nigeria. Government needs to obey the rule of engagement and rule of law in order to minimize deaths in the North –east.

Conclusion

In this study, we investigated the challenges facing the rehabilitation of internally displaced persons in North East Nigeria. The study found out among others that the frequency of Boko Haram attacks has undermined the rehabilitation of internally displaced persons and the government agency, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) who is charged with the responsibility of overseeing the activities of IDPs Camps has also contributed worrisomely to the rehabilitation of displaced persons in the region by not utilizing the donated relieved materials given by Nigerian government, Non-governmental organizations, philanthropist etc for internally displaced persons but for the camp officials interest. Having identified the challenges of rehabilitation of IDPs, it was vividly observed that, one appropriative and celebrating offer that one can give to the homeless is shelter and basic needs such as food, cloth, water and so on. Apart from all these basic needs supplies, the IDPs also needs to be counseled, cared for and assisted to overcome the emotional dramatization that is usually associated with such nasty experience. The time has come for Nigerian Government to look vividly into the activities of National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) across all IDPs camps.

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Bibliographical Notes
Israel Oluwasanmi OLUWOLE is a Lecturer in the Department of Public Administration and Local Government, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, NIGERIA.
E-mail: israel.oluwole@unn.edu.ng

Okechukwu Innocent EME, *PhD,* is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Public Administration & Local Government University of Nigeria, Nsukka, NIGERIA
E-mail: okechukwu.eme@unn.edu.ng

Rowland ALOH is a Lecturer in the Department of Public Administration & Local Government University of Nigeria, Nsukka, NIGERIA