

Internally Displaced Persons and the Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria.

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Abstract

Nigeria's North East region is one of the most prominent, multi-faceted and complex humanitarian crises region experiencing various levels of insecurities. Such unbridled level of security breaches continue to produce avalanche of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) by the days that are currently facing dire humanitarian crises which are increasingly creating obstacles for the achievement of most of the Sustainable Development Goals, (SDGs) in the country. Of critical importance in these Sustainable Development Goals that have been seriously hampered by various conflicts and insecurities in the country are the Health related goals of 1-No Poverty, 2- Zero Hunger, 3-Good Health and Well-being, 4-Quality Education, 6-Clean Water and Sanitation and 16-Peace, Justice and Strong Institution. This paper adopts a qualitative method based on secondary data sourced from newspapers, government documents, internet resources and extant scholarly works. The study traced the making of Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria to trilogy of unresolved diverse conflicts, bandits and terror attacks in the country. The study further examined how these violent episodes have constituted obstacles to achievement of SDGs particularly as it concerns the health and welfare of the

people that have been so displaced from their places of abode in the country.

Keywords: *Internally Displaced Persons, Conflicts, Health and Sustainable Development Goals.*

1.0 Introduction

Most parts of Nigeria are currently experiencing various levels of insecurities arising either from unresolved conflicts such as involving herdsmen and farmers and ethno-religious crises, bandits operating in various ungoverned or low governed spaces or from Boko Haram and related terrorists attacks. Meeting the needs of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) people who have been forced from their homes but are still within their national borders is essential to the successful fulfilment of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is against this background that this paper seeks to examine how these various levels of insecurities has affected internally displaced persons especially in the North East region and how it has constituted a hindrance to the achievement of sustainable development goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 16 particularly as it concerns the health and welfare of Internally Displaced Persons. This is important in a region with enduing humanitarian concerns, in order to uphold peace, human welfare and well-being, justice and equality. In doing these, this paper is further divided into four sections. The first among them gives an introduction to the work. The second focuses on conceptual clarifications. The third section examines the present conditions of Internally Displaced Persons in Northeastern Nigeria. The fifth section provides measures taken to protect IDPs according to the SDGs and a concluding thought on the subject matter.

2.0 Conceptual Framework of Analysis

Displacement simply is seen as a situation where people are forced to leave their place of habitual residence. Persons who falls into this category are called “Displaced Persons” (Mohammed 2016). Under international law, Displacement is conceptualized as persons or groups of persons who have been compelled or obligated to flee or to have cause to leave their homes or place of habitual residence in particular, due to or in order to be save from the effect of armed conflict, violations of human rights, situations of generalized violence, natural or man-made disasters, to another place considered relatively safe either within their own national borders (as Internally Displaced Persons) or travel across an internationally recognized state border (as Refugees) (Itumo and Nwefuru 2016). This definition showcases that the involuntary movement of people are in two categories: Internal and External displacement.

Article 1 (L) of the African Union Convention for Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention) defines Internal displacement as:

The involuntary or forced movement, evacuation or relocation of persons or groups of persons within internationally recognized state borders (African Union 2009).

Internal displacement, therefore, involves the forced movement of persons within the borders of a state, referred to as “Internally Displaced Persons”. In understanding who Internally Displaced persons are, the most accepted definition is the one coined by the former Representative of the UN Secretary-General Francis Deng who was instrumental to the compilation of the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. The 1998 UN

Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement defines an internally displaced person as:

Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border (UNGPID 2001: Para. 2).

Unlike Refugees, Internally displaced persons (IDPs) legally remain under the protection of their home governments because they are within a state border, even though those governments might be the cause of their flight (Mohammed 2016). The causes of internal displacement are numerous, (Obiakeze and Onuoha 2016) identified the following which includes Conflict-Induced Displacement which entails the forceful displacement of persons due to armed conflict including civil war, insurgency and generalized violence in which the state authorities are mostly unable or unwilling to protect them; Development-Induced Displacement which includes people that are displaced as a result of them being compelled to move because of policies and projects implemented to enhance development in the community, example of such are large-scale infrastructure projects such as dams, roads, ports and airports; Disaster-Induced Displacement includes people displaced as a result of natural hazards, examples are in the form of hazard-induced disasters (floods), Environmental Change (deforestation), and human-made disasters (industrial accidents).

Conflict-induced displacement is one of the major causes of displacement in the Northeast of Nigeria in form of insecurities

from herdsmen and farmers and ethno-religious crises, bandits operating in various ungoverned or low governed spaces or from Boko Haram and related terrorists attacks with triple effects of producing Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and other forms of displacement. In simple terms, Nicholson (1992) sees conflict as a state of disagreement or hostility between two or more individuals which depicts that they have conflicting views about the same issue on the pursuit of conflicting goals. Stagner (1967) describes conflict as a situation in which two or more individuals' desire limited goals which each strives to acquire and perceiving the other to be a barrier to the acquisition of such purposes. Gurr (1970) interprets conflict as the open coercive interactions of contending collectivities and a situation in which a minimum of two individuals strive at the same time to acquire the same set of scarce resources. In politics, conflict is more explicitly defined. In this viewpoint, Coser (1956) describes it as contention over values and claims to inadequate status, power and resources in which the opponents aim to neutralize and eradicate their rivals. Taking a different viewpoint, Otite (2001) opines that conflict may not necessarily signify a state of overt aggression or extreme hostility. This is further buttressed in his definition of conflict as a normal process of interaction that may lead to a win-win outcome if parties make efforts to transform the situation. This signifies that conflict can be of a low intensity which hasn't escalated to an out blown war and can still be prevented or of a high intensity which is the practical manifestation of war.

Kett and Rowson (2007) are of the opinion that factors which include extreme poverty, scarce natural resources and income inequalities, ethno-religious sentiments among many others can trigger conflict in society. Also countries that rely heavily on the production of one or small number of natural resources for the majority of their economic output and inequality among

individuals (the elites and the poor), tends to be more prone to conflict; for instance in Nigeria the emergence of Movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta (MEND), Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) and Boko Haram, bandits operating in various ungoverned or low governed spaces among many other groups was as a result of the impartial control and unequal distribution of natural resources which escalated into various conflict in the Northeast and South-South region of the country.

According to Raleigh and Dowd, (2013), ungoverned spaces connote both physical territory and non-physical policy space in which there is an absence of effective state sovereignty and governmental control. This implies that in such spaces the state is entirely absent; and such absence results in a lack of any effective governance, and can therefore lead to the rise of conflict and other forms of insecurities. Rabasa, Steven, Peter, Kim, Theodore, Jennifer, Kevin, and John (2007), in their own point of view sees ungoverned territory as an area in which a state or government encounters significant challenges in establishing control, in which the central government's authority does not extend to these areas thereby serving as a breeding ground for terrorism, insecurities and conflict. Risse (2011), further emphasised that ungoverned spaces or limited statehood are parts of a country in which the central authority (governments) lack the ability to implement and enforce rules and decisions or in which the legitimate monopoly over the means of violence is lacking.

Ungoverned Spaces are more paramount in many regions across the world, including African territories; Yemen, Syria, Somalia, Lebanon, Libya, Iraq, South Sudan, Nigeria and the Lake Chad Region and Palestine among others where some part of their territories are being controlled by terrorist groups and

international forces. These countries are witnessing various forms of insecurities as a result of the inability or unwillingness of the governments to perform certain functions and the collapse or the absence of state authority. These forms of insecurities are numerous such as banditry, civil war, terrorist activities, arms and drug smuggling and piracy among others leads to displacement of persons and high humanitarian crises which are increasingly creating obstacles for the achievement of most of the Sustainable Development Goals, (SDGs) in the countries across the world.

Sustainable Development is attained when a country fulfils the basic needs of the citizenry. It is a call for the integration of economic growth, social development, security and environmental management as interdependent pillars for long-term growth and development (Bobadoye 2015). The Brundtland Report of 1987 gave rise to the concept of Sustainable Development through the United Nations Development Committee headed by Gro Harlem Brundtland. The report defined Sustainable Development as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. According to the report Sustainable development requires meeting the basic needs of all and extending to all the opportunity to fulfil their aspirations for a better life. It buttresses the fact that development in any country must be sustainable to cater for future generations to come.

Goal No 1-No Poverty, 2- Zero Hunger, 3-Good Health and Well-being, 4-Quality Education, 6-Clean Water and Sanitation and 16-Peace, Justice and Strong Institution of the Sustainable development Goals Agenda 2030 emphasised on promoting a peaceful, just and inclusive societies through ending poverty, hunger and violence, internal strife, asymmetric warfare,

prompting good health care services, providing clean and sustainable water and sanitation for all, promoting the rule of law, strengthening institutions at all levels, and increasing access to justice (UN SDG Report 2019).

The UN Sustainable Development Goals 2020 has shown that various countries both developed and developing countries across the world are facing health related crises which have severe negative consequences to attaining sustainable development goals by 2030. As of June 20th, 2020 around 463,000 people across the world has died from the Covid-19 Pandemic which has not only affected economic activities but has led to an increase in poverty rate and hunger among many others. Therefore, countries need to strengthen their resilience of their health system and prevention programmes as well as address and eradicate conflict and other forms of violence, insurgency activities among others which are seen as a setback to attaining sustainable development goals (UN SDG Report 2020).

3.0 Internally Displaced Persons in Northeastern Nigeria: Present Conditions

The Boko-Haram conflict in the northeastern region has lingered for over a decade since its emergence in 2002. The conflict has among many other forms of insecurities such as Fulani/herders crises, ethnic/religious crises as well as the presence of ungoverned spaces has produced a total number of 2,184,254 IDPs and more, damaged health and sanitation infrastructure, made inaccessible large swathes of the internally displaced populaton, and has had significant disease control implications among many other implications in the northeast region and Nigeria as a whole (IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix Round 36 Report 2021).

One of such implications is the destruction of health facilities in the Northeastern states of Nigeria. Two thirds of health facilities have been damaged by the conflict, forcing health workers to flee and clinics being shut down; this results to people seeking medical care in other neighbouring countries of Chad, Niger and Cameroon thereby adding to the pressure on limited health facilities in the host state (Omilusi 2016).

In addition, the north-east remains highly endemic for diseases, IDPs are mostly in risk of epidemic-prone diseases like cholera, measles, meningitis and viral hemorrhagic fevers such as Lassa and yellow fevers while malaria continues to be the disease IDPs are more prone as it accounts for over 50 per cent cases, especially during the rainy season. This is so due to a variety of issues such as limited access to essential health care, vulnerabilities related to displacement and congested living conditions. According to recent estimates from the Health and shelter sectors, there are nearly 475,000 people in highly congested camps and this will make many of the prescribed global WHO measures difficult to implement given the conditions where IDPs are located or reside (OCHA 2021; WHO 2021). The situation is further worsened by unsafe water, inadequate hygiene and sanitation services linked to long-term structural deficiencies, as well as a general weakening of resilience in affected communities. Women and children in particular are left increasingly susceptible to disease outbreaks. Some 4,890 cases of measles have been reported in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States to date in 2020 (as of 8 November for Borno and 31st October for Yobe), a decrease of 78 per cent from 2019. The Covid-19 pandemic remains a major public health concern in the Northeastern states. As at 9th May, 2021, 2, 870 were reported in the BAY states with 79 deaths. In the BAY states 66 per cent of the cases were in Borno and 25 per cent from Adamawa (NCDC 2021).

In 2018, cholera outbreaks affected 18 LGAs in the BAY states with a total of 10,571 cases. In addition, 1.5 million people are considered at risk and require cholera prevention interventions further compound the ineffectiveness for the implementation of preventive measures (Humanitarian Response Strategy 2019). The outbreak of Covid -19 in such living conditions could lead to higher transmission rates. In fact, Covid-19 Pandemic has not only affected health and economic activities but has led to an increase in poverty rate and hunger among many others.

Furthermore, the insurgent activities have been identified as an obstacle to sustainable development. The country's resources that should be used to achieve the growth of other sectors of the economy are being diverted to strengthen the country's security system. For instance, the 1(One) billion Naira of 2017 budget was requested by President Muhammadu Buhari to purchase equipment for fighting Boko Haram in the Northeast (Agency Report 2018; Omulusi 2016).

Food shortages have been one of the dire needs of IDPs in the Northeast region of Nigeria. The (2021 Humanitarian needs overview) estimated about 5.1 million people in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states to be food insecure and considered to be facing food crises, emergency or famine situations. The worst affected states of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa account for 3.7 million people in dire need of food security. In IDP camps food continue to be the greatest unmet need with large numbers of IDPs reporting food as their greatest need; while those living in host communities cite farming as their predominant source of livelihood which continues to be hindered by the Military Security constraints, Boko-Haram and Fulani/Farmer's herdsman Conflict (Humanitarian Needs Overview 2018). The outbreak of Covid-19 and its related effects has further worsened the food security situation by impacting the livelihoods and

income sources of already vulnerable households and contributing to significant increase in food prices. For instance, between March and September 2020, the cost of a minimum expenditure basket in Maiduguri Metropolitan council increased by over 47 per cent.

4.0 Armed Conflict, Insecurity, Ungoverned Spaces and Internally Displaced Persons: The Nexus and Implications on Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria.

Ungoverned territories or Spaces are bedrocks for the foundation of the growth and occurrence of terrorism, insecurities and conflict among others which later leads to the killing and displacement of millions of persons. It is seen as an area in which a state or government faces significant challenges in establishing control, or a situation where the state is entirely absent, where the central government's authority does not extend to these areas thereby results in a lack of effective governance in those areas, and can therefore lead to the rise of conflict and other forms of insecurities (Rabasa, Steven, Peter, Kim, Theodore, Jennifer, Kevin, and John, 2007; Raleigh and Dowd, 2013).

Clunan and Trinkunas (2010) buttresses similar viewpoint, as they opine that the existence or appearance of ungoverned spaces is a reflection of the decline in the effectiveness of the state as political and social constructs to the citizenry. They also noted that lack of governability and Conduciveness give rise to the existence of various levels of insecurities within ungoverned spaces. Rabasa, Steven, Peter, Kim, Theodore, Jennifer, Kevin, and John (2007) further asserts that entropy and civil conflict can lead to an increase or evolution of the existence of Ungoverned spaces. States often view conflict and other forms of insecurities as threats because of their potential to provide havens (territories) for organised crimes, terrorist movements

and insurgencies, narcotics trafficking; illegal arms trafficking; and proliferation of chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear (CBRN) materials and weapons, money laundering, illicit trafficking and proliferation networks to thrive.

Inclusively, various countries are witnessing diverse forms of insecurities due to the inability or unwillingness of governments to perform certain functions and the collapse or the absence of state authority in ungoverned spaces. These forms of insecurities are numerous such as banditry, civil war, terrorist activities, displacement and humanitarian crises, arms and drug smuggling, piracy, and refugee flows among others which threatens national security and regional stability in many regions across the world, especially African territories of which Nigeria is not left out of this menace. The multiple occurrences of conflicts (Fulani/herders crises, ethnic/religious crises etc.), the Boko Haram terrorist attacks as well as the presence of ungoverned spaces especially in the Northern part of the country serves as a breeding ground for various levels of insecurity to thrive which has further resulted into the killings and massive displacement of persons in the regions and also resulted into diverse implications for the northeast region and Nigeria as a whole. One of such implications is the destruction of health facilities in the Northeastern states of Nigeria. Also, the attacks of Boko Haram destabilize and restrict the duties of aid workers and downgrade the efficiency of security personnel in the region as seen in the March 1st 2018 attack on Rann Borno State which killed eleven people including three humanitarian workers and seven security personnel. In addition, the north-east remains highly endemic for diseases, including diarrhea, due to a variety of issues including limited access to essential health care, vulnerabilities related to displacement and congested living conditions. The situation is further worsened by unsafe water, inadequate hygiene and sanitation services linked to long-term

structural deficiencies, as well as a general weakening of resilience in affected communities. Women and children in particular are left increasingly susceptible to disease outbreaks, including cholera. In 2018, cholera outbreaks affected 18 LGAs in the BAY states with a total of 10,571 cases. In addition, 1.5 million people are considered at risk and require cholera prevention interventions. In 2018, cholera outbreaks affected 18 LGAs in the BAY states with a total of 10,571 cases. In addition, 1.5 million people are considered at risk and require cholera prevention interventions (Humanitarian Response Strategy, 2019).

Furthermore, the insurgency and activities of banditry in the North-East Nigeria has caused widespread humanitarian crisis in the Northeast which has impacted negatively on the lives of millions of Nigerians, particularly women and children. In 2019, 7.1 million people (2.3 million girls, 1.9 million boys, 1.6 million women and 1.3 million men) are in need of humanitarian assistance in north-east Nigeria as a result of the Boko Haram crisis. The crisis has also resulted into massive and widespread abuse against civilians including killings, rape and other sexual violence, abduction, child recruitment, burning of homes, arbitrary detention, and the use of explosive hazards, including in deliberate attacks on civilian targets. As of recent, 1.8 million persons are internally displaced, and new displacement continues due to the occurrence of various forms of insecurity (Humanitarian Response Strategy, 2019).

Another implication of the attacks of Boko Haram, banditry activities, Fulani/farmer herder's crises and other forms of conflicts has devastated economic activities in the region. It has specifically distorted the economic fortunes of Maiduguri, a city known to be one of the commercial centers in Western Sudan since the period of Trans-Saharan trade. The Maiduguri Monday

Market which is the biggest market in the city has been affected by the persistent killings and bombings as many shop owners fled the city; and also mass relocation of migrants, tourists, indigenous groups and investors relocate to safer areas in other parts of the country; in this situation foreign direct investment is reduced, investment becomes unattractive to investors and existing companies relocate to other safer states in the country. Also, the insurgents' and bandits' threats to road transportation have restricted the movement of people, disrupted the supply of goods and hindered access to basic services and raw farm produce (Iweze, 2011; Achumba, Ighomereho and Akpor-Robaro, 2013). A decade into the crisis, the protracted nature of displacement has eroded coping mechanisms, significantly weakened resilience, and heightened vulnerabilities. In Borno State, many affected populations remain dependent on assistance to meet their basic food needs as a result of ongoing hostilities and insecurity. Freedom of movement was restricted with the impact of the communities' inability to engage in livelihood and income generating activities. In many areas across Borno State, market and trade routes continue to be disrupted as a result of insecurity and impassable roads during the rainy season.

Also, the insurgent attacks have affected the educational system in the region. Boko Haram attacks as stood as an obstacle to the development of the educational system. The Islamic militants have serially attacked schools, killing over hundreds of students, kidnapping of students as hostages and destroying facilities in educational institutions in various parts of the northeast region continue to undermine the educational system in that region thereby hindering national development. The kidnap of 276 Chibok School Girls in Maiduguri in April 2014 and the Dapchi School Girls in Yobe State in 2018 have made schools shut down their academic programmes for security reasons and have

reduced drastically those seeking for admission into schools. It is on record in 2015 that over 500 teachers lost their lives and 19,000 displaced in different states of the northeast region; and as a result of the increased attacks of Boko Haram on education, all schools in Borno State were closed from the 14th March 2014 and roughly 253,000 children were out of school in the year 2013-2014. At the end of 2014, Adamawa, Yobe and Borno State, Universal Basic Education authorities reported a total of 338 schools destroyed. Also posting of youth corpsers for their one year mandatory National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) to the Northern part of the country is denied through them redeploying to other safe states as there is the fear of them losing their lives to these incessant attacks of Boko Haram, this undermines the core mandates of the 1973 Act of NYSC. These showcase that the effect of these attacks is all-encompassing on the educational sector in the region and in Nigeria as a whole (Omilusi, 2016; Shaba, 2015). Till date Boko Haram perpetrate attacks on villages in the Northeast to forcefully abduct young girls and women to occupy diverse roles to foster their terrorist goals. This is seen in the abduction of 110 Dapchi School Girls on the 19th of February, 2018 in Yobe State and the abduction of 317 Zamfara School girls in Jangebe Zamfara by bandits, in February, 2021 among many others thereby fostering a continuous increase in the recruitment of the female gender into violent activities (The News, 2021). The impact of the crisis on the education system has also been severe, leaving generations of children without opportunities to learn and even more vulnerable. Since the conflict erupted in 2009, 611 teachers have been killed, 19,000 teachers displaced, 910 schools damaged or destroyed, and more than 1,500 schools forced to close. As a result, an estimated 900,000 children have lost access to learning while 75 per cent of children in camps do not attend school. 70 per cent of girls of primary school age are out of school in Borno State - the highest percentage in the country. Of those who do

attend, 72 per cent are unable to read upon completion of grade six, while Borno State has the lowest literacy rates at only 35 per cent of female and 46 per cent of male adolescents (Humanitarian Response Strategy, 2019).

In addition, people staying in this region have continued to witness gross human rights abuses and severe violations of their rights according to international humanitarian law; and also an infringement of their fundamental human rights of freedom of association and movement according to the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The 2015 United Nations Annual report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) outlined different areas in which Boko Haram has violated human rights and international humanitarian law right from the onset of their attacks in 2009. The massive killings of over 200,000 civilians both young and old comprising of women and children have been recorded since 2009; the abductions of young boys for indoctrination into the sect ideology and underage girls for sexual exploitations, forced marriages, forced pregnancies and forced religious conversion; also different forms of torture and other cruel inhuman or degrading treatment of civilians; and the destruction and appropriation of properties in order to gain control over the territory and to prevent the rehabilitation of the affected victims back into the society, all have significant effect on the future of citizens and the economy of Nigeria at large.

Furthermore, the insurgent activities have been identified as an obstacle to sustainable development. The country's resources that should be used to achieve the growth of other sectors of the economy are being diverted to strengthen the country's security system. For instance, the 1(One) billion Naira of 2017 budget was requested by President Muhammadu Buhari to purchase

equipment for fighting Boko Haram in the Northeast (Agency Report, 2018; Omulusi, 2016).

Looking at the implications on the rise of Poverty rate in the country, prior to 2009, north-east Nigeria was plagued with high levels of poverty, inequalities, including gender, underdevelopment, unemployment, poor governance, political marginalization, weak justice systems and ecological degradation. In 2018, Nigeria overtook India as the country having the largest poor population. At the end of May 2018, research suggests that Nigeria had about 87 million people in extreme poverty, compared with India's 73 million. The situation is worsening by the day as extreme poverty in Nigeria is growing by six people every minute, while poverty in India continues to fall³¹. In addition, Nigeria ranks 152 out of 187 in the Human Development Index (HDI), which is well below the average for sub-Saharan Africa (Humanitarian Response Strategy, 2019).

Furthermore, Internally Displaced Persons in this region are often unable to meet their needs as they continue to be in dire needs of health, protection, food, and shelter among many others. The most severe and acute needs across this multiple sectors are concentrated in the areas of the ongoing Boko-Haram Conflict and areas hosting large numbers of IDPs which are located in all local government area of Borno State, Adamawa and Yobe States. In the area of the health sector, IDPs are mostly in risk of epidemic-prone diseases like cholera, measles, meningitis and viral hemorrhagic fevers such as Lassa and yellow fevers while malaria continues to be the disease IDPs are more prone as it accounts for over 50 per cent cases, especially during the rainy season. Food shortages have been one of the dire needs of IDPs in the Northeast region of Nigeria. The (2018, Humanitarian needs overview) estimated about 3.9 million

people in the six states to be food insecure and considered to be facing food crises, emergency or famine situations. The worst affected states of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa account for 3.7 million people in dire need of food security. The Conflict in the region has hindered cultivation, cattle rearing and fisheries which used to account for 80 per cent of the livelihoods is now primarily limited to secured areas of the states and catering for less than 15 per cent of the population. In IDP camps food continue to be the greatest unmet need with large numbers of IDPs reporting food as their greatest need; while those living in host communities cite farming as their predominant source of livelihood which continues to be hindered by the Military Security constraints, Boko-Haram and Fulani/Farmer's herdsman Conflict.

5.0 Conclusion

The findings of this study reveals that underlying factors in the Northeast such as high level of poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, inequality, underdevelopment, the ineffectiveness of government in ungoverned spaces among many others was a driven force to the emergence of various levels of insecurities ranging from ethnic/religious violence, political violence, Fulani/herdsman clashes and Boko Haram Insurgency; and this further led to the massive displacement of people both internally and externally, the destruction of lives and properties, the collapse of economic activities, the destruction of health facilities and the educational system among many others sectors of the region.

In line with this, the Nigerian government initiative in response to the acute humanitarian needs of IDPs in the Northeast was through the creation of an advisory body, the Presidential Committee on the Northeast Initiative. This body is meant to

streamline support to the IDPs through holistic efforts backed by robust fundraising. The federal government, through the office of the vice president initiated two projects to foster and educate children who has become orphans due to the Insurgency. The phase one of the projects has just been completed for eight thousand young children housed and schooled, while the second phase is ongoing.

Lastly, there should be a collective and collaborative effort by both local and international humanitarian agencies working around collective outcomes in order to collectively reduce risk, vulnerabilities and the needs of IDPs in the region (International Peace Institute, 2018).

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