ISRG Journal of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (ISRGJAHSS)



OPEN

ACCESS



ISRG PUBLISHERS

Abbreviated Key Title: ISRG J Arts Humanit Soc Sci ISSN: 2583-7672 (Online)

Journal homepage: https://isrgpublishers.com/isrgjahss
Volume – II Issue-IV (July – August) 2024
Frequency: Bimonthly



INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSON'S PERCEPTION OF THE ROLES OF ADAMAWA STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (ADSEMA) IN THE REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

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| **Received:** 09.07.2024 | **Accepted:** 15.07.2024 | **Published:** 16.07.2024

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Abstract

This study was designed to examine Internally Displaced Persons perception of the roles of the Adamawa State 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. Various literature related to the topic were reviewed. A survey research approach and design were adopted for the study which was conducted in Adamawa State. The target population involved government officials (ADSEMA) intervening in the displacement situations and the IDPs. The sample population for the study comprised of 385 respondents categorized as 55 ADSEMA staff and 330 IDPs. The 385 respondents were selected using stratified and purposive sampling techniques. The questionnaire method was used to collect primary data from the respondents. The score method of data analysis was used to answer the research questions while the chi-square method of data analysis was used to test the hypotheses. The finding of the study revealed that the public has a favorable opinion of the roles played by the Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency in the rehabilitation and reintegration of internally displaced people. Based on the above conclusion, the study recommends that: The government should expedite measures to put an end to the insurgency while simultaneously implementing long-term programs designed to assist the IDPs in their rehabilitation and reintegration into society and to improve the situation of the internally displaced people, the study also suggested that charitable institutions, international humanitarian organizations, and public-spirited individuals get involved.

Keywords: Public Perception, Roles, Adamawa State Emergency Agency, Rehabilitation, Re-Integration and Internally Displaced Persons

Introduction

People who have been internally displaced during a violent conflict are susceptible to a variety of needs and difficulties. The most worrisome thing is the shock these people are experiencing as a result of the government's inadequate protection. What's even more concerning about their situation is that most of those internally displaced people are young adults who belong to "vulnerable groups," which include women, children, and the elderly (Enwereji, 2009). As of 2015, reports from different domestic and international organizations indicate that there is no indication that the humanitarian crisis caused by the insurgents' actions in the northeast of the country will get any better (Amnesty International, 2015, International Organization for Migration, 2015 & Eme & Ugwu, 2016). In addition to worries about the growing number of internally displaced people (IDPs), the deplorable living circumstances in the camps for IDPs are concerning and demand greater dedication from all parties involved (International Organization for Migration, 2015).

After establishing the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) evaluation in April 2015, the International Migration Organization (IOM) discovered that 1,491,706 internally displaced people (IDPs) were spread among the states of Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, and Yobe. It is quite alarming how many people in northeastern Nigeria have been internally displaced due to the brutal attacks of the Boko Haram insurgency. Over the years, victims of internal displacement have encountered several difficulties in their lives (IDMC, 2021; Akuto, 2019; UNHCR, 2019). The government is supposed to deal with these matters by international conventions and legal requirements. However, the internally displaced individuals in their many centers still confront a great deal of challenges.

What' is worse is that the internally displaced people (IDPs) who fled to neighboring towns are abandoned to rebuild their lives in their host community. In their new communities, the IDPs are treated like strangers, therefore it makes sense that the host communities would treat them the same way. They also lose their socioeconomic rights and are susceptible to political and economic control in their host community. The issue becomes much more troubling when one realizes that the majority of those relocated are young people and members of vulnerable populations, such as women, children, and the elderly. It's also disturbing how much stress the internally displaced individuals have put on the meager social infrastructures in their host towns.

The current situation is deeply concerning to governments, educational institutions, humanitarian groups, and other key players in the Nigerian effort. Despite the obvious scholarly challenges generated by these IDP conditions and the need to solve the puzzle and apply the answers to the formulation and implementation of public policy, existing research has barely skimmed the surface of this important body of knowledge. The extant literature has primarily focused on finding temporary fixes for the issues faced by internally displaced people (IDPs), rather than giving adequate consideration to ways in which IDPs could be rehabilitated and reintegrated into society (IDMC, 2013).

It is in line with the above that this paper is designed to examine the Internally Displaced Persons Perceptions of the roles of Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency in the rehabilitation and reintegration of Internally Displaced Persons in Adamawa State, Nigeria

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study is to examine Internally Displaced Persons perception of the roles of the Adamawa State Emergency Agency in the rehabilitation and re-integration of Internally Displaced Persons in Adamawa State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study is designed to:

- i. Identify the strategies for rehabilitating and re-integrating the Internally Displaced Persons in Adamawa State.
- Examine Internally Displaced Persons perception on the roles of Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency in rehabilitating and re-integrating the Internally Displaced Persons in Adamawa State, Nigeria

Research Questions

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

- i. What are the strategies for rehabilitating and reintegrating the Internally Displaced Persons in Adamawa State?
- ii. What are the Internally Displaced Persons perceptions of the roles of the Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency in rehabilitating and reintegrating the Internally Displaced Persons in Adamawa State, Nigeria?

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:

HO₁: There is no significant relationship between the mean response of the Internally Displaced Persons and Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency officials on the strategies for rehabilitating and re-integrating the Internally Displaced Persons in Adamawa State.

HO₂: There is no significant relationship between the mean response of the Internally Displaced Persons and Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency officials on Internally Displaced Persons perception of the roles of Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency in rehabilitating and re-integrating the Internally Displaced Persons in Adamawa State, Nigeria

Review of Related Literature

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

IDPs, or internally displaced people, are people or groups who have been compelled to flee armed conflict, systematic human rights violations, internal strife, natural or man-made disasters, or abruptly and unexpectedly leave their homes or places of habitual residence. These people have not crossed a state border that is acknowledged by international law. OCHA (2003).

According to Anthony and Nwobashi (2016), acts of terrorism, intercommunal strife, religious disagreements, riots, natural disasters, and other violent conflicts are the main causes of suffering for internally displaced people. These conflicts might be caused by their government or by other parties. Internally displaced persons, or IDPs for short, are people who have been forcibly displaced from their place of residence because of armed conflict or natural catastrophes but are still in a state of displacement. Among the numerous hazards that face people who are displaced by armed conflict are physical attack, violence, kidnapping,

inadequate shelter, food, and medical care, unemployment, and limited educational prospects (IDMC, 2020).

Rehabilitation and Reintegration

Rehabilitation is commonly perceived as the procedure of assisting internally displaced individuals (IDPs) in altering their mind sets to enable them to become productive members of society. Essentially, rehabilitation involves restoring something to its normal state or promoting its well-being through education and principles following imprisonment, addiction, or illness. Reintegration, on the other hand, entails collaborating with former offenders to reintegrate them into the community, encourage law-abiding behaviour, and prevent future criminal activities (Singh, 2016). Reintegration essentially refers to the process of reintegrating an individual into society, as implied by its name. Understanding the behaviours of IDPs is a crucial step in the highly strategic processes of rehabilitation and reintegration.

Rehabilitation and reintegration initiatives are designed to reduce the reliance on assistance by promoting self-sufficiency. This is achieved through the gradual incorporation of health, education, and agriculture, along with the encouragement of projects linked to sustainable development at both regional and national levels. Strategies for the Reintegration and Rehabilitation of Internally Displaced Persons The primary responsibility for addressing the needs of internally displaced persons lies with the government, as outlined in the United Nations' Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (IDMC, 2020; UNHCR, 2021). Rehabilitation and reintegration programs are aimed at mitigating the psychological and socioeconomic consequences of joining armed groups. According to Borisova et al. (2013), involving families and caregivers in tangible ways to support the mental well-being of IDPs is crucial for the success of rehabilitation and reintegration efforts. Betancourt and Khan (2008) suggest that school attendance and training programs are essential in helping young people affected by conflict to regain a sense of normalcy and security in their daily lives, while also enhancing their future employment opportunities.

According to Cortes and Buchanan (2007), a variety of interventions such as coaching, on-the-job training, vocational counselling, and material kits have been associated with improved socio-economic rehabilitation and reintegration paths. A recent advancement in the rehabilitation and reintegration process includes the revival of traditional rituals (Boothby, 2006, Boothby and Thomson, 2013, McKay and Mazurana, 2004). Traditional ceremonies are crucial for social cohesion, rehabilitation, and reintegration, as evidenced by Boothby and Thomson (2013). They argue that "traditional ceremonies play a crucial role in rebuilding community cohesion and trust." Likewise, traditional cleansing rituals were believed to promote community acceptance, as noted by Boothby et al. (2006). Internally Displaced Persons Perception of the Roles of Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency in Rehabilitating and Re-integrating Internally Displaced Persons. The Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency (ADSEMA) plays a vital role in the state's endeavours to rehabilitate and reintegrate internally displaced persons (IDPs). ADSEMA's functions in crisis management and Internally Displaced Persons perception can be analyzed from various perspectives.

Rehabilitation Efforts: Adamawa SEMA has played a vital role in assisting IDPs by providing essential supplies, medical assistance, and shelter. According to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), SEMA has effectively delivered relief supplies

such as food, clothing, and other necessities to thousands of IDPs across the state (NEMA, 2021). Furthermore, SEMA has collaborated with various local and international organizations to offer medical services to IDPs, including vaccinations and treatment for malnutrition and other health issues (UNICEF, 2020). The general Internally Displaced Persons perceives SEMA's rehabilitation efforts positively, as the agency has demonstrated its dedication to addressing the immediate needs of IDPs. However, concerns have been raised regarding the sustainability of these efforts, as some IDPs have expressed the necessity for long-term support to rebuild their lives and reintegrate into society (Humanitarian Advisory Group, 2021).

Reintegration Efforts: ADSEMA has established several programs aimed at reintegrating IDPs into society by providing education, career training, and income-generating opportunities to meet their long-term needs. As stated on the Adamawa State SEMA website, the organization has established skill development centres and assisted internally displaced individuals in starting small businesses (Adamawa SEMA, 2021). The potential of these programs to uplift IDPs and enhance their socioeconomic standing has been lauded.

Efficiency of Relief Efforts: ADSEMA has been commended for its efficient relief operations, encompassing the provision of food, shelter, and medical care to IDPs. The group's ability to promptly respond to emergencies and collaborate with other humanitarian organizations to deliver comprehensive assistance has garnered recognition. Community Engagement: Internally Displaced Persons opinions regarding ADSEMA's community engagement vary. Some argue that the organization has not adequately involved nearby communities in the planning and execution of relief operations. They believe that ADSEMA should prioritize community involvement and grant local groups more authority to manage the crisis independently. Conversely, others argue that ADSEMA has effectively collaborated with various stakeholders and has made efforts to engage with local communities.

Research Methodology

This investigation employed a survey research design and methodology. The location chosen for this study was Adamawa State, which had a high incidence of attacks by Bokoharam, following Borno and Yobe States. The target population of the study consisted of internally displaced individuals and government representatives from agencies such as ADSEMA, who are involved in the rehabilitation and reintegration of IDPs in Adamawa State. Sampling is necessary in almost all forms of data collection, as it is usually not feasible to obtain data from every available source.

In this study, the Z-Score method was utilized to determine the sample size. With a confidence level of 95%, a margin of error of 5%, a population proportion of 50%, and an unlimited population size, the determined sample size was 385. The use of the Z-score method in research is a valuable tool that enables researchers to obtain accurate and reliable results. By considering factors such as desired power and effect size, researchers can calculate an appropriate sample size for their study, ensuring that their findings are statistically significant and applicable to a broader population. There were 385 respondents in the study's sample, including 330 IDPs and 55 ADSEMA employees. Stratified sampling and purposive sampling techniques were the sample methods employed in this investigation.

A questionnaire developed by the researchers was used as an instrument for data collection. The questionnaire used was a well-structured 11-item questionnaire designed using the Likert modified 4-point scale of strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed, and strongly disagreed.

Two methods of data analysis were used for analyzing data for the study: **The mean and Standard Deviation methods of data analysis:** The mean and Standard Deviation methods of data analysis were used to answer the research questions raised in Chapter One of this study. 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.

The t-test method of data analysis: The Chi-Square method of data analysis was used to test the two hypotheses formulated for the study. The Chi-Square method is a statistical technique used to determine if there is a significant association between two categorical variables. It is commonly employed in research to analyse data and test hypotheses about the relationship between variables. The Chi-Square test evaluates whether the observed frequencies of data differ significantly from the expected frequencies. Using the formulas, values are calculated and compared against the standard values. The assumed null hypothesis is accepted or rejected accordingly. A hypothesis was accepted if the calculated Chi-Square is less than the table value of "Chi-Square" is greater than the value of "Chi-Square".

Result and Discussions

Answering the Research Questions

Research Question One: What are the strategies for rehabilitating and re-integrating the Internally Displaced Persons in Adamawa State?

Table 1: Strategies for rehabilitation and reintegration of IDPs

		ADSEMA Staff		IDPs	
S/N	ITEM	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
1	Involvement of care givers	3.73	0.60	3.73	0.60
2	Reintroduction of victims back to school	3.52	0.98	3.47	0.75
3	On-job coaching of victims	3.35	0.74	3.59	0.78
4	Vocational training	3.28	0.63	3.79	0.52
5	Provision of material kits	3.11	0.92	3.64	0.72
6	Involvement of parents	3.51	1.12	3.47	.77
7	Promoting the psychological well-being of IDPs	3.22	1.10	3.71	0.67
	TOTAL	3.39	0.87	3.63	0.69

Source: Survey, December, 2023

The findings in Table 1 show that there are various strategies for rehabilitating and re-integrating the Internally Displaced Persons in Adamawa State. These strategies are the involvement of caregivers, Reintroduction of victims back to school, job coaching of victims, Vocational training, Provision of material kits, Involvement of parents, and Promoting the psychological wellbeing of IDPs. This assertion is supported by calculated mean scores of 3.39 and 3.63 for ADSEMA Staff and IDPs respectively.

Research Question Two: What are the Internally Displaced Persons perceptions on the roles of Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency in rehabilitating and re-integrating the Internally Displaced Persons in Adamawa State, Nigeria?

Table 2: Internally Displaced Persons Perception on the roles of Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency in rehabilitating and re-integrating the Internally Displaced Persons

		ADSEN Staff	МА	IDPs	
S/N	ITEM	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
1	Efficiency of Relief Efforts	2.63	0.64	2.54	0.60
2	Re-integration Efforts	2.60	0.63	2.57	0.98
3	Rehabilitation Efforts	2.77	0.62	2.59	0.74
4	Community Engagement	2.54	0.76	2.53	0.63
	TOTAL	2.64	0.66	2.56	0.74

Source: Survey, December, 2023

The result generated from the questionnaire in Table two revealed that the respondents strongly agreed that the Efficiency of Relief Efforts, reintegration efforts, Rehabilitation efforts, and Community Engagement are the Internally Displaced Persons perception of the roles of Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency in rehabilitating and re-integrating the Internally Displaced Persons. This assertion is supported by calculated mean scores of 2.64 and 2.56 for ADSEMA staff and IDPs respectively.

Hypotheses Testing

HO₁: There is no significant relationship between the mean response of the Internally Displaced Persons and Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency officials on the strategies for rehabilitating and re-integrating the Internally Displaced Persons in Adamawa State.

Table 3: Chi-Square summary analysis for testing Hypothesis One

Calculated Chi- square	Level of significance	Degree of freedom	Table value of chi- square	Decision
7.923	0.05	3	7.815	Rejected

From the Chi-Square summary in Table three above it is clear that at 0.05 and with a degree of freedom of 3 it is clear that the calculated Chi-Square of 7.923 is greater than the table value of the Chi-Square of 7.815 therefore hypothesis one is rejected. This means that there is a significant relationship between the mean response of the Internally Displaced Persons and Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency officials on the strategies for rehabilitating and re-integrating the Internally Displaced Persons in Adamawa State.

HO₂: There is no significant relationship between the mean response of the Internally Displaced Persons and Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency officials on Internally Displaced Persons perception of the roles of Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency in rehabilitating and re-integrating the Internally Displaced Persons in Adamawa State, Nigeria.

Table 4: Chi-Square summary analysis for testing Hypothesis One

Calculated Chi- square	Level of significance	Degree of freedom	Table value of chi- square	Decision
8.142	0.05	3	7.815	Rejected

From the Chi-Square summary in Table three above it is clear that at 0.05 and with a degree of freedom of 3 it is clear that the calculated Chi-Square of 8.142 is greater than the table value of the Chi-Square of 7.815 therefore hypothesis one is rejected. This means that there is a significant relationship between the mean response of the Internally Displaced Persons and Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency officials on Internally Displaced Persons perception of the roles of Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency in rehabilitating and re-integrating the Internally Displaced Persons in Adamawa State, Nigeria.

Discussion of Results

Objective One: Approaches for the recovery and reintegration of internally displaced persons the data presented in Table Three revealed a consensus between ADSEMA personnel and IDPs regarding the diverse approaches available for the recovery and reintegration of Internally Displaced Persons in Adamawa State. This aligns with the conclusions drawn by Borisova et al (2013), who emphasized the importance of involving caregivers and families in concrete ways to enhance the psychological well-being of IDPs. Similarly, Betancourt and Khan (2008) highlighted the significance of school attendance and training programs in facilitating the rehabilitation and reintegration of young individuals affected by war, enabling them to regain a sense of normalcy and security in their daily lives while also improving their prospects for future employment.

Objective Two: Internally Displaced Person perception on the Roles of Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency in Supporting the recovery and reintegration of IDPs The data presented in Table Four indicated a shared understanding between ADSEMA personnel and IDPs regarding the Internally Displaced Person's perception of the roles played by the Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency in supporting the recovery and reintegration of Internally Displaced Persons. This perception encompasses the effectiveness of relief, rehabilitation, and reintegration efforts, as well as community engagement initiatives. This finding agreed with the findings of NEMA, (2021), Humanitarian Advisory Group, (2021), and ADSEMA (2021).

Conclusions and Recommendations

The study's results led to two main findings. Initially, various strategies were identified in Adamawa State for the rehabilitation and reintegration of internally displaced persons, such as enhancing the mental well-being of IDPs through parental involvement, job training, and vocational education, as well as reintegrating victims into schools with the help of materials kits and caregivers. Secondly, the Internally Displaced Persons hold a

positive view of the Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency's efforts in assisting with the rehabilitation and reintegration of internally displaced individuals.

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

- 1. The government should expedite measures to put an end to the insurgency while simultaneously implementing long-term programs designed to assist the IDPs in their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.
- To improve the situation of the internally displaced people, the study also suggested that charitable institutions, international humanitarian organizations, and Internally Displaced Persons-spirited individuals get involved.

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