

International Donor Agencies and Humanitarian Aid in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States of Northeastern Nigeria

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Abstract

International donors are non-profit and mostly non-governmental organisations that are dedicated to developmental and humanitarian services to mankind across the globe particularly in the developing countries where the needs are more urgent and the condition is becoming unbearable due to armed conflicts and other social disasters. The Northeastern Nigeria is one of the most affected areas in the world currently on humanitarian situation which is making life difficult for the inhabitants. The international donor agencies are operating in Northeastern Nigeria to provide humanitarian aids to more than 3 million affected victims of the Boko Haram insurgency and violence specifically against women and children. The study examined the role of international humanitarian aid in alleviating the human suffering in Northeastern Nigeria and the level of successes and challenges encountered in the process. The study used both the primary and secondary sources of data for the research. The primary data was the use of an in-depth interview where selected informants from the stakeholders in the area of study were identified and consulted for the interview. The secondary sources consist of books, journal articles, newspapers and internet sources. The data obtained were discussed, analysed and interpreted using content analysis in which themes were identified and discussed. The research discovered that humanitarian aid from international donors succeeded in averting many disasters in Northeastern states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe despite the fact that there is still a large number that is in critical need of assistance but not accessible due to the security situation. The research recommends among others that all stakeholders must cooperate in harmonising the common cause for effective delivery of aid services to the affected victims.

Keywords: Armed Conflict; Humanitarian Aid; Insurgency; Internally Displaced Persons; International Donor; Northeastern Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

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International donor agencies are powerful international agencies and organisations that operate globally to provide support for the humanitarian crises and for development activities across the various countries of the world. In the post-Cold War years, the discourse is on the notion that apart from the governmental organisations and private establishments, there emerged a third sector body which is

neither governmental nor private but rather, dedicated to serving humanitarian course without profit motive. This does not mean that the governmental and private agencies are not also involved in the humanitarian services internationally. International donor agencies have multiple independent national offices in their home and host countries which are used to carry humanitarian services to the needy during disasters, crises and other urgent situation in addition to the provision of developmental activities through regional and national offices in developing countries (Lewis, 2009).

The international donor agencies operate with a large budget annually running in millions and billions of USD and are engaged usually in activities that border across developmental aid, eradication of poverty, democratic promotion and good governance, provision of assistance to the victims of natural and man-made disasters such as flood, drought, fire outbreak, war victims, victims of terrorism and human right abuse and other related activities. In doing so, they budgeted billions for the developing countries which are the most affected in this regard (Sule, Wurobokki & Sambo, 2018).

Nigeria is one of the countries that are recently affected by various humanitarian crises from flood, drought, poverty, hunger and malnutrition, disease, violence, Niger-Delta militancy, Boko Haram insurgency, farmers-herders conflict and armed banditry and kidnapping. The Northeastern Nigeria was affected by causal factors that led to the serious humanitarian crises emanating from the activities of the Boko Haram insurgency which created different forms of human suffering such as death, diseases, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), food insecurity, migration, abject poverty, collapse of health services, injuries, hunger, malnutrition and illiteracy. This has led to the influx of different international donors in the region since 2009 who have been providing assistance in various forms to the victims of the crisis. There are currently estimated more than fifty international donor agencies that are operating in Northeastern Nigeria (Morton, 2013).

Northeast is one of the geopolitical zones of Nigeria consisting of six states including Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe. It occupies slightly less than one-third of Nigeria's total area (Campbell & Page, 2018). The Northeast geopolitical zone of Nigeria covers close to one-third (280, 419km²) of Nigeria's land area (909, 890km²). According to projections for 2020 by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Northeastern States have 27, 828, 844 million (13.5%) of the total Nigerian population of 206, 139, 589 million (National Bureau of Statistics, 2020).

The Northeast geopolitical zone shares international borders with Cameroon in the East, the Republic of Chad to the Northeast and the Niger Republic to the North. The zone is a major contributor to national net food production but has the worst socioeconomic conditions in the country with the absolute poverty rate at more than 70% which characterises the zone as having the highest rate of poverty in Nigeria. The zone which has been historically known as tranquil and peaceful for many decades has in recent years been facing serious security challenges (NBS 2017). The Maitatsine riot in the 1980s and the recent Boko Haram insurgency made the zone susceptible and vulnerable to security challenges.

This study is an examination of the role of international donor agencies in Northeastern Nigeria and their activities in providing humanitarian services to the affected victims of the insurgency crisis. The rationale for choosing this topic of study is anchored on its current impact on one of the worrisome issues in the country, the inadequacy of existing academic works on the subject matter of study and the desire to contribute to the academic discourse in the chosen subject matter of study.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In this section, issues that are relevant and critical to the subject matter of study are reviewed thematically to enable for identifying the research gap. The literature is divided into the following section: international donor agencies; a global view, international donor agencies in Nigeria, perspective on humanitarian condition and humanitarian aid in Northeastern Nigeria.

International Donor Agencies: A Global View

International donor agencies are organisations that are mainly non-governmental and operate across the globe in all countries of the world particularly developing countries to provide non-profit services and aids to the poor and the needy especially those in critical humanitarian and social condition. International donors are mostly located in Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries otherwise known as advanced countries of America, Western Europe and Japan. They sourced for funding voluntarily and utilise the fund in providing free services and goods to those that are affected by natural disasters and man-made crisis (Morton, 2013). International donors are now global domesticating their origin and expanding their activities as against the above notion by Morton (2013) of belonging only to the OECD countries.

International donor agencies are bigger organisations that operate in large spectrum globally with a huge funding and a big budget having under them retinue of staff in various countries. For example, an average annual revenue of a donor organisation like World Vision Australia amounted to \$345 million and most of the international donors budgeted higher for developmental programmes and humanitarian aid and support in the developing world. The major objectives of donor agencies include among others protection of human rights, fight against poverty, electoral support in emerging democracies, promotion of democracy and good governance, education, healthcare services, climate and environmental change, disaster management and aids to the victims of violence and social crises (Morton, 2013). However, the donors might have a motive beyond philanthropy and chivalry in the needy countries. In some cases, as revealed in the findings section of this study, they have a motive that is not host community-driven but which must be entertained before they donate.

International donors existed for many centuries in the history of the world but their prominence surfaced in the 1980s and their number dramatically rose in 1990s in which the United Nations estimated that in the year 2000, there were around 35, 000 stronger international donor organisations with a budget of about \$23 billion and it has increased to \$78.6 billion in 2004. In 2009, their total annual budget was estimated at \$109 billion dedicated to humanitarian aid in developing countries (Lewis, 2009). Still, the developing countries are feeling that the amount earmarked for the donations are less than expectations as promised severally by the donors.

International donor organisations comprised of three components which are implementers, catalysts and partners. The implementer plays the role of mobilisation of resources to deliver goods and services to the ones that need them. The catalysts play the role of plan of action for the motivation, enhancement and donation towards improved foresight and activities to support social change in individuals, organisations, institutions and governments. The partner is the collaborator in making liaison with the governments, organisations and institutions on joint partnership for development such as electoral support and development aid (Lewis, 2009). Lewis (2009) did not capture the role of local and adhoc subordinate who are significantly instrumental in the operations and successes of the donors.

A database of international donor agencies supported and provided by the Commission on Science and Technology Development in the South (COMSATS) identified 66 strong international donors that are operating globally for development support to the developing world. The strongest among them that are identified involved

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), United Kingdom Agency for International Development (UKAID), Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) and many other dominant ones that are found in every nook and cranny of the world (COMSATS, 2007).

International Donor Agencies in Nigeria

International donor agencies have a long history of activities and participation in Nigerian territory since the era of the Civil War. In the war between the Nigerian government and Biafra, many famous donor agencies which were few at the time participated in the provision of drugs, medication, food supply, clothing and shelter to the victims of the war specifically the Biafrans. In the 1990s during the last decades of military rule in Nigeria, pressures were intensified from the domestic civil societies and international community for democratisation in the country which led to the emergence and spread of international donor activities to support democracy in Nigeria. despite the fact that the European Union suspended Nigeria in the 1990s, the humanitarian support and operation in Nigeria did not cease to exist because the European Parliament provided a huge sum of Euro 7 million to support human rights activities and democratisation. Local NGOs and civil societies benefitted from the fund provided by the EU (Adetula, Kew & Kwaja, 2010). This is one of the areas that is puzzling to the researchers on the motives and intents of the donors. While suspending a country, citizens in various civil societies are supported with funding in the name of supporting democratisation which is a clear contradiction. Moreso, a country at war to strengthen unity and suppress succession is receiving a double-baralled support for both the secessionist and the Nigerian Government. This is a crux of the matter that support some of the submissions by the informants on allegations of conspiracy and a hidden mission.

Thus, international donor agencies have been in existence in Nigeria even before the inception of the Fourth Republic and democratic rule in the country. The international donors became more pronounced and presence in their activities after the consolidation of democracy. From 1999 to 2010, many donors such as Save the Children, Action Aid, Bill and Melinda Gate Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, UNICEF, UNDP, USAID, UKAID, IFES, NDI, IRI and Thomas Carothers increased their presence, budget and activities in the country. With the emergence of Boko Haram insurgency in Northeastern Nigeria, it is estimated that there are over 50 international donors including the humanitarian aids, democracy promotion, electoral support,

healthcare organisations and religious ones that are operating in Northeast for various purposes but with an organised and harmonised target of providing humanitarian assistance to the victims of Boko Haram especially women and children. Their annual budget since 2010 is estimated at around \$60 million (Sule et al. 2018).

Perspective on Humanitarian Condition in Northeastern Nigeria

Human condition has deteriorated in Northeastern Nigeria because of the escalated Boko Haram crisis from 2009. The Northeast is one of the poorest geopolitical zones in Nigeria in terms of human indicators. All available statistics from 2000 to date indicated that the zone is the most backward in the human poverty indicator, highest in terms of unemployment rate, highest in maternal and infant mortality rate, low in terms of literacy level and other indicators of human development (National Bureau of Statistics, 2018). For instance, the absolute poverty level in Northeastern Nigeria is approximated at 70% of the total population with youth unemployment rated at 54%. The region has the highest rate of maternal mortality of 10 out of every 100 and the region is a host to the vulnerability of killer diseases such as malaria, cholera and infectious diseases (NBS, 2018).

The explosion of Boko Haram insurgency in 2009 worsened the condition of humanitarian sufferings in Northeastern Nigeria. about twenty-two thousand (22, 000) lives were estimated to have been killed by the Boko Haram crisis, sixteen (16) local government areas in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe estimated to be around the total landmass of Britain were occupied and controlled by the Boko Haram insurgents which blocked the inhabitants from having access to medical care, education and other necessities of life, about 2.1 million persons were displaced who found themselves in the IDPs camps across the Northeast and other parts of the country, agricultural activities were abruptly stopped which has been the major mainstay of around 70% of the Northeastern population leading to food insecurity, educational activities were halted, medical care in the zone collapsed, properties worth billions of Naira were destroyed by the insurgency, commercial activities were blocked and international business in the Lake Chad region was prevented which displaced hundreds of thousands from their means of livelihood (Harvard Divinity Project, 2018).

The above statistics are the indicators of the humanitarian crisis and sufferings in Northeastern Nigeria which invited for the increased activities of international donors in the region. The Nigerian government did its best in supporting the displaced persons and to alleviate the sufferings of the inhabitants of Northeast but the condition defied

the provision of the governments at both the Federal and State levels. This necessitated for the involvement and support of international donors.

Causes and Manifestation of Humanitarian Suffering in Northeastern Nigeria

There are numerous humanitarian crises in West Africa that have been affecting the region for many decades which are not overcome by the countries because of the changing nature of the crises such as poverty, diseases, poor healthcare services, unemployment, deprivation and worsening condition of living to violence in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea Bissau, Cote d'Ivoire and Nigeria recently because of Boko Haram crisis (Kabia, 2009). Humanitarian crisis in Northeastern Nigeria emerged according to many scholars (Bamidele 2012, Ahokegh 2013, Blanchard 2014, Campbell 2014, Eme 2016 and Harvard Divinity School 2018) from the Boko Haram Insurgency which has been devastating and has caused diverse numerous human suffering in the region.

The Boko Haram crisis which has started as a peaceful preaching movement against the Western-established style of governance and education later turned into a radical and violent movement with a full-blown insurgency in 2009 after their leader, late Muhammad Yusuf was extrajudicially killed by the security operatives in Maiduguri, Borno State capital. The insurgency resulted in various humanitarian hardship which has been estimated to have cost nearly twenty-two (22) thousand lives, destroyed properties worth billions of Naira, indigenes in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe were displaced in which the number of IDPs currently stand at 2.1 million, farming and commercial activities were halted and totally grounded in the affected areas, healthcare facilities and infrastructures were obliterated, diseases broke out such as cholera and malaria especially in the IDPs within the Northeast, schools were permanently closed, national security and sovereignty were undermined and people live in absolute fear and uncertainty as observed by De Montclos (2014), Omotosho (2015) and Sule, Sambo & Tal (2018).

The emergence of Boko Haram insurgency created worst human suffering in Northeastern Nigeria and the response of the government failed to address the problem which necessitated for the intervention of donor agencies to alleviate the human sufferings. One of the responses is the conventional strategic military operation in the areas that are under the threat of the insurgency especially the Northeastern states in the country and there were series of dialogues, negotiations, re-negotiations, ceasefire between the insurgents and the Nigerian government. Prisoners or Boko Haram captives

under the custody of the government are released in exchange for ceasefire and peaceful surrender from the insurgents. On many occasions, this approach has succeeded but, the insurgency still persisted even though, the phenomenon has been recently contained from 2016 to a manageable level as observed by some scholars (Sule et al. 2018 and Sule, Yahaya, Rabi’u, Ahmad & Hussaini, 2019).

The efforts made by the government to respond to the Boko Haram crisis is inadequate as observed by (Sule et al. 2019) because the strategy of military engagement is not curbing the attacks by the Boko Haram insurgents which leaves many inhabitants in the area of study in a dejected and disastrous situation that called for an urgent intervention. This is the purpose why the international donor agencies need to come for aid because the Nigerian government is dedicating a larger sum of its budget in the procurement of weapons and logistics to contain the Boko Haram insurgency which made them to neglect the human condition in the affected areas. The study observed that despite the existence of numerous studies on the subject matter as outlined above by various scholars, this particular aspect of the role of international donors in humanitarian aid has not been given adequate attention and this is the research gap that this work filled.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This research adopted the “Theory of Obligation” in explaining the context of the entire work to support the literature and to help in consolidating the findings. The term “Theory of Obligation” is an interdisciplinary theory which has its root from Anthropology, Political Science, Sociology, Public Administration and Management. The theory has its philosophical foundation from scholars such as Carolyn Pope Edwards (1985), Ronald Cohen (1989), Horn (1988), Hill (1993) and Lewin (1993). The foundation for this theory can be trace to the articles written by these scholars on the subject matter of the obligation of mankind towards providing aid to the needy and those in critical condition. The central thrust of this theory is that there is obligation in the context of humanitarianism.

The theory has some basic assumptions which are outlined below. The first assumption is that there must be a moral imperative to assist the structurally displaced, dispossessed and functionally disabled and abused persons in the society. It is a collective responsibility of mankind to provide humanitarian aid and services to these categories irrespective of where they are and the condition of their sufferings. The

second assumption is the notion that the human rights and humanitarianism are intricately linked and are emphasised which provided principles of operation for the humanitarian organisations as they serve the needy. This means that the humanitarian organisations or international donors should take into cognisance human rights protection as supreme and that any violation of human rights should be deterred immediately to ensure that human suffering is minimised. The third assumption is that humanitarian services involves risk for the actors in upholding human dignity and that such risks should be taken to reach out to the affected victims and the needy but that there should be conventional rules and guidelines of operation that will guarantee and safeguard the lives, properties, facilities and activities of the humanitarian organisations internationally to ensure that support is provided and it has reach out to the victims timely and accordingly. The fourth and final assumption is that humanitarian aid is a moral relationship between the donors and the recipients of assistance based on the obligation of those who have the responsibility to address the desired needs of those who are in critical need of assistance.

In applying the theory within the context of this research, it should be noted that if we take the assumptions presented above, they are relevant in this study and can explain the exact situation of international donors and humanitarian aid in Northeastern Nigeria because the international donors found it expedient as a moral imperative to assist the displaced, dispossessed and structurally disabled by the Boko Haram insurgency in Northeastern Nigeria. the theory also explained the literature reviewed above on the notion that international donors or humanitarian actors give supreme emphasis on the fundamentals of human rights and humanitarian safety by making efforts in averting further suffering and human disaster with the aid that they are providing. The theory also is perfectly applicable and a good explanation and interpretation of the fact that the humanitarian aid operate within the legal framework of international rules of engagement for reaching out to the affected victims and timely and promptly as a moral obligation.

METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

The research methodology is the principles, strategy and the philosophy used in data gathering, the tools used for gathering the data and the techniques used in the coding, analysis and interpretation of data in the process of the research.

Research Design

The research design for this work involved the use of qualitative research method of data collection and analysis. Qualitative research method is the research paradigm of gathering of a rich and vast data from selected informants that are in the possession of vital information on the subject of study for critical analysis and interpretation (Bogden & Biklen, 2007). A qualitative research is not only the research method that gather data but also a philosophy that involves the principles of the researcher in adopting the strategies and techniques that will help in identifying the type of data needed and the way to gather and interpret them in a given research topic (Braun & Clarke, 2013). A qualitative research approach has five major types which are narrative, ethnography, case study, phenomenological and grounded theory (Creswell, 2014). For the purpose of this particular research, a case study qualitative approach is adopted because it is the study of a particular area and a specific case of an issue which is the humanitarian aid in Northeastern Nigeria arising from human suffering of the effects of Boko Haram insurgency.

Sources of Data

There are basically two major sources of data for this work. The primary and secondary sources. The primary sources of data are categorised into three. The first is the interview in which selected informants in the area of study were consulted for data gathering. The second source is officially documented materials from the government and international donors that are operating in Northeastern Nigeria and their reports. The third source under this section is the participant observation where the researcher is involved personally in the process of the voluntary services to the IDPs and other affected victims in some parts of the Northeast and have been witnessing their conditions and the impact of the donors in improving their situation. The secondary sources consist of books, articles from journals, newspapers and internet sources.

Method of Data Collection

The research used an in-depth interview for data collection. Some selected informants were selected from the stakeholders that are involved in the humanitarian activities in Northeastern Nigeria. A total of twenty (20) informants were selected in the conduct of the interview. Three (3) were selected from the senior officials of the international donors in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States in the Northeast, three (3) senior officials were selected for interview from the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian

Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development who are domiciled in the Northeast and are directly engaged in the humanitarian aid services. Three (3) senior security personnel were selected for interview who are involved in the operation in Northeast and are eye-witnesses to the humanitarian situation in the area of study. Three (3) academicians who are researching and are expert in the area of insurgency and humanitarian services were consulted for interview. Five (5) victims in the IDPs camp in some selected targetted Northeastern areas were identified for an in-depth interview based on accessibility while three (3) members of domestic civil society organisations operating in collaboration with donors were targetted for the interview. The interview questions were designed in a semi-structured format and differently for each of the six (6) identified selected groups.

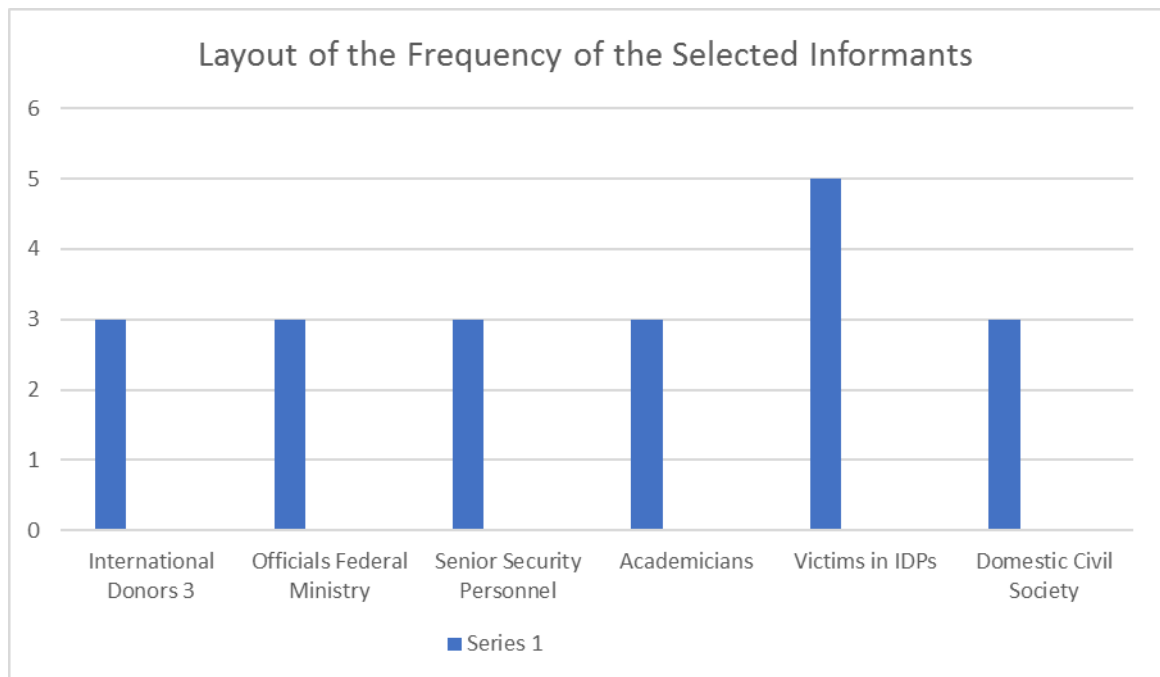


Figure 1: A Layout of the Frequency of the Selected Informants
 Source: Field Survey 2019.

Method of Data Analysis

The research used a thematic analytical interpretation in data analysis where content analysis was utilised for the analysis and interpretation of data. From the information provided by the selected informants, a grouping was made to classify and categorise the data into groups for easy perception and analysis. Themes and sub-themes were identified and each of the theme or sub-theme was discussed in reference to the previous literature on the subject matter and the application of the adopted theoretical framework.

DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

In this section, the data obtained from the field were presented thematically based on the groupings of the views of the informants on the subject matter of study in relation to the existing literature and the application of the theoretical framework to establish a new knowledge.

Humanitarian Aid in Northeastern Nigeria

The humanitarian crisis in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States in Northeastern Nigeria that has transcended into Lake Chad region is considered today as one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world contemporarily. There are about 8.5 million people in 2017 that are in need of urgent help and life-saving humanitarian assistance in the region, 7.1 million people in 2018 and 6.2 million more are targetted in 2019. The crisis of Boko Haram insurgency is a regional armed group conflict which is the crisis of protection and survival. Civilians are targetted in the crisis by the armed group which created a widespread displacement and violations of human rights and international law in the process (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2019).

Since the commencement of the conflict fully in 2009, more than 28, 000 were killed, thousands of women and girls were abducted, thousands of males were conscripted forcefully into insurgency activities, violence was perpetrated and is being perpetrated against children and women including sexual abuse and violence, child trafficking, illegal smuggle and possession of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), 2.1 million as at 2019 fled their homes and are living in IDPs camps majority in Borno

and Yobe States mostly 80% of them women and children and one in four are under the age of five (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2019).

Since 2009, international donor actors are working assiduously in collaboration with Nigerian government to provide humanitarian aid to the affected victims in Northeastern Nigeria. In 2018 alone, more than 5.5 million victims in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe alone received humanitarian assistance response that involves life-saving and surviving strategy while working towards identifying the root causes of the conflict and looking towards lasting and permanent solutions to the crisis (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2019).

In order to foster the protection of human beings, in 2017, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2349 which strongly condemned all forms of terrorists attacks and activities, all forms of violation of international humanitarian law and human rights abuse by Boko Haram and ISIS and urged all parties to respect human rights, protection of humanitarian personnel, facilities and their means of transport and equipment, and to facilitate rapid and safe access for humanitarian organisations to deliver life-saving assistance to the affected victims (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2019).

In the process, an estimated 930, 000 refugees from the crisis remain in hard-to-reach areas and because of that, humanitarian actors were not able to reach them or to assess their situation or to provide them with aid at the end of 2018. The risk of famine had been averted by the activities of the humanitarian actors at the end of 2017 in Northeastern Nigeria where the humanitarian actors had access. The number of people estimated to be facing food insecurity reduced from 5.2 million in June 2017 to 2.6 million during October 2017. An estimated 450, 000 children under the age of five (5) suffered from severe acute malnutrition in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States in Northeast in 2017. Severe Acute Malnutrition kits were provided in over 30 stabilisation centres to treat more than 7, 000 children and over 150 health professionals from the Ministry of Health and NGOs were trained on in-patient management of Severe Acute Malnutrition (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2019).

The World Health Organisation revealed that more than 50% of estimated death in Borno will be due to malaria fever and there was the prediction of the outbreak of cholera. The cholera outbreak declared in August 2017 was contained successfully after a strong cooperation between health partners and water, sanitation and hygiene partners,

and a cholera vaccination campaign which reached more than 900, 000 people. There are 2, 000 indigenous humanitarian workers and 500 foreign aid workers in Northeastern Nigeria which are supported financially by various international organisations. For instance, the United Nations in 2019 provided a grant of \$9 million for the humanitarian aid work in Northeastern Nigeria. the international donors that are operating in Northeastern Nigeria include the UN, EU, UNDP, UNICEF, USAID, UKAID, WHO, Doctors Without Borders (MSF), Save the Children, Catholic Donors and others amounting to around 50 in number (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2019).

The informants that were consulted in the field work also revealed several narratives on the nature and magnitude of humanitarian aid in Northeastern Nigeria. for example, an informant revealed that: “In our daily routine, we supply food items, clothes, temporary shelter such as tents, drugs, first aid services and counselling to those that are traumatised by violence in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe. However, our challenges are the inability to access some of the misplaced persons who are trapped in the danger zone where the Boko Haram is still having its stronghold. We have information on their deteriorating condition but we must also consider our safety which is ethical” (A personal interview with an informant in category A on 12 May 2019 in Borno).

In another view, some informants narrated that the humanitarian situation in Northeastern Nigeria especially in Borno and Yobe is alarming. In the interview, an informant narrated that:” The condition of the inhabitants of Northeastern people specifically in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe is pathetic and heart breaking. Children of under age 5 are dying of malnutrition and women are sleeping in a barren land. In order to alleviate the situation, the Nigerian government sought for partnership with UN and international donors to come to its aid. The international donors responded and you can see several items that they are distributing worth millions of dollars to help the needy particularly in the IDPs camp. Most importantly, some organisations such as Save the Children, Action Against Hunger, Red Cross, UNICEF and others provide services such as anti-natal care, temporary schools, basic items for survival such as blankets and mattress and other related items. The donors penetrated all angles in the Northeast to deliver the assistance and to date, they have been able to help over 8 million people that are affected in the Northeast in different ways and at different levels” (A personal in-depth interview with an informant in category B on 27th May 2019).

Additionally, another informant disclosed that: “The donors are working closely with security personnel in reaching out to remote areas where hundreds of thousands of people are trapped by the Boko Haram insurgency and who are living in a deplorable and despicable situation. Sometimes vehicles could not even reach the places, we used other means of transportation such as donkeys and trucks to carry the intervention materials. Doctors and nurses are carried alone to offer medical treatment to the sick. Malaria prevalence is observed in these areas and malnutrition. Donors assist with antimalaria and nutritious preparation for the inhabitants. In this way, further outbreak of diseases and malnutrition have been minimised” (A personal interview with an informant in category C).

The above diverse informants’ views can be seen reflected in the Theory of Obligation which assumed that there is a moral imperative for a collective community approach towards helping the needy and the displaced. The international donors are found actively engaged in providing basic necessities that the needy want and in making available services that are urgent. This is not mandatory upon the donors but rather, their moral imperative for serving humanity pushed them out of their comfort zone for rescue. Everill & Kaplan, (2013) reported that humanitarian intervention in health care programme delivery is tasking when the areas are inaccessible as they have realised from the databank of the literature studied. Nevertheless, they pointed out that the donors made giant efforts in reaching out to the areas that are difficult to access to rescue the inhabitants from their condition which is often worse than other places.

Challenges of Humanitarian Intervention in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States of Northeastern States

There are several challenges that the international donors faced in their efforts towards delivering assistance to the affected individuals and areas in Northeastern Nigeria. these challenges are also faced by the government officials and security agencies in the areas of study. Some of these challenges are identified and discussed below.

Logistics

For the affected individuals and areas of crisis to be reach out, there is a need for logistics which include transportation and security details. In many cases, most of the areas that are affected have no good roads and even where the roads exist, they are not motorable due to pot holes and broken bridges especially in the rainy season. In some

instances, in Borno, the affected persons can only be reached through crossing a stream or Lake Chad. The same thing is applicable in Adamawa where in some cases, the individuals affected are only accessible through lakes, streams and mountainous terrains. The security details are sometimes inadequate. The donors often got themselves attacked by the insurgents while on their way to these remote areas. Sometimes the donations are hijacked by the insurgents thereby making the assistance impossible for the needy. This scenario has been observed by several scholars (Kabia 2009, Lewis et al. 2009 and Sule et al. 2019) to have affect the effective service delivery of the donors.

In different interviews conducted with the informants, they presented different views on the subject matter of logistics. The views are summarised below. The informants observed that the nature and terrain of the Northeastern geography is affecting the activities and operation of the international donors. This is because according to them, lack of good roads, security concern and other issues related to logistics are preventing the donors from reaching out to those that are encircled by the Boko Haram insurgents and those who have no means of escaping. The goods are sometimes hijacked by the insurgents and diverted for their own use. This is causing a serious setback in helping the needy in the crisis-torn region especially those in villages in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe.

The Obligation theory explains that despite lack of conveniency and comfortability in humanitarian services, it is the responsibility of the concerned persons to undertake the risk of helping those who are in crisis areas. This explains the rationale behind the perseverance and insistence of the donors to reach out to the affected people even amidst the danger and dissatisfaction. The appropriateness of humanitarian responses is defined and measured (Sule et al. 2019) in different eight (8) measurements and the donors are using the best that they think is suitable for the situation. As in the case of Northeastern Nigeria, the safety of the donors is ethically questioned severally and therefore, some areas were restricted. “Even the military personnel used to caution the donors from going to some areas that are insecured in the region” according to an informant in category D. those that can be accessed are managed to have been served in their areas while those that are not accessible are evacuated into the IDPs camps where it is possible.

Corruption

Corruption is a cancer that has permeated all the garments and fabric of the Nigerian society including the fight against insurgency and delivery of assistance to the needy. The \$2.1 billion earmarked for the purchase of weapons to fight Boko Haram was diverted for the 2015 PDP Presidential campaign financing (Sule, Azizuddin & Mat, 2018). Several donations domestically and internationally were diverted and sold by the government officials for self-enrichment (Kazeem, 2016). For instance, a 200 tonnes of date fruits contributed by the Saudi government to the IDPs in the Northeast was diverted by the government officials in the Ministry of Internal Affairs since 2018 to date, nobody was punished for that and the results of the investigation into the matter was shelved (Sanni, 2018).

In an interview, several informants disclosed that one of the obstacles that is bedeviling the activities and operations of international donors in Nigeria is corruption. For instance, one of the informants narrated that: “Sometimes the donors offered the assistance through the government and the government officials are the ones in charge of the distribution of the intervention materials to the needy. In the process, the Nigerian officials connived with some unpatriotic inhabitants of the crisis-torn areas in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe and divert the goods for sale in the market and stash the money in their pockets. Rice meant for the IDPs and several food items, clothes and drugs were diverted in many incidences. These corrupt practices is gradually causing suspicion in the donors’ camp and they are now handling most of their intervention by themselves” (A personal interview with an informant in category E on 2nd June 2019). In an expanded view from the above, an informant revealed that: “corruption in the crisis-affected states of Northeast is the major obstacles to the success in the war against insurgency and humanitarian intervention. Corruption from the government officials, security agencies, agents of international donors themselves combined together denied the affected individuals from being assisted adequately (A personal interview with an informant in category F on 7th June 2019).

In addition, Sule et al. (2019) argue that sometimes there is an unethical practice from the donors themselves of procuring and supplying sub-standard equipment and goods because of the low level of auditing and accountability. This is corruption in the process of donor services. Hancock (1989) postulates that the business of international aid is a corrupt racket pursued with a hidden interest. Nevertheless, it should be perceived as presented by the theory of Obligation that even if corruption exists, in the process of humanitarian aid by the donors, it is still a voluntary action that they are

engaged in and they should be appreciated for their concern in rescuing perishing humanitarian condition. The corruption of the government officials and security personnel is the one that is terrible and which should be investigated and addressed by the Nigerian government.

Community-Donor Relations

Another obstacle that is affecting the activities and operations of the donors in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States of Northeastern Nigeria is the relationship between the communities that are in crisis and the donors. The communities sometimes perceive the donors and relate with them sometimes with hostilities and lack of cooperation. They seldom release vital information that will help in identifying their areas of needs and how other areas that are in crisis can be reach out. This is because of the culture, level of education and unusual relationship that is emerging. To this end, the donors employed several middlemen in-between to help in leading discussions and activities but still, the hostility persist.

In an interview with some selected informants in category A, E and F, the informants revealed several reasons why there is suspicion between the communities and the donors. The views presented by the informants are summarised in one statement below. “The reasons why suspicion emanate between the communities and the donors is because some locals are nursing the rumours that the international donors are aiding the Boko Haram with weapons and money. In this regard, some of the inhabitants who are elderly have still been memorising their encounter with the Whiteman during colonialism. They narrated several frightening stories of how the Whiteman is clever in usurping their resources and that whenever they said we are going to help as they did during colonialism, they may be helping you in one aspect and plundering your resources in another hand. Besides, the threats from the Boko Haram insurgents on the villagers in remote areas deterred them from revealing information that will help the donors in reaching out to the entrapped victims of humanitarian crisis”. The Obligation Theory is applicable here because despite the inconveniency encountered by the donors, they endure and continue to reach out to the victims because they believed that humans must be assisted when they needed it.

Allegations of Conspiracy from the Donors' Activities

One of the emerging trends in the activities and operations of international donors in Northeastern Nigeria is the alleged conspiracy which the Nigerian security particularly the military claimed. The Nigerian military alleged that the United Nations personnel in Maiduguri, Borno State capital are helping the Boko Haram sect with intelligence and in some reports, that they are shielding them in their camps as reported by many national dailies such as Daily Trust, Leadership and others in 2018. Another donor 'Mercy Corps' was suspended by the security operatives in Northeast but was restored later in 2018 due to suspected conspiracy activities. Recently, in the month of September, 2019, the Nigerian military again banned the Action Against Hunger from operation totally in the Northeast especially in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States on the pretext that they are aiding the sects with foods and other logistics. And this help from the AAH has been strengthening the sect to continue with their fight. Many newspapers such as Premium Times, Sahara Reporters, the Nation Online, Punch, Vanguard, Daily Nigerian, Daily Trust and Leadership in September made a wide coverage of the allegations. The AAH debunked the allegations and claimed innocence yet, the donor still remains banned for a while before it was lifted.

Apart from the allegations by the military, the informants too presented diverse views on several allegations labeled against many international donors. For instance, one of the informants in category D, revealed to the researchers that: "I was supposed to report as a newly recruited personnel of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Maiduguri, Borno State. On arrival, I was shocked on their terms of services. I was told that the Boko Haram insurgents too are humans and whenever they are captured in the custody of the Nigerian security agencies, it is part of my duty to ensure that they are well-taken care of in terms of food, shelter and their welfare. The submission bemused me and I immediately declined because it sounded to me as a national treachery to start thinking of the welfare of those that are terrorising my entire community. What I expected is just to ensure that they are given the deserved judgement based on their actions. I declined honestly" (A personal interview with an informant in category D on 12th May 2019).

Many other informants also narrated their own views. One of them in category F said that: "they have been suspicious of some of the donors and one of the reasons that led to that is the length of their rent. You can see an organisation renting a building for over ten years with the clause of extension. Some of the donors are accused of providing drugs and other medication to the Boko Haram sect and this in my

understanding is motivating the sect to continue with their heinous activities. The Nigerian security that accused them have every reason to do so". (A personal interview with an informant in category F on 23rd May 2019.

Additionally, there are many works (Hancock 1989, Fagan 2006 and Drayton 2013) that supported the above views that sometimes the international donors are a tool for new imperialism, corrupt practices and clandestine operations that can be a threat to national security. This is the case of Nigeria where there are allegations of corrupt practices and conspiracy in the operation of the donors. In this regard, the Obligation Theory can be criticised here since its assumptions are defeated with another set of motives which is spying, conspiracy and undermining national security. In contrast, if we take the humanitarian aspects and the compassion that is attached to it considering that irrespective of the alleged espionage and conspiracy, human souls are served and rescued from crisis of hunger, disease, malnutrition and even from perishing, we can still uphold the theory as an obligation and the services offered as positive. The other allegations can be perceive as collateral side effects of the support or aid which is inevitable with every organisation that has a goal in its operation. Nevertheless, Everill & Kaplan (2013) submitted that the level of humanitarian intervention in Africa has been enduring for several decades and billions of dollars were expended in that venture which is commendable. What is expected of the donors is to investigate proper the allegations against them in Northeastern Nigeria and take necessary measures against those that are involved or clear the air on their innocence to eliminate suspicion and foster cooperation. This is one of the major findings of this work and its contribution which has not been hitherto, espoused previously by the works in the subject matter of study.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The work concludes that the humanitarian condition in Northeastern Nigeria has deteriorated immensely in the last ten years owing to the activities of Boko Haram insurgency. Thousands of lives were lost, properties worth billions of Naira were destroyed, people were displaced from their places into IDPs. The humanitarian condition in the region escalated into disease, hunger, malnutrition, fear, poverty and death of children below 5 years. The condition necessitated for the intervention of voluntary organisations who are international donors that are operating globally in providing humanitarian assistance. The international donors are discovered to have been providing vital aid such as drugs, food, medical services, clothing and shelter and other

basic necessities of life for the IDPs to survive. The study also concludes that the international donors rescued many trapped individuals in the Northeast and succeeded in averting epidemics of cholera and malaria as well as the death of infants and antenatal women. The donors provided blankets, mattresses, counselling and first aid services to the individuals in remote areas and those that are living in IDPs. The research discovered that the donors encountered many obstacles in discharging their humanitarian services. Some of these challenges are logistics issues, corruption, community-donor relations and most importantly the allegations of conspiracy against the donors such as Action Against Hunger by the Nigerian military.

Subsequently, the study recommends the following: the Nigerian Government should provide adequate logistics such as security support and good roads as well as other related needs for the international donors to reach out to all the remote areas where it was estimated in this study that nearly 1 million are entrapped in Borno State alone; the host community should be consulted in designing the activities for the intervention to avoid suspicion and lack of cooperation with the donors to enable them succeed; corruption allegations labeled against the Nigerian officials and the donors should be jointly or separately investigated to avoid ill-feeling and negative perception of the activities of the donors; the international donors should investigate the allegations of conspiracy and espionage against some of their colleagues in the Northeast and come out with a report officially to ascertain the possibility of punishing the culprits or declaring innocent the accused factually; the Nigerian government should intensify the process of bringing to an end the insurgency in the Northeast to arrest the humanitarian crisis in the region and the government at both the states and federal level should provide a sound micro and macroeconomic policies that will address poverty, unemployment, inequality, injustice, deprivation and other socioeconomic malaise as a permanent and long-term solution to the social unrest and fundamentalism in the region.

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