

**HUMANITARIAN MISSIONARIES OR AGENTS OF  
IMPERIALISM? A CRITICAL ASSESSMENT OF  
DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS AND NON-  
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN NORTH-EAST  
NIGERIA, 1999-2020**

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**Abstract**

*The paper critically examines the role of Development Partners and Non-Governmental Organizations in the management of internally displaced persons in North-East geo-political zone of Nigeria, from 1999 to 2020, during the peak period of monumental humanitarian crises that claimed thousands of lives, destroyed properties and displaced millions of people from their communities, creating humanitarian crises that overwhelmed the state and federal government. It traces the origin and factors that triggered the crisis. The involvement of Development Partners and Non-Governmental Organizations in the management of the crisis. The work critically analysed the impact of development partners and non-governmental organization, issues that aroused and challenges that confronted the two agencies in the course of discharging their duties during the period of our focus. It concludes that inspite of allegations and criticisms against their motives and operations in the North-East Development Partners and Non-Governmental Organization overnment played pivotal role in the management of internally displaced persons in the North-East Nigeria during the surveyed period.*

**Key words:** Development Partners, Non-Governmental Organization, North East, Agencies and internally displaced person's.



## **Introduction**

The North-East geo-political zone of Nigeria comprise of Adamawa, Taraba, Yobe, Bornu, Bauchi and Gombe State. It is bordered by Jigawa, Kano and Kaduna State to the West and North West, Plateau, Nassarawa and Benue States to the south and south west, the Republic of Niger and Chad to the North and Cameroon Republic to the East. According to the 2015 population projection, the region has a population of 23.6 million and a land area of 280.419 square kilometers<sup>1</sup>.

In the first two decades of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the region witnessed significant humanitarian challenges due to unprecedented increase in the number of internally displaced persons. Natural disasters as well as activities of state and non-state actors led to the displacement of millions of people from their homes and communities with attendant consequences. Natural disasters such as flood and desertification, and man-made disasters; Boko Haram insurgency, perennial farmer's herders crises, communal clashes, cattle rustling, rural banditry, kidnapping for ransom payments, electoral and political violence, ethno-religious crises devastated communities in the North-East and triggered internal displacements of huge population estimated at over three million people<sup>2</sup>. Thereby creating huge humanitarian crisis.

Efforts by the Nigerian authorities to effectively, contain the situation proved largely inadequate. The dire situation occasioned by the complex humanitarian emergency became exacerbated by conflict-induced food insecurity and severe malnutrition that rose to critical level. The challenges of protecting the displaced were further compounded by the deteriorating security situation as well as socio-economic fragility with many communities facing chronic poverty, harsh climatic conditions gross violations of human rights, sexual and gender-based violence, forced recruitment and suicide bombings<sup>3</sup>. This necessitated joint effort by Development Partners (DPs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)



towards assisting the affected population, as well as resettling refugees and internally displaced persons to regain their dignity and a sense of normal life.

### **The Crises of Internally Displaced Persons in North-Eastern Nigeria, 2000-2020.**

Like most human society, the issue of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) is not new to the people of North Eastern Nigeria. Prior to the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the people of some communities in the sub-region suffered internal displacements due to natural disasters, communal clashes and location of infrastructural projects. These internal displacements were on a smaller scale and state governments in the north-east sub-region were able to manage and cope with the situation within the limit of available resources<sup>4</sup>.

The beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, however, witnessed large-scale internal displacements of people across the entire sub-region in a scale hitherto unprecedented in the history of north eastern Nigeria. In 2004, River Gadabal in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council overflowed its banks leading to large scale flooding that claimed the lives of many people and destroyed many houses, business premises, farmlands and internal displacement of an estimated twenty thousand people. In 2010, flooding in Numan, Lamurde, Girei, Fufore and Demsa Local Government Areas of Adamawa State led to internal displacements of thousands of people<sup>5</sup>. The scale of the disaster overwhelmed the state government necessitating appeal by the government for foreign assistance to cope with the high number of internally displaced persons.

Increased population, desertification rural banditry and cattle rustling also led to displacement of persons in the north eastern states during the period. Unfavourable economic conditions and political instability in neighbouring countries of Mali, Chad, Niger Burkina Faso, Benin and Mauritania, forced many rogue



elements from these countries to look for livelihood in most parts of north eastern Nigeria. Some of these illegal migrants became notorious thieves that carried away herds of cattle by inflicting injuries or killing their owners. These sedentary farmers who could not withstand the firepower of these bandits therefore had no alternative than to abandon their homes to where they can find peace and shelter. Many people in north east Nigeria lost their lives, cattle, properties and settlements to these criminals between 2000 and 2020.

There was also the menace of Cameroun Gendarmes who raided and ransacked settlements on the border towns. These developments also rendered many families homeless while a lot more were killed<sup>6</sup>. The border towns of Taraba and Adamawa states suffered most. Other villages that were at the mercies of the bandits were the border towns of northern, Bornu, such as Gamboru Ngala, Banki, Damasak, Marte, Monguno and Mafa council areas. The activities of these bandits and cattle rustlers drove inhabitants away from their villages because they were no longer secured in these rural communities.

The search for arable land and pastures by herders from neighbouring Chad and Niger Republic, helped in spreading cow diseases, like rinder-pest. Many herders lost their cattle to these diseases. The loss of cows was further worsened by desertification accompanied with famine and poverty. This who lost their cattle became bandits. These bandits moved in group of about 45 to 50 well-armed. They attached communities at their disposal and at will. To escape for their lives, the local people had to abandon their settlements<sup>7</sup>. The criminals therefore earned their living by ransacking towns, communities and villages to rustle cattle, steal food items, money and by inflicting injuries on those who tried to resist them<sup>8</sup>. Inter-ethnic and religious differences triggered violence conflicts in Tafawa Balewa Local Government Area of Bauchi State and Numani in Adamawa State in 2006 and 2009 respectively, with attendant destruction of



lives and property and displacements of more than ten thousand people. The recurrent episodes of conflicts in the affected areas dislocated many from their natural habitats and internally displaced persons in the sub-region during the period of our study. Available statistics showed that about 500,000 people were displaced as a result of continuous attacks by nomadic herdsmen on isolated towns and villages in the rural area where there were no security presence<sup>9</sup>. In particular, the attack carried out by Islamic religious sect Boko Haram, in Bornu and Yobe State beginning from 2009, forced about 3 million people to leave their homes in search of security. In 2010, the then representative of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in Nigeria, Angele Dikongue – Atangana, estimated that there were about 650,000 internally displaced persons in North East Nigeria<sup>10</sup>. An intelligence assessment carried out in May 2015 blamed their displacement on the crisis in the region. With the escalation of the Boko Haram conflict in 2014 and the ethno-religious crisis in Tafawa Balewa and Numan, the number of internally displaced people in the North Eastern sub-region increased dramatically to about three million<sup>11</sup>. The displaced person lived in squalid conditions in camps with no access to basic necessities of life such as food, water, shelter, education and health facilities.

The unrelenting attacks on educational institutions and communities by Boko Haram, kidnapping for ransom payment, herdsmen farmers conflicts rural banditry and cattle rustling, flood disasters and desert encroachment relentlessly produced a large number of internally displaced people, making it extremely difficult for authorities in the sub-region and the federal government of Nigeria to effectively grapple with the challenges. This development prompted efforts by development partners and non-governmental humanitarian organizations to come to the aid of these internally displaced persons, during the period under survey.



## **Impact of Development Partners in the Management of Internally Displaced Persons in the North-East, 1999-2020**

Development partner refers to state, organization, or institution that is committed to an undertaking with another or others in the development process. It is a term that is widely used in the field of international development aid to describe any organization working in partnership with national and local government bodies that provide development assistance in some form, to improve the quality of lives of citizens in different areas of interest. Development partners includes; bilateral donors and multilateral agencies, including United Nations agencies and multilateral financial institutions engage in social protection in different ways, applying different emphasis that reflect their individual mandate<sup>12</sup>.

Members of the organizations are often drawn from national governments and have variety of functions. They also vary in size from just a few states to virtuously UN membership. They include United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), World Bank, United Nations International Children Fund (UNICEF), Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), etc.

From factual historical records, the involvement of development partners with the issue of internally displaced persons goes back to early 1970's when there was large displacement of persons as a result of political turmoil or civil wars which characterized the entire world at that time<sup>13</sup>. However, the involvement of development partners or inter-government organizations (IGOs) in the management of IDPs in the North-Eastern region of Nigeria began in 2010 when flooding occurred in Numan, Lamurde, Girei, Fufore and Demsa Local Government Areas of Adamawa State<sup>14</sup>. Flooding equally took place in Maiduguri, Bornu State during that period, when River Gadabal overflowed its banks leading to the displacement of many communities along the river bank. In response to the humanitarian crisis in



Adamawa and Bornu State, UNICEF and World Bank sent relief materials to cushion the effect of the flood disasters on the affected communities. In particular, UNICEF provided make-shift shelters for children sent out their classrooms by the flooding. However, greater participation of development partners in the management of IDPs came in 2014 and 2015 when there was an upsurge in the activities of Boko Haram which displaced an estimated 1.8 million persons in Adamawa, Bornu and Yobe States.

At the peak of the Boko Haram activities in 2014 and 2015, more development partners showed interest in mitigating IDPs plight. One of these development partners was UNHCR. The fundamental objective of UNHCR's interest and involvement with internally displaced persons in the North East was to promote their protection and pursue solutions through activities as well as advocacy based on the *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement* already discussed in this thesis. As the result of the extreme nature of population displacement in the North East, UNHCR, coordinated a massive life-saving operation to protect and assist IDPs, in addition to monitoring the security and human rights of the displaced and security agencies to mitigate IDPs protection problems. In addition, UNHCR created more favourable conditions for the return of IDPs to their original homes through advocacy and promotion of their human rights<sup>15</sup>.

Other international development partners such as Islamic Development Bank in Jeddah, the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) made substantial contributions towards providing relief and succour to the internally displaced persons in the region. For instance, on April 4<sup>th</sup> 2016, United Nations Population Fund (UNPFA), distributed Ten thousand (10,000) health kits to IDPs in North East, one hundred and forty-four (144) comprehensive reproductive health kits to



medical facilities, including clinics in the internally displaced person's camps as a response to their reproductive health need<sup>16</sup>.

UNICEF equally assisted the victims of insurgency in Borno to live their normal life again. In May 2016, the organization extended its humanitarian service to twenty-five thousand (25,000) displaced persons (IDPs) in Bama. Out of this figure, 15,000 were children, while 19,000 people had support in the area of health and nutrition in partnership with the Borno State Primary Health Care Development Agency<sup>17</sup>. During the exercise, UNICEF officials provided treatment for malaria, respiratory infections and diarrhea to about 140 out patients a day, in addition to screening for malnutrition and treating several malnourished children as well as providing vitamin A micronutrient supplements and de-worming tables.

On May 21<sup>st</sup> 2016, the World Bank donated Three hundred million US Dollars (\$300,000,000m) to its North East Food and Livelihood support Project. Tayo Adewumi, the National Coordinator Fadama III Project in Nigeria that the project by the World Bank was aimed at supporting the intention of the Federal Government to deal with the situation in the North East through food security and livelihood<sup>18</sup>. The project actually assisted those who lost their livelihood from the **Boko Haram** insurgency and continued clashes between the Fulani herdsmen and Farmers to resettle and start to live normal lives.

It should be noted that in 2015, the Federal Government launched a project to support the IDPs' livelihood and bring back the displaced people to reunite with family members; the outcome of the launch was how to restore their livelihood through agriculture. So, the project was an emergency one and this made the World Bank to start the project on good time to support the Federal Government Agenda on bringing peace to the affected states in the North East. The states that benefited from this, include Borno, Yobe, Gombe, Adamawa and Bauchi<sup>19</sup>.





Apart from UNICEF's assistance to IDPs, the Japanese Development Agency (JADA) donated the sum of Two Hundred and Ninety-Five Million Naira (295M) to help in the distribution of food and agricultural inputs to vulnerable internally displaced persons (IDP's) and host families in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States. The Japanese Government said that the gesture was in response to the urgent food needs to the victims of insurgency in the North East. The then Ambassador of Japan in Nigeria, Sadaobu Kusaoke, said the donation would help reduce the effect of food shortage and malnutrition in the affected communities. The project was implemented by Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), International Food and Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Oxfam food and Agricultural Management (OXFAM) and was carried out through procurement of food items from local markets (Goni, A, 2019).

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) also rendered psychosocial response and assistance to victims of humanitarian crisis that developed in North East due to Boko-Haram insurgency. With assistance of the French Government, IOM was able to prevent sexual and gender-based violence through the development practices that promote gender equality, respect and tolerance of gender diversity in displacement camps and host communities. IOM Nigeria Chief Mission, Enira Krdzalie, noted France assistance and asked for more resources to enable IOM provide shelter and non-Food items and relief items<sup>20</sup>.

In the case of United State Agency for International Development (USAID), the organization was involved with the management of IDP's in Nigeria in collaboration with Oando Foundation and Emergency Crisis Response (ECR). The specific area of intervention was the education of the children affected by insurgency in the North East region. The intervention entails taking 60,000 internally displaced out-of-school children in Northern Nigeria from informal to formal education institutions.



The internally displaced children were distributed into eleven (11) Oando Foundation Schools in Adamawa and Bauchi State<sup>21</sup>.

A research carried in June 2015, showed that children living in 19 of 42 Internally Displaced Person (IDP) Camps, did not have access to any form of education. The six-year insurgency in North East, Nigeria triggered a wave of displacements over 2 million persons in Adamawa, Borno, Bauchi, Gombe and Yobe States and led to the destruction of over 10,000 schools and displacement of over 19,000 teachers and over 800,000 children between the ages 3 and 17, with no access to education<sup>22</sup>.

### **The Role of NGO's in the Management of IDP's in North East**

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) refers to non-profit entities independent of governmental influence. They are volunteer groups that are usually not affiliated with any government body. They aim to provide assistance help a cause, and advocate a policy<sup>23</sup>. The NGOs have humanitarian and cooperative objectives rather than commercial objectives. They are private organizations in developed nations who render international development support; they may also be local or indigenous groups who are regionally or nationally organized; or a small group of people in villages, rendering many independent humanitarians support. These groups fall under the broad heading of NGO's.

When, therefore, North East experienced humanitarian crisis as a result of ethno-religious conflict, herders-farmers conflict, insurgency, etc, non-governmental organizations decided to step in. Non-Governmental Organizations involvement with the humanitarian crises in North-East Nigeria began in March, 2016 when the International Organization for Migration (IOM) distributed a total of 562 non-food items (NFI) Kits and 410 kitchen sets. 162 NFI kits were distributed to 3,228 IDPs in Borno in support of the relocation from Arabic Teachers College



(ATC) to Bakassi IDP Camp, and 400 NFI kits and 400 kitchen sets were handed over to host communities, particularly Bauchi State which received 200 NFI kits and Gombe State which also got 200 NFI kits for some households seeking refuge in the States<sup>24</sup>. In the same month, the IOM psychical terms reached 6,832 displaced people with lay counseling to provide basic emotional support, recreational activities with a therapeutic aim targeting especially children and teenagers<sup>25</sup>.

As noted by Shodeinde and Otabor the IOM activities in North east “included informal education for both children and adults, sensitization, identification, focused group discussions, integrated psychosocial activities with the aim of peer to peer support”<sup>26</sup>. These activities were particularly effective on the psychological well-being of the IDPs as they kept them engaged in practical activities that are income generating. Beside these, IOM also identified and referred mental disorder cases to specialized services and follow up in Yola and Maiduguri. In addition, the psychosocial team has worked on sensitizing the community about the importance of biometric registration as a protection tool ad human rights<sup>27</sup>.

An NGO known as Empowerment 54, based in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, equally intervened in the management of IDPs in the North-East. In March 2016, Empowerment 54 IDPs raised funds for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) through its annual African Art Charity Gala. The gala which was held in April 2016 in Atlanta, USA, raised money to establish schools in IDP Camps and rehabilitate those schools destroyed by the Boko Haram insurgents in the North east. The coordinator of the NGO in Nigeria, Modupe Ozolua said during the gala that the raising of the money was to “rise above terror”. She added that her non-governmental organization had started rehabilitating women and children in the affected states in the North east with money to start business and to live their normal life<sup>28</sup>. It should be noted that the efforts of Empower 54 was supported by the Mayor of



Atlanta, Kat Graham and His Excellency Emeritus Archbishop Desmond Tutu (Patron of Empower 54). Others who partnered with the NGO to assist in the management of IDPs in the North east include Andrew Young Foundation, Beslar art Gallery, Africa Atlanta, Body Enhancement Ltd, the Nigerian Consulate General (Atlanta) and Foxes T.V.<sup>29</sup>.

The Red Cross and Medicines Sans Frontieres (MSF) also contributed significantly to the management of IDPs in North east Nigeria during the period. In particular, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) assisted thousands of Internally Displaced Persons with foodstuffs and household materials in 2015. The IRC document titled, “Facts and Figures”, written by the Jos Operational Field Communication Officer of the Society, Aliyu Dawobe, showed that over 325,000 IDPs in Adamawa, Borno, Gombe, Edo and Yobe States benefitted from the assistance<sup>30</sup>. The document further showed that 104,000 IDPs out of 1.5 Million that sought for refuge in Maiduguri Metropolis, were provided with water, sanitation and hygiene facilities. It added that 1,500 widows affected by the insurgency and 7,600 IDPs in Yola and Maiduguri were provided with tents, shelters and roofing materials while 120 latrines in Maiduguri were built in various camps in the medicine San Froniter also took care of the need of IDPs in IDP Camps in Adamawa and Yobe States. It also met the female IDP elementary Medical needs.

There were NGOs that played key role in frantic efforts to protect basic humans right of the IDPs, including alleged sexual abuse by Nigerian Soldiers and camp officials. The leading non – governmental organization which pressed for this struggle was Amnesty International, NGO which operates globally to monitor, and always try to rectify glaring abuses of human rights. In the North East, Amnesty international criticized the Nigerian Soldiers and Civilian Joint Task Force for human rights violation<sup>31</sup>.



In 2015, the NGO accused Nigerian security forces of raping thousands of women and girls at the internally displaced persons' camps in the country. In their report released on May 24, 2017 titled, "They Betrayed Us". The global non – government organization, described how the Nigerian Military and CJTF separated women from their husbands and confined them in remote "Satellite Camps" where the soldiers and members of CJTF raped, sometime in exchange for food. The organizations reported that, it collected evidence which showed that thousands of people have been starved to death in the IDP Camps in Borno State (AI Report, 2017). In the words of Osai Ojigbo, the Director of Amnesty international Nigeria.

*It is absolutely shocking that people who had already suffered so much under Boko Haram have been condemned to further horrendous abuse by the Nigerian Military. Instead of receiving protection from authorities, women, girls have been forced to succumb to rape in order to avoid starvation <sup>32</sup>.*

In a survey carried out by Amnesty International in Maiduguri, Scores of women described how soldiers and CJTF have used force and threats to rape women in satellite camps by taking advantage of hunger to coerce women to become their girlfriends, which involved being available for sex on an ongoing basis. Aisha Bukar opines that;

*The soldiers and Civilian Joint Task Force always come to our camp to select beautiful women and girls and ask them to accompany them to their tents. I was once invited by a soldier who said he will help me with food. Unknowing to me, he was inviting me for sex. When I got to his tent, he raped me and forced me to have sex with him<sup>33</sup>.*

Sex in these highly coercive circumstances is always rape, even if physical force were not used and Nigerian soldiers and civilian



Joint Task Force members allegedly acted like they didn't risk sanction, but the perpetrators and supervisors who had allowed this to go unchallenged committed crimes under international law<sup>34</sup>.

However, it was not Amnesty International alone that campaigned against human rights abuses against IDPs in the North East. Other NGOs, such as Human Rights Watch, also worked in the region. It provided information and advocacy for UN and other regional organizations like the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and African Union (AU) which always attempted to promote Human Rights<sup>35</sup>. Thus, in the North East, the organization served as a bridge between the global or regional organizations and efforts to promote Human Rights.

Local civil societies and foundations were also important actors in the resettlement of IDPs in North East. The local non – governmental organizations like the Dangote Foundation, and T.Y Danjuma Foundation also assisted in raising awareness about protection and assisting the IDPs. They also supported the education for the displaced persons and strengthened the role of the host communities to ensure that they responded to the important needs of the IDPs. For instance on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Dangote foundation donated two Billion Naira (N2,000,000.000) to IDPs in Borno State<sup>36</sup>.

Likewise, the T.Y Danjuma foundation had in collaboration with some local and international organizations like All Children Charity International Foundation (ACCIF) trained 25 IDPs in shoe-making, 20 in tailoring and 10 in welding technology. Each vocation was given two trainers and trainees were provided with materials and lunch during the course of their training. The T.Y Foundation Grants and Partnership Officer, Gima Forge said that the IDPs empowerment will eventually empower other IDPs spread across the country<sup>37</sup>.



The Theophilus Yakubu Danjuma Foundation (T.Y Danjuma Foundation) also carried out medical out-reach programmes in IDP Camps in North East Nigeria. In particular it assisted persons displaced by herdsmen in Ussa, Takum and Wukari Local Governments of Taraba State with non-food items like drugs, blankets and mats. The T.Y Foundation also participated actively in the resettlement of IDPs in Taraba State.

### **Accusations and Allegations against Activities of Development Partners and Non-Governmental Organizations in the North East**

The voluntary efforts by Development Partners and Non-Governmental Organizations to assist in the management of Kumaritarian disaster in the North east during the period, came under criticisms from the Nigerian government, Nigerian Army, highly placed indigenes of the area and a section of the Nigerian Populace. The organizations were accused of communal to the north-east for their selfish interest under the guise of assisting helper refused.

The Nigerian Government accused Amnesty International (AI) of misrepresentation of facts about the crises and feeding the world with lies and deliberate falsehood about the humanitarian crisis in the north-east<sup>38</sup>. The then Nigeria Minister of Information Lai Mohammed alleged that most development partners and NGOs were not in the north-east primarily on humanitarian mission but colluding with opposition elements in the country to destroy the Buhari administration by painting bad picture of the government before the international community. The Minister particularly accused Amnesty International of serving the interest of imperialist powers<sup>39</sup>.

The Nigerian Army also accused some NGOs of obstructing their operations in the north-east and making false allegation against the Nigerian military. In 2018, the Nigerian Military announced that it received credible intelligent report of a plan by the



Amnesty International (AI) to release a report on “fictitious Rape Incidents” in IDPs Camps in the North East region of Nigeria<sup>40</sup>. The army urged Nigerians to disregard the report.

In another development, prominent incidene of the north-east Senator Ali Ndume accused Development partners and NGOs of financial malpractices and fraud. He alleged that, they lacked transparency and accountability in the disbursement of fund donated by international development partners and countries like America, United Kingdom Germany, Norway, France and others.

Ndume submitted that the NGOs received about 280 billion naira in donations from foreign partners on behalf of the North-east but spent only a fraction of that amount in the North East<sup>41</sup>. He noted that the NGO’s were taking advantage of the situation and laughing all the ways to the bank.

In the same vein, the then Governor of Borno State Kashim Shettima also criticized the activities of the NGOs operating in his state. He alleged that some development partners and NGOs took advantage of the pains of internally displaced persons in Borno State to defraud foreign philanthropists under the pretense of trying to help victims of the Boko-Haram insurgents.<sup>42</sup> The Governor made this statement in support of the disclosure by the UN Humanitarian office for Nigeria, Mohammed Sajildin who has said in the meeting that most of the pictures of critically malnourished infants children and some adults in circulation in the social media since the beginning of the June, 2016 were carried out by the NGOs. The government lamented that some NGO’s go in search of such victims and take their photographs which they share to the world targeting unsuspecting philanthropist to part with funds for the purpose of helping the displaced victims while the fund end up in private pockets. As Shettima puts it,





*I need to open up here by saying that in the midst of audible organizations trying to help us in Borno, we have seen occasional instances of some “business groups” masquerading as NGO’s smiling to the bank on the agony of our people. I do not mean to disrespect any sincere NGO’s but there are those I have seen, who are sincere NGOs but there are those I have seen whose only interest is to go round thousands of IDP’s and figure out sick and skinny looking infants, pose for the cameras with them and upload on the social media manly to attract funding from concerned philanthropist abroad<sup>43</sup>.*

There were also complaints from the ordinary citizens, particularly resident in Borno, who said that the presence of NGO’s and development partners made living condition in Maiduguri metropolitan difficult. According to Malan Bukar Ghaji, The NGO’s are extravagant in buying foodstuff. Indeed, it is because of their financial buoyancy, that the officials of NGO’s and development partners working in Borno never bargain anything they wanted to buy in the market. He avers that;

*These NGO’s are the ones who have worsened our situation and make thigs difficult and unaffordable for residents of Maiduguri Metropolis. Because they have money, they never mind bargaining any price fixed for services.<sup>44</sup>*

Reacting to the weighty allegation against their operation in the north east the international development partners and NGOs quickly denied the allegation that they were in the north east to enrich themselves. According to Jennifer Jalovec, Director of International Governmental Organization (IGOS), There is growing concern among INGOs that there is a perception that they are not demonstrating accountability nor; operating by the rules and regulations existing in Nigeria<sup>45</sup>. “She added that its members were law abiding and that they were operating within



the precepts of the Nigeria rules and regulations guiding the conduct and rule of engagement in the country. She also stated that the IGNO forum would like its members to follow existing regulatory frameworks, of operation based on principled humanitarian assistance and are committed to supporting the people of Nigeria<sup>46</sup>.

Jalovec noted that contrary to the speculations that the development partners and NGOs were confronted with difficulties such as shortage of fund, insecurity, suicide bombings, poor infrastructure and difficult terrain of operations. He posited that the development partners and NGOs should be commended for their efforts to better the lot of humanity.

Worst still, the NGOs and development partners also faced the challenges of accusation of supporting insurgents, herdsmen and armed bandits operating in north east Nigeria. In particular, the Medicines San Frontiers (Doctors without borders) were accused of supplying arms and ammunitions and medicines to Boko Haram insurgents in the sub-region. These allegations were not only openly denied by the medical group, but argued that the allegations leveled against them were by enemies of progress (Mclean, J. 2018).



## **Conclusion**

From the foregoing, it can be concluded that development partners and non-governmental organizations played crucial role in the management of internally displaced persons in North East Nigeria during the surveyed period. Interventions by these organizations in the humanitarian crises in the north east assisted to a large extent in averting humanitarian disaster by complementing the state and federal governments in saving lives and providing succour to the needy. It is also pertinent to stress that, though development partners and NGOs were accused by some stakeholders in the region of serving their interests in the northeast under the guise of managing IDPs, it should be noted that there is no perfection in nature. No human institution is perfect and development partners and NGOs are not exceptions. In spite of their alleged unethical conducts by some development and non-government organizations in the North-east during the surveyed period. The strenuous effort made by donor agencies and NGOs assisted in no small measure in addressing the plight of the IDPs in the north east and effort to seek durable solutions to internally displaced persons in north east Nigeria during the surveyed period.



## Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> Abubakar Kyari Mohammed, The North East States Transformation Strategy. (NEST 2014) pp44-45.
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- <sup>3</sup> UNHCR: Internally Displaced Persons: The Role of the UNHCR, CC/50/SC/INF2. 20 June, 2000. P5
- <sup>4</sup> Abubakar Kyari Mohammed, The North East States Transformation Strategy. (NEST 2014) P13.
- <sup>5</sup> Usman Saminaka, The Rise of Non-State Actors in North Nigeria. (Woji Publishers, 2017) p54.
- <sup>6</sup> UNHCR: Internally Displaced Persons: The Role of the UNHCR, 7EC/50/SC/INF2. P
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- <sup>11</sup> UNHCR: North East Humanitarian Review, 2017. P14
- <sup>12</sup> North East Humanitarian Overview. Version 2. 2017 p 12
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- <sup>14</sup> UNHCR: Internally Displaced Persons: The Role of the UNHCR, EC/50SC/INEC2, 20 June 2000 p10
- <sup>15</sup> Usman Saminaka, The Rise of Non-State Actors in Northern Nigeria. P30
- <sup>16</sup> UNHCR: Internally Displaced Persons: The role of the UNHCR, EC/50/SC/INE2, 20 June 2000, p 35
- <sup>17</sup> Abubakar Kyari Mohammed, North East Transformation Strategy (NES 2014) p55
- <sup>18</sup> Abubakar Goni, “Humanitarian Mission in North East Nigeria Echoes from the Dauc” pp 45-46
- <sup>19</sup> Abubakar Kyari Mohammed, The North East States Transformation Strategy (NEST 2014) P 60.



- <sup>20</sup> UNHCR: Internally Displaced Persons: The Role of the UNHCR. P65
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