

MIGRATION FOR SURVIVAL IN NIGERIA: INTERROGATING CAUSATIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

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Abstract

The movement of man and resources have remained a natural corollary of human existence. Herders move from one point to another; voluntarily or by force of unanticipated occurrences. Irrespective of the factors necessitating this movement, it has become a huge part of life and living for the pastoralists, bearing dire consequences for the migrant herders and host farming communities in ways that call for social work professional intervention. This paper focused on modern migration trends amongst Nigerian herders occasioned by climate change and human influenced disasters. It x-rayed some causes of this trend viz; climate change, ethnicity, terrorism and religion, implicating them as part of the growing spatial struggle for survival in modern Nigeria. The paper reviewed data from secondary sources including United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) and International Organization for Migration (IOM). It recommended the prompt implementation of the Paris Climate Accord (COP21) of 2015; improved capacity building for Arbitrators and conflict resolution mechanism in the country and a migration policy that will involve a holistic framework for eco-diversity.

Keywords: *Conflict, Climate change, Herdsmen, Migration, Survival*

Introduction

The movement of man from one place to another has been largely predicated on his search for survival. Social evolutionism saw the gradual transformation of humans from small itinerant band of people, hunting and gathering for survival, to the incipient transformation of people to sedentary creators of socio-economic activities for survival. While a major stalk of the horticultural Homo Sapiens has located spaces in nature for entrenching their survival demands, the pastoralists and their herds still traverse beyond borders in search of lush vegetation for their socioeconomic survival. While nature provides healthy spaces for the mutual existence and survival of these stalk of people, the activities of man (wars, terrorism and environmental degradation) and the occasional virulence of nature (Natural disasters and climate change) has threatened this mutual coexistence in many societies of sub-Saharan Africa. Thus given rise to “complex humanitarian emergencies” (Obidike, 2010).

The drivers of forced migration and displacement in Nigeria are multi-faceted, complex and often overlapping. Nigeria has one of the world’s fastest growing population, and until recently, one of the world’s fastest growing economies (Umoh, 2017). For instance, in the North-East, livelihoods and access to water and grazing pastures have been under strain for decades, as the surface area of Lake Chad has shrunk by 90 percent over the last 45 years. This may not be unconnected with increase in population, climate change and anthropogenic factors, including a lack of sustainable water management policies, and overgrazing. According to National Population Commission (NPC), the population living in this region has rapidly increased and people have increasingly migrated southwards along the perimeter of the Lake Chad basin. Over time, this movement has caused some 70 ethnic groups to converge and has contributed to increased competition, tension and conflict over resources (Umoh, 2017).

Migration is movement. It is a process. It is an observable phenomenon for those willing to see it, and is almost always evocative when witnessed. However, Udo (1978) defines migration as involving permanent or semi-permanent change of residence. This can be influenced by a combination of factors identified as push and pull factors. Some of the push factors include; climate change leading to drought, flooding and desert encroachment, crop failure, poverty, lack of safety, high crime rate, or war. The pull factors are identified as: good climate, low risk of natural hazards, fertile land, higher employment, political stability, less crime and general feeling of safety.

The International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM) describes forced migration as a general term that refers to the movement of refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs); which include those displaced by conflicts as well as people displaced by natural or environmental disaster, chemical or nuclear disasters, famine, or development projects. The main causes of involuntary displacement globally are wars and armed conflicts, although natural disasters due to climate change has seriously been implicated as a major factor. According to Summers (2003), an estimated 50 countries experienced conflict either directly or indirectly in the year 2002. As a result, there are an estimated 21 million IDPs and 12 million refugees located around the globe, especially in Africa, Central and South America, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Central and South Asia. In Nigeria, people are displaced in various states and locations due to natural disasters, such as rivers overflowing their boundaries, gully erosions, and internal strife between communities and villages. A typical example of this internal strife is the farmers-herdsmen crisis in parts of the North-central of Nigeria. The above emergency situations highlighted, brings to the fore the situation and plight of the migrants, and the consequences of the situations on their growth and development. The unusual and threatening conditions brought on them by the disruption of the society, lead to negative outcomes and consequences for this population.

The Nigerian situation is quite unlike other West African Countries, for two reasons; most notably the ambiguous prestige of pastoral culture particular to Fulani pastoralists but also because of its large and comparatively wealthy population (Odoh and Chilaka, 2012). Nigeria has a restricted inventory of pastoral peoples, the Fulani, the Kanuri-related groups, the Shuwa, the Yedina and the Uled Suleiman. The most numerous and widespread are the Fulani who have expanded eastwards from the Gambia river over the last thousand years and probably entered Nigeria in the fourteenth century. According to Taiwo (2010), the cattle-based pastoralism of the Fulani has thus been the most significant focus of herder/farmer conflict in Nigeria. He pointed out that for a long period, the Fulani were confined to the edge of the desert and that around the twentieth century, Fulani herders began to migrate through and settle in areas that were previously inaccessible to pastoralists, bringing them in contact with previously unknown peoples, cultures and production systems. The consequences of this were a raft of untested interactions between all parties and considerable space for misunderstandings and conflict.

However, if Fulani herders are unable to build exchange relations with their host communities, particularly farmers, they can only survive either by settling, by flexible movement patterns that involve encountering new arable communities every year, or by intimidation of the farmers. All of these strategies occur in Nigeria, sometimes practiced simultaneously by different Fulani herdsman group. In any case, each of these arising situations brings about the displacement of persons and a movement for survival. In recent time, armed conflict between

herdsmen and their host communities had been reported to have taken place in over 20 villages in Nigeria, including, Ago Nla, Ago Kekere, Idi OpeKekere, Olukore, Olokuta, Apena, Jaramosan, Akeeran, Alagigo, Aaaro, Temidire, Iya Ibadan, Ideto, Apapa, Akele, Agwo, Bodija, Olufayo, OkoTeku, Moniya, Oke Ogun, Shaki, Egbedore. Ilobu, EfonAlaye, Alu, and Iyamoye (Taiwo, 2010).

Similarly, the consequences of forced migration on the survival needs of the migrant are enormous. These needs are essential for the overall development and adjustment of the Nigerian migrants. Anything that helps to ensure a person's survival is included under this category of needs. Therefore, food, shelter, warmth, safety, and money represent satisfaction of survival needs. When there is forced migration, family living is disrupted and with it, the sources of the essential needs for the migrant are suddenly interrupted. Without the provision of the physiological or psychological needs, migrants would lack the basic necessities of life and therefore may not develop optimally. Hence, forced migration presents particular challenges that call for the fulfillment of natural responsibilities that are basic for survival of migrants.

The purpose of this study is therefore to assess the pattern, identify the causes and consequences of forced migration in Nigeria, and their impact on the provision and protection of the survival needs of the migrant herders and farmers alike, and their implications for social work profession.

Theoretical Framework

Underpinning the issue of climate change induced migration with its attendant herders-farmers conflict is the Environmental Scarcity Theory. Thomas Homer-Dixon, one of the proponents of this theory, proposes that environmental scarcity could produce violent conflicts. Such conflicts range from ethnic clashes, to civil strife (insurgencies), scarcity induced wars due to loss of sources of livelihoods (Homer-Dixon, 1999). Environmental scarcity has “a variety of critical social effects, including declining food production, general economic stagnation or decline, displacement of population, and the disruption of institutions and traditional social relations among people and groups” (Homer-Dixon,1998). In his own contribution, Benjaminsen (2008) argued that, scarcity is believed to be rapidly increasing in many marginal environments, owing to ongoing processes of climate change induced environmental degradation. Consequently, the environmental scarcity theory has three main dimensions: Supply-induced scarcity, demand induced scarcity, and structural scarcity (Homer-Dixon, 1994). Supply-induced scarcity emerges when resources are reduced and degraded faster than they are replenished. Demand-induced scarcity arises out of population growth as against its source of livelihood, while structural scarcity exists because of inequitable distribution of resources due to their concentration in the hands of a few, while the rest of the population suffers from resource inadequacy (Homer-Dixon,1999). Hauge and Ellingsen (1998) agree that increased environmental scarcity caused by one or more of these factors is assumed to have several consequences, which in turn may lead to domestic armed conflict, with intervening variables such as decreased agricultural production, and grazing field, decreased economic activity, migration and a weakened state helping to build up the environmental scarcity and violent conflict. As people’s quality of life diminishes due to decrease in environmental resources such as fertile land, there is the tendency that competition may ensue over the scarce resources. Such competition if unchecked could turned fierce, may result into violent conflicts such as the present Nigerian case. Environmental scarcity in this case connotes limited supply of grazing land, farmland and water. Such environmental scarcity generates ‘severe social

stresses within countries, helping to stimulate sub national insurgencies, ethnic clashes and urban unrest' (Homer-Dixon, 1999).

Migration for Survival

Migration for survival is that peculiar movement of people characterised by urgent need to fulfil basic survival needs. This has been a factor causing millions of people around the world to leave their original place of abode either forcibly or voluntarily. According to McConville (2018), globally, twenty (20) people are forced to leave their home every minute, and the total global forcibly displaced people currently stand at over 65 million. 10 million of them stateless and 22 million are refugees in a foreign land. McConville went on to outline common causes of forced migration which include but not limited to Climate change.

Climate change refers to change in the distribution of weather pattern with corresponding change in the average surface temperature. The likely adverse consequences of this condition are drought, flooding, erosion, earthquake, etc. A single drought can mean disaster for communities whose lives and livelihoods depend solely on land. Drought also leaves families without access to clean water, often leading to dirty and contaminated water as alternative for bathing, drinking, and growing crops, which could potentially bring disease, affecting most especially the elderly, children, and pregnant and lactating women. Conversely, individuals, families or communities in regions that are vulnerable to heavy rains or and high winds can as well be forced to migrate as a result of flooding, which may most probably lead to erosion. Outbreaks of contagious disease often follow in the wake of issues brought up by drought, flooding, and earthquakes. When crops are threatened and water supplies are either limited or contaminated, the risk of infection increases. When people are faced with precarious conditions such as this without other alternatives, they are forced to seek for survival through migration. The above scenario is a major constrain to the production potential of grassland and livestock in the arid and semi-arid region (Thebaud and Batterbury, 2001; Ifatimehin, 2008). In Nigeria, grazing movements to access pasture resources across regions in order to ensure food security for the herds was conceived and implemented, hence, pastures, woody vegetation, water resources and land are taken as a common property resource as reported by Berger (2003). But the complex land-use system in Nigeria that has changed markedly over time has contributed to the present day tension and conflicts between herdsman and host communities. Consequent upon this, Jibo (2001) had reported that the Benue Valley region in Nigeria had witnessed violent conflicts enough to attract both State and National attention. Crops, livestock, water resources and other vegetal resources played key roles in the development, maintenance, survival and projection of socio-economic strength of a society (Schama, 2006) and must be fought for and protected. The Fulani herdsmen which are predominantly found in the northern part of Nigeria are seen migrating southwards in droves obviously for social and economic survival consequent upon factors which are not unrelated to climate change, and in the Nigerian case, drought and desertification. The livelihood strategies of these herders have resulted in conflicts over the destruction of crops and occupation of farmlands.

The environmental degradation is perceived to be contributing enormously to the deterioration of the ecosystem services to the environment of various communities. The increased provisions of social services in towns, such as health centers, schools, and food aid, as well as the increased economic opportunities have led to settlement and concentration of grazing in areas around such towns (Haro, and Doyo, 2005). These new unplanned settlements, together with their foreseen and unforeseen implications, are providing the basis to painfully learn that environmental resources are finite as human economy (population and resource utilization) has

exceeded them and are becoming limited as unsustainable utilization affects human, social, economic and environmental sustainability. Economically viable land has been a major cause of conflict between communities in Nigeria. Otite and Albert (1999) pointed out that the pursuit of access to a variety of limited resources which include; grasslands, markets, water spots for animals, rival claims to land, government policies, leadership of political parties etc, by individuals differentiated by different categories in defined socio-physical environments give rise to conflicts.

A study of major sources of conflict in the middle belt and southern region of Nigeria revealed that land matter accounted for the highest percentage (42.9%) of conflicts followed by political (32.08%) and chieftaincy matters (28.3%) respectively. A high percentage of conflicts arising from land disputes have to do with conflict between Fulani herdsmen and farmers over grazing land. Environmental degradation, social manipulation of ethno-religious biases, and technological advances have altered relationships that were historically interdependent and mutually beneficial. The tense relationships and cycles of attacks have killed thousands of people and displaced more than 62,000 people in the Middle Belt (kwaja and Ademola-Adelehin, 2018). The State has played a key role in the conflicts over land from three critical levels, viz: (i) the States inability to address the “indigenes are settler” phenomenon in the Nigerian Constitution; (ii) the unresolved issues on grazing land and water spots that are central to the economic survival of both the herdsmen and the farming communities; (iii) the Nigerian land tenure system which has had serious implications for land acquisition by the peasants and the lower class.

As already noted in the paper, the various conflicts that ensued between Fulani herdsmen and farmers arose from the destruction of farm lands by herds of cattle. Government at various levels (federal, state and local) has not addressed the issue of adequate provision of grazing reserves to accommodate the interest of herdsmen who are always migrating (for survival) to secure food and water for their herds. The socio-economic lives of both the farmers and the herdsmen revolve around land and therefore, land matters become easily conflictual in the face of growing migration, especially where the push factors are largely natural. Another critical issue that is related to land is the phenomenon of indigeneship in Nigeria. The factor of indigeneship confers on individual the right to own land. Boh (2007) and Gbehe (2007) in their separate works pointed out that Land in most communities in Nigeria such as found among the southerners is freighted with symbolic meaning. It is sacred and considered as an ancestral and historical sphere of influence. On the strength of this, therefore, conflicts over land are usually fierce with massive destructions of lives and properties.

Egwu (2009), in his study, opined that the 1999 Nigerian Constitution is deficient in the provisions dealing with indigeneship/settler phenomenon. The author proffered a review of the constitution with specific attention on the interests of immigrants ensuring that they possess rights and privileges as the indigenes. Essentially, the land tenure system in vogue in Nigeria is a precipitation of conflicts. This is because this process has created acute shortage of arable land thereby engendering disputes over the little that is available (Egwu, 2009). It was to correct this anomaly and ensure effective utilization of arable land in Nigeria that, agricultural development agencies like River Basins, Agricultural Development Projects (ADP), Directorate of Food, Road and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI), National Agricultural Land Development Agencies (NALDA) etc. were introduced as panacea for improved agricultural projects.

The Influence of Religious Crisis and Climate Change on Migration

According to UNHCR, the number of forcibly displaced people both within countries and across borders as a result of persecution, conflict, or Climate Change has grown by over 50 per cent in the last 10 years; in 2007 there were 42.7 million forcibly displaced people, and by the end of 2017 the figure was 68.5 million (UNHCR, 2018). Today 1 out of every 110 people in the world is displaced. Of the 68.5 million forcibly displaced people as a result of persecution, conflict, or generalized violence, 58 per cent or 40.0 million were internally displaced people (IDPs). The remaining 42 per cent comprised 25.4 asylum million refugees and 3.1 million asylum-seekers (UNHCR, 2018). Such figures show that it is important to keep in mind that forcibly displaced persons not only comprise refugees and asylum seekers seeking protection in other countries, but also, and indeed mainly, of individuals who have been displaced within the borders of their own countries. The world recorded a drastic increase in forced displacement between 2007-2017 mainly due to the Syrian conflict, other conflicts in the region, and conflicts in sub-Saharan Africa (UNHCR, 2018).

In the marginalized North East of Nigeria, a combination of political, social, economic and environmental factors has created fertile ground for the emergence of militant armed groups such as Boko Haram. The group's indiscriminate attacks against civilians, including bombings, mass shootings, suicide attacks, kidnappings and property destruction, have prompted million to flee for survival within and across Nigerian borders to neighbouring Niger, Cameroon and Chad. These countries have also experienced insecurity and displacement by Boko Haram activities within their own territories. In recent time, armed conflict between herdsmen and their host communities had been reported to have taken place in over 20 villages in Nigeria, including, Ago Nla, Ago Kekere, Idi Ope Kekere, Olukore, Olokuta, Apena, Jaramosan, Akeeran, Alagigo, Aaaro, Temidire, Iya Ibadan, Ideto, Apapa, Akele, Agwo, Bodija, Olufayo, OkoTeku, Moniya, Oke Ogun, Shaki, Egbedore. Ilobu, EfonAlaye, Alu, and Iyamoye (Taiwo, 2010).

Blench (2010) had attributed the causes of these conflicts to increased migration from the North to the South. For example, over the years, the Lake Chad Basin, considered one of Africa's largest, covering an average area of 22,000 square kilometers, today represents the 'diminished remains' and a skeletal shadow of itself. This has pushed many migrants, mainly migrant herders to cross the border from Chad, Niger and Cameroon into northern Nigeria, settling in cities such as Plateau, Benue, Niger, Nasarawa and Kogi. Yahaya, (2011) also viewed religion as a cause of conflict between herders and farmers in Nigeria. He noted that in most communities where herders settle as a result of pull factors, religious compatibility is always a source of conflict.

Nigeria is highly exposed to natural hazards and is affected yearly by a number of disasters, the most common being floods occurring in lowlands and river basins where people live in densely-populated informal settlements. Displacement is caused not only by rains and overflowing watercourses, but has also occurred due to the release of water from dam reservoirs in Nigeria and in upstream countries. Desert encroachment has also been a major source of concern and has been seen as a key factor influencing migration.

Some scholars have identified different factors which include climate changes, the migration further south, the growth of agro-pastoralism, the expansion of farming on pastures, the invasion of farmlands by cattle, assault on non-Fulani women by herders, blockage of stock routes and water points, fresh water scarcity, burning of rangelands, cattle theft, inadequate animal health care and disease control, overgrazing on fallow lands, defecation on streams and

roads by cattle, extensive sedentarisation, ineffective coping strategies, ethnic stereotyping, and the breakdown of conflict intervention mechanisms as the root causes of such violence in rural areas (Folami 2009; Ofuoku&Isife 2009; Adekunle & Adisa 2010; Blench 2010; Udoh & Chigozie 2012; Solagberu 2012; Audu 2013, 2014; Bello 2013; McGregor 2014).

Nomadic Herdsmen and Farmers Clashes in Nigeria

Nomadic herdsmen and farmers' clashes have been on the increase in recent times. While many have divergent opinions on the causes of clashes between them, the 2015 Global Terrorism Index, labeled the Fulani militants as the fourth deadliest militant group in the world with a record killing of about 1229 people in 2014. However, according to some National Dailies and as compiled by Duru (2017), Nigeria has recorded series of clashes between herdsmen and farmers between February 2016 and February 2017, resulting to loss of lives and properties as well as forced migration. Some of the clashes include:

- February 2016 clash between herdsmen and farmers in Benue State, where more than 40 people were killed, about 2,000 displaced and over 100 seriously injured (Duru, 2016).
- March 2016 siege on communities (Aila, Akwu, Adagbo, Okokolo, Ugboju, Odugbeho, Obagaji and Egba) in Agatu Local Government Area of Benue State where about 500 people were killed by rampaging herdsmen (Premium Times, March 12, 2016).
- April 2016: Fulani herdsmen attacked two villages and killed 15 people in Gashaka Local Government Area of Taraba State (April 13, 2016, Punch).
- April 2016 attack on farming communities by Fulani armed men in Lagelu Local Council Area at night, killing a guard and carted away valuables worth millions of Naira (April 26, 2016, Thisday).
- April 2016 attack by Fulani herdsmen on seven villages in Nimbo, Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area of Enugu State, killing about 40 persons in (April 26, 2016, Vanguard).
- June 2016 attacks on Benue communities such as Ugondo, Turan and Gabo Nenzen in the Logo Local Government Area of the state by suspected herdsmen where 59 farmers were suspected to have been killed (June 20, 2016, Punch).
- August 2016 attack by suspected Herdsmen reportedly numbering over 50 on Ndiagu community of Attakwu, Akegbe-Ugwu in Nkanu West Local Government Area of Enugu State (September 4, 2016, The Sun).
- October 2016 attack by armed Fulani herdsmen on villagers who attempted to stop their cattle from grazing their farmlands in Umuekune village of Irete community in Owerri West Local Government Area of Imo State. Several people were injured (June 5, 2016, New Telegraph).
- January 2017 crisis between Fulani herdsmen and Idoma farmers at Okpokwu Local Government in Benue State, which left not less than five people dead and several others injured (January 24, 2017, Nigeria Newspapers).
- January 16 Fulani herdsmen attacked on Rafin Gona and Gbagyi villages in Bosso Local Government Area of Niger State, leaving at least 6,000 persons displaced and nine people killed including a police Inspector and an Assistant Superintendent Officer of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (January 16, 2017, Daily Nigeria News).

The level of intolerance among the nomadic herdsmen and farmers in Nigeria has deteriorated to an unimaginable level of arms struggle resulting in countless deaths, displacements and migration for survival among villagers, with the attendant reduction in the population of the

peasant farmers. Nigeria's population, currently the seventh largest in the world, is growing rapidly. The population growth rate of Nigeria per year is 3.2% (National Population Commission, 2012). Therefore, more and more people will continue to compete over land. Over the last generation, most of the increment in food supply has been obtained by an expansion in irrigation farming (Duda, 2012). Hence, it is important to note that the combined effects of climate change on herders and the violent herders/farmers clashes will continue to have direct impact on the lives and livelihoods of those involved and will lead to the displacement of economic productive farming population of communities as they will likely migrate to seek survival.

The conflicts between farmers and herders in Nigeria that have left scores of people dead across the middle belt and the southern part of Nigeria illustrate the intensifying pressure and competition for survival on arable land in Africa and in Nigeria in particular. Mwanza (2018) in line with this stated that fertile land that is dwindling due to climate change combined with a population boom is fueling conflicts across the continent. Africa's arable land is being taken up by desert encroachment, the rest by infrastructure, farmers and multinational agricultural firms. More people to feed mean more agricultural settlements and less available grazing reserves and water for herders. All of these tend to trigger more and more disputes, all for the purpose of survival. Climate change, bringing extreme weather, droughts and desertification, has increased conflict over land, this translates to limited access to clean water which also affects agricultural productivity (UNEP,2018).

According to Mwanza (2018), the deaths of at least 86 people in Nigeria's central Plateau state on June 2018 are seen as part of an escalation of conflicts that have raged for years, often over land. Nigeria has one of the world's fastest growing populations, rapidly approaching 200 million and expected to be bigger than the United States by 2050, according to United Nations estimates. With the Boko Haram jihadists' insurgency in the last decade in Nigeria's central and northern states, as well the shrinkage of the surface area of Lake Chad by 90% over the last 45 years, herders have been pushed south to populated farming areas (IDMC, 2018). At least 2,000 people died annually in Nigeria's Middle Belt due to communal land conflicts between cattle herders and farmers between 2011 and 2016, (International Crises Group, 2018). The drought and desertification have degraded pastures and dried up many natural water sources across Nigeria's northern state, forcing herdsmen southwards in search of grassland to survive on.

The spread of conflict into the southern states is aggravating already fragile relations among the country's major regional, ethnic and religious groups. The south's majority Christian communities resent the influx of predominantly Muslim herders. The violence in Nigeria's diverse Middle Belt states has killed more people than the Islamist insurgency in Nigeria's northeast (IDMC, 2018). Climatic change has therefore been implicated as the major factor driving the herders to seek for survival for themselves and their herds/cattle, and in that aggressive quest, endangers the survival needs of farmers leading to farmers-herders conflict which the federal government of Nigeria is yet to successfully grapple with.

Consequences of Forced Migration

Violent confrontations between farmers and herders have become a defining feature of inter-group relations among different communities in Nigeria. Kwaja and Ademola-Adelehin (2018) noted that conflicts between farmers and herders exist on a large scale, both within Nigeria and the greater Lake Chad Basin. States within Nigeria's Middle Belt have as well witnessed an

increase in casualties as consequences of these fractured relationships. Crop damage, attacks on cattle, and cattle theft/rustling are major conflict triggers that initiate violence between the two groups, which often leads to cycles of reprisal attacks. Others include:

Psychological and mental health issues

Forced migration process itself is always traumatic for individuals, with the trauma stemming from the deep sense of loss that they experience (Crisp, 1996). Forced migrants may experience material loss which refers to the physical, familiar environment left behind, which may encompass the home or any other physical assets the individuals may have possessed back home (Galambos, 2005). It includes also, the loss of family members, friends, long-standing social contacts, and their overall social support and community, as well as loss of established social norms and values.

In addition, there are unique psychosocial problems, such as extreme anger, that characterize the experience of these individuals or those who are secondary victims to the loss (George, 2012). Diaconu, Racovita-Szilagy and Bryan (2018), complementing the works of other authors, outlined other possible psychological disorders that different groups of migrants may suffer from, these include, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), suicidal thoughts and suicides, anxiety disorders stemming from the trauma experienced, sleep disturbances, impaired concentration and loss of memory, community and family stigma faced due to the loss of the original socio-economic status, women and girls are often exposed to more gender-based violence and are more likely to experience depression and post-traumatic stress than men.

Socio-economic issues

Migrants seeking for survival also struggle with socio-economic issues. Forced migrants often have limited or no access to health care, welfare, or social services from the government in the host communities or transitional countries (George, 2012). Instead they must depend on private social service agencies and charitable organizations for meeting their basic needs: food, shelter, clothing, or money for transportation. In Nigeria, government assistance (NEMA) is not adequate and bedeviled with corruption.

Due to many reasons that influence forced migration, many people who are displaced internally in Nigeria either due to climate change or armed conflict were not prepared to migrate, but fled the presenting situation without resources or specific plans for relocation especially when it is armed conflict. Moreover, many IDPs came from a rural background, with few transferable skills into the urban areas of resettlement. Lack of access to resources, lack of knowledge about resources, and lack of employment and proper housing all contribute to the socio-economic issues faced by IDPs.

Legal Issues

Those who are forced to settle in communities other than their own for the sake of survival face some disturbing legal issues which prevent them from living their normal life. It is either that they are confined or restricted to certain places or certain activities as a result of their residence or employment status, and this can be frustrating for somebody who is used to unrestricted or regimented freedom. To secure forced migrants' human rights and a dignified standard of living in the host community, it is recommended that they should be granted legal status; temporary or permanent, depending on the individual circumstances (International Journal of Refugee Law, 2006). This is very important since access to employment, health, stable social

environment and other resources are dependent on addressing the legal needs of forcibly displaced people in their transition or resettlement communities (Al-Qdah & Lacroix, 2010).

Social Work Intervention

The federal and state governments, civil society, religious groups, and communities have responded to the different manifestations of this conflict in a variety of ways, yet key gaps and opportunities remain to better prevent violence and improve the quality of lives of migrants seeking for survival.

People who are seeking for survival for being forced to leave their original place of abode due to climate change or human induced activities face a wide range of problems. Social workers are equipped with the professional knowledge and technics to intervene successfully and assist people who as a result of forced migration are facing life threatening situations, ranging from mental/emotional trauma, poverty due to lose of properties, loss of self-esteem, etc.

Social workers play key roles in addressing the mental health and social issues of forced migrants in a variety of settings. Social workers carefully consider the cultural and migratory context of each individual and group in planning for intervention (Bronstein, Montgomery & Dobrowolski, 2012). In many cases, they are called to become educators or teachers and counselors, imparting best practices for addressing the specific needs of this population. Their first line of treatment is to identify unique challenges to resettlement and social integration and with the help of stake holders and group leaders initiate social programs specifically addressing social rehabilitation and reintegration, prevention of gender-based violence, programs aiming to alter the experience of traumatic events as well as appropriate gender relationships. Ochen (2012) has a strong belief that social workers are well equipped to work with diverse populations within the forced migration context, respecting the cultural, social, and spiritual aspects that inform resilience and healing.

Globally, social workers are found and in the Nigerian context, are capable of working with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to address socio-economic issues and provide planning for implementation of assistance programs. Therefore, social workers have major roles to play in providing public awareness, advocating for resources and education, community organizing, and planning and delivering peace and reconciliation programs (Al-Qdah & Lacroix, 2010). Social workers are knowledgeable about the available services including resettlement options while providing culturally appropriate interventions that address and respect the individuals' right to self-determination (George, 2012; Libal & Harding, 2011). Social workers have an ethical mandate to address social and economic justice issues (NASW, 2008), therefore placing them in a position to advocate for resources, provide education and training to IDPs, and assist in the process of post-conflict resettlement at the reception site through building community and social networks as well as post-conflict resettlement in their original place of abode (Arias, Ibáñez & Querubin, 2014; Aysa-Lastra, 2011).

Social workers have a specific role to play in raising awareness regarding the legal needs of refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs and returnees. They must advocate for a stable social environment and access to employment, health, and other resources through legalizing the status of forcibly displaced people in their transition or resettlement community (Al-Qdah & Lacroix, 2010). In Nigeria, social workers have the capacity to invoke state and federal laws that protects the legal rights of every Nigerian to stay, work and go about his or her legal business without molestation or any form of harassment in part of the country. Social workers mediate between NGOs and UNHCR to promote a streamlined legal process that is accessible and responsive to the specific population of interest.

Recommendations

Based on the forgoing analyses, the following recommendations have been put forward:

- The provision and enforcement of policies that ensure immediate help to the needs of the forced migrants, especially for the most essential needs of the forced migrant Nigerian child at the national, state, and local levels.
- The national, state, and local authorities should work together to develop framework for action for addressing both the protection and assistance of the needs of internally displaced persons in situations of internal strife between states or communities.
- Social workers should get involved in advocacy and policy change on behalf of refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs and returnees who may not be entitled to services, or lack access to them due to their circumstances (Delgado, Jones, & Rohani, 2005). Within the process of recognizing personal limitations, it should be mentioned that professionals, and social workers in particular, should recognize the importance of a culturally competent practice that addresses client issues in the context of their understanding and cultural awareness.
- There is still a pressing need for further applied research on how social service providers can best respond to these individuals in ways that incorporate cultural competency, and on evidence-based practices.
- Additionally, there is a pressing need for research that addresses administrative and leadership issues, and includes community organizing to help with long term sustainment of programs for refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs, and returnees (UNHCR, 2012).
- In the context of today's global village, world influences and population movements, it is of paramount importance for social workers, as well as other professionals, to know the issues faced by forced migrants, and to understand challenges and celebrate successes in the developing field of forced migration.

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