
Field Methodology on Coping Strategies to Sustained livelihood Assets Shortfalls among Internally Displaced Persons in Abuja, Nigeria

Samuel Okpan^{1*}, Peter Ezeah²

¹Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Evangel University, Akaeze, Ebonyi State, Nigeria

²Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka Anambra State, Nigeria

*Corresponding author
Samuel Okpan

Abstract: The plight of internally displaced persons are better imagined than experienced. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) are people who have lost their means of livelihood as a result of some form of insecurity such as insurgency which forced them out of their natural or preferred domiciles. Left on their own fate, with little or no care, IDPs are confronted with divergent livelihood vulnerabilities ranging from healthcare to broken kinship ties. This paper presents an empirical data gathering experience among internally displaced persons in New Kuchingoro and Area 1 IDP Camps in Abuja, Nigeria. The study adopted a concurrent mixed research method comprising questionnaires for quantitative and Key Informant Interviews KII for qualitative data gathering from a sample size of 969 generated from a population of 7,573 using the Taro Yamane Statistical formula. The major challenges experienced were access to the camps coupled with skepticism on the essence of the interview and fear of victimization. Despite all the challenges, the paper recommends that field work as a sociological research process should be encouraged among scholars; and the experience could bring about appreciation of what could be termed “Practical Sociology” which involves going there, seeing the people and hearing them personally narrate their experiences by themselves.

Keywords: Internally Displaced Persons, Livelihood Assets, Challenges, Field Work, Abuja.

INTRODUCTION

According to a 2014 estimate by (IDMC), there are approximately 33.3 million displaced persons (excluding development induced displacement) across the world, half of which are found in Africa. This suggests that about 15 million people are internally displaced in Africa, and, 9 of the 24 countries with the highest rate of displacement are African [1]. In other words, Africa is the continent with the highest number of IDPs in the world. Also, recent studies have shown that Sub-Sahara African countries are the highest in the distribution chart, hosting 10.4 million IDPs, with an increase of 7.5% between 2013 and 2014 [2]. There were 12.5 million IDPs in Sub-Saharan Africa as of the end of 2013, which is over one-third of the world's total. Of this figure, Nigeria, accounting for about 3,300,000 IDPs as of March 2014, tops the list of the three countries with the largest population of IDPs in Africa, followed by Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan, respectively (figures from IDMC), while Cameroon records about 38, 215 IDPs. Despondently, Nigeria, particularly, has been finding it increasingly difficult and is almost failing in its task to manage its plethora of IDP predicaments [3]. IDPs experience hunger, social discrimination and exclusion from decision making processes. OCHA [4] reported that 6.1 million IDPs in Northeast Nigeria lack protection, 3.4 million in lack of adequate nutrition, 6.9 million lack access to health, and 2.9 million lack access to education this situation hampers their sustained livelihood. In addition, notwithstanding direct poverty situation, IDPs are also in deficiency of actualizing the sixth goal of the (SDG6) which is on sustained clean water and sanitation. OCHA [4] reported that 3.6 million IDPs lack WASH facilities and other livelihood asserts. Regular blockades prevent food supplies from reaching markets, especially district headquarters, reduced marketing opportunities, lack of mobility for trade and wage employment, reduced developmental activities, and reduced construction of infrastructure and houses has meant a decline in income and employment opportunities [5].

However, IDPs are not utterly abandoned, several agencies are rendering assistance to them. Reports suggest that organizations such as Oxfam, UNDP, USAID, and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) independently or in partnership with national agencies provide multi sectoral response aiming to assist IDPs with items such as plastic shelters, blankets, sleeping mats, jerry cans, kitchen sets, and soaps. For instance, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) [6] donated bags of rice, cartons of oil as well as other items to IDPs in Abuja Nigeria [7, 6, 8]. In Nigeria, the State/National Emergency Management Agency (S/NEMA), Nigerian Red Cross, IRC, Federation of Muslim Women of Nigeria, Dangote Foundation etc assist IDPs in various camps such as the Michka camp in Adamawa state, Bade in Yobe State and Bakassi IDP camp in Maiduguri in Bornu State and Durumi camp in Abuja etc. Notwithstanding the efforts, persistent lack of livelihood assets and “stable instability” are still endemic within most of the camps. For instance, IDPs are threatened with unemployment more than their counterparts in the general population [9]. Secondly, IDP camps are still overcrowded with substandard sanitation [10], leading to increase in transmission of communicable diseases that are especially dangerous to children.

In Nigeria, OCHA [4] reported that limited food aid has reached over 82,831 IDPs living in host communities in Yola North, Yola South, Girei, Gombi, Maiha, Yola North and Michka in Adamawa, urgent food aid should be extended to IDPs living in host communities in these LGAs. Within the camp of internally displaced person's their plights are more worrying and precarious [11]. At the Kuchingoro camp there is still absolute shortage of food as much as shelter, when IDPs are fortunate enough to find food to eat, there is often no water and they settle for muddy brook water instead. The camp environment is awful, security situation of the camp appalling and these victims of violence face the constant threat of an epidemic outbreak; artisans at Durumi camp are reportedly unable to find any job even after searching for virtually everywhere [12]. Again another report suggested that over 272 children in Area 1 camp in Abuja starve and lack access to modern equipped schools, without teachers and educational aids, the children seat on mats and tarpaulin to receive some form of learning and there is no electricity, the people sleep in darkness [13].

IDPs, particularly those affected by conflict, are mostly mentally challenged. The commonly reported psychological reactions are Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders (PTSDs) [14], panic attacks and anxiety disorders [15] and disruption in education has also affected mental health of displaced children [16]. Outbreaks of tuberculosis, dysentery and flu have been reported in displacement camps in Myanmar International Rescue Committee (IRC) 2017. The psychological distress occurring in the post-conflict environment also contributes to harmful health behaviours such as hazardous drinking and increased smoking [17]. It has also been reported that in various countries IDPs are paid lower wages than their counterparts in the general population. The average day rate for casual construction work in Goma, DRC, is normally \$1.80, but only \$1.20 for IDPs (Norwegian Refugee Council, NRC, 2014). Again the poverty rate among IDPs has been estimated at 25 per cent, compared with 20 per cent for the general population [18]. In Somalia, IDPs in Mogadishu have lower living standards than host communities and economic migrants living in the same informal settlements [19]. Children also face deleterious effect of IDP situation, it has been found that the hardship of internal displacement pushed children to work so as to help support their families, interrupting their childhood and education.

OCHA [4], reported that in Nigeria, due to overcrowded settlements IDPs suffer respiratory and other communicable diseases such as cholera, diarrhea etc. out of school without a job youths recruited into insurgency groups, armed rubbery gangs, and prostitution. In the camps, the new unwanted identity, leads to stigma and depreciated social capital. The label 'IDP' also establishes a power relationship with the host in the socio economic space of livelihood causing severe tensions and conflict. Other effects include; families are torn apart, communities dispersed, culture suppressed, and normal support systems destroyed and the affected population is forced to depend on whatever means for basic survival [20, 21]. Women and girls are often victims of physical and sexual violence within the camps [22]. Most of these women are afflicted with physical injuries as a result of sexual violence, some unwanted pregnancies and mental health, at the extreme sexually transmitted infections including HIV leading to death [23]. Sadly, insurgency itself cripples many fighting men who are then abandoned and left without care [24]. Due to lack of human capital education, women-headed households depend on men from other households for tasks (e.g., including simple tasks such as taking children to hospital) some of the men taking undue advantage of them. Due to the unfamiliar and difficult situations, women's voices are feeble; they cannot speak up or relate their problems properly [25].

The rationale for this study is to elicit knowledge that could help turn around the situations above. Thereby helping Nigeria actualize SDGs on ending poverty and also reversing the tendency for increase in insurgency, armed rubber, and other crimes; and ultimately reduce untimely deaths associated with poor healthcare and WASH. Considering the fact that this problems with it deleterious effects still persist within the camps despite the interventions by national and international agencies it therefore implies that there exist a gap in knowledge which this study promises to fill. It is therefore necessary to investigate the coping strategies of this vulnerable population and possible measures to improve the inadequacies. This information is essential for the planning and delivery of comprehensive livelihood assets to cater for the full complement livelihood needs in Nigeria.

Therefore this study is designed to investigate the coping strategies to sustained livelihood assets shortfall amongst IDPs within camp settlements in Abuja FCT, North – Central Nigeria.

Research Questions

The following research questions are put forward to guide this study:-

1. What is the current state of livelihood assets amongst Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Abuja FCT, Nigeria?
2. What are the barriers to sustained livelihood assets of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Abuja FCT, Nigeria?
3. What are the coping strategies to shortfalls in sustained livelihood assets of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Abuja FCT, Nigeria?

4. How effective is kingship ties in sustaining livelihood assets of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Abuja FCT, - central Nigeria?
5. In what ways can sustained livelihood assets of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nigeria be enhanced?

Objectives of the study

This study has both general and specific objectives. The general objective is to examine the coping strategies to sustained livelihood assets barriers by internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Abuja Nigeria. The specific objectives include:

1. To ascertain the current state of livelihood assets amongst Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Abuja FCT, Nigeria.
2. To examine the barriers to sustained livelihood assets of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Abuja FCT, Nigeria.
3. To explore the coping strategies used by IDPs against the barriers to sustained livelihood assets in Abuja FCT, Nigeria.
4. Access how effective kingship ties helps in sustaining livelihood assets of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Abuja FCT, Nigeria.
5. Identify ways by which sustained livelihood assets of IDPs can be enhanced in Abuja FCT, Nigeria.

Hypotheses

The following hypothesis are designed to guide this study

1. Respondents with higher family size are more likely to agree on the sufficiency of coping strategies than those with small family sizes.
2. Respondent's length of stay in IDP camp is associated with access to healthcare coping strategy.
3. There is a significant relationship between educational attainment and access to job coping strategy amongst IDPs in Abuja, Nigeria.
4. Female respondent are more likely to demand for WASH coping strategies than their male counter parts amongst IDPs in Abuja FCT, Nigeria.
5. Respondent who have stayed longer in IDP camps are more likely to desire kinship ties than their counter parts who has not stayed long.

Study Design

This study adopt a mixed research design. A mixed research design involves collecting, analyzing, and integrating (or mixing) quantitative and qualitative research methods (and data) in a single study [26]. The researcher considers this research design appropriate because it enables a large population to be studied at a relatively less time and also allows the use of both quantitative and qualitative methods to generate extensive data for the study.

Area of the Study

This study is located in Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria which is presently one of the six geopolitical zones in Nigeria. The territory is located north of the confluence of the Niger River and Benue River. It is bordered by the states of Niger to the West and North, Kaduna to the northeast, Nasarawa to the east and south and Kogi to the southwest. It stands between latitude 8.25 and 9.20 north of the equator and longitude 6.45 and 7.39 east of Greenwich Meridian, Abuja is geographically located in the center of the country. The Federal Capital Territory has a landmass of approximately 7,315 km², and it is situated within the Savannah region with moderate climatic conditions. Abuja was in the earlier 20th century the name of the nearby town now called Suleja. The indigenous inhabitants of Abuja are the Gbagyi (Gwari) as the major language, Bassa, Gwandara, Gade, Ganagana, Koro etc. The Federal Capital City of Nigeria Abuja was created in light of the ethnic and religious divisions of Nigeria, plans had been devised since Nigeria's independence to have its capital in a place deemed neutral to all major ethnic parties, and also in close proximity to all the regions of Nigeria. The location was eventually designated in the centre of the country in the early 1970s as it signified neutrality and national unity. Another impetus for Abuja came because of Lagos' population boom that made that city overcrowded and conditions squalid (Federal Capital Territory Administration – Facts (FCTA-facts, 2018). For ease and co-ordination of developmental efforts, the city was divided into 'Phases' by its planners, with the city's development taking a concentric form with Phase 1, which consists of the city's inner districts-Central Area, Maitama, Asokoro, Wuse, Wuse II, Garki, Garki II, Guzape and Guzape II-at its core spreading out from the foot of Aso Rock, while Phase 5, consisting of the newly created Kyami District covering the vicinity of the NnamdiAzikiwe International Airport and the permanent campus of the University of Abuja, over 40 kilometres west of Aso Rock. Each Phase is separated from the other by an expressway (some still under construction); for example, Phases 1 and 2 are separated from each other by the NnamdiAzikiwe expressway, while the entirety of the city proper (Phases 1-5) are enclosed by the Murtala Muhammed (Outer Northern-ONEX and Outer Southern-OSEX) expressways as well as the Federal A2 highway which traverses the Federal Capital Territory on its way to Kaduna (north-bound) and Lokoja (south-bound). Thus, there is an integration of the city's road network with the Federal highway network, providing access to the

immediate outlying countryside and the surrounding states of the country i.e. Niger State to the west, Kaduna State to the north, Nasarawa State to the east and Kogi State to the south. The Phase 1 area of the city is divided into ten districts known as cadastral zones Lydia, 2006. Abuja city is run by the Abuja Municipal Area Council. In addition to the civic administration the city is the location for the federal government of Nigeria, and likewise the Federal Capital Territory Administration which is responsible for the encompassing Federal Capital Territory. As the seat of power the Nigerian National Assembly, Central Bank, National Christian Centre, National Mosque and Headquarters of all the Federal Ministries. The New Kuchinguru and Area (1) Durumi is administered by the Abuja Municipal Area Council which is the local government responsible for administration of the city. Councillorship and chairmanship elections are held regularly. The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) declared the candidates of the Action Progressive Congress (APC) winners of three chairmanship seats while two others were declared inconclusive [27].

Following the conversion of the area to Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria in the 1970s Abuja transformed into a modern city with high influx of different persons from all parts of the country and foreigners as well. Abuja has metamorphosed into ethnic confluence of Nigerians many working or searching for jobs in numerous government Federal agencies. Embassies and consulate building of different nations are also located in Abuja; numerous international development and humanitarian agencies has their headquarters situated in Abuja with different five star hotels offering hospitality to numerous visitors within the city. The modern Abuja also has the central mosque for Muslims and National ecumenical Centre for the Christian worshipers. The city has numerous Pentecostal churches notably the Dunamis International worship center known as Glory Dome with an estimated 100,000 seating capacity in a single service. The persistent Boko Haram attack in Northeast Nigeria forced many displaced persons to Abuja seeking protection and sustained livelihood assets this leads to the emergency of four major IDP camps in Abuja namely Lugbe IDP camp located around Giri junction towards the airport; Area One Durumi camp is located at Area (1) along FIRS training school road, New Kuchingoro camp is located some few distance to the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport Abuja, and Kuje IDP located within Abaji [28]. The camps are located in isolated areas, the landscape characterized by unorganized makeshift tents scattered around divided by track road paths, scanty petty trading spots and few bore hole systems. There is no observable security post within or around the camps. While New Kuchingoro has one primary school and makeshift container German donated clinic, Durumi has none of such within the camp. The camps are organized by individuals who are also residents of the camps selected by other occupants comprising of camp chairman, the women leader, secretary and financial secretary. The study target camps however comprises of two major IDP camps New Kuchingoro and Area one (1) Durumi camps this is because the two camps still retains its unique characteristics as comprising many of the IDPs from the Northeast who still identify themselves as IDPs. In addition Nwabughio [28], stated that most inhabitants of Kuje and Lugbe camps has increasingly integrated themselves with the local community masking their identity as IDP due to perceived social stigma and the camps gradually closing down.

Population of the Study

According to the census population of 2006, the city of Abuja had a population of 776,298, making it then the eighth most populous city in Nigeria (NPC, 2006). United Nations figures showed that Abuja grew by 139.7% between 2000 and 2010, making it the fastest growing city in the world. As of 2015, the city is experiencing an annual growth of at least 35%, retaining its position as the fastest-growing city on the African continent and one of the fastest-growing in the world [29]. However the stated population will be projected to 2018 through the application of mathematical method; thus:

$$P_t = P_0(1 + r/100)^t$$

Where;

P_t – Population at time (t)

r - Annual growth rate (3.2)

t – Inter-censal period (the gap between 2006 and 2018... 12 years)

Therefore

Abuja population is projected to (2018)

$$\begin{aligned} & 776,298(1+3.2/100)^{12} \\ & = 776,298(1.032)^{12} \\ & = 776,298(1.4593395) \\ & = 1,132,882 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the general population of this study is 1,132,882 being the projected population of the Abuja FCT. However, the target population is the population of IDP in mates in Abuja FCT. According to Luca and Zaynab[30] the population of IDP in New Kuchenguru and Area (1) Durumi Abuja is 7,573. This is the target population of this study. The target population is stratified according to gender as shown in Table-1.

However, the population categories are as follows: - adult men and women; adolescent youths 14 years and above.

Table-1: Population Distribution of IDPs

Internally displaced Camp	Female	Male	Population
New Kuchingoro	2016	1856	3,872
Area One Durumi	2489	1212	3,701
Total	4505	3068	7,573

Source: Luca and Zaynab (2018) [30]

Scope of the Study

The study is limited to investigating the coping strategies to sustained livelihood assets barriers by internally displaced persons specifically with regards to the extent IPDs cope with water, hygiene and sanitation; effective kinship network ties, provision of health care, employment opportunities and access to education specifically adult men and women; adolescent youths 14 years and above. The study is limited to the year 2018 and 2019 which is the period it was conducted, it is located in New Kuchingoro and Area one (1) Durumi camps. The main reason for inclusion of these is due to the deleterious condition of IDPs and the threat their continuous existence portends to Nigeria with regard to ending insurgency. In addition a report by Adewale[31] stated that this camp proved not to be a healthy habitat for human beings as it is situated at a dilapidated environment. The study participants will be drawn from relevant population categories amongst internally displaced persons in the study area. The methods for data collection and presentation will be limited to qualitative and quantitative mixed research designs specifically questionnaire and in-depth interview (IDI).

Sample Size

The sample size for this study 969 is persons. This is statistically generated by using Taro Yamane Statistical method of determining sample size; as thus:

$$n = \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2}$$

Where,

n = Sample size

N = Target Population

e = error of sample (it could be 0.10 down to 0.01, but in this work, 0.03 is used)

1 = unity or constant

Therefore;

$$n = \frac{7,573}{1+7573(.03)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{7573}{1+7573(0.0009)}$$

$$n = \frac{7,573}{1+6.8157}$$

$$n = \frac{7,573}{7.8157}$$

$$n = 968.947$$

$$n = 969$$

this is approximated to 969 which becomes the sample size.

969 persons

Sampling Technique

In order to collect appropriate data for the study, the camps were stratified by track roads that divides them, population size, and households were randomly selected for the study. Administratively, the camps were be sub-divided into upper and lower zones. A zone constituted a study cluster and each cluster is identified by the first track road. The process were done by counting the number of track roads within the camps and labeling them alphabetically and through the aid of the balloting method the alphabets numbered were picked. The initial direction of movement started from the first track road alphabet picked. Finally, households in the selected track roads were numbered and the systematic sampling technique employed to select every Kth household in the track roads that the respondents were selected from. In a household, a male and female adult member of the household were selected. Male or female respondents were selected in the proportion of 40% to 60% respectively. However, after every third household, an adolescent aged between 14 and

18 years were identified and interviewed. The sequence continued till the required sample size of nine hundred and sixteen were generated.

For the qualitative data, 6 occupants will be interviewed from each of the IDP camp given a total of 12 interviews. The category of people to be interviewed will include the camp chairman, other identified officials and elderly men and women. This persons will be selected based on their experience as persons who serve as interface between the camp and the outside community also inclusion criteria for old men and women were based on folks who had resided within the camps for at least 2 years, these persons are considered knowledgeable about IDP coping strategies.

Instruments for Data Collection

The instruments used for data collection are questionnaire and in-depth interview (IDI). The questionnaire, specifically, were used to collect quantitative data, and it was highly structured. It contains two different sections. The first section contains the socio-demographic characteristics of respondents while second section addressed the substantive issues of coping strategies to barriers in sustained livelihood assets of IDPs in Abuja FCT, Nigeria, derived from the research questions, specific objectives and hypotheses. The questionnaires were crafted in English language.

The in-depth interview on the other hand, were employed to gather qualitative data to complement the quantitative data in the study. The IDI were completely unstructured questions with necessary probes.

Administration of Instruments

The questionnaire were administered by the researcher himself with the help of 10 research assistants. The research assistants were recruited on the basis of ability to read and write, speak and understand both English and local dialects of the respondents. They are peopled by (male and female) under graduates from University of Abuja who understands and speaks Hausa, English, and other languages or dialects spoken within the camps fluently. This persons served as interpreters. The research assistance helped to ensure easy distribution and retrieval of the questionnaire and also bridge the language gap between the researcher and the respondent’s. They were trained for (3) days on the objectives of the study, relevance of the study, administration and retrieval of questionnaires. The in-depth interview were conducted by the researcher with two of the research assistants who understands both Hausa, English, and other languages or dialects fluently. The research assistants interprets different dialects to the researcher so as to ensure every bit of information given by interviewees were captured. The researcher moderated the interview while the three assistants took the notes and recorded the procedure.

Methods of Data Analysis

The quantitative data collected through the questionnaire were processed with Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 20.0 and Microsoft Excel for the purpose of minimizing errors and easier analysis respectively. The socio-demographic characteristics of respondents and the substantive issues in all sections of the questionnaire were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as simple frequency distribution tables, percentages, graphs and charts. On the other hand, hypotheses were tested using cross-tabs, Regression analysis and Pearson Product Moment Correlation at P<0.05 level of significance respectively to establish relationship between independent and dependent variables in the study as shown in table.

Table-2: Dependent and Independent Variables

S/N	Hypotheses	Independent Variables	Dependent Variables
1.	Respondents with higher family size are more likely to agree on the sufficiency of coping strategies than those with small family sizes.	Family size	Sufficient Coping Strategy
2.	Respondent’s length of stay in IDP camp is associated with access to healthcare coping strategy.	Length of stay in camp	Access to Health
3.	There is a significant relationship between educational attainment and access to job coping strategy amongst IDPs in Abuja, Nigeria.	Educational attainment	Access to job
4.	Female respondent are more likely to demand for WASH coping strategies than their male counter parts amongst IDPs in Abuja FCT, Nigeria.	Once Gender	Demand for WASH
5.	Respondent who have stayed longer in IDP camps are more likely to desire kinship ties than their counter parts who has not stayed long.	Length of stay in camp	Desire for Kinship ties

The qualitative data collected through IDIs were carefully edited/cleaned, sorted, translated and transcribed. Open code content analysis were adopted. The data were isolated into various responses in accordance with the objectives of the study. It involved the categorization of responses into the objectives of the study where they match. The

interview transcripts were further analyzed using the qualitative data analysis software (QDA Miner). Extracts of verbatim quotes were used to complement the quantitative data analysis. The qualitative and quantitative data generated are presented sequentially. This is to enable appreciation of areas of convergence and divergence. The findings were thereafter related to literature and theories to support or disapprove the assumptions of the study.

Field Work Experiences and Challenges

Questionnaire Administration

Access to the Camp

1. The location of the camps was a serious challenge. Some Abuja city residence are not aware IDP camps are located around Abuja which made it difficult for a visitor to ask for direction.
2. It was difficult to locate especially the Area One Durumi IDP camp because it is inside an isolated bush, most transporters are not aware humans do inhabit the locations.
3. Accessing the camps daily was a major risk due to inefficient transport system and insecurity concerns. From Kuchingoro to New Kuchingoro there is no taxi or buses that ply the route the only means were few motor cyclist (Okada) men who will oblige to go if one is ready to pay exorbitant fare they charge with the reason that they might be attacked on the way by hoodlums which is rampant or get involved in accident because it is a long express road which motor cyclist (Okada) are not meant to ply on.
4. Also the road to Area One camp has never been constructed or tared. Basically none motorable, just a foot path long distance route. Navigating through the muds and bush part was a serious challenge. At some point we would have to alight from the motor cycles for them to pass certain areas because they can't carry a person and move by the muddy terrain.
5. The distance between the camps and inside the city was a challenge. The researcher and assistance usually leaves quite early to beat the morning rush hour traffic. And moving from New Kuchingoro to Area one is usually a pain because getting a willing motor cyclist takes very long. Somedays we were beaten by the rain, other days we endured the hot sun as there are no completed buildings along the road path to take shade from adverse weather condition.
 - However, the researcher overcame this challenge by first utilizing google map to locate Kuchingoro from Gwarimpa. At Kuchingoro some Motorcyclist acknowledged knowing the New Kuchingoro.
 - An IDP the researcher meet at New Kuchingoro took the researcher and the assistant to Area One Camp.

Communication and skepticism barrier

This was another challenge encountered. The researcher had anticipated that the IDPs coming from the North would mostly speak Hausa language therefore the research assistance were selected based on this criteria. However, getting to the camps we discovered that majority of the inhabitants speak their native dialects entirely different from main Hausa language. The language is called Glavda. The researcher and assistance were dazed at this instance. Similarly, the participants initially displayed attitude of withdrawal and suspicion. They didn't know our intentions for coming, somewhere also afraid of our presence due to psychological and emotional stress they had under gone especially the elderly women.

Nevertheless, the researcher had to wait and thought of how to overcome this barriers. After a long wait on the first day, we decided to start moving around the camp then we found a primary school. We meet a young man there who is a teacher and can speak average English. The researcher introduced himself with the later and explained the essence our presence in the camp. He then introduced us to others who can also speak English and their native language. In fact one of those persons became the main research assistant who assisted with translation daily. He also explained to the rest about our coming, gained their trust and confidence on our behalf.

Request for gratification

Although most of the participants demanded to be paid, our insider research assistant took time to explain to them that we are neither government nor NGO that we are mainly student researchers. He encouraged them to participate with the promise that we would help to publicize their plight to the rest of the world.

Finance

This field work is enormously expensive.

Administration of In-depth Interview (IDI) Guide

The Skepticism on Essence of the Interview

The challenge of the respondents were first to identify who actually the researcher and research assistants were and their purpose for coming. This was because several persons do visit their camps their beginning to suspect some are making gains out of their plight by taking pictures with them and their deplorable environment without making good of their promises of assisting them through donor agencies. Some also queried why they should disclose their plight to us

researchers will anyone ever read or listen to our findings and report so as to assist them. And even when people do read it they do nothing to assist them therefore it seems like a mere waste of time.

Difficulty in Fixing Appointments

Meeting some of the respondents was a challenge because most of them has taking to farming in the lands around and even at Nasarawa State while some others are into engaged in commercial motor cycle driving. For instance, the New Kuchingoro camp chairman farms in Nasarawa state a call was placed to him and after several pleas he only obliged to grant the interview when he return on one of the weekends which he did. Also the camp chairman in Area one is a commercial motor cyclist who was always in a haste to go back his interview eventually took place one late evening when he was done with work for the day.

Fear of Victimization

Some of the camp residents declined to be interviewed due to fear emanating from their past experience in granting recoded interviews. Sometimes when some media agencies play their voice recording which buttress their plights to the public the authorities will unleash state security agencies at them threatening them with evicting from the camp locations because their ungrateful. They said most times complaining about their plights have been taking out of contest by government officials who perceive such complains as indictment and contradicting their efforts. One primary school teacher forcefully said as long as you want to record it I won't talk. He narrated his ordeal at the with Department of State Security when they accused him of granting recorded interview therefore it will be a colossal mistake for him to repeat such, the researcher presenting his later of consent and identification card did not convince him.

PTSD Induced Withdrawal

Without the intervention of an insider who is a camp resident, interviewing some of the elderly women would have been practically impossible. This is because apart from the fact that they don't speak mainstream Hausa language they also display withdrawal attitude which we later understood to be as a result of the shock suffered earlier as some of them have not seen their family members for more than five years now, the mass killings they experienced coupled with destruction of properties traumatized them. Apart from suffering from Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) some are also suffering from fragmented memory loss. The research assistance had to patiently assure them that all is well we meant no harm. Convincing them takes hours and he would also have to use certain illustrations to get their mind attentive.

CONCLUSION

The field-work process despite its challenges was an enlightening exercise. The experience brought about appreciation of what could be termed "Practical Sociology" which involves going there, seeing the people and hearing them narrate their experience themselves. It was a life changing experience. It was also full of challenges as already highlighted. The exercise unveils the actual prevailing livelihood circumstances and barriers faced by these vulnerable camp residents unlike armed chair report which could be distorted. Hence, the field research exercise needs to be encouraged immensely, enforced and ascertained that the actual methods used by researchers in carrying out the research are in tandem with acceptable and approved methods within each academic department and verifiable proof to ascertain that the researcher actually went to the study area needs to be made available.

In addition, the cost of embarking on this type of study is massive to the extent that the researcher could go completely bankrupt and in serious debt especially when grants are not available, there is urgent need to fund research so as to improve on the livelihood of these population who survive on less than nothing and left on their own devices. The location of the camp and language difficulties where the two other major challenges. Without the assistance of a Kuchingoro camp resident it would have been practically impossible to locate the Area One Durumi camp, most Abuja residents are not aware a camp is located there coupled with the fact that it is not captured on google map.

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