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A Historical Appraisal of the Role of United Nations in Addressing Humanitarian Crisis in North East Nigeria (2010 – 2018)

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Abstract

The paper analyse and evaluate the role of United Nations in Addressing Humanitarian Crisis in the North-East Nigeria. As contended, the UN has been supporting Nigeria's government effort in providing relief assistance toward solving the humanitarian crisis created by Boko Haram insurgency. However, the region has been suffering from hunger, lack of adequate medical assistance in the Internally Displaced Person's (IDPs) camps, refugee debacle, food insecurity, spread of various diseases to mention but a few. This paper is anchored on the state fragility theory because there is a significant relationship between humanitarian crisis in the North-East Nigeria and the failure of the state to meet some basic demands of citizens. The paper established that Boko Haram insurgency is largely responsible for humanitarian crisis in the North-East Nigeria. Furthermore, the paper identified a number of issues such as mismanagement of funds, lack of effective management of internally displaced persons and unnecessary bureaucracy as contributing to the worsening situation in the North-East. The paper adopted historical, thus primary and secondary sources were used to gathered and analysed data. Thus, books, chapters in books, peerreview journals, newspapers, internet sources were all used in the course of developing the work.

Keywords: Boko Haram, Insurgency, United Nations, Humanitarian Crises, North East Nigeria.

Introduction

The creation of the United Nations in 1945 and documents such as the universal declaration of human rights, the four Geneva conventions of 1949 and additional protocols, as well as concepts such as responsibility to protect (R2P)¹ have transformed international laws and the basis for how states must conduct international relations. The twenty first century remains no stranger to humanitarian emergencies' from man-made and natural disaster to wars and revolutions².

Although the humanitarian crisis in the north East Nigeria is as a result of man-made, however, it provides the United Nations with an opportunity to play a more dynamic role to coordinates and responds to humanitarian emergencies. The General Assembly Resolution 46/182 formed the guiding principles for the International Community respond to humanitarian disasters which was central to the establishments of the office of the emergency relief coordinator and the development of inter- agency standing committee the United Nations relied upon

United Nations entities such as United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) world food programmes and offices for coordination's of humanitarian affairs in actualizing it mission.³

Beginning in early 2011 increased violence by Boko Haram militants has generated a complex emergency in Nigeria particularly affecting the North-Eastern state of Adamawa Borno and Yobe and increasingly affectingneighbouring Cameroon Chad and Niger. As of May 2015, the United Nations estimated that Boko Haram attacks in Nigeria and border countries had led tokilling of nearly 3500 people since December 2014 and internally displaced approximately 1.63 million others including 1.5 million Nigerians in addition an estimated 168;000Nigeria refugees and returning migrants had fled to Cameroon, Chad and Niger.⁴

Displacement, contributing to limited agricultural activity and disrupted trade flows continues to aggravate food insecurity and malnutrition in Nigeria and neighbouring

¹Thakur, Ramesh, and Thomas G. Weiss. "R2P: From Idea to Norm—and Action?." *Global Responsibility to Protect* 1, no. 1 (2009): 22-53.

²Improving UN responses to humanitarian crisis. <https://>

³unchromide UN. Org

⁴Okoli, Al Chukwuma, and Philip Iortyer. "Terrorism and humanitarian crisis in Nigeria: Insights from Boko Haram insurgency." *Global Journal of Human-Social Science Research* (2014).

countries as of the early 2015, an estimated 4.6 million Nigeria were at risk of food insecurity, according to the United Nation of the 2.6 million people across the Sahel estimated to be facing crisis levels of food insecurity in the early 2015.

Conflict continues to displace populations and limited humanitarian access in affected areas leading to disruption of basic services such as health care, clean water and sanitation the likelihood of disease outbreak is increasingly concerning poor drainage and stagnant water is leading to a greater incident of malaria and increases likelihood of water borne disease such as cholera. The humanitarian situation in North-East Nigeria has further deteriorate due to lack of access by various humanitarian agencies to rural areas where these displace people are due to indiscriminate violence. These made it difficult for most humanitarian agencies to respond to the needs of internally displace persons (IDPs)⁵

On 2nd August 2017 there was an attacked in Adamawa state by Boko Haram which led to the death of seven people. It is against this

backdrop that this paper seeks to examine the role of United Nations in addressing humanitarian crisis in North-East Nigeria.

Conceptual Clarification

For better understanding of this paper, some concepts and terms have to be explained in order to give the reader a clear view of United Nations response to humanitarian crisis in the North East , Nigeria. These terms are as follows:

Boko Haram:

Boko Haram is one of the Islamic fundamentalist sects in Nigeria that adopted violence as a weapon of attracting national and international responses to their demands or interest.⁶ “Boko Haram is a name that was derived from Hausa and Arabic word, “Boko” in Hausa means western education, and “Haram” an Arabic word mean “sin” literally it means western education is a “sin”.⁷

United Nations

The name “United Nations” was devised by the United States President Franklin D.

⁵UNOCHA North East Nigeria Humanitarians Emergency report, situation report no 12811- 2016

⁶Adesoji, Abimbola. "The Boko Haram Uprising and Islamic Revivalism in Nigeria/Die Boko-Haram-

Unruhen und die Wiederbelebung des Islam in Nigeria." *Africa Spectrum* (2010): 95-108.

⁷Obinna O. “Boko Haram is Battle for 2015” the Nations sept-29-2011. @ [http://www.enotes.com.topic/Boko Haram](http://www.enotes.com.topic/Boko+Haram)

Roosevelt and was first used in the decoration by “United Nations” of 1 January 1942. United Nations is a world umbrella body make up of independent nations.⁸

Theoretical Framework

The paper is anchored on the state fragility theory.⁹ The UK department for the development (United Kingdom, 2005) sees states fragility from the humanitarian point of view, where the government cannot or will not deliver core functions to the majority of its people including the poor.¹⁰ The state fragility theory stresses the fundamental failure of a state to perform functions necessary to meet citizens basic needs and expectation, it also show the incapability of government in assuring basic security, maintaining rule of law and justice or providing basic services an Economic opportunities for their citizens.¹¹ Centrality of state fragility theory posits weak and ineffective central government with little practical control over much of its territory,

non-provisions of public services widespread corruption and criminality refugees and involuntary movement of population.¹²

The paper adopts the state fragility theory to explain the phenomena of humanitarian crises in North East Nigeria. It shows the failure and weakness of the Nigeria state in ensuring security and practical control over her vast territories in North East region which has been threatened by Boko Haram insurgency. As well as her inability to guarantee the safety of citizens in the North-East Region. Which has led to increase internally displaced persons, refuge debacle and growth in narcotics. The failure of the government in promptly addressing the needs of the internally displaced persons in term of provision of food shelter, source of livelihood and general rehabilitation back into the society further affirms Nigeria with the state fragility syndrome. The activities of Boko Haram has increased humanitarian crises in North-East Nigeria especially in the form of

⁸Origin of the United Nations www.aqaac.org/un/unorigin.hfml.

⁹Bali moune-Lutz, Mina, and Mark McGillivray. "State fragility: Concept and measurement." *Fragile states: causes, costs, and responses* (2011): 33-42.

¹⁰Utting, David, and Home Office Research. Development and Statistics Directorate (London). *Reducing criminality among young people: A sample of relevant programmes in the United Kingdom*. London: Home Office, 2016.

¹¹Carment, David, YiagadeesenSamy, and Stewart Prest. "State fragility and implications for aid allocation: An empirical analysis." *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 25, no. 4 (2008): 349-373.

¹² United Kingdom, Department for International Development. why we need to work more effectively in fragile states London (2005) <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubsdocs/whywe/whywe.pdf>

food insecurity leading to rise in price of stable foods within the Nation and dairy products in neighbouring Nation of Chad, Niger, and Cameroon this continues to increase the rate of refugee, influx and adverse economic and security implications.¹³ These are all indicators of fragility which the Nigeria government has not adequately addressed

Humanitarian Situation in North East Nigeria (2010-2018)

The Humanitarian crisis in Northeast Nigeria remains severe due to conflicts, continuous internal displacement and the unpredictable return of refugees from neighbouring countries. New population movement continued to be recorded. In November 2017 with 1,862 new arrivals in Gwoza followed by 729 in Askira/Uba, 428 in Madagali, Jere and Chibok recorded relatively high number of departure. Additionally, recent important and unexpected arrival of populations over (13,000) persons were recorded in Nganzai, Konduga and Magumeri where there is very limited partners presence due to insecurity and lack of accessibility. Humanitarian agencies mobilised to adjust the most urgent

needs in particular through the rapid response mechanism (RRM), filling the most pressing gaps until sectors can plan and deliver a comprehensive responses.

While food security has improved throughout the north east as of 2017 as a result of massive scale-up humanitarian food and livelihoods assistance, the situation remains extremely fragile with many households, particularly in Borno State, mainly dependent on humanitarian assistance to meet their basic food and livelihoods needs. Many resolve to negative coping – strategies to access food. The recent cardre Harnomise analysis projects that, without adequate and timely humanitarian assistance 3.7 million individuals will be facing critical levels of food insecurity during 2018 lean season (June through September) the figure does not include four local government areas (L.G.As) of Borno State where data could not be collected due to access constraints in Abadam, Guzamala, and Marte or lack of partners capacity in Kala/Balge.

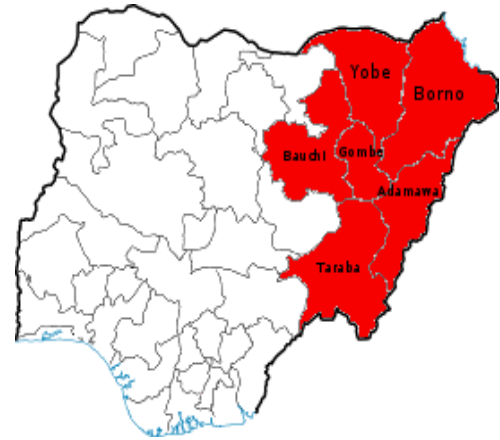
In addition to food insecurity, issues of protection continue to cause extremely serious concern throughout the north east

¹³Okoro, Efehi Raymond. "Terrorism and governance crisis: The Boko Haram experience in Nigeria."

African Journal on Conflict Resolution 14, no. 2 (2014): 103-127.

including persons borne explosive device attacks in or near IDP camps and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) of internally displaced persons (IDPs) by those supposed to protect them as was reported in Bama, Borno state. In addition on 1st November 2017 four pupils in a primary school in KwayaKusar, Borno State were gruesomely attacked. Two of them died and the other were severely wounded. This direct attract against an educational institution may impact school attendance as parents may fear for their children's lives. In addition, following the resurgence of attacks by non-state armed groups in some parts of Adamawa state 12 primary schools was closed, affecting education continuity for children enrolment in this schools.¹⁴

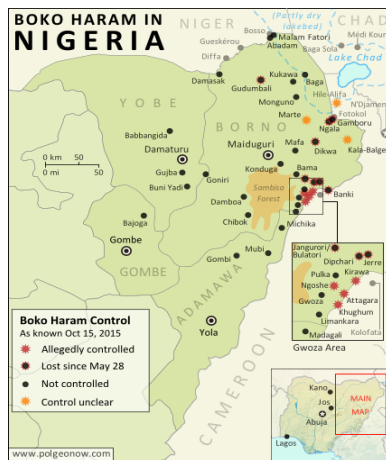
However, a critical gap remained throughout the year in funding of the response and recovery planning sector. This has hampered the humanitarian agency ability to deliver comprehensive livelihood support to affected people. This equally slowed down debris removal activities in major towns and overall limited early recovery work across North-East , Nigeria.



Source: www.wikipedia.org/

Figure 1: Map of the Study Area (Map of Nigeria showing the North Eastern, Nigeria).

¹⁴North East Nigeria: humanitarian update November 2017. <http://unocha.org/>



Source: www.polgeonow.com

Figure 2: Map showing Boko Haram activities in Nigeria(2015)

Politics of Humanitarian AID

Humanitarian Aid has always been a highly political activity. It has always influenced the political economy of the recipient countries and has always been influence by the political consideration of donor government. The main thrust of this section is on politics of humanitarian aid which appear to be increasingly tied to new political objectives and to the overall political response of donor countries to complex emergencies, the paper focus mainly on the realist's perspective of

politics of humanitarian aid, the politicization of humanitarian aid.

The Realists perspective of Politics of Humanitarian AID.

Traditional Realist school regards international relations as a “zero-sum-game”¹⁵ by intervening; the donor state maximizes or guarantees its power. Moreover, to be effective in the pursuit of national interest, individual nation need to align with other states in order to reach a level of cooperation, under the realist perspective.¹⁶ States are required to intervene in humanitarian crisis only when it is a threat to their own interest and security and if their expected benefits exceed the expected cost. It is important to consider that it might be cheaper to intervene comparing to the political cost of indifference. Under this belief, there is no room for Humanitarian Aid per-se without the consent of the needed country, for example Chad, Niger, and Cameroon had to cooperate with Nigeria before the establishment of the Joint Task Force to deal with the menace of Boko-Haram that affected both states. The exercise of public authority within a foreign

¹⁵Galston, William A. "Realism in political theory." *European journal of political theory* 9, no. 4 (2010): 385-411.

¹⁶Brzezinski, Zbigniew, and Brent Scowcroft."Realism (international relations)."

jurisdiction is a façade of expansionist policies aimed to increase the relative power of the intervener. An example of this, is the United States' military intervention in Nigeria, why do they wanted to head the war against Boko-Haram? Why do they refused to sell or give arms to Nigeria during Goodluck Jonathan tenure?

Clausewits, states that war is a continuation of politics by other means.¹⁷ If that is true humanitarians intervention or aid is a continuum of domestic politics. Moreover a donor country, international organization or NGOs projects a public image which they strive to uphold. The international law currently emphasized that civilian population should be protected from state violence in order to prevent ignomity of a “second Rwanda”. The legitimacy and the credibility of a sovereign state as well as the United Nations security council hinges on its ability to act as a guarantor of civilian protection in the case of United Nation this legitimacy and credibility is essential to the survivals of the

organization. It is a bargain tool to doing something in order to maintain a status quo and international security and balance. Humanitarian aid is about geopolitics balance of power and a melee between imperialism and humanity that resemble to be a tower of Babel due to conflicting ideas within the international system¹⁸

The Politicisation of Humanitarian AID

Humanitarian aid is grounded by the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence. However, in actual practices humanitarian aid is political.¹⁹ Common sense morality has it that we cannot simply watch and stand by as people starve to death: Whom we choose to help and Whom we choose not to help is a political question.²⁰ Although the provisions of international law supposedly orienting international organizations are universal.²¹its pertinent to note that humanitarians Aid in Nigeria North East act as a (fig leaf) “for policy inaction and as a foreign policy instrument to isolate Boko Haram members.

¹⁷Glatthaar, Joseph. *Partners in Command*. Simon and Schuster, 1998.

¹⁸Bellany A.J Pragmatic solidarism and the dilemmas of Humanitarian intervention. *Journal of intervention studies* No-3 (2007)

¹⁹ United Nations strengthening of the coordination of the humanitarian emergency assistance of united nations. U.N resolution

²⁰ Anderson, Kenneth. "Humanitarian inviolability in crisis: The meaning of impartiality and neutrality for UN and NGO agencies following the 2003-2004 Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts." *Harv. Hum. Rts. J.* 17 (2004): 41.

²¹ B.R.P “ military response to refugee disaster” international security, 21;1 1996- P.94

The humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence are secondary to foreign policy interest, and are abandoned when they conflict with them. Humanitarian politics are essentially hegemonic politics. Specifically, humanitarian action is frequently used as a substitute for political action²²

Humanitarian Aid at times not only been used as pretext not to act politically, but there are also cases in which crisis has in fact been exacerbated by relief operations. President Mohammadu Buhari once accused United Nations and other humanitarian groups of exaggerating crisis in North-East, Nigeria. The report by local and international humanitarian agencies detailing the high level of deprivation in the war ravaged North-East, Nigeria were exaggerated. He went further to say that United Nations and other groups are deliberately hyping the level of the crisis for financial gains. This reproach came after a projected 1.5 million people will face serious shortages as the conflict and risk of unexploded improvised devices prevented farmers planting for the third year in a row

(2013-2016) by the deputy U.N humanitarian coordinator Peter Lundberg.²³

Similarly the former Governor of Borno state, His Excellency Kashim Shettima also accused United Nations Humanitarian agencies in the state for spending much on their personnel's than those in need.²⁴ The interpretation of humanitarian crisis as threat to international peace and security reveals the intricate like between the two flows of refugees are a strong indication of domestic condition which have the potential to disrupt regional stability. The flows of refugees from Nigeria to neighbouring countries of Cameroon, Niger and Chad and the escalation of Boko Haram into the Neighbouring countries it is a clear instability, dangerous political instability moreover, the magnitude of refugee flows in Neighbouring countries severely undermine the stability of receiving countries, particularly where the refuge crisis takes place in an unstable or poor Region which it usually does looking at the economic viability of Niger, Chad and Cameroon it was in the light of this that the formation of Joint

²²Rosalya H "the new united nations and former Yugoslavia" international affaire 1993 p. 467

²³Samuel.o: Buhari accuse UN other of exaggerating crisis in the North-East Nigeria (2016) www.premiumtimesng.com/news/home

²⁴Associate press and staff; Nigeria state governor accused aid agencies of profiting from Borno crisis (2017) www.theguardians.com/global-Development

Regional Task Force to checkmate the activities of Boko Haram in order to put an end to it became necessary, these multilateral action enjoy wider acceptance in virtue of its undisputed legitimacy for 'peace enforcement' operation in the Region. To regard humanitarian crises in the North-East Nigeria as threat to regional stability, clearly proves that humanitarian assistance has a political character. The decision for instance whether to respond to a particular crisis is highly political,²⁵

United Nations response To Humanitarian Crisis In North-Eastern Nigeria

United Nations significantly contributed in addressing Humanitarian crisis in North-East, Nigeria. Despite the challenges face by the United Nations in Addressing Humanitarians crisis. General Assembly Resolution 46/182 provides the basic framework for humanitarian assistance since its adoption in 1991.²⁶ The intergovernmental legislative framework has expanded considerably, reflecting both the broadening of the humanitarian endeavour and the United Nations concerted response to the

changing environment in which assistance is provided.²⁷

United Nations contributed a lot in addressing humanitarian crisis in North-East Nigeria. United Nations office for the coordination of humanitarian affairs in 2014 provides four armoured vehicles (AVs) to enable the rapid establishment of field offices in North-East Nigeria at the cost of €572,000 furthermore the United Nations Humanitarian Air services (UNHAS) Emergency flight services enable delivery of humanitarian assistance and transport for humanitarian workers at the cost of €328,000.

The United Nations, through the Nigeria humanitarian fund allocated \$13.4 Million to help thousands of children, women and men in need of urgent assistance in crisis hit North-East, the fund helped address the devastating situation by financing 24 projects in the sectors of protection nutrition, water and sanitation, health, education, shelter and non-food items, rapid response and early recovery targeting a total of 950,000 people.

²⁵Alan D. at al. "refugee flow as ground for international action; International security, (1996).

²⁶Resolution, UN General Assembly. "46/182, 19 December, 1991."

²⁷Ocha, policy development and studies Brand 2009.

In line with commitments made at the World Humanitarian Summit, five local respondents were supported through direct funding in this allocation by empowering national partners a more integrated and localized response will be possible and their capacity will also be strengthened

According to Edward Kallon, the humanitarian coordinator in Nigeria,

“The United Nations and our partners in support of the government of Nigeria are committed to assisting those in need, especially in pivotal area such as protection and health. In particular, the fund improve sexual and reproductive health services for nearly 130,000 women and adolescent girls to area of Borno, the epicentre of the crisis and boost mental Health services for vulnerable children, women and men. Gender based violence will also be addressed by providing more accessible medical care. In light of the recent cholera outbreak and mitigating the risk of faecal contamination and poor hygiene, funds have also been allocated to improve the availability of safe water and

sanitation for 125,000 people.”²⁸

The United Nations also added that Nigeria Humanitarian funds is one of 18th country based pooled funds and was launched during the Oslo Humanitarian Conference on Nigeria and the Lake Region in February 2017.²⁹ Managed by OCHA on behalf of the humanitarian coordinator; it plays vital role in ensuring an effective, coordinative prioritise and principled humanitarian response in Nigeria. In August 2016, the United Nations made a supplementary appeal which reflects the extent of humanitarian need in Nigeria amounted to \$27.6 million. To address the need of those concerned in new liberated areas. UNHCR established a budget for the requirement as stated above.

At the beginning of 2016 UNHCR planned assistance to a total of 750,000 vulnerable IDPs through the year, despite challenges in many areas of the North-East, UNHCR and its partners had provided assistance to nearly 50 percent of this population with an emphasis put on vulnerability.³⁰ This figure includes the profiling of some 138,500 vulnerable individuals, materials assistance

²⁸North-East Nigeria humanitarian response. 2016

²⁹Daily post ng/politics, by Maina 2017.

³⁰Ayoob, Mohammed. "Third world perspectives on humanitarian intervention and international

administration." *Global Governance* 10, no. 1 (2014): 99-118.

and the implementation of awareness raising community based initiative to some 59,300 reached on core protection and humanitarian principles, sexual abuse and exploitation and self-protection mechanism. With the rapid expansion of the conflict in the North-East and in view of the new and urgent humanitarian needs, UNCHR has progressively increased its humanitarian responses to address the growing needs of most critically vulnerable in newly accessible areas, particularly in Borno State. From May to July 2016 UNHCR delivered assistance in Bama, Damboa, Dikka and Munguno L.G.A's bringing assistance to over 18,000 of the most vulnerable with materials assistance aimed at addressing protection risk and conducting training on camp coordination and camp management and protection principles for military and IDP leadership.³¹

Through this supplementary, appeal UNHCR aims to meet the needs of an additional 488,000 highly vulnerable IDPs between August and December 2016, reflecting an increase of 40 percent in the number of IDPs to be assisted in 2016 compared to the estimated number of people in need that were

targeted for assistance in January 2016. The United Nations through UNHCR responded to the refugee dimension of the Nigerian Crisis through the provision of protection reception services and assistance to 75,000 targeted vulnerable returning refugees in accessible areas. UNHCR procured the necessary tools and ICT equipment required for registration activities. Furthermore, some capacity building targeting immigration officers had already been provided, additionally training is necessary as well as the provision of logistical support to immigration authorities in order to ensure the effective registration of returning refugee carried out at border points. Returnees were also targeted by UNHCR with humanitarian assistance ranging from shelter and livelihood assistance.

In the area of partnership and coordination, UNHCR continued to coordinate with other cluster member, at the central and decentralised levels to ensure that identified gaps are addressed, UNHCR values its partnership with the government of Nigeria and reaffirms its commitments to support national efforts at both the federal and state

³¹Smock, David R. *Humanitarian assistance and conflict in Africa*. Vol. 31, no. 6. US Institute of Peace, 2016.

level in order to mitigate the unprecedented displacement and human suffering in North-East Nigeria.

In 2016, UNHCR worked with seven implementing partners including four national and three international partners. UNHCR collaborated with local government, public and private entities as they are mainly the only actors who have access to the newly accessible areas and can ensure the transportation of materials and aids required. UNHCR builds strong partnership with agencies such as OCHA, international organisation for migration. (I.O.M) world food programme (W.F.P) to strengthen linkages and enhance programme.³²From the above it seems clear that United Nations through its agencies had contributed a lot in addressing humanitarian crisis in the North – East Nigeria, however, despite their efforts it seems clear that there is more to do in order to find a permanent solution to humanitarian crisis on problems in the north East region.

Challenges Faced by United Nations in Addressing Humanitarian Crisis in North-East Nigeria.

The United Nations in her effort to deliver Aid to IDPs in the North-East Nigeria faces series of challenges which are analysed below:

Lack of clear information about security situation and the inaccessibility in the region serves to muddy already murky waters, mostly the number from Bagatown attacks vary from 150 to 2000 dead which pose the question of who can or should be trusted. A question that, has wider security implications. There was an obvious need to help the 912,000 internally displaced persons in Northern Nigeria, the affected communities and the rising number of refugees who fled to Cameroon, Chad and Niger. The question was how should these aids be distributed amidst the security challenges now that the aids are forthcoming? How can aids reach those in need whilst mitigating security risk, that aid organisation staff may encounter?

Another challenge that aid workers faced in North-Eastern Nigeria is that roads are in such a state of disrepair many affected communities are extremely hard to reach. Communication in general pose number of obstacles, mobile phone reception is

³²www.unchr.org.2016

frequently cut out due to fighters attacking phone towers, or the government cutting mobile phone reception themselves. Without access to mobile phone connections, Aids organisations must rely on satellite phone which at a point the Nigeria army banned those as well.³³ Furthermore, the United Nations experienced theft of asset in the implementation of their projects in the North East. This criminality has been an added complication in an already challenging operating environment. However, the humanitarian need outweighs the risk and level of theft which is consistent with other fragile and conflict affected countries where the United Nations operate. Other challenges are also been faced which includes: logistics and procurement; the fragile political and administrative environment, humanitarian coordination and lack of funding; the lack of technical capacity, weak leadership and staffing gaps.³⁴

Unpredictable population movement posed a major challenge in the humanitarian agency ability to respond in timely and targeted manner to the humanitarian crisis in North East, Nigeria. The number of internally

displaced persons (IDPs) was 1.7 million in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States, in addition to over 200,000 Nigeria refugees in neighbouring countries of Chad, Niger and Cameroon. The main driver of these movements and others are IPPs returning in their places of origin, refugees returning to Nigeria and ongoing conflict. In August 2017 alone, 4,509 new arrivals were recorded in Gwoza, and 2,411 in Ngala and many more in Dikwa, Kukawa, Damboa, and Barna. In many camps and host community's resources are already overstretched and new arrivals often created additional challenges while shelter continued to be constructed where possible to tackle camp overcrowding, lack of space due to insecurity remain an important obstacle which partners are attempting to address through advocacy with the Nigeria authority.³⁵

It's instructive to note that despite enormous assistance from the United Nations through its various agencies such as UNICEF, OCHA, UNHCR, and other agencies with the combined efforts of non-governmental organisation (NGO's), international, national and other spirited individuals, yet the

³³Nigeria gruesome throat slitting footage implicate military in mass atrocities, amnesty international 5, August 2014. <https://amnesty.org.uk/press-release/Nigeria-gruesome-throat-slitting>

³⁴Ibid

³⁵North East Nigeria, humanitarian situation update, August 2017. Nigeria-reliefweb.org

humanitarian situation in the North East Nigeria is still cloudy.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this paper tries to give an insight on the role of United Nations in addressing humanitarian crisis in the North East, Nigeria. This work has demonstrated and significantly illustrated that, the United Nations roles in addressing humanitarian crisis was pivotal and necessary in North East Nigeria. Furthermore, this paper explore the nexus between the Boko Haram insurgency and the Humanitarian crisis in the North East Nigeria from 2010 – 2018, findings indicated that, there is a significant relationship between Boko Haram insurgency and humanitarian crises.

Despite the fact that a lot was done by the United Nations through its various agencies such as WHO, UNHCR, UNOCHA, UNICEF and the various NGOS that operate in the North East they were able to address the obvious humanitarian needs, though they wanted to. Therefore, a lot need to be done in order to fill the gap or find a lasting solution to humanitarian crisis in the North East.

The Likelihood of Managing Humanitarian Crisis

Although it is impossible to avert all forms of humanitarian crisis globally, however, measures can and must be taken to alleviate suffering before it happens. This paper advocates a paradigm shift in the way we approach or response to humanitarian crises, while response is still critical, which has to be done to boost crisis prevention, and the task does not solely rest with humanitarian organisation alone. In order to manage likelihood of humanitarian crisis the following measure should be in place.

1. Emergency preparedness international humanitarian agencies should respond quickly and effectively to emergencies, as well as building national and local actor capacity.
2. Early action, there should be early action in order to mitigate the effects of deteriorating situation and support communities in ways that do not erode their capacity to deal with further risk.
3. Support and develop joint initiative that contribute to crisis anticipation, prevention, mitigation and recovery and commit resources to those initiatives, strengthen links between

- humanitarian development and leans through joint planning cells.
4. A global advocacy and campaign should be launched on preventing humanitarian crisis focus on the post 2015 development agenda and world humanitarian summit.
 5. International partners must drastically increases their humanitarian response, including releasing all funds pledge to the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies for emergencies for emergency they must lend greater support to the government, preferably in a high level forum that includes the military, UN agencies international, NGOs as well as local civil society and NGOs. This forum should provide a platform for all actors to share knowledge, including their assessment of the gravity of the humanitarian situation and areas of greatest need as well as clarify guiding principles and improve working relation.
 6. The Nigeria government should also work towards improving the economy in the north especially in the North East region, the presence of the lake chard and vast number of arable land should be capitalised to boost agricultural activities, this would create more employment for youth and reduce the unemployment menace especially in the north east Nigeria.
 7. The Nigerian government alongside with regional government should work out effective modalities to tighten up border security. The government should also work out modalities to cutting the sources of insurgents supply of arms and funds this would go a long way in curtailing the Boko-Haram activities around the lake Chad basin.
 8. The Nigerian government should match its military campaign against Boko Haram with strong commitment to addressing the immediate humanitarian needs and longer-term development and reconstruction assistance to rebuild the North –east that includes granting access to, and facilitating independent local and international reporting and assessment. This is necessary not only for proper resources mobilization, but even more importantly as a way to provide independent analysis of

outstanding emergency relief requirement.

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