Abstract

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the north-east are mostly the victims of Boko Haram, which is one of the cruelest forms of insurgency. The consequences of frequent attacks from the insurgence have almost destroyed the socio-economic, cultural and environmental structure in the region. Activities of Boko Haram had crippled agricultural production and livestock rearing. Commercial activities in both rural and urban centers had crumbled; irrigation and fishing around Lake Chad have been disrupted. The result of these inhuman activities was the massive displacement of individuals and households to various towns and villages across the country and thousands found themselves as refugees in the neighboring countries of Cameroun, Niger and Chad Republics. Disruption of economic base of the region for about ten years contributed to the severe economic condition in the region. The main objectives of the paper are to discuss the need for resettlement of the internally displaced persons and to review resettlement models and their relevance to the internally displaced persons in the north east. The method of data collection is through Focus group discussions which were organized with the internally displaced persons from the north east living in Kaduna metropolis. The result indicated that most of the participants preferred going back to their ancestral lands. The use of Reversed Impoverishment Risks and Reconstruction (RIRR) resettlement model to resettle the displaced persons back to their ancestral lands could serve as a key to the quick rehabilitation and development of the region. This paper recommends that the internally displaced persons should be resettled at their ancestral towns to reduce the socio-economic costs of starting to live a new environment.

Keywords: Displacement, Resettlement, Reconstruction and Rehabilitation.
INTRODUCTION
Conflict and disasters often result in wide scale displacement of people. Some remain internally displaced within the borders of their own countries and many are forced to cross international borders as refugees. Both natural hazards-induced disasters and human induced conflicts have a strong negative impacts on livelihoods leading displacements of many people from their settlements of origin (Ibrahim et al, 2019). Bradley (2017) pointed out that conflict is a major driver of displacement with violence shown to have direct and significant effects on displacements.

Internal displacement has both spatial and temporal dimensions and its consequences are many. It is spatial because many parts of the world are affected by cases of displacement as a result of executed development projects, environmental hazards and internal armed conflicts. It is temporal as a result of sporadic or frequent occurrences which vary from one part of the world to another and most vulnerable segment of the population is the women, old people and children (Liman, 2017). The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCF, 2007) defined internally displaced persons as “persons who have been forced to flee their homes suddenly or unexpectedly in large numbers, as a result of armed conflict, internal strife, systematic violations of human rights, or natural or man-made disasters and who are within the territory of their country”. In 2015, the world record of internally displaced persons was about 40 million out of which 27.8 million were displaced by conflicts or violence in 127 countries (IDMC 2016). A recent report showed that in 2019, the highest number ever of people living in internal displacements was recorded as a result of conflict and violence – 45.7 million by the end of the year. Majority are in countries such as Syria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Yemen and Afghanistan (Siegfried, 2020).

In Nigeria, the north east is experiencing the worst form of insurgency in the name of Boko Haram. Frequent attacks from the Boko Haram insurgents almost destroyed every aspects of human development in the region. Thousands of people were killed, many were left internally displaced, and others found themselves as refugees in the neighboring countries. A study by Barau (2019) estimated that about two million people have fled into urban centers such as Maiduguri, Yola, Kano and Kaduna. Indeed, every aspect of human, social, economic, cultural and political systems of the people was destabilized. The return of relative peace in the region called for the resettlement, reconstruction and rehabilitation of the entire north east to bring back its lost socio-economic, political and cultural glory.

There are limited studies on the resettlement of displaced persons in the north east. This study is an attempt to provide knowledge on the relevance of resettlement models to the resettlement of displaced persons in the north east. The aim of the paper is therefore to review resettlement models and their relevance to the resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in North Eastern Nigeria.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK
Theoretical models formulated to analyze the problems of displaced people after resettlement, are generally based on sociology, applied anthropology, applied development studies, applied psychology and law. Resettlement constitutes a form of planned social change that necessarily entails population movement, population selection and most probably population control (Chambers cited in Robinson 2003). Resettlement is planned directly by the government or private developers, where an area is chosen in order to resettle the population. The choice can be made after discussion with the affected population, but can also be imposed upon them (Alex, Marcia and Francois, 2010). Assessment of resettlement projects worldwide had revealed the failure of these projects to provide the anticipated development in the affected communities (Cernae, 2000). Models evolved to assess the success of resettlement projects, Chambers (1969), John (1971), Scudder-Colson (1980) indicated some level of impoverishment in the affected communities.
Increased failure of these models to explain predictable impoverishment risk among the affected communities, called for a new model that will address the consequences of resettlement schemes. Cernea (2000) observed that none of these models has placed at its center the onset of impoverishment, its unfolding, and the process of escaping impoverishment. Therefore, an impoverishment risk and livelihood reconstruction model (IRR) was formulated. The model proposes that; the onset of impoverishment can be represented through a model of eight interlinked potential risks intrinsic to displacement. These are:

(i) **Landlessness**: Expropriation of land removes the main foundation upon which peoples productive systems, commercial activities, and livelihood are constructed. This is the principal form of de-capitalization and pauperization of displaced people, as they lose both natural and human-made capital.

(ii) **Joblessness**: The risk of losing wage employment is very high both in urban and rural displacements for those employed in enterprises, services, or agriculture. Yet, creating new jobs is difficult and requires substantial investment. Unemployment or underemployment among settlers often endures long after physical relocation has been completed.

(iii) **Homelessness**: Loss of shelter tends to be only temporary for many re-settlers; but, for some, homelessness or a worsening in their housing standards remains a lingering condition. In a broader cultural sense, loss of a family’s individual home and the loss of group’s cultural space tend to result in alienation and status deprivation.

(iv) **Marginalization**: Marginalization occurs when families lose economic power and spiral on a “downward mobility” path. Many individuals cannot use their earlier acquired skills at the new location; human capital is lost or rendered inactive or obsolete. Economic marginalization is often accompanied by social and psychological marginalization, expressed in a drop in social status, in re-settler’s loss of confidence in society and themselves, a feeling of injustice, and deepened vulnerability.

(v) **Food Insecurity**: Forced uprooting increases the risk that people will fall into temporary or chronic undernourishment, defined as calorie-protein intake levels below the minimum necessary for normal growth and work. A study by Ladan and Matawalli (2020) showed that various forms of insecurity such as insurgency and banditry have negative impacts on food security in the country.

(vi) **Increased Morbidity and Mortality**: Massive population displacement threatens to cause serious decline in health levels. Displacement-induced social stress and psychological trauma are sometimes accompanied by the outbreak of relocation-related illness, particularly parasitic and vector-borne diseases such as malaria and schistosomiasis. Unsafe water supply and improvised sewage systems increase vulnerability to epidemics and chronic diarrhea, dysentery, and so on. The weakest segments of the demographic spectrum – infants, children, and the elderly – are affected most strongly.

(vii) **Loss of Access to Common Property**: For poor people, loss of access to the common property assets that belonged to relocated communities (pastures, forest land, water bodies, burial grounds, quarries, and so on) result in significant deterioration in income and livelihood levels.

(viii) **Social Disintegration**: The fundamental feature of forced displacement is that it causes a profound unraveling of existing patterns of social organizations. This unraveling occurs at many levels. When people are forcibly moved, production systems are dismantled. Long-established residential communities and settlements are disorganized, while kinship groups and family systems are often scattered. Life-sustaining informal social networks that provide mutual help are rendered non-functional. Trade linkages between producers and their customer base are interrupted, and local labour markets are disrupted. Formal and informal associations, self-organized services, are wiped out by the sudden scattering of their
membership. Traditional management systems tend to lose their leaders. The coerced abandonment of symbolic markers (such as ancestral shrines and graves) or of spatial contexts (such as mountains and rivers considered holy, or sacred trails) cuts off some of the physical and psychological linkages with the past and saps at the roots of the peoples’ cultural identity. The cumulative effect is that the social fabric is torn apart. Robinson (2003) adds two additional risks intrinsic to displacement:

(ix) **Loss of Access to Community Services:** This could include anything from health clinic to educational facilities, but especially costly both in the short and long-term are lost or delayed opportunities for the education of children.

Violation of Human Rights: Displacement from one’s habitual residence and the loss of property without fair compensation can, in itself, constitute a violation of human rights. In addition to violating economic and social rights, listed above, arbitrary displacement can also lead to violation of civil and political rights, including: arbitrary arrest, degrading treatment or punishment, temporary or permanent disenfranchisement and loss of one’s political voice. Finally, displacement carries not only the risk of human rights violations at the hands of state authorities and security forces but also the risk of communal violence when new settlers move in amongst existing populations.

Cernea (2002) proposed turning the Impoverishment Risks Reconstruction Model upside down to overcome the impoverishment risks of a newly resettled population. The model suggests that preventing or overcoming the pattern of impoverishment requires targeted risk reversal or mitigation. This can be accomplished through focused strategies, backed up by commensurate financing. Turning the model on its head shows which strategic directions should be pursued:

(a) From landlessness to land-based resettlement;
(b) From joblessness to reemployment;
(c) From homelessness to house reconstruction;
(d) From marginalization to social inclusion;
(e) From increased morbidity to improved health care;
(f) From food insecurity to adequate nutrition;
(g) From loss of access to community services to restoration of community assets and services; and
(h) From social disarticulation to networks and community rebuilding.

**Consequences of Boko Haram Insurgency in the North-Eastern of Nigeria**

Activities of Boko Haram insurgency in the North-East had resulted to displacement of millions of people from the region. The consequences of these inhuman attacks are manifested in the destruction of physical, social, economic, and political systems of the region. People were forced to migrate out of the region and millions are living in neighboring countries of Cameroun, Chad, and Niger Republic as refugees. Farmland and rangelands were destroyed, villages and towns demolished, roads and bridges dislocated. The social network systems and economic base of the people was grounded. This instability in the North-East had contributed immensely to the present condition of economic crisis in the country. Farming and livestock rearing which provide large quantity of agricultural produce was interrupted for about ten years. Commercial activities in the markets, fishing and irrigation were abandoned. Children were forced out of their schools and health care systems were disrupted. The people are living in IDPs camps depending on relief assistance from the government and donation from internal and international humanitarian organizations (Liman, 2018).

The success recorded by the Nigerian army in their war against the Boko Haram insurgency, led to return of relative peace in the region in the last four years. The return of peace has now brought the question of what happened to these IDPs scattered in different parts of the country, various camps and those living as refugees in neighboring countries. These IDPs are living without shelter, adequate food supply, portable
drinking water, basic health care services, children are left stranded without going to schools, and the absence of basic employment for the adults. To address the problems of resettlement, rehabilitation and construction of the region, the national assembly passed a bill to that effect and was signed by the President in October, 2017. The bill was named North East Development Commission (NEDC). The commission has the mandate to receive and manage funds allocated by the federal government and international donor agencies for resettlement, rehabilitation, integration and reconstruction of roads, houses and business premises of victims of insurgency. It will also tackle the menace of poverty and environmental challenges in the region. The commission will also among other things: coordinate projects and programme within the master plan for the rehabilitation, resettlement, reconstruction, reconciliation and sustainable development of the north-east zone in the field of infrastructure, human and social services, including health and nutrition, education and water supply, agriculture, wealth creation and employment opportunities, urban and rural development and poverty alleviation (The Nation, 26th of Oct, 2017).

Methods of Data Collection
Records from Kaduna State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) was used in identifying the locations of internally displaced persons from the North-East in different parts of Kaduna metropolis. The records indicated the presence of IDPs at Hayin dan Mani, Badarawa, Kurminmashi, Kyauta in Millennium city and Barakallahu. Semi-structured interview was conducted with the available IDPs in each of these settlements. Availability sampling method or what Burns (1994) called an opportunity sampling technique was adopted for this research. Two sessions of focus group discussions were conducted at Barakallahu. Each session of the male and female was made up of eight participants. The focus group discussion sessions were limited to Barakallahu because the IDPs there readily cooperated and accepted to discuss the issues of displacement with the authors.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
Result of these interviews and focus group discussions indicated that male participants expressed loss of kinships, assets, farmlands, ancestral sites and are hoping to be resettle back to their homeland. The male participants explained that:

We are tired of staying here. We want to go home and clean our farmlands and homestead. Many of us are affected by this thoughts, our homes are the most precious to us, taking them from us was the main reason for our displacement.

Another participant added that:
Some of us (displaced persons) have been going back, especially those who have relatives that can support them with money and materials to resettle back have taken the option long time ago.

The female participant strongly agreed to be resettle back but emphasized the need for security of their lives and properties and adequate empowerment and reconstruction of their homes.

I prefer going back home if security is provided and our homestead could be Repair for us. That is our origin before the ugly event scattered us.

In her contribution, this participant added:
Where we left is our ancestral land and we like it even though it has its own challenges. But the insurgence pushed us away into another form of hardship. I will prefer to go back if there is adequate security and support.
The reviews of resettlement models have indicated negative consequences of impoverishment risk manifested in the form of landlessness, joblessness, homelessness, food insecurity, marginalization, (Cernea, 2000). But reversed impoverishment risks and reconstruction (RIRR) advocated for resettlement, reconstruction and rehabilitation of displaced persons at ancestral land to reduce the risks of impoverishment. Victims of Boko Haram insurgency from the north east are requesting for resettlement at their ancestral lands. The North East Development Commission (NEDC) can adopt the concept of this model and relocate all internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their ancestral lands to reoccupy their inherited homes and farmlands. Scattered families be reintegrated, social network systems of kinships, religious, traditional and cultural institutions destroyed should be gradually reinstated. Demolished structures; houses, mosques, churches, schools, hospitals, commercial centers, roads and bridges should be reconstructed or rehabilitated. Relocation of the IDPs to ancestral lands will address the problems of landlessness when people identify their inherited lands and homes. It will also facilitate the process of regaining back their lost common resource properties of rangelands, graveyards, water ponds and festival grounds. Community services such as public schools, primary health care services and sources of portable drinking water will be restored.

CONCLUSION
The process of resettlement, reconstruction, rehabilitation as well as financial empowerment of the internally displaced persons in the North- East will gradually boost the economic base of the region. The relative return of peace and normal life will encourage the process of economic recovery. Financial empowerment will make the farmers to engage themselves in farming, livestock rearing, fishing, and irrigation. Resettlement of IDPs in a newly planned environment means starting a new process of adaptation in a new physical, socio-cultural and economic environment. Reconstructing a new socio-cultural relation takes a long time, which in the long run ends with impoverishment risks of the resettled population. Thus the paper recommends the need for the resettlement of the IDPs back to their ancestral land to truncate the impoverishment risks and pave way for quick process of reconstruction, rehabilitation and development. A successful resettlement, reconstruction and rehabilitation will bring a fast recovery of socio-economic and cultural rejuvenation of the region. The North- East Development Commission should also empower businessmen in the region by reconstructing markets and provide them with soft loans to raise capital to start business activities. The success of this resettlement scheme could not be achieved without a strong security maintenance that is free of corruption to prevent future occurrence of Boko Haram attacks.

REFERENCES


