

# ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECTS OF SERVICE DELIVERY ON THE WELLBEING OF THE INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSON (IDPS) IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY (FCT), ABUJA

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## ABSTRACT

The provision of services, encompassing substandard medical facilities, inadequate housing conditions, limited access to electricity, insufficient recreational amenities, and the absence of potable water supply, has emerged as a significant impediment confronting Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) both domestically and globally. The present investigation sought to evaluate the impact of service delivery on the welfare of IDPs residing in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja. The objectives of this inquiry were to assess the socioeconomic attributes of the IDPs, scrutinize the types and efficacy of service delivery within the IDP camps, and appraise the consequences of service delivery on the well-being of the IDPs in the research area. For this study, we selected a representative sample of 331 households to examine the households encompassing the IDPs. The data underwent statistical analysis employing the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). The findings unveiled the extent of deprivation endured in terms of essential amenities such as shelter, proper sanitation, reliable electricity, potable water, and adequate healthcare provisions. For instance, all participants resided in makeshift accommodations, including tents, plank houses, schools, and sack houses, with over 80% expressing concerns regarding security issues within the IDP camps. Consequently, this investigation concludes that the research area grapples with challenges encompassing food insecurity, personal security, criminal activities, fear of crime, poor health, limited educational opportunities, and precarious livelihoods, thereby augmenting vulnerability and diminishing the quality of life experienced by Internally Displaced Persons. Accordingly, the study offers recommendations advocating for comprehensive planning measures targeting IDPs in Abuja with the purpose of enhancing their well-being and overall quality of life.

**Keywords:** Delivery; Displacement global; Planning; Service

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The phenomenon of urbanization poses a significant, global problem, giving rise to various predicaments worldwide (UNDP, 2015). The challenges arising from urbanization have resulted in both natural and man-made disasters, thereby endangering the well-being and assets of individuals residing in urban and rural regions alike.

Urban populations interact with a modified environment, primarily due to their consumption of resources like food, energy, water, and land (UN-Habitat, 2016). Environmental hazards such as global warming, flooding, desertification, landslides, earthquakes, droughts, and individual displacement manifest the consequences of urbanization.



The occurrence and detrimental effects of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) have garnered global attention due to their frequent incidence and the adverse impact they have on the societal, cultural, political, and economic aspects of affected individuals (IDMC, 2014). The rise in international conflicts during the early 1950s led to a prevalent discourse surrounding refugees. The establishment of the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR) in 1950 was a direct response to the aforementioned circumstances (UN-Habitat, 2015). The primary objective of this commission was to provide protection and assistance to individuals who have been forcibly displaced (UNOCHA, 2014). Consequently, the matter of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) has become a prominent topic in national and international discourse, as well as a focal point for strategic planning in numerous countries and regions worldwide.

On a global scale, the number of individuals compelled to abandon their homes due to natural disasters or conflicts resulting in violence, loss of life, and human rights violations has exceeded 40 million (World Bank, 2015). Whether displaced within their own country as internally displaced persons (IDPs) or seeking refuge outside their nation as refugees, these individuals face immense challenges (World Bank, 2015). Particularly in Africa, various crises across the continent have displaced approximately 3.2 million individuals (World Bank, 2015).

Despite considerable government spending and fiscal allocations, internally displaced persons (IDPs) continue to encounter challenges related to governance, inefficiencies, infrastructure deficiencies, and inadequate service provision (Mohammed, 2017). Unregulated population growth from an influx of migrants from rural areas, without corresponding infrastructure development, further exacerbates these issues (UN-Habitat, 2015). Omar (2009) posits that inadequate planning is the primary cause of poor service delivery, while ineffective implementation can sometimes impede well-designed plans and policies. Additionally, he argues that a lack of transparency and accountability in governance, a shortage of skilled professionals in local government bodies, and a fragile relationship between urban areas and local governments exacerbate this problem (Omar, 2009).

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) conducted an assessment in 2018 and found that radical Islamist-instigated communal clashes in Nigeria resulted in the displacement of 13.3% of individuals. Natural disasters accounted for less than one percent of the displacement, while clashes between herders and farmers caused 1.2%. The remaining 83.8% of displacement was due to attacks by insurgents. To summarize, out of the 3.6 million people who experienced displacement across various regions in Africa, a staggering 2.2 million were from Nigeria (IOM, 2018).

Moreover, according to the World Bank's (2014) findings, approximately 1.1 million individuals in the African Sahel regions endure forced displacement due to conflicts. Notably, the 2012 crisis in Mali recorded approximately 353,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), and an additional 280,000 refugees from Sudan sought refuge in Chad. These results highlight the unpredictability of the region and the challenge for those displaced who seek to return to their place of origin. UNCHR (2005) discovered that in some African countries, there could be at least ten internally displaced persons in every refugee camp.

In Nigeria, governments at all levels remain concerned about the issue of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) (UNHCR, 2005). Following independence, the civil war between 1967 and 1970 resulted in a significant number of IDPs in Nigeria, displacing a large population of eastern Nigerians. More recently, Nigeria has faced numerous challenges, such as ethnic and religious clashes, communal disputes over boundaries, conflicts between farmers and pastoralists over grazing lands, and widespread flooding across states, all of which have led to an unprecedented increase in the number of IDPs (Adeejat-Kubra, 2013).



The Federal Capital Territory (FCT) of Nigeria, as the seat of power, has been seen by IDPs as a safe haven, resulting in an influx of displaced individuals from both nearby and distantly affected states. In 2015, reports indicated that the number of IDPs in Abuja reached 13,786 (IDMC, 2015). Various satellite towns and surrounding villages host the camps. Some individuals in the camps have returned to their home states in recent years, while others have merged with existing camps within the FCT. However, the increasing population of the host communities has put a strain on available infrastructure such as electricity, clean water, and educational facilities. Consequently, the impact of IDPs on education is felt not only by the displaced individuals themselves but also by the host communities (Edem-Nse et al., 2017).

Abuja has faced an influx of IDPs due to the rise in insurgency and herders-farmer's clashes in the country (Edem-Nse et al., 2017). According to IDMC (2018), (1%) of the IDPs are located within Abuja. In the year 2018, internally displaced persons (IDPs) underwent a process of reintegration with their respective communities. Consequently, the population of the two remaining camps has significantly increased due to the amalgamation of additional individuals from the Karmajiji/Kuchigoro and Durumi camps. Consequently, the total count of individuals residing within these camps has reached 15,154, distributed across 2,510 households. Even with this large number of IDPs in Abuja, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) claims the camps are informal.

With the proliferation of IDPs camps in the Federal Capital Territory of Abuja, the provision of services to internally displaced persons (IDPs) has emerged as a significant obstacle. As a result, researchers and policymakers have been drawn to investigating the underlying causes of the escalating plight experienced by IDPs residing in the two camps within the FCT. The primary objective of this study is to evaluate the efficacy of service delivery within IDP camps, with the following specific aims: (1) to appraise the socio-economic characteristics of IDPs in these camps; (2) to scrutinize the types and effectiveness of service provision to IDPs residing in the camps; and (3) to assess the impact of service delivery on the overall well-being of IDPs.

The Federal Capital Territory is situated at the geographical midpoint of the nation, with coordinates of  $9^{\circ}4'N$   $7^{\circ}29'E$  /  $9.066667^{\circ}N$   $7.483333^{\circ}E$  respectively. It encompasses a total area of approximately 8,000 square kilometres. It is bordered to the north by Kaduna state, to the west by Niger state, to the east and southeast by Nasarawa state, and to the southwest by Kogi state (Figure 1 and 2). The FCT encounters two distinct weather conditions throughout the year, like in many other Nigerian states. These conditions consist of the rainy season, which commences in March and extends until October, and the dry season, characterized by abundant sunshine, which begins in October and concludes in March. The northeast trade wind brings about a brief spell of harmattan between these periods, resulting in a dusty haze, intense coldness, and dryness. Nonetheless, the elevated altitude and undulating terrain of the FCT serve as a moderating influence, ensuring that the weather remains consistently temperate.