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Published by the University of KwaZulu-Natal
<https://journals.ukzn.ac.za/index.php/JICBE>
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Journal of Inclusive cities and Built environment, Vol. 3 Issue 6

How to cite: O.O. Idowu, et al., 2023. Impact of physical development at the Internally Displaced Persons' Camps (IDPS) in the federal capital territory, Nigeria. *Journal of Inclusive cities and Built environment* Vol. 3 Issue 6, Pg 63-71.

IMPACT OF PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT AT THE INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS' CAMPS (IDPS) IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY, NIGERIA

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Published 18 December 2023

ABSTRACT

IDPs are caused by either artificial or natural disaster which has made many flee the borders of their communities. This study aimed at assessing the physical characteristics of the IDPs camps in the FCT with a view to examining its effect on the wellbeing of the IDPs. The objectives, examine the socioeconomic characteristics of the camps, the types of shelter used by the IDPs and assessment of the environmental condition of the camps. The systematic random sampling technique was used to sample 331 households from the two camps available. The study, however, discovered that less than 28% of the IDPs live in Tent, 1% are living at school, shelters built with planks and wood materials, sacks and leather materials and more than 53% are built with other materials like cartons and other garbage materials. The research concludes that IDPs camps in Abuja are haphazardly arranged with no presence of physical planning in the camps. The study, therefore, recommends that Government at all levels should adopt a proactive planning approach for IDPs in the 36 states of Nigeria, including FCT, before it occurs instead of the quick fix/reactive approach where IDPs takes shelter in school and other improvised ways of taking shelter.

KEY WORDS government; development; resources; disasters; urbanization

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1. INTRODUCTION

Exploitation of natural resources by man for development has in turn exposed a man to various hazards. In the view of Abimbola & Adesote (2012) observation, urban crime has typically been viewed as cost to the society in terms of bodily injury, property loss and police protection cost. They also viewed that urban crime has impacted on the utility drive from urban living which has now gained so many attentions.

Internally displaced persons have attracted global interest owing to the level of its occurrence; and the direct impact on the socio-cultural, political and financial life of the affected persons (IDMC, 2014). In the early 1950s, it was predominant to hear issues of refugees owing to the rise in conflicts between nations. This gave birth to the United Nation High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR) which began operation in 1950 (UN-Habitat, 2015). This Commission was saddled with the responsibility of protecting and supporting the refugees (UNOCHA 2014). Thus, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) issue has been on the front position of national discussions and policies in most affected countries.

IDPs are caused by either artificial or natural disaster which has made many flee the borders of their communities. Not like refugees, IDPs are affected by conflicts or natural disaster, but have not crossed beyond the borders of their own country into another country. It has been argued that the rise in the number of IDPs can be attributed to two broad factors which are man induced and natural disaster (UNHCR, 2005; UNOCHA, 2014; Azazi, 2011 and UNCHR, 2015).

Principally, the man's induced causes are war and urbanization coupled with crime and violence such as terrorism, communal/ethnic clashes, and electoral crisis and so on. Furthermore, exploitation of natural resources by man has triggered conflict have made man to flee from his original place of abode to seek shelter in other places within the

country as IDPs or outside the country as refugees (UNCHR, 2015). Quite remarkably, IDPs remain the problem or concern in their home country, unlike in the case of refugees (UNHCR, 2005)

Around the world today, over 40 million people have been forced to leave their places of residence due to natural disaster or clashes that result in, in violence, loss of lives and properties, and some human rights abuses either within their country as internally displaced persons (IDPs) or outside their country as refugees (World Bank 2015). The year 2013 in Iraq, thousands of displaced people remained at risk in the country; only a very small number were able to flee abroad.

In some African humanitarian crisis, there can be ten internally displaced persons for every refugee. Currently there are estimated 1.4 million people displaced by conflict in Uganda, at least 1.5 million in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and 1 million in Sudan. But only 30,000 displaced people in Uganda have gone on to become refugees, while the numbers for the DRC and Sudan are 469,000 and 703,000 respectively. A significant number of people live in continued displacement where return has not been possible. (World Bank 2015)

According to World Bank (2014) presently in the Sahel region of Africa, about 1.1 million persons are compulsorily displaced because of conflict. For instance, in places like Mali who have about 353,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) because of the 2012 crisis, while 280,000 refugees are from Sudan, who have crossed into Chad a fresh violence in Mali 2013 highlights the unpredictability of the region and the challenge for those displaced who seek to return to their place of origin. War *et al.*, (2004) discovered that in some African countries, there can be at least ten internally displaced persons in every refugee. They further noted that, more than 1.4. A million people who are displaced by conflict in Uganda, 1.5 million in the Democratic Republic

of Congo (DRC) and about 6 million in Sudan.

The issue of internally displaced persons has assumed a phenomenon of international interest because of its regular occurrence in recent times and its direct impact on the socio- cultural, political and financial life of internally displaced persons (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC, 2014). In the fifty's it was predominant to hear issues of refugees due to rise in conflicts within and between nations. These was the concern of the international community over the yearnings of the affected persons that made the United Nation to Create the United Nations High Commission on Refugee which began operation in 1950 saddled with the responsibility of protecting and supporting the refugees (United Nations Officer for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), 2014). Thus, IDPs issue has been on the forefront of national discussion in most affected countries.

Being subject of either artificial or natural disaster, have made many flee the boundaries of their communities or country. Unlike refugees, IDPs are caught up by conflict or natural disasters, but have not crossed beyond the boundaries of their own country to another country. Again, and quite remarkably, IDPs remain the problem or concern in their home country, unlike in the case of refugees (United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), 2005).

The significant rise in violence and deserter, which are the key element that causes displacement, has necessitated the need for health care facilities, provision of food, security in the IDPs camps, provision of educational facilities (Abimbola & Adesote, 2012). The Lagos based daily, independent, citing the commissioner of the national commission for Refugees (NCFR), and the United States (US) state Department Country Reports on Human Right Practices for 2019 indicate that there are approximately 80,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nigeria (Daily Independent, 22nd June 2009; US,

Figure 2: Map of FCT, Abuja

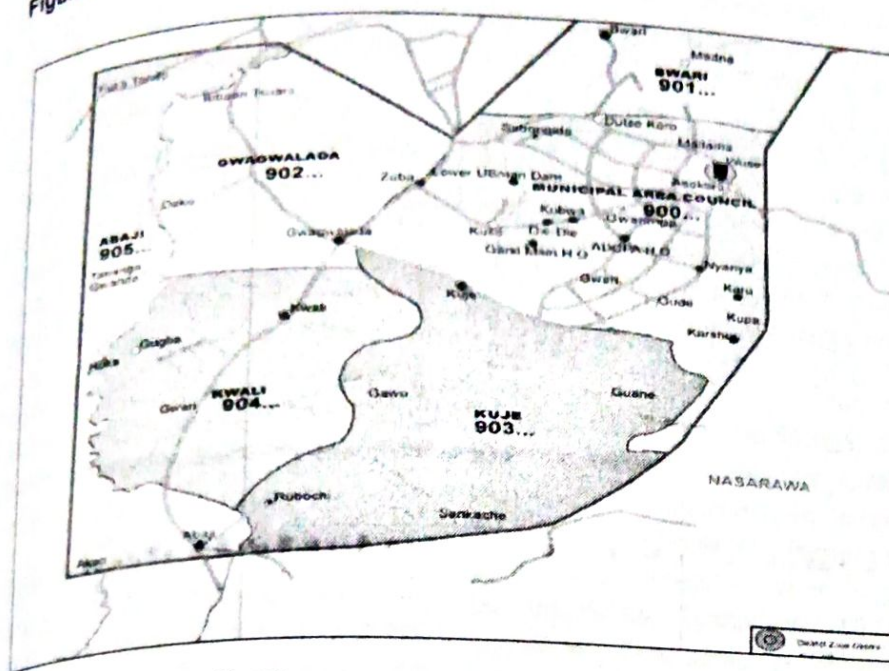


Figure 3: Kuchigoro Camp

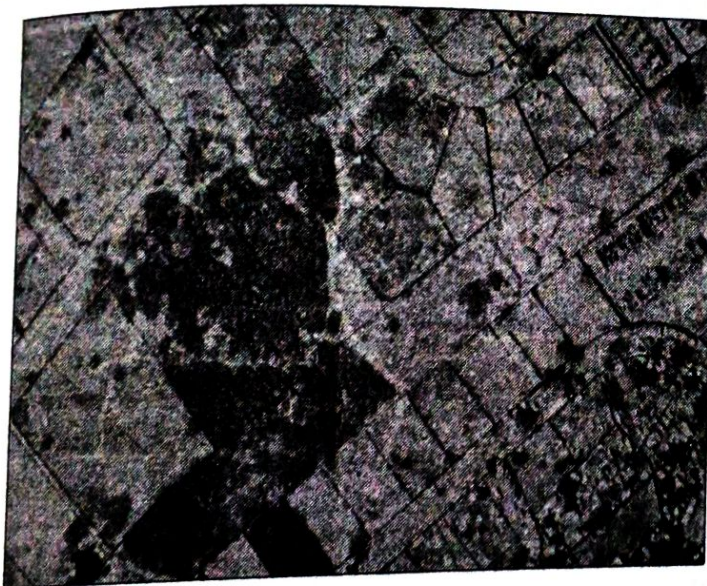
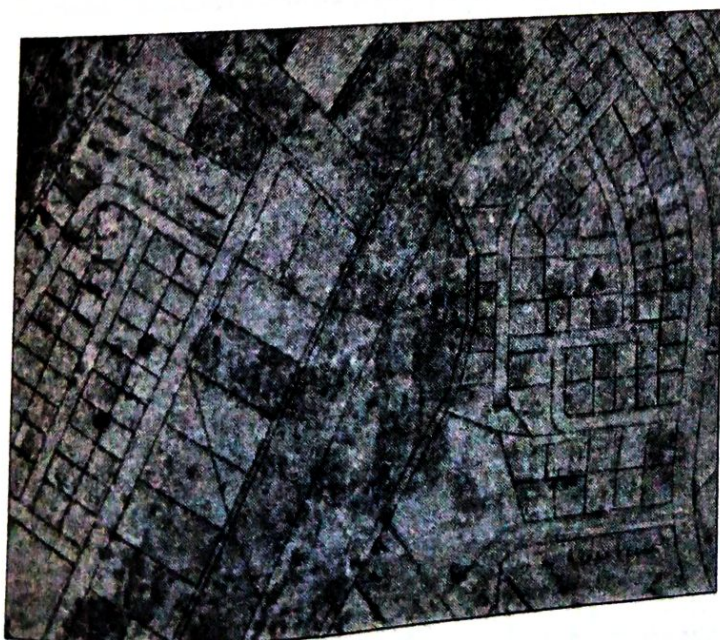


Figure 4: Durumi Camp



Kuchigoro/Karmajiji and Durumi are both suburbs of the Federal Capital Territory both villages are in Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC). A Kuchigoro / Karmajiji camp, which is just 5 minutes' drive from the central area, is located immediately after the city gate along the outer southern expressway (OSEX) which is popularly known as the Airport Road. Durumi which is bounded by the Kaura District to the North is also 10 minutes' drive from the central area. The predominant settlers of both settlements are the Gbagyi's who are well known with farming as their primary source of leaving. However, other Nigerians are found amidst them who are workers in the city of Abuja.

The Nation's states Capital has become a home to Internally Displaced Persons from different part of the country like Borno, Yobe and Adamawa. This is hinges to the fact that, the displaced persons feel a sense of more protection in the capital city. Abuja has a total number of displaced persons to be 15,154 with 2,510 households (IDMC, 2018; Camp Management 2019). These displaced persons are spread in Kuchigoro/Karmajiji and Durumi IDPs camps in the FCT.

3. METHODOLOGY

This study used both primary and secondary sources of data. The primary data were collected directly from the field by the researchers with the aid of a well-structured questionnaire. The secondary data were obtained from published and unpublished sources such as books, journals, conference proceedings, working papers, reports and monographs. The systematic random sampling technique was adopted for this study. A total of 331 respondents was sampled. The data were analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) and the analysed data are presented in the form of tables, charts and graphs.

4. RESULTS DISCUSSION

4.1. Socio-Economic Characteristics of the IDPs Camps

This section highlights the socio-economic characteristics of the displaced persons such as camps, age, state of origin, sex, marital status, and reason of displacement, period of stay in the camp, as well as education attainment, occupation and income level of the displaced person in the camps. It provides the respondents view or opinion on the likely situation of the study area.

Table 1: shows the socioeconomic characteristics of the study area. The study area comprises of Kuchigoro and Durumi Camps. The Kuchigoro camp has about 62% of the IDPs while the Durumi camp has 37% of the IDPs. This shows that there are more displaced persons in Kuchigoro camp than Durumi, because of the available space to house the IDPs in the study area. 98.6% and 4.8% of the displaced persons in the

Kuchigoro and Durumi camps are from Borno state respectively. This implies that most of the IDPs who are camped in Abuja are from Borno state, it is so because of the insurgent activities in the area. Consequently, 59.3% of the IDPs in Kuchigoro camp are within the ages of 28-37 while 29.6% who are in Durumi camp are within the ages 18-27 this implies that the IDPs in Abuja is composed of young and active work force.

Research also shows that 58.3% of the IDPs in Kuchigoro camp are female also, 61.7% in Durumi are also female. This shows that male who happens to be household heads are worst hit by the insurgency. Furthermore, 58.3% and 64.3% of the women in Kuchigoro and Durumi camps are widowed. This percentage, corroborate the reason for the high percentage of women to men in the camps.

96.7% and 92.2% of the respondents in Kuchigoro and Durumi camps were both displaced by Boko Haram. However,

60.6% of the displaced persons have lived in the camp for about 2-4 years, unlike the Durumi camp (84.3%) who has lived in the camp for about 5-7 years. This is because of the proximity of Durumi to the central area of Abuja and the attention it is getting from philanthropist and nongovernmental organisation.

The educational attainment of the two camps shows that 0.5% of the people camped in Kuchigoro have attained tertiary education while 2.6% of the respondents in Durumi have attained tertiary education. In addition, 35.2% and 13.9% have attained Islamic and Bible schools in Kuchigoro and Durumi respectively. The predominant occupation of the IDPs in Kuchigoro is (59.7%) farming while 61.7% of the IDPs in Durumi are artisans. Therefore, they are faced with low level of income with about 11.1% of the respondent in Kuchigoro earning about 61-80,000 monthly while 8.7% in Durumi camp earning between 21-40,000 respectively.

Table 1: Socio Economic Characteristics of the IDPs

Camps	Kuchigoro		Durumi	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
CAMPS				
	216	62.0	115	37.0
STATE				
Borno	213	98.6	86	74.8
Adamawa	2	.9	15	13.0
Yobe	1	.5	14	12.2
Total	216	100.0	115	100.0
AGE				
18-27	16	7.4	34	29.6
28-37	128	59.3	25	21.7
38-47	10	4.6	27	23.5
48-57	59	27.3	3	2.6
58 above	3	1.4	26	22.6
Total	216	100.0	115	100.0
SEX				
Male	90	41.2	44	38.3
Female	126	58.3	71	61.7
Total	216	100.0	115	100.0

Camps	Kuchigoro		Durumi	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
MARITAL STATUS				
Single	45	20.8	19	16.5
Married	46	21.3	11	9.6
Divorced	44	20.4	11	9.6
Widowed	126	58.3	74	64.3
Total	216	100.0	115	100.0
REASON OF DISPLACEMENT				
Farmers/headers clash	4	1.9	106	92.2
Boko haram	209	96.7	5	4.3
Others	3	1.4	4	3.5
Total	216	100.0	115	100.0
DURATION OF STAYS IN THE CAMP				
Less than 1 year	85	39.3	14	12.2
2-4 years	131	60.6	4	3.5
5-7years	85	39.3	97	84.3
Total	216	100.0	115	100.0
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT				
Primary school	115	53.2	79	68.7
Secondary	12	5.6	14	12.2
Tertiary	1	.5	3	2.6
Islamic or bible school	76	35.2	16	13.9
Non formal	11	5.1	3	2.6
Total	216	100.0	115	100.0
OCCUPATION				
Student	17	7.9	8	7.0
Civil servant	3	1.4	4	3.5
Farmer	129	59.7	32	27.8
Others	67	31.0	71	61.7
Total	216	100.0	115	100.0
INCOME				
5-20000	145	67.1	85	73.9
21-40000	43	21.8	13	8.7
61-80000	24	11.1	20	17.4
Total	216	100.0	115	100.0