

ADAMAWA

GOMBE

YOBE

BORNO

BAUCHI

NorthEast Watch



Vol 1, No. 8 December, 2016

Pushing the frontiers for a **NEW** dawn

Powered by



EDITORIAL: Internally Displaced, Neglected and Abused Persons (IDNAPs)

The universally acknowledged term or acronym given to the Internally Displaced Persons is IDPs. But, that does not clearly describe the traumatized victims of the northeast insurgency particularly those in Borno state, the state with highest number of displaced persons, these people should rather be identified as Internally Displaced, Neglected and Abused Persons (IDNAPs). Despite the huge amount of money the governments and other development partners spend to improve the welfare of the people in the IDP camps, it is unfortunate that in most cases these monies are not accounted for, and the result of this is high level of malnutrition among children, abuse of girls, and other atrocities that further complicate the lives of people in the IDP camps. Just recently some women from Arab Teachers College Camp developed courage to protest over neglect and starvation they have been going through. The women barricaded the Maidugri-Kano-Jos road and chanted human right slogans. They refused to succumb to the police intimidation who attempted to disperse them but when the Borno state deputy governor, Alhaji Usman Durkwa arrived at the scene, the protesters narrated their ordeal and instantly he (Durkwa) announced the suspension of the Central Feeding Committee at the Arab Teachers College Camp and introduced the family feeding where a family will receive food stuff from the state government and cook for themselves.

The neglect by those that should come to the aid of

the IDPs made them (IDPs) to exchange whatever they have for food, and of course most of them have nothing to give in exchange for food. This situation has turned many girls to prostitutes and they have been infected with HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. Ironically, this is happening in a state with billionaires who are looking for where to spend their money uselessly. Yes, uselessly. It is from Borno state we got somebody that donated billions of Naira to an American University on the ground that his children graduated from that university. There is another indigene of the state that is spending billions of naira just because he wants to be a factional chairman of a political party. If these unnecessary donations and spendings can be channeled to complement the efforts of Borno state government and the few donor organizations, and ensure judicious utilization of the interventions, the situation in the IDP camps would not have been as worse as it is today.

Now that the Northeast Development Commission has been passed into law, Presidential Committee on the Northeast Initiative (PCNI) inaugurated, Senate constituted a committee to investigate the corrupt practices in the IDP camps, House of Representatives Committee on the IDPs, Refugees and Northeast Initiatives developed strategies to better the lives of IDPs and CSOs forming coalitions to promote accountability in the management of IDPs, we hope to see improvement in the welfare of the IDPs and reduction of the atrocities taking place in their camps.

UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs appeals for \$1 billion for Northeast in 2017

The eight directors of the humanitarian emergency of the United Nations have appealed for \$1 billion in funding to scale up response for some 7 million people in conflict-ridden northeast. The funding is part of the 2017 humanitarian response plan Nigeria launched recently in Abuja will go to provide nutrition, food, shelter, health, education, water and sanitation needs and protection for millions in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa. Peter Lundberg, deputy humanitarian coordinator for the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) said more than 5.1 million people could face serious food shortages as the conflict and risk of unexploded improvised devices prevent farmers planting for a third year in a row, causing a major food crisis.

“This is the largest crisis on the African continent, and I am confident that with the support of the international community and the private sector, we can begin to bring hope to the people of the north east,” said Lundberg. “The narrative on this humanitarian crisis can no longer be ignored and we are appealing to the international community to help us prevent the deaths of thousands of innocent civilians over the coming 12 months,” added Lundberg.



The number of people in need of humanitarian assistance is estimated to increase beyond the 4.7m targeted this year, as continued military pressure pushing back Boko Haram makes more areas accessible. UNOCHA called for \$484m to fund humanitarian response in 2016 but got only \$367m. It's latest appeal doubles estimated need for this year, and up to 75 partners stand ready to respond in areas in need. UNOCHA operations director John Ging said the international community has a responsibility to speed up its response. “We appeal not to their generosity but it is their responsibility. All delays will cost lives, people will die, people will suffer needlessly,” he said..



PHOTO NEWS

The Northeast Youth Initiative Forum (NEYIF) has converged people of different backgrounds at a community Dialogue and Sensitization on Sexual and Gender Based Violence it organized in Damaturu, the Yobe State capital. Have a look at the event in pictures below:



INTERVIEW

The Northeast region has been truly hit from several angles as a result of the insurgency, as various stakeholders mount pressure and efforts towards salvaging the region from the unfortunate trademark, the indefatigable patriot and women's rights advocate Hajiya Saudatu Mahdi MFR, the secretary general of Women's Rights Advancement Protection Alternative (WRAPA) pinpoints the needful especially on girl child education in the northeast and other setbacks to the entire north development in this exclusive interview with Hamza Ibrahim Chinade in Abuja, excerpts:

NEW: One of the sectors worst affected by the insurgency in the northeast is the education sector, how do you look at that as a civil society advocate?

SAUDATU: First, I want to say that is a sad development, the northeast even before the insurgency was trailing way behind in all development indices and as we all know education is the first denominator for conquering underdevelopment, the human capital of any community, country or state as we have education. So, for decades right from early seventies things had been on a decline and every attempt to bring it up had not achieved substantial result, when you take all the of indices of development particularly when you associate them with gender needs and gender issues you will see that they are way behind, so that in itself is of significant concern and the way things have turned out it makes people like me really shudder at what the prospects will be in the next ten – twenty years. There is a human army of uneducated, misdirected and probably unfortunate constituency of youths in the entire northern Nigeria, but worst of the northwest and northeast. So, without this insurgency we already had this critical situation in our hands and then it is now compounded by the absence even of the weak structures that were said to have been supporting education, compounded by the fear of safety and security whereby the insurgency focus or mantra or whatever you call it is anti education. And I find it difficult to believe for any Muslim to claim education is wrong, western education as they kind of define it has its benefits and worldly education because if you want you could extend western education and say it's worldly education, we have Islamic education, we are not illiterates in the north but without worldly education, without western education or any traits of civilization associated with that then it's like setting the hands of the clock backwards, because whether we accept it from whatever perspective or not it is the currency of the day, it is the currency of development, so rather than say you are out of it, you take it and you define the limits to which you accept either it's orientation or something else, so for the northeast is most unfortunate that it had been so hard-hit by the insurgency and once of all how it has targeted education and particularly the education of girls, we are concerned even before the insurgency like I have said that the education or the development indices related to gender were way below the norm of average even, with this it's really a sad narrative.

NEW: There are many out of school boys and girls in the northeast, what do you think should be done to get them back to schools?

SAUDATU: For the region entirely we need to look at all the development plans that have been development plans that



“...Let our focus be industry, entrepreneurship and self development, if we can do that may be in the next fifteen, twenty, thirty years we may start coming out because the rot is deep...”

have been developed or have been articulated rather in terms of seeking to reinvigorate or resuscitate the pride of place for education in terms of our development aspirations, it's not going to be just a northeast issue. The north has to look at education as a priority number one to ten and deploy every resource to ensure that we resuscitate, one, the desire for education if at all, our youths, our children need to understand the value chain of education and it's substance, our youths and our leaders, particularly the political leadership need to take a resolute position, that without this education even if they have a field day today as political actors, or as executive or legislative actors or judiciary, down the line either them or their children or grandchildren will pay the price for the ignorance and illiteracy of the majority, courtesy of their neglect of putting things back aright. The second thing is we need to emphasize the incentive of education, in days gone by you graduate from school, right from secondary school,

craft schools you remember one of the speakers of this count went only to a craft school, just a craft school, but he such has this sound education that probably some university graduates today don't have, so we got to show incentives for people completing levels of education that is pragmatic education, not everyone has to go to the university, not everyone has to have two degrees or three or five degrees but the basics, SSCE, National Diploma, first degree, how many of our people can we incentive to go into that so that we remove the shackles of underdevelopment from our feet and from our region. So, if we are to make education attractive we have got to show people that finishing an education and getting a location within the development mileage of the north is critical and that it will be ready and waiting. Thirdly, we have to run away from white-collar jobs, having education only for white-collar jobs, we must have pragmatic education that addresses entrepreneurship that seeks to even look at our environment from agriculture to skills. The die pits of Kano, the groundnut pyramid, these were the basis of the economy of this country before we discovered oil, now it is only history, in fact I don't know whether my grandchildren will come to understand the groundnut pyramid or not, but the thing is that we must have education that does not only target white-collar jobs, and that does not pack all of us waiting for government jobs, we must make government unattractive, right now government is too attractive, we should see to it that there is special crop of people who will go into civil service just like you have teacher education. Let our focus be industry, entrepreneurship and self development, if we can do that may be in the next fifteen, twenty, thirty years we may start coming out because the rot is deep, even the children who have found ways into universities, what is the quality, as a development worker I am challenged these days employing graduates, you ask them to write a letter of employment they will look for somebody to help them saying you I have never been employed, who has ever been employed after university, so I don't know whether it's the content or attention span of our children these days that defeats or rather that robs them of that quality that we got, so frankly speaking, it's a big issue, but education is nonnegotiable, if we want to get out this situation the north must wake up to e d u c a t i o n .

"...at least our children that are in the age bracket of ten upwards, let us make a commitment to ensure that they will never be left behind irrespective of leanings, irrespective of ethnicity or whatever diversities we share in the north, we must come out as a unified front when it comes to development."

NEW: Based on what you highlighted, the challenges are enormous, where do we begin addressing them?

SAUDATU: If you talk of the northeast, we've got to incentivize people that education is safe, education is a

education is the only way out of empowerment that takes us from the bottom of the pit to the top of the pyramid. Number two, we have to make sure our education is functional and we also have to make sure that we take on board the excess baggage we are coming with, in the last ten years I can confidently say we have lost it, what is the ratio, in fact the over ten million children out of school in Nigeria, I don't want to go to percentages, but whenever you read it you see that higher percentage is made up of this region; you begin to say that the journey is a long journey, but what do we do with nearly may be four-five million that are in this box, and this is where it comes to functional education, but at least our children that are in the age bracket of ten upwards, let us make a commitment to ensure that they will never be left behind irrespective of leanings, irrespective of ethnicity or whatever diversities we share in the north, we must come out as a unified front when it comes to development. We can have our squabbles, it's a human institution we are running, there will be no perfect society, there will be no perfect community, but at least when it comes to the over ranking interests of our survival we should be able to put some things aside.

NEW: Can you tell us about the Promoting Safety and Security for Girl Child Education (PSSGE) project in the northeast that you are currently working on?

SAUDATU: Promoting Safety and Security of Girl Child Education in the northeast project is a product of circumstances, WRAPA has funding from Mac Arthur Foundation working on Islamic Family law in Northwest Nigeria, so that project has a focus on issues of delaying marriage or working to have girls consent marriages, girls to have education and women to have a voice to express themselves and seek justice in family law matters and then the coincidence of the abduction of 276 Chibok girls and looking at the general theme, it is safe for a girl to seek education, is it safe or is a girl secured in the environment where she seeks education, with the assault on women and girls not just the Chibok girls but girls all over institutions of higher learning, we saw Buni Yadi and other places, education under assault. Under normal circumstances the girls and women are already vulnerable, then you have this context of insurgency and targeted at education which the region was struggling to catch up, the retention is weak, the admission ratio is one to three sometimes, sometimes it's one to two, but in terms of retention and completion the ratio is almost one to five, you can enroll ten boys, five girls, ultimately seven boys will finish and then three will finish. So, with context we found need to look at certain things, like you said the journey, what are the militating factors that have compounded the already bad situation we have already discussed, and we said, we must people see beyond the pain and the disruption they have gone through, what is the most important thing is that people feel safe to seek livelihood, go to the farm, go to school. And because of the trauma people have gone through we established the fact that unless concerted efforts are made some people have lost hope in education for life. For instance, if

you look at the girls who were abducted all over you find that a child was in JSS 1 or class six and after all said and done she is already a woman. So the tendency is the trauma of insecurity, the trauma of displacement, the trauma of abduction would have eroded all the interest even the most committed father has, so we felt we needed to have an intervention that reassures people that no matter what we have gone through we must go back to education, that we must live beyond this and allow girls to go to schools, as such we targeted engaging with policy actors, that's governments and administrators of the displaced persons, we targeted talking to the communities and then we did a mapping to find out where are people, in some of the northeast states there are formal and informal camps and then host communities, and then we designed a project that has a very big communication component seeking to bring back interest, to reestablish interest in education and that's why the focus is talking to policy actors and then designing indigenous and user friendly messages that will reassure people and place pressure on government to reconstruct infrastructure and make safety a cornerstone of attracting these people back into sending their children to schools.

NEW: So the project is basically designed to revive hope in especially the traumatized parents thereby allowing their daughters back to schools?

SAUDATU: Yes it is basically to reinstate interest and reaffirm the value of education especially for the girl child but of course education for everyone, but in the focus of PSSGE we reaffirm the value of education and rekindle interest if you like with the assurance that safety and security granted, then people can rekindle and take up education once again, and unless that is done the scenario we described earlier in this interview will only become further compounded, because we all know when you educate a woman it is something for the whole community to benefit, she is then the first teacher who is knowledgeable, the adviser to her husband or brother who has knowledge on what her surroundings are, it isn't about struggling for public office, it is about the dignity of that girl and that woman, unless a woman feels some level of self esteem she raises children with low self esteem even if they are boys or whatever they will not be the correct human beings that will have patriotism and commitment to self animation.

NEW: How do you think this project will help revive the enrolment culture in the northeast?

SAUDATU: The enrolment culture is a factor of where do we place education particularly education for the girl child, is it education that is only aimed at getting her through primary school or education that is aimed at making her a total round human being that is useful to herself and to the community. The enrolment again comes back to the value we place on it, the safety and the security for girls especially seeking it and then value chain at the end of education, is there something that

...it isn't about struggling for public office, it is about the dignity of that girl and that woman, unless a woman feels some level of self esteem she raises children with low self esteem...

people can put themselves into that makes pursuing education a worthwhile venture.

NEW: What can you say to different stakeholders e.g parents, governments and other actors in the region?

SAUDATU: The PSSGE aims at getting parents to accept and take the courage to send their daughters back to school, the community given the displacement, the compromised structural integrity we know it will take long time for infrastructure to be put back, communities need to agree, to find ways within their pain, within their losses to ensure that education continues. History has shown us during the wars even in the Balkans and in Afghanistan their children were studying despite everything, so we got find a way in which communities agree and make efforts within the little they are left with, that even if everything is lost, education should not be lost and we must say that we as a community are resolved that our children must go to school. Talking to government, government has to really work within available resources, because now we are in a recession so even the aspirations that structures will be put it is farfetched and that is why communities need to really put their heads down, while we are waiting for schools to be reconstructed what happens to our children, if we manage to go back to our communities or while we are in host communities what do we do to ensure that our children receive education, displaced persons there are teachers amongst them, why must we wait for governments to reconstruct schools, if reconstruction takes one year or two years, in those two years does your child spends the day playing football, communities have to organize and be supported by government policies which recognize the fact that yes we cannot put up their schools so fast but we can help them to do makeshift arrangements, innovative learning arrangements, it's not easy, I am not assuming it's that easy but what we need to know is that education is a priority and whatever it takes from community composed of parents, other stakeholders must make those arrangements to ensure that education continues, even without the insurgency children were studying under trees, why shouldn't we continue, why must we wait for governments to build schools, by the time it does how old will child be, so let us find a way, within us let us organize and let government as the sole entity that has the resources and the wherewithal be able to put up these structures back as fast as possible, but everybody has a role. Safety and security of girl child education is everybody's business.

Revisiting IDPs

It is not surprising that there are many interventions and initiatives in the northeast region by governments, development partners, civil society organizations etc. Of course there has been pressing demands ranging from humanitarian to infrastructure in the entire region. One interesting thing about all these interventions is that they have focus and are geared towards relieving or providing succor to certain problems, it is therefore commendable that at a time when people of the northeast went through terrible times some generous bodies are willing to commit resources, manpower and the needed skills to push the region to a stable and prosperous state.

While celebrating the laudable mechanisms deployed in rebuilding the northeast, federal and state governments need to be reminded or rather cautioned that they need to sit up and monitor the process of IDPs welfare, because recently there have been alleged corruption cases especially in the internally displaced persons camps but it appeared authorities cared less as neither the allegations thoroughly investigated nor the people involved are made to face the law. Ignoring corruption and abuse of IDPs will further compound issues, and that can be interpreted to mean the helpless will continue to lose hope since entrusted government officials can divert or siphon their supplies and go scot-free. It's time to put a stop to misconducts in the affairs of the internally displaced persons, agencies such as NEMA, SEMA and other related bodies should understand that the larger society appreciates their efforts but most of the accusing fingers are being pointed at them, therefore, they need to seriously investigate every allegation and where necessary deal with the guilty officials, that will reinforce public confidence in them as well as save the IDPs a great deal.

Thank God, the change begins with me campaign is three months old now, and expectedly the change should manifest itself in every sector. The internally displaced persons need to see change in the way their affairs are managed, precisely their food supplies should no longer be diverted, sanitation and hygiene of their camps be improved, and more importantly now that harmattan season has taken effect in some places IDPs will require blankets, sweaters etc to be able to cope with their environment. We should kindly, altruistically and passionately treat our fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters at IDPs camps.

Send your reactions to hamza4ib@gmail.com or text to +2348039467382

Daddy, reports have it that the insurgents have been defeated



Sufyan '16

Could be they mean to say "the insurgents will be defeated"



Hunger Crisis in the Northeast Worsening-Save the Children

A new survey from Save the Children has found that up to half of all under-five children are acutely malnourished in some parts of north-east Nigeria where it is feared 200 children could die every day in a hidden hunger crisis.

Screenings carried out between June and last month regularly found between 40% and 50% of children under-five to be acutely malnourished in some places. The figure could be even worse in areas that are out of reach because of insecurity, the charity says. Save the Children is warning that the hunger crisis threatens to overwhelm a desperately under-funded humanitarian response.

Ben Foot, Country Director of Save the Children Nigeria who visited intensive care units for malnourished children on the outskirts of Maiduguri, the capital city of Borno state, said the agency's unit is struggling to cope adding that "children are arriving here fighting for their lives. Our intensive care unit is already over capacity and we are having to move severely malnourished children to mattresses on the floor. Our medical staff are working around the clock but in the absence of new funding it won't be long before we could be in the painful position of having to turn away sick and starving children."

One of the children in the unit last week was a very thin and distressed one-year-old girl named Saliha whose mother had fled to Maiduguri after her husband was killed by insurgents in Konduga. The woman's other child, aged two, had died of measles before she could reach help. 'I never want to go back,' the mother said. 'All I want is for Saliha to get well.' A vital funding conference expected to be held in Geneva in early December could help to provide the money needed to prevent the hunger crisis from spiralling out of control, Save the Children said. "The really shocking aspect of the international response is the absence of key international donors," Foot said. "With the UK, US and EU accounting for two-thirds of the aid provided, other countries need to step up."

North-east Nigeria's humanitarian crisis - the result of a brutal seven-year insurgency which has forced a million children from their homes and has been described by the United Nations as the most neglected in the world. Another mother at Save the Children's clinic said her husband, uncle and three of her children had been murdered in front of her. Her two-year-old daughter had been acutely malnourished, under-developed and suffering from pneumonia when she arrived. Doctors had saved the toddler's life but feared that her mother, who had nothing, would be unable to keep the girl and two other children healthy.

With a United Nations appeal only 38% funded, 75,000 severely malnourished children could die within a year unless they receive immediate humanitarian aid, the UN said.

"Children are presenting in desperate conditions and facing severe malnutrition, often in combination with other life-threatening illnesses like pneumonia, malaria and diarrhoea," added Ben Foot. "For some cases this may be the second or third time they have fought malnutrition so their immune systems are already severely weakened. We just don't have the resources to enable us to follow up on cases effectively."

Save the Children Country Director observed that "the international community needs to wake up to the scale of the crisis unfolding in north-east Nigeria. We need a humanitarian response plan of at least \$1bn for 2016/2017. That's double the amount requested this year. And only one-third of that request was met. Repeating this performance will cost thousands of children their lives."

Save the Children has provided treatment to 12,000 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition in north-east Nigeria. In September, it opened a new stabilisation centre to provide lifesaving care to a rising number of children suffering from the most severe form of acute malnutrition with complications such as malaria. The charity is providing emergency food assistance to 7,500 families, and aims to reach 5,000 more in the next few weeks. The food assistance comes in the form of electronic vouchers, which are managed through a mobile phone platform. Save the Children has built latrines and water pumps, is providing care for 3- to 5-year-olds and is training foster parents to care for children who have been separated from their own parents.

EDITORIAL

EDITORIAL TEAM

Y. Z. Ya'u - Chairman
Hamza Ibrahim - Editor
Abdulrashid Sadiq - Member
Halima Umar - Member
Kabiru S. Dakata - Member
Sufyan Lawal Kabo - Member

CORRESPONDENTS

Dauda Mohd Gombe - Yobe
Aisha Magirma - Adamawa
Halima Amshi - Yobe
Mohd Wuyo - Borno
Raymond Enoch - Taraba
Rebecca Hassan - Gombe

EDITORIAL OFFICE

CITAD Bauchi Office
NUJ Complex, Ahmadu Bello Way,
Bauchi
Phone: 08039467382
Email: new@citad.org

CITAD HEAD OFFICE

3rd Floor NSITF Building, No. 1A, Social Insurance Road, behind Trade Fair Complex, Zaria Road.
P.O.BOX 10210 Kano, Nigeria. E-Mail: info@citad.org citadev@gmail.com Website: www.citad.org