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Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) and Internally Displaces Persons (IDPs) in North –East Nigeria, 2017-2022

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Abstract

This study examined the role of Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development commonly known as ACTED. The study dwelt on Agency for technical cooperation and Development (ACTED) and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the North- East Nigeria. The time frame for the study is from 2017 to 2022. This period was marked by the prevalence of violence and upheavals which engendered the challenges of refugee's crisis and internally displaced persons in North East Nigeria. ACTED is a French humanitarian non-governmental and a non-profit organization. Its headquarters is in Paris and it was established in 1993. ACTED strike a balance between political and religious impartiality and transparency in its practices. The organization also support vulnerable population affected by wars, natural disaster, economic and social crisis. Combination of methods were employed for the study. The data were sourced from both primary and secondary data. Interview and observation were the major instrument utilized. The study found that ACTED has rendered several humanitarian services in the North-Eastern Nigeria. The study recommends the need for strong collaboration with the Nigerian government, utilization of indigenous resources, need for proper coordination, among many others

Keywords: ACTED, NGOs, IDPs, North-Eastern Nigeria, Crisis

Introduction

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are voluntary organizations independent, flexible, democratic and non-profit organization working to assist in empowering people, community who are economically and socially marginalized groups in the society (Sharma, et al, 2003). NGOs have assumed a paramount role today; they have acquired an important place in the spectrum of the institutions through their active involvement and participation in development activities (Young & Dhanda, 2012).

NGOs facilitate citizen participation in the decision-making

process and mobilize the support of the people to monitor the development plans and policies of a state (Bello, 2019). NGOs have taken a leading role in a lot of fields and common ones are: Education, health, conservation, small scale industries and promotion of water, good governance, forest management, health delivery and empowerment of women, child development, gender issues and many others (Abayam & Mnorom, 2019).

The working principle of NGOs is based upon solving problems through local solutions, self-help and generating self-employment among the grass root populace in the society and community. NGOs operate as private organizations and its membership and activities are international in scope. NGOs do not possess the legal status of a national

government; they are not bureaucratic in nature but they play crucial role in social mobilization, enablement and empowerment of people and making them act as instrument of good governance and more importantly, agent of change. NGOs operate in all part of the world and member's nations have created each of these organizations to serve a purpose that these nations find useful. Membership can range from as few as two member nations to virtually all nations (Abati, 2021).

Historically NGOs were developed from the need to coordinate specific and narrowly defined activities across national borders. Beginning in the 19th century, churches, professional and scientific occupational groups formed the first NGOs. Red Cross was organized in 1865 to establish and monitor the laws of warfare (Ahmed & Potter, 2015). It was one of the first NGOs to actively work to change the behaviour of states. Some political parties – notably Communist Party in the early 20th century began to function as an NGO. Specialized NGOs also sprang up in a lot of fields such as sport, business, Tourism and communication (Collins, 2018).

Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development commonly known as ACTED is a French humanitarian non-governmental and a non-profit organization. Its headquarters is in Paris and it was established in 1993 (Ayo, 2012). ACTED strike a balance between political and religious impartiality and transparency in its practices. The organization also support vulnerable population affected by wars, natural disaster, economic and social crisis. ACTED also intervene in multiple aspects of humanitarian and development crisis through multi-disciplinary approach which is both global and local. The major fields of its intervention are: Emergency relief,

food security, health promotion, education and training, economic development, microfinance, advocacy and institutional support and cultural promotion. ACTED works in 37 countries and is also one of the serving member of NGOs of Alliance 2015, along with: *Aguda en Accion*, *Lesui*, *Concern World Wide*, *Helvetas Swiss interoperation*, *Hivos*, *people in Need* and *Wellhungerhilfe* (Ba, 2015). Nigeria is one of the countries that is benefiting from the activities of ACTED. It began operation in Nigeria in 2017 and its core mandate is to assist people affected by conflict and natural disaster through the provision of shelter and NFI (Non food items), food and voucher distribution, nutrition training and camp coordination, and the management of multiple sites supporting IDPs (Baride, 2013).

In Nigeria, ACTED major roles are food security and nutrition, provision of shelter, peace building project that foster community cohesion and economic development. ACTED is managing 35 camps in the North East region of Nigeria, supported over one hundred and ten thousand (110,000) people through food security and livelihood projects, it constructed over five thousand (5000) shelter, It has also implemented a lot of projects and it has partners with local communities on disaster risk reduction; supporting vulnerable population in the camps, management of camp, informal settlement for displaced persons, supporting farmers and providing information service to other humanitarian community or groups (Ba, 2015). This study look into the activities of ACTED Nigeria and their performance in ameliorating the sufferings of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the camps across the North East region of Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

ACTED as an international non-governmental organization established in 1993 has been committed to immediate humanitarian relief to support those in urgent need and protect people's dignity, while co-creating longer term opportunities for sustainable growth and fulfilling people's potential. ACTED endeavors to respond to humanitarian crises and build resilience; promote inclusive and sustainable growth; co-construct effective governance and support the building of civil society worldwide by investing in people and their potential. ACTED's mission is to save lives and support people in meeting their needs in hard-to-reach areas. With a team of 5,900 national staff 400 international staff, ACTED is active in 38 countries and implements more than 500 projects a year reaching over 20 million beneficiaries. In 2017- 2022, 1.2 million people in north east Nigeria were in need of humanitarian assistance, including internally displaced people, host community members and returnees. Among these, 560,000 are in acute need of water, hygiene and sanitation assistance, 240,000 people in need of shelter support and 200,000 face food insecurity. Active armed conflict displaced 1.6 million people in 2017-2022 (1 million IDPs concentrated in camps across the north east zone of Nigeria. Also, in 2017 and 2019, 1.2 million IDPs, 850,000 of whom were settled in their communities (i.e. formal and informal camps).

ACTED continued to deliver multi-sectorial emergency assistance to conflict affected communities, while supporting their efforts to create opportunities and solutions for recovery. ACTED provided large-scale responses to approximately 560,000 people through water, hygiene and sanitation, shelter and non-food items,

food security and livelihoods, and camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) interventions. In-camp, ACTED ensured access to water, sanitation and hygiene for over 560,000 people, and established itself as a key CCCM stakeholder. Out of camp, ACTED supported newly displaced households with emergency food and key non-food items to meet their basic needs. ACTED, contributes to economic recovery, by supporting livelihoods and providing assistance alongside the agricultural value chain in targeted communities. Through civil society and technical governance mechanisms, ACTED further supported the long-term restoration of services to enhance the resilience of conflict-affected communities.

The activities of ACTED is in 37 states across the world. The implementation of its project and programmes are highly constrained by the challenges of not only security of its personnel, property, and logistic, environmental, political and societal co-operation. The success of its activities relied on the security of its personnel, and logistical dispositions (Clark, 2021).

The challenges that prompted these studies are the influences of the environment; socio – economic and religious issues in the society has huge effects on it operation in the support of IDPs in the north east geo political zone of the country. In Nigeria and the North-East Geo-political zone precisely, the religion and the culture of the society has a lot of influence on the perception and behaviour of the people. This has adverse effect on their level of involvement and commitment to not only IDPs but the communities at large. This is not devoid of ACTED; it relied heavily on traditional institutions and Islamic leaders to convince the society that their action is

legitimate and free from ill-conceived motives(Hall-Jones, 2020).

The attitude of government toward NGOs is also one of the problems that motivated the study. Both the federal and states government in Nigeria do not accord priority attention to NGOs as they deserves. They do not see them as partners in progress. Their perception of NGOs and their attitude toward them for long affects their operation in the country. In North – East Nigeria, the state governments see ACTED as a group or an organization in the midst of plenty. The states in the zone do not provide them with the necessary assistance in the area of enabling environment, security, funds and other inputs for effective implementation of their goals (Debie& Debie, 2007). This and many others have enormous effect on their operation.

It is in line with these raised issues that the following questions are posited:

- a. In what ways does food security and nutrition affect the livelihoods of IDPs in North – East Nigeria?
- b. How does camp coordination and camp management affect ACTED performance in the camps of IDPs in North – East Nigeria?
- c. In what ways does provision of shelter affect the functions of ACTED in the camps of IDPs in North – East Nigeria?

Objective of the Study

The main objective of the study is to examine the role of ACTED and IDPs in North – East Nigeria.

The specific objective of the studying is to:

- a. Examine how food security and nutrition affect the livelihoods of IDPs in North – East Nigeria
- b. Ascertain how camp coordination and camp management affect ACTED performance in the

camps of IDPs in North – East Nigeria.

- c. Examine how the provision of shelters affect the functions of ACTED in the camps of IDPs in North – East Nigeria.

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formulated to guide the study:

- (a) The provisions of food security and nutrition by ACTED have not significantly affected the livelihoods of IDPs in North-East Nigeria.
- (b) The camp coordination and camp management have impacted negatively on the performance of ACTED in the camp of IDPs in the North East Nigeria.
- (c) The provisions of shelters have significant impact on the functions of ACTED in the camp of IDPs in North-East Nigeria

Literature Review

Concept of Non- Governmental Organization (NGOs)

The past two decades non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in development have increased their profiles at local, national and international levels. NGOs have come to be recognized as very important actors on the landscape of development, the reconstruction efforts in Indonesia, India, Thailand and Sri Lanka after the 2004 tsunami disaster, to international campaigns for aid and trade reform such as ‘Make Poverty History’. NGOs tend to be best known for undertaking one or two main forms of these activities: the delivery of basic services to people in need, and organizing policy advocacy and public campaigns for change. At the same time, NGOs have also become active in a wide range of other more specialized roles such

as emergency response, democracy building, conflict resolution, human rights work, cultural preservation, environmental activism, policy analysis, and research and information provision.

It is impossible to say how many NGOs are there in the world, since there are no comprehensive statistical data to ascertain the number. In any case, definitions of what actually constitutes an NGO tend to vary. Some estimates put the figure at one million; both formal and informal organizations are included, while the number of registered NGOs receiving international aid is probably closer to 'a few hundred thousand'. The United Nations currently estimates that there are about 35,000 large established NGOs. There accurate figures in amount available for NGOs is not ascertain as there has been dramatic funding increase since the 1980s, when almost all foreign aid tended to be provided to governments. In 2004, it was estimated that NGOs were responsible for about \$US23 billions of total aid money or approximately one third of total overseas development aid (Riddell 2007: 53).

The acronym 'NGO' has become part of everyday language in many countries. It has entered the vocabulary of professionals and activists, and that of ordinary citizens. Images and representations of NGOs and their work have also become main-stream. NGOs also feature prominently in cultural life, such as in movies and books. In the Hollywood film *About Schmidt* (2002), the central character, played by Jack Nicholson, finds redemption when he sponsors an African child after seeing a television appeal. In Helen Fielding's novel *Cause Celeb* (1994), the heroine escapes an empty London working life when she joins an international NGO and works with African famine relief (Lewis

et al. 2005). Though the presence of NGOs seems to be everywhere, the challenge of understanding the phenomenon of NGOs remains a surprisingly difficult one. One reason for this is that NGOs are an extremely diverse group of organizations, which can make meaningful generalization very difficult. NGOs play different roles and take very different shapes and forms within and across different country contexts.

Another reason is that 'NGO' as an analytical category is complex, often unclear and difficult to grasp. In terms of their structure, NGOs may be large or small, formal or informal, bureaucratic or flexible. In terms of funding, many are externally funded, while others depend on locally mobilized resources. Some may be well resourced and affluent, while others may be leading a 'hand to mouth' existence, struggling to survive from one year to the next. There are NGOs with highly professionalized staff, while others rely heavily on volunteers and supporters. In terms of values, NGOs are driven by a range of motivations. There are secular NGOs, as well as increasing numbers of 'faith-based' organizations. Some NGOs may be charitable and paternalistic, others seeking to pursue radical or 'empowerment'-based approaches. A single NGO may combine several of these different elements at any one time. Morris-Suzuki (2000:68) notes that 'NGOs may pursue change, but they can equally work to maintain existing social and political systems'. A key point to note is that NGOs can now almost be seen as a kind of *tabula rasa*, a 'blank slate', onto which a range of current ideas, expectations and anxieties about development are now projected (Lewis 2005). For example, for radicals who seek to explore alternative visions of development, some NGOs may be seen as vehicles for progressive change.

In some parts of the world, NGOs have gained legitimacy because they were part of struggles against dictatorship, or because they provided support to independence movements from colonialism. For conservative thinkers who desire private alternatives to the state, NGOs may be regarded as part of market-based solutions to policy problems. It is partly because of this high degree of flexibility of the NGO as an institutional form, and the wide spectrum of different values that NGOs may contain, that the rise of the NGO has taken place against the backdrop of the ascendancy of 'neo liberal' policy agendas that have come to dominate much of the world. Neo liberalism, as Harvey (2005:2) argues that, a theory of political economic practices that proposes that human well-being can best be advanced by liberating individual entrepreneurial freedoms and skills within an institutional framework characterized by strong private property rights, free markets and free trade.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have come to be associated with the dominant forms of thinking about development that are currently influential, as well as with other, 'alternative' sets of ideas about and approaches to development (Mitlin et al. 2007). Non – Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are also known as voluntary agencies or private voluntary agencies. It is also being called Community Based Organization (CBO), Non – Governmental Development Organization (NGDOs), Public Service Organization (PDO) and Voluntary Organization (VO). They are organizations that are independent of government and their policies.

Shell (2000) defines NGOs as a group of persons organized on the basis of

voluntary membership without state control for the furtherance of some common interest of its members.

According to Sharma et al (2000), NGOs comprises a group - small size that is highly motivated and concerned with the issues of the community. They went further to stressed that the group is generally low paid and belong to the youth segment of the society. From the foregoing definitions, it can be deduced that NGOs possess the following attributes:

- Independent group or organization that is created to empower the people
- Non – profit making
- Voluntary
- Service oriented
- Development oriented
- Community based

Evolution of Non- Governmental Organization (NGOs)

Susheela (2019) stressed that NGOs was coined by the UNO mainly to indicate differences between countries that are directly its member and those organization that collaborates and receive goods from its agencies to implement developmental programmes. Sharma et al outlines reason that led to the creation of NGOs. They outlined them as:

- Budget cut
- Slow economy
- Economic recession
- The end of cold war
- Third wave democratic opening
- Increasing use of public bi-lateral and multilateral resources
- Privatization

Change in ideology as a new policy agenda and the growing demands for it Katon (2010) stressed that the evolution of NGOs is into four generation .He outlines it as:

- 1st generation – welfare oriented
- 2nd generation – sustainable self-help organization
- 3rd generation – advocacy structural change
- 4th generation – social movement

In his word, the first generation was the period that third world countries were yearning for relief and welfare. The second generation was the period where society and financially buoyant group came and where organizing people on the need for self – help, and agricultural development programmes. Third generation was the period of advocacy, mobilization and time of conscientious business. The fourth generation was a period for awareness creation and communication.

Types of Non- Governmental Organization (NGO)

NGOs can be classified based on some factors;

a) Types by Orientation

a. Domestic Charitable Organization

These are domestic charitable organization with little participation by the beneficiaries. Their essence of establishment was to meet the needs of the poor e.g. distribute food, clothing, housing and transport. Common examples are: TY Danjuma Foundation, Rockefeller, ACTED, Action against Hunger and many others

b. Participatory Orientation

These are self – help project where the local people participate and cooperate in its implementation. Common examples are community's work, service and project

c. Service Orientation

These are type that carried out certain specialize functions such as family planning, communication, education, health. Their main concern is to satisfy certain sphere or area of life.

d. Empowering Orientation

These are formed to empower and strengthened the vulnerable groups. They

give credit, skills acquisition and many more. Common examples are CLEEN, Oxfam, Action Aid, Melinda gate and many others

b) Type by Level of Operation

a. Community based

These are those that evolved from group own initiative like women's organization, sport club and religious.

b. City Wide Organization

This is created to help the poor in the society. Common examples of these are: Rotary club, lion club, chambers of commerce and industry, Association of Commonly Organization (ACO) and many others

c. National

These are those types that are formed to promote the mutual interest of members or professional members. Common examples are: Red Cross, YMCAs/YWCAs and many more.

d. International Relief and Development Organization

These are NGOs that are established and mandated by international treaties and secular agencies. Common examples are: Ford foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, CARE, mercy Corps, IRC International, water and sanitation centre and Catholic Relief services.

e. Campaign Oriented

These are NGOs whose essence of formation is to fight a certain course e.g campaign, deforestation, child abuse, IDPs, etc. common examples are: Amnesty international, Green Peace, Human Rights watch, Refugees international, Transparency international, ACTED, etc.

f. Quasi – Autonomous Non – Governmental Organization

These are network or government standard organizations e.g. international standardization organization (ISO), IDO and many more.

The Relationship between Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs) and the State

As their name suggests, NGOs need to be viewed first and foremost in the context of the government in relation to which they define themselves. At the same time, states themselves are far from monolithic or cohesive entities and cannot easily be understood without reference to the roles and activities of the broader set of non-state actors. As Houtzager (2005) argues within what he calls a 'polity' approach to understanding the politics of inclusion and development, 'societal and state actors' capacities for action are constructed interactive cycles (or episodes) of interaction. As 'non-governmental' organizations, NGOs are conditioned by, and gain much of their legitimacy from, their relationships with government, and by the nature of the state in any given context. The historical view of NGOs taken by donors was unrealistic in part because it did not situate NGOs within the wider context of their long term evolution and complex histories, which suggested that NGO relations with governments may take many different forms and go through many different phases and fluctuations. As Charnovitz (1997:185) has pointed out:

Advocates of a more extensive role for NGOs weaken their cause by neglecting this history because it shows a long time custom of governmental interaction with NGOs in the making of international policy. In one of the earliest overview books on NGOs and development, Clark (1991) pointed out the reality faced by all NGOs: those they 'can oppose, complement or reform the state but they cannot ignore it'. NGOs will always remain dependent for their 'room for manoeuvre' on the type of government which they find themselves dealing with at international, national or local levels.

Government attitudes to NGOs vary considerably from place to place, and tend to change with successive regimes. They range from active hostility, in which governments may seek to intervene in the affairs of NGOs or even to dissolve them (with or without good reason), there are periods of which government and NGOs cooperate with one another and sometimes they do not, governments as donors institution may alternatively seek to incorporate NGOs into policy and intervention programmes.

On the one hand, NGO stand to favour an operating context that provides what Chambers (1994) calls an 'enabling environment', in which the state provides sound management of the economy, provides basic infrastructure and services, and maintain the democratic rule of law. On the other, governments legitimately claim that they need to ensure that NGO governance and finances are monitored in order to ensure probity, and that there is proper coordination of activities between government and non-governmental agencies, and among NGOs themselves. As are suit, relations between NGOs and the state are often tense and unstable. Furthermore, government stand to feel threatened if they perceive that international resources, previously provided as bilateral aid, are now being given to NGOs instead. In many contexts, NGO simplicity or explicitly challenge the state. For example, by demonstrating or advocating an alternative vision of development, they will expose the limitations of the statuesque (Bratton 1989). The state may be threatened if its legitimacy is brought into question through work by NGOs which reveals government agencies 'inability to deliver. The result may be that the government tries to take credit for successful NGO work if it brings increases

in living standards to certain sections of the population.

Yet the lines between states, society and NGOs are rarely as clear as those assumed within theories of the third sector or civil society. It is not unusual for local populations to regard interventions by government agencies and NGOs as essentially the same. Recent ethnographic work on NGOs in Africa explores the ways in which many NGOs find themselves caught between 'a rock and a hard place' in terms of state and donor pressures (Igoe and Kelsall 2005). NGO leaders are faced with the constant challenges of understanding donor preoccupations and requirements and then interpreting these to their constituents, and trying to offset the efforts of the state to control, co-opt or obstruct their work – especially in contexts where NGOs and state are competing for the same donor resources.

In any context, accountability – the means by which individuals and organizations report to a cognized authority (or authorities) and are held responsible for their actions (Edwards and Hulme 1995) – is a key issue in NGO–state relationships. All NGOs are accountable under the relevant laws of a particular country where they operate, and state have legal powers to intervene. If NGOs transgress laws relating to accounting, rules of bureaucratic procedure and registration obligations. NGOs are normally accountable to a voluntary body (such as a board of trustees or governors) which derives no financial gain from the organization and has no ostensible financial interest. NGOs which are membership organizations are directly accountable to their members, who elect a governing body.

Accountability is a complex challenge for NGOs, because they have *multiple* constituencies and need to be accountable in different ways to a variety of different groups and interests. Edwards and Hulme(1995) show that NGOs face demands for two principal types of accountability, the first being functional accountability (short-term, such as accounting for resources, resource use and immediate impacts), and the second, strategic accountability, accounting for the impacts that NGO actions have more widely and on other organizations. The frequent lack of attention paid by many NGOs to questions of accountability has resulted in over-accountability to government or donors at the expense of 'down ward' or 'side ways' accountability to clients and beneficiaries.

This has frequently led accountability overdubbed the 'Achillesheel' of the NGO movement. The wider policy environment through the 1990s, including the post-Cold War 'new policy agenda' and later on the idea of 'good governance', brought NGOs considerable opportunities to gain more resources and greater influence, but with these policy agendas came increased dangers of co-optation and goal deflection by states. This danger has become more acute in the post-9/11 era of 'the war on terror', where Western and other governments may demand loyalty to specific policy objectives as a condition of NGO funding (Howell2006). What is clear is that NGOs that actively campaign for political change and strengthened rights by definition will threaten established interests. In 2005, for example, the Russian government, mindful of civil society-led political activities in neighboring countries such as Ukraine (partly facilitated by foreign-funded local NGOs), put in place new laws to limit the

activities of Russian NGOs.

The Developmental roles of Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs)

The history of NGOs dates back to 1839. The growth of NGOs was so rapid that, between 1904 and 1914, when Rotary International was formed, there were an estimated 1,083 NGOs (Amadi, 2010). International NGOs were important in the anti-slavery movement and the movement for women's suffrage, and got to a remarkable height at the time of the World Disarming Conference. However, the word or phrase NGOs came into popular use with the establishment of the United Nation's Organization in 1945, with the provisions in article (71) of chapter 10, of the UNO charter. This provision provided for a consultative role of organizations which are neither governmental nor intra-state. From this point on, NGOs were recognized as being imposition to play vital roles in sustainable development.

In Nigerian, the history of NGOs dates back to early days of independence. It was occasioned by the colonial rule. But at postindependence, many events such as military rule, dictatorship, religious violence, ethnicity and corruption led to the upsurge of NGOs in Nigeria (Iheme, 2000). The aims and objectives of NGOs are mainly to reduce poverty- (a concept which is in-line with the focus of development); to provide social amenities, advance education, harmony, religious tolerance, provision of grants; healthy facilities. NGOs advocate for awareness and enlightenments to the masses on government policies, social and environmental issues. The NGOs, through their activities and partnership with different levels of government are able to achieve development through the use of advocacy, workshops,

enlightenment and education of the civil society. Also through partnership and collaborations with the government and its agencies, NGOs can influence government decision for the well-being of the citizens.

In addition to this, NGOs campaign against authoritarian/totalitarian regimes; they criticize corruption in civil society and in government. They agitate for human rights, civil rights and against practices targeted at women. In a nutshell, NGOs are pressure groups with developmental concerns. Some concrete example shall be mentioned to help illuminate the aims and objectives of NGOs in Nigeria. For instance, NGOs fought against military dictatorship and human rights abuse and in fact have been in the forefront of the campaigns for good governance, gender equality, improved public health, protection of environment and have shown interest in a host of other economic, social and religious issues. Unequivocally, Nigerian democracy benefited from the activities of pro-democracy groups like NADECO (National Alliance for Democratic Coalition). During the 2010 International Women's Day Celebration, women based NGOs such as Gender and Development Action and Women Human Right based NGOs campaigned for the achievement of 30% affirmative action in government and decision making. They also lamented the absence of a national law against domestic violence in Nigeria and high level of maternal mortality rate (Amadi, 2010).

In addition, the National Council for Women Societies (NCWS) has been in the forefront for the agitation for increases in the number of women appointed to public offices and political

positions in conformity with the United Nations Affirmation Action. The achievement made by NCWS and Women in Nigeria (WIN) are quite remarkable as the girl child education is treated equally with that of the male child. Today, many women now occupy political and managerial positions. These are few examples to illustrate the developmental orientations of NGOs, but by far, the NGOs from pre-colonial era to the present appear to have contributed in the health sector more than any other area.

The Role of ACTED in the North East Nigeria

North- Eastern Nigeria otherwise known as the North-Eastern Geo-political zone is an area comprise of six (6) states and these are: Bauchi, Gombe, Adamawa, Taraba, and Borno. The zone has suffered from a lot of conflicts. A lot of persons were killed, a lot of properties worth billions of naira were destroyed and millions of persons were displaced. The most affected states are Borno and Adamawa. The displaced persons in state like Bauchi, Gombe and Taraba are mostly victims of herder- farmer's conflicts and natural disasters such as flood. The North eastern geo-political zone has 87 camps of displaced persons with the populations of 5,610,121 Displaced persons (Launi, 2021)

The situation in the zone has called for help and the Nigerian government along with some foreign countries, individuals and NGOs have played crucial role in the management of the camps of the IDPs. Among some of the notable NGOs are: ACTED, REACH, Save the children, CARE, Oxfam, Action Aid, CLEEN, Karavan Craft, Action against hungers and many others (Lewis, 2021).

ACTED is one of the NGOs that provide humanitarian service to the IDPs in North-East Nigeria. They provide humanitarian assistance to the crisis affected population based on the principles of impartiality and non-discrimination. The essence of this principle is to uphold their right to life with dignity. ACTED began operation in Nigeria in 2017 and it has its administrative headquarters in Abuja and two major divisions – Borno and Kaduna. The office at Borno coordinates activities within the north – west zone. The head of a geographical location is called the president while divisional heads are called vice-president. It recruited its personal within the local communities and it is chiefly contract oriented; the renewal of appointment is based on employee's performance and output in carrying out his or assignment task (Shaw & Pritchard, 2020).

ACTED did not have a long history but it has impacted on number of ways within its short stay. Some of the activities that were carried by ACTED in the camp of IDPs in the North-East Nigeria are:

(a) Food security and Nutrition

This is one of the mandates of ACTED in IDPs camp. ACTED do provides grain such as rice, beans, cowpea, groundnut, soya beans, millet, soya-beans and food like noodles, bread, paste, food additives and many others to displaced persons. The food unit of ACTED is saddled with this responsibilities. Employees who work at the unit do not only supply or distribute food items but also provide training to the displaced persons on what constitute a good nutrition and how it could be sustained to keep the body fit.

(b) Provision of shelter

This is also one of the activities that are being performed by ACTED in the camp of IDPs in the North Eastern part of Nigeria. ACTED has construction and building unit and this unit is saddled with the responsibility of building temporal shelters for the displaced persons. Workers in the unit are mostly persons with good knowledge on carpentry, mounting of tents, building and fabrication. Apart from the building and the construction, the units monitor the distribution of roofing materials (zinc, nails, ceilings, etc.) cement and many others.

(c) Distribution of Non- food relief Items(NFRIs)

This is one of the activities of ACTED in the camp of displaced persons. ACTED supported displaced persons with NFRI like clothes, plastics kitchen utensils, fans, fertilizer, chairs, tables and many others. NFRIS is a unit on its own and is directly under the control of divisional head.

(d) Provision of state Drinking Water and Hygiene Facilities

This is also one of the activities of ACTED. ACTED in the camp of IDPs in the North-Eastern part of Nigeria has machine that drills bore hole to the camps of displaced persons. ACTED employed its operators and others workers that works in the unit. Apart from the provision of safe drinking water, ACTED provide hygiene facilities such as sanitary pads, mosquitoes nets, insect repellants, tissue papers, antiseptic, Vaseline and many others to the displaced persons.

(e). Good Education and reproductive Health Education

This is also of the activities of ACTED in the camp of displaced persons. ACTED has trained personnel who help to provide basic literacy education to both children and adults that are displaced by crisis or natural disasters. The unit also

provides health and reproductive health education to both children, adult and pregnant women in the camp

(f). Vocational Skills

This is also one of the activities that are being performed by ACTED in the camp of displayed person in the North-Eastern Nigeria. ACTED in collaboration with other NGOs like CARE, REACH, Doctors without borders, save the children, Action Against Hunger, CLEEN foundation, Rockefeller and many others do provides vocational training such as tailoring, carpentry, fabrication, barbing, plating, building, netting, fabric work, mesh work, dying and many others to the displaced persons. The unit has different resource persons who are employed to provide training to the displaced persons. The resources people are mostly recruited within the host communities.

(g). Rehabilitation and Recovery

This is one of the activities of ACTED in the North-Eastern Nigeria. Once an emergency need have been met following a disaster or after the crisis is over, the people that are affected are provided with training on how to adjust and start life afresh. The essence of this is to ensure the return to normalcy and to lay the ground work for resilience sustainable development. The unit provides guide, counseling and general orientation on how the affected persons would start life afresh.

(h). Mitigation and prevention

This is also one of the activities of ACTED. ACTED helps in promoting and institutionalizing eco-system basal disaster like reduction with a specific emphasis on climate change adaptation (promoting of climate- smart Agricultural practices) energy efficiency, etc. and integrated Natural resources management (watershed management) sustainable land use, etc.

Apart from the highlighted activities, ACTED provides support to public

institution and service providers that provides life line services such as health, information management system, communication and many others.

Theoretical Framework

Organizational Development Theory was adopted for this study. Theory was propounded by Kurt Lewin in (1947) and was further developed by other scholars such as Margulies and Raia (1972), Hackman (1986) and Deklerk (2007). The theory Organization development (OD) is the study and implementation of practices, systems, and techniques that affect organizational change. The goal of which is to modify a group's/organization's performance and/or culture. The organizational changes are typically initiated by the group's stakeholders. OD emerged from human relations studies in the 1930s, during which psychologists realized that organizational structures and processes influence workers behavior and motivation.

Organizational Development (OD) theory include: organizational climate the mood or unique "personality" of an organization, which includes attitudes and beliefs that influence members' collective behavior, organizational culture that is deeply-seated norms, values, and behaviors that members share and organizational strategies how an organization identifies problems, plans action, negotiates change and evaluates progress.

Tenets of the theory

The theory has the following tenets:

- a. providing opportunities for people to function as human beings rather than as resources in the productive process
- b. providing opportunities for each

organization member, as well as for the organization itself, to develop to their full potential

- c. seeking to increase the effectiveness of the organization in terms of all of its goals
- d. attempting to create an environment in which it is possible to find exciting and challenging work
- e. providing opportunities for people in organizations to influence the way in which they relate to work, the organization, and the environment
- f. treating each human being as a person with a complex set of needs, all of which are important to their work and their life

The theory is applicable to the study in three (3) dimension and these are: (a) the Organizational level, (b) individual level and (c) the work/ environmental level. The essence of the establishment of ACTED is for the purpose of solving problems through local solutions, self-help and generating employment among the grassroots populace in the society and community. ACTED operate as non-governmental organizations and its members are both international and local, its operations are coordinated for effective and efficient service delivery to the people at their area of operation and that is while this theory is very key in the operation and function of ACTED. It has to be organize and coordinated it carry out its core mandate of providing shelter, food security and nutrition and camp coordination and camp management, without effective organization, coordination will be a mirage.

The theory is applicable at the individual level base on the fact that for

organization to carry out its task effectively and efficiently it requires well-trained and quality personnel. The organizational development theory create room for what is known as self-management workgroup, in this self-management group, the workgroups allow the members of a work team to manage, control, and monitor all facets of their work, from recruiting, hiring, and new employees to deciding when to take rest breaks. An early analysis of the first-self-managing work groups yielded the following behavioral characteristics (Hackman, 1986):

- Employees assume personal responsibility and accountability for the outcomes of their work.
- Employees monitor their own performance and seek feedback on how well they are accomplishing their goals.
- Employees manage their performance and take corrective action when necessary to improve their and the performance of other group members.
- Employees seek guidance, assistance, and resources from the organization when they do not have what they need to do the job.
- Employees help members of their workgroup and employees in other groups to improve job performance and raise productivity for the organization as a whole.

Also at the work / environmental level the theory allows for effective and efficient working environment for all the workers in the organization as seen with the self-management group where by everyone works for the benefit of the organization..

Research Methods

The research approach to this study is the qualitative research design. It mainly entails the study of documentary materials and interview. The research relied on both primary and secondary data; the primary data is drawn from interview of some selected persons while secondary was drawn from an array of published and unpublished materials relevant to the study such as books, journals, magazines, conferences and seminar papers and newspapers. Other sources of secondary data were reports, white papers of investigation panels and other qualitative publications related to the problem of the study were all systematically analyzed. Interviews was conducted on the camp for some leaders, principal officers of ACTED, beneficiaries of ACTED and persons with knowledge on the activities of NGOs and ACTED in particular.

The method by which data were generated for this study is both the secondary and the primary source; the secondary comprises arrays of data generated from documentary materials such as books, journals, and newspaper, conference and seminar papers, among many others while the primary source is the interview of the country Rep, logistic officer, camp leaders, community leaders within the camp areas and the coordinator of ACTED Nigeria, reason being that they are in-charge and in control of the activities of ACTED. The research uses both quantitative and qualitative descriptive statistic for the analysis of the generated data. This is done through careful analysis of the formulated hypotheses in line with the interviews conducted and reviewed literature. Thus, under the findings and discussions, each discourse is based on some background assumption presented in the form of hypotheses. The hypotheses are subsequently upheld or rejected.

Findings and Discussion

This section of the study will test the hypothesis formulated for the study with the data obtained from primary source (interview) and secondary data (documents) consulted. The chapter will transform the collected data from the field (interview), document consulted and also according to how they discriminate among each other on the basis of initial hypothetical position.

Hypothesis One

In what ways has food security and nutrition of ACTED has significant effect on the livelihoods of IDPs in the North-East Nigeria

Food security and nutrition of ACTED and livelihoods of IDPs

The food security and nutrition of ACTED in the camp of IDPs in the North East Nigeria has constituted one of the basic role since its inception in 1993 to present. ACTED has 6200 staff spread across 35 countries and right from its inception to present, it has executed 14,500 projects and has turned the livelihoods of over 11 million persons around not only in the IDPs camp of North East Nigeria but the country at large. ACTED expend its funds on 8 of its mandate and these are:

- a. Emergency relief
- b. Health proportion
- c. Risk management
- d. Rehabilitation and
- e. Sustainable development

Some of the ways it raised its funds are:

- (a) **Emergency Relief:** This is one of the major role ACTED played in the food security and nutrition in the camps of IDPs in the North East Nigeria. It does this through the subscription in social finance; this is in collaboration with French

Bank, credit corporative and other six financial institutions. According to the logistic officer, These are:

- ✓ BNP: Paribus investment partners
- ✓ Laisse Solitaire
- ✓ EstinGestion
- ✓ Micora
- ✓ La Neil
- ✓ ABN Amro-investment

These partners are the principal contributors and ACTED relied on them for funding

- (b) **Micro Bank Subsidiary:** This is one of the ways that ACTED raised its fund. ACTED relied on its microfinance - Oxus to raise funds for its field operation and needs. The micro-finances are situated in Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan and DRC. These funds constituted 50% of ACTED's funds. The subsidiary have subsidiary across different areas.

- (c) **Public Generosity:** This is also another way in which ACTED raises its funds. It raises money to execute some of its project from public oriented persons and the intervention of international donor institutions.

- (d) **Counterpart Funding:** ACTED collaborates with actors such as the state and its institution and other international organizations to help it carry out some of its mandate.

In the North Eastern Nigerian, ACTED has executed its capital project and intervened on a lot of projects. Some of the areas it has intervened are: Bore-hole, food items, NFIs, fertilizers, building materials among many others. In an interview session with the ACTED's president in Nigeria- Mr. Benjamin Bello on 3rd, February, 2021. He revealed a lot of challenges that ACTED faced as a result

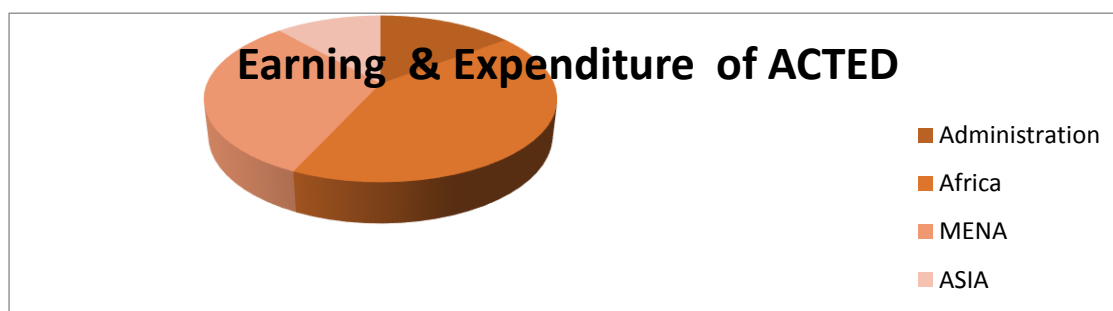
of carrying out its role in the north east geo political zone of Nigeria. He enthused: Since the commencement of the operation of ACTED in Nigerian in 2017, ACTED has carried out 97 capital projects and intervened in a lot of areas. ACTED carry out its operation in North-east and North West. ACTED wish to spread its tentacles to North Central Zones (Plateau and Nasarawa) and some other areas in South-south and south east that are affected by Natural disasters such as flood, clashes, drought, landslides and avalanches and many others. But its operation tented to be

carryout phase by phase in other to meet up with their plan.

In the whole of the 35 countries that ACTED operates, ACTED have 6200 staff and its budgets contain the expenditure for field activity and administration. Out of the 6200 staff, only 4106 are permanent and mission staff. ACTED report book of 2021-2022 shows that 14% of its earning is to aid expenditure and administration and the remaining 40%, 30% and 11% is used in Africa, MENA and Asia. This can be seen in the figure below.

Figure 3.1: Earning and Expenditure of ACTED

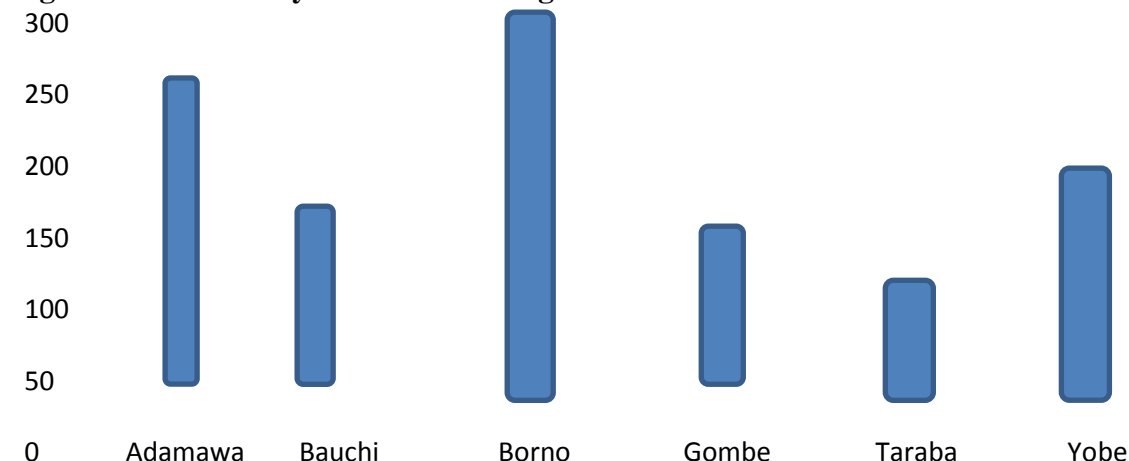
Source: ACTED's Annual Report, 2022



Among states that benefitted from the intervention of ACTED in North East Nigeria are: Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe received the greatest share. The report book of ACTED also revealed that this state are

the beneficiaries of food security and nutrition provided by ACTED. The rate of intervention can be seen in the figure below. Borno has the largest share followed Adamawa, Yobe, Bauchi, Gombe and Taraba.

Figure 3.2: Beneficiary of ACTED in Nigeria



Source: ACTED Annual Report, 2022

The table above provides a clear picture of ACTED provision of food security and nutrition support to each state in the North East Nigeria. Operating expenses and execution of projects that will better the lots of the people of North

East Nigeria. The summary of activities carried out in Nigeria and North East, funds obtained from the public, private organization, grant and subsidies for food security and nutrition is shown on the table below.

Table 4.1: Funding of ACTED

<u>ACTED Statement of Utilization of Funds, 2021-2022</u>		
Uses of Funds	Income Statement	Use
1. Social missions	133811325	1484
Carried out in Nigeria	0	0
Action carried out directly	0	0
Action carried out abroad	133811325	1484
Responding to humanitarian crisis	105,575,398	484
Co-constructing effective governance	17601508	500
Inclusive and sustainable growth	10634420	500
2. Fund Raising Expenses	5136	5136
From the general public	5136	5136
From private funding	0	0
Application for grant and subsidies	0	0
3. Operating Expenses	5974636	14133
		20753

The result and discussion above shows that food security and nutrition of ACTED has been carried out effectively to improve the livelihood of IDPs in the North East Nigeria. From this, we accept our alternative hypothesis and conclude that “*food security and nutrition of ACTED has significant effect on the livelihoods of IDPs in the North-East Nigeria*”

Hypothesis Two

The camp coordination and camp management has impacted negatively on the performance of ACTED in the camps of IDPs in North East Nigeria.

Camp coordination and Camp management of ACTED and IDPs

Environment has significant effect on the activities and the operation of ACTED in the North-East zone of Nigeria. North-East of Nigeria is one of the geo-political zone in Nigeria that has suffered from several attacks by the insurgent groups – ISWAP, Boko-Haram among others. A lot of persons were killed, properties worth billions of naira were destroyed and sumptuous of persons were displaced (Sama, 2019). Beside the attacks, the area has been affected by natural disasters such as flood, drought, landslide and avalanches. These challenges were the basic things that attracted ACTED to the zone. ACTED came to Nigeria in 2017

and began its operation in North-East zone that same year. The environment in the zone was hostile and characterized by sumptuous of anomalies and among them are:

- a. Recurrent decimal of attacks.
- b. Persistent destruction of properties
- c. Continual displacement of people
- d. High concentration of IDPs and IDPs camps

The mentioned menaces have interfered with the operation of ACTED in different ways. The notable ones are:

a. Recurrent and Intermittent Nature of the Attack: The attacks in the North-East are a recurrent decimal; the attacks come, goes and then re-appeared. ACTED has been operating in North-East zone since 2017. Its plan, estimate, projection, budgets and schedules (Escalation, de-escalation, rehabilitation, reconciliation and relocation programmes) for long has been affected. There were several instances where groups that were rehabilitated and relocated were re-attacked and have returned back to the camps (Shaw & Pritchard, 2020). Most of the affected states are: Borno, Adamawa, Gombe and Bauchi.

In an interview session, the coordinator North East Zone Mrs. JEANNE GIECHEDE ACTED in Nigeria enthused:

One thing difficult about attacks in North-East zone of Nigeria is that, it is a re-occurring phenomenon. We have suffered a lot as a result of this rate and nature of its re-occurrence. A lot of persons or groups we rehabilitated go and come back again. Many houses we have re-constructed were set on fire again. A lot of farmers and business men that we have empowered are back again; complaining that their crops and businesses were destroyed. Camp coordination and camp management is something that is very difficult to carryout base on the fact that money is involved and the people involved are some time to difficulty to control.

Corroborating on this notion, Saleh (2010) stressed that the hostile environment in the North-East has grossly affected a lot of activities in the zone. He stressed that economic activities have declined and agricultural practices were at the state of comatose. The hostile environment is a serious setback to several activities in the zone.

b. Persistent Destruction of Properties: A lot of properties worth billions of naira were destroyed by the recurrent attacks in the North-East. Several houses, business stores, farms, different public institutions such as health facilities and schools, religious centres and many others. Mallam Saleh – a community leader in Mubi has this to say:

Many people are affected by the attacks of the insurgences. Several properties were destroyed – residential houses, businesses and market area, health facilities, schools, farm, recreation area and many others. He also said that camp coordination and camp management is not easy for the staff of ACTED as people come in and out of the camp every day, you build shelter for them after some time they leave and come back again.

He went further to states that the staffs of ACTED Nigeria are trying in terms of camp coordination and camp management.

c. Continual Displacement of People: This is one of the typical attributes of the conflict in the North-East Zone. The attacks for long kept re-occurring despite several interventions. It is not easy to define the clear position of the conflict – is it at its escalation or de-escalation? This is because the attack kept re-occurring and the number of IDPs and the camps kept spreading making all the staff of ACTED act in other to make every one that comes to the camps carter for.

d. High Concentration of IDPs and Camps: North-East zone is the geo-political zone with the highest number of camp of displaced persons. The table below is the distribution of IDPs and their camps in Borno and North East states in Nigeria.

Table i

Top 10 local government areas hosting the highest numbers of internally displaced persons in North East Nigeria, accounting for 62% of case load of IDPs in North East Nigeria

LGA	STATE	Number of IDPs
Jere	Borno	292,348
Maiduguri MC	Borno	240,580
Monguno	Borno	160,239
Gwoza	Borno	159,584
Konduga	Borno	144,638
Bama	Borno	125,571
Damboa	Borno	106,566
Ngala	Borno	106,462
Nganzai	Borno	90,750
Dikwa	Borno	82,585

Source: ACTED 2022

Table i above show the numbers of IDPs in Borno state that is highly concentrated in each local government areas of the state and how ACTED has been coordinating and managing them

without any stress. Camp coordination and camp management for ACTED is such an easy task for them as a group and also as a team.

Table ii IDPs in Camps/Camp like setting vs IDPs dispersed in host communities

STATES	IDPs in Camps/Camp setting	IDPs in host communities
Adamawa	25,046	207,950
Bauchi	2,037	65,193
Borno	937,079	928,636
Gombe	3,402	45,122
Taraba	3,612	73,838
Yobe	17,252	146,023
TOTAL	988,428	1,466,762

Source: ACTED 2022

Table ii above show how camps where coordinated and managed by ACTED in the North East Nigeria effectively without any problem or issues. Furthermore, from our findings and discussion above, it was found that camp coordination and camp management has influence on the operation of ACTED in the camp of IDPs in the North –East Nigeria. Camp coordination and camp management has positively impacted on

the performance of ACTED in the camp of IDPs in the North-East Nigeria. With this we reject our alternative hypothesis and conclude that “camp coordination and camp management has not impacted negatively on *the operation of ACTED* in the North East Nigeria”

Hypothesis Three

The provisions of shelters have no significant effects on the lives of IDPs in the camps in North- East Nigeria.

Shelter and IDPs

ACTED plays a key role in coordinating and informing humanitarian and development work within the country through its involvement in Agency Coordinating Body for North-East Relief and Development which represent 87 humanitarian and development NGOs. While supporting communities with over 180 infrastructural projects, ACTED also has contributed to social capital, providing support for additional activities (including sport, culture, social events, interactive media and networking promotion cohesion), participation and increasing demand in contexts often divided through culture and conflict (World Bank, 2020). Throughout 2017 to the present year, the activities of ACTED continued to promote good governance in the North-East and it support grass-root Community Development Councils, District Development Assemblies and Local Partners, ACTED involved in the Construction of Community Infrastructure, the representation and participation of youth and women and as well as the development of sustainable livelihood activities. The result include:

Table I Shelter in North East Nigeria.

LGA	STATE	Number of Shelters
Jere	Borno	823
Maiduguri MC	Borno	750
Monguno	Borno	630
Gwoza	Borno	610
Konduga	Borno	607
Bama	Borno	582
Damboa	Borno	560
Ngala	Borno	230
Nganzai	Borno	209
Dikwa	Borno	189

Source: ACTED 2022

improved governance, strengthened resources management, increased employment and rising literacy levels (World Bank, 2020). ACTED believes that once the IDPs are well taking care of through the provision of shelter they will effectively work for the betterment of the North East and the country at large.

According to the facility manager Mr. Adedayo he said:

The provision of shelter to the IDPs in ALL THE ten local government area of Borno state remains the best thing that has happened to the IDPs in Borno state, since inception they have provided more than six (6000) thousand shelters to the ten IDPs camp in North East Nigeria.

ACTED's conceptual approach to effective shelter delivery to the people of not only Borno state but the entire North East region of Nigeria is worthy of emulation by other NGOs in Nigeria. The current thinking on the principles of transparency and accountability forms the entry's point for ACTED's approach. The table below show the interventions by ACTED in the area of shelter to the IDPs in Borno state and North East region of Nigeria.

The table above show how ACTED intervenes in the area of shelter for the IDPs in North East camps across the Zone. The result and discussion above shows that ACTED provided more shelter for the wellbeing of the IDPs in the North East Nigeria. ACTED operate within the purview of the law and also support the state in the provision of not only shelter but also basic goods and services to persons affected by conflict in the North East Nigeria. With this, we accept our alternate hypothesis and conclude that “The provision of shelter has significant effects on the lives of IDPs in the camps in North- East Nigeria”.

Conclusion

ACTED remains committed to the provision of basic needs to victims of conflicts, disasters and marginalization. The activities of ACTED are implemented within an established mechanism coordinated by the office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). ACTED work with number of partners to address the most pressing need resulting from these conflict-related shocks through the distribution of relief items – food and nutrition assistance, provision of shelter, distribution of Non-Food Relief Items (NFRIs), provision of safe drinking water and hygiene facilities protection activities (for example child and women friendly spaces) refugee and IDP management, emergency logistics, support to public institutions and service provider and many others. ACTED started operation in the North-Eastern Nigeria in 2017. It has carried number of projects and has impacted positively on the lives of many IDPs. ACTED provides its services to the affected persons in the North-East Nigeria based on its principle of impartiality and non-discrimination. The

idea behind this is to uphold the people right to life and dignity.

The activities of ACTED in Nigeria was successful but it has been constrained by hostile environment and poor partnership between the federal and state governments. The conflicts in the North is intermittent and spasmodic, it comes, goes and re-appear. This attribute makes it management cumbersome. This and many other factors have makes rehabilitation and recovery a farce.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were proffered:

- a. ACTED should be assisted in camp coordination and camp management for effective and efficient service delivery to the IDPs in the North East Nigeria.
- b. The Nigerian government in collaboration with the state government in the North-east zone of the country should provide good governance, good enabling environment and friendly policies. This will helps to reduce the attacks and attract supportive sectors institutions like NGOs and many others.
- c. Nigerian government and multi-national organization should partner with ACTED in the provisioning of goods and services to the displaced population in the North-East geo-political zone. The partnership should be in the form of counterpart funding and support; this will play a crucial role to strengthen the financial base of ACTED and increase its range of activities in the zone.
- d. ACTED should utilize the services of manpower within the host

communities and persons who have knowledge about the attacks and can communicate effectively with the people. This will go a long way to reduce menaces such as challenges in communicating their mission, kidnapping of their personnel and the mute attitude of the affected people toward ACTED's programme in the zone. Communication is the key that will help to market the mission of ACTED and as well draw the interest of the IDPs.

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