

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS PERSPECTIVES ON THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN NORTH EASTERN NIGERIA



The Issues

- Global media, saturated with reports of Northeast Nigeria – 1 of 15 reports on Nigeria on Northeast
- Most reports on bad news, they are partial & uninformed
- Northeast non-profits are local, with local knowledge, commitment & passion for change
- Local non-profits pick up emerging trends & have people based solutions
- Local non-profits are however under-represented in Northeast planning hubs
- They are also traditional with capacity challenges



What we known & What we don't know about the crisis of the Northeast

- Global media and humanitarian reports list numbers killed, internally displaced, facilities destroyed, since the insurgency waged by the Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad (Boko Haram)
- We know that at December 2016, about 1,770, 444 people (313, 923 households) were displaced from about 2000 locations across Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, and Yobe states.
- We know that approximately 24.3% of those displaced currently live in displacement sites like camps, collective centers, and transitional centers.
- We also know that 100s of international development partners and government have development & humanitarian programs in the Northeast
- But we also don't know a lot of important information to address the crisis



What we don't know or fail to link with the BH crisis (I)

- Before the Boko Haram crisis the Northeast region had the highest incidence of persistent and abject poverty in Nigeria
- The Northeast is the only region in Nigeria where Climate change (drying up of Lake Chad) resulted in displacement, social dislocation, increased poverty, deforestation, desertification, threats to livelihoods
- Abduction of women and girls and forced marriage has historical roots in some traditional cultures of the region'
- Before the BH crisis most donors refused to work in the Northeast; most got no further than Bauchi State
- Before BH, militarization of society and youth culture with proliferation of arms
- This was driven by the regional wars in Chad, Mali &
- Before BH the region was a transit point for human traffickers , smugglers & gun runners
- Destabilization of Libya channeled para-military from Nigeria and Niger to the Northeast



What we don't know or fail to link with the BH crisis (2)

- Governance in the NE before BH was autocratic with the same ruling elite being returned to office
- Civics in the NE has strong roots in tradition & religion
- Donors are afraid of the traditional/religious; working mainly with modern/secular non-profits and even then no core capacity building support
- Reconstruction over-emphasizes physical and material 'things'
- Inadequate focus on psychological trauma of women and girls in particular



Recommendations!

- Urgent need to support tri-partite coordination for reconstruction with civics, donors & government at the table
- Urgent need to establish a data mobilization system with inputs from civics and traditional leaders to identify emerging trends
- Increased accountability of donors to the people and government of the region
- Increased need for counseling programs to empower traditional and religious leaders to support communities to address stigmatization



Recommendations (2)

Immediate Support

- Capacity building for humanitarian workers, CSOs and health providers who provide counseling services in the region.
- Expanding intervention programs such as Water Sanitation and hygiene, livelihood and economic empowerment programs and psychosocial support programs.
- Establishment of social protection programs for women and children.

Medium to Long Term Support

- A strategic framework tailored towards documenting IDPs resettlement.
- Psychosocial and rehabilitation programs for women and children who are victims of SGBV.
- Education programs on religious and ethnic tolerance, human rights knowledge, legal reporting of disputes and abuse cases.
- Ensuring regularization, recognition and support of un-official IDP camps by the Government.



Recommendations for Civics

- Donors must invest in Capacity building programs and provide core support for local Northeast civics
- New pilot capacity building programs for local NGOs by the Gates foundation through dRPC in Nigeria. Northeast NGOs need capacity for advocacy, behavioral change & service delivery
- Women's livelihood associations and school based associations should be supported
- Fund leadership programs so heads of local NGOs can understand and support development/humanitarian programs
- Support meetings of traditional and secular civics across the Northeast - Ford Foundation supported meeting. More meetings with an agenda setting focus must be supported



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asante grazie nandri 謝謝 mersi kőszönőm
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