

When is Effort Shattered by Despair: An Evaluation of Relief Efforts in Crises and Disaster-Prone Areas of Kaduna State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Relief operations involve acquisition and distribution of relief materials to displaced persons and those in need of humanitarian assistance. Despite its importance, and in view of crises and disasters that do occur in Kaduna, not much has been done to study how relief operations is being out. In conducting this study, quantitative and qualitative techniques were both used in which a total of 376 questionnaires were distributed to individuals who have benefited from relief materials and 6 informants drawn from National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) and Red Cross were interviewed. Exploiting the rational choice theory, the research found relief materials that include blankets, food items, and medical consumables among others are distributed to displaced persons and the research also found there were more male beneficiaries than females. The research recommends improvement in monitoring of relief operations, gender balancing and inclusion and training of the actors involved in relief operations.

1. Introduction

Reports have documented a devastating situation and what individuals are passing through in crises and disaster situations. For instance, according to a UNICEF report (2017) the conflict in North-Eastern Nigeria continues to devastate lives of people, resulting in humanitarian crisis affecting 7.7 million women, men and children. Such people are mostly rendered homeless, displaced and made refugees. According to the report, the humanitarian community has reached 4.5 Million of those affected, with life-saving assistance rendered by different actors, which has helped to stabilize living conditions.

Such humanitarian crises are not restricted to Borno and North-Eastern states of Nigeria. Other places have had and have faced such crises that have led to loss of lives and properties and led to serious humanitarian crises, as a result of dislocation of the population

from carrying out their normal social and economic activities. Thus, banditry and the recent Covid-19 pandemic have created condition in which relief service becomes necessary all over the country, including Kaduna state, being one of the affected states by banditry, and have and controls significant share of displaced individuals.

Due to the humanitarian crises such conflicts generate, pose, as result of which, communities are rendered homeless, greatly dislocated from carrying out economic and social activities, necessitating provision of relief materials to ameliorate and cushion their sufferings. The distribution of such materials define one part and key component of relief operations.

By their nature, emergency relief operation, supplies and relief materials distribution are mostly carried by State Emergency Management Agencies, National Emergency management agencies, Red Cross Organization and others. It should be noted that these stated agencies are established solely for the purpose of managing emergency situations in the country. According to Nweke, (2015) NEMA was established to tackle disaster related issues, provide and process relief assistance to such communities affected by crises or disasters, which include distribution of relief materials to victims of crises and disasters. Its presence and activities cut across the whole country – Kaduna inclusive.

In Kaduna, emergency management that includes distribution of relief materials is managed by NEMA, SEMA, Red Cross Organization and other voluntary organizations just like in other places (Ibid). In carrying out this, crises and disaster prone areas and communities affected are clearly mapped and segmented, and always provided with relief materials with camps set up in schools, police and military barracks, churches and mosques among others (Busari, 2019) and with items such as mosquito nets, mattresses and food stuffs dispatched and distributed. Other safe places are also used as camps for relief and emergency activities like abandoned government properties.

Disaster relief operations and materials distribution come into effect before, during and after any crises in Nigeria, especially in Kaduna, since the state does encounter crises- natural or human made, as a result of which, relief materials are always budgeted for distribution among individuals affected by the crises or disasters. In this way, such materials are mostly distributed by emergency and humanitarian agencies to displaced individuals and victims of crises. However, the materials may not reach the intended beneficiaries as the distribution is mostly improperly conducted, leading to challenges and failure to achieve over all goals of humanitarian relief operation. Humanitarian supply chain, logistic and relief materials distribution has succeeded in attracting research attention in recent years, which led to its development as a field of study (Verkatsh, Dubeyand, Ali 2014). This was done with a

view to understanding relief services and emergency relief operations. This paper, therefore attempts to examine emergency relief operations in disaster and crises prone areas of Kaduna State

2. Literature Review and Theoretical Framework

In this section, attempt will be made to interrogate relevant literature and past works dealing with relief operations and ways of distributing relief materials. Crises and natural hazards have caused human suffering and, negatively affect livelihood, comfort and sustainable development. These hazards have increased in frequency and their adverse impacts on human progress have intensified. Humanitarian access is often impeded or restricted as a result of hostility, threat of attack, of improvised explosives and crises. These hamper effective humanitarian services and distribution of relief materials in crises affected areas, more so in crises prone areas of Kaduna State.

In response to crises, attempts are made to provide succor and relief to those affected. This is the beginning of humanitarian relief operations. In this study focus would be made on reviewing relevant concepts, relief operations and relief materials,

2.1 Conceptual Review

For the purpose of clarity, attempt will be made to review key concepts used in this study. The review and clarification will guide this research and the definitions will be exploited in the course of this work. The concepts to be reviewed include: relief operation, relief materials and displaced person.

According to Narayanan and Ibe (2015)' **relief operation**' means the steps taken which include establishing communications, performing search and rescue and performing any necessary first aid to victims of crises and disasters. On the other hand, German Red-Cross defines it to only mean any action done to save lives and secure survival. International Relief Federation defines relief operations as the provision of essential, appropriate and timely humanitarian assistance to persons affected by a disaster or crisis based on an initial rapid assessment of needs and designed to contribute effectively and speedily to their early recovery. However, for the purpose of this research and to limit the scope of what relief operation means, the concept refers to acquisition and distribution of relief materials to displaced persons and those in need of humanitarian assistance. Part of this includes, transportation and storage of such materials for the overall goal of humanitarian services.

'**Relief materials**' according IFRC (2021) means such items like kitchen sets, blankets, tarpaulins, water and many more that include health and medical supplies. This goes a long way and adds to the definition given by Xinyued and Zhang (2021). According to them relief material has to do with medical face mask. Since this definition was provided in the light of

the outbreak of Covid-19 in Wuhan, the definition has narrow view of what relief materials encompass. Based on this, and going by the IFRC's definition, and for the purpose of this research, relief materials are any item distributed and such services rendered to displaced individuals and such persons in any of humanitarian assistance. These materials and services include clothing, food items, shelter, water, health and medical care.

2.2 Literature Review

In this section, attempt will be made to review relevant literature dealing with the subject of this research. In this way, the review will cover, seeking to shed light on issues related to relief operations, related to the actual distribution of relief materials,

Distribution Of Relief Materials

In practice, some disaster relief agencies focus almost entirely on emergency relief operations, distribution of relief materials and their tactical planning, whereas others enlarge their scope of their operations or focus on longer-term operations related to rehabilitating the disaster area. These latter agencies also work to minimize or avoid future disasters by strategically applying their accumulated experience and knowledge. By emphasizing the specific missions of the disaster relief agencies, this model offers an innovative, constructive representation of disaster relief operations that underlines the dual-cyclical nature of these operations. Moreover, the model provides a simple framework for developing a more thorough understanding of relief supply chain management practices in disaster relief operations.

In crises and disaster relief operations, most of the relationships between all related parties are developed instantaneously during the such operations. The mode of operation is totally different. In a logistic supply chain, parties are engaged in supply chain activities following a proper assessment of each other's values and areas of competence. For example, a supplier will be able to provide items after it is evaluated, assessment and approved by a manufacturer.

While in relief operations supply chain, various parties and actors are voluntary and involuntary; no evaluation is needed to enable them to participate in relief operations. Individuals, social, business, and government and non-governmental organizations, both national and international could easily be engaged in the relief operations as volunteers or a donor (supplier) of foods, shelters, tents, medicines, and other supplies.

This is what relief operation is all about. Studies focusing on logistics supply chain in disaster and emergency management have been carried. For instance, Verkatech (2014) conducted a study on, and argued, that humanitarian supply networks could include the delivery of materials to areas of chronic need overtime. This study is handicapped especially when

viewed from and in combination of the crises in Kaduna state as it pertains to relief materials distribution in the crisis prone areas of the state. Emphasis was placed on broad process of planning, implementing and controlling the efficient cost-effective flow and storage of goods and materials as well as other relevant information limited to emergency preparedness.

One of the important issues in disaster relief operation regarding supply chain and the ways the distribution of relief materials are conducted is the process and ways through which the distribution is made. In most cases clustering or grouping is made to ease such distribution. It could include the delivery of materials to areas of chronic need. Thomas and Kopczak (2017) have argued that the process of planning and implementation in which the actual distribution through different ways like clustering, community based, individual administrations of relief materials creates a network and chain of events that define relief chain. Olorunto and Gray (2006) have classified distribution of relief materials in crisis affected areas which is the fulcrum of humanitarian aid into two: relief activities for victims and development activities.

Relief Inventory System

According to Whybark (2004) disaster relief inventory is one form of social inventory that serves great social objectives that are broad as they touch not only an individual but a community of affected individuals. As opposed to defense and strategic inventories that serve other purposes, social and relief inventory serves social goals of providing relief to displaced and other persons in need of assistance. It is important to note; relief inventory is different from any other form of inventory.

Such inventories are characteristically different as it can be found in the areas of acquisition of the relief materials, storage and the final distribution to those in need (Whybark, 2004). Two aspects to acquisition can be discerned. The first is acquisition and storage of the relief materials. The second is the development of sources for the acquisition of the relief materials to be distributed to the persons in need.

The discovery of such vital sources is required for sustainable relief operations. In managing relief inventory, it is important to into consideration how these sources would trade-off with the inventory since they represent a form of capacity. This is important as failure to ensure consistent supply of relief materials and break-down in supply chain will lead to collapse in the operations and adding to, and increase in suffering of the affected persons. If this happens, it means the broad objectives of the humanitarian relief and emergency operations and services are defeated.

In deciding where to keep the inventory, it is important to consider time and cost of transportation. This is very key as they determine adequacy of the relief materials and how they

can easily be accessed when the need arises(Whybark,2007). Political considerations also play vital roles as it must incorporate security concerns, governance structure and operational modalities.

2.3 Theoretical Framework

The focus of this study is on effective relief operation. Thus, this work will employ the use of rational choice theory in trying to explain the objectives the research sets to achieve.

Rational Choice Theory

The basic principles of rational choice theory are derived from neo-classical economics as well as utilitarianism and game theory (Lindenberg, 2001). The focus in rational choice theory is on actors that are seen as being purposive or as having intention always. The actors have goals and objectives toward which their actions are aimed at achieving. They have preferences that are defined by value and utility.

Key Assumption of Rational Choice Theory

The focus of this theory is on actors that are seen as having intentionality, comprising of goals and objectives with which they focus their efforts toward achieving. These actors are seen as having preferences that are based on values and utilities. The theory does discount the preferences of the actors or their sources, taking into consideration of what achievement can action result to, and resources of achieving them.

In rational choice theory there are two major constraints to actions; the first constraint is the scarcity of resources. Actors have different resources as well as differential access to other resources. For those with few, if any, resources, the attainment of goals may be difficult (Ritzer 2014). The second constraint is the social institution. Ritzer (2014) opines that actors find their actions checked by laws and rules. These principles constrain the actors. Friedman and Hechter (1988) state that individuals usually find their actions checked and controlled from the beginning of their life all throughout by rules, laws, policies and many institutions.

It is important to recognize the strength of this theory in explaining challenges and problems of distribution of relief materials in crisis prone areas of Kaduna State. It is recognized that relief operations that consists of distribution of emergency supplies are made up of and carried out by different actors. These actors consist of government agents and agencies, donor organizations both local and international, volunteers etc with choices to be made based on resources and information available.

The major weakness of this theory is that it places and assumes actors have always choices to make. But in crisis situation such choices and alternatives may not always be there. Therefore, individuals, relief organizations and indeed the victims have to utilize what is only

available. More so, in Nigeria, availability of choices is dim and not always pleasing. Therefore, situations are always taken as they are, not considering what will ameliorate hardship, but just serving as a relief to existential human problems.

3. Methodology

This chapter deals with data collection methods used in this study. In order to achieve research objectives, the use of quantitative method was employed. However, this was augmented and complimented by qualitative method in order to obtain deeper insight on relief operations in crises and disaster-prone areas of Kaduna State.

3.1 Location of the Study Area

Kaduna State is covered and bordered by Kano State, Katsina State, Plateau State, Niger State and the Federal Capital Territory. It used to be the Capital of the then Northern Region. It was established as North Central state in 1967, and in 1975 it became Kaduna State. The state has 23 local government areas presently with Kafanchan and Zaria as major satellite towns. The metropolitan part of the state consists of Kaduna North, Kaduna South, parts of Chikun and Igabi. It is this part of the state where dominant economic and political activities take place with industries and commercial activities.

The drainage pattern and characteristic of the State is dominated by River Kaduna with different streams and tributaries discharging and feeding it with water and other domestic and industrial wastes. As a result of this and other poor practices and activities that are detrimental to the environment, banditry and ethno-religious crises the State does experience disasters, leading to destruction of properties and displacement of individuals (Bununu et al, 2015) bringing the need to provide relief materials to the affected persons.

3.2 Population of the Study

This research work was targeted on the people of Kaduna state, particularly displaced persons and beneficiaries of relief services in parts of Chikun and Igabi, Kaduna North and Kaduna South. The population in these areas is composed of different tribes and religions. Chikun is populated by a variegated ethnic groups such as Bagyi, Kadara and others, while Kaduna South has significant number of Bagyis plus a significant number of other tribes like Bajju, Kataf, Igala etc. As for Kaduna North and Igabi Local Government Areas, the areas have substantial number of Fulani and Hausa people. With farming, trading, and civil service as main occupation. The population in these areas is estimated to be above 2million, and according to 2006 national population census, the state has a population of 6.3 million. The state is projected to have 8.2 million people by 2016 based on national population census indices, of 8.9 million people by 2019 and 9.1million people by 2020 (KDBS 2019) comprising of 50.55% males and 49.45% females, segmented into age bands, with 0-9 having 34.6%, 10-19 having 21.8% and 20and above controlling 43.6%. Kaduna North and Kaduna South are at the center and with high population.

3.3 Sample size and Sampling Technique

As the population comprises of males and females of different age bands, with different social, economic and educational attainment, this research used 376 respondents to serve as sample. The respondents for this research were taken using census method involving generating a list of beneficiaries of relief materials from SEMA spread in the four local government areas selected for the research. Since the list contains limited number of beneficiaries that could not be reduced to sampling, the whole list was adopted and whole beneficiaries in the list were used as respondents.

As there is no any IDP camp in Kaduna presently due to the activities of armed bandits, all displaced persons get accommodated in residential areas, in spaces provided by relatives and other people in the local government areas. Therefore, utilizing guides and hints from SEMA, the researcher and his assistant made several visits to meet with the respondents at

different times of the day. It should be noted, this process incorporated village heads in identifying the respondents.

For qualitative method using Key Informant Interview, 6 respondents available at the time of conducting this research were used and they involved actors who participate in relief materials distribution in Kaduna State. Such experts were found at the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Red Cross Organization. In this way, 4 respondents from SEMA and 2 from Red Cross Organization were interviewed in their offices during their working hours.

3.4 Method of Data Collection

Two procedures were applied for data collection in this research. These are questionnaire survey and structured interviews for key informants.

4. Data Analysis and Interpretation

4.1 Introduction

This section consists of analysis of data collected from the field through questionnaires and in-depth interview guide within Kaduna state. In the course of the field work three hundred and seventy-six (376) copies of questionnaire were administered and the researcher was able to retrieve three hundred and sixty-six copies, and the analysis was based on the retrieved questionnaires. Also, key informant interview and in-depth interviews were conducted with six (6) key informants, who have key and in-depth knowledge about the phenomenon under study. And, the views of the key informants were used in the course of the interpretation of the findings, to complement the data collected through questionnaire.

4.2 Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

This section examines the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents who took part in the study. They are as follows: age, sex, marital status, religion and occupation. The result obtained on these variables are presented in table 1 below:

Table 1: Socio-Demographic Attributes of Respondents

Socio-Demographic Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age		
18 – 22	99	27.0
23 – 27	66	18.0
28 – 32	96	26.2
33 and above	105	28.7
Total	366	100
Sex		
Male	198	54.1
Female	168	45.9
Total	366	100
Marital status		
Single	147	40.2
Married	136	37.2
Divorced	23	6.3
Separated	30	8.2
Widowed	30	8.2
Total	100.0	100.0
Religion		
Islam	158	42.2
Christianity	177	48.4
Traditional	30	8.2
Total	366	100.0
Occupation		

Civil servant	119	32.5
Trading	83	22.7
Farming	53	14.5
Others	111	30.3
Total	366	100.0

(Source: Field survey, 2020).

The data in Table 2.1 clearly shows that majority of the respondents (28.7%) are aged 33 and above years. It is very clear from the age distribution of respondents that significant proportion of the respondents who took part in this study are older in terms of age.

In terms of the sex distribution of the respondents the data indicates that (54.1%) are males, while (45.9%) of them are females. This shows that majority of the respondents are males. This may be as result of male being more beneficiaries from the relief materials in terms of distribution in the study area. The table also shows that (40.2%) of the respondents are single, while (37.2%) are married. Though (23%) of the respondents reported that they are divorced (8.2%) are either separated or widowed. This suggests that most of the respondents took part in the study are singles. Notwithstanding and by implication, it can be deduced, when added together, the married, divorced, widowed and separated are the majority.

However, with regard to religious affiliation, the table indicates that (42.2%) are muslims and (48.4%) are Christians while (8.2%) are traditionalist; which mean there are more Christians than Muslims in the sample. Furthermore, the occupational distribution showed that (32.5%) are civil servant, (22.7%) are petty trading, (14.5%) are in farming activities, (30.3%) constituted others. As at the time this data was taken, it was evidently clear the majority of the respondents who took part in this study were civil servants.

4.3 Relief operation in Crises and disaster-prone areas of Kaduna State

The study revealed how is relief operation being carried out where (26.2%) of the respondents said relief operations are carried out through provision of emergency supplies, (17.8%) said respondent belief through provision of medical services to displaced individuals (14.5%) said providing essential good to displaced individuals, (38.3%) belief all of the above, while (3.3%) said none of the above. This implies that majority of the respondents' belief operations is carried out by all of the above responses.

In addition, it has been confirmed in in-depth interview by Kaduna state Red Secretary in charge gave insight on how is relief operation is carried out in Kaduna state.

“He said first of all, we evaluate the wounded, we give first aid, we carry out psychosocial support after we have taken them to hospital, we go back to the community, to assess what we call damage and assessment in the community. When that is done we begin to ask this people that their houses are burnt we get them shelters called IDP camps, we use primary schools to accommodate them. We make assessment we will be able, understand the immediate need of those people, they sometimes need water, food, cloths etc. for example.

This is harmattan season, any relief operation and distribution need blanket for the cold.

They need water, we check the health conditions of the camps due to epidemic and other things so this is what we do so far the planning before we bring in the relief material. So and therefore in every giving time we ascertain the need of those people before we provide the items. However, we have food items and non-food items for every disaster we look at what is really need in such aspect (indepth-interview guide/KD/RC/SS/2020).

Another respondent buttressed this finding and said:

“Relief operation are carried-out in phases we called disaster circle rather than response, prevention, mitigation, responses rehabilitation, reconstruct. These are the basis life circle (IDI/KD/ASO/SM/2020).

Furthermore, when respondents were asked who provides such goods and services for displaced person; (21.3%) pointed out that NEMA, (22.7%) asserts SEMA, (3.3%) said Red Cross, (29.2%) believed non-governmental, (14.8%) said individuals and (8.7%) said all of the

above. Therefore, majority of the respondents believed non-governmental organisation provides goods and services for displaced persons.

Table 2: Respondent view on how prompt are humanitarian and emergency organizations in providing assistance

Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Very fast	172	47
Not fast	194	53

(source: Field survey, 2020).

Table 2.1 above indicates that majority (47%) of the respondents believed that actors involved in relief operations are prompt in providing assistance to displaced persons in terms of distribution of relief materials, (53%) of the respondents' view that relief operations are not prompt. The difference between those that believed the assistance comes promptly those that disagree is not much, but says a lot about disaster and humanitarian response time.

Table 3: Respondent's view on how Effective are the Actors Involve in Relief Operation

Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Effective	122	33.3
Ineffective	112	30.6
Skilful	54	14.8
Moderate	78	21.3
Total	366	100.0

(source: Field survey, 2020).

Table 2.2 above indicates that majority (33.3%) of the respondents believed that actors involved in relief operations are effective in terms of distribution of relief materials, (30.6%) of the respondents' view that relief operations are ineffective, (14.8%) believed skillful, while (21.3%) believed are moderate.

Moreso, when respondents were asked if humanitarian relief operation's impact is being felt? (43.0%) of the respondents believed that its impact being felt, (53%) of the respondents poorly felt.

In addition, it has been confirmed in an in-depth interview guide by SEMA Relief Officer said:

"Yes it is, we try and do our best in delivering all the relief materials to the victims of disaster (IDI/KD/RO/SEMA/2020)".

"Yes, there is the chairman in SEMA is not a government person. The reason for these is all is involve in it. Whatever we do, we do it all together collectively. Joint activities mostly (IDI/KD/RC/SS/2020)".

Furthermore, the respondents were asked if there is adequate planning in relief operation where (39.1%) majority of the respondents believed there is poor planning and it affects relief operations. (38.5%) said adequate planning, while (22.4%) respondents agreed that no planning. Looking the responses, majority of the respondents believed relief operations is poorly planned.

Table 4 Respondents' view on how committed are the organizations involved in relief operation

Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
They ensure achievement of their goals	137	37.4
They are not always serious	119	32.5
They do it casually	110	30.1
Total	366	100.0

(Source: Field survey, 2020).

Table 2.4 above indicates that majority of the respondents (37.4%) believed that organizations involved in relief operations are committed and they ensure the achieve a set of

goals. (32.5%) said they are not always serious, (30.1%) said they do it casually. This means that large or majority of the respondents believed organizations involved in relief operations always make sure they achieve their set goals in terms of disaster management. But looking at the respondents that believed the relief organizations are not serious and those that believed the organizations operate casually, it means they are the majority when they are added together.

However, it had been confirmed in an in-depth interview by SEMA Relief Officer has this to say:

‘‘All the organization are committed in delivering relief assistance to the victims of disasters (IDI/Relief Officer/SEMA/KD/2020)’’.

Another respondent buttressed this finding and said that:

‘‘We have volunteers from various zones, we have people everywhere, but we first carry-out need assessment. Like we assess, vulnerable from aged 0-7 years, more vulnerable from aged 8-12 years and most vulnerable from 13 above. So we work hand in hand with those people we communicate with them. Those that are eligible for relief assistance. For them to come to a particular place. And we reveal what we want to live as relief. Please we don’t only give cash we give materials, food items and non-food items among others (IDI/Disaster MGT Coordinator/RED CROSS/KD/2020)’’.

Furthermore, when respondents were asked can we say the relief operations achieve their objectives? (32.5%) believed they achieved their goals, (59.3%) said goals poorly achieved while, (8.2%) believed goals not achieved. Therefore, majority of the respondents indicates that relief operations organizations did poorly in terms of goals achievement.

4.4 Discussion of the Findings

The findings indicate that most of the respondents were males. This was due to the fact that male parents were aware of the relief operations than female parents. More so majority of the respondents, as at the time of data generation falls within the age range of 33 and above that were the reason most of them were single in the study area.

However, the majority of the respondents were Christians at the time of the study that was the reason there was concentration of civil servants. The study found out that majority of the respondents believed relief operations were carried out, through provision of essential goods and services to the victims to alleviate their situation. Prominent among the goods mentioned include blankets, tents, mats, water, foods, medical services among others. This finding corresponds with Lee (2019), Ghosh (2009) and Etti (2009) who said the essence of relief organizations is to provide essential goods during or after crises relief supplies such as water, meals, generators, taps and medicine to the affected victims. It could be argued, displacement affects livelihood, which leads, as a remedy, to the need and provision of basic items for survival. And such items, all over the world have to do with, primarily, shelter, food, water, clothing, and medical consumables.

The foregoing discussion justifies the use of rational choice theory that views, for any action by the actors there was always intention and the actors must have goals and objectives that are aimed at, in carrying out their activities.

The theory went on to enumerate two other ideas that are viewed as fundamental and critical to rational choice theory. The first is an aggregation mechanism which is the process through which separate individual actions are combined to produce social mechanism. The second is the importance of information in making choices. At a time, it was assumed that actors choose among alternative course of actions. These choices make and produce the outcome. Rational choice believes in rational goals and the institutional means of achieving those goals.

From the findings, it supports Ritzer (2014) who recognized that relief operations, based on the postulations of the rational choice theory, that consists of distribution of emergency supplies, made up of and carried out by different actors. These actors consist of government agents and agencies, donor organizations, both local and international, volunteers etc. These actors all work, each separately, and together for the final outcome, bringing relief to victims of crisis and disasters and assisting them in recovery process. Their actions are generally constrained and regulated by laws and policies, and indeed by the crisis environment on which they operate, such constraints may consist of the very unpredictable nature of crisis and disasters and linked to this, is availability of resources.

The theory states that scarcity of resources constrains action. The actions here are relief operations in the form of distribution of relief materials. In Nigeria, and Kaduna state in particular, scarcity of resources may constrain the final outcome and the very essence of relief operations. Since the nature of relief operations that comes as a result of crises and disasters leading to displacement of person, generation of funds, procurement and supply of relief materials to the displaced individuals, involves funds and their distribution.

5. Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations.

5.1 Summary of the Findings

The purpose of this study was to make an analysis of challenges associated with the distribution of relief materials in crises and disaster prone areas of Kaduna state. Based on the data collected and its interpretation, it has been shown that a significant proportion of beneficiaries (28.7%) were within the age range of 33 and above and the majority of them were singles (54.1%) of the respondents were males, while (45.9%) were females which indicates there are more males beneficiaries of relief material than females. It's also found that (48.4%) majority of the respondents were Christians and the study, also found that majority of the respondents were civil servants at the time of the study.

Furthermore, it was discovered that majority of the respondents (38.3%) were aware of how relief operations were being carried out, while the study found that majority of the respondents agreed that, actors involved in emergency relief operations are very effective in carrying out their duties because (37.4%) of the respondents believed that relief organizations were committed and they also ensure they achieve their set target or goals.

5.2 Conclusion

In conclusion, the argument of this research is that emergency relief management and operation which involves distribution of food items, medical consumables, shelter among others are fraught with challenges. These challenges have been found in every ramification of relief materials distribution and the coordination of such operations.

It is further contended, public policy failure has allowed jeopardizing relief goals with personnel involved in relief materials distribution diverting relief materials for their selfish purposes, and the system of relief management and processes enmeshed in crisis with lack of accountability, transparency and lack of record and data-base for the relief items and their beneficiaries. It may not be far from this, the lack of respect and synergy among the actors is as a result of policy failure, leadership gap and lack of political will result from poor coordination of relief materials distribution.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings in this research which corroborate with information retrieved from relevant literature reviewed and in the course of the study which were in line with objectives, the researcher will make the following recommendations:

1. There is need for effective monitoring and evaluation of all relief programs. This includes efforts being made to avert diversion of relief materials through a process that allows and ensures checks and balances by different tiers of individuals and organizations. In addition, such monitoring evaluation units of all organizations involved in the distribution of relief materials should be strengthened for optimum performance.
2. Actors involved in the distribution of relief materials should be trained to improve their efficiency and such training exercises should be frequent.
3. Based on the findings, there is need for synergy or effective partnership among actors of relief operation and distribution of relief materials in crises and disaster prone areas of Kaduna State. To achieve this, a clearly defined leadership framework should be stated, and also, information should be promptly shared among the actors involved with clearly defined communication channels established.
4. Mainstreaming the different sectors into disaster risk management like, health sectors, fire services, army, police, agriculture sector and all other relevant sector via as necessary to prevent, reduce and mitigate the significant impact of disaster of these sectors toward efficient and effective living. Improving risk information and early warning and humanitarian and emergency organizations empowered so that knowledge, education and innovation are used to build a culture of safety and resilience across the nation. In addition, regional cooperation is also necessary towards the fight against disaster across countries.

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