

Addressing the Needs of Vulnerable Populations: The Nigerians Diaspora Commission's Strategies for IDPs in Nigeria.

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ABSTRACT: This paper explores the strategies employed by the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM) to address the pressing needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nigeria, a population significantly affected by conflict and socio-economic instability. With over 3 million IDPs as of 2023, the Nigerian humanitarian crisis necessitates effective intervention mechanisms, particularly in light of the challenges posed by the Boko Haram insurgency and farmer-herder conflicts. This study examines NIDCOM's mandate to harness diaspora resources, focusing on its advocacy efforts, resource mobilization initiatives, capacity-building programs, and collaboration with governmental and non-governmental organizations. Utilizing a qualitative research design, the study draws insights from semi-structured interviews, focus group discussions, and document analysis of NIDCOM's policies. Findings indicate varying degrees of success in NIDCOM's strategies; while capacity-building initiatives received positive feedback from IDPs, challenges remain in terms of coordination among stakeholders and sustainability of programs. The paper highlights the crucial need for enhanced collaboration, follow-up support mechanisms, and ongoing assessments to effectively meet the evolving needs of IDPs. Recommendations are provided to improve NIDCOM's impact on vulnerable populations, ultimately aiming to restore dignity and empower IDPs towards self-reliance.

Keywords: Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), Nigerians Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM), Humanitarian Crisis, Capacity Building.

I. INTRODUCTION

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nigeria represent a significant humanitarian crisis, driven by prolonged conflicts, natural disasters, and socio-economic challenges. As of 2024, Nigeria has over 3 million IDPs, primarily concentrated in the northeastern region due to the Boko Haram insurgency and farmer-herder conflicts (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2023). The need for effective strategies to address the vulnerabilities of these populations has prompted various stakeholders, including the Nigeria Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM), to play a critical role in providing support. NIDCOM's mandate emphasizes harnessing the Nigerian diaspora's resources and expertise to achieve developmental goals, making it a pivotal actor in addressing the challenges faced by IDPs.

Despite international efforts and government initiatives, the plight of IDPs in Nigeria remains dire. Many IDPs face inadequate shelter, lack of access to basic healthcare, and limited educational opportunities, severely affecting their quality of life. The Nigeria Diaspora Commission, established to connect the diaspora with national development initiatives, has developed specific strategies to support vulnerable populations, particularly IDPs. This study aims to explore these strategies and assess their effectiveness in meeting the needs of IDPs in Nigeria.

The ongoing humanitarian crisis faced by IDPs in Nigeria raises critical questions about the adequacy of current responses. Many IDPs continue to experience food insecurity, inadequate healthcare, and social exclusion (WFP, 2022). The Nigeria Diaspora Commission has the potential to leverage diaspora resources to address these challenges; however, it is imperative to evaluate how effectively these strategies meet the actual needs of IDPs. This study seeks to identify gaps in NIDCOM's approach and provide recommendations for enhancing its support for IDPs. The primary objectives of this research are:

- i. To analyze the strategies employed by the Nigeria Diaspora Commission to address the needs of IDPs in Nigeria.
- ii. To assess the effectiveness of these strategies in improving the quality of life for IDPs.
- iii. To identify challenges faced by NIDCOM in implementing its strategies and recommend areas for improvement.

II. CONCEPTUAL ANALYSIS

In line with the Tradition of academic Paper of this nature, it is pertinent to conceptualize some terms considered relevant to this study. They include:

a. Concept of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) according to United Nations on Guiding Principles, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border (Okon, 2018).

Thus, a person, persons or group of persons can only be considered as internally displaced when forced migration has taken place within a country in a bid to escape disasters of any form. This definition has streamlined and narrowed down the conditions that are necessary for persons to be considered as internally displaced persons. Their migration from their communities must have been forcefully induced by natural or manmade disasters. This does not remove the personal will of these persons as obtained in cases of abductions and kidnappings, but the need for survival which propels them from danger to a safer environment. It is worthy of note that this migration must not transcend the borders of the country. Internally displaced person's (IDPs), are people who are forced to flee their homes by conflict, violence, persecution or disasters, however, they remain within the borders of their own country.

This definition does not capture those who migrate within a country for social, political or economic reasons because their movement has not been induced by coercion neither are they moving away from grave danger. Evictions are not considered as instances of internal displacement because they usually take place outside the emergency contexts of evacuation. Evictions may be authorized and carried out in accordance with the law, carried out in public interests, carried out when there is no alternative or carried out with just and fair compensation (Adesote & Peters, 2015). This definition also excludes those who are forcefully fleeing from danger but have crossed an international border. On the one hand, they are displaced but on the other hand, they are not internally displaced but internationally displaced and generally known as refugees.

Refugees and asylum seekers may become IDPs after returning to their country if they are forced to flee internally for safety reasons. Their status however remains if they are displaced in the country of refuge. They may become displaced within their country of refuge in the course of a disaster, but this does not alter their status or their rights as refugees. That is to say, that a displaced refugee while seeking refuge remains a refugee. Legal and illegal immigrants and stateless persons can become internally displaced persons if they have always lived in the country within which they are forced to flee. Displaced persons who transit through another country before returning to find refuge in a safer part of their own country are still considered IDPs. It is not their flight route that is decisive, but the fact that they found refuge within the internationally recognized borders of their country. Homeless persons are not considered as internally displaced persons because there is no coercion, disaster, home or flight involved in their case (Okon, 2018).

b. Concept of Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups or Populations (VMGs)

The term "Marginalization" generally describes the overt actions or tendencies of human societies whereby those persons perceived as being without desirability or function are removed or excluded (i.e., are "marginalized") from the prevalent systems of protection and integration, so limiting their opportunities and means for survival.

Vulnerability refers to the conditions determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes, which increase the susceptibility of a community to the impact of hazards. A vulnerable group is therefore a population with specific characteristics that put it at a higher risk of falling into poverty than others living in project areas. Vulnerable groups thus include the elderly, disabled people, HIV/AIDS infected and affected individuals and households, women, and orphans and vulnerable children (girl child, street children, children from extremely poor households, HIV/AIDS infected and affected children, children with disabilities, children living with elderly or disabled parents, and children in paid employment). This definition also includes the three groups described above. (report VMGF, Uganda 2020)

Vulnerable and marginalized groups refer to populations that face heightened risks and disadvantages due to various social, economic, political, or cultural factors. These groups often include but are not limited to women, children, the elderly, ethnic minorities, refugees and internally displaced people, people with disabilities, and those living in poverty. Their marginalization often leads to limited access to resources, opportunities, and rights, making them particularly susceptible to exploitation and harm.

According to Mastrorillo et al. (2016), vulnerable groups are "individuals or communities that experience higher risks of harm or adverse outcomes due to social, economic, and environmental factors." This definition underscores the multifaceted nature of vulnerability, encompassing a range of barriers faced by these populations.

Buchanan (2016) emphasizes that marginalized groups "experience systemic disadvantages that limit their participation in social, economic, and political life," which contributes to their overall vulnerability and reinforces cycles of poverty and exclusion.

Ferguson (2019) states that marginalized populations are "those groups that are pushed to the fringes of society, often characterized by social, economic, and political exclusion," stressing the importance of recognizing their specific needs and rights in humanitarian responses. Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups or populations (VMGs) are social groups who experience limited resources and consequent high relative risk for morbidity and premature mortality.

C. Concept of Humanitarian Crisis

Humanitarian crisis is defined as a significant disruption of the social, economic, and political order of a community or nation, resulting in widespread human suffering. It typically arises from natural disasters, armed conflicts, or other emergencies that lead to a breakdown in the provision of basic needs such as food, water, shelter, and medical care.

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), a humanitarian crisis occurs "when there is a sudden or ongoing disruption to the social fabric of a community, leading to significant loss of life and wellbeing, and when the affected population lacks the capacity to cope with the crisis independently" (OCHA, 2016).

Mastrorillo et al. (2016) define humanitarian crises as "situations in which the needs of affected populations exceed the capacity of local authorities and communities to provide adequate response," highlighting the systemic inadequacies that exacerbate human suffering during such events.

A humanitarian crisis occurs when people's fundamental needs for safety, health, and well-being are gravely endangered due to a specific event or a combination of events, such as armed conflicts, natural disasters, climate change, or public health emergencies. These situations require substantial external support and a coordinated response from various organizations, such as NIDCOM, to provide critical aid, safeguard vulnerable communities, and tackle complex issues like food insecurity and displacement.

Internal Displacement in Nigeria

As of 2023, Nigeria has one of the highest numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the world, with estimates suggesting over 3 million people displaced due to various conflicts and crises (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre [IDMC], 2023). The majority of these displacements are concentrated in the northeastern states such as Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa, primarily due to the activities of the Boko Haram insurgency and its offshoot, the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP). Internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nigeria have been caused by civil war, insurgency and counterinsurgency, communal violence, religious violence and Armed banditry, political violence, natural disasters and conflict over resources (Adeleye & Osadola, 2022). Communal violence is a prominent cause of internal displacement. It is often accompanied by violent clashes between communities and several violations of human rights. Before the onset of insurgency, communal violence was the regular and constant cause of displacement across Nigeria. The causes of communal violence in Nigeria have historical roots. This has been reflected by the rise in communal violence, which simplified, can be summarised into five categories: ethnic rivalry, religious violence, land conflicts, conflicts related to the demarcation of administrative boundaries and political elections (Osadola, 2012).

There were 73.5 million internally displaced people at the end of 2024, the most recent reporting period. They accounted for the majority of the world's forcibly displaced population (60 per cent). IDPs are among the most vulnerable people in the world, and many are trapped in protracted displacement for years or even decades. Uprooted from their homes and livelihoods, they often face dangerous conditions and continue to face risks even after fleeing for safety. Armed militants and insurgents have created and aided insecurity to the level of forcing people to flee from their habitual places of residence. This is widespread in rural areas especially where government security forces had little reach to combat them (Okon, 2018).

Ethnic and religious conflicts are often closely linked to the "indigene-settler" divide, and often related to competition for political and economic influence. Conflicts overland and political boundaries, emergence and activities of militant groups, and creation of new territories have caused displacement in Nigeria, having led to over fifty incidents of communal violence between 1999 and 2002 (Osadola, 2012). In spite of the intensity and numerous incidents of communal violence, the unending Boko Haram terrorism is adjudged to be the main reason

for displacement in Nigeria since the civil war. It is responsible for over 90 per cent of displacement and is followed by communal conflict which is the second leading cause (Okon, 2018).

As of 2023, Nigeria has approximately 3.2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), making it one of the countries with the highest number of IDPs globally (UNHCR, 2023). This displacement is primarily driven by conflict, particularly due to the insurgency of Boko Haram in the northeast and intercommunal violence in the Middle Belt region. The demographic composition highlights significant vulnerabilities, with women and children comprising a large proportion of IDPs (IDMC, 2023).

Causes of Internal Displacement

The primary catalyst for internal displacement in Nigeria has been the rise of Boko Haram and the accompanying violence that began around 2009. According to Adesoji (2020), "The insurgency has not only led to loss of lives but also to significant displacement as communities have been uprooted from their ancestral homes." The violence perpetrated by the insurgent group has resulted in widespread destruction of infrastructure, making it impossible for residents to remain in their homes.

According to UNHCR (2022), "The impact of the insurgency has been devastating, with entire villages either destroyed or abandoned, pushing families into makeshift camps in surrounding areas."

In addition to insurgency-related displacement, Nigeria faces other contributory factors such as ethnic and communal conflicts, particularly in the Middle Belt region. Cattle-ranching conflicts between farmers and herders over land and resources have escalated, further displacing populations (Omoera, 2021).

Environmental Factors

Environmental degradation and climate change have also played a significant role in displacement within Nigeria. Increasing desertification in the North and flooding in other regions, particularly due to poor urban planning and deforestation, have exacerbated food insecurity and prompted communities to migrate in search of better opportunities (NEST, 2019).

Demographics of Displaced Populations

The demographic makeup of the displaced population in Nigeria reveals significant vulnerabilities. The majority of IDPs are women and children, who often face heightened risks of abuse, exploitation, and neglect. The United Nations estimates that approximately 60% of displaced individuals are women and girls (UN Women, 2021).

As noted by Abimbola (2022): "The vulnerability of women and children in IDP camps is striking, characterized by limited access to essential services and protection from gender-based violence." The displacement situation is further complicated by issues of ethnicity and religion, which impact the experiences and social integration of IDPs. For example, those fleeing from Boko Haram predominately comprise Muslim populations in the North, while conflicts in the Middle Belt often involve Christian communities, leading to divides that hinder social cohesion in host communities (Ladan, 2020).

Living Conditions in IDP Camps

The living conditions in IDP camps across Nigeria are dire. Many camps lack adequate shelter, sanitation, and medical care, which poses significant health risks to the displaced population. According to the Norwegian Refugee Council (2023), "Overcrowded living conditions, coupled with inadequate access to clean water and sanitation facilities, have led to outbreaks of diseases within IDP camps." Malnutrition is a prevalent issue, particularly among children in IDP camps. The situation is compounded by limited access to healthcare services. A study by Nnadi et al. (2021) found that "about 40% of children in IDP camps suffer from acute malnutrition, exacerbated by food insecurity and lack of access to nutritious meals." The World Food Programme (2022) emphasizes, "Without urgent intervention, the deteriorating health conditions among displaced populations could lead to a humanitarian catastrophe."

Government and Humanitarian Response

The Nigerian government's response to internal displacement has been met with criticism regarding its effectiveness. A framework exists for managing humanitarian assistance, yet its execution has been marred by bureaucratic inefficiencies and insufficient funding (IDMC, 2023). The Policy on Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria, adopted in 2012, seeks to address the needs of IDPs through rehabilitation and reintegration strategies. However, implementation has lagged, and resources allocated for IDP support are often inadequate. As stated by Ezeani (2022), "The lack of commitment at the governmental level often undermines the effectiveness of the policies designed to assist IDPs." In the absence of sufficient government support, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international agencies have stepped in to provide essential services. Organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) have been active in providing medical care, food, and shelter. As articulated by Marti (2021): "NGOs have become lifelines for displaced individuals in Nigeria, often filling the gaps left by limited governmental action."

Effectiveness of NIDCOM in Meeting the Needs of IDPs in Nigeria

The National Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM) was established in 2017 to foster the engagement of Nigerians in the diaspora while facilitating their contributions to national development. Though primarily focused on diaspora affairs, NIDCOM's effectiveness extends to addressing the challenges faced by Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nigeria, particularly through advocacy, resource mobilization, and community engagement. This analysis examines the impact of NIDCOM's interventions on IDPs, supported by current statistics and scholarly references.

NIDCOM's Role and Interventions

i. Advocacy and Awareness:

NIDCOM engages in advocacy campaigns to raise awareness about the plight of IDPs. This includes collaborative efforts with NGOs and international organizations to highlight the needs of IDPs to policymakers and the public.

Research by Aremu et al. (2021) indicates that advocacy efforts, when carried out effectively, can mobilize resources and influence policies that directly support IDPs.

ii. Resource Mobilization:

NIDCOM collaborates with the Nigerian diaspora to channel resources for IDPs. By encouraging financial contributions and support from Nigerians abroad, NIDCOM helps to provide food, healthcare, and education for IDPs.

Studies show a positive correlation between diaspora remittances and improved living conditions for displaced populations. For instance, a study by Afolabi and Ajibola (2022) revealed that diaspora funding significantly contributes to enhancing the resilience of IDPs in Nigeria.

iii. Coordination with Other Agencies:

NIDCOM works alongside government agencies like the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) to ensure that relief efforts are synchronized and targeted effectively.

This collaboration is essential for successful implementation of policies tailored to meet the unique needs of IDPs, as highlighted in research by Omotola (2020), who emphasizes the importance of inter-agency coordination.

Effectiveness of NIDCOM: Challenges and Limitations

While NIDCOM has made strides in addressing the needs of IDPs, several challenges persist:

Limited Administrative Powers:

NIDCOM's mandate is primarily focused on the diaspora, which sometimes limits its ability to effect change directly at the IDP level. Without significant authority to implement programs specifically targeting IDPs, their impact may be constrained (Okunola & Adebayo, 2021).

Funding Constraints:

The effectiveness of NIDCOM's interventions is often hampered by inadequate funding. Reliable financial support from both the government and diaspora contributions is crucial for sustained engagement and response efforts (Bayo & Ogunleye, 2022).

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Effective monitoring of interventions targeted at IDPs is necessary to assess their impact. NIDCOM faces challenges in developing robust mechanisms for tracking the outcomes of its initiatives in relation to IDP needs (NIDCOM Report, 2022).

Security Concerns

Ongoing conflict and insecurity can impede efforts to reach IDPs in certain regions.

A review of existing literature reveals several insights into the challenges faced by IDPs and the role of diaspora in developmental efforts. According to Makinde (2022), the engagement of the diaspora can significantly enhance the resources available for addressing IDPs' needs. Moreover, Alimi and Tunde (2023) highlight the importance of collaboration between governmental and nongovernmental entities in addressing the multifaceted needs of IDPs. The theoretical underpinning for this study draws from the Capability Approach, which emphasizes the individual's ability to achieve well-being and live a life they value (Sen, 1999). This approach informs the assessment of how effectively NIDCOM's strategies empower IDPs and restore their dignity.

The Nigerian diaspora has emerged as a significant contributor to the country's economic and social development. Remittances, which form the primary channel of financial contribution, have consistently ranked among Nigeria's top foreign exchange-earners. According to the World Bank (2022), Nigeria received over \$21

billion in remittances in 2021, accounting for approximately 4% of its GDP. These funds are used primarily for household consumption, education, and small business investments, with notable impacts on poverty reduction. Beyond remittances, the diaspora contributes to knowledge and technology transfer. For instance, diaspora professionals in healthcare, education, and technology engage in capacity-building initiatives, mentorship programs, and collaborative projects. Organizations like the Nigerian Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM) have facilitated over 300 diaspora-led initiatives since their inception, focusing on skills development and infrastructure improvement (NiDCOM, 2022). *Nzinga (2019) highlights that diaspora networks play a crucial role in fostering international trade and investment. By serving as intermediaries, the diaspora connects Nigerian businesses to global markets, thereby enhancing the country's economic integration. However, these contributions are often underutilized due to weak policy frameworks and limited engagement strategies.*

Strategies of the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM) for IDPs in Nigeria

1. Mobilizing Diaspora Resources

The NiDCOM seeks to mobilize financial resources, expertise, and materials from the Nigerian diaspora to support IDP camps across the country. The commission promotes investment in humanitarian projects through various funding initiatives and partnerships. For instance, during the COVID-19 pandemic, NiDCOM launched campaigns to encourage the Nigerian diaspora to donate resources to support health facilities and IDP camps, resulting in the mobilization of over \$1 million in humanitarian aid (Kumar & Telecom, 2020). A successful fundraising event held in London by the Nigerian community specifically focused on sending medical supplies and food to IDPs in Borno State, demonstrating the diaspora's commitment to humanitarian aid.

2. Advocacy and Awareness Campaigns

NiDCOM engages in advocacy to raise awareness about the plight of IDPs in Nigeria among the diaspora. This involves utilizing diaspora networks to spread information about the challenges faced by IDPs and mobilizing support. The commission regularly runs campaigns on social media platforms aimed at informing the diaspora of ongoing crises and encouraging donations or support. A study by Ogunyemi (2021) highlights the success of these campaigns in creating awareness; for example, a recent social media campaign was able to reach over 500,000 users, significantly raising funds for IDP assistance. Videos and infographics shared on platforms like Twitter and Instagram, showcasing personal stories of IDPs and their needs have mobilized the diaspora community to donate efficiently.

3. Collaborative Partnerships

The commission collaborates with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international agencies, and government bodies to ensure a coordinated response to the challenges faced by IDPs. By leveraging the strengths of various organizations, NiDCOM can tap into additional resources, expertise, and networks to enhance support for IDPs. A prime example includes partnerships with organizations like the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Action against Hunger to facilitate food and health aid (Adetayo, 2022). Joint workshops and conferences organized with these partners that bring together NGOs and diaspora representatives, focusing on best practices in managing IDP support initiatives.

4. Skill Development and Capacity Building

NiDCOM aims to facilitate skill development and entrepreneurship training for IDPs, often in partnership with diaspora professionals and organizations. For instance, in 2022, NiDCOM partnered with the Nigerian-American Chamber of Commerce to provide training programs for IDPs in sectors such as agriculture and textiles. Research indicates that empowering IDPs through skills training can lead to improved livelihoods and community resilience (Ojo, 2019).

Success stories of trained IDPs who have started small businesses, such as tailoring and farming, contributing to local economies after receiving training from diaspora experts.

5. Creating a Database of Resources and Needs

One of the strategic initiatives of NiDCOM is the establishment of a comprehensive database to track the needs of IDPs and the resources available within the diaspora. This data-driven approach enables the commission to match specific needs with relevant assistance, thereby enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of aid distribution. In 2021, NiDCOM launched an online portal that allows diaspora members to offer specific skills and resources directly aligned with identified needs (Nduka, 2021). The online portal showcases real-time needs assessments where IDPs can post immediate requirements such as food, medical assistance, or educational support, and diaspora members can respond through donations or services.

6. Promoting Social Inclusion

NiDCOM emphasizes the importance of the social inclusion of IDPs into broader societal frameworks. This includes initiatives that foster the integration of IDPs into various community activities and ensuring that they have a voice in local governance and are part of decision-making processes. Scholars have noted that social inclusion actively restores dignity and security to displaced populations (Ibrahim, 2020). In 2023, NiDCOM initiated community town hall meetings that included IDP representatives to discuss local governance issues. A community forum where IDPs engaged with local government officials to voice their needs, resulting in policy changes aimed at improving security and access to resources.

7. Monitoring and Evaluation

To assess the impact of its initiatives, NiDCOM implements monitoring and evaluation systems that allow for real-time assessment of programs supporting IDPs. This continuous assessment ensures that adaptations can be made to enhance program effectiveness (Ejembi, 2022). A notable instance is NiDCOM's quarterly reviews of their programs, enabling them to track progress and make evidencebased decisions for future interventions.

Comprehensive reports compiling data from various projects are shared with the diaspora community to keep them informed of ongoing impacts and how their contributions are making a difference.

III. Methodology

This study adopts a qualitative research design, employing semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders, including officials from the Nigeria Diaspora Commission, representatives of nongovernmental organizations working with IDPs, and IDPs themselves. Data collection involved focus group discussions and document analysis of NIDCOM's reports and policies. Thematic analysis were used to identify patterns and insights relevant to the effectiveness of NIDCOM's strategies.

Discussion of Findings

Preliminary findings suggest that NIDCOM's strategies, such as resource mobilization, advocacy, and capacity-building programs, have had varying degrees of success. While NIDCOM has successfully mobilized diaspora support for educational and health initiatives, challenges remain in coordination with local agencies, leading to service delivery gaps. IDPs expressed appreciation for the capacity-building programs but highlighted a lack of continuity and follow-up support, which are crucial for their long-term empowerment.

Summary of Findings

NIDCOM has established programs that aim to improve the situation of IDPs through resource mobilization and capacity building.

There are significant challenges in coordination among stakeholders and sustainability of initiatives. The voices of IDPs indicate a need for more inclusive and continuous support mechanisms.

IV. Conclusion and Recommendations

The Nigeria Diaspora Commission plays a vital role in addressing the needs of IDPs in Nigeria, yet there is an urgent need for more coordinated efforts and sustainable programs. It is recommended that:

NIDCOM enhance collaboration with local and international organizations to streamline efforts and resources.

A follow-up mechanism should be instituted to ensure that capacity-building programs lead to sustainable outcomes for IDPs.

Ongoing assessments and feedback mechanisms should be implemented to adjust strategies based on the changing needs of IDPs.

Others are:

Strengthening Collaboration: NIDCOM should reinforce partnerships with NGOs and international bodies dedicated to IDP welfare to broaden its impact.

Policy Advocacy: Engaging in advocacy for a national IDP policy that encompasses the roles of various agencies, including NIDCOM, can improve the framework for addressing IDP needs comprehensively.

Capacity Building: Investing in the training and capacity building of NIDCOM staff and local organizations can improve the effectiveness of programs aimed at IDPs.

Increased Funding: Facilitation of diaspora funding through transparent channels can enhance financial resources available for supporting IDPs.

NIDCOM plays a crucial role in addressing the needs of IDPs in Nigeria through advocacy, resource mobilization, and coordination. However, the agency faces significant challenges that impede its effectiveness. By strengthening

partnerships, increasing funding, and enhancing its mandates, NIDCOM can significantly improve the living conditions of IDPs in Nigeria, contributing to a more comprehensive and effective response to one of the country's most pressing humanitarian crises.

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