

Poverty Alleviation Strategy Among The Internally Displaced People: A Study of The Adventist Development And Relief Agency (Adra)'S Effort in Northeastern Nigeria

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Abstract: The violent conflict, necessitated by Boko Haram insurgency in Northeastern Nigeria and the use of force adopted by the Nigerian government to counter it resulted into mass displacement of people from their homes in order to seek refuge in Internally Displaced People's camps (IDP camps.) This scenario precipitated a humongous humanitarian crisis in a region which was already lagging behind in socio-economic development, leaving about 5 million people suffering from food insecurity, 2.2 million people in travail of acute malnutrition, 3 million people without access to safe drinking water and good hygiene, while about 2 million children were denied access to education. This scenario, no doubt, presents a serious challenge to the achievement of the SDG of poverty eradication. ADRA Nigeria was one of the several humanitarian agencies that damned the volatile security challenges of the region and engaged in frantic efforts to palliate what is regarded as one of the worst humanitarian crisis in the world. This study examines the series of humanitarian interventions which ADRA engaged in to cushion the effects of insurgency in the region. The research found that the efforts of ADRA went a long way to bring succor to thousands of the displaced people and to put a lot of them back on track of economic livelihood. It however challenged ADRA to take its humanitarian effort beyond emergency relieve and early recovery level of intervention and to focus more on activities that would make more enduring impact on poverty alleviation and contribute immensely to the achievement of sustainable development goals. The research adopts a mixture of survey and historical research methodology

Key words: Displacement, Humanitarian, Intervention, poverty, sustainable.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Boko Haram insurgency created an episode of humanitarian catastrophe in the Northeastern part of Nigeria. As at 2014, which was considered the acme of insurgency in the region, nearly every part of the three most affected states, Adamawa, Bornu and Yobe, (with the exception of the state capitals) were nursing the agony of unprecedented destruction of lives and properties as well as massive displacement (Sawab, 2017). The state of emergency declared by the Nigerian government in 2013, as a purported potent counter-terrorism mechanism, worsened rather than abated the spate of attack. Awojobi (2014) aptly describes the horrific situation as he states that 'Despite the declaration of state of emergency, the bombings and killings continued unabated' The sophistication and method of operation of the insurgents, coupled with the frequency of their terror attacks earned the sect the notoriety of being categorized as the deadliest terror group in the world (Barnes, 2015).

Asides the estimated 20,000 people which insurgency has sent to their early graves, the repeated attacks of the insurgents resulted in the displacement of about 1.8 million people from their original homes to the various IDP camps that sprang up in the region (Suleiman, 2017). Similarly, the few communities that were considered relatively safe experienced population explosion as they played host to some of the displaced people. A 2016 Displacement Tracking Matrix report released by the International Organisation for Migration revealed that over 1.8 million people from a total of 194, 145 households were displaced in the Northeast region (IOM, 2016) More so, available statistics shows that about 3 million children were denied access to education while an estimated 5 million people faced the crisis of food insecurity. Further to this, another 3 million people were confronted with precarious health conditions such as lack of safe drinking water, poor shelter, poor hygiene, deplorable sanitary and shower facilities just as acute malnutrition stared almost 2.2 million people (mostly children and women) in the face (Roby, 2018).

Malnutrition among children in Bornu State alone rose as high as 19 per cent in mid-2017. The Governor of Bornu State, Kashim Shettima, confessed this parlous situation to the visiting United Nations Regional Humanitarian Coordinator, Toby Lanzer at Bama in 2017 as he said “My state is hanging between malnutrition and famine.....People are dying like flies on a daily basis in Bornu State” (Sawab, 2017)

A position paper presented to the Presidency by the Borno State government in May 2016, indicated that the insurgents destroyed nearly 953,000 residential houses, 5,335 classrooms and other school buildings across 512 primary schools, 38 secondary schools and two tertiary institutions. The wanton destruction of physical facilities also affected 788 healthcare centers, 726 power distribution lines and 1,630 water supply sources across the region (UNICEF,2018).

Other effects of insurgency on the affected states include; inaccessibility of people to their means of livelihood, loss of crops and livestock as well as other property, disrupted businesses due to raids on banks, shops and markets, loss of employment, worsened poverty, hunger and inequality, inadequate health services, outbreak of diseases and increase in infant mortality rate, among others.

The destructive effect of insurgency in the region was exacerbated by the preexisting structural factors, arising from the long time socio-economic retardation of the region in comparison with other parts of the country. The combination of this and the significant loss of income and productive assets occasioned by insurgency created a humanitarian scenario that made Nigeria to rank second (next to Yemen) in the list of countries with dire humanitarian needs in the world. (USAID, 2016, UNDP 2017).

The terrific humanitarian condition and the attendant prevalent poverty level attracted a massive influx of humanitarian organisations and aid agencies to Northeastern Nigeria. The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is one of the humanitarian organisations that defied the volatile security environment of the Northeast to launch a large scale emergency response so as to reduce the level of poverty among the IDPs, Returnees and Host Communities.

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is a global humanitarian organization affiliated with the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The organization which operates in more than 130 countries exists primarily to fulfill the mission of providing humanitarian aid and development to the needy where ever they are without taking a jaundiced view of the religious affiliation, ethnic identity, ideological inclination or political association of the society/people in need of assistance (ADRA,2017). In order to effectively and efficiently achieve this goal, ADRA seeks to harmonize the functions of identifying needs and sourcing for resources to meet the needs. Hence, the agency frequently creates relationships with individuals, organizations, national and international agencies with similar goals and purposes. The proper conception of the fiduciary duty it performs always encourages the agency to act with all sense of responsibility in managing both the tangible and intangible resources at its disposal.

ADRA intervention programme includes issues such as, Nutrition and Food Security, Economic Development, Primary Health Care, Advocacy, Inclusive Education, Risk and Disaster Prevention, Emergency Response and Early Recovery Programme. ADRA Nigeria is a member of the global body called ADRA International.

Humanitarian Intervention of ADRA towards Reduction of Poverty in Northeast Nigeria.

ADRA Nigeria commenced operations in Northeastern Nigeria in 2014. Since then, it has secured and spent over two million dollars donors’ funds to alleviate human suffering in the region. With the assistance of donor partners such as the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), UN Women, German Foreign Office, ADRA Global Network or ADRA International, ADRA Nigeria has engaged in series of intervention programmes which have improved the quality of lives of about 100,000 IDPs, Returnees and Host Communities which insurgency put in distress. Its intervention in the region covers areas such as, distribution of disaster relief materials, implementation of livelihood support projects and provision of psychological support to victims of insurgency.

Livelihood Programs

Rain Season Farming

As earlier stated, the displacement occasioned by insurgency led to inaccessibility of productive assets and reduction in availability of food. The support being given to the IDPs by the host communities put serious pressure on the already impoverished communities, leading to increased exposure to food insecurity and malnutrition. But the safety guaranteed by the presence of security agents in some areas encourage a lot of people to return to their original homes. The Returnees who had been living on cash and food assistance needed some support to overcome the challenge of food insecurity and to rebuild their lives and livelihoods, otherwise, they would be at the risk of continuous reliance on humanitarian assistance for their food needs.

FAO, in conjunction with other resource partners initiated a programme aimed at restoring agriculture livelihood of the returnees, IDPs and the host communities through the provision of quality agricultural inputs. The objectives of the project were to improve the food and nutrition security of the IDPs, returnees and their host families and to support food production so as to contribute to a gradual recovery process in the states that were severely affected by insurgency.

ADRA was one of the service providers/implementing partners chosen by FAO to implement rainy season agriculture project at Mubi North, Mubi South, Michika and Hong Local Government Areas of Adamawa State between August and December 2016. ADRA commenced the assignment by carrying out a feasibility study of the concerned communities, including the security situation of the areas. Thereafter, ADRA identified and met with various community leaders and district heads known as Lawans or Jauros in order to sensitize them on the purpose of the project, and enlist their cooperation. With the assistance of the community leaders ADRA was able to carry out the task of selecting the 514 Household beneficiaries of the project in the affected local governments.

The beneficiaries were chosen, using the following criteria:-

(a) Evidence of access to land for planting, (b) Most vulnerable, insecure household among IDPs Returnees and host communities, (c) Households with large number of family members, (d) Women and youth headed households, (e) Household with children less than five years old, (f) Households with high malnutrition rate, (g) Households with minimum assets such as livestock and size of land

Three sets of vegetable kits were distributed to the beneficiaries, based on the farm areas and farmers preference. Each kit comprised six major crops. For instance, kit number 1 was made up of Okra, Roselle, Lettuce, Tomato, Pepper and Onion. Kit number 2 comprised; Okra, Amaranthus, Cabbage, Tomato, Carrot and Onion, while kit number 3 was composed of Okra, Roselle, Amaranthus, Lettuce and Cabbage. In addition, each beneficiary received a 25Kg bag of fertilizer to improve the output of their crops. Cereals were also distributed in kits. Maize, Cowpea and 25Kg of fertilizer made up kit number 1, Millet, Cowpea and 25Kg bag of fertilizer were in kit 2 and Kit 3 was made up of Sorghum, Cowpea and 25Kg bag of fertilizer. ADRA Nigeria implemented the programme at the cost of \$252,000.

The provision of farm inputs for rain season farming was repeated in Mubi North, Mubi South and Yola North Local Government Areas of Adamawa state between April and August 2017. The 4,000 household beneficiaries were selected in the affected local governments, using the criteria earlier stated. The \$420,000 project involved the distribution of farm inputs like the ones described above to the beneficiaries. The farmers who depended on the provision of life saving food assistance before the intervention testified that ADRA's agriculture assistance enabled them to have enough food to feed their household members and to preserve for another planting season. Some of them even had crops to sell so as to earn some income that they needed for some other household items. The farmer beneficiaries appreciated ADRA for helping them to get back to their means of livelihood and delivering them from the clutches of poverty. However, the farmers wanted ADRA to do more for them, particularly since other humanitarian agencies had abandoned them to ADRA. They also appealed for timely supply of seedlings so that the objective of the assistance would not be defeated.

Dry Season Farming

The dry season lasts from November to May in Northeastern Nigeria. The period which is referred to as 'Lean Season' comes with the attendant consequence of increase in malnutrition rate. This happens because food stuff runs low during the season. In order to ensure a sustainable source of nutritious food and means of getting income for the displaced people during dry season, FAO designed a project tagged 'Dry Season Farming' which was also implemented through ADRA. The criteria used by ADRA for selecting the beneficiaries of dry season farming assistance were similar to the ones stated under rain season farming above. The additional criterion for dry season farming was access to source of water which may be a river or borehole for irrigation purposes.

The beneficiaries were selected in Yola South and Gombi Local Governments in Adamawa state and Damboa, Dikwa and Kwayakusar local governments in Bornu state. The beneficiaries of this project got irrigation equipment such as pumping machine in addition to the seed kits and fertilizer that were distributed to them. About 11,355 households in both states benefited from the project. While the seed kits and bags of fertilizer were distributed to individual farmers, water pumps were distributed to group of farmers. A water pump was handed over to each group of five farmers. A total of 222 irrigation kits and water pump were distributed in Bornu state while the two local governments selected in Adamawa state received 57 irrigation kits and water pump

State	LGA	Number of household registered
Borno	Dikwa	500
	Damboa	2,455

	Kwaya Kusar	1,610
Sub total		4,565
Adamawa	Gombi	3,640
	Yola South	3,150
Sub total		6,790
	Grand total	11,355

Source: ADRA-FAO Dry Season Report 2018

ADRA also conducted series of training sessions for the farmers on improved farming techniques, climate smart agriculture and post-harvest handling. In some instances, ADRA collaborated with the staff of Agriculture Extension Services for the trainings as well as periodic monitoring of the farms. Most of the farmers reaped bumper harvest from their farms and they were able to provide nutritious food for their families and also earned some income from their produce. However, a few of them experienced poor harvest due to late supply of farm inputs to them. The total cost of the inputs supplied to the farmers was \$100,000.

Women Empowerment Programme.

Part of the intervention efforts of DRA Nigeria to assist the victims of insurgency reconstruct their lives and return to normalcy was the implementation of a livelihood support programme sponsored by the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations, UN Women and Japan International Cooperation (JICA) in Adamawa State. The livelihood empowerment project which gulped \$300,000 involved the distribution of some income generating items, food stuff and certain amount of money to 2,000 displaced and vulnerable women and girls across six Local Governments in the state. The beneficiaries were selected from Yola North, Yola South, Mubi North, Mubi South, Hong and Michika Local Government Areas of the state. With the assistance of leaders of women groups such as Christian Women Organisation (CWO), Forum of Muslim Women of Nigeria (FOMWAN) and other women groups, the 2,000 women and girls were selected and registered from various communities in the affected local governments. The criteria used to select beneficiaries were:-

IDPs and Returnees, Widows with no means of livelihood, People classified as vulnerable women and girls.

Selected LGA, Number of groups and Number of beneficiaries.

LGA/Ward	No of group/cluster Beneficiaries	No of Beneficiaries
YOLA NORTH	30	240
YOLA SOUTH	29	232
HONG	27	216
MUBI SOUTH	45	360
MUBI NORTH	44	352
MICHIKA	75	600
Total	250	2000

Source: ADRA Situation Report May, 2017

The 2000 beneficiaries were divided into 250 groups/cluster. Each cluster consisted of eight individuals who were also encouraged to operate cooperative group. Each group received the following items:-

(a).1 Grinding machine (b) 1 spaghetti making machine, (c) 1 Popcorn making machine, (d). One (150kg) bag of maize, (e) One (150kg) bag of beans (f)One 25 liters keg, (g)Twenty thousand Naira (N20,000) start up capital.

ADRA conducted series of training sessions for 500 out of the 2000 women beneficiaries. Each group was represented by two individuals at the training sessions which covered areas such as :- (a) starting a small scale business (b) record/book keeping for their businesses, (c)marketing strategy for their businesses, (d)sustaining a small scale enterprises, (e) group dynamics/conflict management, (f)equipment maintenance/safety measures, (g) cooperative/legal compliance, and (h) women rights/gender issues.

In April 2018, exactly one year after the distribution of the empowerment tools, this researcher visited and interacted with some beneficiaries of the project who said that the machines given to them have been source of stable income for them over the past one year. Hence, they were no longer depending solely on their spouses for the provision of some household needs. Rather, they too have been able to render financial assistance, although in a little degree. The widows among them also said that the proceeds from the business had been helping them to pay their children tuition and meet other household needs. However,, the assistance did not make much impact in the lives of a few of the women because other NGOs had earlier supplied similar items to some other women in their communities. It would have been a different case if the women were consulted for their preference before the purchase and distribution of the items.

Provision of Life-Saving Food Aid

With financial support from ADRA Germany, ADRA Nigeria engaged in the provision of life saving food aid to some returnees and displaced people in Adamawa state. The \$100,000 ADRA Germany funded project was carried out at Michika, Mubi North and Mubi South Local Governments Area in Adamawa state between October 2016 and February 2017. 500 households benefited from the exercise which provided life line to the poverty ridden and malnourished displaced persons. Similarly, in June 2017, ADRA Nigeria commenced the provision of food aid programme to returnees and host communities at Jakana, in Konduga LGA of Bornu state and Maraba Mubi in Hong LGA of Adamawa state. The programme which was also funded by ADRA Germany had 926 household beneficiaries at Jakana and 419 household beneficiaries at Maraba Mubi. The wide margin in the number of beneficiaries in the two communities was attribute to the fact that Bornu state account for about 70% of the displaced people in Northeast.

The criteria used for the selection of beneficiaries of the food aid programme included:-Elderly Headed Household, Women Headed Household, and Household with large number of children. Priority was also given to the following categories of people:- Unaccompanied Children, Disabled People, People with serious Medical Condition, Pregnant Women and Older Persons at Risk.

Household heads were expected to present the identification cards issued to them during registration whenever they reported for food distribution at designated locations once every month. The package given to each household head included; grains such as rice, beans, maize and other edibles like salt, sugar, onions and vegetable oil/ palm oil. In distributing food items, cognizance was taken of the World Food Programme (WFP) recommended kilocalorie per person on a daily basis which is 2,100. The kilocalorie required by an individual member of the household per day would be calculated by the number of days in a month. This in turn would be multiplied by the number of the people in a particular household. Hence, the quantity of food items that each household was receiving every month depended on the number of the number of people in the household. For instance, a household of fifteen members was receiving about 50Kg bag of each of the grains being distributed every month. This, without doubt, was a huge assistance to the beneficiaries, who had lost all their possessions, including farmland to insurgency.

ADRA engaged in post distribution monitoring exercise, usually a week after the distribution of food items. This involved meeting with the beneficiaries in their homes to get feed-back from them. Usually, any dissatisfaction expressed by the beneficiaries as well as their suggestions or views were being incorporated in subsequent food distributions, if they were found feasible.

ADRA engaged in this for two reasons. First, ADRA is a faith based NGO which has minimum standard of operation with a strong belief in fair and just treatment of every human being. Second, the agency subscribed to '**Sphere Standards**', which is an international document that states that NGOs/humanitarian organisations and donor institutions should always seek to improve the quality of assistance provided to the people affected by disaster and the minimum standard which the victims of disaster have a right to expect from humanitarian workers.

Multipurpose Cash Grant

ADRA Nigeria transitioned from the distribution of food items to multipurpose cash grant to beneficiaries at Jakana in October 2017 and at Maraba Mubi in April 2018. The project was tagged 'Multipurpose Cash Grant' because the money being given to the beneficiaries was meant to be used for sundry such as purchase of food items, drugs and other basic household needs. So the beneficiaries of food aid still remained the beneficiaries of cash grant in both communities.

The switch from food distribution to cash grant was premised on-(a) donor's preference, (b) the preference of the beneficiaries who were widely consulted before the switch, (c) assurance of availability of food to buy locally with the money and (d) Conformity with international standard

Before the commencement of cash grant, the beneficiary lists compiled for food distribution were reviewed. With the assistance of the Jauros (Community heads), ADRA staff move round the communities in order to physically sight the members of each household and recapture their data. This was done to avoid the sharp practice of multiple registration which some of the beneficiaries engaged in during food distribution. After the review exercise, the number of households at Maraba Mubi scaled down from 419 to 378 while that of Jakana remained unchanged. The household heads were given new identification cards which they were expected to present on the day of cash distribution. Their names, pictures and other vital information about them were also entered into a database for easy identification.

The cash distribution was done on the basis of N5, 000 per each member of the household. Hence, the amount being received by each household was N5, 000 multiplied by the number of the people in the household. The implication of this on the cash distribution was that a household with 16 people was receiving about #85, 000 from ADRA on monthly basis. In the course of carrying out this research, the researcher met with the beneficiary's population or their representatives in both communities. 85% of them expressed satisfaction with the transition from food distribution to cash grant. They said that the cash enabled them to meet some other

needs like paying their children school fees and providing some other household needs. However, about 15% of them (mainly women) expressed preference for food distribution instead of cash grant. It was discovered that the women with the latter view were those from male headed households where the men were collecting the cash grant without giving their wives enough money to purchase food stuff for the family. However, the beneficiaries were being constantly reminded that 80% of the cash was meant for the purchase of food items while the remaining 20% may be spent on other petty sundry.

Moreover, some beneficiaries in the two communities testified that the cash grant has enabled them to start petty trading which has further empowered them to take care of some family needs and render some little assistance to others in dire need.

One of the advantages of cash grant was that it helped the economy of the ravaged communities to pick up gradually. For instance, a cash injection of about 10 million naira every month into a poor community ravaged by insurgency would go a long way to revive the economy of the community as the money transits from one hand to the other. Invariably, both the beneficiaries of the cash grant and the non-beneficiaries were benefiting from the programme as the cash circulates in the community. The project whose cost was \$1,280,000 contributed immensely to lifting about 1,304 households, made up of over 8,000 people, from the level of extreme poverty and hunger.

From the foregoing, it is abundantly clear that ADRA Nigeria, through its various humanitarian intervention projects, have cushion the effects of insurgency on thousands of displaced people by putting them on the track of regaining their means of economic livelihood. Thus one can convincingly say that the agency has contributed in no mean measure towards alleviating poverty which is the first in the list of the Sustainable Development Goals. Hence, both ADRA and its sponsors are appreciated for their relentless effort at lifting thousands of people out of the scourge of poverty in Northeast Nigeria. Nevertheless, there is much which ADRA could still do in order to make a more profound impact in poverty eradication in the Northeast. This will be discussed in the next segment of the paper.

A Critical Assessment of ADRA's Activities in the Northeast

It is a truism that the immediate needs of the displaced people, especially when they are still in emergency stage, are food, shelter and other relief materials. But as they leave emergency state and move to early recovery stage, the humanitarian intervention should be refocused on what will make them to be permanently engaged in some useful economic activities, which would in-turn continue to enhance their quality of life and enable them to contribute their quota to the economic development of the society. Apart from providing seedlings to assist the farmers to get back on track, ADRA could sponsor skill acquisition programmes such as shoe making, fashion designing, carpentry, welding, and simple block making technology that could help people reconstruct their damaged houses without spending much money. After the training, the trainees could be formed into cooperative societies and assisted with take-off grants. Through these efforts, several people that have lost their means of livelihood would be able to get their hands engaged in other useful economic activities apart from farming. For instance, the Office of Sustainability, an NGO being hosted by the Atiku Center for Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Development in American University, Yola Adamawa state, established seven skill acquisition centers in Adamawa, Bornu and Gombe states in 2015 to help the displaced people engage in some useful crafts. At the end of the training of the first set of people, the agency formed them into cooperative societies and empowered them with the sum of 160 Million naira (about \$500,000) which was secured for that purpose from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). ADRA can do a similar thing and even do it better, given its profile.

Moreover, ADRA can initiate a waste to wealth programme through which people could be trained in converting waste like plastic bag to some useful items such as hand bags, mats, table mats, floor mats, water bottle and phone pouches. This would generate a lot of income to the beneficiaries and make them to contribute their little quota to the economic development of their communities and Nigeria by extension. Distributing free cash to the beneficiaries may be okay at the recovery stage which they are now. But if care is not taken it may be counter-productive. The fact that free money is coming-in every month may encourage indolence among the displaced people. Therefore, cash grant should go hand in hand with skill acquisition that is tailored towards making the beneficiaries to be financially independent. One can say without mincing words that the hand-out, in form of cash grant, would not continue to flow perpetually. So more thought should be given to what happens when the cash flow stops. Poverty alleviation requires a more sustainable approach.

Furthermore, poverty is more prevalent in the Northeastern part of the country because about 80% of the population engage in similar occupation, which is agriculture. Hence, skill acquisition would contribute to the diversification of the economy. This, in a sense can contribute immensely to poverty alleviation.

Once again, one cannot but appreciate ADRA and its donors for providing relief for over 100,000 victims of insurgency in Northeastern Nigeria. It should however be noted that ADRA is not only a relief agency, it is also a development agency. So as victims of insurgency are gradually getting stabilized, ADRA can look into the area of development. The Northeast experienced the lowest development indices in Nigeria and this

compounded the challenge of extreme poverty and hunger in the region even before insurgency. Sadly enough, insurgency has further worsened socio-economic development there, pulling the affected states 10 years backward. With its global network, it is believed that ADRA Nigeria can make its impact felt in the area of reconstructing the damaged infrastructure like schools, health centers, water projects, markets among others. This effort will also go a long way to alleviate poverty in the region.

Last but not the least, ADRA would make a long term impact on poverty alleviation among the displaced people through education. Any effort made towards poverty alleviation in the Northeast may not achieve any lasting result as long as insurgency persists. However, insurgency cannot be curbed as long as street urchins exist. Education brings enlightenment which can free people from some inexplicable religious dogma and poverty as well. The Boko Haram insurgents understand this and that was why they made intensified efforts at keeping more people out of school by attacking and destroying schools. Destruction of schools would lead to more street urchins that can be hoodwinked by their bigotry teachings. Similarly, the street urchins always form a pool from which recruitment into insurgency could be made. Street urchins are not in any way economically useful to the society, rather they constitute menace to the society. ADRA Nigeria is urged to seek donors whose passion lies in the area of education so that it would be financially empowered to adopt innovative ways of promoting education in the region. A project tagged 'Food and Read' could be initiated to enlist the interest of the street urchins in education.

II. CONCLUSION

One can say without mincing words, that ADRA Nigeria has defied all odds in the Northeastern Nigeria to put smiles on the faces of thousands of people whose lives were made miserable by Boko Haram insurgency. Despite various challenges ranging from paucity of funds and insecurity to the insincerity of the people being assisted in the Northeast, ADRA has consistently committed itself to its mission of combating dependency, misery and poverty in the lives of thousands of victims of insurgency. Nevertheless, ADRA is urged to embark on more empowerment projects and to have a strategic plan that would enable it to contribute its quota to the socio-economic development of the region. These, it is believed, would make more enduring impact on poverty alleviation in the region.

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