THE ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN BORNO STATE, NIGERIA

[1]AMINU MUSA, [2]BENJAMIN SUNDAY ATAWODI, [3]RABIU MUHAMMAD ISHAQ & [4]ABUBAKAR SHEHU TARASA

[1, 3 & 4]DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, FEDERAL UNIVERSITY BIRNIN KEBBI, KEBBI STATE, NIGERIA

[2]DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, DISTANCE LEARNING CENTRE (DLC), AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY, ZARIA, NIGERIA

Corresponding Authour: a.musa@fubk.edu.ng +234-7036065638

KEYWORDS
International Governmental Organizations, Humanitarian Crises, USAID, Borno

ABSTRACT

Nigeria is experiencing one of the longest-standing humanitarian crises, worsened by the rise of extremist groups like Boko Haram, armed banditry, changes in climate, poverty, and lack of development infrastructure. In Borno State, the devastating nature of humanitarian crises created the need for humanitarian interventions. Different international organisations have keyed in to render their assistance. One of the organizations providing humanitarian assistance to Borno State is the United States Agency for International Development. Although literature on humanitarian assistance in Borno State abounds, but role of USAID has not been adequately studied. It is against this backdrop that this paper investigates the role of USAID as an International governmental organization in humanitarian intervention in Borno state, Nigeria. This paper utilized qualitative method of data collection based on analysis of interview responses. Secondary source was also used in sourcing for data through a qualitative approach and conducted semi-structured interviews with 15 participants, including USAID staff, partners, beneficiaries, local authorities, and other humanitarian actors. It analysed the data using thematic analysis. The study has shown that in the face of the prevalence of humanitarian crises, USAID assistance has been very effective. The paper however recommends that USAID should continue to prioritize its engagement in Borno State and if possible, extend it to some other parts of Nigeria.

Introduction

Humanitarian intervention involves the use of force or other means by an external actor to protect civilians from severe human rights violations or crises, such as genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes, or natural disasters. This concept is contested due to the tension between state and non-state actors. Debates often centre on when, why, how, and by whom such

interventions should occur, as well as their implications for international order and affected populations (Bellamy, 2010).

Nigeria, a West African nation, has faced numerous humanitarian challenges, including civil war, military coups, ethnic and religious conflicts, corruption, poverty, and environmental degradation, which resulted in humanitarian disaster. Since 2009, the country has struggled with the Boko Haram insurgency, a militant Islamist group seeking to create an Islamic state in the north-east. Boko Haram's attacks on civilians, security forces, government institutions, and humanitarian workers have led to thousands of deaths, injuries, displacements, and human rights violations. According to the UN, more than 10 million people in Nigeria require humanitarian assistance, with many experiencing food insecurities, residing in hard-to-reach locations, and being internally displaced, particularly in the north-eastern states of Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe (UNOCHA, 2020).

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is the main U.S. government agency trying to eliminate extreme global poverty while fostering democratic and resilient societies. USAID provides humanitarian assistance during natural disasters, conflicts, and other crises by delivering essential aid and supporting early recovery and resilience efforts. This includes addressing the root causes of instability and strengthening local capacities (USAID, 2019).

Borno state, the largest and most populous state in north-eastern Nigeria, is the epicentre of the Boko Haram insurgency and the most affected by the humanitarian crisis. Studies, such as those by Balami, Bwala, and Abubakar (2021), document the massive destruction and disruption in Borno due to Boko Haram, affecting agriculture, education, health, trade, and infrastructure. Boko Haram's violence has resulted in over 20,000 deaths, over 1.5 million displacements, and the destruction of over 900,000 houses and public buildings since 2009.

However, despite the extensive involvement of USAID in providing humanitarian assistance in Borno state, there is a lack of comprehensive evaluation of its impact and effectiveness in addressing the local needs and challenges. This study aims to fill this gap by investigating the role and effectiveness of USAID's interventions in Borno from 2015 to 2023. The thrust of this study is to examine the role of USAID in humanitarian intervention in Nigeria, focusing on Borno state from 2015 to 2023. In doing that, the paper was guided by the following questions.

Conceptual Review of Humanitarian Interventions

Humanitarian intervention is a contentious issue in the context of international relations and law. It involves military intervention by a country or a coalition of countries beyond their borders to safeguard civilians from severe human rights abuses, including genocides, ethnic cleansing, or crimes against humanity perpetrated by another state or an armed non-state actor. The very notion of intervention defies the principle of state sovereignty, which encapsulated within the UN Charter, forbids any form of foreign intrusion into a country's internal affairs. Yet, the advocates of humanitarian intervention assert that sovereignty does not merely imply a set of privileges; it, in fact, brings along obligations as well. In this context, states are required to ensure the security of their citizens and, crucially, the citizens of other states from horrendous violence. This is known as the responsibility to protect (R2P) doctrine, which the UN General Assembly adopted in 2005 (Bellamy 2010).

However, the outcomes and impacts of these interventions have been mixed and often controversial, as they have involved various political, economic, and military interests and agendas, as well as ethical and legal dilemmas and challenges. Some of the criticisms labelled against the concept include: it is a form of neo-imperialism or neo-colonialism that violates the sovereignty and self-determination of weaker states; it is based on selective and biased criteria and double standards that favour the interests of powerful states; it is ineffective or counter-productive in achieving its humanitarian goals and may cause more harm than good to the affected populations; it is used as a pretext or cover for pursuing other objectives, such as regime change, resource exploitation, or geopolitical influence; it undermines the role and authority of the UN and international law in maintaining peace and security; and it erodes the trust and cooperation among states and other actors in the international system (Chandler, 2011). The legality and legitimacy of the intervention are the criteria and standards that justify and authorize the use of force in another state's territory.

Interrogation of Related Studies on Humanitarian Needs of People that necessitate the Involvement of USAID

The research conducted by Oyefusi (2018) studied how the Nigerian internally displaced persons (IDPs) faced human needs and obstacles as they dealt with government and Boko Haram insurgent conflict. Through surveys of 1200 IDPs from six camps in Abuja and Lagos the research confirmed that these displaced persons needed a combination of food, water, shelter and support focused on health, education and protection alongside livelihood programs. Internal Displaced Persons (IDPs) encountered multiple difficulties because they experienced security risks along with discriminatory treatment and societal ostracism and they lacked basic resources and chances for development. The researchers suggested that humanitarian assistance should address multiple needs through collaborative and joint activities focused on improving the situation for displaced people and their sustainable outcomes.

A study by Maxwell et al. (2019) similarly analysed the humanitarian needs and response in South Sudan, which has been experiencing a protracted crisis since 2013 due to political and ethnic violence, economic collapse, and environmental shocks. The study used a mixed-methods approach, combining secondary data, key informant interviews, focus group discussions, and household surveys, to assess the food security, nutrition, health, and protection needs of the affected populations, as well as the humanitarian assistance provided by USAID and other actors. The study found that the humanitarian situation in South Sudan was extremely severe and complex, with high levels of acute food insecurity, malnutrition, morbidity, and mortality, and widespread violations of human rights and humanitarian law. The study also found that the humanitarian response was constrained by multiple factors, such as insecurity, access, funding, coordination, and accountability. The study suggested that the humanitarian response should be more adaptive, flexible, and integrated, and that the root causes of the crisis should be addressed through political dialogue and peacebuilding.

Another study by Doocy et al. (2016) evaluated the humanitarian needs and response in the aftermath of the 2015 Nepal earthquake, which killed nearly 9,000 people and affected more than 8 million people. The study used a household survey of 4,200 households in 14 districts, and a health facility survey of 99 health facilities, to measure the impact of the earthquake on the health, shelter, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), and food security sectors, as well as the coverage and quality of the humanitarian assistance delivered by USAID and other actors. The study found that the earthquake caused significant damage and disruption to the health, shelter, WASH, and food security sectors, and that the affected populations faced various needs and risks, such as injuries, illnesses, displacement, and exposure. The study also found that the humanitarian assistance was timely, relevant, and effective, but also faced some challenges, such as coordination, targeting, and sustainability. The study recommended that the humanitarian assistance should be aligned with the recovery and reconstruction efforts, and that the resilience and preparedness of the affected communities and systems should be enhanced.

Constraints facing USAID's Humanitarian Intervention

Bisong (2019) conducted research titled: Rethinking the constraints to localization of foreign aid. This article examines the challenges and opportunities for localizing foreign aid, with a focus on USAID's efforts and experiences. The author argues that the main constraint for working with local organizations is not their lack of capacity, but rather USAID's own operating systems and organizational culture, which are not conducive to local partnerships. The author suggests some recommendations for improving USAID's localization policy and practice, such as simplifying the procurement and compliance processes, enhancing the flexibility and adaptability of the programs, and fostering mutual trust and learning among the partners.

CSIS (2019) analyzes the key obstacles to the effective delivery of humanitarian aid in complex emergencies and highlights the importance of U.S. leadership in addressing these challenges and upholding international humanitarian law. The report identifies four key humanitarian access challenges: insecurity and violence, bureaucratic impediments, lack of funding and coordination, and politicization and manipulation of aid.

Theoretical Framework

This study uses Dependency theory as a framework to describe the relationship between different countries of the world and the reasons

why some groups of countries depend on others. This theory emerged in the late1950's and expanded through the following twenty years, mostly under liberal reformer Raúl Prebisch, who was the head of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America (UNECLA), and development economist Hans Singer. Also marked by notable Marxist theorists Andre Gunder Frank, Paul A. Baran, Paul Sweezy, world systems theorists like Immanuel Wallerstein, and more.

Dependency theory emerged as a response to an international system characterized by development and underdevelopment. It explains the existence of less developed countries and regions by referring to the policies of the so-called developed zones – the politically, economically, and culturally dominant regions. Dependency theory is part of development theories and emphasizes the impact of external forces such as politics, economics, and culture in understanding development policies.

Dependence theory postulates that the peripheral countries are not poor because they have or do not have integration into the world system which is the argument of free market economists. Merely the manner in which these countries are integrated to the system is what constitutes their poverty. The conditions that these countries face is due to some historical international process. As a whole system, the developed or the center regions exploit the resources of the peripheral or underdeveloped regions.

There are three essential characteristics of dependency theory that stand out. The first characteristic is the classification of states into dominant and dependent, forming a closed international system. Secondly, dependency theory maintains that outside actors are vital in view of the economic activity of the dependent states. Lastly, inter-state relationships that are rooted deeply in historical patterns and thus, dynamics, strongly shaped by the internationalizing impulse of capitalism synergize and create.

The propositions of dependence theory suffer from problems of their own. While the theory has helped explain the persistent poverty of underdeveloped countries in many disciplines, it spectacularly fails to account for the newly industrialized East Asian countries (Hong Kong, South Korea, Taiwan, and Singapore) or Southeast Asian countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand. Moreover, the theory assumes that all developing countries contain the same features. Also, dependency theory cannot analyze beyond the manufacturing sector due to its limitations. Additionally, India's adoption of a free-market economy posed new questions for dependence theorists.

However, despite the above limitations, Dependency theory is particularly relevant as it helps to examine how the global system, especially the dominant powers and institutions, such as the US and USAID, have influenced and intervened in Nigeria's affairs, and what implications this has had for its sovereignty and autonomy.

In terms of the nature and impact of USAID's humanitarian intervention in Nigeria, especially in Borno state, dependency theory can help to evaluate the motives and objectives of USAID's humanitarian assistance, and to assess its effectiveness and efficiency in addressing the humanitarian needs and crises in Nigeria, especially in Borno state, where the insurgency of Boko Haram and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria-West Africa has caused widespread displacement, violence, and insecurity.

USAID in Humanitarian Assistance in Borno State: Data Presentation and Analysis

Health and education:

The participants reported that health and education were among the key sectors that USAID supports in Borno state, and that they provide health care supplies, equipment, and training to health workers, and support the rehabilitation and reopening of schools, and the provision of learning materials and incentives to teachers and students. The participants expressed their appreciation and satisfaction with USAID's health and education projects, and how they improved their access to quality health care and education services. One of the USAID staff said:

> *Health and education are vital for the well-being and development of the people in Borno state. USAID has been supporting these sectors for many years, and we have seen positive results and outcomes. We have helped to increase the coverage and quality of health care services, and to reduce the*

morbidity and mortality rates. We have also helped to restore and improve the education system, and to increase the enrolment and retention rates.

Food Assistance:

The participants reported that food assistance was another important sector that USAID supports in Borno state, and that they provide food rations, vouchers, and coupons to the most vulnerable and food-insecure households. The participants expressed their gratitude and relief for USAID's food assistance, and how they alleviated their hunger and malnutrition. One of the beneficiaries said: "Food assistance is a lifesaver for us. We depend on it for our survival. Without it, we would starve to death. USAID has been very generous and consistent in providing us with food. We are very thankful for their help".

Cash Transfers:

The participants reported that cash transfers were another significant sector that USAID supports in Borno state, and that they provide unconditional or conditional cash transfers to the displaced and host communities, to enable them to meet their basic needs and to restore their dignity and autonomy. The participants expressed their satisfaction and empowerment with USAID's cash transfers, and how they increased their purchasing power and choice.

In addition to the above response analysis, evidence from the literature also indicates that USAID has been a key player in promoting peace and security in Nigeria since 2011. These activities are enumerated and discussed in the following paragraphs:

Promoting Good Governance and Transparency:

USAID has supported efforts to promote good governance in Nigeria. This has included providing technical assistance to government institutions responsible for promoting transparency and accountability, supporting anti-corruption initiatives, and promoting public participation in governance.

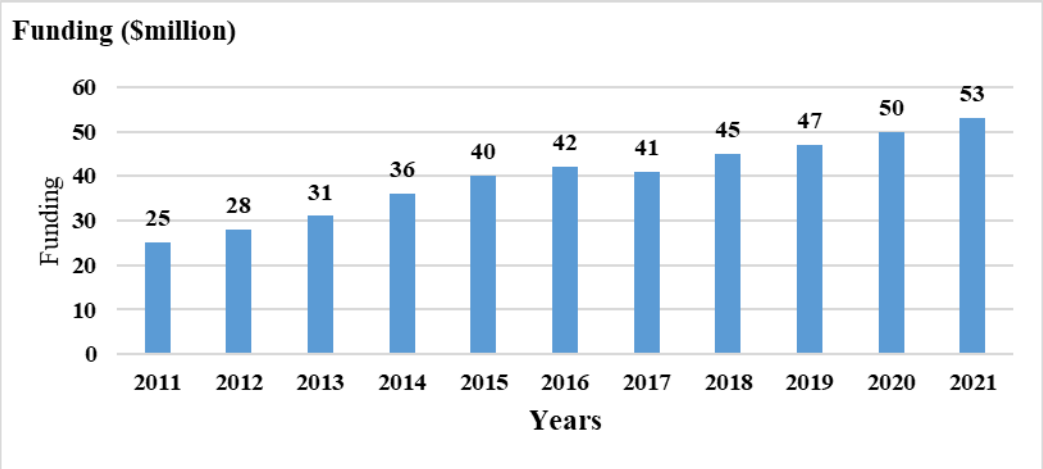
Strengthening the Capacity of Security Institutions:

USAID has worked to strengthen the capacity of security institutions in Nigeria. This has included providing training and equipment to law enforcement agencies, supporting efforts to improve border security, and promoting regional cooperation on security issues.

Supporting Conflict Prevention and Management:

USAID has supported efforts to prevent and manage conflicts in Nigeria. This has included supporting early warning systems, promoting community dialogue and reconciliation, and supporting the establishment of peace committees at the local level.

Fig. 4.2: USAID Funding for Peace and Security Activities in Nigeria (2011-2021)



Source: USAID, 2021.

As shown in Fig. 4.2, it can be seen that USAID provided huge amounts of funding for peace and security activities in Nigeria. The international organization provided 25 million dollars in 2011, 28 million dollars in 2012, 31 million dollars in 2013, 36 million dollars in 2014, 40 million dollars in 2015, 42 million dollars in 2016, 45 million dollars in 2017, 47 million dollars in 2018, 50 million dollars in 2019, 50 million dollars in 2020 and 53 million dollars in 2011.

Critical Achievements of USAID's Humanitarian Assistance in Borno State

Changes and improvements:

The participants reported that USAID's humanitarian assistance had brought positive changes and improvements to their lives and their community, such as improved health and nutrition status, increased access to education and learning opportunities, reduced hunger and poverty, restored dignity and autonomy, and enhanced social cohesion and harmony. The participants expressed their gratitude and satisfaction for the changes and improvements that USAID's humanitarian assistance had brought to them, and how they improved their well-being and quality of life. One of the beneficiaries said:

> *USAID's humanitarian assistance has made a big difference in our lives. We are healthier and happier now. We have more food and water, and we are not hungry anymore. We have more opportunities to go to school and to learn new things. We have more income and we can buy what we need. We have more respect and freedom, and we can make our own decisions. We have more peace and harmony, and we can live together with our neighbours.*

Best practices and lessons learned:

The participants also reported that USAID's humanitarian assistance had demonstrated some best practices and lessons learned, such as the use of evidence-based and context-specific approaches, the involvement and empowerment of the local communities, the coordination and collaboration with other humanitarian actors, and the adaptation and innovation to the changing needs and situations. The participants expressed their admiration and recognition for the best practices and lessons learned from USAID's humanitarian assistance, and how they enhanced the effectiveness and efficiency of the humanitarian response. One of the USAID staff said:

> *USAID's humanitarian assistance has shown some best practices and lessons learned in delivering humanitarian assistance in Borno state. We use data and research to inform our decisions and actions. We tailor our*

interventions to the specific needs of the people, and empower the local communities in the design, implementation, and evaluation of our projects. We adapt and innovate to the changing needs and situations of the people and the environment.

Peacebuilding and development:

USAID's humanitarian assistance has contributed to the peace-building and development efforts in Borno state. They have helped to reduce the violence and conflict by addressing the root causes and the consequences of the crisis. They have helped to increase the security and stability by providing protection and assistance to the vulnerable and affected populations. They have helped to enhance the governance and democracy by supporting the electoral process and the civil society. They have also helped to promote the economic and social recovery by supporting the livelihood and income generation, and the basic services and infrastructure". One of the other humanitarian actors said.

Constraints facing USAID's Humanitarian Intervention in Borno State

USAID faces various difficulties and limitations in delivering humanitarian assistance in Borno state, such as the lack of resources, capacity, coordination, and cooperation. It has limited financial, human, and material resources to meet the increasing and diverse needs of the people in Borno state, and that they often face shortages and delays in the delivery of humanitarian aid. USAID has limited capacity and expertise to deal with the complex and dynamic context of Borno state, as well as limited coordination and cooperation with the government, the military, and the other humanitarian actors, and that they often face conflicts and competition over the access, control, and distribution of humanitarian aid. One of the USAID staff said:

USAID faces many difficulties and limitations in delivering humanitarian assistance in Borno state. We have limited resources to cover the huge and varied needs of the people. We have limited capacity to cope with the changing and challenging situation. We have limited coordination and cooperation with the other actors involved in the humanitarian response. These factors affect our performance and quality, and sometimes compromise our principles and standards.

USAID also faces various risks and threats in operating in Borno state, such as the violence, insecurity, corruption, and interference. The participants explained that USAID faces the risk of violence and insecurity from the insurgents, the armed bandits, and the military, and that they often experience attacks, kidnappings, and killings of their staff and beneficiaries. The participants also explained that USAID faces the risk of corruption and fraud from the government, the local authorities, and the contractors, and that they often encounter mismanagement, diversion, and misuse of their funds and resources.

Criticisms and complaints:

The participants reported that USAID faces various criticisms and complaints from the people and the communities that they serve, such as the lack of transparency, accountability, inclusion, and consultation. The participants explained that USAID faces the criticism and complaint of lack of transparency and accountability from the people and the communities, and that they often question the source, amount, and use of their funds and resources. The participants also explained that USAID faces the criticism and complaint of lack of inclusion and consultation from the people and the communities, and that they often feel excluded and ignored in the design, implementation, and evaluation of their projects.

Discussion of Findings

In terms of the main humanitarian needs of the people in Borno state that necessitated the involvement of USAID, the findings show that the people in Borno state face multiple and interrelated humanitarian needs, such as food insecurity and malnutrition, lack of access to health care and education, protection and security issues, and livelihood and income loss. These needs are influenced by the environmental, economic, social, political, and security factors, and require a holistic and integrated approach to address them. The participants expressed their needs for food,

water, sanitation, health, education, protection, security, and livelihoods, and how these needs are influenced by the environmental, economic, social, political, and security factors. These findings are consistent with the OCHA (2016) titled *Nigeria - Borno State: Humanitarian Briefing Note*. This article provides an overview of the humanitarian situation in Borno state, highlighting the multiple needs of the affected population, such as food insecurity, malnutrition, health care, education, protection, and livelihood.

Similar study to the above is Slim (2015) which suggests that humanitarian crises are dynamic phenomena that affect the human dignity and well-being of the affected populations, and that humanitarian assistance should be based on the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and independence. The findings also support the argument that humanitarian assistance should be aligned with the needs and preferences of the people, and that they should be involved and empowered in the design, implementation, and evaluation of the humanitarian projects (Anderson et al., 2012).

Under the main humanitarian projects of USAID in Borno state, and their goals, the findings show that USAID has implemented various humanitarian projects in Borno state, and that they have different goals and outcomes. The findings show that the key sectors and activities that USAID supports in Borno state are health and education, food assistance, cash transfers, and livelihood support. The findings also show that the people in Borno state are aware and participate in USAID's humanitarian projects, and that they benefit from them. The findings also show that the people in Borno state evaluate the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of USAID's humanitarian projects, and measure their impact and success. The participants mentioned the main difficulties and limitations that USAID faces, such as the lack of resources, capacity, coordination, and cooperation. They also pointed out the main risks and threats that USAID faces, such as the violence, insecurity, corruption, and interference. They also expressed the main criticisms and complaints that they or their community have about USAID's humanitarian intervention, such as the lack of transparency, accountability, inclusion, and consultation. These findings are consistent with ALNAP, (2018); Barnett & Weiss, (2011); and Dijkzeul & Wakenge (2010) which describe the various humanitarian projects that USAID has implemented in Borno state, and their goals and outcomes. They cover the key sectors and activities that USAID supports, such as health, education, food, cash, and livelihood.

In the area of achievements of USAID's humanitarian assistance in Borno state, the findings indicates that USAID's humanitarian assistance has brought positive changes and improvements to the lives and communities of the people in Borno state, such as improved health and nutrition status, increased access to education and learning opportunities, reduced hunger and poverty, restored dignity and autonomy, and enhanced social cohesion and harmony. The findings also show that USAID's humanitarian assistance has demonstrated some best practices and lessons learned, such as the use of evidence-based and context-specific approaches, the involvement and empowerment of the local communities, the coordination and collaboration with other humanitarian actors, and the adaptation and innovation to the changing needs and situations. The findings also show that USAID's humanitarian assistance has influenced the attitudes, beliefs, and behaviours of the people in Borno state, and how they relate to others. The findings also show that USAID's humanitarian assistance has contributed to the peace-building and development efforts in Borno state.

This finding is in line with USAID (2017) which focused on "*Expanding Humanitarian Access in North-eastern Nigeria"*. The success story of this report illustrates how USAID's support for the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) has enabled humanitarian actors to reach populations in hard-to-access areas of Borno state, and provide them with life-saving aid. It also shows how UNHAS has facilitated the expansion and adaptation of emergency response activities in the region, and contributed to the peace-building and development efforts.

Finally, regarding the constraints facing USAID's humanitarian intervention in Borno state. The findings show that USAID faces various constraints in delivering humanitarian assistance in Borno state, such as the lack of resources, capacity, coordination, and cooperation. The findings also show that USAID faces various risks and threats in operating in Borno state, such as the violence, insecurity, corruption, and interference. The findings also show that USAID faces various criticisms and complaints from the people and the communities that they serve,

such as the lack of transparency, accountability, inclusion, and consultation. This finding coincides with IOM (2017) on the "*Assessment of Borno and Adamawa States for the Project on Strengthening the Protection and Assistance of Victims of Trafficking and Vulnerable Migrants in Nigeria*". The study provides evidence of the constraints that USAID faces in delivering humanitarian assistance in Borno state, such as the insecurity, violence, access challenges, lack of resources, capacity, coordination, and cooperation. The suggestions that the people and the communities in Borno state have for USAID were also laid forward, such as the need for more communication, collaboration, and participation.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The research found that the people in Borno state face multiple and interrelated humanitarian needs, such as food insecurity and malnutrition, absence of access to health care and education, protection and security issues, and livelihood and income loss. The study also found that USAID has implemented various humanitarian projects in Borno state, and that they have different goals and outcomes, such as improving health and education, providing food assistance and cash transfers, and supporting livelihoods. The study also found that USAID's humanitarian assistance has brought positive changes and improvements to the lives and communities of the people in Borno state, such as improved health and nutrition status, increased access to education and learning opportunities, reduced hunger and poverty, restored dignity and autonomy, and enhanced social cohesion and harmony. The study also found that USAID's humanitarian assistance has demonstrated some best practices and lessons learned, such as the use of evidence-based and context-specific approaches, the involvement and empowerment of the local communities, the coordination and collaboration with other humanitarian actors, and the adaptation and innovation to the changing needs and situations. The study also found that USAID faces various constraints in delivering humanitarian assistance in Borno state, which include lack of resources, capacity, coordination, and cooperation, the violence, insecurity, corruption, and interference, and the criticisms and complaints from the people and the communities.

In conclusion, the analysis of USAID's role in ameliorating the challenge of development in Nigeria particularly in its humanitarian intervention in Borno state from 2015 to 2023 has provided significant discernments into the effectiveness and impact of the organization's programs and initiatives in the country. The research revealed that Nigeria faced significant development challenges during the period under review, including poverty, corruption, insecurity, poor infrastructure, and low levels of human development indicators such as health and education. USAID's objectives and strategies for addressing these challenges included promoting economic growth, improving governance and accountability, strengthening health and education systems, and enhancing resilience to shocks and crises. In light of the findings of this study, it is recommended that:

i. USAID should continue to prioritize its engagement in Borno State and if possible, extend it to some other parts of Nigeria, given the country's significant development challenges and its importance as a regional economic and political powerhouse.

ii. USAID should also work to increase the mobilization of resources and expertise for the humanitarian response in Borno state, and to ensure the timely and efficient delivery and distribution of humanitarian aid to the most affected populations.

iii. In addition, USAID should enhance the coordination with the government, the military, and the other humanitarian actors in Borno state, and to establish clear roles and responsibilities, and mechanisms for information sharing and joint action. Finally, USAID should promote the participation and empowerment of the people and the communities in Borno state, and to respect and respond to their needs and feedback, and to involve them in the design, implementation, and evaluation of the humanitarian activities. To achieve this, there is a need prioritize its communications and outreach efforts.

References

Aid for Profit (2017). The Dark History of USAID. Retrieved from https://www.currentaffairs.org/2017/06/aid-for-profit

ALNAP (2018). *The state of the humanitarian system*. ALNAP Study. London: ALNAP/ODI.

Anderson, M. B., Brown, D., & Jean, I. (2012). *Time to listen: Hearing people on the receiving end of international aid*. Cambridge, MA: CDA Collaborative Learning Projects

Bala, B. & Tar, U. A. (2021a). Lake Chad Basin: Transnational insurgency, counter insurgency and the proliferation of small arms. In, Tar, U.A. and Onwuran, C.P. (Eds.) The Palgrove Handbook of Small Arms and Conflicts in Africa. Palgrave Macmillan. https\\doi.org.10.1007\978-3-030-62183-4-43. (927-950).

Bala, B. & Tar, U. A. (2021b). Regional cooperation in West Africa: Counterterrorism and counterinsurgency. African Security 14 (2), 186-207.

Barnett, M., & Walker, P. (2015). Regime change for humanitarian aid: How to make aid more effective. *International Affairs, 91*(6), 1313-1339. https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-2346.12464

Barnett, M., & Weiss, T. G. (2011). *Humanitarianism contested: Where angels fear to tread*. London: Routledge.

Bellamy, A. J. (2010). The responsibility to protect: Five years on. *Ethics & International Affairs*, *24*(2), 143-169.

Bhattacharjee, A., & Lossio, R. (2011). Evaluating the 2007 WFP humanitarian response in the Horn of Africa. *Disasters, 35*(2), 397-424. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-7717.2010.01234.x

Bisong, A. (2019). Rethinking the constraints to localization of foreign aid. Brookings. Retrieved from https://www.brookings.edu/articles/rethinking-the-constraints-to-localization-of-foreign-aid/

Chandler, D. (2011). The road to military humanitarianism: How the human rights NGOs shaped a new humanitarian agenda. *Human Rights Quarterly*, *33*(3), 678-700.

CSIS (2019). Never more necessary: Overcoming humanitarian access challenges. Retrieved from https://www.csis.org/analysis/never-more-necessary-overcoming-humanitarian-access-challenges

De Waal, A. (2007). Sudan: The turbulent state. In A. de Waal (Ed.), War in Darfur and the search for peace (pp. 3-47). Harvard University Press.

Dijkzeul, D., & Wakenge, C. I. (2010). Doing good, but looking bad? Local perceptions of two humanitarian organisations in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. *Disasters, 34*(4), 1139-1170.

Doocy, S., Lyles, E., Hanquart, B., & Woodman, M. (2016). Household and health facility surveys in Nepal post-earthquake 2015. Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and International Medical Corps.

Harvey, P., Holmes, R., Slater, R., & Martin, E. (2007). Social protection in fragile states. *ODI Working Paper, 291*. https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/227.pdf

IOM (2017). Assessment of Borno and Adamawa States for the Project on Strengthening the Protection and Assistance of Victims of Trafficking and Vulnerable Migrants in Nigeria.

Jhingan ML. (2010). Economics of Development and Planning. (39thedn), Vrinda Publications(P) Limited, Dehli.

Lederach, J. P. (2005). *The moral imagination: The art and soul of building peace*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Lentz, E. C., Passarelli, S., & Barrett, C. B. (2013). The timeliness and cost-effectiveness of the local and regional procurement of food aid. *World Development, 49*, 9-18. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2013.01.017

Maxwell, D., Majid, N., Adan, G., Abdirahman, K., & Kim, J. J. (2016). Facing famine: Somali experiences in the famine of 2011. *Food Policy, 65*, 63-73. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodpol.2016.10.008

Maxwell, D., Santschi, M., Moro, L., Gordon, R., Dau, P., & Moro, L. (2019). The response analysis and learning assessment (RALA): South Sudan 2013-2018. Feinstein International Center, Tufts University.

OCHA (2016). Nigeria - Borno State: Humanitarian Briefing Note. Retrieved from https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/ocha_nga_borno_state_humanitarian_briefing_note_2016_11_30.pdf

OIG (2021). Top management challenges facing USAID in fiscal year 2021. Retrieved from https://www.oversight.gov/sites/default/files/oig-reports/TOP MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES Facing USAID in Fiscal Year 2021.pdf

Orford, A. (2003). Reading humanitarian intervention: Human rights and the use of force in international law. Cambridge University Press.

Oxfam (2013). *Oxfam humanitarian policy note: The right to be heard*. Oxford: Oxfam GB.

Oyefusi, A. (2018). Humanitarian needs and challenges of internally displaced persons in Nigeria. Journal of Internal Displacement, 8(1), 16-37.

Patel, P., Cummings, R., & Roberts, B. (2017). Exploring the influence of the humanitarian system on health service delivery in conflict: A qualitative study from the perspective of health workers and humanitarian actors in Yemen. Conflict and Health, 11(1), 1-10.

Pattison, J. (2010). Humanitarian intervention and the responsibility to protect: Who should intervene? Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Slim, H. (2015). *Humanitarian ethics: A guide to the morality of aid in war and disaster*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

The Trouble with USAID (2017). American Enterprise Institute. Retrieved from https://www.aei.org/articles/the-trouble-with-usaid/

UNDP (2021). Lake Chad Basin Humanitarian Snapshot (as of 29 November 2021). https:\\reliefweb.int\report\chad\lake-chad-basin-humanitarian-snapshot-29-november-2021

UNHCR & World Bank Group. (2016). Forced displacement by the Boko Haram conflict in the Lake Chad region. https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/52535

UNHCR (2022). Lake Chad: Humanitarian crisis. www.unhcr.org/en-us/country/cmr/.

United Nations (2023). 2023 Nigeria humanitarian response plan.

UNOCHA (2020). Nigeria: Humanitarian response plan 2020. https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/Nigeria_HRP_2020.pdf

USAID (2016). South Borno Emergency and Recovery Assistance Program (SUBERA). Retrieved from https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00M8ZM.pdf

USAID (2016). USAID History. Retrieved from https://www.usaid.gov/who-we-are/usaid-history

USAID (2017). South Borno Emergency and Recovery Assistance Program (SUBERA) 2. Retrieved from https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00N2Q4.pdf

USAID (2018). Recovery and Assistance Initiative for Borno (RAI Borno). Retrieved from https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00T9ZS.pdf

USAID (2019). Humanitarian assistance. https://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/humanitarian-assistance

USAID (2020). Haiti – Complex emergency. Retrieved from https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2023-08/2023-08-09_USAID-

BHA_Haiti_Complex_Emergency_Fact_ Sheet_6.pdf

USAID (2021). About Us. Retrieved from https://www.usaid.gov/who-we-are

USAID (2022-a). What we do. Retrieved April 21, 2023, from https://www.usaid.gov/ document/usaid-key-accomplishments

USAID (2022-b). Food for peace. Retrieved April 21, 2023, from https://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do

USAID (2022-c). Office of U.S. foreign disaster assistance. Retrieved April 21, 2023, from https://www.usaid.gov/grandchalleng es/humanitarian

USAID (2023). Nigeria complex emergency fact sheet #2.

USAID Key Accomplishments (2017). [U.S. Agency for International Development]. Retrieved from https://www.usaid.gov/document/usaid-key-accomplishments-2017

USAID Key Accomplishments (2021). U.S. Agency for International Development. Retrieved from https://www.usaid.gov/document/usaid-key-accomplishments

WASH Sector (2023). WASH sector bulletin: Nigeria humanitarian response.

Weiss, T. G. (2016). Humanitarian intervention. Cambridge: Polity Press.

WHO (2017). The 12th Joint Operations Review on humanitarian support to North-east begins in Borno state. Retrieved from https://www.afro.who.int/news/12th-joint-operations-review-humanitarian-support-north-east-begins-borno-state

World Food Programme (2022). Lake Chad Basin: Food Security Crisis. www.wfp.org/ countries/lake-chad-basin/food-security-crisis.

World Health Organisation (2023). WHO Nigeria situation report.