

BARRIERS AND FACILITATORS TO PRIMARY HEALTHCARE SERVICES BY INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN JOS, NORTH-CENTRAL NIGERIA

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Background: The United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Refugees at the end of 2014, estimated that there were 38.2 million IDPs globally, with Nigeria accounting for about 10% of this figure. The Northern region of Nigeria has been faced with generalized violence, armed conflicts, and some natural disasters in the recent past increasing the number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). Among the challenges faced by the IDPs is accessing healthcare services. The UN has reported that providing support for the IDPs is more challenging than for the refugees.

Aim: This study aims to identify the barriers to and the facilitators of access to primary healthcare services by the internally displaced persons living in an IDP Camp in Bukuru, Jos South Local Government Area of Plateau State.

Methodology: This cross-sectional study will be done among the IDPs at the Bukuru camp in Jos South Local Government Area, North-Central Nigeria. Using the Leslie-Kish formula, assuming the proportion is 50% since it is not known, the minimum sample size for this study will be 384. A systematic sampling will be done to recruit the participants, with the list of adult IDPs as the sample frame. The various group leaders in the camp will be identified through the Camp Coordinator. The researcher will explain to the leaders the purpose of the study. These leaders will assist in mobilizing their members for this study. The consenting individuals from ages 18 years and above will participate in the study. Ethical approval to conduct this study will be obtained from the Health Research Ethics Committee of Bingham University Teaching Hospital, Jos. A modified standard questionnaire to assess barriers and facilitators to healthcare services will be interviewer-administered to the participants.

Results: A descriptive presentation of the study participants' sociodemographic characteristics and data on barriers and facilitators of access to healthcare services will be provided. The factors that influence access to healthcare services will be identified and described.

Conclusion: The study findings will provide information for policymakers on the strategies to improve access to healthcare services by the IDPs.

Keywords: Internally Displaced Persons, Barriers/facilitators of access, PHC services, Nigeria.