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Effect of Displacement on Social and Economic Positions, Case Study Displaced Households in Gadaref, Sudan 2023

Fayga Hussien Ballal Awad *
Department of Economic, College of Business and Economic, Gassim University, (KSA)

تأثير النزوح على الأوضاع الاجتماعية والاقتصادية دراسة حالة الأسر النازحة في القضارف، السودان 2023

فائقة حسين بلال عوض *
قسم الاقتصاد، كلية الأعمال والاقتصاد، جامعة القصيم، المملكة العربية السعودية

Corresponding author: f.awad@qu.edu.sa

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Abstract:
The study aimed at Discovering the socio-economic impacts of armed conflict on displaced household in Gadaref; Sudan. problem of the study has acted in the coming question: what are the effects of Displacement on Social and Economic Positions, in displaced households in Gadaref; Sudan, the study followed the descriptive analytical approach (the survey method). The study achieved to; displacement has significant effects on food resources availability, financial transfers from the relatives, income, received assistance as food, cure, Beds. In addition to other income source as loan, homes and properties' affection, type of residence, and basic services at residence. The study recommended with the coming: households should diversify their income resources in order to support the fixed income. As such the government should contribute with different assistance to reserve foods and other needs.

Keywords: armed conflict, Food, health, education, income.

الملخص
هدفت الدراسة إلى اكتشاف الآثار الاجتماعية والاقتصادية للنزاع المسلح على الأسر النازحة في ولاية القضارف بالسودان. وتمثلت مشكلة الدراسة في السؤال التالي: ما هي آثار النزوح على الأوضاع الاجتماعية والاقتصادية للأسر النازحة في ولاية القضارف بالسودان؟ وقد اتبعت الدراسة المنهج الوصفي التحليلي (منهج المسح). وتوصلت الدراسة إلى أن النزوح يؤثر بشكل كبير على توافر الموارد الغذائية، والتحويلات المالية من الأقارب، والدخل، والمساعدات المستلمة مثل الغذاء والعلاج والأسرة. بالإضافة إلى مصادر الدخل الأخرى مثل القروض، وقيمة المساكن والعقارات، ونوع السكن، والخدمات الأساسية في المسكن. وأوصت الدراسة بما يلي: تنويع مصادر دخل الأسر لدعم الدخل الثابت. كما أوصت الحكومة بتقديم مساعدات مختلفة لتوفير الغذاء والاحتياجات الأخرى.

الكلمات المفتاحية: النزاع المسلح، الغذاء، الصحة، التعليم، الدخل.

Introduction

Sudan has been grappling with one of the largest displacement crises in the world, driven by conflict, natural disasters, and economic instability. As of 6 November 2024, an estimated 11.2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) have been recorded by the International Organization of Migration's (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) (https://dtm.iom.int/reports/sudan-mobility-overview-3)Of these, 75% have been displaced since the onset of the conflict in Sudan on 15 April 2023. In total, 30% of the population in Sudan was displaced from over 9,600 locations in 18 states across the country. The top states of origin among IDPs were Khartoum, followed by South Darfur, North Darfur and Gadaref, with some exceptions. For instance, in Blue Nile, Central Darfur and North

Darfur, primary displacements occurred within the same state, followed by Khartoum. Almost 50% of IDP households stay with host families, making it the most dominant form of shelter followed by camps (20% of IDP households). This displacement has far-reaching implications for not just displaced populations but also host communities, disrupting livelihoods, limiting access to essential services, and straining relations between displaced populations and host communities.

Sudan is among developing countries where internal displacement has occurred due to a variety of reasons. There are many internally displaced persons living in the country, because of tribal and armed conflicts. The unstable circumstances force the displaced households to face various difficulties, including being herded together in camps, being exposed to worst social, economic, and health risks that come with internal displacement, not having secured supply of necessities, and not having the comfort of social bonding.

Study's problem:

The armed conflict in Sudan has made a change in the normal life of displaced individuals such as the instability, type of consumption, and incoherent of household, spread of fear. Thus, problem of study has acted in the coming question: what are the effects of Displacement on Social and Economic Positions, in displaced households in Gadaref, Sudan?

Significant of study:

The displacement considers as a dangerous phenomenon which effects on population needs, thus it will require accurate study to solve the negative effects such as lack of income, food shortage, housing, and adaptation difficulties with the new environment.

Objectives of study:

- Discover the economic impacts of armed conflict on displaced household in Gadaref.
- Illustration of the social impacts of armed conflict on displaced household in Gadaref.

Hypotheses of study:

- The displacement has effects on economic positions of displaced household in Gadaref State.
- The displacement has effects on social positions of displaced household in Gadaref State.

Literature Review:

The very fact of being internally displaced therefore can signal a deliberate abuse of rights. Indeed, the same study reporting that there continues to exist a constituency for the view that calls into question the “categorization of IDPs” points out that internal displacement ‘is directly associated with the violation of certain rights.(John, 2005) Once it occurs, internal displacement brings about a set of circumstances that renders those affected highly vulnerable. Most obviously, it forces people from their homes, depriving them of shelter and the basic protection it can provide.

Cut off from their land, traditional livelihood and means of generating income, and compelled to leave all but a few possessions behind, IDPs suddenly find themselves stripped of their means of survival. At the same time, it breaks up families and community support networks. As one recent study underscored, displacement leads to ‘massive loss not only of commodities such as the home, income, land or other forms of property, but also of less tangible symbolic goods, such as cultural heritage, friendship and a sense of belonging to a particular place.’ Its ‘pernicious effects on individuals, families and communities’ are wide-ranging and include ‘impoverishment, social isolation, exclusion from health, welfare and education provision, the breakdown of social relationships and support structures, and the undermining of authority structures and social roles.(Stephen and Nicholas, 2005) Children are particularly affected as displacement not only disrupts their education and normal development but also frequently results in their being separated from their families in the chaos of flight, left to fend for themselves and at heightened risk of abuse. Compounding their plight, the displaced often are stigmatized and may also be viewed with suspicion and hostility in the areas to which they flee. It is noteworthy that the ICRC, which was among those initially espousing the view that IDPs in war situations should be treated no differently from other civilians caught in the conflict has come to recognize that displacement puts those affected at a distinct disadvantage. As the director of operations for the ICRC has pointed out: ‘Displaced people may have the same need to legal protection as other civilians during conflict, but it goes without saying that, deprived of shelter and their habitual sources of food, water, medicine and money, they have different, and often more urgent, material needs.(Jean, 2000) Forced to leave their homes, a lack of shelter is IDPs’ most obvious particular need. It is therefore all the more surprising that, other than protection, providing IDPs with emergency shelter persistently proves to be among the poorest addressed and most neglected aspects of humanitarian response. (United Nations, 2005) Whereas shelter is a basic component of assistance to refugees, in the case of IDPs, there is no UN agency that predictably meets this need in humanitarian crises. The UN-blue emergency plastic sheeting so evident in refugee camps around the world is conspicuously absent from many IDP camps and settlements. Many IDPs, moreover, are not found in camps but seek out shelter where they can, including in railway cars, aluminum containers, abandoned buildings and urban slums.

One of the most urgent needs of the internally displaced is food. With limited, if any, access to land and also cut off from their normal means of income, IDPs tend to be more dependent on food assistance than others in the local population. In fact, they typically comprise the majority, of beneficiaries of World Food Programme (WFP) assistance.(World Food Programme, 2001) In a 2001 policy document, WFP recognized that displacement creates particular vulnerabilities that may not be suffered, at least to the same extent, by the non-displaced, and which increase their food insecurity.(World Food Programme, 2001) Indeed, malnutrition is among the reasons why some of the highest death rates recorded in humanitarian emergencies this past decade have involved IDPs and why their death rates often have been found to be substantially higher than for non-displaced populations.(Peter and Richard, 2001) Moreover, IDPs' heightened levels of food and livelihood insecurity do not necessarily improve over time. A recent study by the ICRC and WFP in Colombia found 'no indication that households who have been displaced for a long time have the ability to generate the income needed to obtain sufficient food.(ICRC and the World Food Programme, 2005) The UN Food and Agriculture Organization has underscored the importance of monitoring the household food insecurity of IDPs as well as understanding the 'specific constraints' that prevent them from obtaining required food and ensuring that appropriate measures are undertaken to facilitate this access.(UNHCR, 2005)Trafficking is another serious risk that increases when people are displaced, families are separated and livelihoods are destroyed. Children who have lost their homes and even families are particularly at risk of military recruitment and abuse. Their opportunities to escape these risks are diminished, in both the short and long-term, by the disruption to formal education that displacement typically entails. (Erin and Colleen, 2005) Lack of documentation is a common characteristic among the internally displaced as documentation frequently is lost or confiscated during flight. Documentation also may have been destroyed in the course of violent attack or as a result of natural disaster; in Sri Lanka, it is estimated that more than 70 percent of survivors of the tsunami of December 2004 lost their documentation. Displaced women and children who suddenly find themselves widowed or orphaned may not have documentation in their own names. A lack of documentation can lead to denial of access to health care, education and other government services as well as problems in resolving issues of property restitution or compensation. Moreover, because voting rights almost invariably are tied by laws of general application to the elector's place of residence, a lack of documentation commonly results in the disenfranchisement of the internally displaced, depriving them of a say in the political, economic and social decisions that affect their lives. (United Nations Commission, 2003) The vulnerabilities engendered by displacement do not necessarily diminish over time. As noted above, the ICRC and WFP have found that increased levels of food and livelihood insecurity experienced by the internally displaced can persist long after the emergency phase. The World Bank, in an extensive study of protracted displacement situations in South-eastern Europe and Central Asia, found that after upwards of more than a decade of being forced from their homes, the displaced 'constitute a significant source of vulnerability in affected societies' and that 'the numbers of those who fall into this category are high enough to justify a significant concern.' In particular, the study pointed out that whatever particular assistance IDPs had received and continued to rely upon, including government subsidies (it is important to note that these subsidies often go unpaid(Steven B. Holtzman and Taies Nezam, 2004), free housing in 'rapidly deteriorating makeshift shelters' or long-term dependence on accommodation with relatives and friends, was characterized by 'a fragility…that represents the most disturbing and frequently overlooked aspect of DP [displaced persons'] vulnerability.

Previous Studies:

1\ study of YIGZAW and ABITEW, 2019.

The study tackled causes and impacts of internal displacement in Ethiopia, the study aimed to explore the causes and impacts of internal displacement in Ethiopia. This study has mainly employed qualitative research approach, the study achieved that internal displacement disrupted the social intimacy, economically affected the IDPs and the host communities, led the IDPs into homelessness, brought economic hardship, made them to be more vulnerable to psychological violence and led IDPs into death.

2\ study of Agneys (2007).

The study dealt with topic From Internal to International Displacement in Sudan. The study aimed to explore the Link between Internal and International Displacements in Sudan. This study has followed the descriptive and comparative approach, the study achieved that IDPs, who have become accustomed to certain forms of dependency in the camps or squatter settlements, and who have been living alongside humanitarian staff, could develop knowledge of international community activities and as a result exploit the services of international agencies.

3/ study of Nihad, 2003.

The study tackled Palestinian Internally Displaced Persons inside Israel: Challenging the Solid Structures. The study aimed to discover the rights and return of Internally Displaced Persons inside Israel. The study followed historical approach. The study achieved that IDPs in Israel are challenging two main solid structures. The first is Israeli continuous rejection of their right to return to their villages, despite the fact that they are citizens of Israel

(not to mention the fact that several unimplemented Israeli high court decisions have ruled in favor of the return of some villagers), nor will it change the demographic balance inside Israel. The second one is the structure of the Palestinian shelter village, where the relationship between locals and IDPs is still one of estrangement. Despite the fact that IDPs are living in their homeland.

The Gap between the current and previous studies:

This study has focused on both social and economic impacts of displaced house hold as result of internal displacement, there are variances in the methodologies, where qualitative research approach has been exploited by Yigzaw and Abitew (2019), descriptive and comparative approach by Agnes (2007), further more historical approach was followed by Nihad (2003). This study takes same objective with Yigzaw and Abitew (2019). Regarding to results of previous studies which demonstrate the side effect of displacement such as disrupted of social intimacy,

led the IDPs into homelessness, brought economic hardship**.** furthermore, IDPs could develop knowledge of international community activities and as a result exploit the services of international agencies. On other hand structure of the Palestinian shelter village, where the relationship between locals and IDPs is still one of estrangement.

This study has characterized with focusing on both effects socio-economic in details as; food resources availability, financial transfers from the relatives, income, received assistance as food, cure, Beds. In addition to other income source as loan. type of residence, and basic services at residence. Moreover; displaced families' children education, and health service.

The study is consistent with previous studies that internal displacement led the IDPs into homelessness, brought economic difficulties, made families incoherence, decreasing of general services, and losses of properties.

Methods

Study setting

This study aimed to assess the impact of displacement on the socio-economic status in Gadaref State.

Gadaref State is encompassing most of the eastern territory of Sudan. It shares borders with Ethiopia. The estimated total population was about two million in 2024. It famous with agriculture and boarder trade.

Study design and the Sampling technique

An initiative project (primary data study) designed by experts in the field to explore the post-conflict socio-economic status of internally displaced families in Gadaref, Sudan. A qualified individual who has been selected carefully participate in data collection.

Study tool

The modified questionnaire included questions about the socio-economic status, demographic factors, among a sample of 250 heads of Displaced households.

Statistical analysis

Descriptive data presented as frequencies and percentages.

Results

Demographic of IDPs

Table (1) Displaced household due to age.

category	age			frequency
	25-35 year	36-50 year	51 and above	
husband	102 40.8%	25 10%	20 8%	
wife	80 32%	12 4.8%	8 3.2%	
Boys more than 12 year				55
Girls more than 12 year				123
Children (7-12)				123
Girls (7-12)				202
Kids less than 7 years				223
Infants less than 1 year				61
Employed father				225 90%
House wife				25 10%

Source: researcher from primary data, 2024.

Table (1) shows that majority of husbands their ages were less than 35 years, with rates of 40.8%, and in the range of age (36-50) year and (51year and above) were 10% and 8% consequently. Whereas the wives whom their ages were less than 35 years were 18%, and in the range of age (36-50) year and (51year and above) were 4.8% and 3.2% respectively. number of boys more than 12 years was (55), and number of girls more than 12 years was (123), number of children between (7-12) years was (123), and number of girls between (7-12) years was (202), and number of kids less than 7 years was (223), and number of infants less than year was (61). In most families, the father was employed (225, 90%), compared to (25, 10%) housewife or unemployed mothers.

Economic features of IDPs

Table (2): Economic status of internal displaced families (n=250).

No	phrases	category	frequency	Percent %
A1	What is your assessment for available resources	enough	7	2.8
		Not enough	243	97.2
A2	Do you receive financial transfers from your relatives	Yes	57	22.8
		No	193	77.2
A3	What are the assistances which you received	Food	43	17.2
		Food and cures	107	42.8
		Foods and Beds	100	40.0
A4	Is there is any other income source as loan to your family?	yes	53	21.2
		No	197	78.8
A5	Do you try to work at the displacement area	yes	117	46.8
		No	133	53.2
A6	Are your homes and properties have affected with the military conflict?	yes	192	76.8
		No	58	23.2
A7	If the answer (yes): the effects are:	Destroying	8	3.2
		fire	3	1.2
		burglary	28	11.2
		Forced settlement& burglary	153	61.2
A8	If the answer (no): the effects are:	I left them with some family	50	20.0
		I know nothing about them	8	3.2
A9	In the shelter, What type of residence does the family live in?	Stones and cement building	187	74.8
		Local substances building	62	24.8
		Tents	1	0.4
A10	Are there basic services at your residence?	yes	199	79.6
		No	51	20.4

Source: researcher from primary data, 2024.

The table (1) shows that majority of respondents (243, 97.2%) assessed that there no enough food, meaning while the vast majority (193, 97.2%) of families didn't receive financial transfers from your relatives, however (107, 42.8%) receive assistance as food and cures, compared with (43, 17.2%) who received just food. Moreover, (197,

78.2%) haven't other income source as loan to their families, compared with (53, 21.8%) have other income source as loan to their families. More than two third (192, 76.8%) their homes and properties have affected with the military conflict Such as destroying, fire, burglary, Forced settlement& burglary. While (50, 20%) and (8, 3.2%) their homes and properties haven't affected with the military conflict, the reasons are they left them with some family, or they no know nothing about them.

In the shelter, there are many types of residence that families were live in, such as (187, 74.8%) Stones and cement building, compared with (63, 25.2%) Local substances building and tents. About four fifth (199, 79.6%) enjoy with basic services at their residence, while (51, 20.4%) suffer from lack of basic services at their residence.

Table (3): Social status of internal displaced families (n=250).

No	Phrases	category	Frequency	Percent %
A1	Is there are schools at displacement area?	yes	249	99.6
		No	1	0.4
	Do the children attend school?	No	250	100
A3	If the answer is (no) what are the causes?	The education has stopped due to the conflict.	248	99.2
		The family hasn't school children.	2	0.8
A4	Is there is health service?	yes	178	71.2
		No	72	28.8
A5	Is there a health center in the area of current residence?	yes	210	84.0
		No	40	16.0
A6	How much time do your family suffer from lack of food?	4-6 time	4	1.6
		More than 7 time	246	98.4
A7	Is there anyone of your family has affected in this military conflict?	yes	111	44.4
		No	139	55.6
A8	Is there anyone of your family has lost in this military conflict?	yes	121	48.4
		No	129	51.6
A9	Do you feel safe in the displacement area?	yes	197	78.8
		No	53	21.2
A10	If you encounter problems at the displacement area, how do you solve them?	Some of displaced people can solve them.	232	92.8
		police	17	6.8
		Left the residence	1	0.4

Source: researcher from primary data, 2024.

Table (3) shows that there aren't schools at shelter area (249, 99.6%) that why children didn't attend schools, thus education has stopped due to the conflict (248, 99.2%) to (2, 0.8%) cases said that the families haven't school children. More than two-thirds (71.2%) of surveyed families answered there is health service, compared with less than third (28.8%) there isn't health service. Meanwhile (84%) reported there are a health centers in the area of current residence, (16%) answered there aren't. about (98.4%) of surveyed families suffer from lack of food more than 7 time, and (1.6%) suffer (4-6) time respectively. Less than Half of the families their individuals have been affected in this military conflict, which almost equally to the lost individuals in the military conflict. More than two third (78.8) of families feel safe in the displacement area, and (21.2%) suffer from harassment. Families who encounter problems at the displacement area, can solve them with coming methods; accessing some of displaced people (92.8%), and contact police (6.8%), and finally left the residence (0.4).

Discussion

In this study, most of the surveyed families were of one breadwinner with increasing in members of individuals as boys, girls, children, kids, infants in particular. Although the phenomenon of large families seems normal in Sudan society, however it may create an economic and social burden on the head of the household and all members of his family, especially when they are forced to move out of their home in an unplanned way.

An assessment conducted by UNHCR (2005) found that displacement dramatically disrupts livelihoods and leads to a severe reduction in access to the basic necessities of life including food, clean water, shelter, adequate clothing, health services, low income, and water sanitations.

Although most (90%) of the displaced families succeeded in securing a fixed source of income, but the high cost of living as result of inflation has affected in the standard of living. However, this was not the case with others, about 10% of mothers forced to work to help to cover the household expenses either because of the loss of the family supporter or because of increased expenditures. Moreover, jobs opportunities were very limited in areas of displacement. Low-income families experienced a dire financial situation because they consumed what they were saved quickly to meet the daily living needs.

For most of the displaced families, the food resources situation was becoming insufficient. As such there was limited income that of most families didn't receive financial transfers from their relatives, decreasing of received assistance lead families to get other income source as loan to their families. Similar findings conducted by Alobo and Obaji (2016) found that IDPs immediately become reliant on others for basic needs such as shelter, food, and water. At the same time, their susceptibility may be amplified by barriers to accessing health care. It seems very difficult for families to return home because (76.8%) their homes and properties have affected with the military conflict Such as destroying, fire, burglary, Forced settlement& burglary.

Despite the large area and building of Gadaref state and displacement was a huge there which has led about (63, 25.2%) of displaced families live in Local substances building and tents, in addition the local authorities transferred most of families to a large stable camp out skirt of the city at Um shegara with complete service under supervision of the United Nations organizations.

Conclusion& Recommendations:

Based on data collected from 250 households in Gadaref State, Sudan, this study has examined the effect of displacement on social and economic positions. The study discovered that displacement led to effect on food resources availability, financial transfers from the relatives, income, received assistance as food, cure, Beds. In addition to other income source as loan, homes and properties' affection, type of residence, and basic services at residence.

This study confirmed that all of displaced families' children were out of schools. However more than two-thirds (71.2%) of surveyed families enjoyed with health service, compared with less than third (28.8%) didn't access to health service, in addition the study discovered that (98.4%) of surveyed families suffer from lack of food more than 7 time, and (1.6%) suffer (4-6) time. At least half of the families their individuals have been affected and lost in this military conflict.

Based on the findings the study forwarded the following recommendations: first; households should diversify their income resources to support the fixed income. Second; the government should contribute with different assistance to reserve foods and other needs. Third, the government and NGOs should help displaced households to create careers by providing trainings courses so that they could absorb in investment projects. Fourth; Necessity of building schools and health centers inside the camps to help displaced households enjoy with basic services. Fifth, the government must help displaced households to return to their homes by maintenance any property damage and establish peace as soon as possible.

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