

A Proposition of FIND-ME Model as a Viable Humanitarian Response Strategy in Sokoto

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Abstract

FIND-ME model is an acronym to denote “Find, Intercept, Need Assessment, and Discharge – Monitoring and Evaluation” (FIND-ME Model). FIND-ME Model is a five-stage social intervention programme proposed by the author which local and iNGO unknowingly adopt or could adopt to deliver results effectively for vulnerable and marginalized children. This study gathered data through Focus Group Discussion (FGD). The participants are the Program Officers of ten prominent NGOs in Sokoto who are working on Child Vulnerabilities. The author designed FGD guide to obtain relevant information from the participants on strategies of humanitarian response. 80%, 90%, 50%, 100% and 100% of the respondents respectively reinforced stage 1,2,3,4, and 5 of the model tested. The paper concludes that FIND-ME model could be explored and exploited by humanitarian organizations to deliver results to vulnerable and marginalized children in Sokoto State because it fulfils almost all the basic elements of Social Policy Theory. The model considers welfare, social services as the major activities that affected children in Sokoto State. Based on the result, FIND-ME is a step capable to be followed by caregivers to effectively address children vulnerabilities and marginalization in the state studied.

Key words: Child vulnerability; Need assessment; Monitoring evaluation; Policy

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1. INTRODUCTION

Sokoto State had its origin traced to the Sokoto Caliphate which was founded in 1809 by Shehu Usman Dan Fodiyo, the frontrunner of the jihadists who conquered the Hausa States of Kano, Gobir, Kano, Kanem-Bornu and Kastina (Zehnle, 2020). In 1903, the Sokoto Empire fell and became part of the Northern region in 1954 (Sokoto State Development Plan 2020-2025, 2020). In Nigeria, Sokoto remains the headquarters of the Islamic faith. The State is comprised of twenty-three (23) local government areas (LGA); the population is predominantly Sunni Muslim (Oyedipe, 2018). The children vulnerabilities and marginalization in Sokoto begin from home in the early childhood where a good number of the children are susceptible to suffering and social failure because of hunger, malnutrition, early-girl child marriage and household poverty (Sokoto State Development Plan 2020-2025, 2020). Sokoto as a core State in the North is “educationally disadvantaged, the enrolment gap rate for girls in pre-primary and primary schools is 39 per cent while gap related to gender parity is 25 per cent in compliance with the standard” (Sokoto State Development Plan 2020-2025, 2020, p. 42). Also, the Development Plan shows that “the overall rate of enrolment gap in primary school is 20 per cent for both sexes and 38 per cent in girls ... the disparity to be bridged, as far as water facilities, health, and teaching materials are 70 per cent, 77 per cent concerned, 66 per cent for satisfactory blackboards, 39 per cent for seating respectively” (p. 43).

Going forward, many scholars and professionals have worked in the area of humanitarian response. For instance, Haile (2005) was working in the area of reduction in the global poverty and hunger in Africa. It

was noted that a number of the African people is faced by chronic hunger including malnutrition. As a form of strategy of humanitarian response, Haile acknowledged “productive and sustainable livelihood strategies” (p. 1) which emphasized investments in reduction of poverty for better impact if it is complemented with predictable and timely mechanisms. In another paper by Acimovic and Goentzel (2016), the authors asserted that no metrics exists to describing the system of humanitarian capacity within many agents to respond to adversities and or disaster. However, Tirivangasi *et al.* (2021) studied the humanitarian aid to menaces of change in climate. The authors identified some strategies of humanitarian response including psychosocial support, counselling services, girls and women protection from abuse, food and nonfood provision items, resilience, and infrastructure rehabilitation. The authors recommended the need for humanitarian organisations to strengthen their preparedness strategies against disaster.

Meanwhile, Dickey *et al.* (2021) noted that the UNICEF and New York University in response to global challenges including health have designed a “Behavioral Communication Strategies” (p.1) that unified the professionals at the United Nations. In a more elaborated manner, Pearce and Lee (2018) in their study identified “the Multipurpose Cash Assistance Programme; Vulnerability-based approach; Vulnerability Assessment Framework; Inter-agency standard operating procedures; and Positive coping strategies skills, capacities and protection strategies.” (p.1). Then, Latifi (2017) observed that protection and providing assistance was a strategy necessary to avoiding human catastrophes in long-term period in refugee routes, this was also predicted to avoiding major security. Other strategies identified by the Latifi (2017) include “innovative approaches with respect to coordinating local authorities, and the classical humanitarian dimension.” (p. 1).

Further, Czerniewska and White (2020) acknowledged that little is understood or known about the design of humanitarian organisations to monitor or deliver hygiene programmes. The authors noted some other strategies in their report including “fear and disease awareness, and behaviour change techniques.” (p.1) to this extent, Smirl, (2008) observed that “post-crisis response strategies and institutional practices” have great material and spatial characteristics in resilience. Smirl (2008) however, noted that post-crisis resilience offer both emancipatory and cautionary potential for positive change in the international relations. This is also the opinion of Lucchi (2012). Nevertheless, Savage and Harvey (2007) maintained that Family Tracing is a very strong strategy used by the Red Cross movement in providing humanitarian response.

From the foregoing, this paper reinforce the assertion of Acimovic and Goentzel (2016), who to the best of their knowledge observed that no metrics is existing to

describing the system of humanitarian capacity within many agents to respond to adversities and or disaster. However, this paper through an issue-based literature review observed that there are various models seeking to manage the roles of international organizations in humanitarian response. Hence, this paper argue that no model equally exists to inform or aggregate strategies of humanitarian response, hereafter FIND-ME model (stage-by-stage model) as described in this paper is being proposed to be a guide that must be followed by humanitarian aid for successful and sustainable intervention. FIND-ME model is an acronym for Find, Intercept, Need Assessment, and Discharge – Monitoring and Evaluation (FIND-ME Model). FIND-ME Model is a five-stage social intervention programme anticipated by the author which local and iNGO unknowingly adopt or could adopt to deliver results effectively for vulnerable and marginalized children. This model is all about holding people accountable for children’s situation. This holds that Community Intervention Team (CIT) is drawn from the community where a marginalized or vulnerable child is found. A team could be made up to 5 members, while each community in will have at least a team working for NGO in delivering results to vulnerable and marginalized children that might have been noticed.

To enhance social inclusive policy, the member is expected to compose of at least a community leader; a leader of the faith such a child belong to, and any other 3 people known to the community. This will enhance effective child monitoring without altering the contextual and cultural peculiarity of each community. Also Training and Development of CIT member expose them to trend in the developed world and other standard norms concerning the right of a child. CIT will not be left untracked; the basic programming will be applied - ranging from reporting, monitoring and evaluation. It is against this backdrop that this paper analyse FIND-ME as the main opportunities that Local Non-governmental Organisation and International Non-governmental Organisation (iNGO) could explore and exploit to deliver results for vulnerable and marginalized children in Sokoto State, Nigeria because at the level of the region, Sokoto presents higher multidimensional poverty rate of 80.4 per cent (Liên & Chris, 2020, p. 8). Sokoto concerning children is facing a complex problem interconnected with deep-rooted neurosis which requires a strategic approach. Hence, the main objective of this paper is to test the veracity of FIND-ME model as a framework that is routinely used and followed by any one or organization in providing humanitarian assistant.

2. MATERIALS AND METHOD

This study gathered data through Focus Group Discussion (FGD). This technique allows the researcher to obtain more information quickly and provide insight into

topics of sensitivity relating multifaceted motivation or behavior (Moretti et al., 2011). The participants are the Program Officers of ten prominent NGOs in Sokoto who are working on Child Vulnerabilities. The choice for the Program Officers is because they provided with humanitarian programming and related activities. The author designed FGD guide to obtain relevant information from the participants on strategies of humanitarian response. The FGD lasted 45 minutes with a note-taker taking salience point mentioned by the participants.

The questions asked seek to substantiate the proposed FIND-ME Model; a five step for humanitarian response including Stage 1: Find the vulnerable and marginalized children - the CIT is expected to go into the community and search for vulnerable or marginalized children, the habitat of each child must be spotted and advocacy must be conducted through social mobilization to gain insight into the terrain where the child is spotted. Stage 2: Intercept with love and respect - after a child has been spotted, CIT intercepts with love, respect and concern. At this stage, emergency comfort is rendered to the child to reduce and improve current situation. Stage 3: Need

assessment and provision - after the emergency relief had been conveyed to the child, then it became necessary to assess his or her need to identify what such a child requires to fulfil his or her dream. At this stage, a child must be fortified, educated, empowered or redeemed based on the need assessment conducted. In essence, the need for a child is expected to be provided at this stage, it must be a sustainable one because the fund may not be available for advance intervention. Stage 4: Discharge child back to the Society - after a child had been equipped, then he will be discharged back to the society as a fulfilled or progressive entity, hence results are delivered. Stage 5: Monitoring and Evaluation - following the discharged of a child back to the society, monitoring and evaluation became necessary because this is a key way to know if the policy has worked or not. The CIT is expected to monitor the child to measure the level of self-actualization. Also at this stage, a feedback mechanism is established, communication and long-term relationship with the child. Participants were asked about their understanding of each stage of FIND-ME and to also rate each stage as it applied to their practical application as professionals.

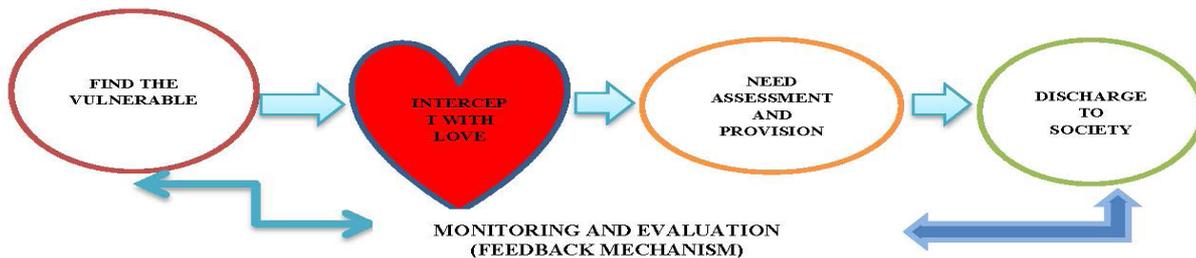


Figure 1
FIND-ME Model
Source: Authors 2022

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 below revealed that 80% of the respondent reinforce step 1 “Find the vulnerable and marginalized children” 20% declined it; 90% of the respondent reinforce step 2 “Intercept with love and respect” 10% declined it; 100% of the respondent reinforce step 3 “Need assessment and provision” 0% declined it; 50% of the respondent reinforce step 4 “Discharge child back to the Society” 50% declined it; 100% of the respondent reinforce step 5 “Monitoring and Evaluation at all stages” 100% declined it.

Table 1
Field report by authors

Steps	Reinforced (%)	Declined (%)
Step 1: Find the vulnerable and marginalized children	80	20
Step 2: Intercept with love and respect	90	10
Step 3: Need assessment and provision	100	0
Step 4: Discharge child back to the Society	50	50
Step: Monitoring and Evaluation of all stages	100	100

It is not surprising that 100% of the FGD participants reinforced Need Assessment and Provision. This is because assessments analysis of need improvises ability to efficiently and effectively respond to emergencies and crises. This is the routine of many international organisations. For instance, OCHA explained that in overall humanitarian aid, need identification cannot be conducted in isolation of the circumstances of the crises. Need assessment infuses many strategies including inter-sectoral method for holistic insight of the correlations between needs and root causes. A coordinated method assessment of need involves humanitarian and, where necessary, development actors to arrange and carry out assessments of need to avoid duplication of actions, reduce gaps and maintain stronger vision of the response. Further, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of all stages is the fifth stage of FIND-ME model. It was reinforced by all the participants. This is because any programme that will be successful and sustained must be monitored and evaluated. When providing humanitarian response affected people M&E monitors the indicators which

gives information about if the right thing is done. For many organisations offering humanitarian response, this is really difficult to know. M&E at all stages of FIND-ME model will provide useful evidence on each target to trigger strategic change and performance improvement in programmes policies and approaches. However, this paper proposed that FIND-ME model could be explored and exploited by humanitarian organizations to deliver results to vulnerable and marginalized children in Sokoto State because it fulfils almost all the basic elements of Social Policy Theory. This according to Spicker (2014) include but not limited to guidelines, legislation, principles and associated activities that affect the conditions of living conducive to human welfare, such as a person's quality of life.

4. LIMITATION TO FIND-ME MODEL

A programme like this is expected to expose children to risk coming from the CIT member because they were drawn from different background, socio-cultural perspective. The children early development life, dogmatism and parent or guardian indoctrination could be another challenge. However, to eliminate the risk factors, CIT member should be screened, and candidate previously convicted or had been linked to child abuse act should not be allowed. Besides, a child's belief should be respected; disables should be assisted to get along and the measure should be put in place to prevent the programme from hijacks that could come from locals and bigots. In addition, testing the veracity FIND-ME only in Sokoto at current time may not give the true results, hence the author suggests a wide range testing of the model with different states, countries, and organisations because the result obtain in this study cannot be statically used to substantial that all organisations rendering services are following the proposed five stages knowingly and unknowingly. But really, a typical humanitarian response is semblance of the proposed model.

RECOMMENDATION

To reinforce FIND-ME model in order to be effective, other things could be done include to design and implement policy document that will expel antisocial teachings and radicalism.

ORIGINALITY

The author belief that this is the first time a model like FIND-ME is being verified or juxtapositioned with the basic operations of humanitarian response. The aim of the author is to present to the world of humanitarianism FIND-ME model, a five stage response to rendering humanitarian services that may be followed to providing sustainable intervention.

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