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ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT Of THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN UNION CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPs) IN NIGERIA

By

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ABSTRACT

The increasing number of IDPs in Nigeria is either mostly due to weak institutional mechanisms or the absence of political will to implement the African Union's convention on the rights of internally displaced persons. The major thrust of this study is to examine the impact of the implementation of the AU's Kampala Convention on the rights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria. The study adopted the social inclusion theory as a theoretical framework. The theory vigorously argued that the disabled, internally displaced persons, refugees, lone parents, and the uninsured unemployed are excluded from a broad range of areas of social and economic participation. The study used a mixed research design which entailed both qualitative and quantitative approaches. Data collected were analyzed through the use of simple percentage and content analysis. Findings showed that the AU Convention on the rights of IDPs in Nigeria has shed more light on the lives of IDPs in Nigeria through strengthening institutional mechanisms for the implementation of AU convention. The study further noted that despite Nigeria's willingness and efforts to implement the AU convention on the rights of the IDPs, IDPs still encounter enormous challenges. These challenges stem from the aftermath of colonial exploitation; issues of state sovereignty; weak enforcement and accountability measures. The study concluded that the while the Kampala Convention has contributed significantly to shaping the Nigerian narrative on internal displacement, there is nonetheless, enough room for further improvement particularly in the area of best practices. Finally, the paper recommends that to sustain the future of the Kampala Convention, there should be the continental adoption of a sustained multi-stakeholder public awareness raising on the protection and assistance of IDPs; the emergence of regulatory frameworks on IDPs' protection at the national level; enhanced institutional capacity of institutions; and improved efficacy of AU organs in the sphere of response to issues of internal displacement.

Keywords: Economic Development; Human Rights; Internal Displacement; Internally Displaced Persons: Kampala Convention.

Introduction

The world currently faces challenging situations that affect human lives and existence. Almost all continents of the world are faced with various kinds of conflict, the resultant effect of which is the displacement of persons from their habitual homes. At the same time, several persons have been scattered in different directions and to multiple places in search of safety. It is on record that the total number of displaced persons is currently estimated at around fifty million worldwide, with most of these in Africa and Asia (Olobo & Obaji, 2016). Displacement across Nigeria is as a result of communal violence, internal armed conflicts, and natural disasters such as floods. In any conflict situation and particularly those with ethnic or religious underpinnings, the humanitarian needs are immense and the means to satisfy those needs within the conflict area are severely limited. Internally displaced civilian populations move from one place to another seeking

safety and protection within their own country. Forced population movements resulting in mass exodus constitute by their very nature, infringements on international human rights and humanitarian law. In Nigeria, the crises of IDPs arising from leadership failure and weak institution to control the menace of IDPs in line with the provisions of AU's Kampala Convention on the rights of internally displaced persons.

In response to the global issue of internal displacement, a set of UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (UN Guiding Principles) was adopted in 1998 with the aim of providing normative guidance to states on the protection and assistance of IDPs (UNCHR,1998). These Guidelines sought to build on existing international practice to identify specific normative protection in response to the gap between the protection of persons displaced within state borders. This gap prompted early discussions during the formation of the 1951 Refugee Convention, UN (1951) when the notion of assistance to populations displaced within state borders was mooted. However, there was a prevalent consensus at the time that issues of internal displacement were primarily internal state affairs and were not for discussion in the international legal community in view of the principle of non-interference.

The development of the norm on IDPs was to create a standard to which states may hold themselves to account in relation to IDPs and to which the international community may assess the level of states in furtherance of protection for IDPs, be it as a consequence of conflict, development projects or natural disasters. With the development of the Guiding Principles, there have been a plethora of normative awakenings to enhance the protection of displaced populations and, within this rhetoric Ferris (2008), the Kampala Convention has sprung up as a normative force.

However, the development of the Kampala Convention never really was the objective of the first Organisation of African Unity's (OAU) Ministerial Conference on forced displacement held in Khartoum, Sudan, in 1994 (OAU, 1998). In fact, while the issue of internal displacement was largely brought to the fore through the notable contribution of the OAU leading up to the International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa (SARRED Conference), UNGAICPR (1988) the development of a regional framework on the protection and assistance of IDPs began in the early 2000s in the period of the development of a normative framework in the Great Lakes for the protection and assistance of IDPs (PPAIDP, 2006). Seeing that the issue of internal displacement was a continental issue that affected countries beyond the Great Lakes region, developing a norm for the protection and assistance of IDPs became an imperative at the level of the AU and the formation of the Kampala Convention notably began with the decision of the AU Executive Council to address the issue of internal displacement in Africa through a binding instrument (AU, 2004). Earlier, in 1969, the OAU, now the AU, had developed a framework for the protection of persons displaced outside state borders, Oloka-Onyango, (1991). This protection, captured through the 1969 OAU Convention, was in response to the dynamics of displacement on the continent in the period following decolonisation.

However, there was no regional standard on the plight of persons displaced within state borders. Given the need to articulate guidance, the AU Commission was requested to commence the development of a context-suited framework in response to the issues faced by IDPs in Africa. This process resulted in the development and eventual codification of the Kampala Convention which seeks to respond to the protection gaps, leveraging on the provisions of the United Nations (UN) Guiding Principles.

The aim of the Convention is to prevent internal displacement, protect internally displaced persons (IDPs), and provide durable solutions to internal displacement in the African region (IDMC, 2022). To achieve these aims, it sets out the rights of IDPs and lays obligations on states, armed groups, non-state actors, and other relevant actors. The rights of IDPs enshrined in the Convention include the right not to be displaced, the right to non-discrimination, the right to seek safety, the right to education, the right to food, and the right to shelter. The obligations of states include, but are not limited to, the obligation not to arbitrarily displace individuals and groups, and to prohibit and prevent the same; the obligation to respect and guarantee the human rights of IDPs; the obligation to provide or facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance to

IDPs; and the obligation to put in place legal, policy and institutional frameworks for the protection of IDPs, and to allocate resources for these purposes

Nigeria is a State Party to the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention). The country ratified the Kampala Convention in 2012. The Nigerian Government has the primary duty and responsibility to assist and protect IDPs in its territory, with support from humanitarian organisations where needed. It is also obliged to incorporate the Convention into the domestic legal framework and promote conditions for voluntary, dignified and safe durable solutions to displacement. Understanding the need of protecting the IDPs using the Kampala Convention may be a tall dream in Nigeria for some obvious reasons. The Convention was ratified in 2012 but is yet to receive full implementation compared to the global best practice, due to the seemingly corrupt nature of the country and weak institutional capacity to control the menace of IDPs in the country. Therefore, this study is an attempt to examine Nigeria's implementation of the African Union Convention on the rights of internally displaced persons.

Statement of the Problem

Nigeria was among the first countries to ratify the Kampala Convention but despite her ratification of this mechanism instituted to address the menace of Internally Displaced Persons, the country has one of the highest numbers of IDPs in sub-Saharan Africa with over 2.7 million IDPs (IDMC, 2020). The increasing number of IDPs is mostly due to the lack of effective mechanism or poor leadership idiosyncrasy to implement the African Union's Convention on the rights of internally displaced persons. Nigeria has weak institutional frameworks to carry out multi-stakeholder public awareness raising on the protection and assistance of IDPs. This situation may be attributed to a poor or unregulated control mechanism on Internally Displaced Persons in the country, contrary to the framework provided in the Kampala Convention.

It is, therefore, necessary to interrogate Nigeria's implementation of the Convention in order to ascertain why, in spite of its robust provision for the Rights of Internally displaced persons, the country is experiencing such challenges. Is Nigeria indeed implementing the Convention? If yes, what is the impact of the implementation of AU's Kampala Convention on the Rights of Internally displaced persons in Nigeria? The study aims to achieve the following specific objectives:

i. To discuss the impact of the implementation of AU's Kampala Convention on the Rights of Internally displaced persons in Nigeria.
ii. To identify the factors militating against the implementation of African Union Convention on the Rights of Internally displaced persons in Nigeria

Conceptual Framework

Internal Displacement

Internal displacement is not a new concept in the social sciences. Internal displacement is a situation where persons or group of persons are forcibly uprooted from their homes to other locations within their country as a result of man-induced or natural causes. Internal displacement has been described as "the movements of refugees and internally displaced people (people displaced by conflicts) as well as people displaced by natural or environmental disasters, chemical or nuclear disasters, famine, or development projects" (Migration Data Portal, 2018).

Internal displacement is further seen as a situation where persons or group of persons are forcibly uprooted from their homes or places of habitual residence to other locations within their country as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflicts, violations of human rights and natural or man-made disaster. Internal displacement refers to the voluntary or forced movement, evacuation or relocation of persons or groups of persons within internally recognized state borders. The scale of internal displacement and the inevitable problem and nature of the response have become far more momentous in contemporary

times. The consequence of internal displacement on IDPs themselves, as well as on the local authorities and communities that host them, can be shocking. While the act of displacement itself often may violate the human rights of those affected, the subsequent loss of access to homes, lands, livelihoods, personal documentation, family members, and social networks can deleteriously affect the ability of IDPs to assert and relish an entire range of fundamental rights. Most apparently, IDPs instantaneously 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, education, employment, economic activities, and electoral politics in their areas of displacement. Moreover, the longer the displacement continues, the greater is the risk that traditional family and social structures break down, leaving IDPs dependent on outside aid and vulnerable to economic and sexual exploitation. Such dependency, in turn, reduces the chances of durable solutions and sustainable reintegration into society once political and security conditions have changed to enable such solutions to take place. (Asplet, 2013).

However, from the definition of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, Asplet identified three phases of internal displacement which are pre-displacement, during displacement, and post- displacement. By pre- displacement, the central focus of the state is to prevent the causes of displacement from occurring. During displacement, the basis of concentration is the protection of the internally displaced persons as well as rendering assistance to these persons. The post- displacement phases emphasis finding long lasting solutions for the affected internally displaced persons as well as building sustainable livelihoods for them. (Asplet, 2013, p. 24).

Internally displaced persons (IDPs), according to the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (1998), are "persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular, as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border." This, however, is a descriptive definition, which does not confer a special legal status because IDPs, being inside their country, remain entitled to all the rights and guarantees as citizens and other habitual residents of their country. As such, national authorities have the primary responsibility to prevent forced displacement and to protect IDPs. Thus, when these people live within their state border, (UNHCR, 1998; Mamman, 2020), they are called internally displaced persons but if they cross an internationally recognized state border, they are called refugees (Mamman, 2020).

In this study, the researchers agreed to the definition of internal displacement provided by Migration Data Portal, (2018) as a situation where persons or group of persons are forcibly uprooted from their homes to other locations within their country as a result of man-induced or natural causes.

Theoretical Framework

This study utilized the social inclusion theory to provide a theoretical road map for the paper. The Social inclusion theory can be traced to Max Weber, a late 19th and 20th-century German political economist, and sociologist who saw exclusion as the attempt of one group to secure for itself a privileged position at the expense of some other group (Hills, Le Grand, & Piachaud, 2002).

However, the modern use of the term emerged in France to describe those who were excluded from the social insurance system (Lenoir, 1974). These were the disabled, internally displaced persons, refugees, lone parents, and the uninsured unemployed. Such people, or les exclus, by virtue of their lack of opportunities, were excluded from a broad range of areas of social and economic participation (Saunders, Naidoo, & Griffiths, 2007). This was then expanded to include disaffected youth and isolated individuals, following growing social problems in housing estates on the outskirts of large cities in France, and subsequently emphasized the importance of unemployment (Paugam, 1993). In part, the concept of social exclusion arose in France because of their emphasis on the importance to society of social cohesion.

During the 1980s, interest in social exclusion spread throughout Europe; it was being increasingly adopted in official policy frameworks as exemplified by the establishment of the European Community Programme to Foster Economic and Social Integration of the Least Privileged Groups. This was followed in the early 1990s by the European Observatory on Policies to Combat Social Exclusion. Within the European Union (EU), addressing social exclusion is now a mainstream policy framework. Social exclusion attracted attention in the United Kingdom (UK) during the 1980s and early 1990s. It became prominent following the election of the Blair Labour Government in 1997 and its establishment of the Social Exclusion Unit (SEU). Although the concept of social exclusion has gained relatively little traction in the United States (US), the debate there has referred to the underclass (e.g., Wilson, 1987), and there has been a longstanding interest in compensatory interventions for those who are at a significant disadvantage, including members of minority groups (Hayes, 1991).

The perspective of social justice ideologies and increasing social inclusion is about human rights, egalitarianism of opportunity, human dignity, and fairness for all. It may or may not be linked to economic interests, but its primary aim is to enable all human beings to participate fully in society with respect for their human dignity. Here, acts of community engagement and participation are foregrounded.

Social inclusion has been adopted as an organizing principle for social policy in several countries, the experience of these countries is mixed and the extent to which the social inclusion process has been successful is contested. It is important that Nigeria learns from international experiences to build on what has worked and avoid some of the pitfalls. One of the central insights of the social inclusion/exclusion process internationally is that interventions have to be developed to respond specifically to the needs of all individuals in society in respect of their race or class. Therefore, while international experiences provide useful ideas on the kind of interventions that can be undertaken, successful policies from other countries cannot replace the process of identifying the needs and challenges of disadvantaged groups specific to the Nigeria context, especially as the insights from this process can be applied to improve existing mainstream services.

Research Methodology

To achieve the proposed research objectives, the study used mixed research design which entails both qualitative and quantitative approaches. The population of the study is twelve thousand one hundred sixty-seven (12,167) which is derived from the population of specific units and departments in the IDPs Camps, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) in Abuja -Nigeria. The population is chosen because there are stakeholders and individuals who can provide basic and necessary information on the subject matter.

Table 1: The targeted population for questionnaires

Sampled Area	Units/Departments	Target Population
Internally Displaced Persons	Area One IDP(Durumi) Camp	3000
	Lugbe IDP Camp	2700
	Kuje IDP Camp	2500
	New Kuchingoro IDP Camp	3500
National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)	Disaster Risk and Reduction Unit	26
	Search and Rescue Unit	19

Non-Governmental Organisations	International Committee of the Red Cross	30
	Healthy and Smart Children Foundation	35
	Social Welfare Network Initiatives	22
	Excellence Community Education Welfare Scheme	20
	Peace Foundation Organization	17
	Life Builders Initiative	24
	Doctors Without Borders	12
National Human Rights Commission	Investigation and Legal Unit	17
National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons	NCFRMI	245
	Total	**12167**

Source: Field Survey, May, 2023

Sample size: A sample is a group of items taken from the population, so that the needed information can be obtained for the purpose of analysis.

Sample size determination

Sample size therefore is a selected fraction out of the entire population. To obtain a representative sample size in a study like this where the population of the study is finite the researchers used the Smith (2008) formula to determine the sample size of this study.

Where:
SMITH 2008
N
3+ (ME)
N = Total Population
3 = Constant
0025 is the Margin Error
12,167
3 + **12,167** (0.0025)
12,167
30.4175
= 400

According to the formular of sample size determination developed by Smith (2008) the researchers found that only 400 respondents would answer the questionnaires.

In addition, responses from selected interviewees using the purposive sampling technique were used to supplement the result from the questionnaire analysis. Below is the distribution of sample size for interview.

Table 2. Distribution of sample size for interview

S/N	Sample	Sample size
1	Internally Displaced Persons	4
2	National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)	1
3	Non-Governmental Organisations	2
4	National Human Rights Commission	3
5	National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons	2
	Total	12

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2023

Data Analysis and Interpretation of Result

Four hundred (400) copies of questionnaire were distributed to 400 respondents and 389 copies were filled and retrieved. Analysis was, therefore, done based on how the questionnaire items helped to achieve the research objectives. Descriptive statistics were used to analyse the data obtained from the questionnaire while content analysis was used to analyse information from the interview and secondary sources.

Table 3: The impact of the implementation of African Union Convention on the Rights of Internally displaced persons in Nigeria

Responses	**Strongly agree (SA)**	**Agree (A)**	**Disagree (D)**	**Strongly disagree (SD)**	**Undecided (U)**	**Total**
Nigeria has able to achieving adequate standard of living, including at a minimum access to adequate food, water, housing, health care and basic education	97 (25.06)	64 (16.53)	128 (33.07)	58 (14.98)	42 (10.85)	389 (100%)
Nigeria has been able to apply effective remedies for displacement-related violation, including access to justice, reparations and information about the causes of violation	85 (21.96)	70 (18.08)	117 (30.23)	114 (29.45)	03 (0.07)	389 (100%)

Nigeria ensures that all IDPs are issued all documents necessary for the enjoyment of their legal rights, includes international passports or other travel documents, national or personal identification documents, drivers' licenses, voters' cards, birth certificates, marriage certificates, and other related documents.	59 (15.16)	71 (18.25)	133 (34.19)	120 (30.84)	06 (1.54)	389 (100%)
Nigeria ensured all IDPs has the right to recognition as a person before the law	55 (14.13)	60 (15.42)	129 (33.16)	145 (37.27)	-	389 (100%)
Nigeria ensured that No IDPs shall be arbitrarily deprived of property and possessions	94 24.16)	57 (14.65)	95 (24.42)	134 (34.44)	09 (2.31)	389 (100%)
Nigeria ensured that IDPs, regardless of whether they live in camps or not, shall enjoy the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion, belief, opinion or expression	113 (29.04)	136 (34.96)	75 (19.28)	63 (16.19)	02 (0.51)	389 (100%)
Nigeria ensured that the IDPs right to seek for employment or participate in economic activities is guaranteed	123 (31.61)	135 (34.70)	74 (19.02)	54 (13.88)	03 (0.77)	389 (100%)
Nigeria ensured that the IDPs right to vote and be voted for in their places of displacement, relocation or return and participate in government or civic affairs; and the right to communicate in a language they understand.	110 (28.27)	166 (42.67)	60 (15.42)	53 (13.62)	04 (1.02)	389 (100%)
Does IDPs have the right to associate freely with another person	53 (13.62)	60 (15.42)	110 (28.27)	166 (42.67)	04 (1.02)	389 (100%)

Field Survey, May, 2023

The above table indicates responses on the impact of the implementation of the African Union Convention on the Rights of Internally displaced persons in Nigeria

The first row on Nigeria has been able to achieve an adequate standard of living, including at minimum access to adequate food, water, housing, health care, and basic education indicates that 25.06% and 16.53% strongly agreed and agreed to the opinion that Nigeria has able to achieve adequate standard of living, on the other hand, 33.07% and 14.98% respectively, strongly disagreed and disagreed to that opinion, stating that Nigeria has not been able to achieve adequate standard of living. 10.85% of the respondents were undecided about the question. In clear terms, it is obvious that Nigeria has not been able to achieve an adequate standard of living.

The second row above shows the responses to the issue on whether or not Nigeria has been able to apply effective remedies for displacement-related violations, including access to justice, reparations, and information about the causes of violation. 21.96% and 18.08% strongly agreed and agreed to that effect while 30.23% and 29.45% strongly disagreed and disagreed respectively, while 0.7% of the respondents which constitute 3 persons were undecided about the issue.

The third row shows that 15.16% and 22.62% of respondents strongly agreed and agreed to the question on whether or not Nigeria ensures that all IDPs are issued all documents necessary for the enjoyment of their legal rights, including international passports or other travel documents, national or personal identification documents, drivers' licenses, voters' cards, birth certificates, marriage certificates, and other related documents, while 34.19% and 30.84% disagreed and strongly disagreed to that effect. It is apparent here that a greater percentage does not share the opinion that Nigeria has succeeded in this aspect.

The fourth row shows that 55(14.13%) and 60(15.42%) strongly agreed and agreed that Nigeria ensured all IDPs have the right to recognition as a person before the law while 129(33. 16%) and 145 (37-27%) respectively did not support the assertion that Nigeria ensured that all IDPs have the right to recognition as a person before the law, 6 respondents constituting 1.54% were undecided about the matter.

The fifth row indicates that a large percentage of the respondents constituting 24.16% and 14.65% respectively, were of the opinion that Nigeria ensured that No IDPs shall be arbitrarily deprived of property and possessions while 24.42% and 34.44% shared a different opinion.

The sixth row regarding the opinions of respondents on the position that Nigeria ensured that IDPs, regardless of whether they live in camps or not, shall enjoy the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion, belief, opinion, or expression, showed that 113 and 136 respondents constituting 29.04 % and 34.96 %, strongly agreed and agreed to the opinion that Nigeria ensured that IDPs, regardless of whether they live in camps or not, shall enjoy the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion, belief. On the other hand, 75 (19.28%) and 63(16.19%) respondents are of a different opinion. A fraction of the respondents 02(0.51) %) was undecided in this matter.

The seventh row shows that 123(31.61%) and 135(34.96%) supported the opinion that Nigeria ensured that the IDPs right to seek employment or participate as they strongly agreed and agreed respectively. On the other hand, 74 and 54 constituting 19.02% and 13.88) %% respectively strongly disagreed and disagreed. Only 03 (0.7%) respondents were undecided on this issue

The eighth row on the opinions of respondents that Nigeria ensured that the IDPs right to vote and be voted for in their places of displacement, relocation or return and participate in government or civic affairs; and the right to communicate in a language they understand, indicated that 110 (28.27) and 166 (42.67%) supported the opinion, while on the other hand, 60 and 53 constituting 15.42% and 13.62) %% respectively strongly disagreed and disagreed

Lastly on the ninth row as stipulated in the convention to the effect that IDPs have the right to associate freely with another person, revealed that 53(13.62%) and 60(15.42%) strongly agreed and agreed to that

effect while 110(28.27%) and 166 (42.67%) strongly disagreed and disagreed with the opinion. A fraction of 1.02% of respondents was undecided on the issue.

Although not explicitly contained in the Kampala Convention, there are ways in which the Kampala Convention has been used to build momentum in addressing the issue of internal displacement in Nigeria. Data gathered from the NEMA office in Abuja showed that the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) has flagged off a skills acquisition training for 11, 300 internally displaced persons (IDPs) across states of the northeast region. The interviewee who claims anonymity stated that the programme was designed to fast-track the rehabilitation, resettlement, and stabilization process in the conflict-ridden region.

The AU Convention on the rights of IDPs in Nigeria has shed more light on the lives of IDPs in Nigeria through its humanitarian services which have been impactful to the contiguous states of Gombe, Bauchi, and Taraba States and the neighboring Republics of Niger, Chad and Cameroun. Food security and socio-economic activities, including the movement of persons, exchange of commodities and services, commerce, farming, and pastoralism were also disrupted due to the crisis.

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in line with its statutory mandate has sustained its humanitarian support to the teaming Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The Agency has established a humanitarian cell in Borno State and sub-cells in Yobe and Adamawa States and has deployed its personnel and critical assets to the North-East to continue to meet up with the burgeoning humanitarian needs of the affected population.

NEMA has strategically prepositioned emergency food and non-food items in its warehouses located in Adamawa, Borno, Gombe, and Yobe States, for easy distribution to the IDPs living in both camps and amongst host communities. The Agency has also signed an MoU with the State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMAs) of Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe to ensure a steady supply of food to the IDPs. The Federal Government has put in place several measures aimed at reducing the adverse effects of the crisis. These include the Safe Schools Initiative (SSI), the Presidential Initiative for the North-East (PINE), and the Victims Support Fund (VSF) amongst other

Romola (2019), in his article titled '*The impact of the African Union Convention on the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa'* stated that the Kampala Convention has also had the indirect symbolic effect of shaping media coverage on internal displacement. Over the last decade, local and international media notably have spotlighted the issue of internal displacement with reference to the Kampala Convention. Outside Africa this has been reflected in news articles by prominent press news agencies such as Reuters, and The Guardian (UK). In Africa, media coverage on internal displacement has been shaped by the Kampala Convention in the prominent national press, including Daily Maverick (South Africa), The New Times (Rwanda), and New Vision (Uganda) while in Nigeria, it is the Punch, Daily Trust, and Guardian newspaper. For instance, Daily Maverick published a significant piece in which it spots lighted the importance of the Kampala Convention in shaping the regional focus on IDPs. Noting that the Convention comes as an African solution to an African problem, the piece reflects the fact that it provides a viable roadmap in addressing the challenges facing IDPs. It further underscores the need for the treaty's proposed solutions to be 'made available to those affected by displacement'.

Also, The New Times published a piece in which the issue of internal displacement is shaped by the existence of the Kampala Convention. In reflecting on the issue of internal displacement in Africa, The New Times accentuates the importance of the Kampala Convention as a regional solution. Emphasising that while IDPs have for far too long been forgotten, the Kampala Convention closes the protection gap and opens up new possibilities in enhancing the protection of these persons in Africa. According to the news agency, states that sign the Kampala Convention 'agree to shoulder primary responsibility for preventing forced displacement, among other things by threatening prosecution of those responsible'. There have also been conferences and studies on the issue of internal displacement influenced by the Kampala Convention.

It was observed from secondary sources that Nigeria had a national policy developed prior to the

Kampala Convention. This policy was not as comprehensive and there was a need to amend it to reflect the Kampala Convention. In 2014 and 2015, joint workshops were held by the NRC and the IDMC to build national strategies for the protection of IDPs based on the Kampala Convention. Both workshops brought together actors from government and the civil society from various parts of the continent including Mali, Uganda, Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, South Sudan, Zambia, and the Central African Republic. The process was not used merely to introduce the Kampala Convention as a regional imperative around which national-level actions should be congregated, but also to build internal capacities to address challenges experienced by actors in the protection and assistance of IDPs.

It was also revealed from the interviews conducted in Abuja that there were four major camps within Abuja for the IDPs. The camps are in Lugbe, Area One, New Kuchingoro, and Kuje. Each of those places proved not to be a healthy habitat for human beings but to them, it was a piece of luxury. It didn't matter if the luxury was found in squalors and slums which have become their place of abode. Some of the camps were located at the very end of the streets where the roads are so tortuous and winding.

Mr. Sallah Bisala stated that IDPs in Nigeria face several challenges that undermine their health and well-being. These challenges include lack of financial support, intolerance, lack of medical supplies, violence, and lack of federal government help. Mrs. Godiya Amana narrated that under the provision of the Kampala law faith-based groups and NGOs have been technically assisting the IDPs through the provision of relief materials, adequate health care delivery, adequate security and protection, trauma management and cancelling. Another interviewee who sought anonymity stated that the AU convention on the right of IDPs in Nigeria has been impactful through the granting of IDPs human rights and franchises, rehabilitation and reintegration of IDPs into the society, sporting recreation activities, good sanitation and infrastructure, water supply and electricity, job creation and free education for IDPs.

Along the same line with the above analysis, the interview frequency revealed that Nigeria has provided an adequate standard of living, including at minimum access to adequate food, water, housing, health care, and basic education. Further stated that the convention has played a significant role for all IDPs in Nigeria to enable them to enjoy legal rights, including international passports or other travel documents, national or personal identification documents, driver's licenses, voters' cards, birth certificates, marriage certificates, and other related documents.

Table 4: Factors militating against the implementation of African Union Convention on the Rights of Internally displaced persons in Nigeria

Responses	Strongly agree (SA)	Agree (A)	Disagree (D)	Strongly disagree (SD)	Undecided (U)	Total
Poor implementations of laws in Nigeria	128 (33.07)	64 (16.5)	97 (25.06)	58 (14.98)	42 (10.85)	389 (100%)
Weak State Institution	114 (29.45)	117 (30.2)	85 (21.96)	70 (18.08)	03 (0.07)	389 (100%)
Lack of appropriate equipment for the implementation of African Union Convention on the Rights of Internally displaced persons in Nigeria	85 (21.96)	70 (18.0)	117 (30.23)	114 (29.45)	03 (0.07)	389 (100%)

Poor training, corruption and bureaucratic politics within the law enforcements agencies	120 (30.84)	133 (34.1)	71 (18.25)	59 (15.16)	06 (1.54)	389 (100%)
Cultural/language differences	129 (33.16)	145 (37.2)	60 (15.42)	55 (14.13)	-	389 (100%)
Scarcity/poor resources for record keeping	94 24.16)	57 (14.6)	95 (24.42)	134 (34.44)	09 (2.31)	389 (100%)
Poverty and youth unemployment.	113 (29.04)	136 (34.9)	75 (19.28)	63 (16.19)	02 (0.51)	389 (100%)
Bad governance.	123 (31.61)	135 (34.7)	74 (19.02)	54 (13.88)	03 (0.77)	389 (100%)

Field Survey, May, 2023

Table 4 show cased the factors militating against the implementation of the African Union's Convention on the Rights of Internally displaced persons in Nigeria. The table indicated that majority of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed to the opinion that challenges ranging from poor implementation of laws in Nigeria 128 (33.07) and 64 (16.53, weak state institutions/Security 114(29.45) and 117(30.23), lack of appropriate equipment for the implementation of the African Union Convention on the Rights of Internally displaced persons in Nigeria, while 117 (30.23) disagree and 114 (29.45) strongly disagree. The table revealed that 120 (30.84) and 70 (18.08), identified poor training, corruption, and bureaucratic politics within law enforcements agencies, Cultural/language differences as factors 129 (33.16) and 145(37.27, isolated scarcity/poor resources for record-keeping, while 95 (24.42) disagree and 134 (34.44) stand for strongly disagree. 113 (29.04) and 136 (34.9) identified poverty and youth unemployment as well as bad governance 123 (31.61) and 135 (34.7) as constituting factors militating against the implementation of African Union Convention on the Rights of Internally displaced persons in Nigeria.

The observation apparently showed that the factors militating against the implementation of the African Union Convention on the Rights of Internally displaced persons in Nigeria are a function of a variety of factors such as poor implementations of laws in Nigeria, weak state institutions, lack of appropriate types of equipment for the implementation of African Union Convention on the Rights of Internally displaced persons in Nigeria, poor training, corruption, and bureaucratic politics within the law enforcement agencies, cultural/language differences, scarcity/poor resources for record-keeping, poverty and youth unemployment, as well as bad governance.

Discussion of Findings

The results from the findings are here discussed in line with the objectives of the study.

The first objective of the study was to examine the impact of the AU Convention on the Rights of Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria. It was discovered that the significance of the AU Convention on the Rights of Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria is of great advantage to the lives of IDPs in Nigeria. The data gathered from secondary sources showed that the Kampala Convention has also had the indirect symbolic effect of shaping media coverage on internal displacement. In Nigeria, media coverage of internal displacement has been shaped by the Kampala Convention in prominent national dailies including the Punch, Daily Trust, and Guardian newspaper.

The paper discovered that faith-based groups and NGOs have been technically assisting the IDPs through the provision of relief materials, adequate health care delivery, adequate security, and protection,

trauma management, and canceling. It was found out that the convention has granted the IDPs their rights and franchise, rehabilitation and reintegration of IDPs into society, sporting of recreation activities, good sanitation and infrastructure, water supply and electricity, job creation, and free education for IDPs.

The study found that the AU Convention on the right of IDPs in Nigeria has shed more light on the lives of IDPs in Nigeria through the provisions of relief materials, construction of shelters, and settlements lost during displacement, and adequate deployment of the National Disaster Management Framework (NDMF) to the affected communities.

Finally, it was discovered that Nigeria has its national law on the right of IDPs which entails the protection of the general and specific rights of IDPs, their rights to protection from displacement, rights to protection and assistance during displacement, etc.as stipulated in the AU Convention on the right of IDPs.

The second objective of the study was to assess the factors militating against the implementation of the African Union Convention on the rights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria. Available evidence from the data generated from the respondents interviewed, secondary sources, and questionnaire showed that the factors militating against the implementation of the African Union Convention on the rights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria range from poor implementation of laws in Nigeria, weak state institutions, lack of appropriate types of equipment for the implementation of African Union Convention on the rights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria, poor training, corruption, and bureaucratic politics within the law enforcement agencies, cultural/language differences, scarcity/poor resources for record-keeping, poverty and youth unemployment, to bad governance.

It was discovered that a country that is rich but poorly managed can easily get drifted into a crisis of unimaginable consequences and the existence of militia groups is certainly a manifestation of bad governance. It has been shown in the analysis that the existence of Boko Haram and other militia groups in Nigeria is a repercussion of the polity of mismanagement, corruption, repression, and deprivation.

It was also discovered that Nigeria has low or stagnant economic growth and weak governing institutions that are unable to implement the African Union Convention on the rights of internally displaced persons or maintain autonomy due to the menace of corruption.

The paper found out that despite the willingness and efforts to implement the AU convention on the rights of the IDPs the challenges around humans and IDPs still exist. The challenges stem from the aftermath of colonial exploitation; issues of state sovereignty; weak enforcement and accountability measures, and limited resources for effective implementation of the human rights standards exacerbated by conflicts, corruption, competing priorities at the domestic level, and more recently, the COVID-19 pandemic. These challenges have led to governance deficit; widespread poverty and deepening inequality; pervasive gender oppression; rising insecurity and violence; and a climate of emergency; growing number of refugees and internally displaced persons; and the deprivation of their means of livelihood, human dignity and hope for millions of African citizens.

Conclusion

The Kampala Convention has contributed significantly to shaping the Nigerian narrative on internal displacement. Over the last decade, the Kampala Convention has defined national, regional, and global narratives on internal displacement. Based on this treaty framework, states have sought to harmonise standards, and one of the ways in which this has been reflected is through national laws and policies on internal displacement in Africa. While it is evident that much of the development in the Nigerian landscape on internal displacement is shaped by the Kampala Convention, there is room for improvement, particularly in the area of best practices. It is imperative that for further action, there needs to be sustained advocacy from the region, constant dialoguing with states at the sub-regional level, and internal mechanisms at the domestic level that foster responsibility and ensure accountability.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made to add more value to the impact of the AU Convention on the rights of internally displaced persons in Nigeria.

(a) To sustain the future of the Kampala Convention, there should be the continental adoption of a sustained multi-stakeholder public awareness raising on the protection and assistance of IDPs; the emergence of regulatory frameworks on IDP protection at the national level; enhanced institutional capacity of institutions; and improved efficacy of AU organs in the response to issues of internal displacement.

(b) Nigeria government should strengthen its commitment to ensure that the rights of internally displaced persons are protected. This could be achieved by setting standards for addressing sexual and other forms of violence against displaced persons so that perpetrators will be brought to justice.

(c) Nigeria government should effectively tackle security challenges; it is one step further to solving the displacement problem.

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