INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPs) IN NIGERIA: THE ROLES OF INTERNATIONAL ACTORS

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ABSTRACT
The paper examines the global responsibility to protect internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nigeria. It utilizes case studies, reports, and official documents to assess the current response to internal displacement in Nigeria and identify its challenges and shortcomings. The paper argues that the needs of IDPs in Nigeria have not been adequately addressed due to factors such as a lack of political will, limited resources, and structural barriers stemming from government corruption and conflict dynamics. Additionally, the study analyzes the roles and responsibilities of international actors, including the United Nations and international NGOs, in providing assistance to IDPs. It asserts that although these actors have made some progress in addressing the issues faced by IDPs in Nigeria. However, more effort is required to ensure the protection of their rights and reintegration into their communities. In conclusion, the paper calls for a more coordinated and comprehensive approach to the protection of IDPs in Nigeria, as well as the fulfillment of international obligations to assist them in achieving sustainable solutions.

Introduction

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) are individuals who have been forced to leave their homes or habitual residences due to armed conflict, violence, human rights abuses, or natural and man-made disasters. Unlike refugees, who cross international borders and receive protection under international law, IDPs remain within their country of origin and do not have the same legal protections. This situation presents significant challenges for IDPs, including displacement, human rights violations, and limited access to essential services such as food, water, and healthcare. The issue of internal displacement is a pressing concern globally, with millions of people being forced to flee their homes due to conflict, violence, and natural disasters (World Bank, 2017; Mooney, 2005; Hugo, Abbasi-Shavazi&Kraly, 2017).

By the end of 2022, the number of IDPs worldwide had reached alarming levels. The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) estimates that there are currently 71.1 million people living as IDPs globally, which represents a 20 percent increase from 2022. Out of this total, 62.5 million individuals have been displaced within their own countries as a result of violent conflict, while 8.7 million have been displaced due to natural disasters (IDMC, 2023). The countries with the highest number of IDPs

include Syria, Ukraine, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Colombia, Yemen, and Afghanistan. Ethiopia, Nigeria, Somalia, and Sudan also have significant numbers of IDPs. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has further complicated the situation for IDPs across the globe. The pandemic has worsened existing vulnerabilitiesand inequalities, leading to additional displacement and increased humanitarian needs. According to IDMC, more than 5 million people were newly displaced due to conflict and violence in 2020, and the restrictions imposed as a result of COVID-19 have made it more challenging to provide humanitarian assistance and respond effectively to the needs of IDPs (IDMC, 2021; Khouzam& Verma, 2020; Kelley, 2022).

The challenges faced by IDPs are multifaceted and complex. IDPs often encounter difficulties in accessing fundamental services such as healthcare, education, and clean water and sanitation. They are also at risk of various human rights violations, including sexual and gender-based violence, exploitation, and forced recruitment into armed groups. IDPs are vulnerable to poverty, social exclusion, and discrimination, which can hinder their ability to recover and lead productive lives (Oghuvbu&Okolie, 2020; Khai, 2023; Kemei et al., 2023). Nigeria, a country with a population of over 200 million, has one of the highest numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs) globally. From climate change-induced disasters to protracted conflict and violence, Nigeria has been facing multiple crises that have caused a significant increase in the number of IDPs. As of December 2022, there were approximately 4.5 million IDPs in the country. This places Nigeria as the third-highest country in Africa for the number of IDPs, behind the Democratic Republic of Congo and Ethiopia (IDMC, 2023). Sadly, the plight of Nigeria's IDPs often goes unnoticed and neglected. They lack adequate attention from policymakers, global actors, and humanitarian organizations, resulting in immense suffering and hardship. IDPs are frequently deprived of essential needs such as shelter, food, healthcare, and education, and they face various forms of exploitation, abuse, and violence (Magaji, 2023).

Undoubtedly, IDPs in Nigeria are experiencing a severe humanitarian crisis that requires urgent attention and action. It is crucial for global actors, policymakers, and humanitarian organizations to collaborate and ensure the protection, respect for rights, and fulfillment of needs for IDPs. This demands a comprehensive and multifaceted approach that addresses the root causes of displacement and promotes the recovery and resilience of IDPs. Consequently, this paper aims to explore the global responsibility to protect and assist IDPs in Nigeria. It will assess the roles and responsibilities of international actors in guaranteeing sufficient protection and assistance for IDPs. The study will draw from existing literature on the concept of responsibility to protect and analyze its implementation in the Nigerian context. The previous researches focused on the general issues related to global responsibility to protect IDPs. None of them focused on global responsibility to protect Nigerian IDPs.The findings of this research are vital in guiding policymakers, humanitarian actors, and scholars in designing effective policies and programs that cater to the needs of IDPs in Nigeria. Furthermore, the research problem revolves around lack of comprehensive and effective action in addressing the challenges faced by the IDPs in Nigeria. Despite the global recognition of their plight and responsibility to protect them. However, the gap remains in the responsibility of protection and assisting IDPs in the Nigerian context.

Literature Review

The Responsibility to Protect (R2P) is a concept in international politics that aims to protect populations from mass atrocities. It states that states are responsible for protecting their own populations from crimes like genocide and ethnic cleansing. However, when states fail in this responsibility, the international community has a duty to intervene through diplomacy, economic measures, and, in extreme cases, military action to prevent such atrocities. The concept of R2P raises questions regarding internally displaced persons (IDPs) – individuals who have been forced to flee their homes but remain within their country. IDPs are vulnerable as their displacement weakens the social contract within a state and creates conditions that foster violence and exploitation. Consequently, some scholars argue that there is a gap in the R2P framework regarding the protection of IDPs. While states have the primary responsibility to safeguard them, many states lack the capacity or willingness to do so effectively, leaving IDPs without adequate protection.

Hansel &Reichwein (2023) argue that the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) consists of three

pillars. The first pillar states that every sovereign state has the responsibility to protect its citizens within its borders. The second pillar emphasizes that the international community should assist states in protecting their citizens if they are unable to do so themselves. The third pillar asserts that the international community is responsible for protecting populations from human rights abuses and should intervene when governments fail to fulfill their responsibilities. Overall, the passage highlights the origins and evolution of the R2P, emphasizing the need for international intervention to prevent mass atrocities and protect people from human rights violations.

Hofmann (2023) examines the expectations and challenges associated with the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) framework. R2P is described as a set of norms that outline three expectations of behavior within the international community. Firstly, it asserts that sovereignty includes a responsibility for states to protect their populations from atrocity crimes. Secondly, it emphasizes that the international community should support states in fulfilling this responsibility. Lastly, it states that if a state fails in its protection responsibilities, the international community, represented by the UN Security Council, has a subsidiary responsibility to protect populations under threat. However, there is controversy and disagreement surrounding the interpretation and implementation of R2P. Many non-Western states perceive the third pillar of R2P as part of a Western liberal-internationalist agenda aimed at spreading democracy and promoting human rights, potentially through the use of coercion. They argue that, for R2P to be recognized as a norm, there needs to be a shared acceptance of the underlying standards of appropriate behavior and collective action to prevent mass atrocities.

Cohen (2010) explores the origins of R2P in the context of IDP protection and highlights the challenges in applying the concept to displaced persons. The study posits that the concept of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) emerged as a response to the growing number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) who were in need of international protection. The rise of civil wars during and after the Cold War brought attention to millions of individuals within their own countries who had been forced to leave their homes. The 1951 Refugee Convention and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) provided protection for those outside their countries of origin, while IDPs faced challenges in accessing basic necessities. It was only in the 1990s that efforts began to address this gap in protection for IDPs. By recognizing and addressing the unique challenges faced by IDPs, the international community can strive to fulfill its responsibility to protect all individuals from gross human rights violations.

Lwabukuna (2021) studies the concept of the responsibility to protect (R2P) as it relates to preventing, addressing, and finding lasting solutions to internal displacement in Africa. It acknowledges that while innovative norms for protecting the forcibly displaced have been developed in Africa, they have not been effectively implemented to address displacement in a sustainable manner. Similarly, R2P has faced criticism due to a lack of clarity and distrust. The study suggests that the underlying norms of frameworks for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and R2P complement each other and can be simultaneously operationalized through a more credible regional approach. This approach aims to encourage effective protection of IDPs in Africa. The study specifically explores the three pillars of R2P (prevention, response, and rebuilding) and the moral principles that underpin them, using Kenya as a case study to illustrate the process of seeking state responsibility for protecting displaced civilians affected by mass atrocities.

Ercan (2022) critically analyzes the practice of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) over the past two decades. It highlights the importance of reflecting on the norm's implementation and whether R2P has become a shared responsibility since its introduction by the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS) in 2001. It acknowledges that there have been numerous academic and political debates surrounding R2P, and a significant body of literature has emerged addressing its normative evolution and various aspects of practice in response to humanitarian crises. However, it notes that most accounts have focused on specific aspects or pillars of the norm, as well as popular cases like Darfur and Libya.

Davies & Glanville (2010) highlights the recent invocation of the "responsibility to protect" (R2P) concept in the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa. This convention, for the first time, recognizes the rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to

humanitarian assistance and outlines the obligations of states and armed groups to protect uprooted citizens, including those displaced by conflict and natural disasters. However, it raises questions about the extent to which the international community should intervene when a home country is unwilling or unable to protect its people. It also discusses the relationship between the responsibility to protect and the principles of sovereignty and questions whether the Kampala convention represents the responsibility to protect in action. It further mentions the lack of debate on how R2P enhances the work of those advocating for the protection of refugees and IDPs, as well as the uncertainty surrounding the application of R2P in situations of displacement due to natural disasters, economic crises, food shortages, and disease outbreaks.

Hehir and Hehir (2019) examines the paradoxical nature of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) doctrine. It acknowledges that while R2P has gained significant popularity among states, state-sponsored oppression and atrocity crimes continue to increase, highlighting a stark gap between the commitment to R2P and the reality on the ground. It references UN Secretary-General António Guterres' observation that there is a disconnect between the stated commitment to R2P and the daily experiences of populations at risk of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity. The study acknowledges that R2P has garnered widespread support from states, surpassing the earlier concept of "humanitarian intervention."

Theoretical frameworks

This study is situated within the framework of the cosmopolitan theory. The theory advocates collective responsibility to solve global problems. Accordingly, the phenomena of internal displacement should not be seen as only the responsibility of the affected State, but it should be seen as a global or collective responsibility. Fundamentally, the cosmopolitan theory is relevant to this study because it extends its enquiry beyond sovereign State borders and it assumes that “everyone matters” irrespective of national boundaries. It is a philosophical perspective that advocates for the protection of all individuals, regardless of their nationality or location, as moral equals with inherent human rights.

The etymological root of cosmopolitan derives from the combination of two Greek words, kosmo (universe or world) and polites (citizens). Therefore, kosmopolites means “citizens of the word” or “global citizens” (Kleingeld and Brown, 2014; Liddell and Scott, 1996). It assumes that all human beings belong to a single community by virtue of their common humanity. It advocates that all human beings should interact across the globe with a high sense of companionship. Furthermore, the theory upholds that all human beings shall be treated equally irrespective of color, religion, gender, race and nationality. It advocates global governance that surpasses any social, political, cultural, religious and geographical divisions. Basically, all human beings belong to the same community, regardless of their political or national attachments. Human beings are morally obliged to be good and helpful not only to their fellow country citizens but also to strangers. In fact, the cosmopolitan theory champions ‘universal hospitality’. Consequently, the idea of R2P in line with cosmopolitanism. Wyatt (2019) established the correlation between R2P and cosmopolitan approach of human protection. It argues that the notion is associated with the principles of collective responsibility that lies at the heart of cosmopolitan’s assumption. It is observed that the humanitarian crisis affecting IDPs receives less attention from the international community. It is obvious that the plight of IDPs has become a formidable challenge that requires genuine international attention and assistance.

Cosmopolitan theory challenges the traditional Westphalian notion of sovereignty, which prioritizes the rights of states over those of individuals. By recognizing the inherent value and rights of all individuals, it expands the scope of protection beyond national boundaries to include internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other vulnerable populations. It further, discourages discrimination among/between human beings and encourages anyone to see others as equally important. The adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 could be regarded as clear manifestation of the cosmopolitanism. It “brings human agency back in world politics” (Sugiono, 2011). Moreover, the theory recognizes the role of international institutions, and the importance of finding transnational solutions to global crises. This is because the international institutions are more interested in helping the generality of humanity rather than advancing narrow national institutions. Likewise, O’Neil (2004) persuasively

argues that when the rights of a particular group are not fully protected, this does not mean that they have insufficient rights. It is because their rights are not fully protected as a result of failure of their states to carry out their internal responsibilities. Consequently, the international agencies as "secondary agents of justice" shall assumes the secondary responsibility of protecting the rights the group. This is in tandem with the principle of R2P.

The theory supports the idea that when a state fails to protect its population from mass atrocities, other states or international organizations have a moral obligation to intervene. This intervention can take various forms, including diplomatic pressure, economic sanctions, and military action. The recent involvement of the UNHCR, WHO and UNDP in the internal displacement crisis shows the relevance of cosmopolitan theory. The new approach of the agency concerns not only the protection and assistance of the refugees, but also the internally-displaced persons. In this regard, Sadako Ogata, former UN High Commissioner for Refugees, urges the international community to prevent or alleviate the plights of both IDPs and Refugees (Cahill, 2013).

In summary, cosmopolitan theory provides a moral framework for protecting IDPs and promoting R2P by expanding the scope of protection, promoting humanitarian intervention, addressing root causes, and enhancing accountability. Consequently, there is the proliferation of the international organizations' involvement in internal displacement crisis more than ever before. For example, the UNHCR has played a very vital role in the internal displacement crisis not only in Nigeria but in other parts of the world. Moreover, the cosmopolitan theory attempts to reconcile state sovereignty with responsibility. It recognizes that the protection responsibility of the IDPs lies with the state concerned. However, when the state lacks political will or is incapable of discharging those responsibilities, the responsibility shifts to the international community to fill in the gaps of the state responsibilities (Cahill, 2013a; Cahill, 2013b). Boutros-Ghali posits that "Underlying the rights of the individual and the rights of the peoples is a dimension of universal sovereignty that resides in all humanity and provides all peoples with legitimate involvement in issues affecting the world as a whole. It is a sense that increasingly finds expression in the gradual expansion of international law" (Boutros-Ghali, 1992: 99).

Global Responsibility to Protect and Assist Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria

Legally, the State authorities have the primary responsibility to protect IDPs and ensure that their rights and liberty are fully protected. This is because, constitutionally, the national governments are under the obligation to protect their citizens (including IDPs). Certainly, internal displacement concerns national authorities (Bellamy & Dunne, 2016). However, the plight of the IDPs necessitates the international community to come together under the umbrella of the United Nations to provide the means that will help in providing succor to the group. In 1992, the UN Secretary General appointed the IDPs' Representative to study the crisis of global internal displacement. He recommended that something needed to be done to alleviate the suffering of the IDPs, since no specific international legal and institutional frameworks for their protection existed. He maintained that, whenever a refugee crisis occurs, UNHCR would formally assume responsibility of providing humanitarian protection and assistance to the victims. On the other hand, no similar provision establishes for the IDPs (Ulrich, 2016). Consequently, the normative framework (Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement) has been established in 1998 to be used in the situation of internal displacement. The principles have basically shaped the institutional response. At the same time, they have facilitated the humanitarian/human rights discourse on the IDPs. Internal displacement has widely been understood as a challenge that needs to be addressed by the international community (Stavropoulou, 2016).

Protection involves "all activities aimed at ensuring full respect for the rights of the individual in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the relevant bodies of law, i.e. human rights law, international humanitarian law and refugee law" (Ferris, 2011: 278). Similarly, Humanitarian Aid Policy of the Swedish government argues that:

> *Protection includes measures designed to ensure respect for the rights of people in need, in particular the right to physical safety and dignity. Related*

> *measures include calling attention to the obligations of armed groups, registration of the status of refugees or internally displaced persons and education about rights and obligations under international law (Cubie, 2017: 23).*

Moreover, for international protection of IDPs to be effective, there is the need for concrete legal and institutional frameworks for their protection. Additionally, effective protection requires sincere states' commitment to unreservedly implement these frameworks. In this respect, Arthur Helton argues "When we speak of 'protection', we mean legal protection. The concept must be associated with entitlements under the law and for effective redress of grievances, mechanism to vindicate claims in respect of those entitlements" (1990: 119). Therefore, legal protection is beyond providing food and shelter to the IDPs in camps, it must encompass rights to entitlement and legal redress. Unfortunately, there is an absence of dedicated international legal and institutional framework for the protection of the IDPs. But to ensure global IDPs protection, the cluster approach was initiated by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) in 2005. The approach aims to invite relevant humanitarian agencies (such as the UNHCR, NGOs and state government) to address the plight of IDPs. It identifies about eleven key areas related to the problem of the IDPs, including protection, emergency shelter, camp coordination and camp management, nutrition, health, water/sanitation, logistics and emergency telecommunications. Others include education and food security and each cluster has been assigned with a "cluster lead'' (Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, et al., 2014). The UNHC is a lead agency in the protection cluster.

Therefore, to examine how the UNHCR able to assist the protection of the IDPs in Nigeria, one has to refer to it role under the aegis of the cluster approach. Accordingly, a similar approach has been implemented in Nigeria to protect the IDPs. This approach in Nigeria is called the Protection Sector Working Group (PSWG). As explained earlier that the arrangement could be called Cluster or Sector.

The Roles of International Actors in the Protection and Assistance of IDPs

IDPs have been confronted with serious and unrelenting peril to their well-being. Many of them have been displaced for a long period and without any hope of finding a durable solution to their plight. Mostly, they have not been able to get the support they need from their national governments. Despite the global awareness about the plight of IDPs in recent years, the response to cater their needs have remained patchy and piecemeal. Consequently, to find a solution to their plight, various measures have been adopted, including the "Cluster Approach". Cluster Approach refers to division of labour among various UN and other humanitarian agencies to address the plight of IDPs. This approach has been endorsed by the Secretary General of the United Nations in 2005. Under this approach, the UNHCR accepts to play the leading role of providing emergency shelter and protection to the IDPs in conflict induced displacement situations. Also, the agency assumes the role of camp coordination and camp management (CCCM)(UNHCR, 2021).

Furthermore, the UNHCR has been vigorously involved in other clusters, including collaborating with UNICEF and the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to provide protection to the IDPs displaced by natural disasters. Also, the UNAIDS has chosen the UNHCR to be the lead agency for IDPs with HIV/AIDS (UNHCR, 2007).The UNHCR acknowledges that the problem of internal displacement is beyond the capacity of any single agency including its own. It believes that the plight of IDPs will be effectively managed through inter-agency and partnership approach with the support of national governments. Therefore, the cluster approach was established to achieve effective international response to IDP management. The approach promotes "predictable, effective and accountable inter-agency response to ensuring protection and assistance for internally-displaced persons" (Cohen & Deng, 2012: 36). The Cluster approach categorizes nine vital areas of humanitarian response into "clustering" consist of various actors (including NGOs and non-UN intergovernmental organizations). Each cluster has been designated by the lead agency, depending on the area of expertise of each agency (Buzoya, 2009). For example, the UNHCR leads protection, UNICEF leads education and the WHO leads health, among others, etc. Each cluster leader is assigned with responsibility to coordinate the cluster working group in their specify area of expertise. In this regard, Cohen and Deng have recommended that "in each serious emergency, the principal responsibility for the internally-displaced persons should be

assigned to one operational agency backed by an effective inter-agency coordinating mechanism: or the agency itself could be authorized to perform the coordination" (2012: 9).

While providing assistance to the protection and humanitarian assistance to the IDPs, the UNHCR establishes working relationship with the state, regional, international and NGOs in all parts of the globe. Over the years, the Agency acquires competence, expertise as well as the capacity to protect and find a durable solution for the displaced people. The agency tries to comply with the recommendation of the High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence report that posits that the: "UNHCR must reposition itself to provide protection and assistance to displaced people in need, regardless of whether they have crossed an international border or not." (Rosenblum & Tichenor, 2012: 61). Furthermore, in line with the cluster approach, the UHNCR provides protection, emergency shelter, camp coordination and management for the IDPs**.** However, the agency needs to ensure that its involvements in IDP situations does not distract it from its core/primary mandate concerning refugees (Orchard, 2014).

In addition, cluster approach operates at both the national and international levels. At the international level, cluster leads are answerable to the Emergency Relief Coordinator and are equally responsible for coordinating the related international cluster working groups. However, these global efforts to establish a successful system has produced positive results. But it has still left a great gap specifically in respect of legal and institutional framework for IDPs' protection. The management and operation of internal displacement are completely based on a policy framework for the field action that has been used by humanitarian workers. In fact, there is no specific international legal framework for the protection of IDPs and at the same time there is no specific international agency that is responsible for IDPs protection.

Challenges in Global Efforts to Protect and Assist IDPs in Nigeria

The protection of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nigeria has been a complex and multifaceted issue, requiring the involvement of international actors. The international actors have been facing many challenges in assisting and protecting the IDPs in Nigeria. First, there is lack of jurisdiction, limited resources, security risk, coordination challenges and corruption.

Lack of Jurisdiction/ Legal Authority

Lack of specific international legal and institutional framework for IDPs' protection is a major challenge facing the international actors (i.e. UNHCR) in assisting the protection of the IDPs. The protection of the IDPs lies with their national governments. There is no any dedicated international legal and institutional frameworks for the protection of IDPs. Consequently, IDPs suffer when their national governments fail to protect them. They become more vulnerable, because of the lack of an international legal framework for their protection when their states fail to do so (Cohen, 2010).

Although, the Guiding Principles are aimed at offering the international community the basis for involvement in IDP situations. Nonetheless, the Guiding Principles are mere "soft law" (non-binding) that lack binding effect under international laws. Therefore, they cannot be enforced on states or international humanitarian bodies. It is obvious that, the Guiding Principles have not done much to the IDPs protection.

Limited Resources

Lack of adequate financial resources is one of the constraints that hinders international agencies to adequately protect and assist the IDPs. There is no consistent international funding for the IDPs. Unlike funding for the refugees', there is no general provision for funding internal displacement. The agency depends on the donations getting from other countries and organizations, which are usually inadequate to meet the increasing needs of the IDPs in Nigeria and the world in general. This situation produces lack of capacity, infrastructures and manpower (Eweka& Olusegun, 2016). The UNHCR has been overstretched in assisting and protecting people, such as the IDPs that are not part of its primary mandate. Recently, the number of IDPs that are desperately in need of assistance and protection of the UNHCR has increased, but the funding has not (Martin, Fagen& Jorgensen, 2005).

According to the UNHCR Nigerian Situation report of 2017, UNHCR budgeted $ 169.9 Million for Nigerian IDPs in 2017. However, the agency could fund only 19% of the proposed budget and 81% remains the unmet gap (Nigeria Situation, 2017). Furthermore, the 2018's UNHCR report shows that the UNHCR budgeted $161.1million to fund (Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigerian

IDPs/refugees). Nevertheless, only 14% ($22.0 Million) had been sourced and 86 % ($139.1 Million) remains unfunded (Nigeria Situation, 2018).

Security Risk

The eight years' violent conflict between the Boko Haram insurgent group and Nigerian security forces have caused the displacement about 2 million people in the Northeastern region of Nigeria. The conflict has caused extensive humanitarian crisis in the region, rendering many people homeless (Thurston, 2017). Furthermore, the security constraints have hindered humanitarian actors from accessing the victims of the conflict. Many have been trapped in hard-to-reached areas and without access to humanitarian services. This has subjected them to a lot of hardships because they have been cut off from humanitarian access (Amnesty International, 2018). The level of insecurity in the area has become a major challenge for the international humanitarian actors to access the victims. Even the IDP camps are not free from insurgent attacks using suicide bombers (UNHCR, 2018).

Coordination Challenges

The challenge of lack of coordination exists among the various humanitarian actors and national authorities that have been involved in IDP's situations. Activities among the humanitarian actors in internally displaced situations in Nigeria have been described as "fragmented, uncoordinated and grossly inadequate" (Kolawole, 2014). Arguably, lack of proper coordination among the different actors hinders effective internal displacement management in the country. The coordination challenge exists not only among national agencies such as NEMA and NCFRMI, but also among the different international agencies that have been engaged in providing humanitarian services to the IDPs in Nigeria. The IDPs protection and assistance have been provided by the state organizations in collaboration with the UN agencies as well as NGOs (national and international). Mostly, there is no proper coordination among these national and international actors. The agencies clash because of lack of clear and specific operational and jurisdictional mandate among them. Even the national organizations such as NEMA and NCFRMI have been clashing with each other over IDPs' mandate. (UNOCHA, 2018). Likewise, there is no centralized system among the United Nations agencies in internal displacement situations. It involves several agencies such as the World Food Program (WFP), the UNHCR and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) among others. But coordination has become a challenge to them.

Corruption and Mismanagement

The United Nations office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) reports that the humanitarian crisis of the IDPs in Northeast Nigeria is the most severe in the world (UNOCHA, 2018). However, another report from the New Internationalist discloses that Nigerian IDPs have been suffering because of endemic corruption from the camp officials such as NEMA. It reports that "IDPs are suffering not due to shortages of food and other relief items, but because of endemic corruption in the NEMA and other state emergency agencies which receives and distribute donations" (Malik, 2016:1). Other report by the UNDP and NHCR have confirmed that there is gross corruption, criminal misappropriation of funds, diversion of food and non-food items that have been donated for the IDPs. The report has noted that Nigerian officials have been getting richer on the hunger of the IDPs. The Nigerian IDPs have fallen victims to corrupt officials and mismanagement. It identifies that most of the resources meant for the IDPs have been stolen or diverted by the officials. The report maintains that, in 2016, N8.352 Billion ($23.2 Million) released for IDPs humanitarian services, but only N6.326 Billion ($17.572 Million) was spent and N2.026 Billion ($5.628 Million) was stolen (Vanguard Nigeria, 2017). In support of this, Nigerian vice president, Yemi Osinbajo has publicly admitted that about half of the food aid do not reached the IDPs (BBC, 2017).

Conclusion

In conclusion, the study sheds light on the urgent need for international action and responsibility to protect IDPs in Nigeria. The study highlights the dire situation faced by millions of internally displaced individuals who have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict, violence, or natural disasters. The research conducted in this study reveals the alarming levels of vulnerability, insecurity, and lack of basic necessities experienced by IDPs in Nigeria. It emphasizes the moral, ethical, and

humanitarian obligations of the global community to ensure the protection and well-being of these invisible citizens. The study also underscores the need for a comprehensive international response that goes beyond short-term relief measures. It calls for sustained efforts to address the root causes of displacement, promote conflict resolution and peacebuilding, and provide long-term solutions for the reintegration and recovery of IDPs. Furthermore, the study highlights the importance of international frameworks, such as the Responsibility to Protect (R2P), in guiding global actions to safeguard the rights and dignity of internally displaced persons. It emphasizes the need for greater cooperation among governments, international organizations, and civil society to effectively address the challenges faced by IDPs in Nigeria and beyond. It serves as a crucial reminder of the pressing global responsibility to protect internally displaced persons and ensure their rights, security, and well-being. It resonates with the call to action for policymakers, practitioners, and concerned individuals to work together to address the plight of IDPs in Nigeria and take concrete steps towards building a safer and more inclusive world for all. Based on the findings, the study recommends the following:

1. 1.The global community should enhance collaboration and coordination among governments, international organizations, and civil society to effectively respond to the needs of IDPs in Nigeria. This includes sharing resources, expertise, and best practices to ensure a comprehensive and coordinated approach.

2. 2.Efforts should be focused on addressing the root causes of internal displacement in Nigeria. This requires investing in conflict prevention, peace-building, and sustainable development initiatives in affected areas, in order to alleviate the conditions that lead to displacement.

3. 3.Governments and international organizations should implement robust protection mechanisms for IDPs in Nigeria. This entails ensuring their physical safety, access to essential services such as healthcare and education, and protection from human rights violations, including gender-based violence.

4. 4.The international community should allocate increased resources to provide humanitarian assistance to IDPs in Nigeria. This includes funding for food, shelter, health services, and livelihood support, ensuring that the basic needs of IDPs are met.

5. Support Resettlement and Reintegration: Efforts should be made to support the voluntary and dignified resettlement and reintegration of IDPs into their communities. This involves providing assistance for housing, employment, education, and psychosocial support to ensure their successful reintegration.

6. Strengthen Monitoring and Reporting: Enhancing monitoring and reporting mechanisms on the situation of IDPs in Nigeria is crucial. Governments, international organizations, and civil society should work together to gather accurate and timely data on internal displacement, which can inform evidence-based policymaking and targeted interventions.

7. Raise Awareness and Mobilize Support: There is a need to raise awareness about the challenges faced by IDPs in Nigeria and mobilize support from the international community. This involves leveraging media platforms, advocacy campaigns, and public diplomacy efforts to ensure that the plight of IDPs is visible and receives the attention it deserves.

8. Uphold the Responsibility to Protect: The international community should uphold the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) principle, recognizing the obligation to prevent and respond to mass atrocities, including the displacement of populations. Governments and international organizations should incorporate R2P into their policies and actions to ensure the protection of vulnerable populations like IDPs.

9. By implementing these recommendations, we can move closer to effectively addressing the needs and protection of internally displaced persons in Nigeria, while highlighting the importance of global responsibility in this regard.

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