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LEGAL OVERVIEW OF THE CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Nigeria has been facing the challenge of internal displacement since its first occurrence in 1967 as a result of the civil war. Internal displacement involves the forced movement of people from one part of the country to another. This situation, in most cases, exposes the displaced people to some vulnerabilities. Thus, this article examined the causes and effects of internal displacement in Nigeria. In examining the subject matter, the doctrinal research method was adopted, and the data collected were both primary and secondary, comprising both hard copies and online source materials. It was discovered that insurgency, ethno-religious conflicts, natural and man-made disasters, resource struggles, and developmental projects, among others, cause internal displacement in Nigeria. Internal displacement has negative impacts on security, health, housing and infrastructure, social life, livelihoods, education, and the environment. It was recommended that there should be synergy among the governments at all levels, civil societies and individuals in order to support the safe, voluntary, dignified return and resettlement of displaced populations through specific and targeted programming and local integration through projects targeted at the strengthening of resilience of communities and expansion of basic services, such as water, sanitation, education, and health facilities.

Key Words: Internal Displacement, Internally Displaced Persons, Armed Groups, Forced Displacement, Protection, Resettlement

1. INTRODUCTION

Internal displacement describes the situation of people who have been forced to leave their homes but have not left their country.[1] Internal displacement has been a challenge to Nigeria, with insurgency displacing about 2.4 million Nigerians in the Lake Chad Basin.[2] The Nigerian Civil War (1967-1970) and the ceding of the Bakassi Peninsula to Cameroon in 2008 led to the displacement of persons within the affected regions.[3] Other factors that cause displacement in Nigeria include farmers-herders conflict, armed banditry, inter-communal wars and boundary disputes, amongst others. With the continuance of these security challenges with little or no efforts from the government to curb them, Nigeria's displaced population continue to increase.

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1 Fact Sheet on Internal Displacement.

2 Nextier SPD, Nigeria's Displacement Dilemma (Relief Web, 2020) 1 <https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/nigerias-displacement-dilemma> Accessed on 25th September 2021.

3 Ibid.

Internal displacement affects the lives of displaced people, their host communities and those they leave behind in many ways. Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) then become vulnerable, without means of livelihood; their physical safety, well-being and human rights become threatened; and it can also have significant and long-lasting effects on socioeconomic development.[4] Considering these problems, this article shall analyse the causes and effects of internal displacement in Nigeria, taking into account the development of internal displacement in Nigeria, the legal and institutional frameworks introduced to tackle internal displacement, the rights and obligations of the internally displaced persons and the challenges of addressing internal displacement in Nigeria.

2. OVERVIEW OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN NIGERIA

Forced migration and internal displacement within Nigeria are not a new phenomenon. In the last 50 years of independence, the highest recorded numbers of incidences of Internal Displacement have been triggered by violent conflict. The first incident can be traced back to the civil war, also known as the Biafran War, from 1967 to 1970.[5] In 1991, the seat of government moved from Lagos to Abuja, following Decree No. 6 of 1976.[6] The Federal Capital Territory was carved out of the states of present-day Nasarawa, Niger, and Kogi. The indigenous inhabitants, the Gbagis, lost their land and livelihoods to the development projects. Most inter-communal/inter-ethnic clashes that have led to displacement have taken place in Taraba, Plateau, Kaduna, Nasarawa, and Benue states between 2000 and 2002 and have centred on the issues of land, boundaries, and indigenes/settlers.[7] Between 2003 and 2008, the National Commission for Refugees estimated that at least 3.2 million people were displaced due to ethnic and religious conflict, from and within various states in the country.[8]

The ceding of the Bakassi Peninsula to the Republic of Cameroon in 2008 forced an estimated 400,000-755,000 people to move across the border to Cross Rivers and Akwa-Ibom states.[9] Many were left homeless, landless and cut off from their source of livelihood. In 2010 alone, the Nigerian Red Cross Society, in a vulnerability analysis, identified about 5,000 vulnerable families that were most affected by the floods in specific parts of the country. From 2010 to 2011, NEMA registered over 80 IDP settlements in 26 states across the six geopolitical zones.[10] Over 350,000 people were displaced due to Natural disasters, communal and ethno-religious clashes, and electoral violence.

In 2012, a survey on youth in the country, the NBS reported forced migration within the country as being on the rise, with people, particularly the youth, moving to escape

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4 Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, The Ripple Effect: Multidimensional Impacts of Internal Displacement (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2018) <www.internal-displacement.org> Accessed on 25th September 2021.

5 FK Mohammed, The Causes and Consequences of Internal Displacement in Nigeria and Related Governance Challenges (German Institute for International and Security Affairs, 2017) 9.

6 Ibid.

7 AS Adesola and PA Ola, A Historical Analysis of Violence and Internal Population Displacement in Nigeria's Fourth Republic, 1999-2011 (2015).

8 BU Mberu and R Pongou, Nigeria: Multiple Forms of Mobility in Africa's Demographic Giant (2010).

9 Ibid.

10 FK Mohammed, The Causes and Consequences of Internal Displacement in Nigeria and Related Governance Challenges (German Institute for International and Security Affairs, 2017) 11.

violence, natural disasters, or increasing occurrences of extreme weather conditions.[11] The highest recorded number in the last decade, however, has been due to the insurgency in the northeast part of the country, where a spate of violent attacks since 2009 has left well over two million people displaced within the country.[12]

3. LEGAL, POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN NIGERIA

There are several legal, policy and institutional frameworks put in place to address issues arising from internal displacement. This shall be discussed at four levels, to wit: international, regional/subregional, national, and state/local government.

3.1 International Frameworks

At the international level, the laws regulating internal displacement include the Geneva Conventions, 1949 and their Additional Protocols 1- 2 of 1977 and the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, 1998. The International Committee of the Red Cross is a good example of an international institutional framework on internal displacement.

3.2 Regional/Sub-Regional Frameworks

At the regional level, we have the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of IDPs in Africa, 2009 (the Kampala Convention).

3.3 National Frameworks

The frameworks at the national level are the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, as amended; The Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS), Act 1960; the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) Act, 1999; the National Human Rights Commission established by the National Human Rights Commission Act 1995, and the National Human Rights Commission Amendment Act 2010; the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons, established by Decree 52 of 1989 now Cap N21, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (NCFRMI Act); National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nigeria, 2012; National Disaster Management Framework (NDMF); the National Contingency Plan; Search & Rescue and Epidemic Evacuation Plan; and Emergency Response Standard Operating Procedures.[13]

3.4 State Government Frameworks

The States are not left out in the formulation of policies and establishment of institutions to tackle issues arising from internal displacement. These frameworks are the Ministry of Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (MRRR) established in 2015 (in Borno State only); the National Human Rights Commission state level focal points; the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) state level focal points; NEMA Zonal Bureaus; State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMA), and 36 states' branches. The broad institutional arrangements specific to the northeast include the

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11 Ibid.
12 Ibid.
13 FK Mohammed, The Causes and Consequences of Internal Displacement in Nigeria and Related Governance Challenges (German Institute for International and Security Affairs, 2017) 16.

Presidential Committee on North East Initiative, North East Development Commission, Victims Support Fund, Safe Schools Initiative, and the Presidential Initiative for the North East.[14]

4. CAUSES OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN NIGERIA

Internal displacement takes place in a wide range of contexts, with multiple and sometimes overlapping drivers. Some of the drivers are discussed below.

4.1 Ethno-Religious Conflicts

In Nigeria, there are over 250 ethnic groups. This has led to clashes between them, sometimes leading to arms struggle, resulting in the displacement of persons. In Nigeria, there exist Christianity and Islam, and both are the most populous religions in Nigeria. Since the enactment of Sharia laws in the twelve northern states in 2000, it has been recorded that there have been more conflicts among Muslims and Christians, which led to the internal displacement of several persons in Nigeria.[15]

4.2 Natural and Man-made Disasters

Natural disasters, desertification and drought are cases in point that force people out of their homes in Nigeria. In recent times, the overflow of River Niger along its banks in Nigeria produced thousands of IDPs. In the North, floods, in the East, erosion and the spilling of crude oil in the Southern region.[16]

4.3 Resource Struggle

The struggle for resources and the extraction of oil is another reason for IDPs in Nigeria. Oil spillage could contaminate drinking water, and the destruction of farmlands has led to people fleeing their homes and lands for safer places.[17] The issue of resource control in the Niger Delta region has brought about violence involving forces of the government and the militants known as the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND).

4.4 Developmental Projects

Displacement with regard to developmental projects is the forceful evacuation, movement or removal of people from their communities to make way for developmental projects. This can only be orchestrated by a private actor or state[18] ; it occurs when there is construction of roads, railways, dams, hydroelectric power projects, natural resource extraction, agricultural investment and so on. A project of this nature requires the local population to vacate their homes and exposes the affected people to some vulnerability.

4.5-Armed Conflict and Insurgency

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14 Ibid.

15 A Ahmad, 'Forced Displacement and the Plight of Internally Displaced Persons in Northeast Nigeria', *Humanities and Social Science Research* [2018] (1) 46-52.

16 N Theresa, A Okoli and F Uroko, 'Self-acclaimed Religious Terrorism, Refugee Crisis, and the Plight of Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria', *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences* [2018] (8) 189-196.

17 IDMC, What Does Development Caused Displacement Look Like in Africa? (Internal Displacement Organisation, 2016) <https//www.internaldisplacement-org/expert-opinion/what-does-development-caused-displacement-look-like-in-africa> Accessed on 26th September 2021.

18 A Ahmad, 'Forced Displacement and the Plight of Internally Displaced Persons in Northeast Nigeria', *Humanities and Social Science Research* [2018] (1) 50.

Internal displacement occurs in Nigeria often as a result of terrorism, insurgency, genocide, wars, persecution and political instability. Assaults conceded by Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria have brought about the destruction of properties amounting to billions of naira, loss of lives, income to mention, loss of investment, and infrastructural damage among others.[19]

4.6 Human Rights Violations

Human rights violations happen when the state or non-state actors infringe on the fundamental rights of some targeted people. The targeting could be on account of race, religion, political reasons, economic rights, and others. The victims of human rights violations usually flee in search of protection and respite.[20]

5. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

The guiding principles on internal displacement do not seek to create a privileged category of people or a separate legal status. Rather, they are based on the principle that IDPs have the same human rights and freedoms as any other person in the country in which they are located. In situations of armed conflict, IDPs have the same rights as other civilians to the protection provided by International Humanitarian Law. Some of these rights, as stipulated under Chapter Three of the National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria 2012, include:

1. All rights contained in the Constitution of Nigeria, statutes and domesticated sub-regional, regional and international human rights and humanitarian instruments to which all citizens of Nigeria are entitled. However, non-citizens may not be eligible to vote and be voted for in local elections unless the law expressly entitles them to.[21]
2. Rights to protection from displacement.[22]
3. Rights to protection and assistance during and after displacement.[23]
4. Rights of IDPs to voluntary return, local integration and relocation.[24]

Like all citizens, IDPs have an obligation to be law-abiding citizens. IDPs shall take responsibility for the commission of individual and group crimes during the events leading to displacement and thereafter. Specifically, IDPs shall be responsible for the following:

1. Individual criminal responsibility under national and international law.
2. Individual criminal responsibility for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.
3. Individual and group crimes of a very serious nature, as defined under national and state laws.
4. Respect the culture and norms of host communities.
5. Abide by the rules and regulations in collective settlements.[25]

6. EFFECTS OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN NIGERIA

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19 EA Oghuvbu and UC Okolie, 'Responsibility to Protect and the Challenges of Displaced Men in Nigeria', *Journal of Danubian Studies and Research* [2020] (10) (1) 369.

20 NM Gwadabe et al, 'Forced Displacement and the Plight of Internally Displaced Persons in Northeast Nigeria', *Humanities and Social Science Research* [2018] (1) (1) 47.

21 Section 3.1.1 of the National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nigeria 2012.

22 Ibid at Section 3.1.2.

23 Ibid at Section 3.1.3.

24 Ibid at Section 3.1.3.

25 Ibid at Section 3.1.3.

The devastating effects of internal displacement in Nigeria cannot be overemphasised. Internal displacement has a negative impact on security, health, housing and infrastructure, social life, livelihoods, education, and the environment.

6.1 Security

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) who struggle to secure stable, decent employment often face limited options, forcing them to turn to precarious and sometimes hazardous means of income generation. Without sustainable job opportunities, many IDPs may engage in informal work, exploitative labour, or unsafe activities to meet basic needs, risking their well-being.[26]

6.2 Health

IDPs do not live healthy lives due to the lack of hospitals or standby clinics to cater for sick persons. Even the environment in which IDPs live is not healthy and could lead to the contraction and spread of diseases.[27] The living condition in the camps is a disaster due to the outbreak of communicable diseases. Pregnant women in the camps have no access to proper antenatal services, and as such, most childbirth occurs in the camps. Health issues faced by displaced persons could be malaria, mental health such as anxiety, measles, malnutrition, depression, post-traumatic disorders; reproduction health, for instance, sexual harassment, rape, unwanted pregnancies and abortions, and cerebrospinal meningitis.[28]

6.3 Housing and Infrastructure

IDPs resort to several means of housing after being displaced. Some of them live in a makeshift tent on the street in front of their damaged home, a hotel room in a nearby city, a government-run camp, a friend's home or a rented apartment. Housing solutions are numerous, their quality varies greatly, and each has different benefits and costs borne by different stakeholders. The majority of IDPs live with host families who take them free of charge or in exchange for a financial contribution. Many others end up renting accommodation, often sharing with other displaced families. Those living in displacement camps tend to be minorities.[29]

6.4 Social Life

Internal displacement has a direct impact on social life by breaking up communities and sometimes even families. When it endures, it permanently damages relationships that existed in areas of origin but also creates new networks in the places that IDPs move to. These relationships are important for stability, business and well-being. Their disruption has repercussions for mental health, livelihood opportunities and security. Reduced access to

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[26] Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, The Ripple Effect: Multidimensional Impacts of Internal Displacement (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2018) <www.internal-displacement.org> Accessed on 25th September 2021.

[27] EA Oghuvbu and UC Okolie, 'Responsibility to Protect and the Challenges of Displaced Men in Nigeria', *Journal of Danubian Studies and Research* [2020] (10) (1) 389.

[28] ibid.

[29] Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, The Ripple Effect: Multidimensional Impacts of Internal Displacement (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2018) <www.internal-displacement.org> Accessed on 25th September 2021.

education can also harm social life in the short and longer term, with ripple effects on livelihoods, mental health and security.[30]

6.5 Livelihoods

Internal displacement separates people from their land, assets, belongings, workplace, social networks, service providers and consumers. In their communities, IDPs often compete with local workers for employment, and their arrival also increases demand for goods and services, which may push up prices. These consequences, which all have an economic as well as human cost, are relatively well documented and have a direct impact on IDPs' economic status and ability to sustain dignified livelihoods.[31]

6.6 Education

Human displacement in Nigeria is also a contributory factor to the poor record of school enrolment of children in schools. About 10.5 million children between the ages of 5 to 14 years are not enrolled in schools, and about 61% of children aged 6-11 years are enrolled in primary school education.[32] Most children of IDPs stay out of school as a result of the displacement that their parents or guardians experienced. The destabilised household settings as a result of forced movement of people do hinder the enrolment of children into schools.[33]

6.7 Environment

The practice of open defecation and other environmental degradation practices is highly prevalent in IDP camps. The passing of these solid wastes often finds their way to water sources present in these camps, which most of them equally find useful for drinking and other domestic activities. This poor sanitation poses a high risk to the public health of IDPs and serves as a hotbed for ill-health conditions, thus endangering their health.[34]

Mass population movements have visible effects on the environment as demand for natural resources increases in destination areas and decreases in areas of origin. Such effects have been documented for large inflows of IDPs. Relationships have, however, been identified between IDPs' often poor housing conditions and the degradation of nearby natural resources. Large influxes may also lead to overexploitation and increased pollution, with ripple effects on health and food security. The loss of livelihoods also has indirect consequences, forcing people to engage in unsustainable income-generating activities that harm the environment and, in turn, reduce future livelihood opportunities. All these issues may heighten tensions between displaced people and their hosts, affecting security and social life.[35]

7. CHALLENGES OF MANAGING INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN NIGERIA

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30 ibid.

31 Ibid at 23.

32 İlker Etikan and Ogunjesa Babatope, 'Health and Social Assessment of Internally Displaced People (IDP) in Nigeria', *Annal Biostat & Biomed Applications* [2019] (2) (3) 4.

33 Ibid.

34 Ibid.

35 Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, The Ripple Effect: Multidimensional Impacts of Internal Displacement (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2018) <www.internal-displacement.org> Accessed on 25th September 2021.

Various challenges relate to the management of internally displaced persons in Nigeria. These challenges, as discussed below, include poor introduction and implementation of policy frameworks, corruption, lack of focus on durable humanitarian solutions, poor methods of comprehensive data collection, lack of funding, negligence of responsibility, lack of adequate protection, and cultural challenges.

7.1 Poor Implementation of Policy Frameworks on Internal Displacement

Despite Nigeria being a signatory to the Kampala Convention and other international instruments, this has not been adequately reflected in national policy and strategies because most of these policies and strategies have either not been adopted into national legislation and/or suffer from poor implementation. In the absence of efficient implementation of the policy framework on internal displacement in Nigeria, the response to the plight of IDPs has remained largely fragmented and uncoordinated, and the response to the root causes of internal displacement has been very poor and ineffective.[36]

7.2 Lack of Focus on Durable Humanitarian Solutions

The approach towards addressing displacement so far appears to be heavily focused on short-term humanitarian aid and less on development-oriented, longer-term solutions, which could have serious implications for stability and security. This is of particular concern for the current situation in Nigeria, as most of the displacement in the country is caused by conflict, mostly violent, which has socio-political and socio-economic implications. Displaced populations are, first, highly vulnerable, but can also pose a potential threat to the host communities: both the host population and the environment.[37]

7.3 Poor Methods of Comprehensive Data Collection on IDPs in Dispersed Settings

The biased notion from officials could be one of the strategies used to dodge the responsibility and not consider them as real displaced persons.[38] This could be based on their dispersed nature and poor institutional mechanisms to collect credible data and information on the number of IDPs, their locations, demographic characteristics, and the conditions they face, which are very essential in effectively managing displacement crises. For more than 15 years since the displacement started, Nigeria has yet to have accurate data on IDPs outside camps because of poor methodology on accurate data collection procedures. Thus, adequate planning, funding, and social service delivery cannot be implemented. The lack of effective mechanisms to identify displaced persons also hinges on the lack of trust in persons who have identified themselves with the status of displacement.[39]

7.4 Poor Funding

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36 MT Ladan, Overview of International and Regional Frameworks on International Displacement: A Case Study of Nigeria (A Paper Presented at a 2-Days Multi-Stakeholders Conference on International Displacement in Nigeria organised by the Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre, Abuja in Collaboration with IDMC and the Norwegian Refugee Council, Geneva, held on November 21-23, 2011, at Bolton White Hotels, Abuja, Nigeria).

37 FK Mohammed, The Causes and Consequences of Internal Displacement in Nigeria and Related Governance Challenges (German Institute for International and Security Affairs, 2017) 33.

38 FO Olanrewaju et al, Insurgency and the Invisible Displaced Population in Nigeria: A Situational Analysis (SAGE Open 2019) 8

39 Ibid.

Limited funding is another major challenge affecting the management of displacement. For national agencies such as NEMA, a shortage of funds is attributed to low budgeting for emergencies. For instance, NEMA does not get funds from the yearly national budget for the management of IDPs.[40] Funds for the management of IDPs are derived from the allocation from disaster management.[41] Due to limited funds, humanitarian activities toward IDPs are limited to IDPs in formal camps, leaving out IDPs in dispersed areas in host communities.[42]

7.5 Neglect of Responsibility

Closely related to the challenge of funding is the deliberate neglect of responsibility by state actors. Very significantly, this affects the length of time it takes for IDPs to receive the necessary care needed for their survival. Negligence by the government is a major problem that camp coordinators are confronted with in the management of IDP camps.[43] It is evident that the government at various levels is guilty of this.

7.6 Lack of Adequate Protection

The unsafe condition of the IDPs in northeast exposed them to many protection issues, ranging from exploitation, child and gender-based violence, human trafficking, family separation and detention with no consideration for the rule of law.[44] Moreover, the IDPs are sheltered under the most inhumane conditions: overcrowded camps, with few overstretched infrastructural facilities and defective or inadequate non-food items such as blankets, buckets, mosquito nets and others.[45]

7.7 Corruption

Corruption is another essential challenge hindering the effective management of IDPs in Nigeria. It is on record that management agencies and officeholders in government, who ought to care for the needs of displaced persons on various occasions, have been found diverting relief materials and funds meant for displaced persons for their own benefit.[46] A situation that reduces the efficiency in managing displaced persons in Nigeria.[47] Camp officials and leaders of IDPs have been seen as corrupt as they are also involved in selling items meant for IDPs, thereby violating Principle 24(2) of the United Nations 'Guiding Principles' on IDPs.[48]

7.8 Cultural Challenge

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40 Ibid.
41 Ibid at 9.
42 Ibid.
43 Ibid.
44 NM Gwadabe et al, 'Forced Displacement and the Plight of Internally Displaced Persons in Northeast Nigeria', *Humanities and Social Science Research* [2018] (1) (1) 49.
45 Ibid.
46 G Akuto, 'Challenges of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nigeria: Implications for Counselling and the Role of Key Stakeholders', *International Journal of Innovative Psychology and Social Development* [2017] (5) (2) 21-27
47 ibid.
48 Z Lomo, 'The Struggle for Protection of the Rights of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa: Making the Existing International Legal Regime Work', *Berkeley Journal of International Law* [2000] (18) (2).

Cultural challenge is related to internally displaced persons themselves and their host community. This involves situations where some of the IDPs are already attached to certain kinds of activities within their community of origin and may find it difficult to settle for a long time in another location that has no similar activity.[49] For instance, someone who likes fishing culture is going to depart the camp to where he can search for a river where they can continue their fishing. This is a challenge for agencies that are responsible for the management of IDPs.

8. CONCLUSION

Internal displacement has many impacts on the lives of IDPs, their hosts and the communities they leave behind. Consequences are felt in the dimensions of health, livelihoods, education, housing and infrastructure, security, the environment and social life. Aside from their number and range, the close and complex links between them and their mutually reinforcing effects are striking. The challenges of Internal Displacement remain a pressing issue in Nigeria. While some significant displacement crises have subsided due to the cessation of hostilities and tens of thousands of IDPs have been able to return to their original place of residence, over a million more in the country remain in a precarious situation, and new situations of internal displacement continue to occur. A great deal, therefore, remains to be done to address IDPs' Protection and Assistance needs, to find durable solutions to their plight and to prevent further displacement from taking place. This article demonstrates not only the importance of assessing the economic impacts of internal displacement comprehensively but also the need for inclusive solutions that address all aspects of the phenomenon simultaneously. Without holistic approaches, the causes of internal displacement and the risks and vulnerabilities they entail will endure.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Interventions should be addressed in such a way that it is not prolonged, and in situations where return is not possible due to extreme insecurity or environmental destruction, alternative solutions should be found.
2. Humanitarian needs, including food and non-food items, shelter, and primary health care, need to be addressed and supported.
3. Ensuring the security and stability of the environments where populations are displaced is the first step towards facilitating return and resettlement. This is a prerequisite whether populations are displaced due to conflict or natural disasters.[50]
4. The government at all levels need to work with civil society organisations, particularly those working in the area of peacebuilding, early warning, and advocacy, particularly of human rights, and collaborate with regional bodies, such as ECOWAS and the Lake Chad Basin Commission, to ensure continuity and stability could be explored for a broader perspective.[51]

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[49] E Osagioduwa and O Oluwakorede, 'Management of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa: Comparing Nigeria and Cameroon', *African Research Review* [2016] (10) (1) 193-210.

[50] FK Mohammed, The Causes and Consequences of Internal Displacement in Nigeria and Related Governance Challenges (German Institute for International and Security Affairs, 2017) 33.

[51] Ibid.

5. There must be support for the safe, voluntary, dignified return and resettlement of displaced populations through specific and targeted programming and local integration through projects targeted at the strengthening of resilience of communities and expansion of basic services, such as water, sanitation, education, and health facilities.
6. Those affected need, in addition to the provision of basic human rights, a framework that enables them to address other issues, particularly where displacement due to conflict is concerned. The existence of international policy documents, such as the UN guiding principles and the Kampala Convention, should be leveraged upon. The elaboration on the draft of the National Policy Framework on IDPs is also a step in the right direction.
7. There should be a national policy backed up by legislation that would cater for the prevention, management, and addressing long-term issues associated with the displacement, such as return, resettlement and the integration of IDPs. Furthermore, the legislation should include punitive measures for corrupt camp and military officials who syphon relief materials and other resources for personal gain at the expense of the victims or take advantage of their vulnerability to abuse them. Mostly, females and children fall victim in this case.[52]
8. Interventions should support the provision of specialised services to vulnerable groups — both IDPs and those in host communities — through the development of strategies to protect and promote the psychosocial well-being of internally displaced and other affected populations.[53]
9. Support for enhancing quality education for all will assist in improving the social and economic well-being of communities. Efforts, such as the Safe Schools Initiative (SSI), already supported by Germany and the EU, and similar type initiatives, especially linked to education in emergency and promoting peace education, are a fundamental part of humanitarian assistance.[54]

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[52] NM Gwadabe et al, 'Forced Displacement and the Plight of Internally Displaced Persons in Northeast Nigeria', *Humanities and Social Science Research* [2018] (1) (1) 50.

[53] FK Mohammed, The Causes and Consequences of Internal Displacement in Nigeria and Related Governance Challenges (German Institute for International and Security Affairs, 2017) 35.

[54] Ibid.