

United Nations' On IDPS in Nigeria and Somalia: A Comparative Survey

ROOSEVELT O. IDEHEN¹ and ERIBO, OMOLE MARIAT (MRS.)²

¹Department of International Relations and Strategic Studies.

Igbinedion University, Okada.

²Federal polytechnic Auchi

Abstract: Over the years, the number of internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) has grown to an alarming state worldwide and has become one of human tragedies internationally, because of the preponderance of conflict and insecurity in the world. These IDPs who flee their homes to resettle within their countries and under their government's control have become well known on international agenda. It is based on this that this paper focuses on IDPs in Somalia and Nigeria because they constitute the highest in Africa. The study examines the UN and its agencies activities in alleviating the sufferings of the IDPs, from when they became displaced till date. The major finding of this paper is that the UN have been more prominent in Somalia than Nigeria however, they have not been so active because of the protracting conflict in Somalia which makes it difficult for humanitarian workers to access and assist the IDPs in Somalia. The paper concludes that with the upsurge of IDPs globally, without proper care, there is bound to be humanitarian crises, social distrust and foreign investments challenges. This paper thus recommends that the care for IDPs should be universal because internal displacement is now too global for the UN to tackle alone. Finally, the root cause of displacement should be seriously looked into so as to proffer lasting solution.

Key Words: Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), Humanitarian services, conflicts, Human rights, terrorism.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The rate at which the population of internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) is growing globally is alarming and has become a huge human tragedy. This is because there is conflict and insecurity everywhere in the world; from war zones to domestic violence.

In the view of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR, 2015):

Worldwide displacement has hit all-time high as war and persecution increase...One in every 122 humans is now either a refugee, internally displaced, or seeking asylum...In the past five years, at least 15 conflicts have erupted or reignited, eight in Africa (Cote d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Libya, Mali, North Eastern Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan...and Burundi), three in the Middle East (Syria, Iraq and Yemen), one in Europe (Ukraine) and three in Asia (Kyrgyzstan, and in several areas of Myanmar and Pakistan)...meanwhile, decades-old instability and conflict in Afghanistan, and Somalia...means that millions of people remain on the move or...stranded for years...as long-term internally displaced or refugees.

IDP phenomenon gradually caught world attention in the late 1980s and became well known on international agenda in the 1990s. The main reason for this attention was the growing number of conflicts causing internal displacement after the end of the cold war (UNHCR, 2015).

UNHCR (2015) posited that:

There were 59.5 million forcibly displaced people worldwide at the end of 2014, the highest since World War II. 19.5 million were refugees, 1.8 million asylum seekers and 38.2 million internally displaced persons...The countries with the largest IDPs population were Syria (7.6 million), Columbia (6 million), Iraq (3.6 million), the Democratic Republic of Congo (2.8 million), Sudan (2.2 million), South Sudan (1.6 million), Pakistan (1.4 million), Nigeria (1.2 million), and Somalia (1.1 million). We are witnessing a paradigm of change. An unchecked slide into an era in which the scale of global forced displacement as well as the response required is now clearly dwarfing anything seen before.

In the light of this, this paper looks at IDPs in Nigeria and Somalia, because of their high population in the different regions of Africa and what the international organization like the United Nation (UN) and its organs are doing to alleviate the suffering of these displaced people in order to enhance their status and The UN is portrayed in the world today as one mighty organization people cannot do without. It has become politicians' paradise and is regarded by most people as world forum, world court, world welfare agency, world department

of education, world planning centre for industry and commerce, world financial agency and anything else people might need worldwide.

In writing this paper, the researcher analyzed the activities carried but by the UN on the IDPs in Nigeria and Somalia from the time they became displaced till date, in order to find out if there is balance in UN's welfare programme in IDP management.

The United Nations in Brief

There in East-Side Manhattan, New York, stands this big building in its striking coast of expensive stone, glass and glide doors. It is the United Nations headquarters in New York. It is lined with flags of member state and people from all over the world visit this building in pilgrimages of hope and peace; some for official reasons while some are for sight-seeing.

The United Nations is an international organization of nations promising to promote world peace, security and to observe international law. Established in 1945 in San Francisco, U.S.A., it serves as a replacement of the League of Nations which could not prevent the outbreak of Second World War in 1939 (Anyaele, 2005). A year later in 1946, the UN headquarters moved to New York, U.S.A.

The main objective of the UN, according to Mclean and McMillan (2003), are:

- a. To maintain international peace and security,
- b. To develop friendly relations among nations so as to have equal rights internationally,
- c. To achieve international cooperation in solving international problem of economic social cultural or humanitarian character and also promote and encourage respect for human rights for fundamental freedom for all.
- d. To be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in attaining these goals.

In the view of UN Centre (2016), UN representative globally, formally adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Right (UDHR) on December 10, 1948. It added:

Human rights' refers to the basic rights and freedom to which all humans are entitled, often held to include the right to life and liberty, freedom of thought and expression and equality before the law. Human rights are the foundation of human existence and co-existence. They are universal, indivisible and interdependent. Human rights are recognized as fundamentals by the UN and as such, feature prominently in the preamble of the charter of the UN...to reaffirm faith in fundamental human right, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal right of men and women of nations large and small...

The News Centre further explained that the UN is the only international organization in existence that has the right to apply the human right law globally,

Theoretical Approach

On humanitarian intervention by state against other states where law and order seems to have broken down, Criddle (2015:473), cited the works of Hugo Grotius who propounded two theories on other states' right to such intervention. The first theory of Grotius-the Guardianship theory of humanitarian intervention, states that, "...states may intervene as temporary legal guardians for people who have suffered intolerable cruelties at the hands of their own state".

In addition, he said that the law of nature allows states to intervene in other countries' unrest, whether they are invited or not in order to cater for and protect the oppressed people, acting as their guardians. Those other states are allowed by natural law to enter such countries and salvage the situation in order to temporarily assist or protect the people.

Criddle (2015:473), also mentioned a second theory by Grotius-the theory of International Punishment which states that, "...natural law authorizes all states to punish violations of the law of nations, irrespective of where or against whom the violation occur, to preserve the integrity of international law".

He explained that both theories have been overtaken by a third theory which is the Fiduciary theory because Grotius did not foresee the United Nations Security Council charter which permits states on humanitarian intervention to work in countries with integrity, solely to benefit the citizens abroad and not for their country's interest like the natural law allows. That natural law makes states take laws into their hands in the name of humanitarian services when there is a breakdown of law and order in such states.

Criddle (2015), posited that the fiduciary theory adds contemporary touch to the old-fashioned Grotius guardianship theory; he stated:

...when states engage in humanitarian intervention, the fiduciary theory suggests that they bear a corresponding obligation to consult with and honor the preference of those whom they seek to protect...intervening states must respect international human rights norms governing the use of force-including the strict proportionality standards associated with the human "right to life"...when issuing resolutions that authorize humanitarian intervention, the security council should incorporate more robust procedural and substantive checks to ensure that intervening states can be held accountable for abusing their entrusted authority (p.477).

The fiduciary theory is more appropriate for this work because Grotius two theories did not foresee the UN Security Council character on humanitarian intervention.

IDPs in Nigeria

Nigeria, located in West Africa, gained independence in 1960. It was colonized by the British and became a republic three years later. A civil war that lasted for three years broke out in 1967.

Nigeria has more cultures, tribes, languages and religions than any other nation in Africa because of its large population of approximately 187 million which makes it the most populated in Africa (Worldometers, 2016).

At present, Federal Republic of Nigeria is made up of 36 states with its capital in Abuja. It shares borders with Niger in the North, Republic of Benin in the West, Cameroon in the East and the Gulf of Guinea in the South. It is made up of over 500 ethnic groups, the main ones being Igbo, Hausa and Yoruba (Adesote & Peter, 2015). The population comprises mostly Muslims and Christians, with a few traditional and other religions. Also called the “Giant of Africa”, Nigeria gets most of its revenue from oil and a little from agriculture. It is a member of Commonwealth of Nations and the African Union.

Adesote and Peter (2015, p.13), posited that, “since the re-emergence of democracy in May, 1999, not less than one hundred political, ethnically and religiously motivated conflicts have occurred in Nigeria”. They added that the faceless Islamic sect, Boko Haram, mostly based in Northern Nigeria, came about in May, 1999. The group call itself “Jama’atu Ahlissunah Lidda’awati Wai Jihad”, meaning, “people committed to the propagation of the prophet’s teachings and Jihad”. As at this time, they wanted to form a pure Islamic state in the Northern part of Nigeria and started killing people and displacing them from their homes.

In February, 2000, the Igbos and Hausa had a religious conflict and several people were killed and displaced. Between 2003 and 2007 some Northern states clashed over farm land and communal boundaries and several civilians were also killed and displaced.

The Plateau election result of 2008 also caused communal clashes because of the discrepancies in the results and people ran away from their homes to camp in schools and army barracks, while some fled to neighbouring towns.

Before 2009, the Niger Delta Militants had caused so much havoc and displaced several residents of the Niger Delta, Some fled to the forest for safety while others were camped in schools and hospitals. But later in 2009, the militant were granted amnesty by the government in power at that time and this caused them to cease fire which brought peace and calm to the region.

In 2011, Power shifted from the North to the South of Nigeria. As a result of this, the Islamic sect, Boko Haram, intensified it’s bombing and attacks on anybody and anything in Northern Nigeria, killing people and destroying properties. Up till today, only 163 of the kidnapped Chibok girls have been found (“Boko Haram release”, 2017). It was so severe that the Nigeria President at that time had to declare a state of emergency in some Northern States.

Going by the report of International Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC, 2015) as at 31 December, 2015. Nigeria’s IDPs grew to approximately 2,152,000 as shown on the table below:

State	Population
Abuja	13,481
Adamawa	136,010
Bauchi	70,078
Benue	85,393
Borno	1,434,149
Edo	1,000
Gombe	25,332
Kaduna	36,976
Kano	9,331
Lagos	450
Nasarawa	37,553
Plateau	77,317
Taraba	50,227
Yobe	131,203
Zamfara	44,929
Total	2,152,000

Leaders of all the countries of the world attended a UN summit in New York and all accepted the Guiding Principle on internal displacement as an International Framework for Protection of IDPs. Walter (2006) opined that “in 1994, the UN Commission on Human Right (UNCHR) assigned one of its staff to develop an appropriate normative framework to protect IDPs”, (Walter 2006:14). This was what gave birth to the Guiding Principle on Internal Displacement. And in 1998, the principle document was represented to the Human Right

Commission. This was because in 1998, International agencies had begun to recognize that displaced persons were facing problems like discrimination, sexual abuse, poor health and poor education conditions, no voting rights and separation from their families just like refugees but did not have legal protection and care enjoyed by the refugees because they are within the borders of their countries.

The principles-explained how international human right and humanitarian law affect the internally displaced:

The Guiding principles are based on binding international human rights and humanitarian law, as well as refugee law by analogy...persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effect 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 (Walter, 2006, p.14).

The principle also stated that the government of a particular country is responsible for the protection and upkeep of displaced persons within the country. It is when the government is not able to properly provide care and protection to the IDPs that international bodies can help. Dayo (2006) puts it succinctly as follows:

In November 2004, Head of State during the international conference on the Great Lake Region adopted a Declaration on Peace, Democracy and Development which included a commitment to implement the guiding principles through a regional framework. This led to the drafting of a model national Law and Protocol on international displacement which are expected to be accepted by Head of State...IDPs themselves had a right to take part in these discussion and should be involved as full partners from the outset (p.15).

UN and Its Humanitarian assistance in Nigeria.

Similarly, the United Nations and its agencies like United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) UNHCR, UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, and Humanitarian Coordinator, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights have recently started putting in much effort in helping the IDPs in Nigeria. The United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) representative in Nigeria, Ratidzai Ndilovu, addressed IDPs in Dalori camp in Borno State in January 2015, promising to provide them with proper health care and counseling.

Ibanga (2004) observed that the UN and some of its agencies usually organize meetings, conferences and seminars on how to cater for people displaced by Boko Haram, Land disputes and communal conflicts. He added that, the UN released \$580 million to aid those affected by Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria, That OCHA, Norwegian Red Cross, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), UNFPA, and Nigeria's National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the State Emergency Management Agency are working with the IDPs in Nigeria.

According to ("Boko Haram: UN releases, "2016), the head of Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) Valerie Amos gave the sum of \$58 million to persons affected by Boko Haram insurgency. She added that the money was part of the money contributed by UN member states, foundations, individual, observers, regional government and the private sector.

In the view of ("UN release \$3.7 billion", 2016), Stephen O'Brien of OCHA gave through CERF, the sum of \$43.7 billion to cater for 250,000 IDPs in North Eastern Nigeria for them to be able to rebuild their homes and farmland. In the same vein, Ikhilae (2016) Observed that the UN delegates, Maud de Boer-Buquicchio and Dainius Puras met with Prof. Ben Angwe, promising to assist the government in re-establishing the IDPs that have returned to their conflict free communities. UNHCR (2016), representatives of the UNHCR visited Agatu village, Benue State, Nigeria, to assess the damage done when herdsmen and famers clashed. They advised the government to liaise with both the religious and traditional leaders to resolve the problem.

Furthermore, as noted by UN News Centre (2016), UN Special Reporters, Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Urmila Bhoola and Dainius Puras visited Dalori camp in the North East and advised the Nigeria government to rehabilitate women and children affected by Boko Haram insurgency and keep the camps and returnees safe. The United Nations representative also had a meeting with the Nigeria government, World Bank and the European Union where they signed an agreement and pledged to rebuild the North East Nigeria.

UNICEF assisting IDPs in Muna makeshift camp in Borno State by operating nutrition clinic for them (Gaffey 2016) , and the World Food Programme (WFP) of the UN also promised to help about one million displaced persons in the North East to begin their lives again; this is in addition to the approximately 600,000 IDPs that have already been given food and cash. In the words of Maina (2017), the UN Security Council has urged humanitarian agencies in Borno State to be more helpful in assisting the IDPs, especially on food and medication.

News Agency of Nigeria (NAN, 2017), reported that UNDP provided direct cash transfer, food, fertilizer, farming equipment, effective solar system and sunk boreholes for about 800,000 IDPs in North East

Nigeria. They also planning to show the IDPs how to identify planted mines and Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) in their neighbourhood and in working with WHO, establish a primary healthcare unit.

UNDP (2017), observed that UNDP and Japan assisted IDPs in Mafa Local Government Area of Borno State by employing them as labourers in erecting infrastructural project in order to have income to restore their livelihoods, While some of the farmers were provided with fertilizer, farm equipment and seeds to restart their business. In other words, the UNDP is working to provide the immediate needs and income and in the end, permanent means of livelihood for the IDPs. Although, OCHA (2017), noted that the UN, some NGOs and government resorted to using military escorts so as to effectively provide humanitarian assistance to IDPs camped in areas with high levels of insecurity.

Lastly, WHO (2017), asserted that about 500,000 people in IDP camps in 14 local government areas in the north East were vaccinated, treated for diarrhea, malaria and other diseases by WHO mobile health team. And about 85% of IDP sites in Borno State also patronize the WHO Early Warning Alert Response System (EWARS).

IDPs in Somalia

Somalia, which is also known as the Federal Republic of Somalia and formally called the Democratic Republic, is located in North East Africa. In the late 19 century, according to Johanna (2015), the Italian and British government controlled part of the coast and founded the British Somaliland and Italian Somaliland. On July 1, 1960, the two region united to form an Independent nation. The Somalia National Assembly, headed by Haji Bashir Yusuf, approved the act uniting former Italian Somaliland with British Somaliland to form the Republic of Somalia.

Somalia has a population of approximately 12.3 million people. The official language is Somali and Arabic; and they also speak English and Italian. They are predominantly Muslims and its capital city is Mogadishu. Somalia is surrounded in the North by the Gulf of Aden, Kenya in the South, Ethiopia in the West, Djibouti in the North West and the Indian Ocean in the East. And its Federal Government was installed in 2012.

According to Griffiths (2003), Somalia witnessed a lot of internal conflict during the early year of independence. There was the Ogaden war from 1977 to 1988. There was civil war in 1991 and armed opposition in 1988. He added that, from 1900s to 2002, violence continued in different part of Somalia and this caused displacement of persons.

Also, the past two decades in Somalia witnessed the emergence of a variety of Islamic states, ranging from the traditionalist Sufi orders, to progressive Islamic movement, Al-Itihad and Al-Islamiya, pursuing a religious, regional and global agenda (Healy & Bradburry, 2010).

The effect of the war, drought, famine, lack of centralized state and flooding made Somalia one of the poorest countries in the World. This made the UN food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) pronounce Somalia as the hungriest country in the world.

IDMC (2015), Posited that the total member of IDPs in Somalia grew to approximately 1.1 million by the end of 2015, as shown in the table below:

State	Population
Magadishu	369,000
Puntland	129,000
South Central	-
Somalia	534,000
Somali Land	84,000
Total	1,116,000

Currently, the UN estimates that there are 2.6 million internally displaced people in Somalia (UNHCR 2019) The UN troops that first visited Somalia in 1993 as part of the UN operations in Somalia (UNOSOM, I) which was formed in April 1992, left Somalia a year later because the humanitarian aim of the troops was not clear to the United Somalia Opposition and this worsened the conflict in Somalia. UNOSOM I had become a party to the conflict in Somalia and a contributor to the death of hundreds of Somalia citizens (Griffiths, 2003).

He added that, after UNOSOM I, United Task Force (UNITAF) which comprised of force from the 24 different countries, was created in November, 1992, after it met its objectives, the UN in March 1993, transformed UNITAF into UNOSOM II. UNOSOM II was to continue with restoring peace and rebuilding the state and economy of Somalia.

In 2011, UNHCR (n.d), reported that the worst drought in 60 year caused the world's most severe food crisis in East Africa with more than 3.8 million people in need of urgent humanitarian assistance. UNHCR was on ground delivering life-saving emergency relief. The report stated:

By late 2011, the UN Food Security Nutrition Analysis Unit had lifted its "famine" designation from three Somali regions-Bakool, Bay and Lower Shabelle – downgrading them to "emergency" phase. The improvement followed a break in the region's deadly drought and progress in the UN's ability to deliver food to the country's

neediest people. However, while access to food had improved, mortality remained high because of the outbreak of diseases...

In addition, that same year, UNICEF opened its first transit hub in the port of Dubai to facilitate nutrition supplies to Somalia; WHO also share trauma kits for surgeries.

The deteriorating and appalling situation in Somalia led the UN secretary General, in cooperation with the AU, League of Arab State (LAS) and the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), to become actively involved with the political aspects of the Crisis and press for a peaceful solution to the conflict (UNHCR, n.d.).

UNHCR (2013) recorded that some international organization, in May, 2013, agreed to help Somalia in its struggle to restore peace to Southern and Central Somalia in order to help the IDPs return to their conflict free communities. UNHCR and UNICEF promised to make the IDPs comfortable in their camps and help returnees by rehabilitating them. Adrian (2004) explained that UNHCR and the Somalia government set up “the Somalia solutions platform” to brainstorm on how to proffer solution to the plights of the IDPs.

In view of the above, Johanna (2015), reported that the UN in January 2014 merged all its agencies with UNOSOM in order for them to work effectively together but this changed the political idea of UNOSOM to both political and humanitarian. In December 2014, UNHCR, UN Special Rapporteur for Human right of IDPs and the Somalia government worked to rehabilitate and relocate IDP returnees (UNHCR, 2014).

Johanna (2015), posited that the UN-Habitat was set up to works with the Somalia government to ensure peace, security and rehabilitation. It has offices in Puntland and Hargeisa its donation reached an approximately \$49 million, with donations from UNDP Somalia, the European Union (EU) Norway, Sweden, Demark, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, UNHCR, UNOCHA, Department For International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and Danish International Development Agency.

UNHCR (2016), asserted that OCHA received \$315 million for humanitarian funding in Somalia. Also, a UN representative, Walter Kalin, addressed the internally displaced women in Baidoa camp in Somalia, February, 2016. After his completion of a two-week tour of the internally displaced camps, he asked the Somalia government to try a new approach to humanitarian support in the country so as to address the problems of IDPs.

The UN also joined FAO and UNICEF to plan and implement Joint Strategy on Reliance in Somalia, Through this joint strategy, three UN agencies aligned and sequenced their existing programme activities so the combined results can achieve greater success in enabling committees cope with hardship more effectively (World Food Programme, 2016).

In the same vein, the UNDP, UNHCR and the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) have come together to work with the new political development in both Somaliland and Puntland to assist the IDPs (UNHCR, 2014). In the last quarter of 2016 and the first quarter of 2017, UNICEF, the UN and some of its branches achieved the following on IDPs in Somalia:

- ❖ In April 2017, UNICEF and WHO in conjunction with the Ministry of Education in Somaliland sensitized the IDPs on measles vaccination so as to control the disease.
- ❖ That same period, UNICEF treated those affected with sever diarrhoea/cholera and stationed a nutritionist in South Central Somalia to check malnutrition. They also made available clean water supply in some of the IDPs camps and provided counseling and care for the IDPs who lost their loved ones.
- ❖ In the same month and year, the UNDP did not only provide the IDPs with humanitarian services, most of them were also personally given money for them to decide on their own how best the money can be spent to better their lives.
- ❖ The United Nations Security Council in the last quarter of 2016 approved the operation o UNSOM until June 16th, 2017.

II. COMPARATIVE SUMMARY

Looking at the activities of the UN in assisting IDPs in Somalia and Nigeria, it will be proper to say that the UN has been more prominent in Somalia than in Nigeria. Somalia has experienced unrest for more than two decades and the problem is still ongoing. UNHCR (2016), posited that the humanitarian crisis in Somalia is among the most complex long-lasting emergencies in the world.

Based on UN News Centre (2016), Southern Somalia currently has close to a million children who are urgently in need of assistance, including 190,000 who are severely malnourished and would die in weeks if they are not given the necessary support.

The UN and its agencies may have been more prominent in Somalia than Nigeria but may not have been more active because of the war-torn zones and continues conflict in Somalia, humanitarian workers found it difficult to access IDPs and assist them.

Somalia has had assistance from the UN since the 1980s, as a result, it can be seen as the country that has received the longest continuous assistance compared to Nigeria. But because Somalia is extremely dangerous because of the continuous unrest and war-torn zones, terrorist threats targeting of humanitarian

workers, lack of centralized government and failed peace keeping operations, the UN has been less active in Somalia and more active in Nigeria because the crisis areas and IDP camps in Nigeria are more accessible and safer with the help of military escorts.

III. FINDINGS

The researcher found out that there is neglect on the part of the two countries' government in the area of functional and effective policies concerning IDPs in their budgets. There is a disconnection between people and their government and even the UN itself. People have lost trust in their system and are taken laws into their own hands.

In addition, the UN and its agencies have not only donated cash toward the alleviation of the suffering of the IDPs in both countries, they have also created awareness internationally. There were also consistent organization of conferences and seminars to sensitize the international community on the plight of internally displaced person in Nigeria and Somalia.

IV. CONCLUSION

The challenges of IDPs requires more than international intervention. There should be a comprehensive internal arrangement to deal with the issues of IDPs in Nigeria and Somalia. Programmes for IDPs should be included in the national budgets; there should be concerted effort in dealing with IDPs globally. If every undisplaced and financially stable family adopts a displaced person, the number of IDPs will reduce drastically in the two countries of study.

IDPs should have representative present at any decision making meeting that concerns them.

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