

## **Conflicts and Internal Displacement in Nigeria**

By

**Goodnews OSAH, PhD**

Department of Political Science and Public Administration

Babcock University, Ilishan-Remo, Ogun State Nigeria

Corresponding email: [osahg@babcock.edu.ng](mailto:osahg@babcock.edu.ng); [ogum@babcock.edu.ng](mailto:ogum@babcock.edu.ng)

&

**Michael Ihuoma OGU, PhD**

Department of Political Science and Public Administration

Babcock University, Ilishan-Remo, Ogun State Nigeria

Corresponding email: [osahg@babcock.edu.ng](mailto:osahg@babcock.edu.ng); [ogum@babcock.edu.ng](mailto:ogum@babcock.edu.ng)

### **Abstract**

Conflicts have become a major motivation for forced migration and displacement in Africa generally and Nigeria in particular. How do conflicts complicate internal displacement in Nigeria? What is the nature of internal displacement in Nigeria, following the endemic conflict nature of the state? These are the important research questions in this study. The study adopted the qualitative method, gathering relevant data from secondary sources as journals and other relevant online materials. The study found that internal displacement in Nigeria has been on the increase for the last decade even though the margin may not be very significant. It was also discovered that the condition of the Internally Displaced Persons camps as well as those of displaced persons have not been very adequate, despite government and organizational intervention. The study concluded that proper conflict management would reduce the spite of internal displacement and encourage development. It was recommended that the Nigerian governments must commit to efficient management of the endemic conflicts in the state that result in growing cases of IDPs. Also, the government and other relevant organizations, especially nongovernmental organizations should increase their commitment and resolve to improve the condition of the IDP camps and displaced persons.

**Key words:** Conflict, Refugee, Internal displacement, Poverty

### **Introduction**

The rising figures and appalling conditions of the persons internally displaced in their own countries have been a concern for the global community especially because of the humanitarian issues arising from such relocations particularly on the aged, women and children who are exposed to the several risks and vulnerabilities in their host communities and 'safety' camps. The statistics provided by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimate that 17.8 million persons are displaced in Africa as at December 2018, and Nigeria accounts for over 2 million of this number (OCHA, 2019).

Wars, conflicts and human rights violations have remained a major motivation for forced migration from one location to another within the borders of most countries of the world. The reality is that the international community have been responding in the provision of asylum and relief assistance to meet the physical and psychological needs of tens of thousands and millions of those who have crossed international frontiers while not so much attention has been placed on those who are internally displaced by the same conditions (Gundu, 2008). Meanwhile, the configuration of endemic conflicts in Africa have made many scholars including Otito (2000), Nnoli (1978), and Sanda (1976) to describe the continent in particular as one of the most conflict-ridden regions of the world and the only region in which the number of armed conflicts has remained on the increase since the 1990s (Yakubu, 2005). Efforts of international organizations appear to be focused more on refugee crisis, to the detriment of the challenge of internal displacement and this is evident in the many programs and aids from the United Nations on refugee administration, including the creation of the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees Office. To create awareness and commemorate all refugee population, June 20<sup>th</sup> of every year was set aside since 1975 and 2001 in Africa and the entire world as the “African’s Refugee Day” and as the “World Refugee Day” respectively. The essence of the day is to mobilize humanitarian assistance for alleviating the suffering of this category of persons and to build on the tradition as well as highlight the plight of uprooted people everywhere including Africa in particular (Adekanye, 2004).

The problem of displaced persons has since assumed a global dimension, as it is on record that the total number of displaced persons is currently estimated to be around fifty million worldwide, with the majority of these people in Africa and Asia (Olobo & Obaji, 2016; Barutciski, 1998). Internal displacement within the Nigerian state is as a result of communal violence, internal armed conflicts and natural disasters such as floods. It is in this line that Adedayo (2015) states that as events of war prosecutions get proliferated in different countries, wider categories of people that left their homes and moved to another part of the same country were identified as war victims and declared IDPs.

In any conflict situation and particularly those with ethnic or religious underpinnings, the humanitarian needs are immense and the means to satisfy those needs within the conflict area are often severely limited. Internally displaced civilian populations move from one place to another seeking safety and protection within their own country. In Nigeria, conflicts arising from the activities of Boko Haram in the North East and Fulani Herdsmen have resulted in high threats to lives and properties, death and displacements of millions of Nigerians (Kasali, 2016).

Contrary to global expectation, the new world order has been characterized by more unstable and turbulent conflict situations, unhealthy power politics, destructive ethnic insurgencies, national rivalries, religious bigotry, government hypocrisy and endemic poverty, manufactured by globalization. The new world order was largely expected to bring a desired peace to the entire world, enabling acculturation of development attitude to the world through the

membership of a particular social group, but Hamzat (2016) argued that the new world order is not circled around the pursuit of peace and development, but the continuation of hostility in another dimension. The challenges facing the internally displaced persons include but are not limited to insecurity, trauma and bitterness, hunger and starvation, acute malnutrition, sexually transmitted diseases, lack of education, lack of good shelter/accommodation, waste management and electricity, lack of good water, hindrance in exercising their rights as IDPs among others (Azam,2009).

### **Conceptualizing Internal Displacement**

The term “internal displacement” was first coined in the 1960s by Eugene M. Kulischer (Terminski, 2013; Jaffe, 1962). Since then, it has gained prominence in conflict discourse and international humanitarian agenda, particularly in the early 1970s up to the 1990s (Adekanye, 2004). This prominence followed the rising number of scourging conflicts and wars internally and internationally and resulting in large population displacement at the end of the Cold War.

Internal displacement like most concepts is not new, and there is no agreed definition of the term, especially concerning who qualifies for humanitarian interventions. However, the definition advanced by Francis Deng, the former UN Secretary-General's Representative on Internally Displaced Persons, and now adopted in the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement is the most used. He posited that:

Internally displaced persons are persons or groups of 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 effects of armed conflict, situations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border (**OCHA 1999:6**).

OCHA (2003) further enunciated that IDPs are ‘persons or groups of persons who because of armed conflict, systematic violations of human rights, internal strife, or natural or man-made disasters have been forced to flee their homes or places of habitual residence suddenly or unexpectedly, to another location but have not crossed an internationally recognized state border’.

Birkeland (2009) observed that the concern over the vulnerability of IDPs led the UN Commission on Human Rights to ask its Representative on IDPs, Francis Deng, to examine the extent to which existing international laws provide adequate coverage for IDPs in 1992, and to develop an appropriate framework for IDPs which was produced in 1996. Accordingly, the Representative, with the support of a team of international legal experts, formulated the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, which were presented to the Commission in 1998. All these notwithstanding, the worrying concern is that the rights of the internally displaced are mostly

violated by their own governments, many displaced persons continue to suffer the lack of basic social amenities such as food, shelter, medical care, water, sanitation and security.

Similarly, forced displacement, rather than being only a passing event in people's lives, has devastating effects on individuals and societies at large, as families are deprived of life's essentials- education, community and economic livelihood, face marginalization by other ethnic and religious groups and in most cases suffer abject poverty as communities can be depopulated, farmlands damaged, cultivation patterns, basic infrastructural facilities, community tradition and organizations compromised. It was Olusola (2004) that noted that this category of persons who most often flee their habitual places of abode are identified and registered by the national government's commission assigned with such responsibility, with the intention to resettle them and return them to normalcy and then to their original homes, although the efficiency of these national commissions across many African states remain debatable.

As Olukolajo Ajayi, & Ogungbenro (2014) maintain, internally displaced persons are mostly victims of brutality occasioned by fellow citizens, various kind of injustices or violent confrontations perpetrated either by their own governments against them or by other state or non-state actors, including terrorism, communal clashes, religious conflicts, riots, natural disasters. According to Osundina, Adesiyani and Adewumi (2016), the subject has become a social phenomenon embedded in crisis needing urgent attention as some of the reasons creating IDPs around the world are issues rooted in political crisis, ideology and lack of adequate security which heighten events of terror and displacement of people from their region.

Though the conditions leading to internal displacement are similar to those of refugees, the IDPs remain inside the boundaries of their states and are not legally entitled to international protection or guaranteed asylum and admission or the restoration of national protection upon return or resettlement unlike the refugees who cross international boundaries. It is arguable that therefugee status entitles individuals to certain rights and international protection, which IDPs do not benefit from because they are still under the jurisdiction of their own government and may not claim any additional rights other than those provided by their national governments.

At the 1949 United Nations General Assembly the Greek government had canvassed for the same rights for IDPs similar to those of refugees (OCHA, 2003). Though, the intervention of the international community in providing relief assistance to tens of thousands and millions of the physical and psychological needs of IDPs, the efforts and structures leading to displacement have not been adequately addressed, which scholars like Gandu (2008) believe is a consequence of the principle of non-interference in the national affairs of a sovereign state.

To delineate refugees and IDPs, the 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, as amended by the 1967 Protocol, clearly refers to refugee as follows:

...the term refugee shall apply to any person; owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.

This United Nations definition of refugees failed to recognize and accommodate internally displaced persons and asylum seekers. The Organization of Africa Union Convention of 1969 did not also capture any specific legal status for protecting rights of IDPs (Borton et al, 2005). But since 1972 when the UNHCR first engaged in humanitarian programs in Sudan intended to protect IDPs, it has undertaken well over 22 humanitarian assistances globally. Though there is no universally approved provision for it to do so, cashing into Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) definition of protection which sees it as a ‘function that encompasses all activities aimed at obtaining full respect for the rights of the individual, in accordance with the letter and the spirit of relevant bodies of law, including human rights, humanitarian and refugee law, and without discrimination of any kind’ (Feller, 2006).

According to Adedayo (2015) the global figure of IDPs has now out-numbered refugee numbers globally. In the year 2000 the IDP figure was reported by humanitarian agencies as 25 million people while refugees were 11.5 million. But the UNHCR in 2014 posted that the IDP figures globally were 59.5 million, the highest since the World War II, which was more than a 100% increase. Africa is also reported as having the highest figure with one third of the world’s refugees and IDPs, and the numbers have largely remained on the rise with the endemic nature of conflicts in the continent.

Cohen and Deng argued as early as 1998 that IDPs now constitute one of the largest populations at risk and the figures are on the increase yearly. Displaced persons are mostly vulnerable and defenseless and easy target of the poverty and human rights abuses, hence the need for not only protection and assistance from their own government but from the international agencies as well. Today, most of the world’s countries produce refugees and IDPs, yet it is arguable whether the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) should provide the same level of assistance to IDPs as to those others who have crossed an internationally recognized border (Özerdem& Jacoby, 2007).

This lack of recognition of the IDPs status is historical and viewed largely as a domestic concern rather than an international humanitarian issue. Since the 18<sup>th</sup> century there have been modifications to regional refugee agreements referencing IDPs. Examples include the 1984 Cartagena Declaration on Refugees which called for the same standards of recognition and treatment to apply for the IDPs as refugees. It was not until 1992 that the issues that relate to the problems and causes of internally displaced persons began to receive world attention when the

UN Secretary-General appointed a representative to monitor the status of IDPs (UNHCR, 2014). This notwithstanding, many of the IDPs have been denied access to humanitarian assistance or prevented from having life-saving cares from agencies either by rebels or government security forces. Examples of these were found in the wars of Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Rwanda. The 2006 National Policy of IDPs in Nigeria outlines the rights and obligations in Nigeria in line with the demands of the United Nations. The UN has given huge sum of money to IDPs in Nigeria. Today, with the international humanitarian thrust of the United Nations work, policy making at the international level cannot stop at countries' borders. Even the ICRC has through national Red Cross bodies been involved in ameliorating conditions in the North-East of Nigeria.

Unfortunately, there is no international agency with a mandate to respond to situations of IDPs in the same manner that the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. In line with demands from the United Nations, the UNHCR had amended its original mandate to accommodate the IDP question. This may be because some think that the lives of individuals displaced internally are not at risk. However, recent developments in Nigeria reveal that IDP camps have become sites for attacks by Boko Haram Islamic fundamentalist group who have killed hundreds of people. There are also cases of rape and sex scandals, pregnancies and illicit babies in the displacement camps as well. The IDP camps have become sites of careless release of bombs by even government forces. Over the years response to the associated emergencies, rehabilitation and resettlement of IDPs has been the responsibility of the government, Non-governmental organizations and donor agencies (Olusola, 2003). It was even noted that IDP camps particularly in Nigeria have become cash cow to self-seeking corrupt government and contractors who misappropriate funds meant for the displacement camps.

### **Global Curses of Internal Displacement**

There are two main classifications of causes of internal displacement namely the Conflict-Induced Displacement (CID) and the Development-Induced Displacement (DID) including those occasioned by natural disasters because of the link between development and the exacerbation of societal vulnerabilities (Eschenbacher, 2005; Muggah, 2000). Conflicts and other phenomena across the globe have resulted in the displacement of large numbers of people from their places of residence. According to UNHCR(2015), by the end of 2014 there were 4.8 million refugees and 2.8 million IDPs within the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) area, the vast majority in Ukraine and Turkey. Internal displacement in the region is overwhelmingly protracted, as three quarters of IDPs in 2016 were displaced decades ago as a result of conflict and generalized violence in Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus and Turkey. Moreover, many IDPs in the region have been displaced more than once over the years, disrupting their pursuit of durable solutions and leaving them faced with insecurity and marginalization, and their basic human rights and fundamental freedoms are often violated (www.internal-displacement.org, 2016).

The long list of violent conflicts all around the world had created local and international humanitarian needs. The areas of violent conflicts have included the territorial disputes in the

South China sea; crisis in the Korean Peninsula, Islamic militancy in Russia, Pakistan, Egypt, Al-Shabab in Somalia; Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria; civil wars in South Sudan, Libya and war in Yemen; destabilization of Mali; violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and in the Central Africa Republic; Uighur conflict in China; and the refugee crisis in the European Union. According to Adedayo (2015) as events of war prosecutions get proliferated in different countries, wider categories of people that left their homes and moved to another part of the same country were identified as war victims and declared IDPs, and this increasing number of displaced person exacerbates conflict in regions previously not at war.

Tajudeen & Adebayo (2013) avers that some of the conflicts leading to internal displacement are occasioned by religious and ethnic differences, benefits of political, social and economic nature, endemic poverty, low levels of education and a huge and alienated youth population. Although the IDPs are considered as being rooted in conflict, human rights violations and natural or human-made disasters, Robinson (2003) included those who are displaced by development projects. This is corroborated by the Centre for Housing Rights and Evictions and the Social and Economic Right Action Centre (2008) which stated that over two million people in three Nigerian cities of Abuja, Lagos and Port-Harcourt were displaced between 2000 and 2007. The displacement crises constitute humanitarian nightmares not only for international security but also lives of displaced people, aid workers, and peacekeepers (Lischer, 2007). In addition, increasing activities of non-state armed groups also continue to sabotage the efforts of government and the international community in managing the plight of displaced persons and refugees. In fact, Jan Egeland, Secretary General at the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) sadly noted: Global diplomats, UN resolutions, peace talks and ceasefire agreements have lost the battle against ruthless armed men who are driven by political or religious interests rather than human imperatives.

According to Gandu (2008) gross material poverty associated with years of corrupt and undemocratic governance in the African continent particularly generate, shape and sharpen the pattern of ethno-religious identity and clannish violence and in turn generated mass movement of refugees and displaced millions of others. The collapse of the Somalia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Burundi, The Democratic Republic of Congo manifested such tendencies. More so, with the militarization of state structures, corruption set in and made the struggle against poverty active. The dialectical consequence of the forgoing was the emergence of clannish-leaders and warlords. Bitter power struggle between clans and ethno-religious militia warlords cause agricultural food-crop destruction, widespread death and massive human displacement. The consequences are that African states are besieged by marauding groups of bandits who are recruited into various factions.

Contemporary Africa has become known for its huge refugee flows and forced population displacement, posing for the international community a crisis of humanitarian assistance of enormous magnitude (Adekanye, 2007). In addition to being driven from their homes, these victims of huge refugee flows and forced population displacement have been

deprived of security, shelter, food, water, livelihood and the support of their communities and have also been made to endure so often extreme threat of their survival (ICRC, 2009) including the negative impact on the socio-economic wellbeing of the people. Asiwaju (1976, 1977) was pointing towards quite different conditions when he coined the term ‘migrations as an expression of revolt’. He further noted that Africans could express their displeasure to injustice under given authority and political regimes, or to protest certain harsh economic measures and environmental conditions, by literally withdrawing their political allegiance and resorting to mass-population movement and resettlement in new and unoccupied territories. This was what characterized the African landscape before the European intervention. The idea here was that people relocate to a new place voluntarily as a consequence of injustice under an authoritarian political regimes, certain harsh economic measures and environmental conditions by literally withdrawing their political allegiance and resorting to mass-population movements and resettlement in new and unoccupied territories.

Ladan (2006) adds that the effect of armed conflict, violation of human rights, situations of generalized violence, natural or man-made disasters are reasons for internal displacement. Olukoja et al (2014) aligned with this view by observing that displacement characterized victims of the brutality of man against man, various kind of injustices or violence confrontation, perpetuated either by their own government against them or by others such as terrorism, communal clashes, religious conflicts, riots, natural disasters and so on. Other factors leading to internal displacement include the encroachment of desert (This Day, 2014) floods (Daily Trust, 2012) and state sponsored forced eviction (Oduwole et al, 2013).

### **Global Trends of Internal Displacements**

Although statistics can rarely be precise, data from Global Report on Internal Displacement (2016) reveals that 65.3 million individuals were forcibly displaced worldwide as a result of persecution, conflict, generalized violence, or human rights violations as of the end of 2015. The figure is higher than that of 2014 with 5.8 million. By estimation, if these 65.3 million persons were a nation, they would make up the 21<sup>st</sup> largest in the world (UNHCR, 2015). The fact according to the UNHCR statistics indicates the following:

- i. 21.3 million persons were refugees
- ii. 16.1 million were under UNHCR’s mandate
- iii. 5.2 million were Palestinian refugees registered by United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine (UNRWA)
- iv. 40.8 million internally displaced persons globally
- v. 3.2 million asylum-seekers

The breakdown of the figure further show that an estimated 12.4 million people were newly displaced due to conflict or persecution in 2015 which included 8.6 million individuals displaced within the borders of their own country and 1.8 million newly displaced refugees. While others



were new applicants for asylum. The UNHCR estimated that at least 10 million people globally were stateless at the end of 2015. However, data recorded by governments and communicated to UNHCR were limited to 3.7 million stateless individuals in 78 countries. By that 2015 report at least an average 24 people worldwide were displaced from their homes every minute of every day during 2015 and some 34,000 people per day. This compares to 30 per minute in 2014 and 6 per minute in 2015. About 8.6 million people were newly displaced within the borders of their own countries by armed conflict, generalized violence, and human rights violations, according to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre and offshoot of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) an independent but non-governmental humanitarian organization (IDMC, 2015).

In 2015, 152,700 IDPs in Sudan were able to return to their habitual residences. However, as a result of renewed conflicts and insecurity, the total number of IDPs in the country rose to some 3.2 million IDPs at the end of 2015, compared to 2.1 million a year earlier. Similarly, the violence and human rights abuses in northern Nigeria have continued for over a decade, with the insurgency entering its eleventh year. As a consequence, the total number of IDPs in the country have risen from approximately 1.2 million at the end of 2014 to approximately 2.2 million by the end of 2015, an increase of around 964,000 (81%) concentrated especially in the north-east of the country (UNHCR, 2015), and this number has even increased further to 2.6 million displaced persons in Northern Nigeria by December 2019 (IDMC, 2020).

That same report noted that the global population of forcibly displaced people has increased substantially in the past two decades, rising from 37.3 million in 1996 to 65.3 million in 2015 – a 75 per cent increase. The steady rise in the cases of internally displaced persons globally have prompted the United Nations to declare 2010 – 2019 as ‘the decade of displacement’ rising from 40million displaced persons in 2010 to nearly 80million displaced persons globally by the end of 2019 (UNHCR, 2020), which is almost a 100% increase, regardless of global, regional and national efforts at managing the challenge of displacement.

At the end of 2019, the United Nations report indicated that Columbia retained its position as the state with the highest number of displaced persons globally, accounting for nearly 8 million internal displaced persons. Although the Democratic Republic of Congo and Somalia topped the list of African states housing displaced persons, with 5 million and 2.6 million displaced persons respectively, the number of displaced persons in Nigeria has also increased to 2.2 million by the end of 2019. The table below shows other states in the top 10 states with the highest number of displaced persons globally:

**Table 1: The 10 most IDPs countries by 2019**

	Country	Figure
1	Colombia	8 million
2	Syria	6 million
3	DR Congo	5 million
4	Yemen	3.6 million
5	Somalia	2.6 million

6	Afghanistan	2.6 million
7	Nigeria	2.2 million
8	Sudan	1.8 million
9	Ethiopia	1.7 million
10	South Sudan	1.5 million

Source: UNHCR, 2020

Despite the alarming increase in internal conflicts of national territories that produce IDPs over the years, the problem of the victims did not receive world attention until 1992. Meanwhile, the end of the Cold-War resulted in the escalation of intra national conflict particularly in Africa. For so long before then had the nature, character and essence of the internal dynamics of states been undermined as a result of the Cold War syndrome. These intra-state conflicts have devastating efforts in improving the livelihood of displaced people and have also had implications for economic and social development in many African states.

#### **International Dimensions of Human rights in Nigeria**

In contemporary Africa, the violation of human rights of IDPs has reached unquantifiable measures. Those rights of education and security have been violated with reckless abandon, occasioned by activities of terrorist bands who invade the camps in various guises. These have deepened poverty and other human security indicators in the camps; girls have been given to early marriages, basic rights and essential economic, social and psychological have been abandoned for years (Chahangani, 1994; Jelili & Olanrewaju, 2016).

That people are displaced is already a violation of their rights to own property as they are deprived of their land and houses as a result of destruction and looting. This right is protected both under international human rights and humanitarian law. In addition, IDPs' movements and free choice of residence are often arbitrarily restricted in states like India, Myanmar and Sri Lanka as the authorities confine IDPs into camps (Birkeland, 2009).

Some of the areas in which the life of displaced persons appears to be stagnant include, but are certainly not limited to the following:

1. **Health and Sanitation:** The poor sanitary condition occasioned by the overcrowding, unhealthy, and unhygienic displacement camp environment have resulted in heightened breakout of epidemic and diseases among the displaced persons, especially among children and women, and this is often further complicated by the lack of primary healthcare services in the displaced camps. In addition to reported incidences of communicable disease outbreak within the Ugandan IDP camp (Roberts, Odong, Browne, Oca, et. al. 2009), Faronbi et. al. (2019) have observed that IDP camps in Nigeria, particularly in the North East also lack basic health care services that are capable of increasing cases of diseases and epidemics among displaced persons. The provision of basic healthcare infrastructure in the IDP camps has been identified as a collective effort of governments and nongovernmental organization, as well as other individuals and

groups, even though scholars such as Fielden (2008) have argued that there is very little or no hope for a durable solution.

2. **Violations of human rights:** Many displaced persons, especially women have been victims of sexual assault from soldiers and camp officials, as reports in the media over the years have revealed increased number of pregnancies and even testimonies from some of the victims as to how they have been violated by men. In addition, the poor safety condition of the camps has also made it increasingly possible for male displaced persons to sexually assault their female counterparts (HRW, 2016; Ogu, 2019). In addition to sexual assaults, displaced persons in many African states especially, are largely denied other fundamental rights as voting, education, dignity of human person, among others, either as a result of inadequate facilities or because of the growing incidence of corruption which also plague the IDP camps as officials and administrators divert the food and relief materials donated or supplied to the camps.
3. **Rehabilitation and reintegration policies:** Where local communities are also lacking basic infrastructure and social amenities, it is difficult for government to make and implement sustainable policies that are aimed at reintegrating or rehabilitating displaced persons, especially those who have gone through some form of abuse and psychological trauma during their stay in the displaced camps. Some reports have revealed that indigenes from the local community come to the IDP camps in search of amenities like drinking water. Ogu (2019) argued that in the Gereida camp, in the Darfur region of south-western Sudan, the efforts of the ICRC have turned the camp into a booming town, with the significantly conducive shelters and adequate food supply. Children can attend schools within the camps; there is provision of adequate water supply and access to three primary health-care centers offering free medical care to IDPs. The report argues that the standard of health care and other services provided in the camp surpasses those in the local community and operated by the government, and as such indigenes travel from in and out of Gereida to enjoy the amenities in the camp. Hence, activities that begun as emergency response is now becoming regular services. This is arguably the condition in many other camps that are run and operated especially by non-governmental organizations across many African states, and it is difficult for rehabilitation or reintegration to take place under these circumstances.

### Conclusion

Internally displaced persons remain a challenge for governance and development across the world, but particularly in Africa. The endemic and increasingly devastating nature of conflicts have also not made the situation any better, as electoral violence, communal conflicts, ethno-religious clashes continue to force more people to migrate from their homes on a daily basis to seek refuge in IDP camps, many of which are run by the government with very poor service and safety conditions. While, conflicts remain an indispensable aspect of human relations, it is important that governments, with the help of rural communities and international organizations, manage the conflicts that largely affect economic, social and political

development within the state. Reduced conflicts will mean reduced internally displaced persons, who would also individually contribute to the development of the state at large.

## References

- Adedayo, A. (2015). *Peace, Security and Development: Global System in Search of Social Stability and Improvement*. Ibadan: John Archers
- Adekanye, J. B. (ed). (2004). *Managing Problems of Displacement, Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees*. The Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies. University of Ibadan.
- Adekanye, J. B. (2007). *Linking Conflict Diagnosis, Conflict Prevention, and Conflict Management in Contemporary Africa: Selected essays*. Lagos: Centre for Gender, Governance and Displacement
- Adekanye, J. B. (1995). Structural Adjustment, Democratization and Rising Ethnic Tensions in Africa. *Development and Change*, 26 (2): 355-374
- Asiwaju, A. I. (1976). 'Migration as revolt: the example of the Ivory Coast and the Upper Volta before 1975'. *Journal of Africa History*, 17(4)577-594
- Asiwaju, A. I. (1977). *Migration as an Expression of Revolt: The Example of French West Africa up to 1945*. *Tarikh*, 5 (3) 31-43
- Barutciski, M. (1998). Tensions between the Refugee Concept and the IDP Debate. *Forced Migration Review*, 3: 11-14
- Birkeland, N. M. (2009). Internal displacement: global trends in conflict-induced displacement. *International Review of the Red Cross*, 91(875), 491-508.
- Borton, J., Buchanan-Smith, and Otto, R. (2005). Support to Internally Displaced Persons. Learning from experience. Sida: www.sida.se/publications 01.05.2018
- Cernea, M. (2006). Development-induced and Conflict-induced IDPs: Bridging the Research Divide. *Forced Migration Review*, 261, 25-27.
- Chahangani, R. C. (1994). Recent Developments in Nigerian Refugee Law. *Nigerian Forum*. May-June
- Deng, F. M. (1994). Internally Displaced Persons: An Interim Report to the UN Secretary General on Protection and Assistance. *New York:-UN Dept. for Humanitarian Affairs, Washington, DC, USA:-Refugee Policy Group*.
- Eschenbacher, J. H. (2005). The Global Internal Displacement Crisis: Recent Developments and Perspectives for an Improved International Response. *Refugee Survey Quarterly*, 24(3),49-60.
- Faronbi J.O., Akinyoola O.D., Faronbi G.O., Adegbola G.A., and Bello, C.B. (2019). Health Needs and Health Seeking Behaviour of Internally Displaced Persons in Dalori Camp, Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria. *Research Journal of Health Sciences*. Vol 7(3), July/September 2019 <http://dx.doi.org/10.4314/rejhs.v7i3.9>

- Feller, E. (2006). UNHCR's role in IDP protection: Opportunities and challenges'. *Forced Migration Review*, 11-13.
- Fielden, A. (2008). Ignored Displaced Persons: The Plight of IDPs in Urban Areas. *Research Paper No. 161*
- Gandu, V. A (2008) Refugee and internal population displacement in Africa: Challenges for continental peace in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. *Africa Peace Review*. Vol 4-8 No. 1 pp 93- 116
- Human Rights Watch (2016). Nigeria: Officials Abusing Displaced Women, Girls Displaced by Boko Haram and Victims Twice Over, October 31, 2016, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/10/31/nigeria-officialsabusing-displaced-women-girls> assessed February 20, 2019
- Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) (2019). Internal Displacement: Global Overview of Trends and Developments in 2008, IDMC, Geneva, April 2009, available at [http://www.internal-displacement.org/idmc/website/resources.nsf/\(httpPublications\)/0605361027488A28C12575A90042305B?OpenDocument](http://www.internal-displacement.org/idmc/website/resources.nsf/(httpPublications)/0605361027488A28C12575A90042305B?OpenDocument) (accessed 8 January 2016)
- Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (2020), Nigeria <https://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/nigeria> accessed September 3, 2019
- Jaffe, A. J. (1962). Notes on the Population Theory of Eugene M. Kulischer. *The Milbank Memorial Fund Quarterly*, Vol. 40, No. 2. Pp. 187-206
- Jelili, M.O & Olanrewaju, S.O (2016). Realities of IDPs Camps in Nigeria. *Global Journal of Human-Social Science Research* 16 (4) p10-17
- Joshua, I. A., Biji, B. D., Gobir, A. A., Aliyu, A. A., Onyemocho, A., Nmadu, A. G., et al (2016). Social characteristics and risk factors for diseases among internally displaced persons: A study of Stefano's Foundation Camp in Jos, Nigeria. *Archives of Medicine and Surgery*. 1(2):42-20.
- Ladan, M. T. (2006). Migration, Trafficking, *Human Rights and Refugees under International Law: A Case Study of Africa*, Ahmadu Bello University Press, Zaria, Nigeria. 9, 1-6.
- Lischer, S. K. (2007). Causes and Consequences of Conflict-induced Displacement. *Civil Wars*, 9(2), 142-155.
- Muggah, H. R. (2000). Conflict-induced Displacement and Involuntary Eesettlement in Colombia: Putting Cernea's IRLR Model to the Test. *Disasters*, 24(3), 198-216.
- Oduwale, T.O. and Fadeyi, A.O. (2013), Issues of refugees and displaced persons in Nigeria, Tajudeen A. Macrothink Institute, *Journal of Sociological Review*, Vol. 4 No 1.
- Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). (2003). Guiding Principles on Internally Displacement (2<sup>nd</sup> ed) New York
- Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) (2019). Forced Displacement (December 2019) <https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/forced-displacement-december-2019> accessed July 11, 2020
- Ogu, M. (2019). The Economics and Dynamics of Internal Displacement in Nigeria, *International Journal of African and Asian Studies*, Vol.55, 2019, Journal DOI: 10.7176/JAAS

- Olukolajo, M. A., Ajayi, M. A., & Ogungbenro, M. T. (2014). Crisis Induced Internal displacement: The Implication on real estate investment in Nigeria. *Crisis*, 5(4).
- Olusola, S. (2004) The Role of National Commission for Refugees in the Management of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Adekanye, J. B. (ed). *Managing Problems of Displacement, Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees*. The Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies. University of Ibadan.
- Opukri, C. O., & Ibaba, I. S. (2008). Oil Induced Environmental Degradation and Internal Population Displacement in the Nigeria's Niger Delta. *Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa*, 10(1), 173-193.
- Osundina, O., Adesiyun, V. and Adewumi, E. (2016). Internally Displaced Persons: A Question of Governance Failure? *Babcock University Journal of Education*. 2(1):125-135
- Özerdem, A., & Jacoby, T. (2007). Conflict induced Internal Displacement. *Human Rights in Turkey*, 159-169.
- Roberts, B., Odong, V. N., Browne, J., Ocaka, K. F., Geissler, W., Sondorp, E. (2009). An Exploration of Social Determinants of Health amongst Internally Displaced Persons in Northern Uganda. *Conflict and Health*. 3(1):10
- Robinson, W. C. (2003). Risks and Rights: The Causes, Consequences, and Challenges of Development-induced Displacement. *Occasional Paper. The Brookings Institution-SAIS Project on Internal Displacement*. May.
- Ricca, S. (1989). International Migration in Africa. *International Labour Office: Geneva*
- Rubin, B. R. (2005). The UN and the Prevention of Armed Conflict. *Security Dialogue*, 36(3), 381-383.
- Rutinwa, B. (1999). How Tense is the tension between the refugee concept and the IDP Debate? *Forced Migration Review* 4: 29-31.
- Singh, S., Sharma, S. P., Mills, E., Poudel, K. C., & Jimba, M. (2007). Conflict induced internal displacement in Nepal. *Medicine, Conflict and Survival*, 23(2), 103-110.
- Source for Population Size: United Nations, Population Division, World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision, New York, 2015
- Stanley, J. (2004). Development-induced Displacement and Resettlement. *Forced Migration Online*.
- Tajudeen, O. A., & Adebayo, F. O. (2013). Issues of refugees and Displaced Persons in Nigeria. *Journal of Sociological Research*, 4(1), 1.
- UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, UN Doc. E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, 17 April 1998, reprinted in International Review of the Red Cross, No. 324, September 1998, pp. 545-556
- UN Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). 1999. Handbook for Applying the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. OCHA/ The Brookings Institution, Washington.

- UNHCR & Government of Uganda (2004) “Self-Reliance Strategy (1999-2003) For Refugee Hosting Areas in Moyo, Arua and Adjumani Districts, Uganda: Report of the Mid-Term Review, April 2004” UNHCR &GoU, Geneva and Kampala
- UNHCR. (2014). UNHCR Population Statistics. In Geneva UN High Commissioner for Refugees.
- UNHCR (2020). Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2019  
<https://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends2019/> accessed February 7, 2020

### **Brief profile of Authors**

**Goodnews OSAH** lectures in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Babcock University, Ilishan-Remo, Ogun State, Nigeria. He holds a doctorate degree in Political Science (Peace and Conflict Studies). His teaching and research interests are conflict prevention, management and resolution; demilitarization of ethnic militias; post-conflict peacebuilding; defence and security studies; civil-military relations and governance.

**Michael Ihuoma OGU** is a faculty and researcher with the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at Babcock University in Nigeria. He is a recipient of the William J. Fulbright Scholarship, with almost a decade of University teaching experience in Nigeria and the United States of America, and his areas of core research interest are in Governance, International Relations and Development Studies.