MPRI-JHLAR | INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF HUMANITIES, LITERATURE AND ART RESEARCH
VOL. 02 NO. 1 OCT-2023 ISSN: 1116 - 2619

NIGERIA'S NATIONAL ARCHITECTURE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN DISPLACEMENT: AN ASSESSMENT OF THE ROLE OF NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR REFUGES MIGRANTS AND INTERNAL DISPLACED PERSONS (NCFRMI)

***EKPO, BARNABAS DAVID PhD; & **JOAN AKPA-ACHIMUGU**

*Department of Political Science, Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna, Nigeria **Department of Area and Regional Studies, Centre for Strategic Research and Studies, NDC Abuja., Nigeria

Abstract

The crux of this paper is to assess the role of NCFRMI in relation to its mandate as stipulated by the act establishing the commission. Human displacements have been a reoccurring phenomenon in human history. Oftentimes, people move either voluntarily in search of greener pastures, or forcefully as a result of man-made or natural disasters. The latter gives rise to internally displaced persons, asylum seekers and refugees with attendant security concerns within and across borders, as the case may be. In Nigeria, the federal ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, through the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons, is saddled with the responsibility of the management of human displacement. The methodology adopted is the interpretivism philosophy and Key Informant Interview in the collection of data. To situate the subject of discourse, the paper adopted the system theory. Findings shows that NCFRMI is not proactive in the management of human displacement in Nigeria, this on account that many IDP's are not aware of the existence of the commission. The paper recommends among others that, the National Migration Policy (NMP) which was adopted in 2015, be reviewed to reflect recent trends in global migration governance especially in the area of capacity building, information sharing and awareness raising on the existence of the Policy and generally enlarging the space for dialogues and engagements.

Key Words: Human Displacement, Refugees, Migrants, Internally Displaced Persons and Returnees.

Introduction

Human Displacement is one of the most rated items on the priority list of many countries' national security. It is a global phenomenon that nations cannot ignore aside violent conflicts and natural disasters which also leads to displacement. The phenomenon of human displacement is centuries old although the subject did not come onto the international agenda until the last decade of the twentieth century. More access to countries experiencing displacement at the end of the Cold War combined with an upsurge in the number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees brought the issue of human displacement to the fore. Whereas in 1982 only 1.2 million IDPs were counted in 11 countries, by 1995, the total had risen to 20 to 25 million in more than 40 countries, almost twice the number of refugees (Cohen and Deng, 1998). The destitute conditions of the displaced constitutes not only a great humanitarian and human rights disaster, but a political and security problem requiring international attention (Annan, 1998). Internal

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displacement is a great cause of instability within states, and if left unaddressed, could spill over borders breeding refugees thereby causing a threat to regional stability.

Human Displacement in Africa is as a result of varied causes which include the struggle for political power, communal violence, disputes over land, floods, storms and other natural hazards.

It involves more of IDPs than Refugees. This is due to the fact that after the Cold War, armed conflict took on a new dimension to include wars between non-state actors within the state on one hand, and the sovereign state on the other hand unlike the pre-cold war era which saw armed conflict as conflict between sovereign states (Emmanuel, 2015). More than half of the world's IDPs can be found in Africa (Crisp, 2010). Recently in Uganda, estimated 1.4million people were displaced by conflict whereas in the DRC there was an estimated 1.5million displaced person, and in Sudan, over 6million persons were displaced. However, only 30,000 displaced persons became refugees from Uganda, for Sudan 703,000 persons became refugees and for the DRC, 469,000 persons became refugees with the rest of the population being IDPs (UNHCR, 2004).

In Nigeria however, human displacement in the form of origin (sending country), route (country-in-transit), and destination (receiving country), of the displaced person has placed the country among the committee of nations with high need of humanitarian assistance. According to Hamzat, (2013) a good number of persons are displaced as a result of both federal and state governments' activities such as demolitions, the oil explorations in the Niger-Delta region leading to environmental degradation and pollution, as well as loss of the people's sources of livelihood in the region. Under the Governor Fashola- led administration in Lagos State, over 1 million people were displaced from the demolition of Ijora, Oshodi, Makoko and many other communities (Hamzat, 2013). Although the causes of displacement differ, armed conflict and other forms of mass violence are the major causes of human displacement in the country. Since 2009 however, continuous and recurrent violence caused by the Boko Haram (BH) insurgency in the Northern region of the country has resulted in the rapid increase in the number of IDPs in the region (Ejiofor, Oni and Sejoro, 2017). The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), recorded as at 2013, 3.3 million displaced persons in Nigeria especially as a result of the insurgency. It also recorded over 1 million IDPs as at April 2015 and in December 2015, the total figure of IDPs identified in Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe states amounted to 2,152,000 people (Alobo & Obaji, 2016). From the total figure of IDPs in this region, the statistics shows that "13.33 per cent were displaced due to communal clashes, 0.99 per cent by natural disasters and 85.68 per cent as a result of insurgency attacks by Boko Haram's activities in the region" (Obikaeze & Onuoha, 2016). It is apt to say therefore, that Nigeria's largest displacement is as a result of the BH insurgency, and this displacement cuts across 13 states, with the highest number of displaced households located in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states (DTM IOM 2016).

Additionally, the post-election violence of 2011 saw about 65,000 persons internally displaced persons in the Northern part of Nigeria (Osagioduwa & Oluwakorede, 2016). Furthermore, estimation by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) reports 2016, that from July to October 2012, a total of 2.1 million residents were displaced by flood in Nigeria. Between January 2013 and February 2014, about 470,565 and 143,164 persons were displaced in Nigeria by internal conflicts and natural disasters respectively, while internal displacement cuts across 24 states of the federation (Osagioduwa and Oluwakorede, 2016). However, it is evident that human displacement is a serious issue that has assumed humanitarian dimension in Nigeria. The government of Nigeria at all levels are making efforts to combat human displacement through various means. One of such means is the creation of the National Commission for Refugee, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI). NCFRMI was created in 1989 through Decree 52 of 1989 now Cap. N21 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (NCFRMI Act), with the primary mandate of providing protection and assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons and assist Nigerians abroad who have challenges and are willing to return home.

Despite the existence of NCFRMI to manage human displacement in Nigeria, there have been significant loopholes in carrying out its mandate. it is against this backdrop that this paper examines the role of NCFRMI in carrying out its mandate as prescribed by law with a view to recommending new strategies to enhance the Commission's effectiveness and efficiency.

Definition of Key Terms

a. **Human Displacement**

This refers to the movement of persons to a place other than their habitual places of origin or residence, due to either natural or man-made factors such as earthquakes, floods, conflicts and disorders. This movement could be within their countries of origin as IDPs, or outside their countries of origin as refugees.

b. Refugees

Refugees are people who have crossed their national borders to another country due to persecutions, prolonged conflicts, human rights violations, and great risks to their safety. Such a person is considered a refugee after going through series of procedures stipulated by the laws of the host country and other international legal instruments regarding refugee status, after which the person is entitled to the rights of a refugee.

c. Migrants

Migrants are persons who have moved from their places of residence to another place, either within or outside their countries of residence, on a temporary or permanent basis. A distinguishing factor between a migrant and a refugee is that the movement of refugees is always forced while that of a migrant is usually voluntary and intended for pleasure, in search of greener pastures, economic reasons, or job opportunities.

D. Internally Displaced Persons

These are victims of the consequences of natural or man-made disasters who have been forced to leave their homes and comfort zones, to other locations within their countries of residence, without necessarily crossing any international border. They are usually relocated to settlements such as camps and schools, with limited access to their basic needs of good food, a decent shelter, hygiene supplies, and security.

Theoretical framework

To situate the subject of discourse, the paper adopts system theory.

Systems Theory is widely associated with David Easton. He is regarded as the first scholar to analyse political issues, events and happenings from a system's point of view. According to Easton, the political system is an interaction in any society through which authoritative and binding allocation of values are made and implemented. He selected the **political system** as a unit of analysis and concentrated on intra system behaviour. He holds that all political systems are both **open and adaptive (**Political science forias, 2016**)**. According to Enemuo (1999), Easton considered political system as existing within an environment of other systems – physical, biological, social, psychological etc., which affects it and are in turn affected by the political system through continuous transactions and exchange. However, Systems Theory comprises of basic elements through which it analyses the political system in every society. The assumptions of the theory are:

1. The political system implies a set of interaction through which values are authoritatively allocated. This means the decisions of those who are in power are binding.
2. The political system is a system of regularized persistent pattern of relationship among the people and the institutions within it.
3. Like any other system, the political system has in it self-regulating tools which enables it to change, correct and adjust its processes and structures.
4. The political system is dynamic in the sense that it can maintain itself through the feedback mechanism. The feedback mechanism helps the system to persist even though everything associated with it may change radically (Gurung, 2009).

The core assumption states that the political system consists of a set of interactions through which values are authoritatively allocated. This means the decisions of those who are in power are binding. Linking this assumption to the management of human displacement and Nigeria's national security vis-à-vis the activities of NCFRMI towards achieving its mandate, explains that there are established processes designed to involve all stakeholders in the management of human displacement, on how decisions are arrived. Going by this assumption, NCFRMI fits into the output section of the design process of interaction where they act as the

intermediary between the branches of government who authoritatively allocate value and other stakeholders who occupy the feedback and input sections. In line with this arrangement, NCFRMI is a key player in the management of human displacement and it is expected to project the position of the government with regards to its purpose of creation. Hence, this assumption has clearly identified the position of NCFRMI in the interaction process of authoritatively allocating values with regards to the management of human displacement.

Nigeria's National Architecture for the Management of Human Displacement

Nigeria as a country is structured into different functional segments through which governance and other responsibilities are addressed. After the thirty-month civil war, structures were put in place to ensure that lives of victims of displacement are reasonably managed. Nigeria's national architecture for the management of human displacement is designed in line with international and local legal frameworks and institutions.

Internationally, Nigeria depends on the legal frameworks of the international community in its design of the management of human displacements. The justification for Nigeria subscribing to these international legal frameworks is to associate with the global best practices in the management of human displacements which is a global challenge. Some of these international legal frameworks for managing human displacements adopted by Nigeria at the global level include: the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols 1-2 of 1977 and the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement 1998. At the regional level, she adopts the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and The African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of IDPs in Africa 2009, otherwise known as the Kampala Convention (Mohammed, 2017).

Locally, there are dimensions of contributions towards the management of human displacement in Nigeria. There are legal frameworks and institutions, government and private setups put in place to ensure that victims of human displacement in Nigeria are well managed. The 1999 Constitution as amended remains the most essential legal framework from which others are derived. The National Human Rights Commission established by the National Human Rights Commission Act 1995, and the National Human Rights Commission Amendment Act 2010 is another legal framework. Others are the National Commission for Refugees (NCR), established by Decree 52 of 1989 now Cap. N21 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (NCFRMI Act); the National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nigeria 2012; the National Migration Policy 2015; the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) Act 1999; the Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS) Act 1960; the National Disaster Management Framework (NDMF): the National Contingency Plan, Search & Rescue and Epidemic Evacuation Plan, and Emergency Response Standard Operating Procedures (Mohammed, 2017). These are the basic legal frameworks instituted to aid the management of human displacement in Nigeria.

Presently, the main institution saddled with the responsibility of managing human displacement in Nigeria is the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development (FMHDSD). Prior to its creation in 2019, other institutions saddled with the responsibility includes the NCFRMI , the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), the Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS), Presidential Committee of Northeast Initiative (PCNI), Victims Support Fund (VSF), Safe Schools Initiative (SSI) and the Presidential Initiative on North East (PINE). These are government institutions established for the management of human displacement in Nigeria at both national and state levels. From the foregoing, it is clear that there exists a national architecture for the management of human displacements in Nigeria which if effectively managed, will in turn ensure national security.

Additionally, there are international institutions involved directly and indirectly with the management of human displacement in Nigeria such as the UNCHR, Doctors without Borders, the USAID to mention a few. Also, there are several Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Nigeria voluntarily involved in the management of human displacements. This CSOs cut across diverse segment with mandates focusing on various issues such as religious, humanitarian, gender and cultural, to mention a few.

An Overview of the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPS)

The National Commission for Refugees was established by Decree 52 of 1989 now Cap 21 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004. This was a right step in the fulfillment of the federal government's obligations

under Resolution 319 (IV) of the General Assembly of the United Nations and Article 35 of the UN 1951 Convention relating to the status of refugees and its 1967 Protocol. The Act for the National Commission for Refugees incorporates the 1969 Organisation of African Unity Convention governing specific aspects of refugees in Africa. These Conventions and Protocol form the Guide to the Protection and Management of Asylum seekers and Refugees in Nigeria. The Mandate of the National Commission for Refugees was expanded by the Federal Government of Nigeria to cover issues relating to IDPs and the coordination of Migration and Development in 2002 and 2009 respectively, thus giving the Commission a new name: The National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI). The Commission is mandated to coordinate the National Action for the Protection and Assistance of Refugees, Asylum seekers, Returnees, Stateless persons, Migrants and IDPs. These categories of people are referred to as Persons of Concern (PoC) to the Commission (NCFRMI, 2018).

The functions of the NCFRMI as contained in the enabling act are to:

a) Lay down general guidelines and overall policy on issues relating to refugees and persons seeking asylum in Nigeria;

b) Advise the Federal Government on policy matters in relation to refugees in Nigeria; and

c) Consider such matter as the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF) may from time to time deem fit.

As stated earlier, the mandate of the Commission was expanded by a Presidential Directive in 2002 and 2009 to cover the management and resettlement of IDPs, and the coordination of migration. Consequently, the Commission provides durable solutions to its persons of concern which are refugees, returnees, deportees, asylum seekers, stateless persons, migrants and IDPs (NCFRMI, 2017). Over the years, the NCFRMI has developed two major policies to guide the conduct of its activities. These are the National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons 2012 and the National Migration Policy 2015. There is the absence of a national policy on refugees at the moment but the management of refugees is hinged on international conventions. This paper will attempt a discourse on the two existing policies.

a. The National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria (2012)

Nigeria's position on IDPs has been clearly spelt out through her National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) 2012. This document provides the contextual background and situation analysis of internal displacement, provides information on global and domestic context of internal displacement, and examines the major causes of internal displacement in Nigeria. It also highlights the impact of displacement on those affected as well as their protection and assistance. Clarification of sensitive terms was done to ensure that issues, policies, responsibilities, rights and obligations, implementation, monitoring and legal framework were not shrouded (FGN, 2012). In the foreword to the document, the then minister of Special Duties and Inter-Governmental Affairs suggested means of making the policy realizable as he urged all tiers of government, non-governmental organizations, international partners, civil society and all stakeholders in the humanitarian field to give the policy a wide publicity and to implement its provisions faithfully and diligently (FGN, 2012).

The policy thrust of the document provides a framework for national responsibility towards prevention and protection of citizens and in some cases, non-citizens from incidences of arbitrary displacement and other forms of internal displacement, their assistance and protection needs during displacement, and their rehabilitation, return, re-integration and resettlement after displacement. The overall goal of the policy is to strengthen institutional mechanisms and framework for the realization of the rights, dignity and wellbeing of displaced population through the prevention of the root causes, mitigation of the impact and achievement of durable solutions to internal displacement in Nigeria. Hence, this policy is predicated on a number of general and humanitarian assistance/human rights protection principles enshrined in various bodies of international humanitarian and human rights laws and codes of conduct.

The IDPs policy discusses the rights and obligations of IDPs as they adapt to their new status and opines that for humanitarian action to be effective, it is of paramount importance to take into

account all the needs of IDPs at every stage of their displacement. Special attention was placed on children, women, persons with disabilities and elderly persons. However, there are specific and simple obligations for IDPs which includes: being law abiding citizens and taking responsibility for the commission of individual and group crimes during the events leading to displacement and thereafter (Brookings-Bern Project, 2010). Obligations of other stakeholders were also properly noted with government at all level given more responsibilities to handle such as respect for, protection and fulfillment of the outlined positions of the document without discrimination. The rights and obligations of stakeholders such as humanitarian agencies, host communities and armed groups are clearly spelt out (The Sphere Project, 2004).

However, there are well laid out broad implementation strategies and institutional mechanisms for the coordination and collaboration, and necessary legal framework to back up the policy. The policy identifies twenty-six institutions to coordinate the nine sectors established and recommended for humanitarian assistance and the protection of IDPs. This National Policy on IDPs is predicated on and inspired by Nigeria's human rights and humanitarian law obligations pursuant to the Nigerian constitution, statutes and relevant sub-regional, regional and international treaties which Nigeria has either ratified or domesticated. Funding and resource mobilization for humanitarian purposes including support for prevention and all phases of displacement including joint humanitarian funding mechanisms, flash appeal funding mechanisms, grants & loans funding mechanisms and, individual institutional and agency funding mechanisms are also outlined in the policy. A policy implementation strategic framework and plan of action is proposed to be developed, with a clear monitoring and evaluation framework established in the IDP Focal Coordinating Institution that shall serve as an IDP databank and clearing house. This National IDP Policy is expected to be reviewed every five years with a view to making necessary improvements (FRN, 2012). However, as at the time of writing this, the IDPs Policy is yet to be reviewed nine years after it was adopted. A draft of the review is undergoing the process of being adopted.

b. The National Migration Policy 2015

The National Migration Policy of 2015 is a document that sets out the guiding principles channeled towards the advancement and protection of the rights of Nigerians abroad, and that of expatriates or migrant workers and their families within Nigeria. The principle set out in the Policy complies with the adoption and ratification of some national, sub-regional, regional and international treaties and conventions. Such treaties and conventions include the International Conventions on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, and the Palermo Protocol for the Protection of Migrants' Rights against Exploitative Labor, Human Trafficking and Smuggling, Discrimination and other Malpractices that could arise from migration. It also acknowledges the framework of the revised ECOWAS Treaty especially Art 59 and the Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons, Residence and Establishment (Protocol A/P.1/5/79 of 1979) and subsequent Supplementary Protocols of 1985, 1986, 1989 and 1990, as well as other ECOWAS and AU Frameworks. Additionally, the policy is framed upon existing legal and policy frameworks in Nigeria such as the Immigration Laws of 1963 and 1990, Protection of Migrants Act 2003, Laws against Trafficking in Human beings and Migrant Smuggling 2003 and 2005, Child Labour Law / Child Rights / Child Trafficking Law of 2003, and the Labour Act of 1974 and 2004 among others (IOM, 2015). Full participation and collaboration of all stakeholders, governmental and non-governmental organizations, diaspora communities and special agencies from origin, transit and destination countries were considered and inputted into the policy to make it effective and efficient (IOM, 2015). The National Migration Policy 2015 also carefully clarifies the migration trends within and outside Nigeria which include: internal migration, internally displaced persons, international migration, immigration into Nigeria and emigration from Nigeria.

In framing the National Migration Policy, significant objectives were put into consideration. Some of the objectives of this policy are: to provide a uniform platform for the administration of migration

in Nigeria; to provide strategic direction for efficient and effective migration management both at home and abroad; to encourage orderly and regular migration of Nigerians; to encourage diaspora engagements in economic activities at home through foreign direct investments and social remittances; to address the challenges of brain drain/brain gain/brain waste, to mention a few. The policy clearly designates the NCFRMI as the coordinating agency of all stakeholders in the field of migration management in Nigeria.

Furthermore, the national migration policy identifies some goals and strategies through which the objectives discussed above can be achieved. Top on the list of the goals and strategies of this policy are internal migration and urbanization; national and human security; border management; and return, readmission and reintegration of Nigerian migrants. Others are to tackle irregular migration, migrant smuggling and human trafficking. Issues of forced displacements beyond national borders such as refugees and asylum-seekers, principles of non-discrimination, the status of stateless persons, IDPs, crisis prevention, management and resolution are clearly stated. The policy also reiterated on the protection of the human rights of migrants and the principles of non-discrimination and non-criminalization. It discussed labor migration and hinted on cross cutting themes and issues such as the nexus between migration, poverty and conflict, migration and health, migration and education, migration, environment and climate change, migration and trade, migration and gender, migration of children, adolescents and youth, migration of the elderly and persons living with disabilities, and migration sensitization and advocacy.

Another important aspect of the national policy on migration is the inclusion of international cooperation and strategies to achieve the set objectives. Data and information management about migration was included in the policy document. This aspect focuses on the collection, collation, analysis and dissemination of national migration data with regional domain as its priority. Funding of migration management was made the responsibility of the Nigeria government with the federal government playing major role. This does not however, exempt the state and local governments but they are meant to be encouraged by the federal government. Technical assistance, financial support and material contributions from other stakeholders such as the civil society, organized private sector, NGOs, international organizations and foreign nations are also encouraged. In order to have a constant pool of funds and to avoid donor fatigue, the policy suggests the need for the establishment of a trust fund for migration related activities in Nigeria.

The institutional framework for the implementation of this policy was well stated. The institutional setting of the national policy on migration is built on initiatives by the government of Nigeria and its development partners. The MDAs involved in the formulation and implementation of the policy are twenty-two including the NCFRMI, Central Bank of Nigeria, National Bureau of Statistics, federal ministries of education, information, foreign affairs, youth and development, to mention a few. The governance structure for the coordination is divided into four categories which include the ministerial committee, technical working group (TWG), thematic groups and the State and non-State actors. The thematic groups have well defined roles for the five subdivisions which are the standing committee on diaspora matter (SCDM), labour migration working group, migration data management working group (MDMWG), forced migration, assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR), and stakeholder's forum on border management.

In conclusion, the provisions of this policy document are well grafted to ensure the protection of Nigerian citizens abroad, and that of non-Nigerians in Nigeria. The national migration policy puts all issues, events and personalities into consideration and necessary provisions are made to ensure that our collective humanity is not subjected to abuse. Overall, it looks good on paper but lacks the funding for its effective implementation. Most of the migration activities of the NCFRMI are being funded by the IOM, leaving one to wonder the fate of migration in Nigeria when donor fatigue sets in. There is the need for a political will by the federal

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government of Nigeria to establishing the Migration Trust Fund suggested in this Policy. This will help in ameliorating the funding challenges.

Impact Assessment of the NCFRMI on the Plight of Human Displacement in Nigeria .

At this point, it is apt to examine the impact of NCFRMI on the plight of HD in Nigeria since its establishment through Decree 52 of 1989 now Cap. N21, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (NCFRMI Act). This paper shall segment NCFRMI's activities in line with each of the group of people that falls under its Persons of Concern (PoC). Going by the estimate of the UNHCR, Nigeria's humanitarian landscape covers about 3.7 million POCs as at June 2017. This comprised over 2.1 million IDPs, 1.3 million returnees and 222,000 refugees. It was also estimated that there were over 1.7 million IDPs in the three States that were worst hit by Boko Haram activities: Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States (NCFRMI, 2017). As the agency saddled with the coordination of activities relating to humanitarian challenges arising from HD, the NCFRMI has been contributing towards the management of this peculiar group of people through its annual budget or with the support of other stakeholders (NCFRMI, 2017).

NCFRMI's Impact on Migrants and Returnees

As one of the existing government structures empowered to manage HD in Nigeria, NCFRMI through its Act, is the Coordinating Agency for all migration related issues in Nigeria and also provides the Lead for conducting activities relating to the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) for Nigerians who may be in irregular situations abroad and have indicated interest to return home (Mohammed 2019). For instance, large numbers of people who fled into neighboring Cameroon, Chad and Niger as a result of the Boko Haram insurgency have returned to Nigeria as resources in their places of refuge have dwindled. In April 2016, 67,000 Nigerians were reported to have returned from Northern Cameroon mainly at the Fotokol border to Gamboru Ngala in Borno state (UNHCR, 2016). As at February 2019, there were 40,000 Nigerian returnees from Libya (IOM, 2019). Following spates of xenophobic attacks on foreign nationals in the Republic of South Africa (RSA), in the year 2020, 497 Nigerians were returned from the RSA (NiDCOM 2020). Again, 420 Nigerian returnees arrived in Abuja from the United Arab Emirate (UAE) on 3 February 2021. NiDCOM's Report stated that 310 of that figures are made up of Kano State indigenes and they have been handed over to the State Government (NiDCOM 2021).

Prior to the above returnees, a large number of Nigerians in Cameroon started fleeing Bakassi following the 14 August 2008 ceremony between the governments of Cameroon and Nigeria, which officially handed over administration of the disputed Bakassi Peninsula to Cameroon in agreement with a 2002 ruling of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which upheld Cameroon's claims to the Bakassi Peninsula. In the immediate aftermath of the handover, tens of thousands of Nigerians fled Bakassi to neighboring towns and villages in Akwa Ibom and Cross River states. Akwa Ibom for instance, received 100,000 returnees in September 2008 (Relief Web 2008).

In an interview with the Head of the Migration Division of the Department of Refugees and Migrants Affairs, she stated that the division functions to Profile Returnees and Migrants. Profiling entails the collection of basic data of returnees with a view to obtaining basic information about them in order to take actions on protecting and assisting them, and eventually ensure they are well settled and integrated into their communities. Staff of the Migration division are deployed to the reception centers where the returnees are being received, and conducts profiling on arrival. After profiling, they are kept in a temporary shelter where training on vocational skills is carried out for them through a Skills NEEDS Assessment. Start-ups are being given to them to start their businesses in the skills learned. The start-ups are usually in terms of equipment, not cash. These efforts are put in place to ensure that returnees are self-reliant and do not become burdens or constitute security concerns to the communities they have returned to (Interview, Migration Division 2021).

NCFRMI's Impact on Refugees

There are two categories of refugees in Nigeria. These are: the urban refugees who can fend for themselves and live in cities such as Abuja and Lagos, and; refugees in settlement areas established in Ogoja Cross River

state, Takum in Taraba state and Adikpo in Benue state. According to the Head of the Refugees Status Determination (RSD) Unit of the NCFRMI, there are 2,000 urban refugees and 60 refugees in the settlement areas (Interview, 2021). While the urban refugees have sources of income and are self-reliant, those in the settlement areas are dependent on handouts from the FGN through the NCFRMI, as well as supports from the UNHCR. An Interactions with Mrs. Akon, a staff of the RSD Unit, revealed that asides the shelter being provided for the refugees, they are also receiving monthly stipends, food and non-food items, palliatives and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in the era of the COVID-19 pandemic. Their children's school fees are also being taken care of by the FGN through the NCFRMI, with supports from the UNHCR. Additionally, the FGN has extended the benefits of the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) to both the urban and settlement refugees to enable them access healthcare easily (FGD, RSD 2021).

A perusal of the activities of the NCFRMI on the official website reveals that the NCFRMI distributed starter packs to refugees in 2018 at a flag off ceremony. The symbolic distribution of the empowerment materials benefitted 27 refugees who were trained in catering, pastry making, cosmetology & beauty therapy, interior & outdoor decoration, computer operations, fashion & garment design and tie & dye. A representative of the UNHCR who attended the flag off ceremony, expressed appreciation to the FGN for the livelihood approach in addressing the plight of refugees as he conveyed hope that the migrants would be fully integrated into the society (NCFRMI, 2018).

The urban refugees are economically self-reliant because they have means of livelihoods and sources of income. The Head of the RSD Unit stated that the urban refugees are free to live in any part of the country they deem fit, and have employment rights like every Nigerian citizen. (Interview, 2021). She further stated that a good number of the refugees engage in vocational jobs. For instance, Abdou a 27-year-old Syrian male has lived in Nigeria for 7 years. He worked as a hair dresser in a salon in Kano for 4 years then relocated to Abuja where he has set up his own salon and is doing well in his business. Comfort, a 30-year-old Cameroonian female, has been in Abuja for 4 years and works in a shoe-making factory. Franck, a 37-year-old Congolese male, has been a disc jockey (DJ) in Abuja for 12 years, to mention a few (FGD, 2021). The refugees have access to the NCFRMI to lay complaints on unfair treatments by their employers which includes non-payment of their salaries, and the NCFRMI has intervened on several occasions to ensure that refugees rights are protected at all times. They expressed satisfaction on the processes involved in obtaining their refugee status in Nigeria and the assistance being rendered by the NCFRMI. They have an overall positive image about Nigeria, as some of them have actually applied to become Nigerian citizens.

NCFRMI's Impacts on IDPs

Part of the operational role of the NCFRMI is providing protection and assistance to IDPs. In a bid to providing durable solutions to IDPs, the NCFRMI has commenced the establishment of Resettlement Cities in Borno, Zamfara, Katsina and Edo States to accommodate indigenes who have lost their places of habitual residence. Also, the NCFRMI in collaboration with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) launched a program tagged "Project Reliance", aimed at making the IDPs self-reliant by providing them with start-up capitals and starter packs in various trades and businesses of their choice. The program has commenced in Borno and Katsina states, with Cross River state as the next state for the program to be launched (Interview with Mr. Abubakar, 2021).

As part of its core responsibility, NCFRMI reached out to children with HD history during the 2018 children's day. On Monday 28th, 2018 the NCFRMI commemorated the children's day celebration by hosting Internally Displaced Children in Sabon Kuchingoro camp, FCT. The theme of the event was "Encouraging Education through Healthy Competition". The Deputy Director, Mrs Shizzer Bada who represented the HFC congratulated the children, highlighted the importance of education and emphasized the commitment of the FGN in protecting and addressing the needs of the children. The event showcased various educational competitions, refreshments, cutting of cake, giving of gifts and fun games (NCFRMI, 2018).

Conclusion

From the foregoing, human displacement affects the wellbeing of the community especially the host community. While man-made events leading to displacements can be controlled, nature-induced

displacements cannot be controlled. As such, human displacement is a phenomenon that is sometimes inevitable and happens unannounced. Having this in mind, there is the need for the FGN through the NCFRMI, to explore durable strategies and sustainable measures to mitigate the harms caused by displacements. It is important that the national architecture for the management of humanitarian affairs, particularly, NCFRMI becomes dynamic in their management of human displacement. It is important that all government and non-governmental organizations responsible for managing human displacement in Nigeria become dynamic and resolute in their effort so as to ensure that necessary efforts are put in place to effectively manage displacements at all levels. To further strengthen NCFRMI to effectively carryout her functions, one alternative source of income which the NCFRMI can utilize is the Ecological Fund. There should be an enabling law that makes it easier for the NCFRMI to access emergency funds by allocating a particular percentage of the Ecological Fund to the NCFRMI just as its sister agency, the NEMA

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