



GA2: Social and Humanitarian Committee

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Issue: Protecting the rights of internally displaced people (IDPs) in West Africa

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Committee: Social and Humanitarian Committee (GA2)

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I. Introduction

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are persons who are forced to flee their homes but stay inside the borders of the country of their citizenship. They do not cross into other states, thus do not receive the international protections that refugees do. IDPs in West Africa are exposed to severe risks, and their basic needs are not met. These

are the conditions to be granted access to shelter, proper quantities of food, health facilities, access to education, the right to access legal remedies, and protection from violence. IDPs who are most vulnerable in this situation are most commonly



Image 1: IDPs seeking refuge at a safe zone (UN)

children and women, who are subjected to increased vulnerabilities of exploitation, gender-based violence, and interrupted education.

Internal displacement in West Africa has dramatically risen over the last few decades. Triggers of the displacement crises include political instability, extremist group attacks, global warming, and natural disasters. This creates rivalry over already limited resources in the region. Boko Haram, a terrorist group in Nigeria, has been in an insurgency since 2009 and has displaced several million. Households in areas of insurgency experience livelihood losses, food insecurity, and health challenges. The Nigerian government has attempted to provide relief camps along with international organizations. However, these camps were short of long-lasting solutions due to their overcrowding and unhygienic environment.

In the Sahel region, especially in Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger, armed groups and violent extremists, in addition to resource shortages and poor government management, trigger mass displacement. Additionally, communities that host IDPs are equally in struggle, as sharing inadequate resources can exacerbate tensions between the displaced persons and local communities. This situation is likely to



escalate even further without sustainable approaches to peacebuilding, development, and climate adaptation.

II. Key Vocabulary

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs): “persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to 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 generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border.” (UNHCR)

Durable Solutions: “any means by which the situation of refugees can be satisfactorily and permanently resolved to enable them to live normal lives.” (European Commission-Migration and Home Affairs)

Sahel Region: “semiarid region of western and north-central Africa extending from Senegal eastward to Sudan. It forms a transitional zone between the arid Sahara (desert) to the north and the belt of humid savannas to the south. The Sahel stretches from the Atlantic Ocean eastward through northern Senegal, southern Mauritania, the great bend of the Niger River in Mali, Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta), southern Niger, northeastern Nigeria, south-central Chad, and into Sudan.” (Britannica)

Kampala Convention: “World’s first legally binding regional treaty on internal displacement. It obliges states to prevent displacement, protect IDPs, and support durable solutions.” (African Union)

Protection Gaps: “inadequacies in the protection afforded to refugees and other forcibly displaced persons where existing provisions of international law, notably international refugee law, are either not applicable, non-existent, or inadequate in scope, or are not interpreted and/or applied in an appropriate manner.” (Türk and Dowd)

Non-Refoulement: “prohibition for States to extradite, deport, expel or otherwise return a person to a country where his or her life or freedom would be threatened, or where there are substantial grounds for believing that he or she would risk being subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment or punishment, or would be in danger of being subjected to enforced disappearance, or of suffering another irreparable harm.” (International Organization for Migration)

Humanitarian Access: “ability of humanitarian actors to reach populations affected by crises in order to provide assistance and protection, and for affected populations to have safe and unimpeded access to that assistance and protection. It requires the consent of parties to the conflict, respect for international humanitarian law, and the removal of barriers such as insecurity, bureaucratic restrictions, or deliberate obstruction.” (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs)



III. Involved Countries and Organizations

Nigeria

Nigeria has the largest population of IDPs in West Africa, primarily due to the Boko Haram insurgency in the northeast. In 2021, a National Policy concerning IDPs was enacted by the government to coordinate responses, protect human rights, and promote durable solutions. “The government also acknowledges the need to ensure protection of displaced populations and their fundamental human rights, mitigate their suffering where and when displacement has occurred, and establish a harmonised response accordingly” (National Policy on IDPs). The authorities in Nigeria have continually represented a strong case for the protection of human rights within such a framework. For example, Dr. Tony Ojukwu, Executive Secretary of Nigeria’s National Human Rights Commission, stated in June 2025: “We call on the government to prioritize peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and sustainable development initiatives ... government agencies and humanitarian partners should address the multiple human rights challenges arising from displacement including the right to life, dignity ... without discrimination” (“Refugees and Displaced Persons Deserve Dignity and Protection,” NHRC, 2025). In spite of these commitments, implementation has been blamed owing to a lack of infrastructure as well as ongoing insecurity for leaving millions of IDPs with limited access to shelter, learning institutions, or livelihood.

Mali

Mali is suffering from repeated displacement driven by jihadist insurgents and intercommunal violence, particularly from the northern and central regions. The government of Mali has made a promise to align national law with the African Union’s Kampala Convention and has even established a Technical Committee for its domestication. Alongside the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Mali has produced plans for crisis response aimed at providing multi-sectoral humanitarian relief. These emphasize that the priority is to “provide multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons, vulnerable people and affected communities” (IOM Crisis Response Plan). Furthermore, the Institut National de la Statistique has included IDPs in national household surveys, ensuring that “all segments of the population, regardless of their displacement status ... benefit from policies and strategies” (Joint Data Center). Nevertheless, civil society reports identify that although implementation is hindered by insecurity, limited funding, and local inability, many IDPs continue to lack safety and access to basic services.

Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso is another Sahelian hub of displacement, containing over 2 million IDPs as of 2025. The government coordinates the response through the Conseil National de Secours d’Urgence et de



Réhabilitation (CONASUR) and has collaborated with UNHCR to enhance registration, documentation, and access to education and healthcare. The state has ratified the vast majority of international displacement treaties and is in the process of integrating IDPs into national social protection systems. The UNHCR reporting states that, “forcibly displaced and stateless persons are included in national services, and



Image 2: A crowd displaced by Boko Haram in Nigeria (UNHCR)

programmes” (UNHCR, Burkina Faso Annual Results Report). Whilst the government is officially bound to undertake durable solutions by 2026, the explosive growth of displacement has exerted overwhelming pressure on already limited resources, and IDPs continue to face significant challenges in housing, land rights, and livelihoods.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) plays an indispensable role as the primary regional forum for coordinating responses to displacement. ECOWAS encompasses humanitarian emergencies, conflict prevention, as well as disaster risk reduction through protocols like the ECOWAS Humanitarian Policy. It views displacement as a transboundary destabilizing force and highlights a regional approach to protection. In 2024, Dr. Sintiki Tarfa Ugbe, Director of Humanitarian and Social Affairs at the ECOWAS Commission, noted: “You have reinforced the importance of a regional approach ... the political situation and cross-border nature of the challenges ... continue to fuel the worsening humanitarian situations in West Africa, leaving millions of people in need of protection” (UNHCR, “ECOWAS Statement”). ECOWAS



also channels funding through its Peace Fund, supporting peacebuilding, recovery, and assistance programs. Nevertheless, political instability in some member states and tensions sanctioned states impede it from fully coordinating and enforcing regional standards.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is a prominent actor at the global level in protecting IDPs. Though originally responsible for refugees alone, UNHCR has expanded its policy of Engagement in Situations of Internal Displacement, under which it has made a commitment to support states in providing protection and durable solutions. UNHCR identifies national leadership, human rights, and local involvement in relief activities. In June 2025, UNHCR warned: “From conflict to climate shocks, protection risks are rising — particularly for women and children, who represent 80 per cent of the forcibly displaced” (“UNHCR Highlights Forced Displacement Trends”). In West Africa, UNHCR ensures legal support, education, documentation, and campaigning for the inclusion of IDPs in national plans. However, its success depends heavily upon state cooperation and adequate funding.

International Organization of Migration (IOM)

Niger is currently among the most internally displaced nations in the Sahel region as a result of constant violence induced by armed forces, food insecurity, and climate change. The Niger government has collaborated with IOM to assist in addressing the growing crisis. IOM’s 2025 Crisis Response Plan for Niger shows that more than 40,000 IDPs require immediate help (IOM, Crisis Response Plan for Niger 2025). These include emergency shelters, cash distribution, and camp management assistance. IOM also operates the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), which collects data on the population movement in order to inform humanitarian planning. Humanitarian delivery is still blocked by insecurity and poor infrastructure. Humanitarian organizations have repeated that Niger will stay at the crisis’s epicenter without more sustainable action and funding.

Chad

While not nearly as newsworthy as Nigeria or Mali, Chad does have an internal displacement problem within the Lac Province. The 2024 OCHA Humanitarian Needs Overview outlines how there are more than 270,000 internally displaced people because of Boko Haram and other militia assaults (OCHA, Chad Humanitarian Needs Overview 2024). The Chadian government, in partnership with its international friends like IOM, has been at the forefront of offering humanitarian assistance in the areas of shelter planning, protection, and food. Solution programs like livelihood interventions and home rehabilitation have also been started by IOM to enable IDPs to resettle in communities or repatriate where opportunities exist. IOM has also initiated solution programs like livelihood programs and housing rehabilitation, in order to help IDPs



integrate into communities or return home if it is possible. Unfortunately, humanitarian access is a major issue, since insecurity and violence usually prevent aid workers from reaching the affected areas. Lack of funding has also caused many IDPs not to be provided with sustainable assistance in the region.

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

The role of UNICEF on the issue is vital, especially in protecting the rights of displaced children and families. UNICEF's 2025 Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal (HAC) reports that over 4 million Central Sahelian children face urgent humanitarian needs due to displacement. UNICEF's priorities are education in emergencies, establishment of learning centers, and integration of displaced children into host countries' national schools. UNICEF additionally provides basic items like food, water, and sanitation resources to host communities and IDP camps. The likelihood of exposure to child labor, early marriage, and armed actor recruitment as internal displacement rises. Therefore, UNICEF collaborates with governments and domestic partners to strengthen protection systems and offer psychosocial care to the most affected children. Unfortunately, the tight finances still impair delivery, thus leaving internally displaced children with millions to suffer the long-term threat of violated rights.

World Food Programme (WFP)

One central solution for West Africa's food insecurity is the World Food Programme (WFP). The conflict and displacement in the Sahel region have denied millions permanent access to food. WFP's 2025 Sahel Emergency Reports show that IDPs in Niger, Burkina Faso, and Mali highly rely on food distributions, cash transfers, and school feeding. WFP also assists the host population, with a goal of mitigating competition for limited resources by offering collaborative support. WFP additionally engages in resilience activities, such as land reclamation and communal farming, to further food security in the long term (WFP). WFP cautions that reduced funding levels could necessitate minimizing rations, disproportionately affecting displaced that are nearly dependent on aid. WFP makes periodic calls for continued international support in a bid to avert worsening hunger and malnutrition emergencies in the Sahel.

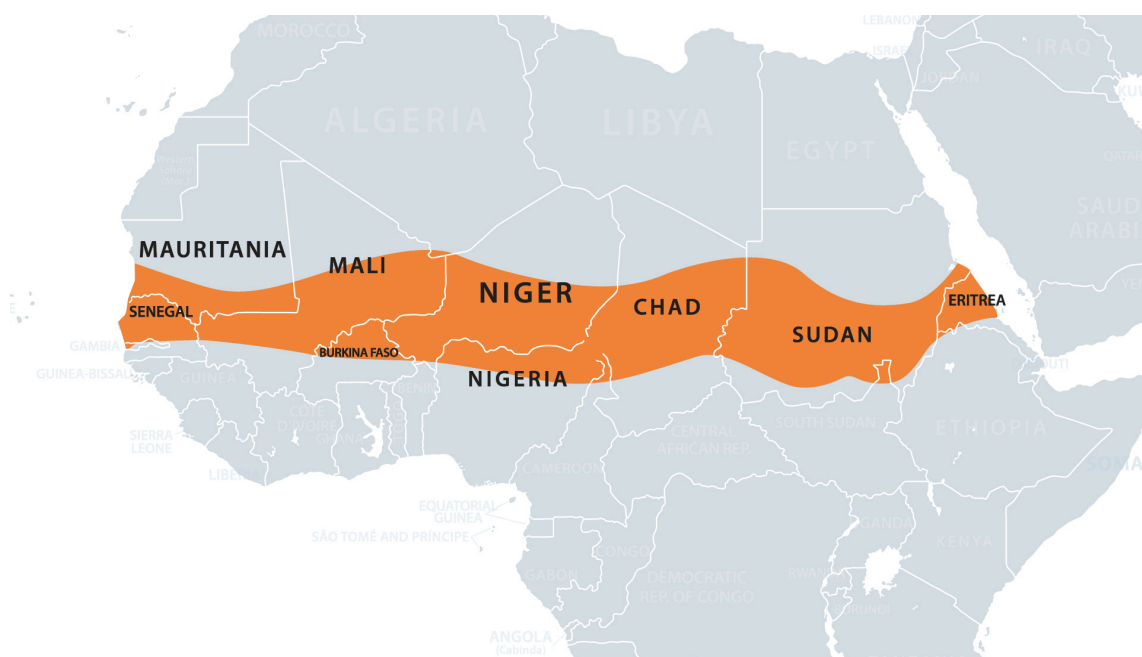


Image 3: Sahel Region (iMED Lab)

IV. Focused Overview of the Issue

1. Cycles of Insurgency and Humanitarian Breakdown

The violent insurgency and persistent communal fighting taking place inside Nigeria have resulted in the creation of one of the most critical IDP situations not only inside Nigeria but all over West Africa. The Boko Haram insurgency, active since the year, 2009 has continued to cause destruction, most especially in the northeastern states, with millions of people being displaced, crucial civilian infrastructures being destroyed, as well as a universal state of insecurity being spread amongst the population (Raji et al.). Based on statistics supplied by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), presently there are already more than 2.3 million Nigerians who continue to remain displaced owing to a direct effect brought about by Boko Haram activities, while other overlapping crises, involving incidents of rural banditry and violent clashes amongst herders and farmers being carried out inside the northwest and middle belt states—having overlapped with Boko Haram activities—also resulted in displacing some hundred thousands more individuals (Omogunloye; IDMC). The interlinking of all these different wars has critically undermined livelihoods and increased already present poverty levels, and has added to a growing state of food insecurity, with these being most critical inside the states of Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe (Manu 2024).

The circumstances among IDPs in Nigeria are markedly unsafe and extremely alarming. In addition to overcrowded formal and informal shelters, access to health-related amenities is similarly lacking and is further impaired by the extended armed struggle raging in the area and significantly interfering with the



efficient coverage with critical mobile clinics to bring critically needed delivery of medical services to those who are most acutely in need of these services. As a direct consequence, these populations of displaced persons are greatly at risk of an array of severe and significant health concerns and are represented by but are not limited to lack of vaccination and malnutrition, and by alarming rates of maternal and child death and are represented and recorded by Raji et al. with respect to a 2021 study published by these authors.

Interference with the education of these vulnerable children is particularly catastrophic and terribly sad in the current situation. The war of terror waged on education by radical militant organization Boko Haram, most emblematically instantiated through their celebrity-status abduction of the Chibok schoolgirls, has actually compelled hundreds of schools across the region as a whole to shut down or be destroyed. Even in relatively 'safe' zones, deep-seated insecurity that is perpetually lurking, the absence of proper infrastructures, or the need to help their family survive by doing some form of work keep most displaced children from attending classes. Also adding to the vulnerabilities of these individuals are challenges of legal identity: by not having the necessary documents, the majority of internally displaced persons (IDPs) are denied access to much-needed relief interventions, health care, and social protection programs from which they can receive the much-needed assistance that will aid them in their dire situations. It is against this background of gaping concerns that the Nigerian government has made deliberate attempts at addressing the myriad problems facing internally displaced persons by coming up with a National Policy that is exclusively devoted to addressing the needs of this group of vulnerable persons, apart from coordinating all its efforts through the National Emergency Management Agency, commonly referred to as NEMA. Whereas advances in the army have been able to regain nearly all the territory which had fallen into the hands of insurgents, re-establishing effective administration, governing and dispensing justice, and reinstating vital public services have fallen behind the rapid military gains. Furthermore, there have been a number of reports regarding serious human rights abuses by the security forces in the course of grave abuses such as extrajudicial killings and arbitrary arrest, which worsen the conditions for the victimized populace. These extremely disturbing and foreboding actions have served to further erode the already weak and tenuous trust that there is between the different state institutions and the civilian populations that they are basically obligated to serve and protect.

2. Siege Warfare and the Weaponization of Civilians

Ever since the rough estimate of 2015, Burkina Faso has become a hotspot in the Sahel, ravaged by increasing jihadist violence and profound state weakness (ACAPS). Militarized non-state actors such as Jama'at Nasr al-Islam wal Muslimin (JNIM) and the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS) have committed widespread attacks on civilians, schools, and healthcare, most notably in the north and east of the country (GlobalR2P). Over two million people are internally displaced in Burkina Faso by 2025 (ACAPS).



Several towns are under siege, and humanitarian access is restricted; for example, Djibo is inaccessible for years (ACAPS).

For IDPs in Burkina Faso, the human rights situation is devastating. Civilians are killed during attacks by extremist fighters, by VDP militias (auxiliaries), or by state forces as part of reprisal action against suspected collaborators. Examples of massacres, such as those in Nondin and Soro (February 2024) in Yatenga Province, where 223 civilians and 56 children were summarily killed, show the way civilians are getting caught in the crossfire of contending actors (Human Rights Watch). The sieges of towns have cut off food, water, and medicines, worsening malnutrition and disease (ACAPS). Schools and health centers are destroyed or closed; at least 800,000 people are in besieged or hard-to-reach areas (ACAPS). Displaced people tend to live with host populations in unacceptable conditions or in camps with below-standard shelter and non-food items (ACAPS).

The government of Burkina Faso has made some efforts: the establishment of local defense volunteer units (VDPs) to support counterinsurgency, attempts to allow access by aid, and registration of refugees. But numerous such actions have fueled abuses, VDPs themselves have become perpetrators of violence against civilians, especially among the Fulani population, undermining confidence (GlobalR2P; ACAPS). Military governments since 2022 have complicated humanitarian diplomacy: coups have strained diplomatic ties with international donors, while foreign allies withdrew or retreated due to concerns over human rights and instability (ACAPS; World Report 2025). Humanitarian organizations such as Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), UNHCR, and local NGOs deliver aid, though access limitations, security concerns, and insufficient funds severely limit operations (ACAPS).

3. Fragility and the Entranchment of Armed Groups

Mali's displacement traces back to the 2012 northwestern separatist Tuareg rebellion, seized almost immediately by jihadists. Islamist extremism mushroomed exponentially since then, particularly in the interior of Mali, primarily spurred by weak governance, religious extremism, and violence (Okafor et al.). Overall, hundreds of thousands have been displaced from northern conflict zones over the passage of time; estimates of internal displacement often oscillate back and forth as a consequence of episodic sets of violence (State Department).

The IDPs' rights as humans are also catastrophic in Mali. They lack healthcare and education because of extremist rule or conflict interfering with state service delivery (State Department). School enrollment is absent for IDP children, and health centers beyond urban areas are not operating. The IDPs are often lacking legal identity or movement restriction, affecting humanitarian service access (Okafor et al.). They face



crossfire or state agent, foreign mercenary, or non-state actor armed groups abuses (Mali Human Rights Report).

The Malian state's actions involve both military and diplomatic efforts. To that extent, the state has been party to joint efforts with the regional authorities and foreign partners, initiated and approved counterinsurgent operations, and requested help that has come in the form of humanitarian assistance. In the wake of the coups d'etat of 2020 and 2021, the perception of the government's legitimacy was severely eroded amongst a vast number of foreign contributors, and there was an apparent reduction in certain types of foreign assistance (Okafor et al.; State Department). These security arrangements have incessantly failed to establish lasting and sustainable security for the people, and excessive force application by either government and foreign forces has led to injury amongst civilians and forced relocation rather than building a secure and stable environment. These UNHCR, ICRC, and other NGO bodies are very important for the provision of much-needed relief services such as shelter, food, and protection for the affected; however, their services are often disrupted based on matters related to insecurity, logistical constraints, and delimitation on the usage of the needed regions (State Department).

V. Important Events & Chronology

Date (Day/Month/Year)	Event
02/05/2006	The ECOWAS Conference on IDPs takes place in Abuja, Nigeria. Member States agree with recommendations calling for strengthened legal frameworks, improved coordination, and harmonization of national policies with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.
01/01/2007	The African Union starts discussions on a regional treaty on IDPs, which paves the way for the Kampala Convention.
14/07/2009	The African Union formally adopts the Kampala Convention on the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa.
06/12/2012	The Kampala Convention enters into force, binding African states legally to avert displacement, shelter the IDPs, and provide durable solutions.
17/01/2013	France launches Operation Serval in Mali to stop insurgents heading south. The operation displaces tens of thousands, as well as prior displacement from Tuareg rebellions.



14/04/2014	Boko Haram kidnaps 276 schoolgirls in Chibok, Nigeria, demonstrating the insurgency's impact on civilians and triggering mass internal displacement in the northeast.
2015	Nigeria's IDP population stands at more than 2 million, due to Boko Haram attacks, communal violence, and military operations.
01/08/2016	UNHCR launches its Protection and Solutions Strategy for the Lake Chad Basin, with emphasis on Nigeria, Niger, Chad, and Cameroon, where conflict and displacement are interlinked
23/03/2019	A Malian massacre in the Mopti region kills over 130 civilians, sparking new cycles of displacement in central Mali.
20/06/2021	Nigeria adopts its National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons, forming a legal and institutional framework for IDP protection.
24/01/2022	A coup d'état in Burkina Faso destabilizes the country further, and the number of IDPs surpasses 1.7 million.
01/02/2023	Severe floods in Nigeria and Niger displace over 1.4 million individuals, highlighting the rising role of climate crises in internal displacement.
15/09/2023	UNHCR reports 8.2 million IDPs across West and Central Africa, marking one of the highest total number of IDPs in the history of the region.
12/06/2025	UNHCR issues a statement that "protection risks are rising — particularly for women and children, who represent 80 percent of the forcibly displaced" in West and Central Africa.

VI. Past Resolutions and Treaties

UN Resolutions

- [A/RES/78/185 — Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa: towards durable solutions to forced displacement in Africa \(22 December 2023\)](#)

This UN General Assembly resolution expresses grave concern regarding the rising numbers of refugees, returnees, and IDPs in Africa and notes chronic funding shortages for humanitarian



response. It demands respect for principles, including guiding principles on internal displacement, urges stronger implementation of the Kampala Convention, and stresses durable solutions.

- [A/RES/71/173 — Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa \(3 February 2017\)](#)

This earlier resolution also urges enhanced cooperation, financial support, capacity development, and protection of the displaced populations, including IDPs. It also emphasizes wider observation of the humanitarian responsibilities of States of origin and of asylum, and better coordination.

Regional Resolutions (By the African Commission on Human & Peoples' Rights)

- [Resolution on the Protection of Internally Displaced Person Camps and Sites \(25 March 2022\)](#)

Condemns attacks on IDP camps, calls for states to probe violations, reminds states of treaty commitments, including the Kampala Convention, and calls for early warning mechanisms.

- [Resolution on the need to take measures to reduce forced internal displacement in Africa – ACHPR.Res.582 \(LXXVIII\) 2024 \(20 March 2024\)](#)

Recalls African human rights law obligations, considers climate change and conflict as displacement causes, and urges states to avert causes and protect displaced persons.

Treaties

- Kampala Convention (African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa)

Approved on 23 October 2009, entered into force on 6 December 2012. It is the first binding regional treaty of its nature that is explicitly targeted against internal displacement. It makes States Parties bound to prevent displacement, protect and care for IDPs, and pursue durable solutions.

VII. Failed Solution Attempts

Military-first strategies in the Sahel (France's Serval/Barkhane, national counterinsurgency campaigns):

France's Operation Serval (2013) and its derivative, Operation Barkhane, sought to take down Sahel-based jihadism. The operation was tactically successful as violence proliferated and persisted. The



drawdown and eventual closure of Barkhane, amidst political tensions with Sahel governments, created security vacuums to be occupied by armed groups. The net effect on civilians was incremental advances and ongoing displacement. Experts attribute strained host-nation relations, overdependence on kinetic action, and lack of state services in newly liberated Islamist militant areas as failure causes.

UN peacekeeping exit from Mali (MINUSMA):

The sudden termination and dramatic pullout of MINUSMA brought to an end patrols, bases, and convoys that dissuaded violence and enabled humanitarian delivery and temporary refuge islands of safety. Without the security presence, threats to civilians escalated, and humanitarian access was put into further danger. It shows how a withdrawal from the international protective canopy in the absence of a viable national or regional replacement worsens the IDP crisis.

Sanctions and coercive diplomacy after coups:

ECOWAS-sanctioned and bilateral sanctions after coups, especially in Niger, increased humanitarian pressure by exacting costs, constraining trade, and making assistance flows more difficult. Though meant to push juntas back to constitutional processes, they also deprived IDPs and civilians of benefits and did not change regime behavior in the short run. This illustrates how retaliatory action, in the absence of accompaniment by well-targeted exemptions and humanitarian corridors, can increase vulnerability.

“Premature returns” and camp closures in Nigeria’s Borno State:

Policy response to close camps and trigger relocations or returns prior to the restoration of security and services at the origin point. Human rights defenders and researchers have documented increased exposure to attack, hunger, and lack of schools, clinics, markets, and livelihood possibilities by returnees. Under conditions of non-durability, esp. return programs can transform displacement into cyclical displacement and protection risks.

VIII. Possible Solutions

Strengthening Legal and Policy Frameworks

One essential step is completing the ratification and implementation of the key provisions of the Kampala Convention (2009) by West African states. While most of the regional states have ratified the treaty, some are yet to domesticate it at the national level. The ECOWAS models of harmonized protection law on legal identity documents access, IDPs protection, and forced return prevention can be introduced by the



delegates. The national governments would also need to establish national IDP policies mainstreaming protection in development planning, e.g., the 2021 National Policy on IDPs tried by Nigeria.

Enhancing Regional Cooperation

As the West African displacement is transboundary, the ECOWAS and AU partnership can facilitate early warning, humanitarian corridors, and the sharing of resources. ECOWAS IDP Response Task Force can standardize the collection of data, monitor human rights developments in camps, and deliver assistance to blockaded or besieged towns. Joint patrols and exchange of information by neighbouring states as confidence-building measures can improve protection and drivers of displacement reduction.

Humanitarian Access and Service Delivery

Both domestic and international internal displacement NGOs must be provided with guaranteed and secure access to the displaced populations, especially in blockaded or hard-to-reach areas. Non-government substitutes would entail negotiated humanitarian corridors, hard-to-reach area air-bridge interventions, as well as investment in mobile health and educational services. Broader IDP access to national social protection, education, and health programs would reverse priority rights abuses. Material-resource deficiencies remain a major threat, and so representatives might prefer to delay fresh proposals for funding, such as donor-pooling donations or debt-relief swaps to protect IDPs.

IX. Useful Links

UNHCR – Global Trends: Forced Displacement: <https://www.unhcr.org/global-trends>

Clear overview of the risk factors and displacement drivers in Nigeria. Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC): <https://www.internal-displacement.org>

African Union – Kampala Convention

<https://au.int/en/treaties/african-union-convention-protection-and-assistance-internally-displaced-persons-africa>

ACAPS – Burkina Faso: Country Analysis Hub: <https://www.acaps.org/country/burkina-faso>

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