



The Kampala Convention and the Plight of Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria: A Case Study of Uhogua IDP Camp in Edo State

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Abstract. Sub-Saharan Africa is home to 46 per cent of the world's internally displaced persons (IDPs) with Nigeria being amongst the 10 countries with the largest number of IDPs globally. This article interrogates the extent to which Nigeria adheres to the stipulations of the Kampala Convention in managing Boko Haram terrorism survivors at the International Christian Centre for Missions. The article relied on semi-structured interviews and secondary data to shed light on the debilitating conditions of the IDPs. The findings reveal that despite the efforts of the camp management at addressing the plight of the over 3,000 IDPs, their conditions still terribly fall short of the requirements of the Kampala Convention. Thus, it is recommended that the Nigerian government and its international partners should provide much-needed support to the Camp to effectively ameliorate the plight of the terrorism survivors.

Keywords: Kampala Convention, Uhogua, Internally Displaced Persons, Boko Haram survivors

1. Introduction

In the last decade and a half, the plight of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and their management have significantly worsened globally, leaving them in more adverse conditions and borderline of poverty and destitution. With the plight of IDPs birthing a growing concern around the world, forced displacement is now increasingly perceived not only as a humanitarian concern but also as a developmental challenge. In recent years, the number of IDPs in Nigeria has grown exponentially to an estimated 3.3 million (IDMC GRID 2024). Most cases of internal displacements in the country have been associated with armed conflicts in the North-East, banditry in the North-West and farmer-herder violence in the North-Central with ramifications across the country (Oduwole and Fadeyi,

2013). Undoubtedly, this poses a huge threat to country's fragile democracy and national cohesion.

However, the crisis of IDP is not exclusive to Nigeria. The Global Report on Internal Displacement 2024 revealed that a staggering 75.9 million displacements were recorded globally at the end of 2023, three times higher than the average in the last decade. Conflict and violence accounted for 68.3 million of these figures, the highest ever recorded since data became available (GRID 2024). In 2023 alone, 20.5 million new displacements were recorded across 45 countries and territories with Sudan, DRC, and Palestine accounting for almost two-thirds of the figure (insert ref). Mirroring the last decade, Sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa, and the Middle East recorded the highest number of IDPs globally with Sub-Saharan Africa alone having an estimated 32.5 million IDPs in 2023. This signals a consistent increase in the past five years (IDMC 2024). Of these figures, Sudan, DRC, Somalia, Ethiopia, and Nigeria alone were home to over 32 million IDPs which is 46% of the global total (GRID 2024).

However, the IDP epidemic is terrible in Nigeria which doubles as Africa's most populous nation. In 2021, the United Nations reported that around 2.2 million people (531,000 women, 423,000 men, 677,000 girls, and 569,000 boys) were harboured across 890,000 IDP camps in the sprawling North-East region of Nigeria (Nigeria 2021 Year End Report: Population Trends). In December 2023 the figure stood at 3.3 million out of which 1.9 million IDPs were living in protracted displacement in Borno State. This was the highest total since 2013 when records began pointing to the near absence or absolute lack of sustainable and durable solutions to the internal displacement challenge in Nigeria (GRID 2024).

The increasing rate and appalling state of IDPs in Nigeria and other African countries are puzzling because the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of IDPs (otherwise known as the Kampala Convention) was enacted to address such a scenario. The Convention provides for the protection and proper management of IDPs and spelled out the obligations and duties of state and non-state parties. Even more puzzling is the fact that Nigeria and many other African countries afflicted by internal displacement epidemic are signatories to the Convention, yet the plight of IDPs continues to deteriorate.

Surprisingly, while there has been an increased scholarly and policy interest in the plight of IDPs in the North-East and North-central regions of Nigeria (see Raji, Adekayaoja, Agaku, Akujobi, & Hamzat (2021), Gwadabe, Salleh, Ahmad, & Jamil (2018), Onuoha & Chukwu (2022), Olanrewaju, Omotoso, & Alabi. (2018), Olufadewa, Adesina, Oladele, & Ayorinde (2022), little or no interest has been shown in the plight of IDPs beyond northern Nigeria. The reason for this could be that northern Nigeria has been under the siege of Boko Haram and ISWAP jihadist terrorism for over a decade and a half. As a result, the plight of those displaced by this seeming intractable violence within the region has attracted enormous scholarly, policy, and media attention. However, the predicament of victims of the same terrorism who are living in sprawling conditions and abject poverty beyond the region is neglected. This research focuses on the only IDP camp of Boko Haram survivors which is located in the South-South region of Nigeria and managed by a faith-based organization.

This article seeks to examine the extent to which the Kampala Convention has been implemented in managing the IDPs in the Uhogua camp in Edo State. The article is guided by two interrelated questions: What challenges are faced in the implementation of the Kampala Convention at Uhogua IDP Camp in Benin City? How can the challenges face at Uhogua Camp be mitigated?

Focusing on the Uhogua IDP camp is significant as most scholarly works have dwelt primarily on the plight of IDPs living in government-managed formal camps in the North-east and North-central zones of Nigeria in collaboration with non-governmental organizations. However, an estimated 75 percent of IDPs in Nigeria live in informal camps in host communities administered by non-State actors (Iweze 2022). This article seeks to unravel the precarity and poverty suffered by the IDPs living in informal camps.

It holds relevance for various stakeholders involved in addressing the issue of internal displacement in Nigeria and has the potential to inform and guide them in overcoming the challenges impeding the effective implementation of the Kampala Convention in Nigeria.

The article is divided into five sections for analytical convenience. Following this introductory section is the review of relevant literature and conceptual framework. The third part outlines the methodology, data collection, and data analysis techniques used in the research. Section four contains the analysis and discussion of findings while the fifth section wraps up with a conclusion and recommendations.

2. Literature Review

The Kampala Convention defines internal displacement as “the involuntary or forced movement, evacuation or relocation of persons or group of persons within internationally recognized state borders” (Kampala Convention, 2012: 3). Both the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and the Kampala Convention guarantee that IDPs as citizens or habitual residents of their country are entitled and should enjoy equal and full rights without discrimination based on their situation of being internally displaced within their national borders. IDPs are presumed to enjoy the same rights, privileges, and freedom under both national and international laws as all other persons and citizens in their country. However, due to the character of their forced displacements, IDPs are naturally and habitually at great risk and are extremely vulnerable to various forms of deprivation, protection risks, lack of access to basic amenities and services, family separation, sexual and gender-based violence, trafficking, harassment, loss of property, discrimination and further exposure to the risk of secondary or onward displacement (Harild & Christensen 2011). Worthy of note is the fact that IDPs retain the right at all times irrespective of their phase of displacement to seek safety in another part of their country, and to be protected against a forceful return to or resettlement in any place where the safety, liberty health and well-being of their life will be at risk.

The phenomenon of internal displacement is global and transcends several continents, regions, countries, and territories. Although countries have the primary obligation and responsibility to protect, assist, and provide for those persons displaced within their territorial borders, situations, have become apparent where sometimes states are outright weakened and unable or in some cases unwilling to provide adequate

support for internally displaced. Zolberg (1999) posits that while there is the existence of an international framework for the protection and assistance of refugees regarding the Geneva Convention, the African Union (AU) realized that African countries were more prone and deeply engulfed in conflict which made them the host to the largest number of IDPs as a continent. The AU therefore felt compelled to draw up laws, policies, and strategies for the protection of the lives and rights of African people affected directly and indirectly by the phenomenon of internal displacement in the continent as a means to enhance good governance (Zolberg, 1999). Internally displaced persons include but are not limited to: Communities, families, and persons caught between warring and conflicting parties are therefore forced to flee their homes or habitual residences as a result of countless and relentless bombardments and the threats of armed and violent attacks on them. IDPs also include communities and persons who have been forced to flee their residences and livelihoods on account of natural disasters and adverse climatic conditions, making them unable to feed and provide for themselves and their families and therefore seek external help and refuge elsewhere within their national borders.

According to Lusigi (2022), Africa is the worst-hit continent when it comes to internal displacement and hosts over one-third of the forced displacement population. Of those forcibly displaced, three-quarters, or about 21.8 million Africans are internally displaced, meaning they remain within their country's borders. Internal displacement therefore constitutes a significant economic burden for individuals, communities, and economies. Furthermore, internally displaced persons suffer some form of protection issues and challenges such as child protection and gender-based violence. The women and younger female victims of internal displacement are vulnerable to rape, domestic violence, trafficking, forced prostitution, and many other abuses in violent situations. Kalin & Schrepler (2012) argue that internal displacements are often fluid, with new displacements and movements of people in search of durable solutions sometimes happening simultaneously.

The causes of internal displacement both in Africa and globally are manifold and complex. Internal displacements can be a result of poverty, violent conflicts, natural disasters, and climatic changes. Conflict-induced displacement refers to displacement that occurs as a result of people being forced to flee their homes and places of habitual residence for several different reasons including armed conflicts,

generalized violence, civil war, communal conflict, and where state authorities are either unwilling or not able to protect them. On the other hand, disaster-induced displacement includes displacement brought about by natural disasters and hazards such as floods, droughts, hurricanes, earthquakes, and other environmental and climatic variations and changes. In 2022, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) responded to 15 emergency declarations which were made concerning displacements brought about by climate shocks including droughts, cyclones, flooding, or a combination thereof which had occurred across all regions globally (UNHCR Global Trends Report 2022).

The upsurge in the phenomenon of Internal displacement in Nigeria is the result of a profusion of overlying and complex triggers including natural disasters and protracted violence. The total number of 3.3 million internally displaced persons in Nigeria accounts approximately for a third of the total number of IDPs in Africa and 10% of IDPs in the world (IDMC GRID, 2023). Atim & Atsiya (2019) noted that the key factors and drivers that have contributed significantly to the high level of forced movements of the population (displacement) in Nigeria are the Boko-Haram insurgency, violence between farmers and nomadic herders, land disputes, resource-based conflicts, election-related violence, and banditry. Despite the ratification of the Kampala Convention, Nigeria has an inadequate legal and policy framework to assist IDPs. This amongst other factors, poses a challenge in addressing the gnawing problem of internal displacement in Nigeria and this has been identified as the primary cause of the worsening of IDP plight (Gwadabe et al. 2018). Alobo & Obaji (2016), and (Ekpa, & Nuarral 2016) equally put forth similar arguments that although Nigeria has ratified the Kampala Convention, the lack of domestic legislation explains the disparity of government policies with international human rights standards they further argued that the overwhelming nature of the displacement caused by Boko Haram and the absence of a regulatory framework in the management of internal displacement has made government non-proactive in planning and managing displacements in Nigeria. This problem creates a gap between policy and practice, leading to inadequate protection and assistance for IDPs. There also exists a lack of coordination and cooperation among the various stakeholders involved in the protection and assistance of IDPs in Nigeria, including government agencies, civil society organizations, and humanitarian actors. This lack of coordination can lead to duplication of

efforts, inefficiencies, and a failure to comprehensively address the needs of IDPs.

According to Gbigbidge, Fredrick & Onwordi (2020), the upsurge of violence and insurgency between all parties and in various parts of North-eastern Nigeria since 2009 resulted in mass displacement and deprivation of an estimated 200,000 individuals which led to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) implementation of its displacement tracking matrix program in September 2014. This was done in collaboration with the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and all other State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMAs). From the perspective of Harild, and Chrislensen (2011) forced displacement is a humanitarian crisis. It also has significant developmental impacts affecting human and social capital, economic growth, poverty reduction efforts, and environmental sustainability.

Forced displacement has an important bearing on countries meeting the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) since displaced populations tend to be the poorest and often experience particularly difficult access to basic services. Internal displacement greatly impoverishes communities, individuals as well as families. Its most significant impact can be seen in the loss of livelihood, property, land, and access to basic health, social, and educational services suffered by IDPs. The host communities of IDPs invariably get caught up in the impoverishment cycle as they may exhaust their resources in coping with the new arrivals, especially in Africa where most IDPs stay in IDP camps in host communities. Displaced persons also encounter a myriad of challenges which include forced labor, sexual molestation, violence, deteriorating health conditions, and loss of fundamental human rights. As a way to mitigate the vulnerability suffered by IDPs in Nigeria, IDP camps were set up by the Nigerian government with support from international donor agencies, local and international humanitarian and non-government organizations, and civil society organizations. Nigeria has a total of 143,110 internally displaced persons camps 84 percent of which is located in Borno State (Human Rights Watch Report 2022).

2.1 Theorizing Humanitarianism

Humanitarianism as a concept can be viewed as a broad dedication to and the belief in the sanctity of the fundamental value of human life. Humanitarianism can also be seen as a systemic response to crisis which involves addressing and managing the needs of people who have been affected by famine, epidemic, conflicts, violence, and natural disasters. De Lauri

(2021) further affirms that humanitarianism can be seen to manifest in a plurality of actions, ethics, and movements that are coherent with core humanitarian principles even though these actions are different in their modes of expression and implementation.

In the view of Fassin (2021), humanitarianism is defined as the government of life itself which encompasses the whole set of procedures established and actions conducted to manage, regulate, and support the existence of human beings. It is based on the view that all human beings irrespective of age, sex, social class race, religion, or location deserve respect, dignity fairness, and equity and should be treated as such. At the core of the humanitarianism concept are the principles of humanity, neutrality, voluntary service, impartiality, unity, universality, and independence which are fundamental to all humanitarian actions geared towards helping people in need during emergencies, armed conflicts, natural disasters, and manmade crises to alleviate human sufferings, sustain and maintain human dignity. Redfield (2005) averred that humanitarianism possesses a common-sense nature which is derived from its ethical injunction to manage and save lives in crisis.

Humanitarianism is also focused on the prevention and strengthening of the levels of preparedness in the event of the occurrence of a humanitarian crisis. Hyndman (2000) opines that humanitarian practices tend to be spatially confined to the locality where people in crisis need assistance, be it in camps or Mediterranean zones of crossing, humanitarians intervene within and across borders to manage the lives of those kept in place by poverty to save those in crises.

Humanitarian operations are governed by basic humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence without regard to race, nationality, religion, or political affiliation UNHCR (2024). Humanity emphasizes the alleviation of human suffering and the protection of human life; the principles of neutrality and impartiality involve not taking sides in any conflicts in the provision of aid and humanitarian services. It espouses that aid is distributed based on need, urgency, and severity without discrimination and recourse to political affiliations, independence from external influences must also be seen in the way humanitarian actions are carried out.

The OECD DAC Evaluation criteria which were updated in 2019 serve as criteria for the evaluation of humanitarian actions covering key issues that are important to consider when assessing the performance

of humanitarian actions. Effectiveness establishes the extent to which the humanitarian action is achieving its objectives set out in the humanitarian intervention action plan. Relevance measures if the humanitarian action or intervention is doing the right things as humanitarian actions will only be seen to be relevant to both the humanitarian actors and to the recipients of these humanitarian interventions if the interventions are done rightly for the greater good of those in need of these interventions. Efficiency measures how well the resources deployed in providing humanitarian actions are being used. Do these resources deliver or are likely to deliver results in a timely and economical way? Only when this is achieved can such humanitarian interventions be adjudged efficient. Impact assesses the extent to which the humanitarian action is expected to generate measurable and significant effects which could be positive or negative, intended or unintended. Coverage has to do with the need to reach groups and populations facing critical humanitarian situations, while Sustainability measures how sustainable the benefits of the humanitarian actions will be when implemented.

3. Data and Methods

The primary data for the study was collected at the International Christian Centre for Missions (ICCM) which was established in Uhogua by Pastor Solomon Folorunsho in the year 1991. Uhogua is a prominent suburban community situated approximately 30 kilometers North-West of Benin City. By 2009 the church had expanded its scope of activities to include but not restricted to taking care and serving as a camp for about 3000 internally displaced people mainly from the minority Christian communities in Chibok, Damboa, Gwoza and several parts of Borno and Adamawa states in north-eastern Nigeria. The camp also has IDPs from other states such as Zamfara, Bauchi, Niger, Jos, Sokoto and Taraba who had become internally displaced due to the escalated and worsening Boko Haram insurgency which had devastated their areas and had forced them to seek refuge in several camps one of such is the Uhogua camp.

Primary data was collected through semi-structured in-depth interviews of IDPs and camp workers randomly selected in ICCM Uhogua camp. The interviews were physically conducted and lasted for one week between the 4th and 10th of September 2023 because of the busy schedule of research participants. The use of the semi-structured interview method was to enable the researcher to obtain first-hand information from interviewees, allow them to express themselves freely, and get varied opinions and

perspectives. The questions were open-ended to guide the interview and allow the interviewer and interviewee to discuss some questions about the interview in more detail or follow relevant lines of inquiry and all answers to the interview questions were electronically recorded to ensure that the answers provided were not misrepresented. The secondary data was collected through several publications, media sources, online databases, and repositories such as the UNHCR Global reports, and IDMC tracking matrix reports.

The interviewees were 15 persons including camp workers, camp administrators, and IDPs. The data collected was coded and analyzed thematically and the secondary sources were used to confirm the findings emanating from the primary data. Considering the sensitive nature of the research on account of the trauma suffered by the IDPs in the hands of Boko Haram terrorism, the study was guided by several ethical considerations including objectivity, anonymity, confidentiality, and informed consent. All interviewees were assured of their anonymity and that the answers provided would be treated with utmost confidentiality. Informed consent was sought and obtained from all research participants and the ICCM camp management before the commencement of the interviews. Verbal consent was used because some of the IDPs were illiterate. However, the meaning of consent was properly explained to all the interviewees to ensure their complete willingness to participate in the study. To avoid secondary traumatization, the interview questions were vetted before use by an expert on terrorism Dr. Iro Aghedo of the Department of Political Science, University of Benin.

4. Analysis and Discussion

The study revealed that all the IDPs in the camp were from Christian communities in the northeastern states of Nigeria whose communities had been sacked and overrun by Boko Haram terrorists beginning in 2012. 65% of the IDPs were from Gwoza local government area in Borno State, 15% were from Adamawa, while IDPs from Bauchi, Niger, Zamfara, Jos, Taraba and Sokoto made up the remaining 20%. Several facts and discoveries emerged from the interviews conducted in the Uhogua camp regarding its management of IDPs and its conformity to the provisions of the Kampala convention. For analytical convenience, the findings are discussed in the themes below.

Vocational Empowerment

The management of the Uhogua camp did a lot within its scarce resources and capabilities to ensure that the

IDPs could live decently and have access to basic social amenities as stipulated by the Convention. For example, a commendable level of skill acquisition and training was available at the Uhogua camp. A lot of training in different skills and crafts was observable in the camp. It was discovered that the camp management constantly employed the services of trainers and facilitators to equip the IDPs with the necessary skills and crafts for fitness as well as to enable them to earn some income.

Respondent 8 was able to throw more light on what the camp management has been doing in this regard:

The camp management must be commended for the work they are doing. The camp trains IDPs in different skills such as tailoring, bleach making, soap and Vaseline making, poultry, fish farming etc. Currently, there is a tailor who comes to the camp daily to continuously train people in tailoring there is a caravan within the camp for this purpose...

Additionally, it was observed in the camp that some IDPs displayed some of their wares for sale to those who visited the camp and to the camp management as well. This initiative and efforts by the management of the Uhogua camp are commendable not only because it meets the OECD DAC evaluation parameters for measuring humanitarian actions, but also because it serves as the first step in the IDPs' quest for empowerment for them to return to a semblance of normalcy in their lives.

Protection against Sexual Exploitation

In line with the Kampala Convention *Article 9(1)(d)*, which stipulates protection against sexual violence for IDPs, the Uhogua ICCM camp management has been able to provide sufficient protection against all forms of sexual exploitation, assault, and violence for IDPs living at the camp. An interviewee revealed that the IDPs were adequately protected and sensitized against all forms of sexual assault, exploitation and violence as well as the preying activities of traffickers.

The camp management understands that the state is well known for the activities of human traffickers so they properly sensitize and teach the IDPs about the activities of such people and the dangers of such endeavors. There is restricted access and screening of people into the camp and the IDPs are not allowed to leave the camp without permission by the camp authorities...(Respondent 2)

It was also observed that there are separate hostels for males and females which are demarcated by the large open football field, given that it is a camp owned and run by a Christian mission headed by a pastor. Thus,

there is a high premium placed on morality, chastity, and decorum. The Uhogua camp can therefore be adjudged to be meeting the stipulations of the Kampala Convention concerning protection against all forms of sexual exploitation, violence, and assault as contained in *Article 9(1)(d)*. However, this cannot be said for most IDP camps especially those located in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe states where there were several reports of sexual abuse, rape and exploitation of girls and women including pregnant ones who were raped in the presence of their children in exchange for food, water and protection (XXX)

Feeding and Food Security

The discussions on the themes of feeding and accommodation, from facts which stemmed from this research threw up the harsh and unpleasant realities experienced by the IDPs living in the camp, chief of which was the level of poor feeding and overcrowded shelter. *Article 9 (1) (e)* of the Kampala convention clearly outlines that IDPs should be protected from starvation ensuring that they are fed and provided with accommodations. Most of the accommodation provided was small and uncomfortable and was heavily overcrowded seeing that over 3000 IDPs live within the camp premises. Though alternate accommodation was provided for married couples within proximity to the IDP camp, most of the over 1000 children of primary school age along with all other unmarried IDPs (teenagers, young adults) and widows live in the camp. The accommodations provided for the widows were mostly built with wood, except for the two modern brick hostel structures for males and females.

Respondents lamented the lack of governmental assistance and presence not only in the provision of shelter in the camp but in all aspects of the management of the IDPs in the camp. The interviews further revealed that electricity has been absent in the IDP camp since its inception. This makes the accommodation hot and uncomfortable to live in and it places a heavy financial burden on the management which has expended enormous funds on the purchase of diesel or fuel generators to pump water from boreholes. The implication was that some of the IDPs had to sleep in front of their hostels during the oppressive heat of the dry seasons to gain respite from the heat at night due to the overcrowded nature of the accommodations. Those who slept inside the hostels came down with severe heat rashes and other skin diseases which were major sources of discomfort to them. The situation though prevalent in Uhogua can also be observed in other IDP camps across Nigeria. A case in point was on December 21st, 2018 when the

International Centre for Investigative Reporting (ICIR) beamed its spotlight on the plight of IDPs in camps in Borno State agonizing over the poor and inadequate shelter in their camps despite the Presidential Committee on the North East intervention (PCNI) interventions and assistance.

Respondents noted that another critical aspect which is feeding in the camp is very poor and does not meet the dietary and nutritional needs of the IDPs living in the camp, the World Health Organization Department of Nutrition for Health and Development recommends daily intake of fruits, vegetables, grains meat and beans for adults and dairy products in addition to the aforementioned for children WHO (2019). It was discovered that hunger is rife in the camp with over 3000 mouths to feed and the escalating cost of food items, the management of the IDP camp at Uhogua groans under the excruciating burden of having to feed these IDPs. According to one of the camp administrators:

The IDPs are fed mostly once and told to fast or rarely twice a day with foods such as rice, yam, plantain, Garri (Eba), Tuwo, and beans. Donations of food items from well-meaning individuals and agencies do not come in as regularly as before, aid from the state government has been non-existent for the past 8 years, religious bodies do not visit as regularly as they used to before and this has greatly impacted negatively on the food level in the camp that is available for feeding the IDPs daily (Respondent 4)

Even though most of the IDPs living in the camp were mostly farmers in their home towns before they became displaced by the Boko Haram insurgency, there is a dearth of largely available farmland in the camp for them to engage in large-scale farming of staple foods as this would have gone a long way in buffering the acute shortage of foodstuffs that is been experienced in the camp. Furthermore, it was noted by one of the respondents that they had been informed that the nitrogen levels in the soil in the camp were high, making it impossible for them to cultivate crops such as yams, beans corn, and grains.

The resultant effect of this is that the IDPs were living in acute hunger daily therefore normalizing hunger and starvation in the camp. Hunger and starvation are rife at the camp and this implies a contravention of the Kampala convention in the management and care of IDPs at Uhogua. With regards to the OECD DAC evaluation criteria for the evaluation of humanitarian actions, the camp can be adjudged to be barely meeting the efficiency and relevance parameters but seriously failing and trailing behind in the effectiveness parameter. This can be greatly attributed to the lack of

state presence and support in the management of the Uhogua camp. It should however be noted that the Uhogua camp is not the only IDP camp guilty of failing consistently in this regard. The United Nations through the UN World Food Programme on 15th October 2021 released a report that vividly portrays the acute starvation and malnourishment suffered by IDPs in camps across north-eastern Nigeria. The WFP has been providing lifesaving nutrition and food assistance to the severely food-insecure IDPs in IDP camps and vulnerable people living in host communities since 2016.

Education, Basic, and Social Amenities

This research revealed that on the theme of education, basic and social amenities, the reality on the ground is one of severe lack and deprivation. *Article 9 (2)(b)* of the Kampala convention states that IDPs are to be provided with education, and basic and social amenities to the fullest extent practicable with the least possible delay. Basic amenities at the camp are very poor even though there are a few boreholes in the camp that provide portable water for cooking, drinking, and other uses in the camp, it is grossly inadequate due to the huge number of IDPs living in Uhogua camp. There are various basic facilities for sporting activities such as red soil handball and volleyball courts, open space football field, and two table tennis tables that are utilized by the IDPs at specific times for sporting activities, but concerning the education facilities, the classrooms are not sufficient and are overcrowded, and most of them are without chairs and tables. Most of the IDPs sit on the floor to learn all year round without textbooks to read and learn, an entire class may be asked to read and pass around the few textbooks available amongst themselves weekly.

The roofs of some of the classrooms are leaking, while some classes are devoid of learning materials and aids. Amidst all these daunting and seemingly unsurmountable challenges the camp continues to provide education to all the IDPs, a pioneer class is available for adults who never went to school to learn and be educated. The camp continues to make provision for a small number of teachers who are employed in addition to a few volunteer teachers who come from the Uhogua community and other parts of the city, with assistance from older IDPs who are in tertiary institutions. These IDPs in collaboration with the volunteer teachers teaches the younger ones in the primary and secondary sections. Respondent 13 who is a 20-year-old 300-level law student in the University of Benin explained how he helps out with teaching in the camp.

I teach SS1-SS3 in the camp subjects like English, Literature and Government. I am happy I can do that since the camp has allowed me to access education and achieve my dreams, I feel so happy giving back to my fellow IDPS by teaching them.....

With over 200 IDPs in tertiary institutions one of which just graduated with a first class in Chemical Engineering from the Edo State University Uzairé, most of the IDPs in tertiary institutions owe tuition fees of the institutions they are currently schooling in different tertiary institutions in neighboring states like Delta and Ekiti, while management of the camp struggles yearly to foot the tuition bills of the IDPs in tertiary institutions. This is a feat that can be adjudged to be completely absent in all other IDP camps in the country as noted by Duru (2022) that 50 percent of the over 1.5million IDPs in Benue were children of schooling age at different levels, whose schooling had been brought to an abrupt end when they were sacked from their ancestral homes by insurgency and marauding herdsmen. The implication of this was the children idling away without any form of education being provided for them since they came to the camps in 2018. However, the situation is direr in north-eastern and north-central Nigeria (Rwang, 2023). The provision of education for IDPs of all ages even up to the tertiary level by the Uhogua camp is worth noting and highly commendable as it can be argued that concerning the provisions of *Article 9 (2)(b)* of the Kampala convention as it relates to the provision of education, the Uhogua camp management is fulfilling its provisions to an extent, with its focus on education of all ages of IDPs living in the camp at all cost irrespective of the acute shortages of resources and materials needed for providing education to the IDPs and are equally meeting all three parameters for judging humanitarian actions (effectiveness, relevance, and efficiency) according to the OECD DAC evaluation criteria as it pertains to the provision of education, but not so much success as it pertains to basic and social amenities.

Sanitation and Healthcare

Article 9 (2)(b) of the Kampala Convention stipulates that IDPs should be able to live in good sanitary conditions and be provided with good healthcare without delays. Sanitation in the ICCM IDP camp as discussed below revealed that the sanitary conditions of the camp were observed to be very poor, unhealthy, and overstretched concerning toilet facilities. The sanitary facilities are very few and grossly inadequate as it is used by the over 3000 IDPs living in the Uhogua camp.

Respondent 8 recounts how the water situation in the camp becomes dire during the dry season: *Sanitation is a huge challenge in the camp because there isn't an adequate supply of water in the camp. Rainy seasons are seasons of respite as we can collect water whenever it rains but dry seasons are very tough and challenging in the camp because of the low water supply leading to very poor sanitary conditions.....*

The boreholes in the camp are not sufficient to pump enough water for the bulging number of IDPs living in the camp and this is further exacerbated by the lack of electricity in the camp as it was revealed that there has never been any source of electricity at the Uhogua camp since its inception. The implication of this is that the management of the camp is unable to pump water sufficiently because of the extremely high cost of fuel and diesel to be used in the generators, water is therefore scarce, and this has led to open defecation in the surrounding bushes by the IDPs and such actions can lead to a widespread outbreak of infectious diseases and contamination of food and water in the camp. This has been of grave concern to the management of the camp and the federal government of Nigeria, as observed by Asare(2023) which led to the Federal government on the 22nd of May 2023 through the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development to take its campaign against open defecation and personal hygiene to the camp at Uhogua to create awareness of the health dangers of open defecation and poor sanitary conditions to the IDPs living in the camp

Sadly, this is the reality across all IDP camps in Nigeria. Daily Post Nigeria News in its publication of 6th Sept 2022 captured the report of the deplorable sanitary conditions and sanitation facilities in IDP camps across the country when the Director of Social Development in the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development Mr. Taiwo Ademola Bashorun spoke at the IDP camp at Bakassi Cross River state in which she appealed for good and more toilets to be provided for IDPs in camps across the country and improved environmental hygiene. This situation does not conform to the provisions of *Article 9(2) (b)* of the Kampala convention thereby hindering the full applicability of these provisions in the management of IDPs not only in Uhogua camp but in other IDP camps across the country.

Ekezie, Timmons, Myles, Siebert, Bains & Pritchard (2018) noted that deplorable sanitary conditions were prevalent in IDP camps across Nigeria. With very limited access to basic amenities such as clean water and adequate proper sanitation which invariably increased health risks and susceptibility of IDPs to

various health challenges and risks. They observed the poor disposal of waste in most IDP camps across the country, which increases the risk of surface water, groundwater, environmental pollution, and potential food contamination in the camps which can lead to all manner of infectious disease outbreaks within these camps.

The healthcare amenities at Uhogua camp were observed to be very poor and unable to meet the needs of the IDPs living in the camp, and the complete absence of government intervention in the camp as it pertains to the provision of healthcare facilities, medical consumables, drugs or medical personnel was evident as there was complete neglect of the camp by the state and federal government. There was no form of aid or supplies coming to the IDPs living in the camp, the infirmary at the camp is very small and mostly overcrowded with insufficient beds for the sick to lie on leading to sickest IDPs lying on the floor in the infirmary. There is no resident doctor in the infirmary nor medical personnel in the camp, but a few volunteer nurses who come around occasionally to treat the sick. There is no ambulance or means of transportation in the camp to carry the sick in cases of medical emergencies. In such cases of emergencies, the sick persons are usually transported via commercial motorcycle operating in the community to the closest standard hospital which is the University of Benin Teaching Hospital located in Benin City 10 kilometers from the camp which is about 27 minutes' drive from the camp at Uhogua.

Respondent 11 explains the plight of the IDPs in the camp as it pertains to healthcare services:
The University of Benin Teaching Hospital had earlier established a mobile clinic at the camp but that was gradually returned to the hospital and such facility doesn't come from the hospital management anymore. Now we have to pay for hospital bills in full for any IDP who is treated or admitted at the University of Benin Teaching Hospital. Some of the IDPs who are in the university studying medicine also join the volunteer nurses in the infirmary. There were instances where medical intervention in the form of medical personnel from the University of Benin Teaching Hospital and other hospitals visited the camp in the early years of the influx of IDPs into the camp, but that no longer obtains...

The above information paints a distressing picture of the healthcare amenities that the IDPs can access in the Uhogua camp. Even though it was noted that some donor agencies had in the past years trained some IDPs in the techniques of first aid and medical assistance, it was still not in-depth enough for them to provide any

tangible help or assistance to the very few volunteer nurses who rarely manned the infirmary at the camp.
There are very few beds in the infirmary and there is a huge lack of drugs and medical consumables making it very difficult to meet the health needs of the IDPs, especially during this rainy season when they are mostly prone to malaria, cough, catarrh, and other illness. There are no drugs such as anti-malaria drugs, drugs for flu (cough and catarrh) no balms or inhalers for those who have asthma or cold allergies. There is no provision for rapid test kits for malaria tests, PCV tests, and typhoid tests. There are no medical consumables such as cotton wools, methylated spirit, and other things that can be used to treat minor injuries or cuts sustained by the young children in the IDP camp..... Respondent 9

This situation of poor feeding, terrible housing provisions, absence of basic and social amenities poor sanitation and lack of healthcare services prevalent in Uhogua and other IDP camps runs contrary to the provisions of *Article 9 (2)(b)* of the Kampala convention which stipulates that IDPs should be provided with decent and adequate humanitarian assistance such as food, water, shelter and other social amenities and where possible extend to the host communities. The offshoot of this is that all the IDPs living at Uhogua camp are unable to access basic healthcare amenities, receive medical attention from professionals, and get the appropriate medical attention swiftly in cases of emergencies which runs contrary to the provisions of *Article 9(2)(b)* of the Kampala convention nor does it meet any of the OECD DAC evaluation parameters for measuring humanitarian actions. This paints a sad picture given that health issues and emergencies can be very delicate and time-sensitive with little or no healthcare amenities at the camp. The same fate is shared by other IDPs in camps across the three geopolitical zones of Northeast, Northwest, and North-central zones in Nigeria (Ekezie et al 2018).

The Uhogua camp management has always added a Christian religious approach to the rehabilitation of the IDPs through prayers, counseling, and study of the bible in addition to sporting activities. Sports are used as a form of therapy in the camp, we allow them to play football and different games in the camp with the available facilities. At the initial stages of their relocation to the camp, if one of them had a nightmare of the trauma he/she suffered at the hands of the insurgents and screamed out of their sleep. It would trigger a huge panic across the camp with all other IDPs screaming and running out of their hostels. Breaking down their doors in the process, and running frantically across the open field thinking there was

another attack by Boko Haram on the camp. We the camp workers had to start sleeping outside their hostels in the open to always calm them down when such incidences occurred at night..... (Respondent 5).

We are a Christian mission, we always admonish them with God's word and pray for them, and this has produced tremendous results in their lives. The management of the camp has tried in this regard given the absence of trained personnel to provide the needed mental and psychological rehabilitation (Respondent 14).

The above demonstrates the camp's management doggedness and willingness to ensure that the IDPs living in the camp continue to build resilience to triumph over the trauma they have suffered. While it has been noted that IDP camps in Northeast Nigeria have received mental health and psychological support from the IOM via its MHPSS (Mental Health and Psychological Support) program to IDPs living in those camps, such assistance is not obtainable at the Uhogua camp.

Security and Protection

Article 9(2)(a) of the Kampala Convention obligates state parties to provide adequate security for IDPs living in IDP camps. The provision of security was also observed to be a major problem in the ICCM IDP camp Uhogua. The security that is provided at the camp is barely adequate. Although there is a perimeter fence in some parts of the camp, the fence barely covers some parts of the camp while the majority of the camp is left unfenced and unmanned by any security personnel. As described by Respondent 6:

In my opinion, the security provided for the safety of the IDPs in the camp is not sufficient. Though the management is trying its best this current state government since they came into power has gradually reduced the amount of security personnel available at the camp. The security that is provided for the safety of IDPs in the camp is not sufficient, though the camp has the presence of two policemen who are stationed at the entrance of the camp, the other two female police officers who are stationed at the camp are rarely around at the camp. There is the local community vigilante presence too around the vicinity of the camp but this is hardly enough.....

Respondent 15 further buttresses the assertions raised above:

The security in the camp is not okay, although we have not had any form of security breach or attacks since we came to the camp, the perimeter fence has still not been completed till now by the current governor, who

has starved the camp of security personnel since he came into office and rendered no form of assistance to the camp and the IDPs living in the camp.....

These assertions are bothersome given the current state of insecurity in the country presently. It therefore follows that owing to the minimum security available at the camp, the IDPs in the camp are sufficiently exposed to attacks and security breaches. Even though such has never occurred in the camp, it still poses a huge problem, especially considering the spate of farmer-herders' clashes in some communities such as Odighi and Odiguetue all of which are located in the same local government area as the camp (Ovia North East) in Edo state.

Article 9(2)(a) of the Kampala Convention obligates state parties to provide adequate security for IDPs living in IDP camps. When this is not the case, cases of attacks on IDP camps begin to happen such as the attack on LGEA primary school, located in Mgban, Nyiev council ward in Guma local government area of Benue state. It was reported by Vanguard News on April 8th, 2023 that the LGEA primary school which is an IDP camp was attacked by marauding herdsmen at about 10 pm on Good Friday leaving 43 IDPs dead and several scores severely injured with some missing from the camp. When IDP camps are left with little or no security in the camps it therefore can be argued that the IDPs have moved from insecurity in their ancestral homes to insecurity in their supposed places of refuge the IDP camps.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

The overall objective of the Kampala convention is to provide and strengthen the rights of some of the most vulnerable people in the continent which are IDPs who have become displaced due to several reasons, and to ensure that the effects of the displacement are properly mitigated to guarantee the continuance of their living conditions within an acceptable level of normalcy even while in protracted displacement. Given the fact that aside from the Kampala convention, Nigeria has a national policy on the management of IDPs which came into force in August 2012, there is still a long way to go in improving the lot of the IDPs living in IDP camps across Nigeria. Therefore, collaboration on all fronts and at all levels must be vigorously pursued and achieved to ensure the implementation of not only the Kampala convention but also the national policy of management of IDP. Only when this synchronization is achieved by all relevant stakeholders can there be an improvement in the management of IDPs in the country?

To enhance the management of IDPs in Nigeria in conforming to the provisions as outlined in the Kampala convention, certain recommendations have been derived from the findings of the study. Beyond the ratification of the Kampala Convention, there is a need for the wholesale domestication of the convention and its implementation in our management of IDPs by ensuring there are proper legal frameworks for the implementation of the convention. The Federal Government must also strengthen and empower the relevant and appropriate agencies by allocating enough funds and resources in a transparent and accountable way to make agencies such as NEMA, and SEMA, both at the federal and state levels to enable them function efficiently and effectively in their response and management of victims of internal displacements. The Federal Government must take strategic steps and display political willingness to end the reign of terror unleashed by Boko Haram in the regions that have been decimated by the protracted insurgency as this is the number one driver of internal displacement in the country and other causative agents of conflicts. Once an increased level of security is achieved and maintained nationwide, IDPs can therefore look with hope towards returning and resettling in their ancestral homes.

To tackle this crisis, and to ensure sustainable humanitarian aid to the bulging number of IDPs, the government both at the state and federal levels must collaborate and support other non-state actors such as faith-based organizations to ensure better management of IDPs in the provision of basic amenities, provide resources to guarantee their protection and security as enshrined in the provisions of the National Policy on IDPs and the Kampala Convention. This can be done by providing resources and sufficient funding in a timely and consistent manner to such camps this is to ensure that the IDPs living in those camps are not suffering from starvation, have access to basic social and health amenities, and are properly secured in the camps where they have found refuge from the trauma and pains, they have suffered as a result of internal displacement. Non-state actors such as the ICCM who are directly involved with the management of IDPs in the country must seek out strategic and workable ways to partner and maintain a working relationship with governmental actors and agencies, international humanitarian organizations, and other regional agencies to adopt the provisions of the Kampala Convention in their management and care of IDPs in their camp, this is to guarantee that IDPs are living within the basic standards of the convention even while in displacement.

There must be enhanced collaboration and synergy between all relevant stakeholders involved directly in the management of IDPs in the country both at the federal, state, and local levels, this is to ensure there is no abandonment of duties and obligations in providing the needed care and attention to IDPs living in IDP camps. There is a need for that same synergy and synchronization between state and non-state actors including local and international NGOs and faith-based institutions directly involved in the care and management of IDPs in the country. Additionally, the government must adopt gender-sensitive approaches in its policy-making and implementations to incorporate the special needs of women, girls, and children in IDP camps to guarantee greater protection for them from all forms of GBV (gender-based violence), especially in the IDP camps located in the north-eastern and north-western parts of the country.

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