**NHRC NIGERAIA ‘S INPUTS ON THEMATIC PRIOROTIES OF THE SPECIAL RAPPOTEUR ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS**

Climate change and internal displacement

1. **What issues related to internal displacement and climate change are most serious in terms of protecting human rights, reducing barriers, and fostering conditions for progressively achieving durable solutions that would warrant the Special Rapporteur’s attention and reporting?**

Answer

The issues that patterns to internal displacement and climate change that are most serious in terms of protecting human rights will include Food, Non Food items, Security and Incidental Risk, Water , Documentation, Sanitation and hygiene , because of climate where the Internally Displaced Persons are living those who are naturally farmers are unable to farm and need food.

The above issues are basic human rights accrued to the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) without which it will be impossible for the IDPs to live a dignified life ad when made available reduces barriers and will forester condones towards attaining durable solution. The enjoyment of theses social economic rights of IDPs requires the Special Rapporteurs attention and reporting.

**2. What specific groups or populations are particularly or differentially affected by climate change and internal displacement? Is there meaningful and full participation ensured and if so, how? If not, what are the main obstacles?**

Answer

The specific groups that are differently affected by climate change and internal displacement in Nigeria is as follows:

a. Women and children

b. Older persons

c. Farmers

d. Persons with disabilities

Full and meaningful participation of IDPs in issues of climate change and displacement is ensured through the gathering of information concerning them through interviewing the displaced themselves and follow up for the purpose of risk assessment of the possibility of their human rights being violated. However there is little or no participation of IDPs in camp setting due to the spontaneous arrival of IDPs who are usually forced to settle in camps that are designed without any forethought of possible negative effects of climate change and the dangers of settling IDPs in camps located close to water bodies that face the risk of being submerged by flood during the coming raining season if actions are not taken in time.

**3. What actions would you suggest the Special Rapporteur take to address these issues, within the purview of her mandate and complementary to the actions of her predecessors?**

Answer

We would suggest that the Special Rapporteur, within the purview of her mandate engage with the relevant stakeholders particularly the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, National Human Rights Commission and the Emergency Management Agency at the national level. The aim of this engagement is to enable responsible agencies timely address human rights issues and the attainment of durable solution for IDPs where the law statutorily requires them to do so. Emergency cases as the name implies requires fast/immediate response therefore, issues which prevent timely response can be outlined and addressed as soon as possible.

**4. What are the main elements of effective preventive strategies for internal displacement driven by climate change, including adaptation measures and planned relocation policies?**

**Answer;**

The main elements of effective preventive strategies for internally displacement driven by climate change include the following:

**Early Warning System (EWS)**

This is an adaptive measure for climate change, using integrated communication systems to help communities prepare for hazardous climate-related events. A successful EWS saves lives, agricultural activities, jobs, land and facilities for sustainability of those who are likely to be affected by climate change driven disaster. Early warning will enable the government and its actors plan their interventions, relocation of IDPs camps located close to water bodies, areas to avoid submerging and save money.

**Adequate data collection**

Data serves as lens through which we view displacement, and assists in carrying out preventive actions based on information. It tells us who has been displaced, the cause of displacement, length of displacement, number of persons displaced, place of relocation and human rights issues during displacement.

**Risk assessment and forecasting**

It is helpful to have knowledge of when and where disasters are likely to hit, as well as the number of individuals who may be affected. Risk assessment and forecasting models can help in the preparation for climate change driven displacement and also avoidance of reoccurrence of displacement.

Internal displacement due to generalized violence

**5. What kind of situation or issues fall under the umbrella of “generalized violence” as a cause for internal displacement in your countries or contexts?**

Answer

The following situations fall under the umbrella of generalized violence as causes of internally displacement in Nigeria

* Armed banditry
* Insurgency activities by the No State Armed Groups
* Herdsmen attacks on farmers
* Community violence
* Illegal demolition of properties

**6. What issues related to generalized violence and internal displacement are most serious in terms of protecting human rights, reducing barriers, and fostering conditions for progressively achieving durable solutions that are insufficiently considered by other stakeholders that would warrant the Special Rapporteur’s attention and reporting?**

Answer;

There are several issues relating to generalized violence and internally displaced persons which are serious in terms of protecting human rights and are events related to freedoms that would affect the sustenance and relocation of IDPs to safety/attainment of durable solution they include the following;

* Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) in internal displacements.
* Discrimination against women impregnated by Boko Haram insurgents
* Lack of essential items e.g. food, water, shelter and security in camps and host communities
* Non participation of IDPs in issues and interventions that concerns them
* Abrupt and unplanned relocation of IDPs to their communities even in the midst of on-going violence

**7. What drivers of generalized violence are most serious in terms of their human rights implications? Which of them are insufficiently considered by other stakeholders that would warrant the Special Rapporteur’s attention?**

Answer

The drivers of generalized violence that are most serious in terms of their human rights implication in Nigeria include the following:

* **Illiteracy and poverty are the root causes of terrorism**.

Some locals when interviewed have agreed that poverty and illiteracy are the main causes of terrorism in Nigeria.

* **Proliferation of small arms and light weapons**.

Over 6 million small arms are in circulation in Nigeria. Locally manufactured weapons were utilized in about 50% of crimes perpetrated in Benue and Plateau states. Reports show that ammunition from at least 21 different countries have been used in the herder/ farmer conflicts in north central Nigeria

* **Militarization of some areas**.

Six operations were launched in the north central area of Nigeria between 2015 and 2020 In order to address armed conflicts and violent crimes like as livestock rustling, armed banditry, and fights between pastoralists and farmers. However, locals have stated that the troops' behavior exacerbated the security situation and harmed civil-military ties.[[1]](#footnote-1)

**8. What disproportionate impact does such violence have on specific groups? How are specific groups particularly or differentially affected by generalized violence and internal displacement?**

Violence has a severe impact on the physical, emotional, sexual, and reproductive health of women and children, and it may raise the risk of HIV infection in particular circumstances. Violence is also bad for the mental health of individuals especially children who are in their early ages and as such are not in complete grasp of their basic environment

**9. What are the main elements of effective preventive strategies to mitigate internal displacement driven by generalized violence?**

Answer

The Nigerian government at all levels must address these drivers. Policy solutions to security concerns must include strategic border protection upgrades, federal-state partnership, proactive data and intelligence gathering, upgraded community policing, and stricter ammunition regulations. There should be international education, enlightenment, and creation of awareness on the implication and dangers of conflicts across the country.

**10. What actions would you suggest the Special Rapporteur take to address these issues, within the purview of her mandate and complementary to the actions of her predecessors?**

Answer

These are issues pertaining to the right to basic humanitarian aid such as food, medication, and accommodation, the right to be safe from physical assault, the right to an education, health services, and freedom of movement.

**11. What can different stakeholders do to address the root causes of generalized violence?**

Answer:

The Nigerian government at all levels must address these drivers. Policy solutions to security concerns must include strategic border protection upgrades, federal-state partnership, proactive data and intelligence gathering, upgraded community policing, and stricter ammunition regulations. There should be international education, enlightenment, and creation of awareness on the implication and dangers of conflicts across the country.

Internally displaced persons in peace negotiations or mediation processes and in peace building to achieve sustainable peace

**12. What issues related to the human rights of internally displaced persons are most serious and/or least considered in such processes that would warrant the Special Rapporteur’s attention and reporting?**

Answer

The issues pertaining to the human rights of IDPs that would require the Special Rapporteur’s attention includes basic humanitarian aids such as food and none food items, sanitation, medication, accommodation, the right to be safe from physical assault, right to education, health services and freedom of movement.

**13. How and when should internally displaced persons participate in peace negotiations, mediation processes and in peace building?**

Answer

Internally displaced persons can participate in peace processes through interviews and opportunities given to them to express their opinions and views during negotiations, mediations and peace building processes. This should happen immediately displacements occur and IDPs should fully and actively participate in all stages of peace processes.

**14. What specific groups or populations among internally displaced persons are underrepresented in or excluded from participation in such processes**?

Answer

The specific groups that are underrepresented or excluded from participating in such process are mostly the vulnerable groups such as women, children, girls, older persons and persons with disabilities. Representatives of all groups should be involved not only in peace processes but also in the attainment of durable solution. However, lack of adequate and reliable data has affected the actual level of participation of all vulnerable groups amongst IDPs who are likely to be underrepresented.

**15. What actions would you suggest the Special Rapporteur take to address these issues, within the purview of her mandate and complementary to the actions of her predecessors?**

Answer

We would suggest that the Special Rapporteur liaise with all relevant stakeholders within the purview of her mandate to come up with effective data capturing to ensure that all those who are not adequately represented especially the vulnerable groups can be carried along in all stages of peace process.

**16. How should peace negotiations, mediation processes and peace processes attempt to address the root causes of internal displacement?**

Answer

Peace processes should address root causes of internal displacement by bringing together relevant stakeholders such as victims, security agencies, community gate keepers (religious leaders, representatives of youths and traditional leaders) and possibly agents of the aggressors to the table. Objectives and goals can be set to ensure an amelioration of the situation to the barest minimum and further preventive measure can also be put in place to avoid similar events and ensure transitional justice is achieved.

**17. Do peace and/or mediation processes and peace building efforts adequately address the needs of all internally displaced persons? What factors enable or inhibit this?**

Answer;

Peace and mediation efforts do not adequately address the needs of the internally displaced persons. This is because plans and resolutions from peace processes without implementation amount to a waste of resources. It is therefore critical to implement the outcome of peace process in other to avoid conflict which in most cases escalates to violence if not addressed in time.

**18. What are effective strategies to ensure peace negotiations, peace building efforts, peace mediation processes, and peace agreements prevent future internal displacement?**

Answer

The following are effective strategies to prevent violence:

1. The focusing on post mediation activities and follow up on agreements to ensure that all agreements and resolutions are kept and implemented.

2. Involvement of all stakeholder including IDPs and encouragements of IDPs to demand accountability in the process.

Reintegration of internally displaced persons

**19. What issues related to integration or reintegration of internally displaced persons are most serious in terms of protecting human rights, reducing barriers and fostering conditions for progressively achieving durable solutions that would warrant the Special Rapporteur’s attention and reporting?**

Answer

These issues include but not limited to issues of discrimination, resettlement, retrieval of lost property (including documents), freedom of movement in their previous and present places of habitation and generally all issues that affect the human rights of persons returning from displacement.

20**. What specific groups or populations among internally displaced persons face particular challenges in integrating or reintegrating, and what are these challenges? Which challenges are faced by host communities and how to address them?**

Answer

These groups comprise of older persons who naturally face obstacles in their day to day activities and are not accustomed to travelling from one place to another in search of peaceful settlement. The next group consists of women and children some of who have lost relatives to violence.

**21. What factors enable or impede the sustainability of integration or reintegration of internally displaced persons? Please refer to social cohesion, mental and psychological health, identity, cultural and spiritual factors.**

Answer

These issues revolve around adaptation and acceptance from the new communities which these IDPs have been moved to, for example they may all be members of a religious, linguistic or ethnic minority group different from those of persons in new community. They may be the object of discriminatory practices on the part of the old members of the communities and it may take time to build relationships and a sense of solidarity between the new and old members of the community. This culture shock is usually met with a lack of trust and these factors impede the swift integration into the new communities.

**22. What actions would you suggest that the Special Rapporteur take to address these issues within the purview of her mandate and complementary to the actions of her predecessors?**

Answer

The Special Rapporteur should channel her strength to projects targeted at creating awareness to members of the new community heads and representatives, tribal chiefs, religious leader and other relevant stakeholders who can convey messages positivity and allay the fears of the locals as to reintegration policies

**Next Steps**

Input/comments may be sent by e-mail/fax/postal mail. They must be received by 12 June 2023 18:00 CEST.

Inputs received after this deadline will not be disregarded, but it may not be possible to take them fully into consideration in the report drafting process.

Email address:

Hrc-sr-idp@un.org

Email subject line:

Input for report on thematic priorities of the SR IDPs

File formats:

Word, PDF

Accepted languages:

English, Spanish, French

Postal address:

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations Office at Geneva, CH 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

1. Oluwola Ojewale, ‘What’s Driving Violence in Nigeria’s North Central Region’ available online at <<https://theconversation.com/whats-driving-violence-in-nigerias-north-central-region-163532>> accessed on 31 May 2023 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)