

AN APPRAISAL OF THE LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROTECTION OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN NIGERIA

Abstract

Internal displacement remains one of the most significant humanitarian and human rights challenges facing Nigeria. Armed conflicts, particularly the Boko Haram insurgency, communal violence and insecurity have resulted in the displacement of millions of persons, creating serious challenges relating to protection, assistance and durable solutions. In response, Nigeria has developed legal and institutional framework for the protection of internally displaced persons (IDPs) through constitutional obligations, international treaties, national policies and humanitarian institutions. This article examines the legal and institutional framework for protecting internally displaced persons, with particular focus on the role of key institutions and the challenges affecting implementation. This article argues that although Nigeria has made important progress through the laws on Internally Displaced Persons, participation in regional protection mechanisms and the establishment of institutions such as the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons, significant protection gaps remain. These include weak implementation of legal obligations, insecurity in displacement camps, inadequate access to basic services, limited accountability mechanisms and challenges in achieving durable solutions. This article concludes that sustainable protection of Internally displaced persons requires a multidimensional approach that harmonizes legal frameworks, strengthens institutional mandates, and prioritizes human dignity.

Keywords: Displacement, Internally Displaced Persons, Humanitarian Assistance

1. Introduction

Armed conflicts remain one of the most devastating phenomena affecting human security in the modern world. They often result in massive displacement of civilian populations, destruction of livelihoods, and gross violations of fundamental human rights. Internally Displaced Persons are forced to flee their homes but remain within the borders of their own country.¹ Internal displacement has become a major consequence of armed conflict, insecurity and communal violence across many parts of the world. Unlike refugees who cross international borders, internally displaced persons remain within the territory of their own country but are forced to leave their homes due to threats to their lives, security or livelihoods. The vulnerability of internally displaced persons arises not only from the circumstances that cause displacement but also from the loss of access to housing, healthcare, education, livelihoods and protection. Nigeria has experienced significant internal displacement as a result of multiple security challenges, including the Boko Haram insurgency, communal conflicts, farmer-herder clashes, natural disasters, flooding and general insecurity. The scale of displacement has placed substantial pressure on government institutions, humanitarian organisations and affected communities. The protection of internally displaced persons requires more than emergency humanitarian assistance. Nigeria has developed several mechanisms aimed at addressing internal displacement. Despite these developments, significant challenges remain regarding the effectiveness of Nigeria's protection framework. Many displaced persons continue to experience insecurity, inadequate living conditions, limited access to essential services and uncertainty regarding return or reintegration. The existence of legal and institutional structures has therefore not always translated into effective protection on the ground. Against this backdrop, the aim of this paper is to appraise the legal and institutional mechanisms of internal displacement in Nigeria, identify problems encountered by internally displaced persons that are typically caused by shortcomings in the legal and institutional framework on internal displacement in Nigeria and make recommendations.

2. Definition of Basic Concepts in this Discourse

Displacement

Displacement means a situation in which people are forced to leave the place where they normally live. Article 1(1) of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention)² defines internal displacement as the involuntary or forced movement, evacuation or relocation of persons or groups of persons within internally recognized state borders. It also refers to the forced movement of people within the country they live in, to flee their homes or places of habitual residence, in the context of conflict, violence, development projects, disasters and climate change, and remain displaced

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¹ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), *UNHCR Handbook for Emergencies* (5th ed.). Geneva: UNHCR (2022). p 22

² African Union Convention for Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention), 2009.

within their countries of residence.³ The concept of displacement is closely intertwined with protection and humanitarian assistance. Scholars emphasize that displacement should be viewed not only as a temporary condition but as a long-term structural concern, requiring sustainable solutions including voluntary return, local integration, and resettlement.⁴ Conflict and massive displacement can disrupt stability, turn countries into breeding grounds for lawlessness and terrorism, and undermine regional and international security.⁵

Internally Displaced Persons

Internally displaced persons are mostly victims of the inhumanity of man against man. They are victims of various kinds of injustices or violence, confrontations, perpetrated by either their own government against them or by others, such as communal clashes, terrorism, riots, religious conflicts, natural disasters and so on⁶ IDPs are defined by Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement as 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 generalised violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border.⁷ Unlike refugees, IDPs remain within their own countries and therefore retain the legal protection of their government, even if that same government is the cause of their displacement. This territorial distinction makes the protection of IDPs more complex than that of refugees, as issues of state sovereignty and non-interference in domestic affairs often hinder international humanitarian intervention.⁸

Legal Protection

The concept of protection lies at the heart of international humanitarian, human rights, and refugee law framework. In the context of armed conflicts, protection encompasses the legal, physical, and humanitarian measures taken to ensure the survival, safety, and dignity of individuals particularly refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) who are among the most vulnerable populations affected by war and violence. Protection is both a legal obligation and a humanitarian imperative, aimed at preventing violations of fundamental rights and alleviating the suffering caused by armed conflict.⁹ For Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), who remain within their country of origin, protection is derived primarily from National laws, International Human Rights Law (IHRL) and the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (1998). These principles articulate the rights of IDPs to security, humanitarian assistance, and durable solutions such as voluntary return or resettlement.

3. Causes of Internal Displacement in Nigeria

Internal displacement in Nigeria is driven by a combination of armed conflict, insecurity, natural disasters, flooding, forced eviction and development-related activities. These factors have forced millions of people to flee their homes while remaining within the country's borders, thereby creating one of the largest internally displaced populations in Africa.¹⁰

Boko Haram Insurgency

The Boko Haram Insurgency remains the leading cause of internal displacement in Nigeria. Since the emergence of the insurgent group in 2009, violent attacks, bombings, abductions and military counter-insurgency operations have displaced millions of people, particularly in the North-East states of Borno,

³ O. Ajigboye, (2018), International Law and the Responsibility to Protect: Legal and Theoretical Basis for International Intervention in Nigeria, Journal of Sustainable Development, Law and Policy, Vol. 3, Afe Babalola University, Ado Ekiti, Ekiti State, 3, p.87

⁴ K Jacobsen. *The Forgotten Solution: Local Integration for Refugees in Developing Countries*. (New York: UNHCR 2001) p201-205

⁵ Cohen, (2006) Strengthening Protection of IDPs: The UN's Role, Georgetown Journal of International Affairs. p.101-102

⁶ AO Hamzat, (2016), Challenges of the Internally Displaced Persons and the Role of the Society. <https://www.thenigerianvoice.com/news/113484/challenges-of-the-internally-displaced-persons-and-the-role.html>, Accessed on 8th June, 2025

⁷ Article 1 of the United Nation Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, 1998

⁸ R Cohen, & F Deng, *Masses in Flight: The Global Crisis of Internal Displacement* (Washington D.C.: Brookings Institution 1998). p105

⁹ H Slim, *Humanitarian Ethics: A Guide to the Morality of Aid in War and Disaster* (Oxford: Oxford University Press 2015) pp41-45

¹⁰ Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), *Global Report on Internal Displacement 2024* (IDMC, 2024).

Adamawa and Yobe.¹¹ As a result of the non-international armed conflict between the Nigerian Government and the armed opposition, more than 1.76 million people are internally displaced in the North Eastern region of Nigeria.¹² The destruction of homes, schools, healthcare facilities and other critical infrastructure has compelled affected communities to seek safety in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps and host communities.

Communal and Inter-Communal Conflicts

Another major cause of displacement is communal and inter-communal conflicts. Competition over land, natural resources, political representation and ethnic or religious differences has resulted in recurring violence across several parts of the country. Farmer-herder conflicts in the North-Central region have become particularly significant, leading to widespread destruction of property, loss of lives and repeated displacement of rural populations. These conflicts have weakened local livelihoods and contributed to prolonged displacement in affected communities. Protracted inter-communal conflicts regularly lead to death and displacement throughout Nigeria.¹³

Flooding

Flooding and other environmental disasters have also become increasingly important drivers of internal displacement in Nigeria. Seasonal flooding, exacerbated by climate change, poor urban planning and inadequate drainage infrastructure, has displaced hundreds of thousands of persons in recent years.¹⁴ Flood disasters often destroy homes, farmlands and public infrastructure, thereby increasing humanitarian needs and disrupting access to education, healthcare and economic activities. The 2024 floods, for example, affected numerous states and represented one of the worst flood disasters in Nigeria's recent history.

Forced evictions

Forced evictions arising from urban development projects, infrastructure expansion and environmental conservation initiatives have equally contributed to internal displacement. In some instances, communities have been removed from their homes without adequate consultation, compensation or provision of alternative accommodation.¹⁵ Such evictions frequently expose affected populations to homelessness, poverty and heightened vulnerability, raising concerns regarding compliance with constitutional guarantees and international human rights standards. The interaction of these factors demonstrates that internal displacement in Nigeria is not solely a humanitarian issue but also a consequence of governance, security, environmental and socio-economic challenges.

4. Legal and Institutional Framework for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria

The protection of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nigeria is anchored on a combination of constitutional provisions, statutory enactments, institutional mechanisms and international obligations. Although Nigeria has not enacted a comprehensive legislation specifically regulating the protection of internally displaced persons, the existing legal and institutional framework provides an important basis for humanitarian protection and the promotion of the rights of displaced populations.

The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended)

The Nigerian Constitution contains provisions generally on fundamental human rights, including the right to life, liberty, personal security, and dignity.¹⁶ These rights are indispensable for individuals affected by conflict, as displacement often exposes them to violence, deprivation, and social marginalization. The Constitution, by enshrining these protections, obligate the government to ensure that even in times of instability or warfare, no one is arbitrarily deprived of these essential guarantees. For IDPs, even though not specifically mentioned, this means that their basic physical and civil security cannot be disregarded.

¹¹ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), *Nigeria Humanitarian Needs Overview* (2004)

¹² International Organisation for Migration (IOM). (2016).

¹³ Ibid, p.4

¹⁴ Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), *Global Report on Internal Displacement 2024*

¹⁵ United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, *General Comment No 7: The Right to Adequate Housing (Art 11(1)): Forced Evictions*, UN Doc E/1998/22 (1997); *Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE) v Sudan*, Communication No 296/2005

¹⁶ The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, Chapter 1V

The Child's Right Act 2003

The Child's Right Act¹⁷ considers a child to be in need if he or she is disabled, internally displaced, a refugee, or if his or her health and development are likely to be significantly impaired without assistance.¹⁸ Therefore, the state governments have the responsibility to "safeguard and promote the welfare" and upbringing of these children by providing services appropriate to their needs.¹⁹ The plight of children in armed conflicts is among the most urgent humanitarian and legal concerns, as they represent the most vulnerable segment of displaced populations. The Child's Right Act enacted to domesticate the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child provides a comprehensive legal framework aimed at safeguarding the well-being, dignity, and development of every child, regardless of their circumstances.²⁰ In the context of refugees and internally displaced persons, the Act serves as a critical instrument for ensuring that children's rights are neither overlooked nor violated, even amid the chaos and insecurity of conflict.²¹

The National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons 2012

The National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria²² represents a deliberate effort by states to systematize the protection and assistance of populations uprooted by conflict, recognizing that displacement is not merely a humanitarian concern but also a complex legal and social issue. Unlike refugees who cross international borders, IDPs remain under the jurisdiction of their own state, which therefore bears the primary responsibility for their safety and welfare. The policy framework seeks to ensure that displaced persons are treated not as passive victims but as rights-holders whose dignity, security, and access to essential services must be preserved even amid the instability of armed conflicts.

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) Act, 1999

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) Act²³ provides a statutory framework for coordinated disaster response, which becomes especially critical in the context of armed conflicts that displace populations. While primarily designed to address natural disasters and emergencies, the Act's provisions extend logically to situations of mass displacement caused by violence, as the conditions experienced by refugees and internally displaced persons often mirror those of disaster victims, loss of shelter, food insecurity, disrupted healthcare, and heightened vulnerability to exploitation. One defect of the NEMA Act is the fact that it does not contain any safeguards to stop discrimination or other types of arbitrary treatment of disaster victims, including internally displaced persons (IDPs), as is the case under international and regional framework.²⁴

National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) Act, 2022

The NCFRMI Act of 2022 represents a major advance in Nigeria's domestic legal framework for the protection of persons of concern namely refugees, migrants, and internally displaced persons (IDPs). The Act states one of its objectives is to "safeguard the interest of persons of concern in Nigeria by ensuring that the sanctity of human persons is protected" and to implement several international instruments, including the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, and the Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa.²⁵ This ensures that Nigeria explicitly aligns its domestic law with international refugee frameworks, thereby supporting stronger protection of persons displaced by persecution and conflict. Particularly relevant to the armed-conflict context are provisions that address internally displaced persons. The Act provides that the Commission shall be responsible for "the provision of durable solutions to internally displaced persons" and may collaborate with other relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).²⁶ The Act further prescribes duties such as providing comprehensive packages (start-up grants, information in understandable languages, designated resettlement areas), monitoring humanitarian support, and ensuring participation of IDPs in decision-making.²⁷

¹⁷ The Child's Right Act, 2003

¹⁸ *Ibid*, Sec. 171(10)

¹⁹ *Ibid*, Sec. 171(1)

²⁰ *Ibid*, Sec. 1

²¹ *Ibid*

²² The National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria, 2012

²³ The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) Act, 1999

²⁴ CJ Okongwu, SE Imoisi, and I Obieshi, 'Legal and Institutional Frameworks for Protection of Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria'. De Juriscope Law Journal [2023](3) (1) 7

²⁵ National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) Act, 2022

²⁶ *Ibid*, Sec. 28.

²⁷ *Ibid*, Sec. 29.

The Act also establishes institutional structures, including a Governing Board,²⁸ a Federal Commissioner²⁹ to provide governance and oversight of refugee, migrant and IDP protection. This Act fails to properly protect the rights of Internally Displaced Persons because it was originally created in 1989 only for refugees leaving Internally Displaced Persons without a clear legal framework.

The 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa.

The 1969 Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa represents a landmark regional instrument designed to address the unique challenges of refugee protection on the African continent. Building upon the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, the OAU Convention expands the definition of a refugee to include persons fleeing external aggression, occupation, foreign domination, or events seriously disturbing public order.³⁰ This broader scope is particularly relevant to Africa including Nigeria, where many refugees and displaced persons are forced to flee due to armed conflicts, civil wars, and generalized violence rather than individual persecution.

The 2009 African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internationally Displaced Persons in Africa (The Kampala Convention)

The African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention, 2009) represents the first legally binding regional instrument dedicated specifically to the protection of internally displaced persons (IDPs). It responds to the unique challenges faced by African states, where internal conflicts, civil wars, and generalized violence are major drivers of displacement. Unlike refugees, IDPs remain within their national borders, which places the primary responsibility for their protection on the state. The Kampala Convention recognizes this principle explicitly, obliging states including Nigeria to prevent displacement, protect the rights of IDPs, and provide durable solutions such as voluntary return, local integration, or resettlement.³¹

The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (1981)

The foundational protection for displaced persons lies in the preservation of their lives and dignity. Article 4 of the ACHPR guarantees the inviolability of human beings and the right to life, prohibiting the arbitrary deprivation of this right.³² During armed conflicts in Nigeria, IDPs and refugees frequently face indiscriminate attacks. The Charter mandates the Nigerian state to protect these populations from extrajudicial killings by both state and non-state actors. Furthermore, Article 5 prohibits all forms of exploitation, degradation, and torture.³³ This is highly relevant to displaced women and children in Nigerian IDP camps, who are disproportionately exposed to sexual violence and human trafficking. In the landmark case of *Social and Economic Rights Action Center (SERAC) v. Nigeria*,³⁴ the African Commission affirmed that the Nigerian government has a positive obligation to protect its citizens from destructive acts of third parties, establishing a precedent that applies directly to the protection of IDPs from insurgent violence.³⁵

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Over the decades, the UNHCR's mandate has expanded to include responsibilities toward internally displaced persons (IDPs) in situations of armed conflict, particularly where state authorities are unable or unwilling to provide adequate protection.³⁶ Central to UNHCR's operations is its role in protection, assistance, and durable solutions. The agency ensures that refugees and IDPs have access to fundamental rights, including shelter, food, health care, education, and legal documentation. Its operational model emphasizes neutrality, impartiality, and independence, which are critical for gaining access to vulnerable populations in volatile conflict zones.³⁷

²⁸ *Ibid*, Sec. 4.

²⁹ *Ibid*, Sec. 10.

³⁰ 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, Article 1(2),

³¹ The 2009 African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance Of Internationally Displaced Persons in Africa (The Kampala Convention), Article 4

³² The Africa Charter on Human and People's Right, (1981), Article 4

³³ *Ibid*, Article 5

³⁴ *SERAC & Another v Nigeria*(2001)AHRLR 60

³⁵ *Ibid*, Article 6

³⁶ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). (2023). *UNHCR Mandate and Role in Refugee Protection*. Available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/mandate-and-mission.html> accessed 19th October, 2025

³⁷ E Ferris. "The Politics of Protection: The Limits of UNHCR in Conflict Settings," *Refugee Survey Quarterly*, [2011] 30(4), pp. 1–20.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The ICRC operates under the framework of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols, which provide the legal basis for its activities, including ensuring the protection of civilians, prisoners of war, and displaced populations.³⁸ By emphasizing neutrality and impartiality, the ICRC can gain access to conflict zones where other organizations may be unable to operate, thereby providing critical protection and humanitarian assistance.³⁹ A core function of the ICRC in the protection of refugees and IDPs is the monitoring and promotion of compliance with IHL. Through confidential dialogue with parties to armed conflicts, the organization seeks to ensure respect for the principles of distinction, proportionality, and necessity, which are central to minimizing harm to civilians.⁴⁰ The ICRC also provides humanitarian assistance, including medical care, food, shelter and clean water as well as restoring family links disrupted by displacement. In protracted conflicts, the ICRC plays a pivotal role in advocating for the rights and safety of displaced populations, coordinating with governments, regional bodies, and international organizations, and facilitating voluntary repatriation and reintegration programs where conditions permit.⁴¹

5. Consequences of Armed Conflicts on Internally Displaced Persons

Although Nigeria has developed important legal and institutional mechanisms for the protection of internally displaced persons, significant outcomes continue to affect the effectiveness of the framework. The major concern is the gap between the legal/institutional framework and practical implementation. Many displaced persons continue to experience insecurity, inadequate access to essential services, limited accountability and difficulties achieving durable solutions.⁴²

Security Challenges in IDP Camps and Displaced Communities

Insecurity remains one of the greatest obstacles affecting displacement protection in Nigeria. Displaced communities continue to face threats including attacks, forced movement and fear of returning home. The insecurity affecting displacement locations also creates difficulties for humanitarian organization's attempt to provide assistance. Displaced persons may experience shortages of food, healthcare and protection services. A major challenge is the tension between return policies and actual security conditions.

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

Internally displaced persons, particularly women and children, face increased risks of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Displacement exposes vulnerable groups to exploitation, abuse and insecurity.⁴³ Women in displacement settings may face risks relating to inadequate shelter, lack of privacy, economic dependence and limited access to justice. Children may also face threats including exploitation, recruitment by armed groups and interruption of education. The persistence of these protection concerns demonstrates that displacement responses must go beyond material assistance and include specialised protection measures addressing gender, age and vulnerability.

Food Insecurity, Healthcare and Humanitarian Dependence

Many IDPs depend on humanitarian assistance for food, healthcare and shelter, particularly in areas where communities of origin remain unsafe or destroyed.⁴⁴ Food insecurity has been a major concern in conflict-affected regions, especially where agricultural activities have been disrupted. Similarly, inadequate healthcare facilities, shortage of medical personnel and limited access to psychological support affect the wellbeing of displaced persons. The continued dependence on humanitarian aid also raises concerns regarding the sustainability of Nigeria's displacement response. Humanitarian assistance is necessary, but long-term protection requires livelihood recovery and restoration of self-reliance.

³⁸ International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). (2023). *About the ICRC: Mission and Mandate*. Available at: <https://www.icrc.org/en/who-we-are/mission-and-mandate> accessed 10th October, 2025

³⁹ *Ibid*

⁴⁰ International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). (2022). *Annual Report: Protecting Civilians and Displaced Persons in Armed Conflicts*. Available at: <https://www.icrc.org/en/publication/annual-report> accessed 9th October, 2025

⁴¹ DP Forsythe. "The International Committee of the Red Cross and Humanitarian Protection in Armed Conflicts," *International Review of the Red Cross*, [2005] 87(857), pp. 1–35.

⁴² MT Maru, (2011) The Kampala Convention and its Contribution in Filling the Gap in International Law. *Journal of Internal Displacement*, Vol.1 No.1, p.93

⁴³ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), *Protection of Internally Displaced Persons: Gender-Based Violence and Protection Risks* (2024).

⁴⁴ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), *Nigeria Humanitarian Needs Overview* (2004).

Education and Livelihood Challenges

Displacement frequently disrupts access to education and economic opportunities. Many displaced children are unable to continue schooling due to insecurity, movement restrictions, lack of facilities and economic hardship.⁴⁵ Adults and households affected by displacement also face loss of livelihoods because they are separated from land, employment and economic resources. Without opportunities for income generation, displaced persons may remain dependent on humanitarian assistance for prolonged periods.

Weak Accountability Mechanisms and Challenges of Durable Solutions

Another major weakness in Nigeria's protection framework is the limited accountability mechanisms available for addressing displacement-related violations. Effective protection requires that persons responsible for forced displacement, violence and abuses are held accountable.⁴⁶ Furthermore, achieving durable solutions remains challenging. International standards recognise three main solutions: voluntary return, local integration and resettlement.⁴⁷ However, in Nigeria, many return processes are complicated by insecurity, destroyed infrastructure, lack of services and uncertainty regarding sustainable livelihoods. Consequently, some displaced persons remain in camps or temporary settlements for extended periods, creating what has been described as prolonged displacement. Overall, the challenges affecting Nigeria's protection framework reveal that the problem is not the total absence of laws or institutions but the weakness of implementation and enforcement. Strengthening the framework requires movement from short-term humanitarian assistance towards an approach focused on protection, accountability and realistic legal framework to protect the rights of Internally Displaced Persons.

6. Conclusion and Recommendation

Nigeria has established important legal and institutional mechanisms for the protection of internally displaced persons through constitutional provisions, statutory institutions and regional provisions. However, the effectiveness of this framework remains limited by weak implementation, inadequate institutional coordination and the absence of a comprehensive legal framework specifically addressing internal displacement. As a result, many internally displaced persons continue to face significant protection challenges despite existing legal and policy measures. To improve protection, Nigeria should enact a comprehensive Internally Displaced Persons Act that domesticates the Kampala Convention, strengthens institutional accountability and clearly defines the rights of internally displaced persons. The need for a proper coordination among relevant agencies, increased funding and a stronger focus on durable solutions are also essential to ensuring that humanitarian protection moves beyond emergency relief to the effective realization of the rights and dignity of displaced persons.

⁴⁵ UNICEF, *Education and Humanitarian Response Reports on Displaced Children in Nigeria*.

⁴⁶ W Kälin, *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement: Annotations* (American Society of International Law, 2008).

⁴⁷ United Nations Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), *Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons* (2010)