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CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN AFRICA

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Abstract

This paper interrogates the novel Coronavirus pandemic and how it affects internally displaced persons in Sub-Saharan Africa. It states that the internally displaced have over the years endured an awful abandonment by the UN, humanitarian organizations and national governments as well until lately towards the period of the end of the cold war when due attention began to be given to internal displacements like the refugees are. The paper underscores the fact that various factors are responsible for the state of the IDPs, however, prominent among these factors is the issue of sovereignty of states. Nations tend to protect their territorial spaces from all forms of external interventions, and this situation the UN and other humanitarian agencies are aware of. This paper uses the systems theory to interrogate the fact that the deliberate or oblivious negligence of the plights of the internally displaced remains a cog in the machine of progress in international relations and the battle to flatten the curve of the spread of the Covid 19 pandemic. The qualitative method of data analysis shall be adopted to ensure an objective interrogation of these concepts, hence primary and secondary source materials shall be used. It concludes that until the internally displaced are given a due attention just like their counterparts; the refugees, since they are also bona fide citizens of their home states and also a unit of the globe, it continues to be a spot on international relations and the international fight against Covid 19. The paper recommends that international organizations, national governments and non-governmental organizations should give due attention to the internally displaced like it is being given to refugees.

Keywords: Covid 19, Illegal migration, Internally Displaced Persons, Pandemics, Refugees.

Introduction

Pandemics and epidemics have over the course of human existences ravaged humanity and its existence. This have been a constant historical trajectory from a period which could be referred to as the prehistoric time unto our present time, and it has tended to alter human civilization and overall development ranging from circa in 3000BC in China, plague of the Athens around 430BC, Antonine plague between 165AD-180AD in the

Roman empire, the plague of Cyprian between AD 250-271, in a city in Tunisia, the plague of Justinian, AD 541-542, The black death 1346-1353AD Cocoliztli epidemic 1545-1548AD in Mexico and central America (cocoliztli is Aztec word of pest),The America plague of the 16th century AD, the great plague of London 1665-1666, Great plague of Marsseille 1720-1723, The Russian plague of the 18th century, the Philadelphian yellow fever epidemic of 1793, the flu pandemic of 1889-1890 (which the travels associated with the industrial age aided its easy spread) America polio epidemics of 1916, Spanish flu of 1918-1920, Asian flu of 1957-1958, AIDS Pandemic which has continued to scourge the globe since 1981, HINI swine flu. Pandemic between 2009-2010 which originated in Mexico, the Ebola epidemic, 2014-2016 which broke out in west Africa and the first case reported in Guinea (Livescience 2020) and the current corona virus or covid-19 SARS-COV-2 which was first discovered in Wuhan, China in early December 2019(WHO 2019). Since the outbreak of covid-19 pandemic in China and the rapid spread all over the globe, there has been an avalanche of works on the subject matter, its causes or origin of development, its impact, consequences, effects, and policies. The spread of the virus to all countries and continents of the world apart from the Antarctica at varying degrees has the more increased a global research on invention of a possible vaccine to combat the virus. Also researches postulating divergent theories on the possible cause of the development and the spread of the virus have continued and other assumptions by leaders and policy makers of nations all over the world. There however, is still paucity of works explaining how the novel coronavirus pandemic has affected the internally displaced person camps (IDPC) in Africa very specifically. The terrorists' activities which have created a social disorder in virtually all the regions of Africa; damaged lives, home and properties has led to governments' response by the establishment of camp for the IDPs which some have argued to be a salutary brooding ground for the spread of the virus. The peculiarities of internally displaced persons' and their camps suggest the peculiarities of policies on how to combat or perhaps manage the spread of the virus among them remain the purpose of this paper. We shall be concerned with how violence and other factors of displacements and the establishment of IDP camps in the affected regions in Africa have aided the spread of the virus because of lack of adequate welfare to these displaced persons when compared to those in refugee camps. To achieve the above, we shall begin our discourse by attempting to clarify the concepts; the coronavirus pandemic and internally displaced persons; which are the thrusts of this work.

Conceptual Discourses and Clarifications

We begin our conceptual discourse and clarifications by attempting to clarify coronavirus pandemic and internally displaced persons. *The COVID 19 Pandemic*: The coronavirus is a communicable respiratory disease caused by a novel strain of virus which causes illness in humans (Africa CDC 2020). It spreads from person to person through air droplets that are exhaled through sneezing or coughing. It can also be transmitted through touching surfaces that are contaminated by the virus and then touching the eyes, nose or mouth with the same hands. The coronavirus pandemic otherwise known as COVID 19 or SARS-COVID-2 has it first human cases recorded in the Wuhan city of China in December, 2019.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), some of the earlier cases were linked to a food market in Wuhan while others are not. Many of the Wuhan patients/victims were stall owners, market employees or regular visitors to the market. Environmental samples collected from the market tested positive to the viruses thereby strengthening the position that the virus originated from the market or perhaps its key role in its spread. Thus the market was shut in January 1st 2020 (WHO 2019). All over the world, the full genetics sequence of the virus shows that it has its origin in bats. According to the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Scientific and public health officials are working hard to discover the source of the COVID 19 virus. Although the initial transmission is from animals to human, however there have continued to be a human-to-human transmission (NCDC 2020). The first case of SARS-COVID-2 in Africa was recorded in Egypt in February 2020 which had been believed to have reached the continent through travellers returning from the hotspots of the virus. Since then, all the countries in Africa have reported cases. As of September 2nd, 2020, among the 55 African Union member states, there were already over 1.4 million cases, 34,077 deaths and over 1.1 million recoveries (Africa, CDC). After six months of recording the first case in Africa, there were over a million cases within the region (WHO Africa). On March 11, 2020 it was declared a pandemic by the WHO. Evidences show that the virus was carried either by travelers and tourists or indigenes who imported the virus from hotspots in Asia, Europe and America. There currently is no known vaccine for the treatment of the virus, however, it can be prevented through personal hygienic practices like washing of hands in soap and running water always, using alcohol based sanitizer, receiving all prescribed vaccines and influenza vaccine if available (Africa CDC 2020).

Internally Displaced Persons: The concept of IDPS developed as a result of an increase in conflicts, violence, human right violation, natural and artificial, disasters, terrorism, intra-national crisis. The exponential increase in this factor has led to a consequent establishment of camps for displaced persons by government, international organization and NGOs. They are often referred to as refugees but they don't fall into the legal conceptualization of refugee. According to Article (A)(2) of the 1951 Convention of International Justice, refugees are individuals who are outside their country of nationality or habitual residence who are unable or unwilling to return due to a well-founded fear of persecution based on their race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group, thereby seeking refuge in another country (IJRCENTER). From the above international displaced persons- including individuals fleeing natural disasters and general violence, stateless individuals but not outside their countries of habitual residence are not referred to as refugees. The Internally Displaced Persons flee their homes for the same reasons as the refugees. How then do we classify the for instance about 300, 000 Ethiopian nationals who fled Somalia to their home country to escape the civil war that ravaged Somalia? (Luke 1991) These were displaced in another country and so were refugees but returned to their country and became internally displaced. The point being made here is that one may have being a refugee in a host country but becomes an IDP in his home country if he flees the host country.

The concept of the displacement is not novel in human society as it has always been throughout the evolution of human civilization (Castles 2003). The reason is as a result of the fact that the factor that leads to displacement is as old as a man; internal conflicts, evil disorders, insecurity, international crisis, natural or man-made disaster, terrorism etc. In fact, it began in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve were displaced from their homeland; the Garden of Eden (KJV Bible). According to the guiding principles of international displacement in general, internally displaced persons are 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 or in order to avoid the effect of armed conflicts, situation of generalized violence, violation of human rights, natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border (Guiding Principles 1998). From the above, there are ingredients in the conceptualization of IDPS. They include: (a) Groups of persons (b) Forcefully removed (c) Forced to move as a result of fear of forcible removal (d) As a result of armed conflicts, generalized violence, violation of right. Natural or man-made disaster (e) Must be within their geographical boundaries.

It should be noted that most often and perhaps often until very recently, refugees have always received a better care than the internally displaced. The reason is because virtually all refugee camps are established and managed by international organizations. For instance, the conditions of IDPs in Ethiopia were worse than that of Sudanese and Somali refugees established by the UN High Commission for refugees in Ethiopia. They were as well worse than those externally displaced in Jordan during the gulf war that were cared for by the UN Humanitarian Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), Office of the UN Relief Coordinator and the Jordanian government and were soon returned to their homelands. Having said this, Robata Cohen and the UN's conceptualization of IDPs shall be adopted for the purpose of this work. Cohen conceptualized IDPs as people who have been forcibly uprooted within their own countries by war or human right abuse (Cohen 2006).

Historicity of IDPs The concept of IDPs surfaced in international discourse at the end of the cold war (Cohn 2006). After the world-war11, created a structure to assist those who fled by their nation borders, however this structure did not include those who remained displaced within the geographical boundaries. They are often referred to as internal refugees. For instance, the international community just stood and watched when the Igbos were displaced internally the 1967 war. Even in Sudan they failed to take action when Sudanese were starved to death. It should be noted that chiefly, the sovereignty of nations restricted any form of international intervention in the internal affairs of affected nations as it was viewed as a limitation to absolute sovereignty of these nations over their citizens and territorial boundaries. However, how to deal with this peculiar situation became to a problem to the international community as both refugees and IDPs were displaced by exactly the same factors but the only point of divergence was one been within the geographical boundaries and the other been without.

After Ethiopia was ravaged with drought, famine and civil war, the need to create a system to protect IDPs started appearing at the front burner of the international human rights system. FrancisM. Deng, a diplomat from Sudan; the community with the highest

numbers of IDPs of about 4million was appointed to spearhead the study on IDPs. Francis Deng in collaboration with Roberta Cohen produced a work which provided a frame work for both government and international agencies to intervene in the plight of IDPs in 1998 (Deng and Cohen 1998).Globally according to the non-Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC), conflicts and disasters triggered 33.4 million internal displacements across 145 countries and territories in 2019 (GRID 2020). According to Alexander Bilak; Director of IDMC: “Conflicts, violence and disasters continue to uproot millions of people from their homes every year. Never in IDMC history have we recorded more people internally displaced than we do today” (GRID 2020).

At the end of 2019, there were about 50.8 million internally displaced persons across the world 45.7 million as a result of conflict and violence and 5.1 million as a result of disasters. According to the same source in Sub-Saharan Africa armed conflict, communal violence, jihadist attacks and disaster in most countries account for about 8 million internal displacement cases 4.6 million as a result of violence and 3.4 million as a result of disaster, while in Middle East and North Africa, about 2.6 million were displaced as a result of violence and over 630, 000 displaced as a result of disasters. The figures account for about 24.1% of global total displacements, while that in Middle East account for 9.6% of global total (GRID 2020). Why is Sub-Saharan Africa the most affected by displacements especially by conflicts in the world and in 2019? The reason can only be explained by the rate of poverty, hunger and lack in these countries. Also, undeveloped political systems, which has led to a gross manifestation of dissatisfaction and protracted crisis, economic instability, political instability, over dependence on natural resources and religion.

COVID 19 and IDP Camps It should be noted that in Africa, the root of displacement has continued to exist and incubated however, they have not manifested fully like it is today. The drivers of internal displacement in Africa are multifaceted and include ethnic rivalry, religion, violence, landed conflicts and natural resources related violence. For instance, Nigerian is made up of over 250 ethnic nationalities and more languages. Thus communal and inter communal disputes and violence have continued to exist in the Nigerian state. Religious violence has up till today not cased to deal a great on the unity of Nigeria. In Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger Jihadist continue to cause mass displacements. Muslims and Christians in Nigeria remains divided and this has to also been manifest in their play of politics. This has to led to politics being played along religion and ethnic lines. Oil in the Niger delta region has remained what some have termed a curse as it has led to untold crisis and violence among the natives, oil companies and the Nigeria government.

However, since the jihadist attack and terrorism by the members of the Boko haram terrorist groups began their insurgency in 2009, it is now in its 11th year, yet the attacks are not nearing a halt. Farmers and herdsmen clash more recently; more persons have continually been displaced in an unprecedented number either as a result of attack by the insurgent groups or for fear of being attacked. According to the internal displacement monitoring center, the major cause of displacements in Nigeria are the initiated Islamic terrorist group (Boko haram) in northeastern Nigeria competition between nomadic pastoralists groups and farmers in the central region Fulani pastoralists and Hausa farmers

in the northwest and flood (IDMC 2020). In Nigeria, about 473, 000 persons were living in displacement camps. In the East and the Horn of Africa, the major cause of displacement is flood. The region's most affected country is the Democratic Republic of Congo where ethnicity, poverty, and local grievances are responsible for most displacements. In Cameroon, crisis has continued to rock the Anglophone areas. In Chad, Boko Haram insurgency, farmers and pastoralists clashes and flood account for most displacement cases (IDMC 2020).

With the pandemic having been on for several months and the drivers of displacement very active, IDP camps continue to record a robust of influx of displaced persons. The question is with the institutional and infrastructural weaknesses in the Africa's health systems and political instabilities rocking the system which the non-displaced are unable to grapple with, what is the fate of the IDPs in the camps in this fight against the coronavirus pandemic? Thus if this is the fate of the green tress, what would happen to the dry tree? It is on record that the critical weaknesses of Africa's health system have been made bare without hope of eternal aids, the capacity of virus detection, material and health supports (testing kits and qualified personnel) and the need for social and physical distancing, which is not practicable in most African states. The obvious hence is that most IDPs and their camps will yet suffer abandonment and so serve as a brooding/ incubating ground for the coronavirus. This is an indisputable fact. The possibility of the Africa's centre for disease control and other international and NGOS giving out massive medical services to internally displaced persons is very slim. The implication of these is that infected persons may mask the virus unawares and serve as carriers and transmitters of the virus to others since the virus thrives and spreads more in a congested environment. Against the backdrop one can safely infer that the figures from regions were IDPs camps located are perhaps forged, guessed or not factual. The point being made is that, given the fact that the IDP camps are usually so densely populated with little or no medical care the virus will spread easier and quicker in these camps as they serve as a favorable environment for contracting, hatching and spreading the virus. Also, facts show that these camps are usually dominated by aged persons, women and children. The fact that the virus spread and causes more adult mortality makes the situation deadlier in such camps. This is then a deadly situation given the fact that Africa has about 28% of the total IDPs and the least cared for as well in the world.

It should also be noted that as a result of the global restriction of movement, tourism and other individual activities, the price of primary goods and raw materials; oil especially slumped to its lowest in decades and the fact that most African economies are suppliers of raw materials as their major foreign exchange earners puts the region in an economic strait too difficult to manage. The implication of this is that funds to manage the IDPs will be far below the demands, thus making sustaining IDPs during the COVID era a herculean task. This also implies that the supply of food and other agricultural produce in these camps will greatly be at their lowest ebb, which will create hunger and malnutrition to internally displaced persons making them more vulnerable to the disease. For instance, in Northern Uganda, poverty was the reason for inadequate care of the internally displaced as their

care was left for the districts to do and monies in the districts were so meagre for development not to talk of humanitarian aids (Kalin 2008).

Also, the global health emergency created by the pandemic places individuals in the violence prone regions of Africa at the risk of more attacks or threats from their predators and also from other natural causes of displacements. According to Berger Chloe and Salloum Cynthia, terrorists exploit disorders (Berger and Salloum 2020). They take advantage of chaos during the period of disorder to carryout terrorist activities. The point being made is that Covid 19 has affected negatively the defense preparedness and readiness to ward off such attacks as all production and government's efforts are geared towards combating the pandemic and flattening the curve. This has reduced the operational levels of the armed forces of nation leaving citizens in the violence or terrorists prone regions almost at the mercies of their predating insurgents.

Theoretical Perspective: System Theory

Several theories have been analyzed by different scholars to explain the causes of insecurity in Nigeria system. They include structural functionalism theory (Augusto Comte, 1798 – 1959, Herbert Spencer, 1920 – 1903, Emile Durkheim, 1902 – 1979), (Karl Marx, 1843, Claude Ake, 1981, Bade, 1973, Aja Akpuru Aja, 1998), relative deprivation by (Davis, 1959, Gurr, 1970, Nage, 1974), frustration aggression theory (Dollard, 1939), Natural state theory (Ahmad, 1941, Ross, 1937, Copestone, 1946), etc.

In this regard, all the theories mentioned above have provided insight into the existence of the Coronavirus Pandemic and Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) in the world, particularly in third world countries but are inadequate to explain their persistence in spite of strategic measures exerted by government to curb the menace. This ugly situation has made us to adopt system theory as a suitable framework of analysis because of its ability to cover gaps in the existing literature and extant measures of tackling internally displaced person in Africa. The term system theory or General System Theory (GST) was developed by Ludwig Von Bertalanffy in 1968 as a response to the increasing fragmentation and duplication of scientific and technological research and decision making in the first half of the 20th century. The other proponent of the system theory are Talcott Parson (1937), David Easton (1953), Kenneth Boulding (1956), Oran Young (1968), Karl Deutach (1963), Rapport Anatol (1968), David Ginger (1972), George Modesk (1970) etc. The concept of system theory did not own its origin to Political Science but was developed in biology by Ludwig Von Bertalanffy in 1968, who was regarded as the father of the General System Theory as an earlier noted and made operational in the social sciences of discipline such as Anthropology, sociology, etc (Talcott Parsons, 1937).

Consequently, David Easton in 1953 was the first scholar to apply the system theory to the activities of people, especially in politics to explain what happens in political system and a elaborated his conception in 1965 in his two work. A framework for political analysis and a system analysis of political life. A system according to Leeds (1981:85) is a grouping of separate but interdependent parts which form a complex whole to achieve some objective. Ludwig Bertalanffy (1968) defined system as a complex of element standing in interaction. Moreso, Nwosu and Ofoegbu (1980:85) defined systems as an organized whole

in dynamic interaction. According to Okere (2003:84), system theory is a series of statements about relationships among independent and dependent variable in which changes in one or more variable are accompanied or followed by changes in other variable or lightly organized. For instance, change in global system affect continental level, regional level and the national level. Although the change may be stable or unstable. However, the basic assumption of system theory as developed by David Easton in 1965 in Iheanacho (2018: 232) are following: (a) Changes in the social or physical environment surrounding a political system produce “demands” and supports for action or status quo, directed as “inputs” towards the political system through political behaviour. (b) These demands and supporting groups stimulate competition in the political system, leading to decisions or “outputs” directed at some aspect of the surrounding social or political environment. (c) After a decision or output is made (e.g specific policy), it interact with its environment and if it produces change in the environment, there is “outcome”. (d) When a new policy interacts with its environment “outcomes” may generate new demands or support and groups in support or against the policy (feedback) or a new policy on some related matter. (e) Feedback leads back to step (a) forming a never-ending cycle (system theory in political Science, 2016).

Furthermore, on the basic assumption of system theory, Akena (2003:122) imports that the inputs which emanate from the environment of the political system includes those demands made upon the system in the form of the people demanding for better standards of living, increased pay package for workers, provision of infrastructural facilities and the respect for the fundamental rights of the citizens. The system equally needed support from the environment such as payment of taxes by the people, talking up appointments to serve in positions in government, etc. Another attribute of David Easton’s system’s model are output which emanates from the system to the environment comes in form of decisions and actions such as rules, regulations, legal system, administrative, decisions and actions. Finally, feedback is the channeling of information about societal reactions to decisions emanating from the system. The net result of the feedback will show whether the system is dysfunctional or eu-functional. This means that if the system is functioning effectively and responding to demands and input in the environment, there will be stability and development in the political system. The failure of the political system to address the demand from the environment will result in breakdown in the system, thereby making the political system to be dysfunctional.

Against this background, this theory is applicable to the study because of the challenges faced by the UN Humanitarian Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the host country in achieving security and protection of human right which is enshrined in article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) established on November 10, 1948. The rights to seek a safe place to live if we are frightened of being badly treated in our own country, we have the right to run away to another country to be safe. However, the above right to internally displaced persons and refugees which have crossed the national borders has become threats to security in host country and global security as well. This occurs as a result of the inability of the political system to respond to the demands and input in the environment.

In this regard, the inability of the country of origin (refugees) to address the security challenges such as BOKO HARAM in Nigeria, political unrest in Thailand, Syria crisis, Ethiopia conflict, Iraq conflict, etc is the push and pull factor making them to ensure they cross their states boundaries for safety. According to Zartman (1999:20) insecurity or conflict occurs when the basic functions of the state are no longer performed and where the institutions of the state such as authority, law and order have been substantially weakened and challenged. A state comes into being by its ability to guarantee the security and well-being of its citizens, protest the territorial integrity of the state and relate with others in the comity of nations.

Impact of IDPs on the Global Community Vis-a-Vis the Covid 19 Pandemic

The awakening in the international community vis-à-vis the deplorable state of IDPs all over the globe towards the end of the second millennium AD and the beginning of the new establishes the fact that the global community is a system in which if a unit of the system is affected, the whole would be affected. As was stated elsewhere in this paper, at the end of 2019, there about 50.8 million persons who had suffered displacement from all over the world, which cases of displacements were recorded from all over the world makes the point very tangible. Internally Displaced Persons have been impacted in the following ways.

The sporadic increase of internally displaced persons who were the least attended to has had a ripple effect on the refugee crisis. Before 1998, the international community was essentially concerned with mitigating refugee crisis all over the world but abandoned the plights of the internally displaced. It should be noted as have been stated elsewhere in this paper that both refugees and internally displaced persons were uprooted from their homelands or habitations for same reasons; violence, fear of violence and natural disasters. The only difference between them is that while refugees have crossed the national borders, the internally displaced have not. The implication of this situation is that if the internally displaced persons cross their national boundaries, they would perhaps become refugees. This will act as a push and pull factor making them to ensure they cross their states' boundaries so as to begin to also attract international attention and responses, thus swelling the number of refugees in those host countries which will be difficult for the host countries to cope with. The above situation will definitely have a bandwagon effect on the International community.

In addition, the international community has been affected by the sporadic increase in the cases of internal displacements by also causing a geometric increase in the spate of forced migrations and illegal migrations. This situation is as a result of the understanding that since IDPs are the least cared for by the national governments, humanitarian agencies and/or the international organisations and crossing the border either by hook or crook will upturn the status quo. For instance, the conditions of IDPs in Ethiopia were worse than that of Sudanese and Somali refugees established by the UN High Commission for refugees in Ethiopia. They were as well worse than those externally displaced in Jordan during the gulf war that were cared for by the UN Humanitarian Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), Office of the UN Relief Coordinator and the Jordanian government and were

soon returned to their homelands (Luke 1991). This alone is a pull factor for IDPs. The reason for this is not far-fetched. Poverty, external aids and sovereignty remain potent reasons lack of care for IDPs and IDP camps. Most African nations cannot fund their national budgets without external aids and loans, how much of it then would be dedicated to the internally displaced persons? Also international organizations usually concern themselves with refugees because national governments tend to always protect their sovereignties from external interference by international organizations and more so, the guiding principles is a document having no force of execution. This is truer especially when the reasons for the displacement are the national governments perhaps through state sponsored terrorism or refusal to show some responsibility for the lives of their citizens. Some questions begging for answers are; Are the internally displaced still humans? Should they be protected by human rights? Do they have a place in their nations' constitutions? Do they have to cross national boundaries to be guaranteed of protection? How much do the practical states of the internally displaced conform to the human rights standards? Even in states where there is a political will to help internally displaced persons, applicable legislation does not take into account the peculiarities of IDPs. For instance, IDPs in Cote d'Ivoire needed birth certificates to get access to schools. In other places they were disenfranchised because there were no constitutional provisions to address their specific needs (Kalin 2008). It should be noted that any nation's constitution that does not take in adequate consideration the welfare of her displaced has respect for the humanness of these citizens who have become victims of circumstances.

There is a disconnect between the global humanitarian agencies especially of the UN and the national governments or between the guiding principles and domestic laws. The assembly of states in New York for the World Summit in 2005 and adopted the guiding principles as an important international framework for the protection of the internally displaced and this has been given a further push by some regional organizations as well as some countries with internally displaced persons. Other countries however continue to view internal displacements as internal affairs and as the exclusive prerogative of national governments in which any international involvement will amount to a violation of national sovereignty (Kalin 2008). This means that the guiding principles are not a binding legal document that can be enforced, but one left at the will of national governments. For the guiding principles to be set at work in these places where they are dormant there need to be a way of incorporating them into domestic laws. So, the development of the guiding principles by the UN is not an end in itself but a means to an end, hence a work in progress.

This will also lead to forced and illegal migrations specially to border towns of another nation so as to be seen as a refugee with the associated vices and lack of proper accountability and documentation. Similarly, this situation could lead to cross border criminality or perhaps criminal activities by those displaced persons in other nations where they seek to become refugees. The former, in relation to the Covid 19 pandemic, it will eventually lead to lack of accountability by the countries where the internally displaced persons forcefully or illegally migrated to. The point being stated here is that Covid 19 pandemic which has scourged the globe, which in a bid to flatten the curve, nations have closed up their international and intra-national borders. The begging

question is; how would nations account for these illegal migrants? How would they ascertain that they are Covid 19 free? This is almost going to be counterproductive in the fight against Covid 19 pandemic in these affected places. From the foregoing, it is clear that the world being a system in which a dysfunctional unit will affect the functioning of the whole, hence if the plights of the internally displaced are not ameliorated, it will continue to plague the international community.

Conclusion

This work has successfully established the historical fact that both pandemics and internal displacements are not novel phenomena in the history of human existence. Also, the cause of these pandemics may be man-made (as believed by some about the coronavirus pandemic in China) or natural, animal to human transmission or human to human transmission. In addition to this, humans also are displaced for various reasons ranging from violence, government persecution, fear of violence or non-human causes like floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, etc.

It has also been shown in this work that both refugees and internally displaced persons are often displaced or uprooted for the same reasons, however, over the ages refugees have often received greater international, humanitarian and national attention in the host countries unlike the internally displaced. The reason has been shown is as a result of both nationals and international organizations view internal displacements as internal issues which the internal governments of the displaced should preside over, against which any external involvement is a violation of the nation's sovereignty and territorial autonomy. This trend continued until the end of the cold war when the United Nations Humanitarian Organisation developed the guiding principles for internally displaced persons. Up till today, there remains a yawning gap in the area of scholarship as a result of paucity of materials addressing the issue of internal displacements. Accordingly, this work concludes by stating that internally displaced persons and their camps are very conducive environments for the spread and incubation of the current coronavirus pandemic, hence it continues to be a global concern both nationally and internationally.

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