

MIGRATION AND MOBILITY CONFERENCE

INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT AND CROSS BORDER MOVEMENT OF NIGERIAN NATIONALS

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Introduction

Purpose of Presentation

To examine internal displacement and the subsequent cross border movement within the ECOWAS Sub-region. It also examines the genderedness of internal displacement in Nigeria



Data and Methods

Secondary and primary data sources: government and non-governmental organisations' reports and newspapers; Content Analysis, document analysis



Outline of Presentation

Forced migration; Typologies of internal displacement; Cross-border movement vis-à-vis ECOWAS Treaty on free movement; and conclusions

Definition of Key Concepts

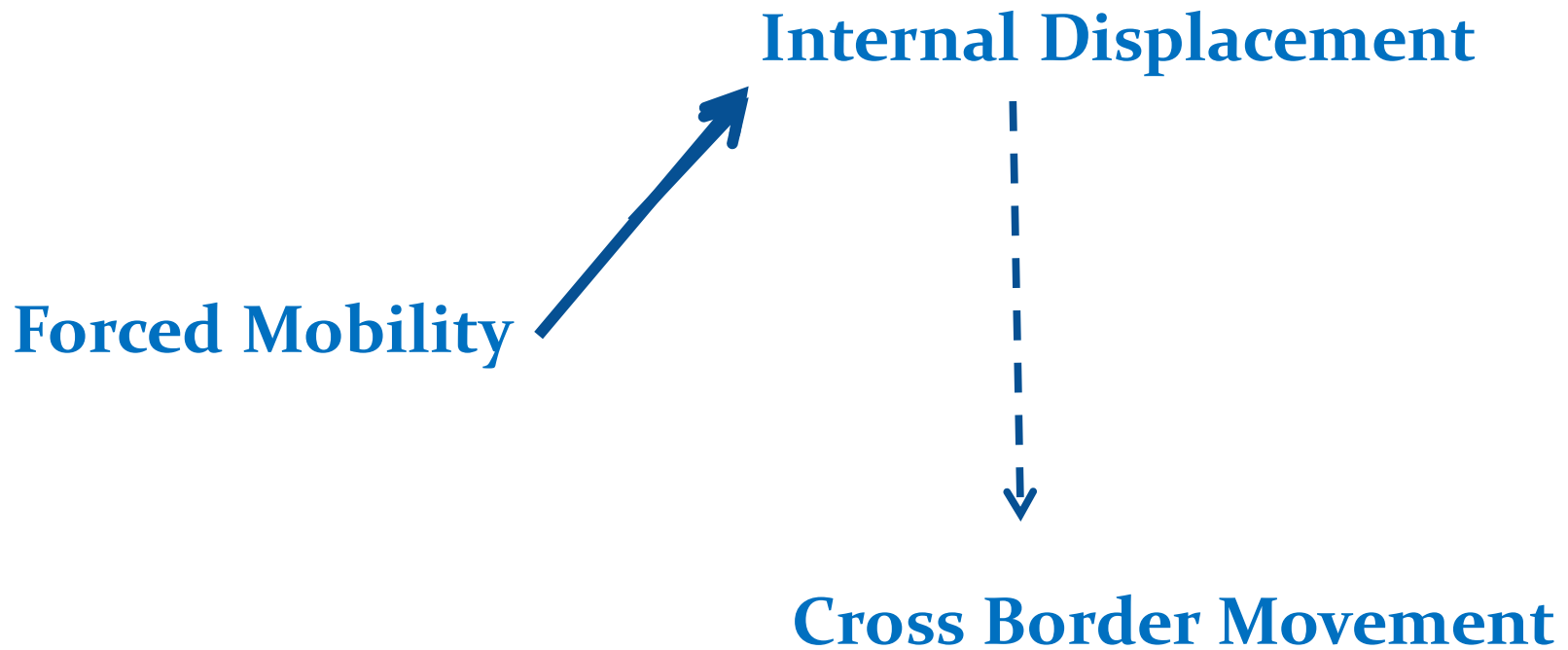
- **Forced mobility is defined here as:**

a migratory movement in which an element of coercion exists, including threats to life and livelihood, whether arising from natural or man-made causes (example movements of refugees and internally displaced persons as well as people displaced by natural or environmental disasters, chemical or nuclear disasters, famine, or development projects) (IOM, 2004:25).

United Nations Guiding Principles on IDPs in 1998 defines IDPs 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 generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border (1998:5).

Forced Migration of Internal Displacement in Nigeria



Typologies of Internal of Displacement in Nigeria

Climate Change

- Flooding
- Desertification

Terrorist attacks and Ethno- religious Conflicts

- Boko Haram
- Ethnic Conflicts

Forced Eviction

- Government
Developmental Projects

Table 1: Internal Displacement caused by flood in Nigeria (2009-2012)

Year	Affected Population
2009	140,000
2010	560,000
2011	6,300
2012	6,112,000
Total	6,818,000

Gendered Impacts

- Displacement is not free from gender bias
- Most of the few IDPs data overlook the gender embedded nature of internal displacement in Nigeria

The Linkage and Assessment of Cross Border Movement of IDPs and the 1979 ECOWAS Protocol

- The ECOWAS protocol on free movement of persons, residence and establishment was enacted in May 1979 by all member countries.
- The protocol did set out a three phased approach over a period of 15 years to allow **the right to entry and abolition of visas**; free residence; and right to establishment (Adepoju, 2008)

Conclusion and Key Research Gaps

- The paper has argued that inasmuch as some Nigerians migrate voluntarily, there are others who are forced to move internally
- Some of the IDPs who move beyond the national borders lack basic legal and humanitarian support as they do not qualify as refugees neither are they protected under any international law
- Gender is embedded in internal displacement and recommends that future research should not overlook the gender bias
- Significant obstacles in the ECOWAS protocol against free mobility within the sub-region
- The research also concludes that internal displacement is not always transient as a result sustainable and income generating trainings may contribute to the wellbeing of IDPs

THANK YOU

