KEYNOTE ADDRESS ON SUSTAINABLE FINANCING FOR DURABLE SOLUTIONS TO DISPLACEMENT IN NIGERIA

DELIVERED

BY

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AT

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ALL PROTOCOLS DULY OBSERVED.

Distinguished Chairperson, I would like to express my profound gratitude to the Honourable Federal Commissioner, NCFRMI, for inviting me to deliver this keynote address on a pertinent subject of "sustainable financing for durable solutions to Displacement in Nigeria".

It is common knowledge that national statutory budgetary allocation to any Ministry, Department and Agency (MDA) is never adequate, and this is compounded by the current global energy and food crisis , resulting into more and more displaced population being pushed to the level of impoverishment. E.g the 2022 Appropriation reveals that the NCFR got a total allocation of 12.3bn:-personnel-627mm, overhead 555mm and capital 11.1 bn. Hence, the justification for Sustainable financing for durable solutions to displacement in Nigeria lies in 5 basic factors : -

First, forced displacement of population (as either Refugees or IDPS) for whatever cause(s), is both a humanitarian crisis and a sustainable development challenge because, it has significant developmental

impacts affecting human and social capital, economic growth, poverty reduction efforts, and environmental sustainability.

Second, forced displacement has an important bearing on meeting the SDGs 1-10, since displaced populations tend to be the poorest and often experience particular difficult access to basic social services (health, education, water and sanitation).

Third, because displacement itself might undermine or even reverse the development of nation, State or region and it always increases the risk of impoverishment and perceived marginalisation of already vulnerable groups in society.

Fourth, on the other hand, a well designed development interventions with sustainable funding regime, can help to prevent displacement by Stabilising fragile communities and offer employment opportunities which may improve food production, and the upgrading of health and education services has a lasting local impact, even after Displaced persons / IDPs have returned to their homes safely.

Fifth, all the above raise one fundamental question in a search for durable solution to the plight of displaced persons: - who are the identified actors responsible for mobilising sustainable financing for durable solutions to displacement in Nigeria ?

Answer: - The primary responsibility both by treat and constitutional obligations lies on the government at all levels of governance because, in the case of IDPs, they have never Ceased to be citizens of Nigeria in which they were internally displaced. So by virtue of Section 14(2)(b) on primary purpose of government; sections 16 (2) (d) and 17 (3) on social security and protection for the vulnerable group; as well as the Kampala Convention on IDPs, place the primary obligation on the national government to respect, promote and protect the rights of IDPs in its economic, social, cultural and political contexts, and to assist them in all phases of displacement, including safe return, reintegration and reconstruction etc, that are essentially Capital intensive, which government alone cannot handle.

NB: - Next to government is the Development Actors and the private sector who need to supplement government's efforts in a search for durable solutions to the plight of displaced population and they can do the 4 Key interventions :-

1. Be guided by the Human rights and development approach for sustainable financing and development action or initiatives because this approach is a responsibility-based approach asking who is, and who should be responsible for what with respect to whom?

2. By strengthening national and local governance, action: - in terms of
   a) Improving local capacities to address internal Displacement & Support Durable solution in a transparent & accountable manner.
   b) Supporting local authorities in the design, planning and implementation of Community-based Projects to reintegrate IDPs.
3. Concerted efforts by development actors in supporting States to improving access to basic social services: - affecting the right of Displaced persons to healthcare, education, water & sanitation, both during and after displacement.
4. Re-establishment of livelihoods & food security through initiatives such as: -
   a) temporary work programs with payment in cash or food, vocational training programs or shorter skills training programs to improve chance of entering labour market.
   b) Improving access to and provision of productive assets such as markets, land, Livestock, tools & micro-credits without discrimination
5. Providing access to housing, land, property & temporary shelter: - Action / initiatives - aimed at protecting the land and property IDPs left behind or help them recover or replace their lost properties.