

## National Commission For Refugees, Migrants, And Internally Displaced Persons (NCRMIDP) And Irregular Migration In Nigeria

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### *Abstract*

Both regular and irregular migration remain among the most divisive issues among states today. Though not a new phenomenon, migration flows have been increasing over the last three decades. Besides, since 9/11 and the subsequent 'Global War on Terrorism', migration has become an intense object for security analysis as it is undeniable how terrorism shape's public opinion on migration and affects political movements inside civil society and party systems. Therefore, this study examined the roles of the role of the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons in curbing Irregular Migration that has posed threat to Nigeria's National Security. The data for this study were collected from various secondary sources such as textbooks, journals, Reports from the International Office on Migration and other internet sources. Moreover, content analysis was employed in analysing the data collected. The human security approach was employed in this study. This study revealed that the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons has played important role in curbing the inflow of irregular migrants but their efforts have been impeded by the porous nature of the Nigeria borders and patchy data from the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) on immigrants into Nigeria among others. Also, the study further shows that irregular migration has poses enormous threat

to Nigeria's national security. Thus, calling for urgent effort by the Nigerian state. This study recommends among other things that there is the need to enhance Nigeria border management through increased and targeted training of staff of the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons and the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS).

Keywords: Migration, Irregular Migration, Nigeria, Security, Border.

### **Introduction**

The movement of persons and goods across national frontiers is as old as the history of man himself. The issue of migration has become more topical in recent time than before. It is important to note that a number of factors have triggered the migration of persons across national frontiers over the years. Though, some of the reasons advanced for this movement ranges from the search for greener pasture, humanitarian crises necessitated by man-made disaster like war, violent conflicts and non-man-made disaster like flood, earthquake, volcano among others.

Besides, states have the prerogative to restrict the movement of persons and goods into their territory, but they have been doing that with some level of caution so as not to violate human rights which they are signatory to especially the United Nations Declaration on Human Right and other international legal instruments on human rights. Moreover, one of the measures adopted by most states to regulate the movement of migrant especially irregular ones is by criminalising their movement. The criminalisation of people on the basis of their migration status also reinforces false and xenophobic narratives that migrants are criminals or that migration itself is a threat.

Though, several international, regional, interregional and sub-regional conferences have been organized to address the growing challenges emanating from irregular migration across the world. The first efforts by countries of the world to look into this aspect of threat to the movement of persons across national frontiers was the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo, Egypt in 1994, in which the relationship between population and development were discussed.

Other efforts at discussing issues that affects irregular migration was the report of the Global Commission for International Migration and Development (2005); the United Nations High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Development (2006), and the Global Commission for International Migration and Development in Brussels (2007), Global

Commission for International Migration and Development in Manila (2008), Global Commission for International Migration and Development in Athens (2009), Global Commission for International Migration and Development in Mexico (2010), Global Commission for International Migration and Development in Geneva (2011) Global Commission for International Migration and Development in Mauritius (2012).

At the interregional level (EU-African dialogue) we have the Euro-African Conference on Migration and Development (2006), the Joint African-EU Declaration on Migration and Development (2006), the follow-up meeting of the Rabat Process (2007), in Madrid, and the EU-African Summit in Lisbon (2008). At the regional level in Africa, we have the African Union Strategic Framework for a Policy on Migration (2004) and the African Union Common Position on Migration and Development (2006). Also, the adoption by African Heads of State of AU's Migration Policy Framework for Africa in Banjul (2006) which provided the basis for a comprehensive and integrated policy guideline for AU Member States for the preparation and adoption of national and regional migration policies.

It is important to note that it was the AU's Migration Policy Framework for Africa in Banjul (2006) that set the pace for the ECOWAS Common Approach on Migration in (2008) that seeks to better the implementation of the protocol on the free movement of persons, the rights of residence and establishment; combating human trafficking and providing humanitarian assistance; harmonizing policies and bilateral agreements with other countries; protection of the rights of migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees; ensuring the implementation of the protocol on free movement of persons within the ECOWAS sub-region and the international convention on the rights of migrants and their families; and recognizing the gender dimension of migrants (International Organisation for Migration, 2015:15-16).

In Nigeria, since the adoption of the ECOWAS protocol on the freedom of movement enshrined in the ECOWAS protocol, of 29 May 1979, on the free movement of persons, the right of residence and establishment. The protocol allows ECOWAS citizens to enter any member state without a visa. Also, to reside in any ECOWAS member countries for up to 90 days without a visa and apply, after 90 days, for a permanent residence permit which allows them to start businesses, seek employment and invest. Though, it was the first phase of the ECOWAS protocol that has been implemented which led to the introduction of the ECOWAS passport in 2000 which abolished visa requirements if the stay of a citizen of any ECOWAS member state does not exceed 90 days. While, the second phase that give right of residence and the third which has to do with the right to

establishment have not been implemented (International Organisation for Migration, 2015:17).

Since 1979, various ECOWAS member states have been formulating national migration and sectoral policies that will help them provide an operational framework and coordinate migration management. It is against this backdrop that the National Migration Policy was enacted in 2015 to address key issues of migrants' rights and their contributions to development, based on existing national laws in the country such as Immigration Act 1963, protection migrants act 2003, laws against trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling 2005, child labour law/child right 2003, and the labour act 2004. In the light of the above, the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) was established to work closely with other Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDA) involved in migration and development policies in Nigeria. It is against this background, this study seeks to examine the role of the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants in regulating irregular migrants into Nigeria. Also, to examine implications of irregular migration on Nigeria's national security.

### **Conceptual Review: Migration, Irregular/Illegal Migrant and Security/Human Security**

The concept of migration and irregular migration has been variously defined in International Relations literature by scholars. Migrants are usually classified by four 'categories of entry': permanent and family reunification-seeking migrants, migrant workers, undocumented or 'illegal' immigrants, and asylum-seeker (Stalker, 2002; Meyers, 2004). The International Organization for Migration (IOM) defines migration as "The movement of a person or a group of persons, either across an international border, or within a State. It is a population movement, encompassing any kind of movement of people, whatever its length, composition and causes; it includes migration of refugees, displaced persons, economic migrants, and persons moving for other purposes, including family reunification" (IOM, 2015).

However, the concept of irregular migration has been interchangeably used with concept like undocumented migration, unauthorized migration, clandestine migration and illegal migration in International Relations literature by scholars. According to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) report (2020:9) define Irregular migrant as "a person who, owing to his or her unauthorized entry, breach of a condition of entry, or the expiry of his or her visa, lacks legal status in a transit or host country. The definition covers among other things those persons who have entered a transit or host country lawfully but have stayed for a long period than authorized, or those who have subsequently taken unauthorized employment (also

called “clandestine/undocumented migrant” or “migrant in an irregular situation”). The concept “irregular” is preferable to “illegal” because the latter carries a criminal connotation and is seen as denying migrants’ humanity.

According to the National Migration Policy (2015), irregular migration includes those “sophisticated, high-risk, daring and evasive methods to enter Europe clandestinely”. Irregular migration does not aim to take the migrant into Europe alone, but into all the countries of the global north. As such the desperation that fuels irregular migration also leads to a situation in which migrants become inadvertently exposed to the dark realities of international travel. Broadly considered, irregular travel includes all those who work in the “underground economies” of Europe, domestic workers who are denied their rights by their employers, those individuals (mostly ladies) trafficked to work in the highly racialised sex industries of Europe and Dubai, as well as those who overstayed their visas and are hoping to rectify their migration status via one creative means or the other.

Undocumented or irregular immigrants are those who have entered or have overstayed in the country illegally; that is, those who have no official permission to stay and/or work in the host country (Money, 1999). Against this backdrop, irregular migration within the Nigerian context, speaks to these experiences of desperate emigration into various parts of the world that must be redrawn to include Asia, Australia and the Americas.

The broadening of the security concept was pushed by the Copenhagen School, a school of academic thought on critical security studies that emphasized the social dimensions of security and rejected the sovereign state as the primary referent for and agent of security (Buzan et al 1998). Also defending increasing difficulties to sustain an enduring and reliable national security strategy without a strong response to human insecurity (Vietti et al 2013). That was a key point: assuming national security paradigm was being inefficient to deal with environmental disasters, famine, disease epidemics, refugee flows, and other dynamics that were putting people’s security at stake (Owen, 2004).

So, human security has brought the assumption of contemporary risks that demand new processes of securitization, spurring preventive diplomacy, good governance and economic and social development to save a society from reaching a crisis point. Hence, cooperation and prevention are fundamental principles of human security. They are also fundamental to national security. Human insecurity is a major driver of migration, and the promotion of human security seems to be one fundamental path to manage and control mass irregular migration (Ferreira, 2019).

In 2001, the DAC Conflict, Peace and Development Co-operation Network (CPDC) defined security in the following terms: “Security is increasingly viewed as an all-encompassing condition in which people and communities live in freedom, peace and safety, participate fully in the governance of their countries, enjoy the protection of fundamental rights, have access to resources and basic necessities of life, and inhabit an environment which is not detrimental to their health and wellbeing. [...] the security of people and the security of the State are mutually reinforcing.” (OECD DAC Guidelines, 2000).

The Commission on Human Security (CHS) final report (2003) states: “Human security means protecting vital freedoms. It means protecting people from critical and pervasive threats and situations, building on their strengths and aspirations. It also means creating systems that give people the building blocks of survival, dignity and livelihood. Human security connects different types of freedoms – freedom from want, freedom from fear and freedom to take action on one’s own behalf.”

In recent years, the thinking across Africa on security is manifestly influenced by the UNDP Human Development Report (1994) and the experience of National Poverty Reduction Programmes, which prescribe that security institutions have a role to play in poverty reduction. However, as a recent OECD/DAC survey of Security System Reform notes, there are antecedents of the concept of human security to be found in African philosophies and discourses (like those of Nkrumah and Senghor in West Africa) that argue for the primacy of basic human needs (DCD/DAC/CPDC, 2004).

By and large, there is consensus across Africa that security should be people-centred; security means, first and foremost, people’s safety. This idea is reflected in the 1991 OAU Kampala document – Towards a Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Co-operation in Africa: “Security embraces all aspects of the society including economic, political and social dimensions of individual, family, community, local and national life. The security of a nation must be constructed in terms of the security of the individual citizen to live in peace with access to basic necessities of life while fully participating in the affairs of his/her society in freedom and enjoying all fundamental human rights.” ([www.africaaction.org/african-initiatives/kampall.htm](http://www.africaaction.org/african-initiatives/kampall.htm)).

### **Literature Review**

The concept of migration and security have generated a strong debate among policy makers in various platforms. Besides, this debate has made scholars and researchers alike to examine the relationship between Immigration and security in the literature. It is

important to note that the first research effort that examine the relationship between international migration and security was conducted by Myron Weiner especially how international migration is creating a threat to states and citizens (Weiner 1993).

We will begin, by advising, that scholars need to be careful when relating the concept of migration and security in their study. This is because of the negative effects it often has on migrants. Notwithstanding, since 2011 (9/11 incident in the United States of America) scholars and researchers alike in security and strategic studies, have increase research on the relationship between international migration and security. The interest in how increasing population growth globally has affected security of states are fast increasing. One of the implications of this is that it has led to the emergence of concept like securitization which originated from the Copenhagen School. Besides, when applying the concept of securitization to migration, it may be translated into securitarian frameworks to address migration-related issues (Buzan et al 1998).

Over the years, various studies undertaken on the relationship between international migration and security have shown that there is a strong relationship between both concepts. Though, these studies are based on country-to-country analysis. For instance, Desirée et (2021) in their study of the securitization of immigration in the United States of America shows how immigration and immigration-related issues emerged, sometime removed or were later prioritized in the security agenda, and sometime were framed (or not) as threats. The findings of their study shows that the securitization of immigration should be understood as a dynamic process that depends on a variety of factors that change over time.

On the whole, public debate on the migration-security nexus tends to focus on a variety of aspects related to national security, understood as the protection and promotion of the well-being of the citizens and legal residents of the State and its territory. Another aspect of the ongoing debate is that work on the migration-security nexus focuses to a large degree on security challenges to developed countries as countries of destination, and a number of scholars point to the fact that the impact on developing countries as countries of destination but also of transit and of origin is neglected. It is against this back drop that this study seeks to examine the role of the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants in regulating irregular migrants into Nigeria. Also, to examine implications of irregular migration on Nigeria's national security.

### **Theoretical Framework**

There are various theories to the study of migration (regular or irregular migration) in international relations literature such as the

assimilation theory which was used describe and analyse the nineteenth century immigrants from Europe. It is important to note that the assimilation theory has other variants such as Anglo-Conformity theory, Process Theory, Melting Pot theory, Segmented labour theory, Multiculturalism theory, and the pluralist theory, human capital theory. However, none of these theories are suitable for examining the role of the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) in regulating irregular migrants into Nigeria. Also, to examine implications of irregular migration on Nigeria's national security.

Another approach is the Institutional approach encompasses a range of methodological approaches in political science that have at their core an emphasis on institutions, understood as the rules, regularities, structures, and the context more generally which influence organisational outcomes and shape conduct. This approach is considered appropriate because the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) and other sister agencies are mandated by law to regulate the activities of irregular migrant into Nigeria, as such this approach remain useful for this study.

Nevertheless, this study is situated within the theoretical framework of human security. The 'human security' approach argues that threats and challenges to security transcend national defence, and law and order to encompass all political, economic and social issues that guarantee a life free from risk and fear. The focus has shifted from the State to the security of persons; however, these are not mutually exclusive. Security can be thought of as a "public good", responding to the strategic need to support sustainable human development at the same time as promoting national, regional and global peace and stability.

On the whole, the human security approach has also made it clear that any attempt to address security-related matters needs to be based on consultation and collaboration with different sets of actors which frequently have different interests. For instance, civilian/military; governmental/non-governmental; local/national/regional/international have their divergent interest.

### **Impact of the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons in curbing Irregular Migration in Nigeria**

The National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI), formerly known as the National Commission for Refugees (NCFR), is an agency of the Federal Government of Nigeria, established by Decree 52 of 1989 now Cap. N21, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (NCFRMI Act) to manage



the affairs of refugees, migrants and internally displaced persons in Nigeria. The National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons was established by the Federal Government of Nigeria to fulfil the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 319(IV) under Article 35 of the United Nations 1951 Convention. The agency was formerly known for managing only refugee affairs but was later expanded in 2002 by the former President of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo. The agency is one of six agencies under the supervision of the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development. It is headed by a Federal Commissioner. In 2021, President Muhammadu Buhari appointed Hon. Imaan Sulaiman-Ibrahim as the Federal Commissioner of the agency.

The Commission as part of its activities to protect and promote the human rights of IDPs, refugees and migrants' partners with both national, international agencies and Civil Society Organizations. The Commission is the Co-chair at the National Level of the Protection Sector Working Group, the group is made up of all organisations government and non-government, national and international working in the protection sector which deals mainly with IDPs, Refugees and Migrants. The Commission is also partnering with the UNHCR to implement an IDP protection monitoring Project in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states. The project which commenced in 2015 started with 9 states of the North East, North Central Nigeria and the Federal Capital Territory. It was later scaled down to six and currently to three states.

One of the measures put in place by the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) in collaboration with development partners particularly the Netherlands Government and implemented by the International Organization for Migration in Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone to achieve the core mandate of NCFRMI is the Migrants as Messengers which is a peer-to-peer awareness-raising campaign that empowers young people in West Africa to make informed decisions about migration. The campaign is carried out directly by returned migrant volunteers who share honest accounts of their migration experiences with their communities and families. Through interviews and on-the-ground activities, these volunteers engage their peers so they too can share their stories. Authentic storytelling, peer-to-peer engagement, community activities, and dissemination through social media and messaging platforms make these stories accessible to wider audiences, including local decision-makers, community leaders, religious leaders and potential migrants. This project captures the

candid and emotional stories of returned migrants and their communities (<https://www.migrantsasmessengers.org/about>).

Many migrants take dangerous and fatal journeys through North Africa without being fully aware of the risks of exploitation. Research has shown that potential migrants have a general distrust for information campaigns and that migrants are more likely to believe reports from their own social networks. Migrants as Messengers does not rely on standard top-down information provided by a government, an international organization or a non-governmental organization (NGO). Instead, returned migrants who engage as “Migrants as Messengers Volunteers” share their stories to peers via video recordings and in person. The campaign relies on authentic first-person testimonies that aim to achieve change through emotional identification rather than just relaying information (<https://www.migrantsasmessengers.org/about>).

The first phase of Migrants as Messengers (2017-2019) took place in Guinea, Nigeria and Senegal. During this pilot phase, a scientifically rigorous impact evaluation study was conducted by IOM’s Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC) to address gaps in the available evidence regarding the effects of information and awareness-raising campaigns in the field of migration. In its second phase (2019-2022), the campaign is being implemented in seven countries. This phase will integrate lessons learned from the pilot phase, build a community of more than 300 Migrants as Messengers Volunteers, strengthen the capacity of partners and organize a combination of on-the-ground and online activities. Impact evaluations are being planned to further unpack the effects of awareness-raising interventions targeted at potential migrants (<https://www.migrantsasmessengers.org/about>).

The International Organization for Migration conducts campaigns to raise awareness on the risks of irregular migration, as well as promote available legal pathways and alternative livelihood opportunities. In West and Central Africa, such campaigns aim to facilitate safe and informed migration choices among potential migrants. These campaigns were developed in response to mounting evidence of misinformation among migrants and the dangers migrants face when migrating irregularly.

### **Implications of irregular migrants on Nigeria’s National Security**

Migration can have a range of political, economic, social and cultural implications. It involves the transfer of know-how and skills, financial assets including remittance, and the transfer of people from one location to another. Migration also has consequences for the individual, the area of destination, affecting the family, household, society, the economy and development as a whole. It is also

important to note that the implication of migration are not limited to remittances and cash transfer alone. They include a wide range of development issues like services and education particularly tertiary education, knowledge and skills development, economic growth, financial services and growth, agriculture and rural infrastructural development and environmental issues. Besides, other effects of migration on socio-economic development include the loss of highly skilled workers like Doctors, Engineers, communication experts among others who leave the country in pursuit of better opportunities abroad (International Organisation for Migration, 2021:4-5).

Across the globe today, regular and irregular migration has remained among the most divisive issues among policy makers. Though regular and irregular migration is not a new phenomenon, as migration flows have been increasing over the last three decades especially since the 9/11 terrorist attack in the United States and the subsequent 'Global War on Terrorism' led by America. Issues on migration has become an intense object for security analysis as it is undeniable how terrorism shape public opinion on migration and affects political movements inside civil society and party systems.

Ceyhan et al (2002) approach the securitization of migration along four different aspect: (i) socioeconomic, due to unemployment, the rise of informal economy and underground economic activities, welfare state crisis, and urban environment deterioration; (ii) securitarian, considering the loss of a control narrative that associates sovereignty, borders, and both internal and external security; (iii) identitarian, where migrants are considered as being a threat to the host societies' national identity and demographic equilibrium; and (iv) political, as a result of anti-immigrant, racist, and xenophobic discourses. Therefore, since migration can impact in different areas as state sovereignty, the balance of power among states and the nature of conflicts in the international system, national security may also be affected (Adamson, 2006).

Migration can matter for national security in situations when migrants or refugees are opposed to their home country's regime, when they are perceived as a security risk or a cultural threat in the home country, when immigrants cause social and economic pressure in host societies, or when the host society use immigrants as an instrument against the country of origin (Weiner, 1992).

Koser (2011) argues, 'the perception of migration as a threat to national security has certainly heightened in recent years, in part in response to the rapid rise in the number of international migrants and particularly 'irregular' or 'illegal' migrants' (Koser, 2011). Koser (2011) have argued that there are other factors that may intensify the threat pose by irregular migration especially when the irregular migration is

large scale or occurs during periods of recession, and so on. He added that irregular migration is linked to terrorism, organized crime and health threats are at the core of the perception of irregular migration as a security threat.

However, some researchers have argued that the relevance of such links tends to be overestimated (Koser, 2011). It is also important to note that threat perceptions emphasize threats to the social and economic fabrics of countries of destination as, migrants 'are also different: they bring new lifestyles and languages, traditions and values. Throughout human history, the outsider, the 'other', has been the focus of suspicion and often hatred' (International Council on Human Rights Policy, 2010).

It is important to note that, one of the challenges facing the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons is the inability of the agency to obtain quality and quantity of data on migration from and into Nigeria which has been patchy. For instance, estimates of migration flows based on information provided by the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) from the border are generally inadequate. This is because, border regulations have been circumvented and Nigeria's extensive and porous land borders have made it almost impossible to make effective policing against clandestine cross-border migration very difficult. To this end, Nigeria does not regularly publish data collected by immigration officials at seaports, airports and border posts across the country (International Organisation for Migration, 2015:9).

In literature of International Migration, irregular migration is often described as constituting a threat to state sovereignty. Put simply, the argument is that states have a sovereign right to control who crosses their borders, and that by undermining that control irregular migrants therefore threaten sovereignty. It follows that stopping irregular migration is fundamental to reasserting full sovereignty. In certain, more extreme discourses, irregular migration has also been perceived as a threat to state security (Koslowski 2004). Specifically, irregular migration, it has been suggested, may provide channels for potential terrorists to enter other countries especially in country like Nigeria where in the inflow of irregular immigrants have been responsible for Boko Haram terrorist attacks in Nigeria since 2009.

One criticism of the UN Protocols on Smuggling and Trafficking is that they emphasise the human rights abuses associated with trafficking but underplay those that can arise as a result of migrant smuggling (Koser 2001). Research on the smuggling of asylum seekers in particular has demonstrated that smuggling can also expose migrants to sources of economic, social and political vulnerability (Koser 1998).

Nigeria faces a rapidly changing world with a diverse range of threats. The threats are multifaceted and less predictable with blurred boundaries between external and internal risk factors. Threat factors that manifest at the global, regional and domestic levels are usually mutually reinforcing. Transnational organised crime such as illicit financial flow and money-laundering, drug and human-trafficking, proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) as well as proliferation of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) weapons have a direct impact on our national security. Illicit financial flows and other crimes remain a major concern as they are increasingly linked to terrorism.

The threat of terrorism and violent extremism has continued to challenge Nigeria security forces over the last decade. This is in consonance with the rise in global terrorism as a strategic threat with significant increase of its logistical, financial and operational capabilities. While the activities of terrorists have largely been degraded by the combined efforts of the Armed Forces of Nigeria and other security agencies as well as the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), there are still concerns that these terrorist groups remain a threat. The BHT and ISWAP have continued to carry out intermittent attacks on isolated targets with the ultimate aim of creating an Islamic Caliphate in the North East. The effects of this terror campaign include mass displacement and migration, creation of a large number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), undermining governance, rule of law, national cohesion and economic activities. Others include destruction of infrastructure and human rights violations. The defeat of ISIS in Syria has the potential to strengthen linkages between foreign based terror cells and terror groups in the North East. This has created additional concerns to the ongoing counterterrorism/ counterinsurgency efforts to rid Nigeria of terrorists/insurgents. The threat by BHT and ISWAP will require a comprehensive approach in collaboration with our contiguous neighbours and international partners (National Security Strategy 2019).

Nigeria's extensive land and maritime borders continue to be a major source of concern as they are largely porous and inadequately manned. This has aided irregular migrations and other transnational organised crimes. In the East along the Nigeria/Cameroon border, there has been an upsurge of refugees from the restive Cameroon Anglophone region crossing into Taraba, Benue, Cross-River and Akwa Ibom States. Along the same axis, criminal gangs and pirates actively operate within the border areas. In the North, cattle rustlers and bandits operate freely across the international borders contiguous to Zamfara, Sokoto, Katsina, Adamawa and Taraba States. Additionally, the porous border areas between Nigeria and Benin

Republic in the South West are known for smuggling vehicles and food commodities which undermines our economy (National Security Strategy 2019).

In conclusion, from a human security, but also from a national security perspective, migration management presents a far greater security challenge to weak states than to developed states, whether the latter are destination countries, transit countries or countries of origin. For instance, Nigeria has its own concerns about unauthorized migration. These include the seeming gross disregard for the human rights, labor rights, and other basic rights of their nationals who enter the illegal immigration stream, and the trafficking industry that has grown around such movements. It is also the brain drain that irregular migration movements cause, and the impact on social and economic situation in Nigeria.

### **Conclusion**

From the above analysis, it has been observed that there are several efforts made by states at the international, regional, interregional, sub-regional and national levels to safeguard the rights of migrants. Despite these efforts the activities of irregular migrants has posed enormous threat to Nigerian national security. Therefore, this study examined the roles of the role of the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons in curbing Irregular Migration that has posed threat to Nigeria's National Security. It has been argued here that the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons has played important role in curbing the inflow of irregular migrants but their efforts have been impeded by the porous nature of the Nigeria borders and patchy data from the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) on immigrants into Nigeria. It is for this reasons that this study makes the following recommendations as a measure to strengthen the already achievements of the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons. Tackling illicit cross border activities and strengthening border security are critical to addressing the threats of terrorism and transnational organised crime.

### **Recommendations**

Firstly, there is the need to enhance Nigeria border management through increased and targeted training of staff of the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons and the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS).

Secondly, there is the need for enhance cross-border cooperation among sister agencies in Nigeria especially the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons, Ministry of

Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labour and Productivity, National Agency for the prohibition of trafficking in persons, International Organisation for Migration and the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) on the use of technology for border management.

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