

FROM THE FOUNDER

Africa has no business fighting wars! We have enough challenges already. Expectedly, Nigeria has not been spared the onslaught of conflicts bedeviling the continent. This increase in violence and strife has resulted in the growing rate of displacement in the country.

Displacement can undoubtedly be attributed to other factors such as the adverse effects of climate change and development: However, statistics clearly finger conflicts as the most dominating factor.

I have always been intrigued and perplexed by war. Writing a post-graduate thesis on non-violent peacekeeping strategies led me to empathize with those millions of people who are caught up in a conflict they did not choose. I recognized the need to draw attention to the plight of such victims in Nigeria. At the same time, I could not relegate to the background, the trauma suffered by other persons who had to flee their homes due to non-conflict related factors. I found it particularly worrisome that while the crisis raged on globally, the Nigerian populace was oblivious that the same calamity was upon our Fatherland.



Refuge Foundation was birthed to create awareness of the displacement crisis in Nigeria; and to assist government in providing succor to victims across the country. It focuses on displaced citizens living within and outside of internally displaced persons (IDP) camps; and displaced foreigners seeking refuge in Nigeria. It will devote considerable time and resources to pregnant women, the elderly displaced and unaccompanied minors amongst them.

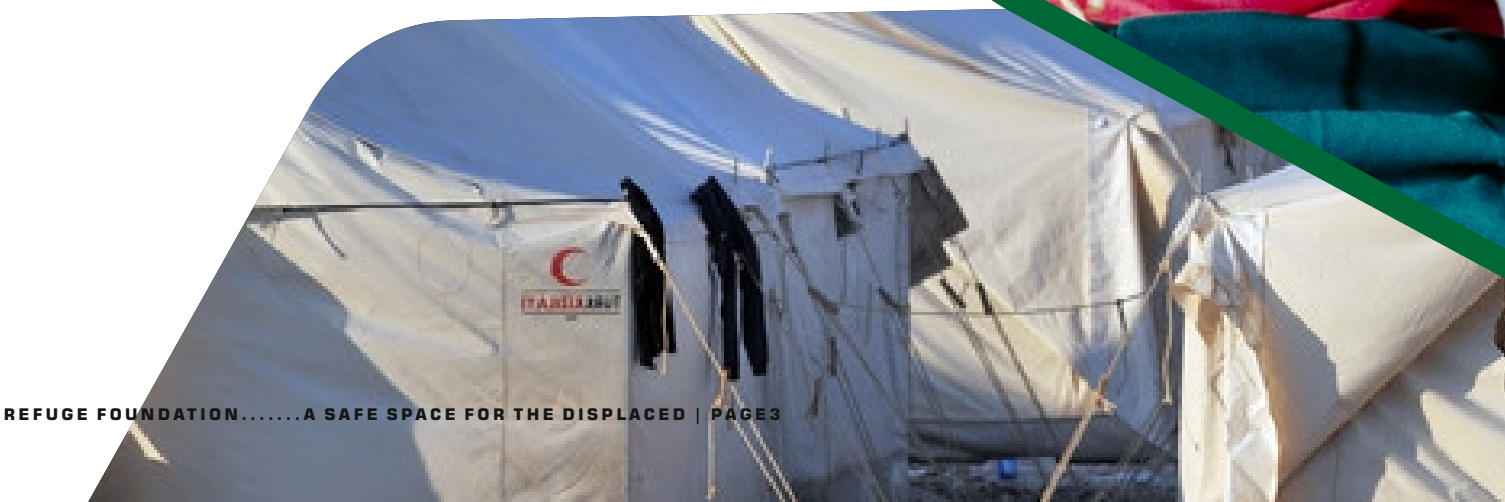
Through Refuge Foundation, I have found a way to serve others and in the process, I am finding myself. I am getting to play my own part in fulfilling the "Naija go better" dream we all have. More importantly, I am lending a hand in helping the vulnerable in my community. Won't you please join me?

Sincerely,
Ogonna Kanu,
Refuge Foundation (Founder/CEO)

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

Forcibly displaced persons are persons who are left with no other option than to move away from their homes as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations, climate change, natural disasters, development projects or a combination of these factors. Displaced persons are categorized as refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and stateless persons.

There are a 100million forcibly displaced persons in the world. Africa accounts for a frightening one-third of the total number (32 million). Displacement figures have continued to rise globally since 2013. In Nigeria, statistics indicate an astronomical rise. There were approximately 400,000 IDPs in Nigeria in 2013. Today, there are 3.3 million forcibly displaced persons in the country. 2.4million are IDPs while the other 84,000 are refugees living in Nigeria. Nigeria has the third highest number of IDPs in Africa. There is no forecast pointing to an end to the displacement crisis soon. Most displaced persons are victims of religious crises, conflicts, land disputes, fire outbreaks and other natural disasters.





WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO (Cont)

These crises have been exacerbated by food insecurity, poor hygiene and severe malnutrition. The persistence of the situation despite the efforts of government agencies has necessitated humanitarian aid and assistance from non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

Refuge Foundation is a non-governmental organizational whose core mandate is to provide succor to victims of displacement in Nigeria. Working with relevant government agencies and sister organizations, we are poised to be first responders, especially in the provision of food, clothing, health care, hygiene and shelter. Refuge Nigeria will attend to the basic needs of displaced persons.

Refuge Foundation's mission is to extend a helping hand to all victims of displacement in Nigeria. We admit a bias for displaced elderly persons and pregnant women. Our health care programmes have been carefully designed to place emphasis on the much needed but often ignored mental wellbeing of persons who have suffered the trauma of displacement. We believe that displaced persons can rise above their circumstances. Therefore, we encourage collaborative efforts and their contributions in mapping out skills acquisition and empowerment projects geared to help them gain confidence, get back on their feet and play their own role in nation building.



OBJECTIVES

To advocate, educate and enlighten the general public and relevant authorities on displacement issues; and its challenges and effects on the Nigerian economy and society.

To ameliorate the unfavourable conditions faced by displaced persons in Nigeria.

To support government efforts towards the rehabilitation and re-integration of displaced persons in the country.

To actively collaborate with relevant stakeholders in the assessment and mitigation of the root causes of displacement in Nigeria.



VISION

To be the forefront organization championing the cause of displaced persons in Nigeria



MISSION

To create awareness of the displacement crisis and cater to the basic needs of forcibly displaced persons in Nigeria.



VALUES: PITCHED

P- Perseverance
I- Integrity
T- Tolerance
C- Courage
H- Humility
E- Empathy
D- Determination



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Please send donations to

The Refuge Foundation for Displaced Persons

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