

**INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT OF POPULATION IN THE SADC REGION:
AN OVERVIEW**

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INTRODUCTION

Like other African sub-regions fostering regional integration, the Southern African Community (SADC) has been afflicted by internal displacement of population resulting from a variety of causes. Virtually every SADC member state has experienced some form of internal displacement of population, the so-called “exodus within borders”¹, the title of lecture series appropriately organised in a one-time nation state of Yugoslavia whose dismemberment, following armed struggle, triggered internal displacement of population of unprecedented magnitude. As internal displacement is a phenomenon triggered by a variety of factors – race, ethnic strife including “ethnic cleansing, religion, armed conflict often taking the form of civil wars, environmental hazards and so on – its occurrence cannot be attributed to any particular factor; generally, a combination of factors whose permutations keep changing, play significant roles in occasional or even incessant displacement². The SADC region, comprising thirteen member states with diverse colonial backgrounds, political configurations, economic performances and socio-cultural milieux, provides a good case for analysis of internal displacement of population attributed to different causes, and with differing implications for individual countries on the one hand, and the whole of SADC on the other.

This overview of internal displacement of population in the SADC region does not intend to delve into a detailed treatment of the subject. Rather, it aims to set the tone of this important seminar, which once again underscores the commitment of SADC member states on migration issues in the context of national development as well as regional integration. It begins by defining internal displacement of population and proceeds to provide examples in selected countries. Against that backdrop, the discussion dwells on the implications of IDPs for the affected countries and for SADC in an effort to find durable solutions to pave the way for the development programmes envisioned in the region. The examples are by no means meant to condemn or pronounce a verdict on the countries; rather, they are merely meant to elucidate ramifications of the phenomenon in which some governments have been accused of sponsoring the problem. Thereafter, attention is drawn on some of the consequences of internal displacement, once again by no means an exhaustive analysis. Finally, the overview concludes by proposing the way forward for SADC whose spirited approach to migration issues promises to yield invaluable results.

¹ In 2001, the Center for Refugees and Forced Migration Studies of the Institute for Sociological, Political and Juridical Research of St. Cyril and Methodius University in Macedonia organised a Lecture series on *Exodus Within Borders* which provides a graphic description of the phenomenon. At this Lecture series, Roberta Cohen of the Brookings Institution-CUNY Project on Internal Displacement underlined the significance of IDP as a global crisis (see the references).

² Robert Cohen (2001), in the lecture mentioned above, identifies five main reasons why the IDP phenomenon gripped the world in the last decade of the 20th century. The main reasons include an upsurge in numbers of IDPs; the end of the Cold War which laid bare the problem unlike the Cold War days; technological advances in communicating incidents (the so called “CNN factor”); the realization that peace and reconstruction in war-torn countries could not take place without the effective reintegration of displaced persons; and the necessity of international action in the protection of IDPs.

DEFINITION OF AND GUIDELINES FOR IDPs

Sub-Saharan Africa has been so much afflicted by refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) that the majority in the society, the media and charitable bodies often see no difference between the two. However, several issues explain the distinction between refugees and IDPs. First, refugees cross internationally recognized borders of countries, IDPs remain within a country's borders. Second, whereas refugees are the responsibility of the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), IDPs have no particular UN body to handle them, and both UN and other organizations become involved largely for humanitarian reasons. Third, countries hosting refugees do adhere to the UNHCR regulations, while governments of IDPs rarely come clean of the problem, some of them actually initiating it. Finally, regulations guiding the handling of refugees tend to bind the United Nations member states, while the "guiding principles" relating to IDPs are not binding.

The appointment of the Representative of the UN Secretary-General (RSG) on Internally Displaced Persons in ushered in systematic treatment of IDPs. After undertaking extensive work on the issue, the RSG produced the *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement*, which 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"³.

Notable aspects of the guiding principles include the following:

- The definition of "IDPs" does not create a "legal" category such as "refugee", but rather acknowledges the particular needs of IDPs by various causes.
- If governments are unable to fulfil their responsibilities to their citizens, they are expected to request and accept outside offers of aid.
- If governments refuse or deliberately obstruct access and put large numbers at risk, the international community has the right and even a responsibility to assert its concern through actions such as diplomatic dialogue to negotiate access, political pressure, sanctions or even military intervention.
- Both sovereignty and security of necessity must be recognised, though sovereignty "cannot be a shield for crimes against humanity".
- Both national and international actions are paramount and at best complementary in resolving the problem of IDPs.

Identification and accounting for IDPs are by no means easy tasks. Different institutions – governments, human rights organisations, various United Nations agencies, religious organisations, aid agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and many more – view IDP through individual lens⁴. Clearly, the involvement of different

³ Contained in United Nations OCHA, *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement*, OCHA/IDP/2004/01.

⁴ The past decade saw a multitude of humanitarian, human rights and development organizations come forward to provide protection, assistance, reintegration and support to IDPs. They included UNHCR, the

organizations with diverse missions and mandates complicates responses, protection, assistance and other needs of IDPs before situations get out of hand.

INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN SADC

All SADC member states have experienced one form or another of internal displacement of population. At the onset of colonisation, indigenous or native peoples had their land expropriated, in the process becoming displaced; not even the so-called “treaties” with local rulers signed by either force or trickery saved their peoples from displacement, as the cases of Shaka of the Zulu in KwaZulu-Natal and Lobengula of Ndebele in present day Zimbabwe very well illustrate. That historical displacement remains unresolved and not only explains the current struggle in Zimbabwe but also portends potential strife in South Africa and Namibia. Perhaps it explains why, as Shepherd puts it, “SADC fails to censure Zimbabwe over human rights” associated with the “Fast-Track Land Reform Programme”, which entailed eviction of the white commercial farmers⁵. Current displacement in Zimbabwe might spread elsewhere in the region and SADC cannot simply wish it away as an isolated case; it has the potential for rocking the foundation of regional integration.

Typology of IDPs

As internal displacement is attributed to a variety of causes, which differ both temporally and spatially, it is simplistic to identify an exhaustive typology of IDPs. The types of internal displacement are largely a function of the history of both colonisation and decolonisation. In the contemporary situation, two dominant types of displacement are: “disaster induced” and “development induced”. Table 1, based on Courtland’s (2003) schema, summarises elements of the two types, citing appropriate examples in the SADC member states, which best represent them.

a. Disaster-induced Displacement

Sudden disasters: The SADC region has witnessed some unpredictable disasters that have displaced formerly stable populations. In February 2000, the cyclone Eline caused unusually heavy rainfall that caused floods of unprecedented magnitude in Southern Africa, with Mozambique the most hardily hit as it was beginning to register impressive economic turnaround in the wake of protracted civil war between the ruling FRELIMO party and the rebel RENAMO forces. A large number of Mozambicans were displaced, for long depending on food aid, medical supplies and other assistance from sympathisers

World Food Programme, UNICEF, UNDP, the WHO, IOM, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the ICRC. The appointment in 1998 of the Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons underlined the importance of IDPs alongside refugees whose concerns had drawn world attention since the end of World War II.

⁵ Robyn Shepherd makes this argument in “SADC Fails to Censure Zimbabwe Over Human Rights”, InterAction Library, American Council for Voluntary International Action, downloaded in <http://www.interaction.org/library/detail.php?id>.

around the world. It is estimated that the floods displaced about 1.25 million people in the region. In the Indian Ocean, the island of Mauritius has had to brace with frequent tropical cyclones that periodically have devastated one of the most successful economies in SADC. The Democratic Republic of Congo (hereafter DR Congo or DRC) has twice grappled with volcanoes over a short interval, displacing the population and crippling the victims' normal lives. In 2002, the volcanic eruption of Mount Nyarigongo in the Goma region of the country forced thousands of people, many of whom had been displaced by the war, to flee. The problem in the entire SADC region is lack of scientifically tested warning systems in the region to enable these and, indeed all other countries, respond appropriately to the calamities.

Slow-onset disasters: Southern Africa has seen frequent droughts that invariably have caused famine and displaced population. In the case of DR Congo and Angola, famine has persisted in the face of protracted war and incessant displacement. The disruptive nature of drought and famine has kept SADC on its toes to build them within the regional integration framework.

Epidemic diseases: Epidemics of cholera and malaria are often reported in virtually all SADC countries, generally displacing population to move to safer areas. In addition, given the seriousness of HIV infection in the Community, most HIV/AIDS patients are often moved from urban areas to rural areas to seek alternative attention, including community-based care. Unfortunately, no good statistics exist to tell the whole story of a scourge which has ravaged all but one SADC member states.

Industrial/technological disasters: Coastal areas of the countries bordering the Indian and Atlantic Oceans, from Tanzania through South Africa to DR Congo, experience pollution and spillage of hazardous that have destroyed the local people's subsistence as well as survival after fish stock and other resources are wiped out. The victims are displaced by undesirable outcomes of industrial/ technological development. There have also been explosions at the mines in South Africa, Tanzania, Angola and DR Congo, which have displaced populations in their vicinity.

Complex emergencies: These consist of both natural and human-made disasters. Human disasters include war and internal conflict that bedevilled most SADC countries before independence/majority rule, and that have left indelible scars of displacement as well as casualties in war-torn countries such as Mozambique, Angola and DR Congo. The last country has also suffered episodes of natural disasters – for example, volcanic eruptions which left many casualties and IDPs in their wake. Food security has also dealt a blow to agricultural populations, some of whom relocate to urban areas in the hope of finding refuge; Zimbabwe, Africa's agricultural powerhouse has been languishing in food insecurity since the fast-track land reform showed its ugly head several years ago. There have been violations of human rights in apartheid-ruled South Africa, Zimbabwe, Angola and DR Congo, in the last two taking forms such abduction and raping of females, drafting boys in military/militia encounters and forcible girls' marriage. These encounters conspire with HIV/AIDS to increase mortality across the whole population, particularly among the vulnerable groups.

Table 1: Types and instances of internal displacement of population with selected examples in SADC

(a) Disaster-induced displacement		
Component	Instances	Examples of SADC countries
Sudden impact	Floods, volcanic eruptions, tropical storms	Mozambique floods (1999), volcanic eruptions in DRC, tropical cyclones in Mauritius
Slow-onset	Droughts, famine, deforestation	Zimbabwe, Botswana DR Congo, Angola
Epidemic diseases	Cholera, malaria, HIV	All SADC member states
Industrial/technological	Pollution, spillage of hazardous material, explosions, fires	Ocean-bordering areas of SADC member states; mine explosions in South Africa, Tanzania , Angola, DR Congo
Complex emergencies	Human-made: war, internal conflict and natural disaster. Food security Human rights violations. Heightened mortality.	War and conflict in all of SADC except Tanzania and Mauritius Recurrent in Southern Africa Apartheid S. Africa, Zimbabwe, DRC and Angola Highly HIV-infested countries
(b) Development-induced displacement		
Landlessness	Expropriation, grabbing, forced distribution	All SADC member states, particularly Zimbabwe, Mozambique, S. Africa
Joblessness	Urban &rural displacement of enterprise and agricultural workers	SAP/reform-affected countries (e.g. Zambia), S. Africa, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, DR Congo, Angola
Homelessness	Loss of shelter, poor housing	S. Africa, Zimbabwe, DR Congo, Angola
Marginalisation	Economic marginalisation resulting in social and psychological marginalisation	S. Africa, Zimbabwe, DR Congo, Angola
Food security	Inadequate calorie-protein intake levels	War-torn countries, Zimbabwe
Increased morbidity/mortality	Social stress& psychological trauma, resulting in relocation-related illnesses (vector-borne diseases) Unsafe water supply and impoverished sewage systems resulting in increased vulnerability (epidemics &chronic diarrhoea, dysentery etc.)	Vulnerable groups: infants, children and the elderly in mainland SADC states except South Africa, Botswana and Namibia
Loss of access to common property	Loss of pastures, forest lands	Much of mainland SADC states, in particular San-inhabited S. Africa, Botswana and Namibia
Social disintegration	Dismantled production systems and scattered kinship groups& family systems	All SADC member states
Loss of access to community services	Loss of health clinics & educational facilities, adversely affecting children's education	War-torn states
Violation of human rights	Displacement from habitual residence; loss of property; violation of economic and social rights; arbitrary arrests, etc.	Rampant in mainland SADC member states

Source: Based on text by W. Courtland Robinson (2003), pp. 9-13.

b. Development-induced Displacement

Development programmes have sparked internal displacement in all SADC countries through either deliberate or inadvertent state approval. This is especially so because whatever development programmes are implemented in these countries are conceived by policy makers and development experts without due consultations with the supposed beneficiaries, the passive majority in the society. The beneficiaries are merely cajoled to accept ongoing developments, including abandoning their cultural heritage and eviction from their usual habitat. Development that is forced down the throats of a people is a sure path to displacement in various circumstances. In Zimbabwe, allegedly more than a half a million people living in urban areas have been displaced due to the demolition of their homes and property as “operation *Murambatsvina*” targeted the shantytowns and illegal constructions in urban areas. The report of the UN Secretary General’s Special Envoy for Human Settlement Issues in Zimbabwe concludes that displacement in urban areas of the country constituted a serious violation of human rights of the worst kind in the region, and the Representative of the Secretary General on IDP condemns the Zimbabwean government in the strongest terms ever. Surprisingly, not only has the Zimbabwe government remained defiant, but SADC also has failed to take a definitive position on this crisis which has worsened over the years. Internal displacement of population in Zimbabwe has taken a turn that any sceptics are now forced to reconsider because it portends anarchy for the rest of the SADC region.

Landlessness: Every SADC country is deeply concerned with landlessness among indigenous and native peoples whose lands were expropriated during the colonial period but much less so with the landlessness as a result of land grabbing by the elite during the independence era. Land remains the most contested issue in these countries, and the impasse in Zimbabwe, that is likely to encompass South Africa and Namibia, is by no means an isolated case. The nature and extent of landlessness-based displacement often forces the victims to try different options, such as rural-urban migration in search of employment, relocation to poorer environments or complete loss of hope.

Joblessness: This is a common feature on the one hand of structural adjustment programme (SAP) following the retrenchment of urban workers, subsequently paid peanuts in the name of “golden handshake”, and on the other agricultural workers losing jobs because of the sector’s declining role in national economies. In spite of its buoyancy, South Africa cannot employ its fast growing army of job seekers, nor can Zimbabwe whose economy is now in doldrums, not to mention the two resource-rich neighbours of DR Congo and Angola whose vast human resources are yet to be fully exploited for the benefit of their nationals. The jobless often vie between urban and rural areas where they are displaced from time to time.

Homelessness: Apartheid regimes in South Africa created homeless people for whom the so-called “homelands” never met the prescription of ancestral home to which they have strong attachment. Currently, the white commercial farmers in Zimbabwe are homeless following their displacement in the fast-track land reform programme. In both Angola

and DR Congo protracted war displaced large numbers of people who are yet to return to their ancestral homes with which they wish to identify.

Marginalisation: The four countries mentioned in the first three types of development-induced disasters represent some of the worst cases of economic marginalisation with serious social and psychological repercussions. Marginalisation manifests itself in racial and ethnic tensions, as well as class discrimination in these countries.

Food insecurity: The SADC region consists of countries that experience food insecurity either due to natural disasters (drought, floods) or because persistent conflict and wars inhibit agricultural activity. While Southern African countries represent the former, DR Congo and Angola, agricultural powerhouses had man-made disasters not interfered, are in the latter category.

Increased morbidity and mortality: The vulnerable groups – children, women and the elderly – have become typical victims of displacement due to social stress and psychological trauma that land them in areas ridden with vector-borne diseases. These groups have also been victims of unsafe water supply as well as impoverished sewage systems, which heighten their vulnerability to epidemic or chronic water-borne diseases. Recent research in Sub-Saharan Africa has shown increasing morbidity and mortality in most urban areas where more than half of the urbanites reside in slums lacking safe water supplies and sewage systems.

Social disintegration: The SADC member states have experienced episodes of dismantled production systems in many rural areas, disorganised systems and scattered kinship and family systems due to a variety of circumstances. Perhaps nowhere in Sub-Saharan Africa has the impact of social disintegration been so severe in displacing formerly stable, cohesive populations as in the SADC region.

Loss of access to common property: In the process of land expropriation and grabbing irrespective of its use or value, excision of forests and extraction of forest products as well as minerals and exploitation of water bodies, the inhabitants of the resources being exploited are generally displaced. Governments often invoke development policy that among other things intends to improve the lot of the affected people, without any recourse to consultation with the affected parties. In all the SADC member states, commercial interests have eroded communal ownership and access to common property to benefit the minority and impoverish the majority. The problem bedeviling indigenous peoples in South Africa, Botswana and Namibia who have lost and continue to lose their common property, threatens good governance and democratic rule in these countries⁶. Human rights organisations have been at loggerheads with the governments of these

⁶ Details of the plight of indigenous peoples in Southern Africa are available in the Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee (IPACC) website – <http://www.ipacc.org.za/southernafrica.asp> and articles by Patrick Bond (2005), Richard Bourne (2001), Marion Ryan Sinclair (1998). Growing interest has centred on the Basarwa of Botswana in the works of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Human Affairs- OCHA IRINNews.org), Botswana's *Mmegi* newspaper and in the Survival International's website (<http://www.survivalinternational.org/it/bush%20press%20mm>).

countries that need to factor the concerns in the SADC protocols addressing the issues of indigenous peoples.

Violation of human rights: Displacement has occurred and continues to take place among indigenous groups whose rights have been contravened by national governments that often are dominated by elitist ethnic groups with little regard, if any, for these vulnerable groups. Violation of human rights is therefore rampant in the SADC region, particularly in the three southern African countries and among the pygmies of DR Congo where development programmes initiated by governments often displace indigenous peoples. In Botswana, indigenous-rights campaigners have been protesting against the DeBeers Diamond Corporation, the World Bank and the Botswana government over the displacement of Basarwa/San Bushmen from the central Kalahari Desert⁷. In the same vein, activists have resisted large dams that threaten mass displacement, for example Epupa in Namibia, the Lesotho Highlands Water Project and at Mpanda Nkuwa in Mozambique⁸. Thus, violation of human rights is not necessarily violent; it can be cloaked by an opaque development philosophy that leaves no room for reactions of the supposed beneficiaries of development programmes.

⁷ Patrick Bond (2005) attributes the story of displacing Basarwa to a Botswana newspaper, the *Guardian*, which reported that the San targeted for relocation “had their water supplies cut off before being dumped in bleak settlements with derisory compensation”, while the *Botswana Gazette* described the government as a “disease-ridden international polecat”. These are strong, non-diplomatic criticisms no government would condone, though their point to a situation that continues to feature in the discourse on IDPs.

⁸ *Ibid.*

Table 2: Some salient IDP issues in the SADC member states

Country	Type of IDP	Salient issues
Angola	Disaster induced	Had one-third of total population (4 million) as IDPs in peak years. Currently, most IDPs have returned home with the help of the Ministry of Social Reintegration.
Botswana	Developed induced	Eviction of Basarwa from the Central Kalahari Game Reserve allegedly to give room for diamond mining
DR Congo	Disaster induced	With no political stability since independence in 1960, IDP has persisted. Had 3.5 million IDPs in peak years. The situation has not normalised despite the peace accord in 2004.
Lesotho	Development induced	The Lesotho Highlands Water Project displaced population
Malawi	Development induced	Impoverishment and displacement for hosting Mozambican refugees
Mauritius	Disaster induced	Frequent tropical cyclones
Mozambique	Disaster induced	Initially due to the war towards and after independence. Later, floods that ravaged the economy.
Namibia	n.a.	n.a
South Africa	Development induced	This is the most entrenched IDP during apartheid when the native population was confined to the “homelands”; in Kwazulu-Natal, IDPs forced to move to urban areas in 1980s-1990s
Swaziland	n.a	n.a.
Tanzania	Development induced Disaster induced	Villagisation under <i>Ujamaa</i> during the 1970s Explosions in the mines have displaced population
Zambia	n.a.	n.a.
Zimbabwe	Disaster induced And development induced	Three episodes of IDP: in the colonial period through the independence war years. IDP of white commercial farmers since mid-2000. In 2005, displacement of urban residents whose settlements and businesses have been destroyed, with evacuees denied appeal, retrieval of property and goods from homes and shops. The UN treats current IDP as the government’s crime against humanity. SADC’s non-committal stance merely perpetuates the problem.

Note: n.a. – not applicable

Sources: Based on available literature.

CONSEQUENCES OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

This section considers some consequences of internal displacement of population in the SADC region to provide insights of issues that need to engage the attention of the regional economic grouping.

For a region that is already afflicted by the scourge of HIV/AIDS, displacement simply aggravates the situation in most of the SADC member states. The scourge has the potential to spread faster where sexual violence and sexual exploitation, erosion of traditional social structures which formerly controlled irresponsible sexual behaviour and lack of reproductive rights as well as health respectively accelerate the spread and fail to contain HIV/AIDS.

Internal displacement of population has adversely affected the family cohesion and structure. Wherever it has occurred, family members go their separate ways, girls and

women are raped or forcibly married, children's education is disrupted, the old and sick are neglected and life for everyone becomes traumatised. This situation does not augur well for family and communal lifestyles, human resource development as well as utilisation or the people's participation in development.

Moreover, there occur serious reversals to whatever development has been registered in political, economic, social and cultural spheres of development. The development plans cannot simply be implemented, the disruptive effects of internal displacement reverse any gains already made in democracy and good governance, education, health, food security, infrastructure. Not surprisingly, the SADC countries doubt their ability to meet the targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at the end of the first two decades of the 21st century. Even the donor community become reluctant to become effective development partners of the governments of the SADC member states, leaving the latter to go it alone.

THE WAY FORWARD

Internal displacement of population continues to bedevil progress in the SADC region from different fronts. There is a need for a systematic approach to unearth the causes as well as consequences of, and prescribing durable solutions for, the phenomenon. To this end, the research fraternity, policy makers, planners and the donor community should work in tandem to unearth all the pertinent issues.

As a way forward, it is recommended that:

- The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) should continue to engage SADC in migration and development issues, including IDP as a special area of concern for the region. To this end, ongoing initiatives such as the Migration and Development in Southern Africa (MIDSA), established in November 2002, should incorporate IDP issues.
- The positive lessons learned from the return of refugees and IDPs in the aftermath of Mozambican and Angolan conflicts should lure the SADC secretariat to prevail on the member states to deliver Zimbabwe and the DR Congo from their current displacement predicament. Nonetheless, given that country-specific solutions are ideal, research should precede any efforts toward durable solutions.
- Systematic research on IDP and its ramifications should be a matter of high priority in order to provide further insights upon which durable solutions would be based. Research results should inform policies, plans and programmes.
- With peace beginning to take root in much of the SADC region, attention must now focus on IDP, in particular the role of national governments in the whole issue. In this regard, governments should not only incorporate the Guiding Principles into domestic legislation, but also embrace the 12 steps proposed by the Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement.
- Having succeeded in playing a more decisive role in tackling regional and national conflicts which in the past triggered refugees and IDPs, the African Union should engage SADC in IDP issues, in particular its root causes and linkages between conflict resolution and programmes aimed at rehabilitating IDPs. The AU should implement, and be seen to be implementing, the

- Compendium of OAU Instruments and Texts on Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Africa* (2000), which include the Guiding Principles.
- IDP concerns should be included in further developments relating to the stalled Protocol on Facilitation of Movement of Persons in the SADC region which the SADC secretariat has been pursuing as the member states keep wavering to take a definitive decision on the protocol for it still on the drawing board.
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 - SADC should take decisive steps to advance developments that it has already made on forced migration, such as the Memorandum of Understanding between it and UNHCR, which facilitated organised return of refugees and IDPs; pronouncement and implementation of national policies for reintegration of the former forced migrants; recommendations of the workshop on forced migration in the SADC region held in Lusaka in 2003; and the SADC Comprehensive Plan of Action to assist countries embroiled in displacement crises.
 - The African Commission on Human and Peoples' creation of Special Rapporteur on Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (an African equivalent of the global RSG) should inspire it to play an oversight role in all matters pertaining to these uprooted groups
 - Training in universities, security institutions and humanitarian institutions in the region mount systematic training in internal displacement in the context of national development and regional integration.

CONCLUSION

Impressive progress has been made in dealing with forced migration in the SADC region. Nonetheless, a lot still remains to be done to translate rhetoric into action. In consistency with the requirements of both the AU and NEPAD (New Partnership in Africa's Development), SADC should adopt the peer review approach that has been ongoing in the area of democracy and governance by including internal displacement as an integral part of that activity.

A cursory review of the OAU/AU Conventions and SADC recommendations on matters pertaining to displacement still leaves a lot to be desired. Rhetoric has been long and practical implementation too short to yield the desired results. The time to treat the two as compatible is now rather than later.