

## VALUE HEALTH AFRICA ACTIVITY/MISSION REPORT

### VAHA MONTHLY REPORT

#### WORKSHOP ON THE CHALLENGES OF DOMESTICATING THE AFRICAN UNION CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN AFRICA (KAMPALA CONVENTION)

**SUBMITTED BY:** Ongla Diane Pascaline

**DATE:** Tuesday 12<sup>h</sup> Wednesday 13 2023

**MONTH:** November

**MISSION TEAM:** Ongla Diane

**ACTIVITY TITLE:** Monthly report for November Littoral

**Report Control by:** Mme Ongla Diane

#### OBJECTIVES OF ACTIVITY:

**Objective I** To raise awareness among inter-ministerial members of the challenges of domesticating the Kampala Convention in Cameroon

**Objective II** To discuss the importance of a domestic legal framework that is consistent with Cameroon's international obligations

**Objective III** To explore ways to harmonize and coordinate protection and assistance measures for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Cameroon

#### BACKGROUND:

The Kampala Convention is a landmark treaty that provides a comprehensive framework for the protection and assistance of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Africa. It was adopted by the African Union in 2009 and entered into force in 2012.

Cameroon acceded to the Kampala Convention on April 6, 2015. Cameroon's accession to the Convention is an important step in promoting the rights and protection of IDPs in Cameroon.

The Kampala Convention has been incorporated into Cameroonian law through Law No. 2017/021 of August 10, 2017, on the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons. This law defines IDPs, their rights and obligations, and the protection and assistance measures that apply to them.



Cameroon's domestication of the Kampala Convention is an ongoing process. Cameroonian authorities are working to implement Law No. 2017/021 and to promote a culture of protection for IDPs. Here are some of the measures that Cameroon has taken to implement the Kampala Convention:

- The creation of a national coordination mechanism for the protection and assistance of IDPs.
- The training of national and local authorities on IDP issues.
- The development of humanitarian assistance and reintegration programs for IDPs.

## **KEY ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED**

- **Activity 1** Opening ceremony
- **Activity 2** The workshop presentation
- **Activity 3:** Concept of Domestication of Kampala Convention

## **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH ACTIVITY**

### **ACTIVITY 1 OPENING CEREMONY**

From the outset, the opening of the workshop was punctuated by the presentation of the participants (names, profile and institution), followed by the word of the Minister of State, Minister of Justice, Keeper of the Seals, who tackled the current IDP situation in Cameroon head-on and highlighted the significance of embracing the Kampala Convention as a solution. The Minister began by acknowledging the complex and often heartbreaking realities faced by IDPs in Cameroon. He mentioned the various crises, be it conflict, climate change, or other factors, that have uprooted families and communities, leaving them vulnerable and in need of support. He underscored the government's commitment to addressing their plight and ensuring their safety and well-being. The table below presents the moderators, reporters and timekeepers appointed for the five days of workshop.

Day	Moderator	Reporter	Time-Keeper
Tuesday 12/12/2023	MINJUSTICE	MINAT	VAHA
Wednesday 13/12/2023	MINJUSTICE	MINREX	VAHA

### **ACTIVITY 2: THE WORKSHOP PRESENTATION.**

It's was a 2-day non-residential workshop, involving 30 participants in Douala in which:

- Masterful presentations by UNHCR Cameroon and MINJUSTICE facilitators
- Slide presentation :
- Presentation on the context of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the responsibility of the state by the MINAT

- Presentation on the mandates and missions of UNHCR and the ICRC in favor of IDPs
- Presentation on the humanitarian response according to OCHA
- Aspects of documentation, environment, housing, land and property presented by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
- Implementation of the Kampala Convention by Cameroon Government

## ○ RECOMMENDATIONS.

- The government of Cameroon should establish a high-level steering committee to oversee the domestication process.
- The steering committee should develop a comprehensive action plan with clear timelines and milestones.
- For the Next event Make the documentation in both language English and French.
- The government should provide adequate resources to support the domestication process.
- Civil society organizations should be involved in the domestication process to ensure that the needs of IDPs are taken into account.



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## **Activity 3: Concept of Domestication of Kampala Convention**

The adoption of the Kampala Convention was motivated by the growing number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Africa. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), there were an estimated 25.9 million IDPs in Africa in 2023. This number has been increasing since the early 2000s, due to armed conflicts, political violence, natural disasters, and climate change.

The Kampala Convention aims to fill existing legal and institutional gaps in the protection of IDPs in Africa. It establishes a comprehensive legal framework that guarantees IDPs their fundamental rights and freedoms, including the right to life, physical and mental integrity, protection from violence, access to humanitarian assistance, and reintegration.

## **Domestication of the Kampala Convention by Cameroon**

Cameroon acceded to the Kampala Convention on April 6, 2015. Cameroon's accession to the Convention is an important step in promoting the rights and protection of IDPs in Cameroon.



The Kampala Convention has been incorporated into Cameroonian law through Law No. 2017/021 of August 10, 2017, on the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons. This law defines IDPs, their rights and obligations, and the protection and assistance measures that apply to them.

The domestication of the Kampala Convention by Cameroon is an ongoing process. Cameroonian authorities are working to implement Law No. 2017/021 and to promote a culture of IDP protection.

*Here are some of the measures taken by Cameroon to implement the Kampala Convention:*

- The creation of a national coordination mechanism for the protection and assistance of IDPs.
- The training of national and local authorities on IDP issues.
- The development of humanitarian assistance and reintegration programs for IDPs.

Cameroon is an important country in Central Africa, and its accession to the Kampala Convention is a strong signal of its commitment to the protection of IDPs. Despite many challenges, the potential benefits of domesticating the Kampala Convention are undeniable. By overcoming these obstacles and effectively implementing the convention, Cameroon can significantly improve the lives and well-being of its internally displaced citizens.



## **EXPECTED RESULTS DELIVERABLE/OUTPUT OF ACTIVITY**

- Participants are sensitized to the challenges of domesticating the Kampala Convention
- A monitoring group for the process of adopting the domestication law of the Kampala Convention is created

### **KEY PERSONS MET:**

Organisation	Name	Position
OCHA	DIVINE ARREY ETTA	Humanitarian Affaire Officer
NRC	NDZINWA Julius Bantar	ICLA Programme Development Manager
SWAA Littoral	Felix EKWE	Program Coordinator
NRC	Nyanshi Mbua	NW Coordinator

## **CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Strengthen coordination between the different actors involved in the protection and assistance of IDPs.
- Ensure equitable access to basic services for IDPs, including healthcare, education, and employment.
- Promote the participation of IDPs in decision-making that affects them.
- Strengthen the protection of the rights of IDPs, including the right to security, non-discrimination, and return to their communities of origin.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

This workshop, which took place over two days, provided an overview of the situation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Cameroon. Participants heard the testimonies of IDPs, learned about the different actors involved in the protection and assistance of IDPs, and discussed the challenges and opportunities ahead.

The discussions highlighted the need for a comprehensive approach to the protection and assistance of IDPs. This approach must take into account the physical, psychological, and social needs of IDPs, and must also address the root causes of their displacement.

Participants also emphasized the importance of collaboration between the different actors involved in the protection and assistance of IDPs. This collaboration must be strengthened to ensure an effective and sustainable response to the needs of IDPs.

In conclusion, this workshop was an important moment for reflection and sharing on the protection and assistance of IDPs in Cameroon. The recommendations made by the participants will help to strengthen the humanitarian response to the needs of IDPs and contribute to the protection of their rights.