Approaches for and effects of tackling the triggers of violence-induced displacement

in the context of the APSA and AGA: The contribution of German development cooperation

Lidet Tadesse

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german cooperation
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Outline:

1. Objectives and methodology
2. Triggers of violence-induced displacement
3. APSA and AGA response to violence-induced displacement
4. Observations and suggestions for German development cooperation

1. Objectives and methodology

Objectives of the study

Explore in-depth the links between AGA and APSA activities, and whether and how these reduce or alter the triggers of violence-induced displacement

a. Clarify the concept of 'tackling triggers of violence-induced displacement'

b. Conceptualize how AGA and APSA activities relate to these triggers

c. Investigate through case studies contributions of AU and RECs to reducing triggers of violence-induced displacement

d. Explore the role of German development cooperation

Methodology

Phase I: Conceptual Framework (Desk research)

- What are triggers of violence-induced displacement?
- How can AGA and APSA interventions relate to them

Phase II: Qualitative analysis

- How are AGA/APSA actors responding to triggers
- What is the contribution of German cooperation?
  - **Case studies**: Burundi, South Sudan, Boko Haram
  - Desk research
  - About 50 semi-structured interviews with a variety of stakeholders

2. Triggers of violence-induced displacement

Triggers of violence-induced displacement

Scope: Immediate triggers of violence induced displacement

Fear of individual persecution

Armed/violent conflict

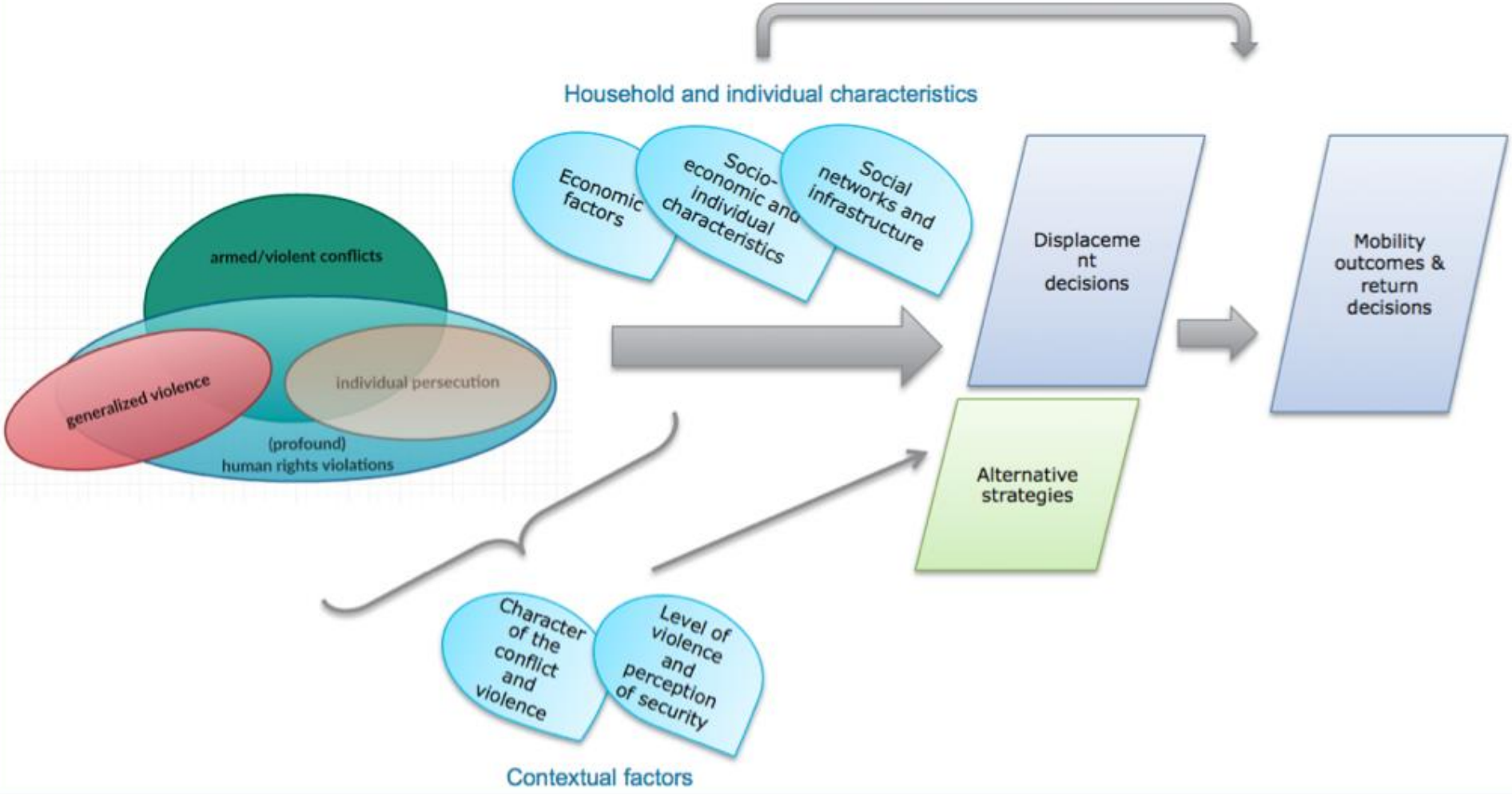
Generalized violence

Profound human rights violations

→ Yet mediated by a number of factors:

a) **contextual** factors
b) household/**individual** characteristics

Factors influencing decisions to flee

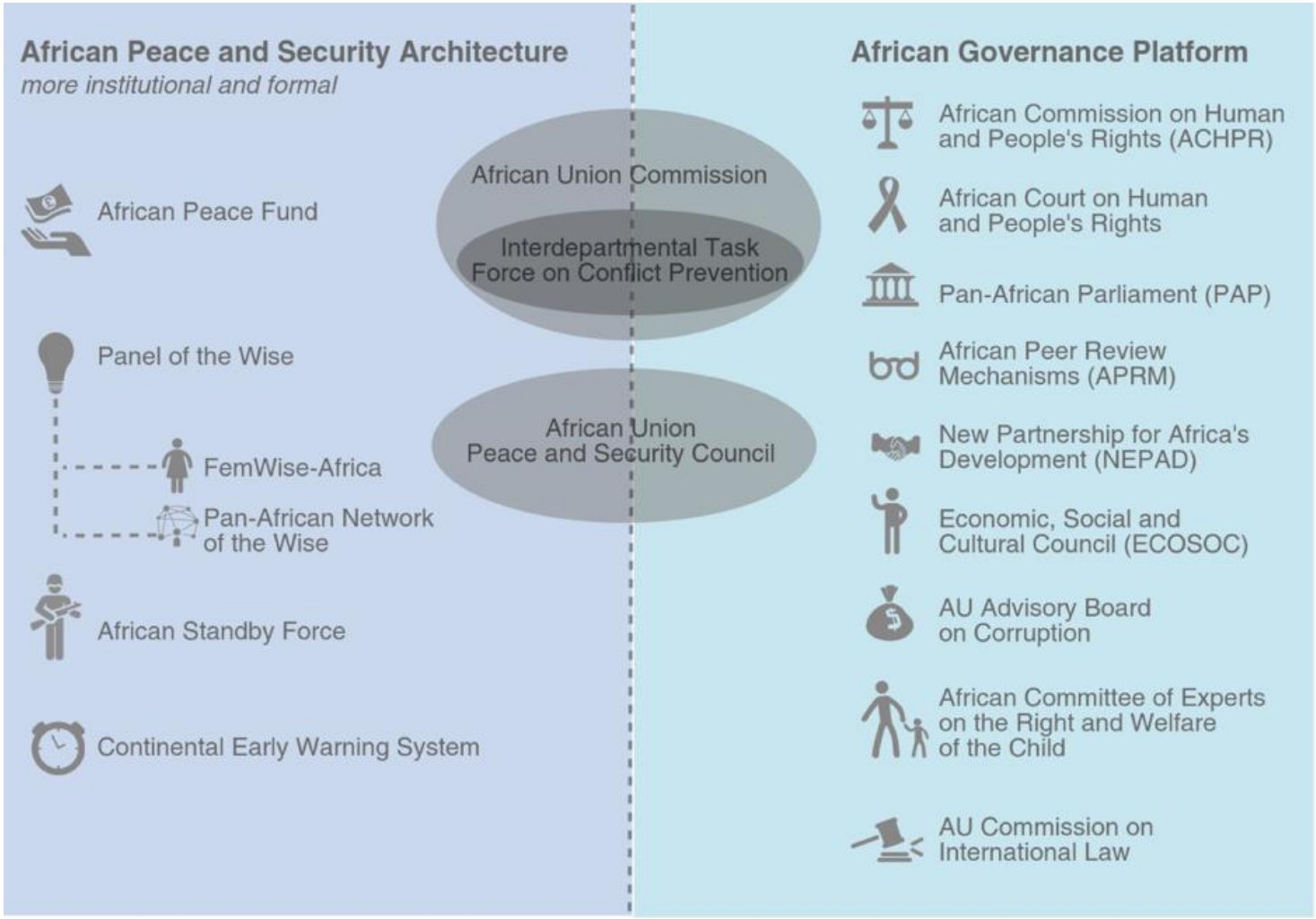


Type of violence and displacement

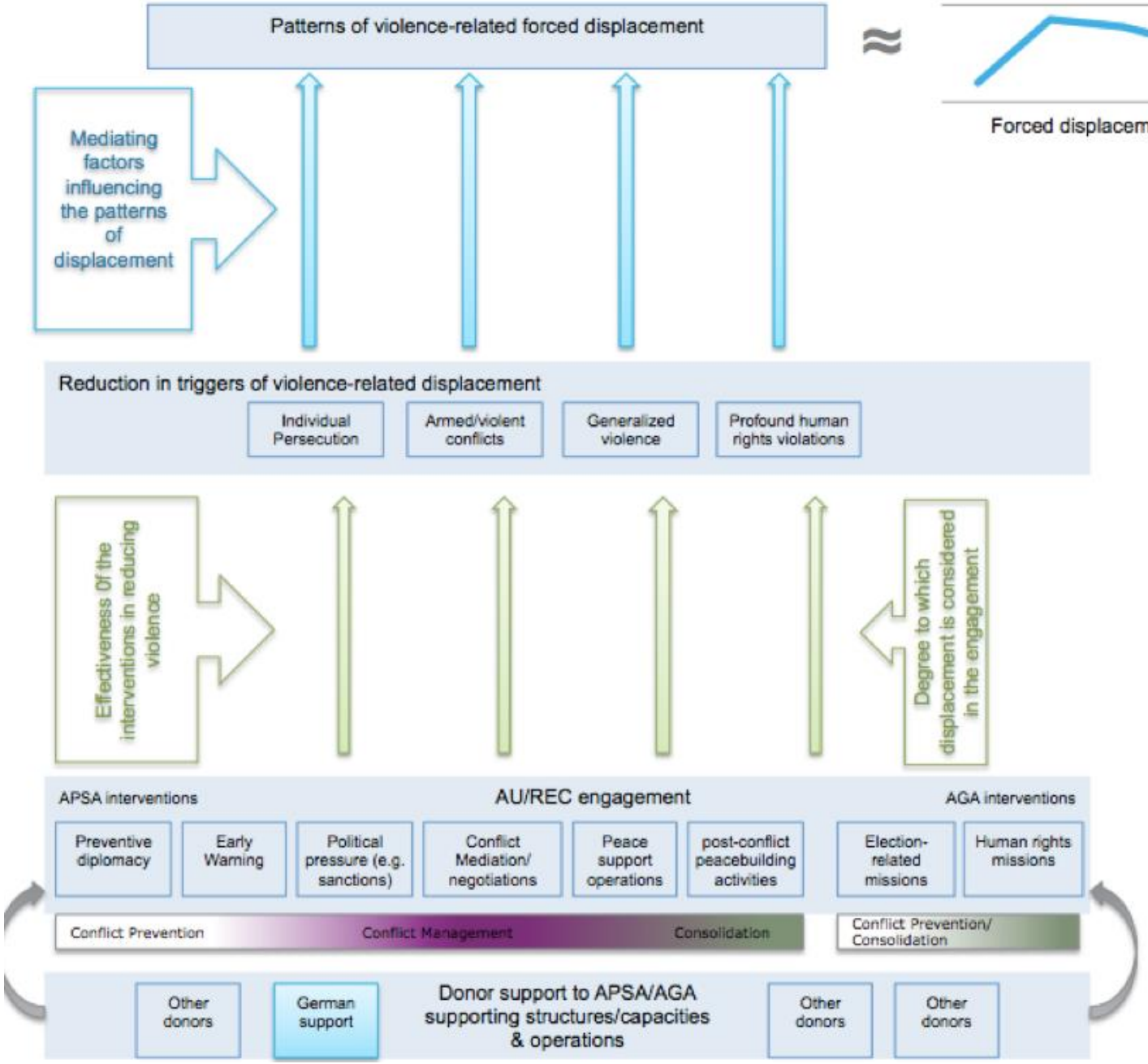
- Violence and displacement: positive correlation
- Violence **major factor** driving displacement:
  - Targeted state violence → international refugees
  - Targeted violence with intention to displace
  - Dissident violence/civil warfare → internally displaced, internationally displaced
  - Genocides/ Politicides → population segment targeted
  - Human Rights violations → accelerates displacement
- Indirect effects of violence also drive displacement

3. APSA response to violence-induced displacement

APSA/AGA responses to violence-induced displacement



Institutional overlap between APSA/AGA (Desmidt et al. ECDPM, 2017)



AU/REC engagement in relation to triggers of violence-related forced displacement

Key takeaways from case studies

APSA interventions and impact on displacement patterns

- Boko Haram - MNJTF military mission: overall positive effect on reducing immediate triggers of violence-induced displacement, but effect on long-term?

- Burundi: MAPROBU had potential but politicized, Human rights observers: limited positive effects

- South Sudan: displacement (refugees) patterns stagnated during IGAD mediation (2014-2016), yet overall no strong effect on displacement triggers

- APSA early warning, when coupled with “political will” have preventive impact (i.e. ECOWAS in Gambia)

Key takeaways

APSA intervention to counter triggers of displacement does not automatically mean less displacement figures on the ground

- Political realities beyond APSA
- Mismatch between APSA intervention (high-level) and micro/local conflict realities (i.e. South Sudan)
- Nexus between violence and other drivers of displacement (e.g. food insecurity, livelihood in South Sudan, link with Boko Haram, etc.)
- Justice and accountability, history of violence (are structural in nature but influence decision to leave or return, i.e. Burundi and South Sudan)
- Interventions' negative spillover (i.e. highly militarized counter-responses to Boko Haram)

4. Observations and suggestions for a possible way forward

Suggestions

a. Strengthening exchange between different bodies of APSA and monitoring outputs for adaptive learning;

b. Synergizing APSA-AGA bodies and interventions in ***action*** to respond to nexus between human rights, governance and peace and security;

c. Emphasizing civilian protection mandates, activating policing and civilian dimensions of PSOs;

d. Strengthening the link between (micro) realities and decisions; between primary stakeholders and decision makers;

Thank you!

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