

# An Examination of the Socio-Demographic Composition of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPS) in Damaturu, Yobe State

Hussaini Ibn Mohammed<sup>1</sup>, Abubakar Alhaji Hudu<sup>2</sup>, Auwal Mohammed<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1, 2, 3</sup> Federal University Gashua, Gashua, Nigeria

## ABSTRACT

*This paper examines the socio-demographic composition of Internally Displaced Persons in Damaturu, Yobe State. This comprises the unveiling of gender, education, occupation and age group (children, adult, old) demographically. This research had adopted a methodological triangulation procedure to gather data and answer the research questions. It generated data through interviews, focus group discussion and questionnaire. The findings revealed that the most affected categories are women and children with most intense need to improvise on their situation. The findings had also revealed the degree of how IDPs were staved as a result of lack of/and or inadequate food items coupled with very poor healthcare support leading to increase in child and maternal mortality. Moreover, abject poverty becomes an order of the day simply because of how unemployment overshadowed significant number of them.*

## KEYWORDS

*Composition, Damaturu, Internally Displaced Persons, socio-demographic*

## I. INTRODUCTION

According to UN estimates, about 2.2 million IDPs (531,000 women, 423,000 men, 677,000 girls, and 569,000 boys), were displaced in the North East as of December 2021, and 890,000 are in IDP camps. An estimated 99% of the displacement is attributed to on-going conflict; with over 74% of displaced people in Borno State, 59% are estimated to be below 18 years, 35% between 18 and 59 years, and 6% above 60 years. An estimated 40% of IDPs live in 309 camps and camp-like settings and 60% live in 2,072 host communities. Adamawa has the second highest number of IDPs with 221,253 followed by Yobe with 151,874 persons.

In line with the above, Yobe State entirely has 6 established camps and camp-like which were specifically situated in the following addresses; Pompomari IDPs camp and Kasaisa IDPs camp, both were located in Damaturu. In addition, Kaumi Mala Stadium camp and Ngadala Primary School camp were located in Geidam, one of the most affected Local Government Area (LGA) by the insurgency in the state. Across Borno, Adamawa and Yobe (BAY) states in north-east Nigeria, an estimated 53 per cent of the total populations of 13.4 million people require humanitarian assistance in 2019. About 13 per cent of the total populations are IDPs representing a quarter of the people in need of humanitarian assistance in 2019.

## **II. PROBLEM STATEMENT OF THE RESEARCH**

The crisis of existence and challenges of survival confronting internally displaced persons in north-eastern Nigeria have assumed a disturbing phenomenon with protracted implications for the displaced (Anthony & Nwobashi, 2016; International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), 2016; Mba, 2017; International Committee of the Red Cross, 2018; Displacement, Tracking Matrix (DTM), 2020; and Relief web, 2020). As reported by the International Review of Red Cross (2018), there are more than 2,000,000 displaced persons across the Northeast along 120,000 Nigerian displaced refugees from the area to the neighbouring countries of Cameroon, Chad, and Niger in 2018. The DTM (2020) Round 33 Report put the number of internally displaced persons in the Northeast states of Borno, Yobe, Adamawa, Gombe, Bauchi, and Taraba at 2, 118,550 cutting across 436,058 households as of August 2020. In addition to sudden displacement, which is enough physical torture for most displaced persons from their communities in North-eastern Nigeria, the displaced are more vulnerable in the camp to further threats of shortages of essential items, insecurity, psychological depression, and low self-esteem, among others.

They are also faced with the problems of intimidation, humiliation and other forms of social exclusions. Furthermore, the displacement also affects national productivity as the youth population who constitutes parts of the productive forces of the Damaturu are also displaced. All these challenges negatively militate against government developmental efforts and accounts for the continuous downwards trends in Nigeria's development index and demand for urgent attention. Obviously, it is high time to provide modalities for addressing the socio-economic effects of Boko Haram on IDPs' Families in Damaturu Yobe state, with a view to ameliorate their sufferings and repositioning them to contribute meaningfully to socio-economic development of their state, region and country at large.

## **III. AIM AND OBJECTIVES**

This research is part of a larger work of M.Sc. thesis titled "Response to the Plight of Internally Displaced Persons and their Demographic Composition in Damaturu" which aimed at discovering the kind of responses given to IDPs in Damaturu as well as their demographic nature in terms of population which is one of the most significant aspect in respect to displacement, sex, birth, death, health with especial preference to children, pregnant and breastfeeding women. It specifically examined the needs of the above demographic figures and how much support do they receive and from who. It however aims at assessing the response in terms of improving the living condition of the displaced including their social, economic and health conditions.

## **IV. A PREAMBLE TO THE CASE STUDY: IDPS**

Displaced persons are those who have been forced or obliged or flee to have cause to leave their home or place of habitual residence in particular as a result of, or in order to avoid the effect of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violation of human rights or natural or human made disaster. These people when within their own border are referred to as internally displaced persons and if (they) cross an internationally recognized state border are called refugee described IDPs as persons or groups of persons who because of armed

conflict, systematic violations of human rights, internal strife, or natural or man-made disasters have been forced to flee their homes or places of habitual residence suddenly or unexpectedly, to another location but have not crossed an internationally recognized state border. It is expedient to clearly distinguish between refugees and IDPs. The displaced persons, who have crossed an international border and falls under one of the relevant international legal instruments, are considered as refugees. Robinson (2003) expanded the scope to also include those displaced by development projects. Most times, the focus of sympathetic attention and international aid centre round those displaced by disaster than for victims of development. Internal displacement is caused by under development, and unequal distribution of wealth, unemployment, ethnic tensions, political and economic subjugation of minorities, intolerance, and absence of democratic procedures. They are mostly unfortunate victims of the brutality of man against man, various kind of injustice or violence confrontation, perpetrated either by their own government against them or by others such as terrorism, community clashes, religious conflicts, riots, natural disasters and so on. It is a common result of both communal violence and internal armed conflicts. Internally displaced people (IDPs), the vast majority of whom are women and children, face a range of threats to their physical safety and restrictions on their freedom of movement. Many are traumatised by the violence that prompted them to flee and are afraid to return. Those whose homes have been damaged or destroyed by conflict and flooding have nowhere to go back to. Most internally displaced families live and share resources with host communities. In line with this, the IDPs in Damaturu fit in the aforementioned features for been victims of Boko Haram crises couple with been displaced and scattered from their various places of origin in search of secured and safe environment for living.

## **V. METHODOLOGY**

This research adopted a Methodological Triangulation procedure to address internal validity and help to capture different dimensions of the same phenomena under study. Methodological triangulation involves using more than one method to gather data and answer the research questions. Through methodological triangulation, the study gathered data from various methods including interviews, group discussions, participant observation, and archival research. The combination of these methods is best for exploring answers to questions on how knowledge of the scripture can serve as a rhetoric resource for peace building.

The major instrument for the quantitative method was the questionnaire. It was used to elicit information from Abbari YBC IDPs camp, Abuja Maimala IDPs camp and Kasaisa IDPs camp respectively. The first section contains information on the demographic attributes of respondents, while the second section contains information on the objectives of the study, which was reflected in the specific questions that were asked in the questionnaire. This includes demographic composition of the respondents, supports to Internally Displaced Persons, how the supports address the social needs of the Internally Displaced Persons, the impacts of the support in the improvement of health condition of internally displaced persons, the impacts of the support in the improvement of economic condition of the internally displaced persons, the category of the IDPs mostly been targeted by the government, NGOs and FBOs. The questionnaire was administered to three hundred (300) respondents. This was done with the aid of research assistants.

The qualitative study was used in the study, involving Focus Group Discussion and In-depth interview. In light of this, there were four different sessions of Focus Group Discussions in each of the selected camp and its host community of at least an hour in each of the three (3) identified camps, i.e Abbari YBC IDPs camp, Kasaisa IDPs camp and Abujan Maimala IDPs camp respectively. Each session composed seven (7) discussants of different age categories, i.e the young age of between 18-30, the middle age of between 31-50 and the old age of between 51 and above. This gave the researcher more opportunity to gather different responses from various age categories. The first session composed of male respondents separately with the researcher as a moderator and one male research assistant who served as a note-taker. The second session was with the female discussants only where two female research assistants were employed to serve as a moderator and a note-taker. This has made the discussants felt free and expressed their minds about whatsoever disturbed them because of their similarity in gender. The third and fourth sessions were with the IDPs living in the host community where the same was applied to them i.e two different sessions for males and females discussants. This is what was applied to all the three selected IDPs camps in Damaturu. In this regard, IDPs were chosen to be discussants because they are the direct victims of the insurgency and have the best and better knowledge of their precarious situation more than anyone does.

In this respect, YOSEMA representative was engaged in KII because it is a governmental body of which among its first priority and primary responsibility is to respond to the needs of the IDPs all over the state and of course regulates all NGOs in the state. Subsequently, the IDPs heads and host community leaders were selected to partake in the KII because of the mantle of leadership they have over their people and for always being in their midst which gives them opportunity to know more about the happenings of the camp especially the responses to their needs by the governments, NGOs and others. Equally, security representatives within Damaturu metropolis, i.e. DSS, Police and Civil Defence were interviewed because of the knowledge they have on security matter of the IDPs and for ensuring peace and security of the inmates of the camps especially during the distribution of relief materials by the governments or NGOs. Consequently, religious clerics i.e. Imams and Pastors were interviewed because of the religious closeness to their people and the ability to easily identify the negative impact of being displaced in respect of their various sacred religious practices as well as whether or not they offer a kind of response and assistance to their displaced brothers and sisters in religion.

Lastly, the researcher selected three identified NGOs who consistently respond to the needs of IDPs in terms of varieties of relief materials which are significantly mitigating the untold hardship of the IDPs. They ought to be interviewed in order to know the extent and magnitude of their response to the plight of IDPs in Damaturu. The NGOs were selected purposely because of their commitment towards responding to the plight of IDPs in Damaturu for long and of course many impacts were realised in the lives of IDPs.

## **VI. MAJOR FINDINGS**

The results of this research revealed that those who were mostly affected by health issue are women and children. Equally, the data revealed that the direct target of almost every donor fall within the category of women and children; but to the dismay of everyone, this

category of IDPs lingered in severe cases like maternal and child mortality as well as maternal child morbidity.

Table 4.8: Respondents on the most Affected Categories of People among the IDPs

<b>Categories</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Children, women and aged	80	27.1
Adults	19	6.4
Men	07	2.4
Women	38	12.8
Children	78	26.4
All of the above	73	24.7
Total	295	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 4.8 indicates the categories of most affected people among the IDPs. 27.1% of the respondents opined that, the Children, women, and aged are the most affected people among the IDPs. 26.4% believe children are the most affected. Additionally, 12.8% Women of the respondents see women as the most affected. However, 28.1% of the respondents, considered all the categories (children, women, aged, adults, and men) as equally affected among the IDPs. Conversely, the categories; adults and men represent the lowest percentages of respondents at 6.4% and 2.4% respectively, indicating that a relatively small proportion of the respondents identified these groups as the most affected among the IDPs. However, Supports have been significantly given to the IDPs in Damaturu in order to curtail the high rate of needs arising from the IDPs. Surprisingly, the efforts were geared towards not only material supports but rather even emotional and spiritual supports were in place for the betterment of IDPs' lives. Many hands were given the credit of providing an unprecedented supports to the IDPs in Damaturu both within and outside the country.

The situation of IDPs in Nigeria has received huge contributions from the government, wealthy individuals, international community and donor agencies who donated generously towards the resettlement of the IDPs, but the condition of the IDPs did not improve dramatically (Odufowokan, 2016:7).

In fact, much has not been done by the Nigerian government, such that there is noticeable inadequacy relief coming from the government, which means many of the IDPs requiring support could not get it. In this context, there is much reliance on the non-state actors for the purpose of financing and aiding the precarious conditions of the IDPs in the Northeast. The fund donated by the nongovernmental organization and individuals towards alleviating the plight of the troubled people has been enormous.

The assistance offered by international agencies, local and international donor groups and organizations, individuals and the government across the world to Boko Haram victims, particularly IDPs in the Northeast Nigeria is not only limited to the USAID. United Nations International Children Fund has also been assisting greatly in the Northeast Nigeria. The assistance by the UNICEF has been through the provision of finances to tackle challenges

such as poor nutritional condition, health, WASH, child protection, education and sector coordination for the betterment of the IDPs conditions.

Table 4.17: Respondents on Kind of Support have ever received from Government and NGOs

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Food and Non-food items	119	40.3
Education	27	9.1
Healthcare	81	27.4
Empowerment	43	14.6
All the above	25	8.4
Total	295	100

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 4.17 presents the distribution of respondents based on the kind of support received from the government and (NGOs). The table indicates that 40.3% of the respondents have received support in the form of food and non-food items. This suggests that a significant proportion of the respondents have benefited from material assistance, which may include essential supplies such as food, clothing, and other non-food items. Furthermore, 27.4% of the respondents have received healthcare support, indicating a substantial need for medical assistance within the surveyed population. Additionally, 14.6% of the respondents have received empowerment support, highlighting efforts to enhance the agency and capabilities of individuals within the community. Moreover, 9.1% of the respondents have received educational support, signifying the provision of educational resources and opportunities. Interestingly, 8.4% of the respondents have received all of the aforementioned forms of support, indicating that a small but notable portion of the population has accessed multiple types of assistance.

However, the qualitative data gathered indicated various kinds of responses that were provided to IDPs especially in terms of food (material) and non-food (non-material) items. Based on this, the representative of YOSEMA posited that:

The support can be educational, food security and livelihood, water sanitation and hygiene (WASH), healthcare services, protection, including child protection, Gender-Based Violence etc. Basically, the above itemized materials are the major support YOSEMA used to support IDPs with in Yobe with the assistance of various nationals and international bodies in their effort to ameliorate the vulnerability situation of IDPs to a minimal level.

In another viewpoint, the representative of International Rescue Committee stated that:

Firstly we give them support based on what they said they are in need of it. Secondly, we support them with temples, plastic mats, mosquito nets, blankets, buckets, pots, etc. The next visit they will have legal documentation whereby they will have access to National Identity Card in order to avoid problems with the host community members. Water will be provided to them in case if they don't have it.

Adding to the above, the head of Abujan Maimala IDPs camp in a discussion posited that:

They used to give us card through which they will be assisting us monthly and even with that, two third of the IDPs are not benefiting. They give us corn, millet, Ready to Use Supplementary Food (RUSF), beans as well as oil. But they have forgotten us now because for long nothing was brought to us.

Going by the above, it has become clear that the nature of the support/ responses cut across both the food and non-food items, educational, healthcare services, child protection and GBV as well etc. Equally, there are other various kind of responses in spite of its inconsistency apart from the ones mentioned above enjoyed by IDPs from different bodies to enable them cope with their spiritual and emotional wellbeing as many of them were traumatized and disturbed by the pass experiences of attacks, killings, gunshots, bomb blasts, manslaughter, forced labour and unassisted child birth on the road etc.

Equally, the social problems of poverty and unemployment among IDPs recorded a significant number of supports to the extent that respondents disclosed the fact that various responses were in place in this respect. Equally, supports were provided to them in order to ameliorate the menace of this poverty and unemployment among them ranging from government and non-governmental organization down the individual levels. Though, despite all these efforts it seems not to be enough to eliminate the problem entirely. This can be as a result of the following factors: lack of sincerity of purpose from government officials and NGOs or negligence of the IDPs for not properly utilizing what was given to them as poverty alleviation or empowerment. This is directly linkable to the position of Olagunju (2006), that government in Nigeria does not have adequate machinery in place to address IDPs issues and the organizations created by the government possess minimal capacity to handle IDPs related problems. Within the camp, the plights of most Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in North-Eastern Nigeria revolve around insufficient food, crowded accommodation, weak health care services, and insecurity, among others. In the area of food supply, lots of the IDPs are facing hunger and starvation in the camp as confirmed by them.

Table 4.31: Respondents on Kind of Challenges they have ever noticed

<b>Challenges</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Abject poverty	113	38.3
Unemployment	40	13.5
Food shortage	111	37.6
Poor upkeep of the family	31	10.5
Total	295	100

Source: Field Survey, 2023

According to the table, it is evident that the respondents have noticed various kinds of challenges. Abject poverty was the most frequently noticed challenge, accounting for 38.3% of the responses. This was followed closely by food shortage, which was noticed by 37.6% of the respondents. Unemployment was noticed by 13.5% of the respondents, while poor upkeep of the family was the least noticed challenge, with only 10.5% of the respondents indicating this as a challenge they have noticed. These percentages provide valuable insights

into the distribution of challenges noticed by the respondents and highlight the prevalence of abject poverty and food shortage as significant concerns within the surveyed population.

## VII. CONCLUSION

Building on the past studies, this research has confirmed the prevalence of the response to the plight of IDPs in all the camps visited in Damaturu but not without some obstacles, that is why they are still in absolute need of further responses and especially from philanthropists and wealthy individuals who seemed to have shackled themselves from any kind of response to IDPs. It has been argued that education and health were among what received lowest attention especially from the government which is ought to be at fore front of its priority in terms of response. The IDPs themselves have their own shortcoming of cheaply selling the items given to them for other purposes. In addition, the responses of federal and state governments were not enough to take care of them and to sustain them to a reasonable period of time if not because of the interventions from INGOs, NGOs and FBOs etc. At times, the donors/organizations were posed with challenges that would either halt or hinder their effective and timely delivery to the IDPs which is disadvantageous them.

## RECOMMENDATION

- [1] In view of the above data, below are some of the possible recommendations to improve the livelihood of the IDPs in Damaturu.
- [2] To solve the problems of IDPs to the barest level, all kind of assistance either from government or any other body should be geared toward making to be self relents through vocational training and empowerment etc.
- [3] Awareness should be created to the IDPs who were trained and empowered but end of cheaply selling or spoiling all what have been invested in them, leaving the efforts of the government, NGOs and philanthropist in vain.
- [4] An extraordinary care, support and concern should be given to the most vulnerable and fragile components of the IDPs which are children and women. Their vulnerability and fragility definitely require an intense consideration as they can easily be brainwashed, influenced and carried away by all sorts of evil minds.

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