



**2 335<sup>1</sup>**  
Displaced Households  
Interviewed

**17 768**  
Displaced Individuals

**496**  
Locations Visited

## DISPLACEMENT

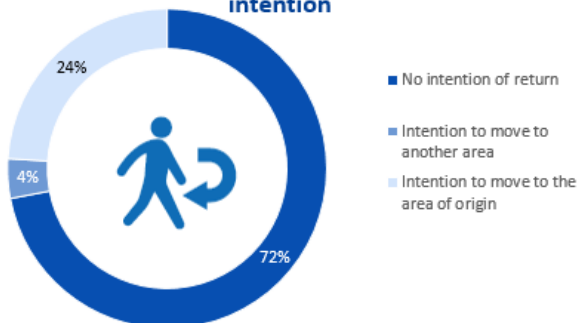
- The tenth round of Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM – August 2017) identified 237 967 IDPs, 29 728 out of camp refugees and 61 090 returnees.<sup>2</sup>
- 92% of the displaced population was displaced by the insurgency and 8% by flooding and other natural disasters.
- An estimated 20% of the current population was displaced in 2017 (January-August). The remaining percentage is broken down as follows: 4% before 2014, 16% in 2014, 26% in 2015 and 34% in 2016.
- An estimated 51% of the displaced household population lives in host communities, while 21% live in rented housing, 27% in spontaneous sites, 1% in collective centers and 1% in open-air spaces.<sup>3</sup>

## RETURN INTENTION HIGHLIGHTS

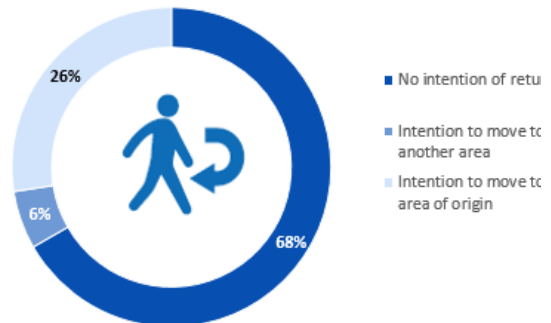
- 28% of displaced households (IDP and out of camp refugees) indicated their intention to leave their current place of displacement. 24% indicated the intention to return back to their area of origin and 4% indicated the intention to move to a tertiary location. The 72% remaining indicated their intention to stay in their displacement location.
- Three main reasons prevent IDP from returning to their areas of origin: persistent fear (71%), feeling of security in host localities (36%), and lack of economic means (23%).<sup>4</sup>
- The three main requirements for return of IDP that were cited include: presence of security forces in the area of origin (64%), rehabilitation of damaged houses (36%), improvement of access to basic services (34%).<sup>5</sup>

## INTENTIONS OF RETURN<sup>6</sup>

IDP and out of camp refugees return intention



IDP return intention



<sup>1</sup> 1 748 IDP households (13 460 individuals) and 587 out of camp refugee households (4 308 individuals).

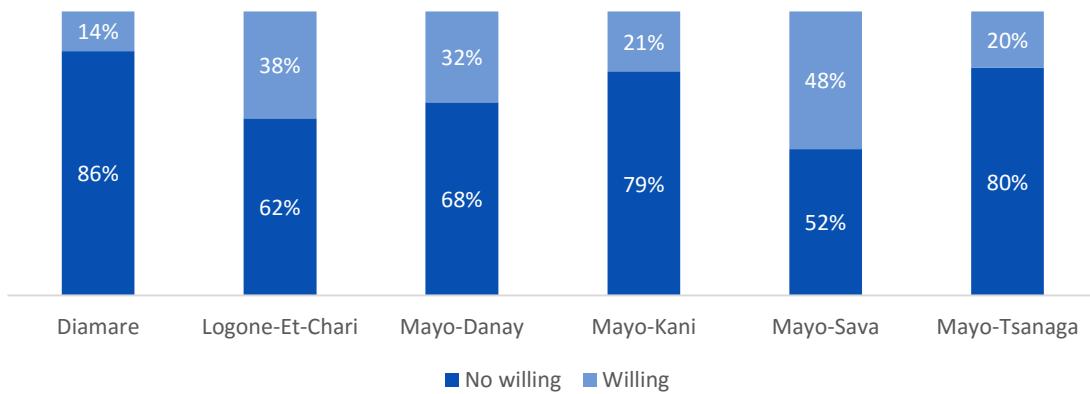
<sup>2</sup> Note that albeit this general section, returnees are not included in this report.

<sup>3</sup> Note that this refers to the entire target population.

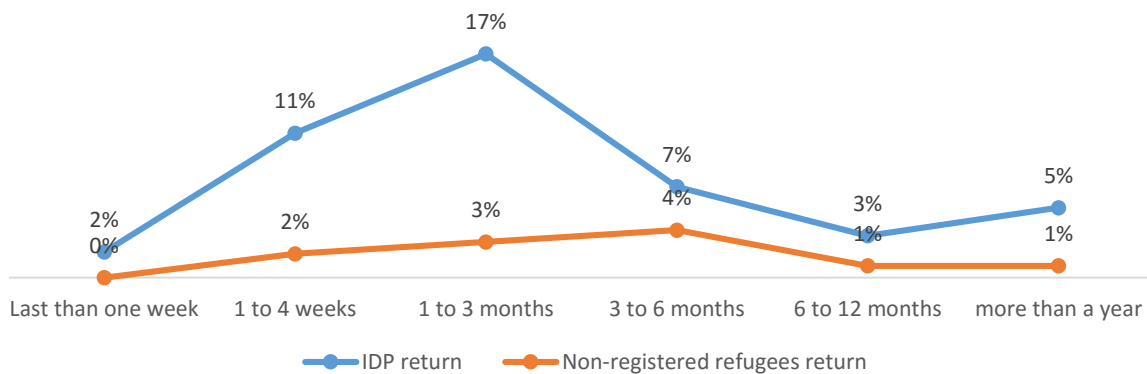
<sup>4</sup> Note that choices here were not exclusive.

<sup>5</sup> These responses were not exclusive.

<sup>6</sup> Please note that a UNHCR registration activity ongoing, this category includes both registered and unregistered refugees living outside of camps for the time being. Once the exercise has been concluded, this category will be disaggregated into those registered and not.

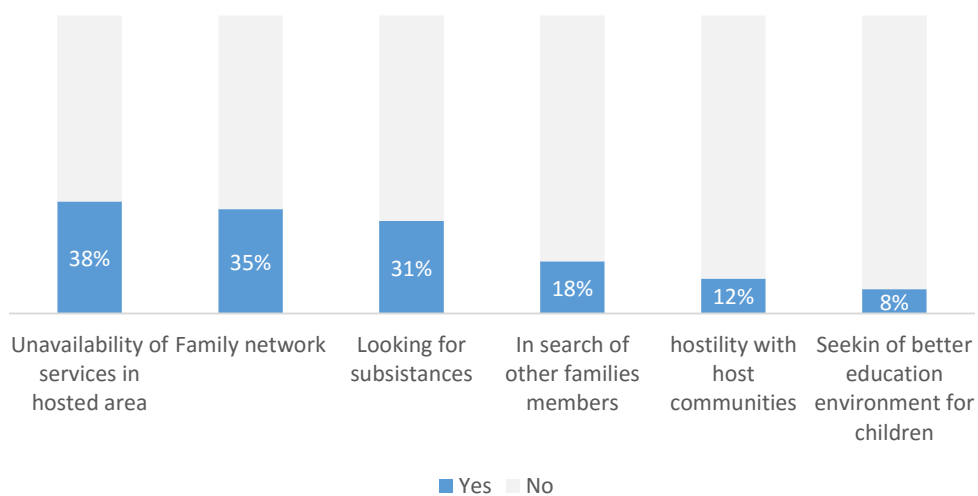


## FORESEEN PERIOD OF RETURN



More than half of the target households that indicated an intention to return to their current areas of displacement declared not having a specific timeframe for their return (59%). Of the remaining 41% of households, 2% indicated an intention to return in the upcoming 2 weeks, 10% indicated an intention to return in the upcoming 1-4 weeks, 15% indicated an intention to return in the upcoming 3 months, 7% in the upcoming 3-6 months, 3% in the upcoming 6-12 months and 5% in over a year's time. The uncertainty in terms of foreseen return or secondary displacement highlights limited preparation for returns and ostensibly a desire for certain changes prior to moving.

## REASONS FOR INTENDING TO LEAVE THE AREA OF DISPLACEMENT

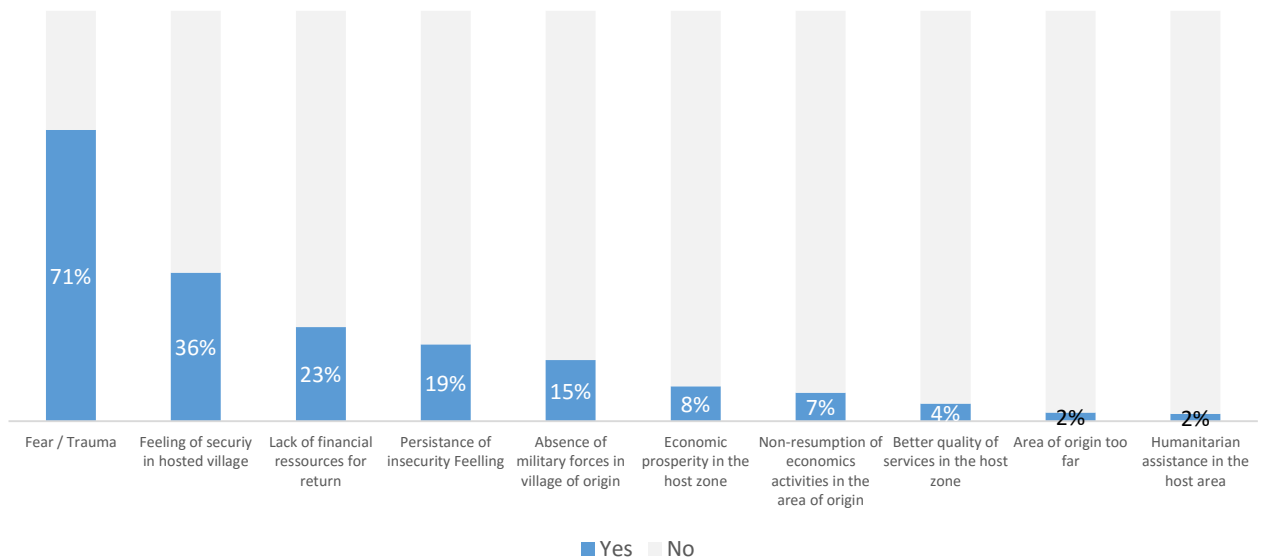


Though the displacement situation in the region has been going on for over three years, 38% of IDPs have highlighted their frustration in terms of their limited access to water (non-functioning boreholes are not uncommon to the region) and health care facilities. Education is also problematic for many in their areas of displacement, as hasty displacements motivated primarily by security considerations, did not take into account the accessibility of services. Additionally, teachers and health care providers throughout the region have also displaced either preemptively or reactively to the continuously volatile security situation.

35% of those displaced indicated that proximity to their areas of origin was a primary motivation in their choice of displacement area, as familial ties and support remain very important. However, only 18% indicated having chosen their displacement location based on the desire to reconnect with or find missing or distance family members.

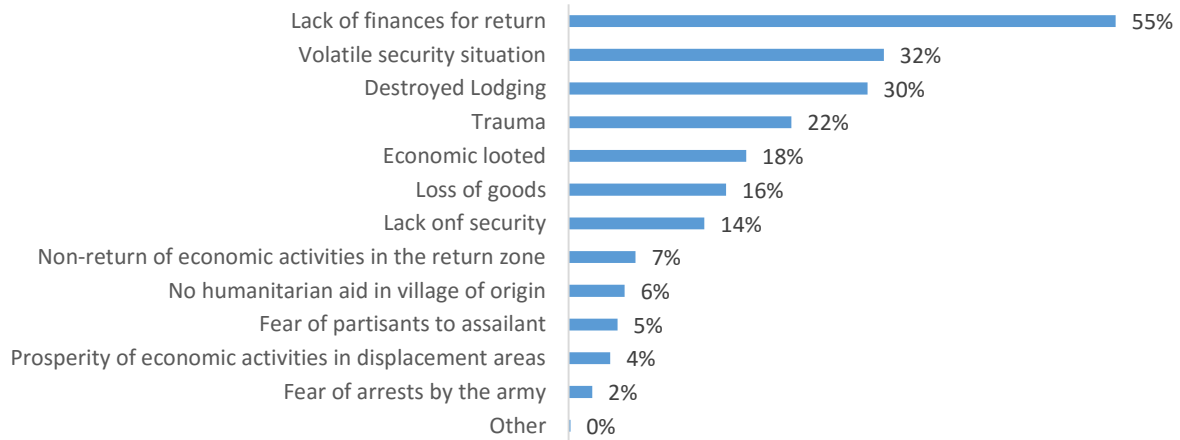
Of those planning a secondary (or tertiary etc.) displacement, 12% highlighted hostilities with host communities as their primary motivation.

## REASONS FOR INTENDING TO REMAIN IN THE AREA OF DISPLACEMENT



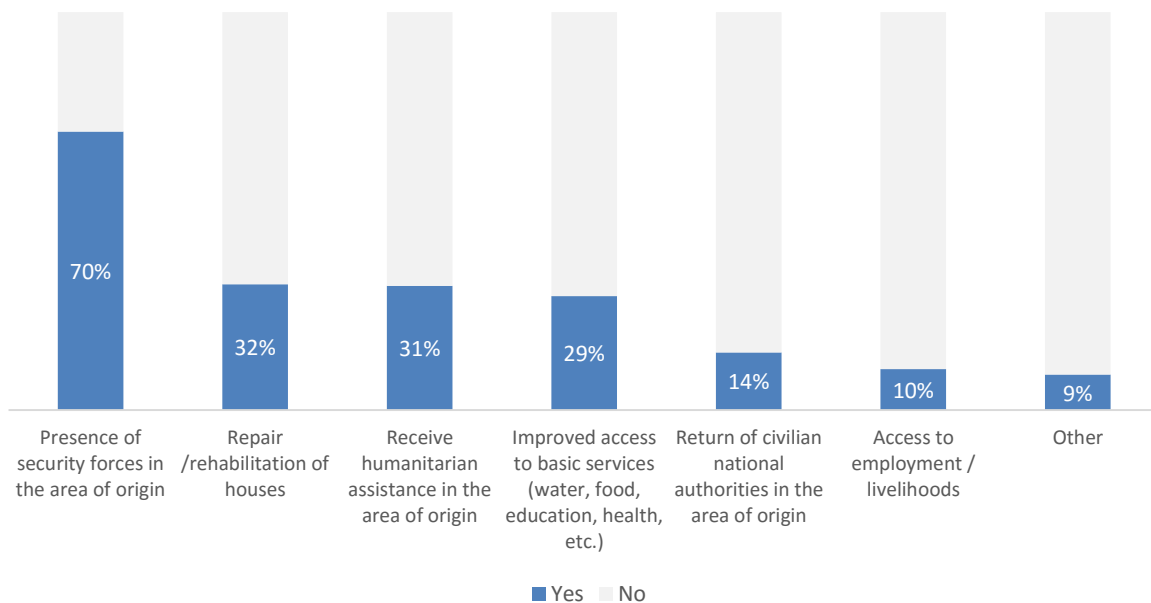
Persistent fear/trauma due to the experiences of the target population over the past few years remains the primary reason for the desire to remain in displacement areas, accounting for 71% of this population. This reason is linked to the second most common one (accounting for 36% of the population in question): feelings of security in the host village. The presence of humanitarian aid in areas of displacement did not seem to play a significant role in the decision to remain or return.

## HOUSEHOLDS INTENDING TO LEAVE THEIR AREA OF DISPLACEMENT: REASONS PREVENTING THEIR IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE



55% of IDP households that wanted to return to their areas of origin but hadn't highlighted a lack of financial resources as the primary factor hindering this return. 32% highlighted the continued volatility of the security situation as the primary cause for not returning home, despite expressing a desire to do so. Destroyed housing was another cause for continued displacement amongst this population. This essentially highlights three primary axes necessary for [durable] return: security, housing and economic revitalization.

## HOUSHOLDS INTENDING TO REMAIN IN THEIR AREA OF DISPLACEMENT: FACTORS REQUIRED TO FACILITATE THEIR RETURN



The two departments that are most affected by the conflict in the region are Logone-Et-Chari and Mayo Sava and as such, an important number of IDPs originate from these departments. Evidence suggests that as long as the security situation remains unstable, durable returns will be hesitant. 70% of households that indicated a desire to remain in their area of displacement indicated that a permanent and strengthened presence of security forces in their areas of origin may incite a return. 32% indicated infrastructure and housing rehabilitation as primary obstacles to their return, while for 31% of households, enhanced humanitarian assistance in their area of origin would be an incentive to return.

This again highlights what was mentioned above, namely that returns would be encouraged if the three conditions: enhanced security, housing rehabilitation and economic revitalization were met.

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## CONCLUSION

The exact interval between and modalities of displacement and return amongst communities affected by the Boko Haram crisis remains unknown and uncertain. What this survey highlights is that the three main axes that could potentially lead to [durable] returns are an increased and permanent security apparatus, rehabilitation of infrastructure and homes and economic revitalization.

The last return intention survey conducted by IOM was in October 2016. This study indicated an intention to return to the area of origin amongst 38% of the target population surveyed. The August 2017 study shows a decrease in this statistic with 32% intending to return home. Though slight, this decrease highlights a continued desire to either remain in the area of displacement or undertake a tertiary displacement. It may also be attributed to the variation in the population size, as the displaced population was estimated at 261 700 people across 541 villages in October 2016 and 328 785 people across 670 villages in August 2017.<sup>7</sup>

In October 2016, 58% of the population surveyed in the Mayo Sava department indicated a desire to return home. Though the return situation has continuously evolved in this department, the August 2017 study showed a decrease in this statistic with 48% of questioned IDP households indicating a desire to return.

Return to their areas of origin is amongst the durable solutions for displaced populations. As such, it is important that the Government and the humanitarian community strengthen early recovery mechanisms for returnees. Through a strengthened State authority, specifically through increased security forces in the areas of potential return, the improvement of community infrastructures (including facilities for and access to water, health, education, etc.) and economic recovery, durable returns of displaced peoples to their areas of origin could be envisaged.

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<sup>7</sup> Please note that 670 refers to the number of inhabited villages surveyed. Teams went to 726 villages during this round of data collection but found 56 villages empty or destroyed.