



DTM NIGERIA

# IDP INTENTION SURVEY IN YOBE STATE

15 April 2024



IOM Nigeria thanks the National Bureau of Statistics, National Emergency Management Agency, Yobe State Emergency Management Agency, the Nigerian Red Cross Society and other partners for their continued collaboration.

## OVERALL KEY FINDINGS IN YOBE STATE



### INTENTIONS TO RETURN



**Thirty-five** per cent (35%) of respondents in both camps/camp-like settings and in the host communities intend to return to their locations of origin.



**Forty-six** per cent (46%) of respondents who intended to return to their place of origin stated that their houses were completely destroyed and needed rebuilding.

### INTENTIONS TO INTEGRATE



**Thirty-seven** per cent (37%) of respondents in Yobe State stated that they do not intend to leave the locations where they are currently displaced in the coming months. They intend to integrate into the host communities.



**Seventy-one** per cent (71%) of respondents who intended to integrate into the host community mentioned that the major reason for their decision was that the security situation was good in their current place of displacement.

### INTENTIONS TO RELOCATE



Only **two** per cent of respondents in Yobe State intend to relocate to another LGA or state, while most of this group intends to relocate to other LGAs.



**Twenty-two** per cent (22%) of respondents mentioned the search for livelihood/income as the primary reason for their decision to relocate.

## INTRODUCTION

The north-east region of Nigeria grapples with a deeply intricate displacement crisis predominantly caused by human conflicts. The non-state armed groups (NSAGs) perpetuate violence, driving large-scale displacement, while climate change intensifies the existing conflict situations and displacement. Furthermore, the north-east region, which includes Yobe, Borno, Adamawa, Bauchi, Gombe, and Taraba states, faces significant exposure to natural calamities such as floods. The escalation of violence since 2014 triggered a multifaceted humanitarian emergency, leading to mass displacement across the area. This situation continues to this day, with the north-east still accommodating substantial numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees.

While many of the IDPs continued to be displaced for prolonged periods, there is a noticeable trend of increasing numbers of IDPs returning to their places of origin, as evidenced by Round 45 of DTM assessments (June 2023) identified 2,075,257 returnees in the region. Recognizing the growing number of returnees, the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), in collaboration with the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)/Shelter and NFI and Protection sectors, including the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), Nigeria Red Cross Society (NRCS), and other key partners deemed it necessary to assess the future intentions (within the next 12 months) of individuals in displacement areas to provide appropriate solution interventions. The DTM of the IOM Nigeria Mission, with the support of the partners, led the Intention Survey (IS) in Yobe State (including the other five states of the north-east) to assess IDPs who wish to return to their place of origin, locally integrate at their current location of displacement or relocate to another part of the state (LGA), within or outside the country.

Out of the 24,450 displaced households in Yobe, a total of 3,819 households (218 residing in camps/camp-like settings and 3,601 in the host communities) were interviewed as a sample to determine their intentions towards a preferred solution (return, relocate or integrate) within the next 12 months. The goal was (1) to ensure a safe and dignified return to their places of origin, (2) to assist the integration of IDPs in the location of displacement, and (3) to support local relocation. By shedding light on the IDP's future intentions, which are often influenced by security conditions and livelihood prospects in the selected locations of solutions, this report seeks to provide a better understanding of the decision-making process of internally displaced individuals regarding their future homes linked to return, local relocation or integration and the conditions necessary for sustainable solutions following their intentions, thereby, generating advocacy, policy related discussions and decision-making in line with the protection-centred approaches.

## OBJECTIVES

The Intention Survey tool aims to collect detailed data about the IDPs wishing to be on a path towards solutions within the next 12 months. The main objectives of the survey are as follows:

- I. To assess IDPs who wish to return, relocate, and locally integrate.
- II. To map out areas to which IDPs wish to return, relocate, and locally integrate.
- III. To understand the conditions in (actual and intended) locations of solutions.
- IV. To determine the estimated timelines for return, relocation, and local integration.

<sup>1</sup>National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Yobe State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMA), Alheri Peace Building and Empowerment Foundation (APBEF), Almajiri Child Rights Initiative (ACRI), Child Protection and Women Empowerment Initiative (CPWEI), National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS) and Ummin Rashida Care Foundation (URCF\_NIG)

### DISCLAIMER

The opinions expressed in the report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). IOM expresses no opinion concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries.

## METHODOLOGY

IOM strictly followed the UN General Assembly Guidelines when planning and conducting this survey. While the UN General Assembly Guidelines are mainly addressed to states, they also explicitly apply to personal data files kept by governmental and international organizations, including IOM. The key principles of the guidelines are lawfulness and fairness, accuracy, interest-ed-person access, non-discrimination, purpose-specification, proportionality, respect for the data subject's rights, security and confidentiality, and accountability and supervision.

The execution of this survey, including the methodology, scope, and presentation of the findings in this report, adhered to global best practices as outlined by the IOM Global DTM toolkit. Quantitative research methods were employed to formulate the interview questionnaire and implement the survey.

In preparation for the questionnaire, consultations were organized with the CCCM/NFI/Shelter and the protection sectors. Following the sessions, DTM tested the survey instrument by conducting ten pilot interviews (5 households per population strata) per state. The final survey questionnaire was comprised of eight (8) open-ended questions, 158 closed questions (closed questions are queries eliciting a “yes” or “no” response), and 17 semi-closed questions. After the finalization of the questionnaire, enumerators and partners (44) in Yobe State were trained by the IOM DTM. Data was entered into the DTM Kobo server after face-to-face interviews, which was then processed for the analytical report.

Although the term “voluntary return” is not reflected in the questionnaire, interviewers were trained and instructed to explain to each interviewee that survey questions relate to returns of a voluntary nature only. The meaning of each solution—voluntary return, integration, and relocation was explained to each interviewee. DTM staff monitored interviews to verify that these concepts were clearly introduced and well understood.

This survey, conducted in Yobe state, contributed to the analysis of the intention of the two surveyed population groups:

IDPs dispersed in camp/camp-like settings are persons who have been forced to leave their homes or places of habitual residence and reside in a formal or informal camp.

IDPs dispersed in host communities are persons who have been forced to leave their homes or places of habitual residence and live with the local residents.

The intention survey's sampling framework relied on the DTM Mobility Tracking Round 45 (Sep 2023) dataset. This data provided a breakdown of the IDP populations at administrative level 4 (location/sites), which formed the sample frame for the survey.

The Intention Survey used a two-stage cluster sampling. The primary sampling units in the first stage were the IDP sites, as identified by the Mobility Tracking Assessment Round 45. In the second stage, households were randomly interviewed from the identified IDP sites. Out of the 24,450 displaced households in Yobe, 3,819 (218 residing in camps/camp-like settings and 3,601 in the host communities) were interviewed to determine their preferred solution (return, relocation integration) within the next 12 months.

## LIMITATIONS

1. Insecurity made some wards in some LGAs inaccessible during the entire timeframe of the Intention Survey, and data collection was postponed in other locations.
2. Due to the poor and unstable network in several survey locations, especially in hard-to-reach areas, the data was delayed in uploading to the server, prolonging the assessment.
3. The findings presented in this report represent weighted results, and due to rounding off, some percentages may be slightly above or below (+/-1%) 100 per cent.
4. The results in this report represent a 95 per cent confidence level with a 5 per cent margin of error at the state level (Admin II).

MAP 1: THE NUMBER OF SAMPLES PER LGA

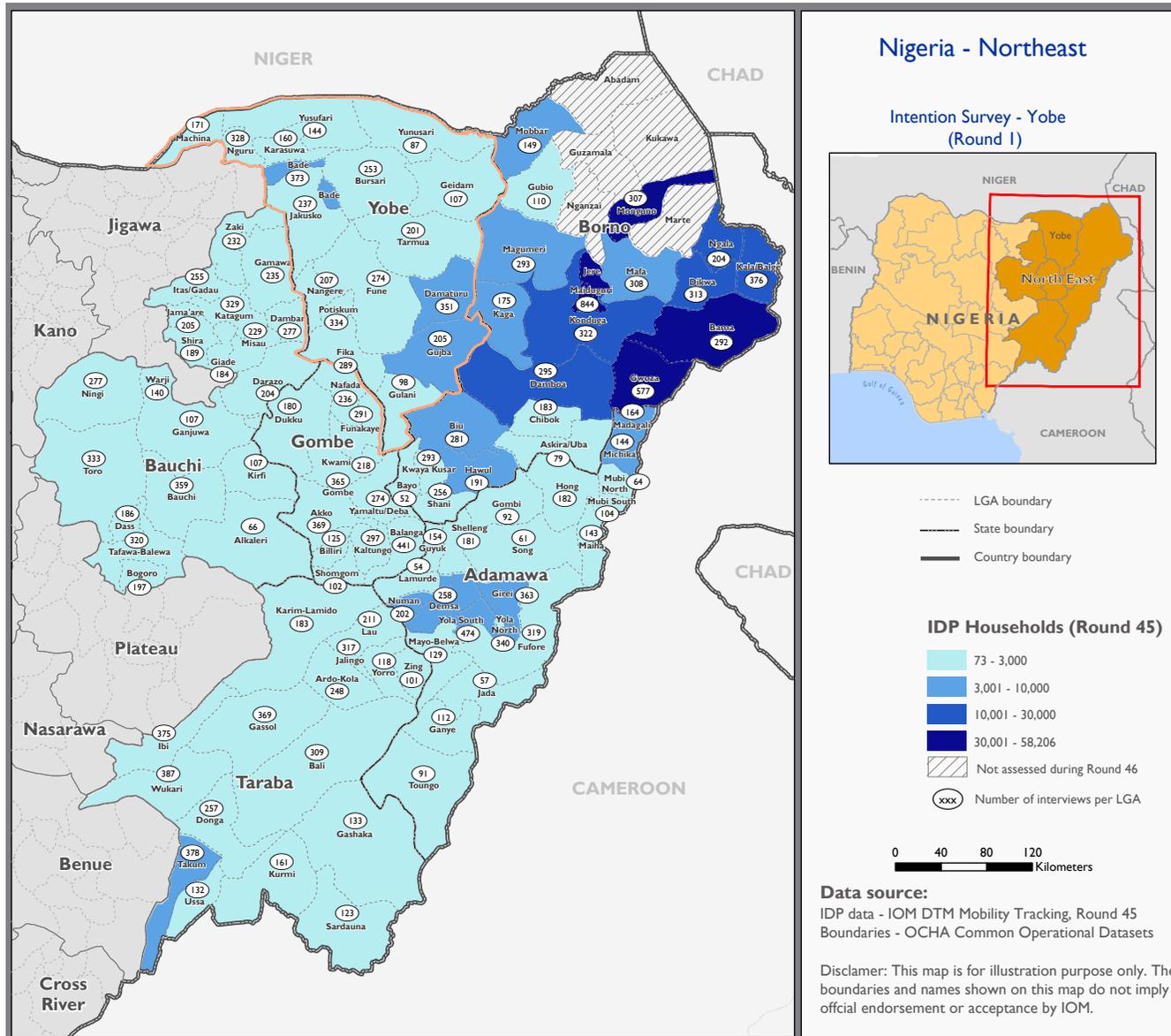


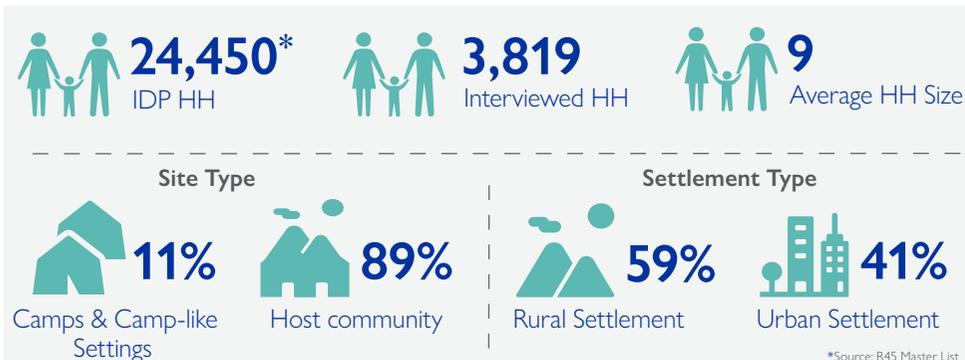
Table 1. Number of households in Northeast - DTM R45

State	LGA	Host communities	Camps	Grand Total
Yobe	Bade	3,336	-	3,336
	Bursari	841	334	1,175
	Damaturu	2,600	1,915	4,515
	Fika	834	-	834
	Fune	506	50	556
	Geidam	1,812	-	1,812
	Gujba	6,217	839	7,056
	Gulani	405	-	405
	Jakusko	459	-	459
	Karasuwa	151	-	151
	Machina	290	-	290
	Nangere	296	-	296
	Nguru	899	42	941
	Potiskum	1,253	-	1,253
	Tarmua	614	-	614
Yunusari	330	21	351	
Yusufari	406	-	406	
<b>Total</b>		<b>21,249</b>	<b>3,201</b>	<b>24,450</b>

Table 2. Number of households interviewed

State	LGA	Host communities	Camps	Grand Total
Yobe	Bade	373	-	373
	Bursari	253	-	253
	Damaturu	217	134	351
	Fika	289	-	289
	Fune	249	25	274
	Geidam	107	-	107
	Gujba	164	41	205
	Gulani	98	-	98
	Jakusko	237	-	237
	Karasuwa	160	-	160
	Machina	171	-	171
	Nangere	207	-	207
	Nguru	314	14	328
	Potiskum	334	-	334
	Tarmua	201	-	201
Yunusari	83	4	87	
Yusufari	144	-	144	
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,601</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>3,819</b>

Table 1. shows the total number of households in the LGAs of Yobe State according to [DTM Round 45 master list assessment](#). Table 2. shows the number of households interviewed per LGA sampled based on the number of displaced households as reflected in table 1.



To discern the future aspirations and intentions of IDPs in Yobe State, the DTM surveyed 17 LGAs where IDPs were situated. Out of the total 24,450 displaced households in the state, a sample of 3,819 was interviewed. Of these households, 11 per cent were found to reside in camps or camp-like settings, while the overwhelming majority, 89 per cent, resided within host communities.

DISPLACEMENT HISTORY

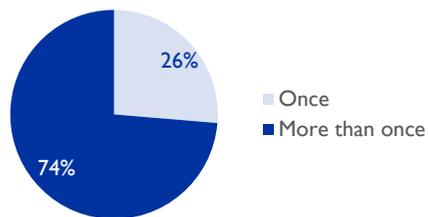


Fig 1: Displaced more than once

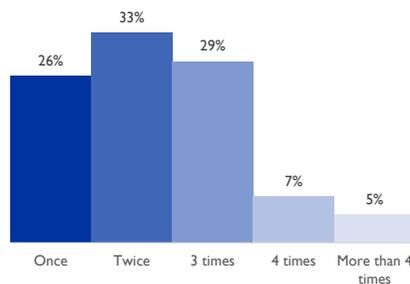


Fig 2: Number of displacement

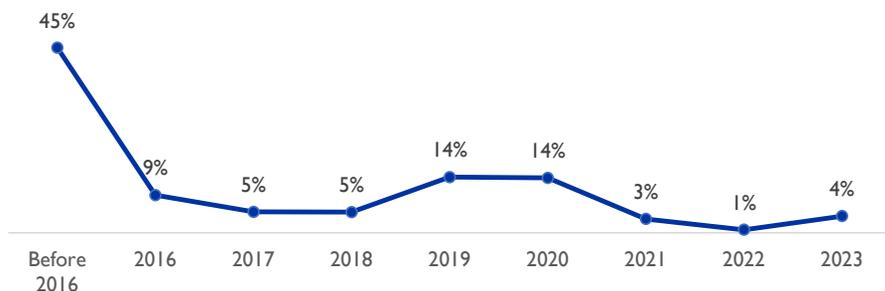


Fig 3: Year of displacement

HOUSEHOLD'S MAJOR CONCERN AND LIVELIHOODS



Fig 4: Top five household's major concerns (multiple choice responses)\*

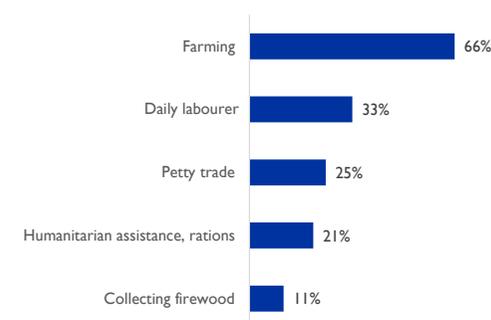


Fig 5: Top five current means of livelihood (multiple choice responses)\*

FUTURE INTENTIONS

The survey findings indicate diverse intentions among households affected by displacement. Notably, 37 per cent of respondents expressed their desire to integrate into the host communities, reflecting a willingness to establish roots in their new surroundings. Conversely, approximately 35 per cent of interviewed households expressed their intention to return to their places of origin, highlighting a solid attachment to their ancestral lands despite the challenges of displacement. A smaller portion, comprising two per cent of respondents, indicated plans to relocate to other LGAs or states, suggesting a desire for a fresh start elsewhere

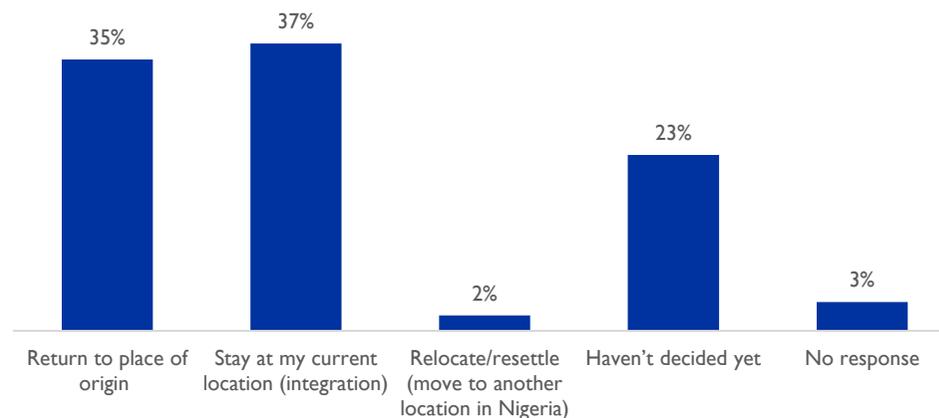
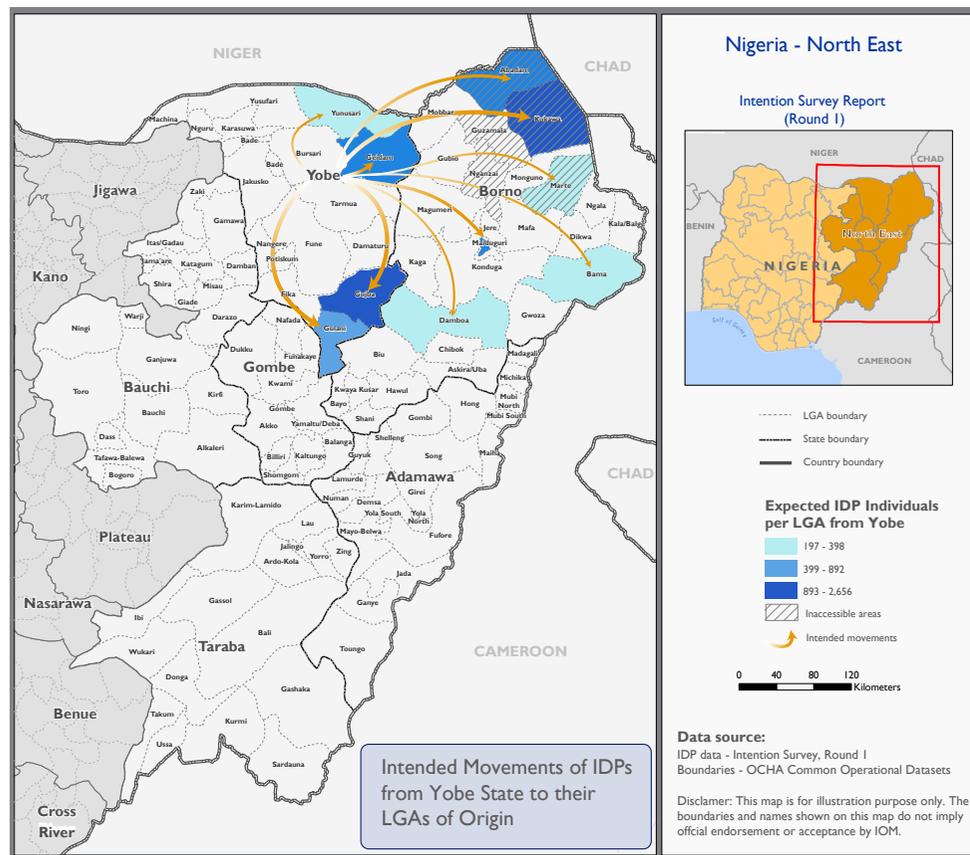


Fig 6: Household future intentions

\*Multiple choice responses

### MAP SHOWING AREAS OF INTENDED RETURN



### 1. INTENDED PERIODS OF RETURN

Most households, comprising 63 per cent, expressed uncertainty regarding the timing of their potential return. Meanwhile, 31 per cent of respondents planned to return within a year, while a mere six per cent intended to do so in a year:

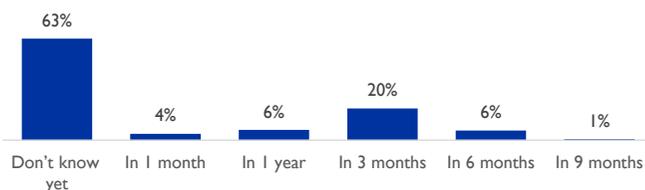


Fig 7: Possible time of return

### 2. REASONS FOR RETURN

Among the various factors influencing their decision to return to their original residence, respondents' primary concern is the absence of employment opportunities in their current displacement area, accounting for 52 per cent. Reasons such as pursuing livelihood opportunities and limited access to basic services in the displacement location follow closely. The need to reclaim assets and rebuild damaged shelters also ranks highly among the motivations for returning.



Fig 8: Reasons for intended return (multiple choice responses)\*

### 3. REASONS FOR NO RETURN TO PLACE OF ORIGIN

While many households are willing to return to their places of origin, several obstacles impede their return. Chief among these barriers is the absence of housing at their place of origin, as reported by 60 per cent of the households surveyed. This scarcity of housing options poses a considerable challenge to their resettlement efforts. Additionally, many households encounter difficulties returning due to others occupying their houses or lands, further complicating reintegrating into their communities of origin.

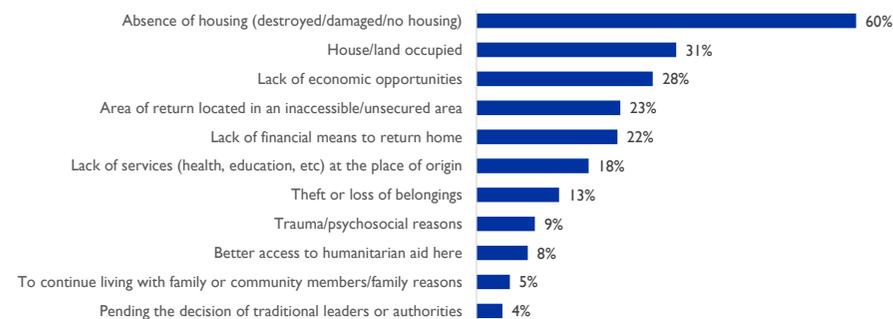


Fig 9: Reasons for not return yet\*

\*Multiple choice responses

#### 4. HOUSING AVAILABLE/ACCESSIBLE AT INTENDED PLACE OF RETURN

A majority, comprising 42 per cent of households intending to return, indicated uncertainty regarding the availability or accessibility of housing at their place of origin. Conversely, 42 per cent of respondents reported having their own house, which they deemed accessible. However, it is noteworthy that many houses owned by respondents were damaged and required reconstruction.

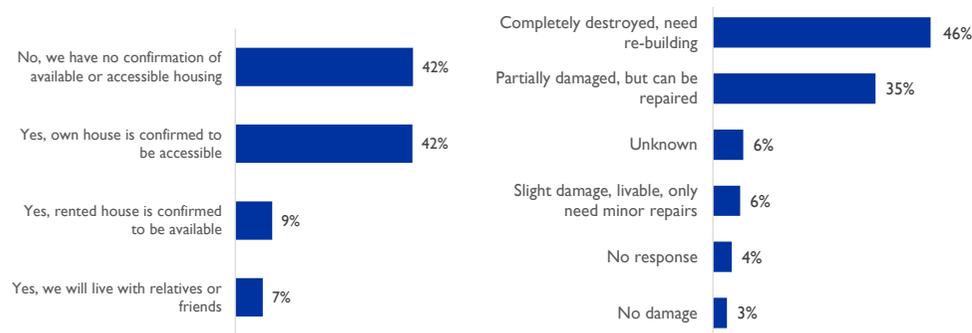


Fig 10: Housing available at intended place of return

Fig 11: Condition of house at the place of origin

#### 5. LIVELIHOOD AVAILABLE AT PLACE OF ORIGIN

The availability of livelihood in areas of return is paramount to the decision to return. The primary means of livelihood available to respondents were family businesses, as mentioned by 43 per cent of the respondents. This was followed by pastoral activities and fishing, which were mentioned at 18 per cent and 17 per cent, respectively.

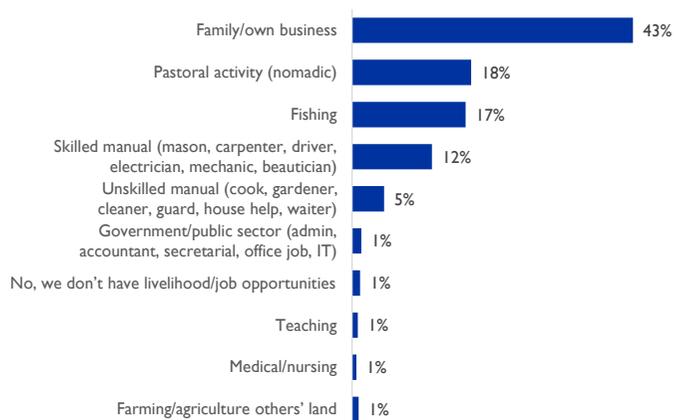


Fig 12: Available livelihood at place of origin

#### 6. ASSISTANCE AND CONDITIONS FOR RETURN

Respondents have identified several conditions and factors crucial for facilitating the execution of their return plans. Foremost among these is the safety of displaced persons in their original locales, with insecurity being the primary catalyst for displacement. Failure to address this issue could perpetuate the cycle of displacement, as emphasized by 44 per cent of household responses. Following closely is the condition of access to food at their places of origin, cited by approximately 34 per cent of respondents. They assert that once access to food is assured, the journey back to their original homes can commence.



Fig 13: Top 10 Conditions of return (multiple choice response)\*

#### 7. INTENDED RETURN TO YOBE FROM OTHER STATES

Drawing insights from data collected in other north-east states, 17 per cent of the respondents in Gombe State expressed a desire to return and intended to return to their original location in Yobe State. Similarly, 11 per cent of displaced individuals in Bauchi who sought to return also preferred to return to their original location in Yobe State. These findings suggest that the IDPs under consideration were compelled to leave Yobe State.

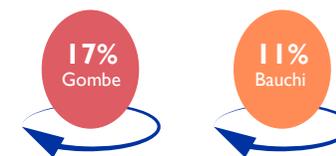


Fig 14: Intended return from other states (multiple choice responses)\*

\*Multiple choice responses

[Click on this link to access the locations of intended return for IDPs in Yobe State](#)

### 1. REASONS FOR INTEGRATION

A significant majority, comprising 37 per cent of respondents, expressed their intention to integrate into the communities where they were displaced. The primary motivation behind this decision, cited by 71 per cent of respondents, was the overall security situation in their LGA of displacement, highlighting the importance of safety in their resettlement considerations. Additionally, 42 per cent of respondents mentioned the loss of all possessions in their places of origin as another compelling reason for integration, underscoring the profound impact of displacement on their lives. Moreover, respondents identified the availability of economic opportunities in the intended areas of integration as a key factor influencing their decision. Other reasons for opting to integrate included the desire to continue living alongside family or community members, highlighting the significance of social ties in their resettlement process.

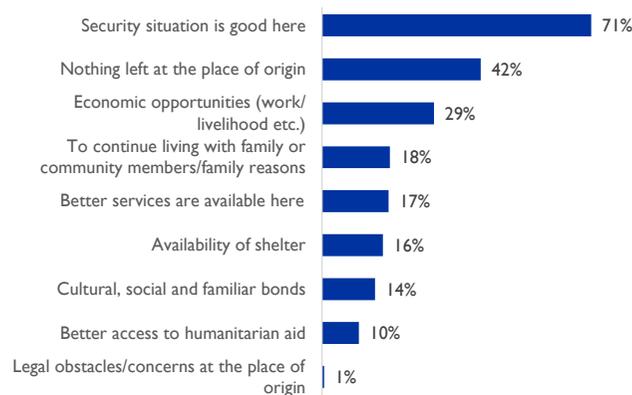


Fig 15: Reasons for integration (multiple choice responses)\*

### 2. CONDITIONS FOR INTEGRATION

During the survey, respondents were interviewed about the conditions necessary to facilitate the integration of households into their host communities. The overwhelming majority, constituting 75 per cent of responses, emphasized the significance of livelihood and income opportunities as critical factors for successful integration. This underscores the importance of economic stability in enabling displaced individuals to rebuild their lives. Following closely, housing provision emerged as another essential condition, with 50 per cent of respondents highlighting its importance. Security also featured prominently, with 49 per cent of responses emphasizing the need for a safe environment conducive to resettlement.

[Click on this link to access the locations of intended integration for IDPs in Yobe State](#)

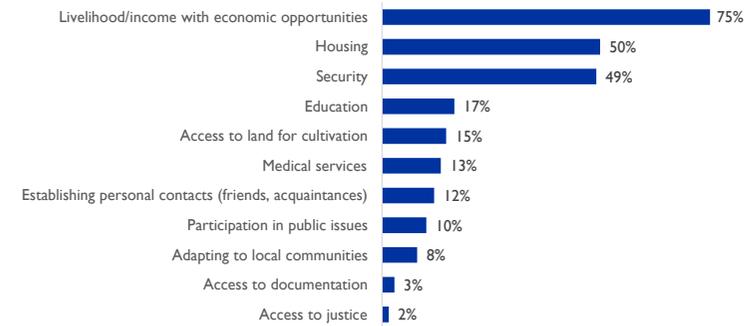


Fig 16: Conditions for integration (multiple choice responses)\*

### 3. CHALLENGES RESTRICTING INTEGRATION

The respondents also stated the challenges encountered in their plan for integration. The lack of suitable shelter conditions is at the top of the list, accounting for 47 per cent of the responses. This was followed by the lack of access to livelihood and economic opportunities in their place of displacement, followed by security concerns in some of the areas of intended integration.

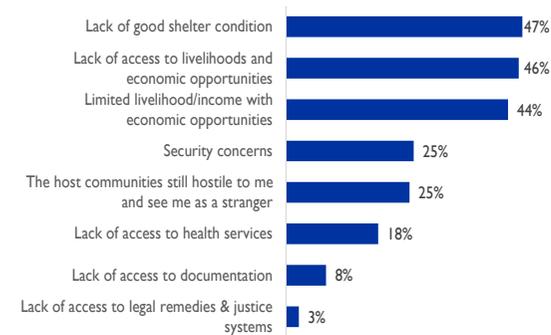


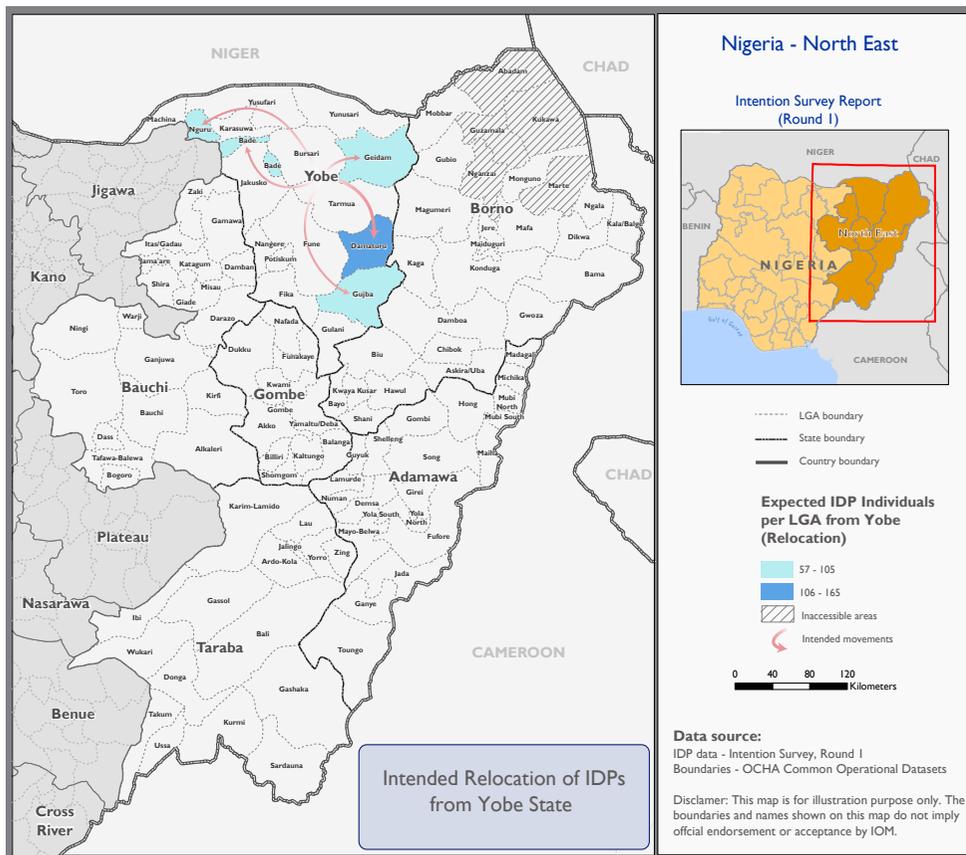
Fig 17: Challenges restricting integration (multiple choice responses)\*

### 4. PERCEPTION ON INTEGRATION

When queried about their views on integration, 57 per cent of respondents perceive themselves as already integrated, while eight per cent do not share this perception. Thirty-two per cent of respondents consider themselves partially integrated. Additionally, three per cent of respondents are uncertain about their level of integration.

\*Multiple choice responses

### MAP SHOWING AREAS OF INTENDED RELOCATION



### 1. REASONS FOR WANTING TO RELOCATE

Two per cent of respondents expressed their willingness to voluntarily move to another LGA or state distinct from their place of origin. Forty-one per cent intended to relocate within the same state as their origin, while 59 per cent aimed to relocate to a different state. Among those intending to relocate within the state, target LGAs include Geidam, Nguru, Bade, Damaturu, and Gujba. Additionally, about 19 per cent of respondents intending to move out of the state favored locations in neighboring Borno State. The primary motivation behind the desire to relocate is the availability of livelihood and income opportunities in the areas they intend to move to.

[Click on this link to access the locations of intended relocation for IDPs in Yobe State](#)

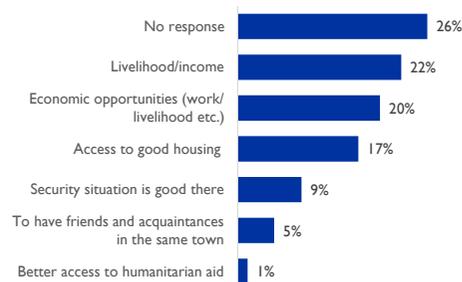


Fig 18: Main reasons for relocation

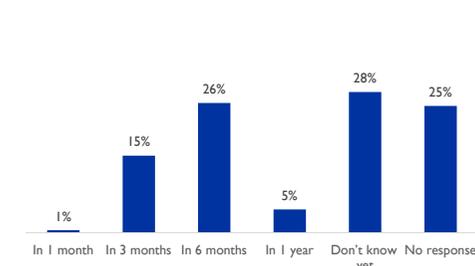


Fig 19: Preferred time of relocation

### 2. PREFERRED CHOICE OF RELOCATION

The favored settlement choice among respondents intending to relocate was towns, as indicated by 39 per cent of the respondents. Following this, respondents favored villages as their preferred settlement type for relocation. Approximately 11 per cent of respondents identified cities as their preferred relocation destinations.

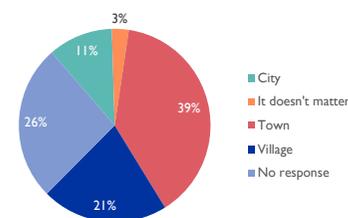


Fig 20: Preferred choice of settlement of relocation

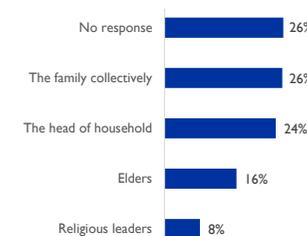


Fig 21: Who takes the decision to relocate

### 3. INFORMATION ON PLACE OF RELOCATION

Access to information regarding the intended relocation areas is vital. The main channels for obtaining such information in planned relocation areas are mobile phones, with community leaders residing in those areas providing supplementary information. Nonetheless, 61 per cent of respondents expressed a requirement for further details regarding the relocation destination.

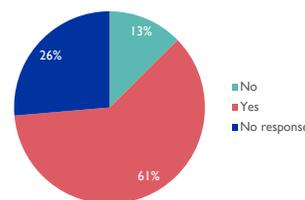


Fig 22: Need information on place of relocation

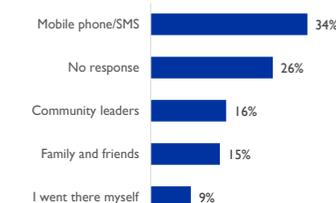


Fig 23: Sources of information on place of relocation

## CONCLUSION

While a significant portion (37%) of respondents expressed a desire to integrate into their current communities, a notable percentage (23%) remained undecided about their intentions, indicating the complexity of their circumstances. The lack of employment opportunities emerged as a primary driver for those considering a return to their places of origin, underscoring the importance of livelihood support in facilitating durable solutions. However, financial constraints pose a significant barrier to return for many IDPs, highlighting the need for targeted assistance to overcome these challenges. Additionally, the security situation in place of displacement emerged as a critical factor influencing decisions to integrate into current locations. The relatively small percentage of respondents interested in relocation underscores the significance of economic opportunities as a decisive factor in making such a decision. Overall, these findings emphasize the importance of addressing economic, security, and logistical barriers to enable IDPs to make informed choices about their futures and to support their aspirations for sustainable solutions to displacement.

[Click on this link to access the locations of intended return for IDPs in Yobe State](#)

[Click on this link to access the locations of intended integration for IDPs in Yobe State](#)

[Click on this link to access the locations of intended relocation for IDPs in Yobe State](#)



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**APBEF:** Alheri Peace Building and Empowerment Foundation

**ACRI:** Almajiri Child Rights Initiative

**CPWEI:** Child Protection and Women Empowerment Initiative

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