



DTM NIGERIA

# IDP INTENTION SURVEY IN GOMBE STATE

15 April 2024



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

## OVERALL KEY FINDINGS IN GOMBE STATE



### INTENTIONS TO RETURN



**Twenty-seven** per cent (27%) of respondents in both camps/camp-like settings and the host communities intend to return to their locations of origin.



**Forty-seven** per cent (47%) of respondents who intended to return to their place of origin stated that their houses were partially damaged and need repair.

### INTENTIONS TO INTEGRATE



**Forty** per cent (40%) of respondents in Gombe State stated that they did not intend to leave the locations where they are currently displaced in the coming months. They intend to integrate into the host communities.



**Sixty-four** per cent (64%) 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 **three** per cent of respondents in Gombe State intended to relocate to another LGA or state, but most of this group intended to relocate to other LGAs in the state.



**Twenty-five** per cent (25%) of respondents indicated that the search for livelihood/income was 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 Gombe 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 8,262 displaced households in Gombe, a total of 2,898 households (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.

## 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, interested-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 (36) in Gombe 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 8,262 displaced households in Gombe, a total of 2,898 households (in the host communities) were interviewed to determine their preferred durable solution 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

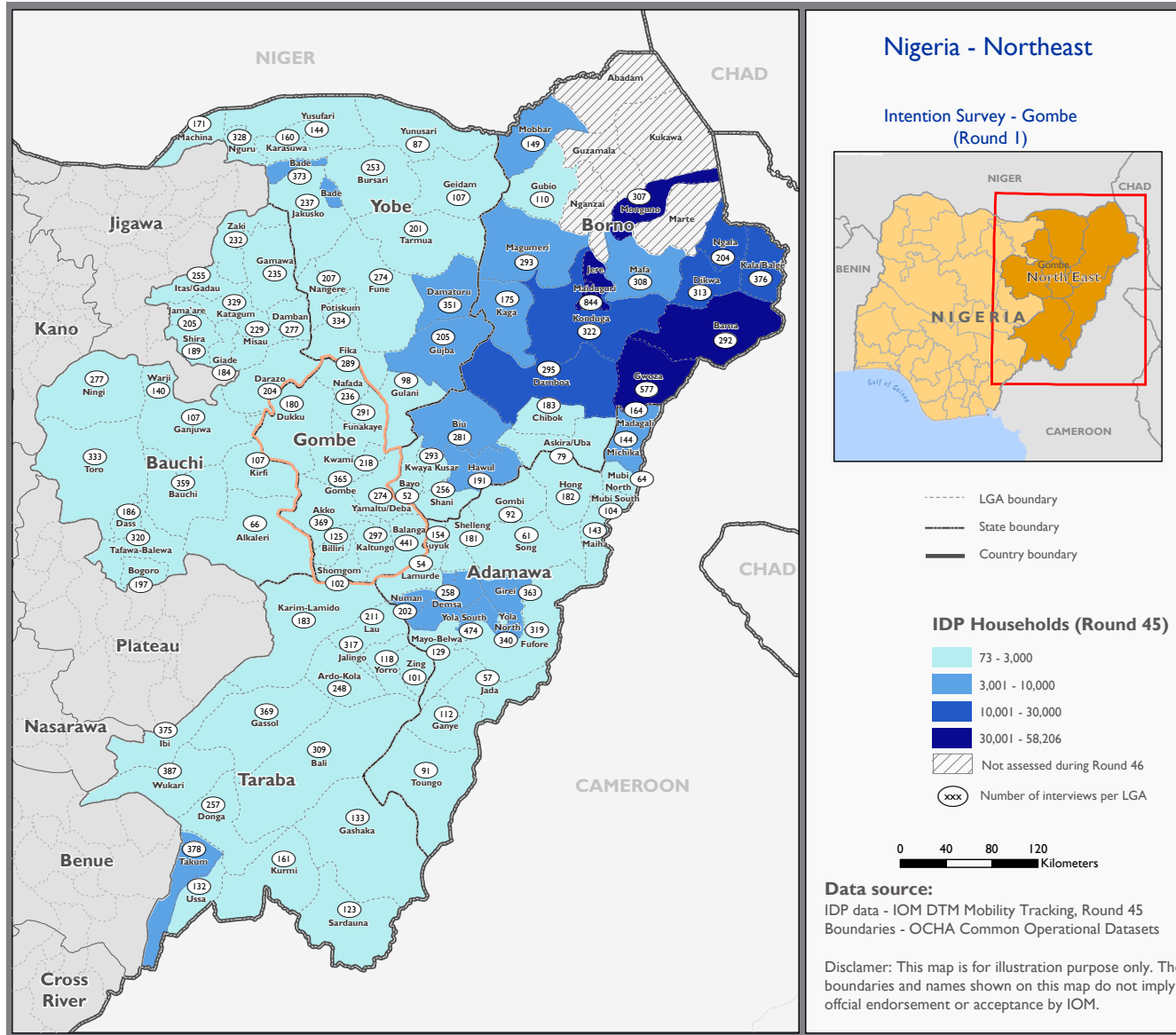


Table 1. shows the total number of households in the LGAs of Gombe State according to [DTM Round 45 master list assessment](#). Table 2. shows the number of households interviewed per LGA sampled based on the number of displaced households as reflected in table 1.

Table 1. Number of households in Northeast - DTM R45

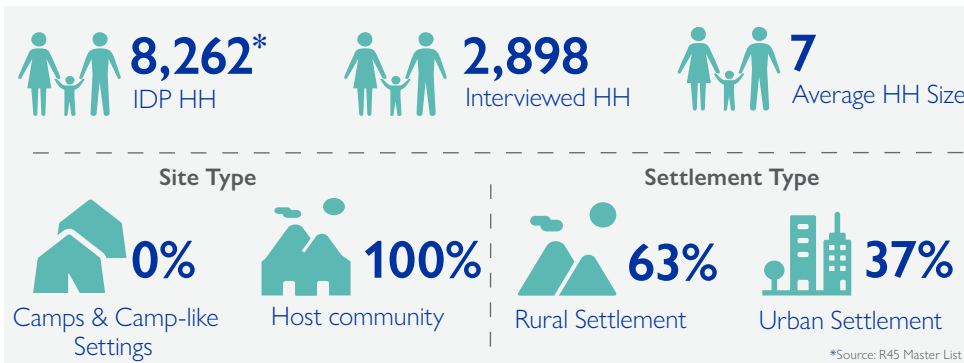
| State         | LGA      | Host communities | Camps    | Grand Total  |
|---------------|----------|------------------|----------|--------------|
| Gombe         | Akko     | 2,376            | -        | 2,376        |
|               | Balanga  | 1,233            | -        | 1,233        |
|               | Billiri  | 136              | -        | 136          |
|               | Dukku    | 308              | -        | 308          |
|               | Funakaye | 555              | -        | 555          |
|               | Gombe    | 1,356            | -        | 1,356        |
|               | Kaltungo | 890              | -        | 890          |
|               | Kwami    | 328              | -        | 328          |
|               | Nafada   | 370              | -        | 370          |
| Shongom       | 87       | -                | 87       |              |
| Yamaltu/ Deba | 623      | -                | 623      |              |
| <b>Total</b>  |          | <b>8,262</b>     | <b>-</b> | <b>8,262</b> |

Table 2. Number of households interviewed

| State        | LGA      | Host communities | Camps    | Grand Total  |
|--------------|----------|------------------|----------|--------------|
| Gombe        | Akko     | 369              | -        | 369          |
|              | Balanga  | 441              | -        | 441          |
|              | Billiri  | 125              | -        | 125          |
|              | Dukku    | 180              | -        | 180          |
|              | Funakaye | 291              | -        | 291          |
|              | Gombe    | 365              | -        | 365          |
|              | Kaltungo | 297              | -        | 297          |
|              | Kwami    | 218              | -        | 218          |
|              | Nafada   | 236              | -        | 236          |
| Shongom      | 102      | -                | 102      |              |
| Yamaltu/Deba | 274      | -                | 274      |              |
| <b>Total</b> |          | <b>2,898</b>     | <b>0</b> | <b>2,898</b> |

**Data source:**  
IDP data - IOM DTM Mobility Tracking, Round 45  
Boundaries - OCHA Common Operational Datasets

Disclaimer: This map is for illustration purpose only. The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.



To ascertain the future intentions and aspirations of the IDPs in Gombe State, the DTM surveyed 11 Local Government Areas (LGA) where IDPs were situated. Out of the 8,262 displaced households in the state, 2,898 were sampled and interviewed. Among the households interviewed, no household were situated in camps or camp-like settings, as there are no such households in Gombe State. Instead, all IDP households interviewed reside within host communities.

### DISPLACEMENT HISTORY

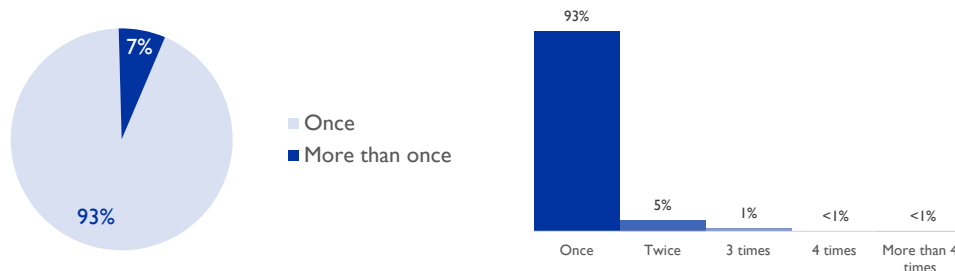


Fig 1: Displaced more than once

Fig 2: Number of displacement

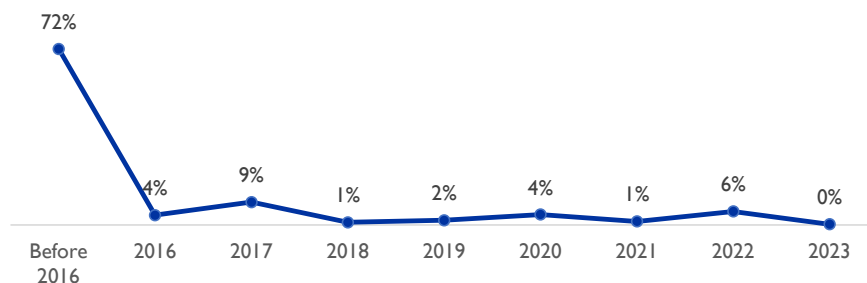


Fig 3: Year of displacement

### HOUSEHOLD'S MAJOR CONCERN AND LIVELIHOODS

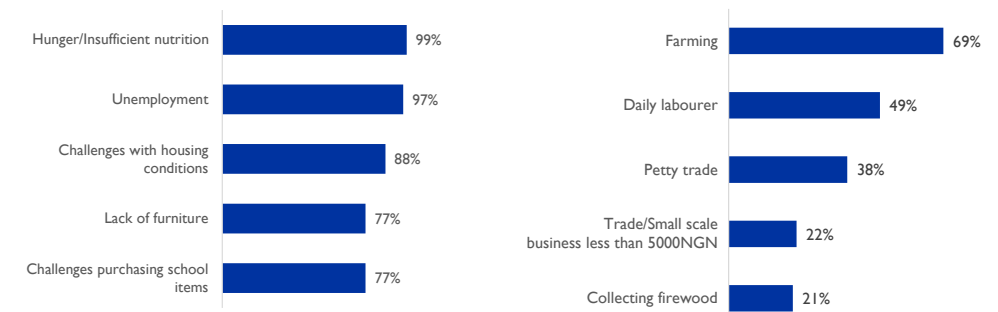


Fig 4: Top five household's major concerns (multiple choice responses)\*

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

### FUTURE INTENTIONS

The survey findings unveil a range of intentions among respondents regarding their plans. A significant majority, comprising 40 per cent of responses, expresses a desire to integrate into the hosting communities. However, a notable proportion, approximately 29 per cent of interviewed households in the state, remain undecided about their future intentions, suggesting the complexity and uncertainty surrounding their post-displacement plans. Conversely, 27 per cent of respondents intend to return to their place of origin, reflecting a strong attachment to their ancestral homes despite displacement. Additionally, three per cent of respondents express an intention to relocate to another LGA or state, indicating a willingness to seek new opportunities elsewhere.

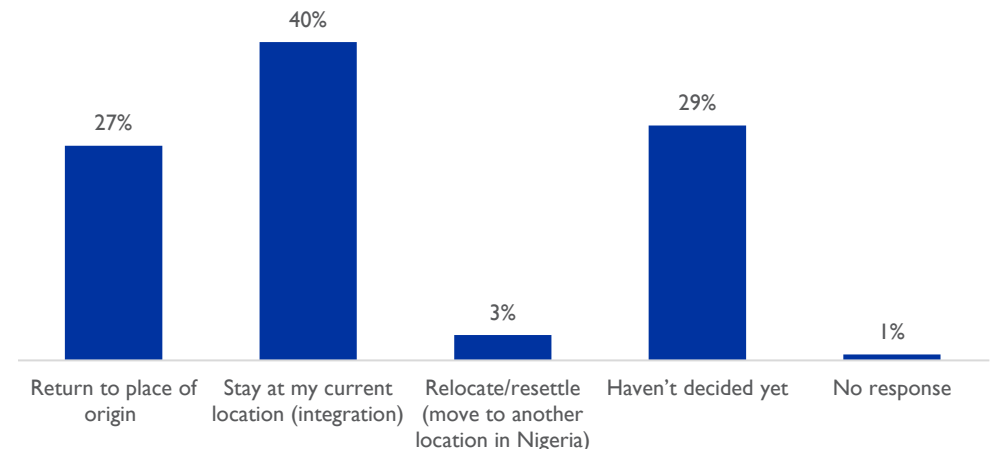
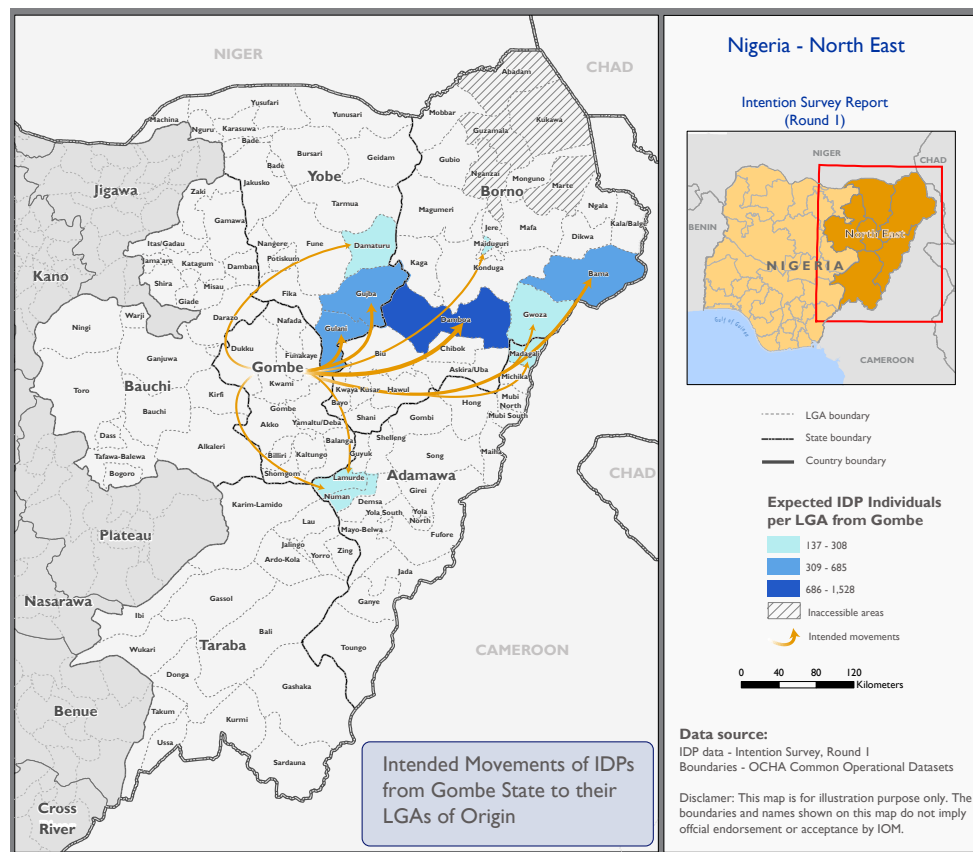


Fig 6: Household future intentions

\*Multiple choice responses

### MAP SHOWING AREAS OF INTENDED RETURN



### 1. INTENDED PERIODS OF RETURN

A significant proportion of households (49%) expressed uncertainty regarding their anticipated return timeframe. Meanwhile, 32 per cent of respondents planned to return in less than a year, indicating a relatively urgent desire to re-establish themselves in their original locations. Conversely, only 12 per cent of household respondents intended to return within a year's time.

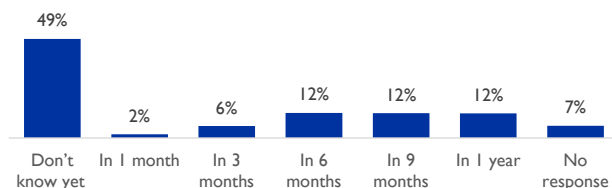


Fig 7: Possible time of return

### 2. REASONS FOR RETURN

The lack of job possibilities in their present place of displacement ranks as the top factor, accounting for 51 per cent of the reasons for their decision to return to their area of origin. This was closely followed by the desire to find livelihoods at their place of origin and the availability of opportunities to earn a living and start afresh. These findings underscore the significance of economic considerations in the decision-making process of the IDPs as they contemplate returning to their original communities.

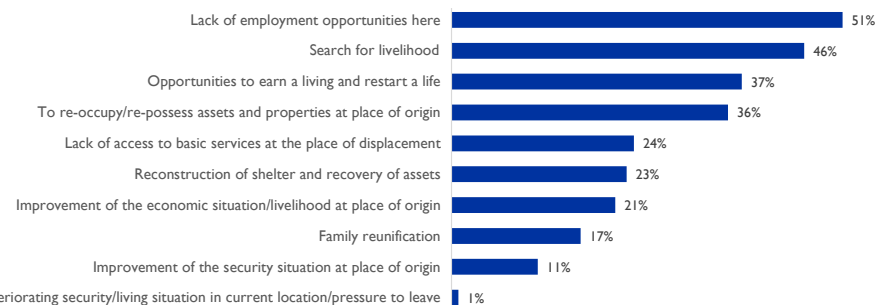


Fig 8: Reasons for intended return (multiple choice responses)\*

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

Despite the willingness of a significant majority of respondents to return to their place of origin, several factors have impeded their actual return. Foremost among these is the absence of housing at their place of origin, as reported by 59 per cent of respondents. Additionally, 53 per cent of respondents cited a lack of financial means to return home as a major hindrance. Moreover, 50 per cent of respondents mentioned the lack of economic opportunities in their places of origin as a significant barrier to their return.



Fig 9: Reasons for not return yet (multiple choice responses)\*

\*Multiple choice responses



4. HOUSING AVAILABLE/ACCESSIBLE AT INTENDED PLACE OF RETURN

Of the respondents intending to return, the majority (33%) said they had confirmation of accessible or available accommodation in their place of origin. Thirty-three per cent of the respondents stated that they do not have confirmation of available housing at place of origin. Additionally, 18 per cent of respondents expressed plans to reside with family and friends. The majority (47%) of respondents' residences are partially damaged but deemed repairable.

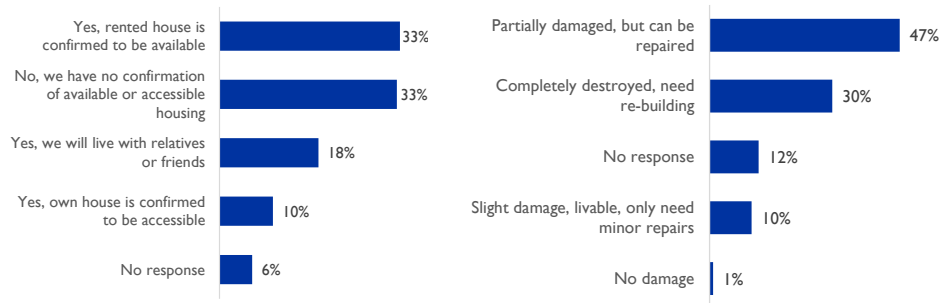


Fig 10: Housing available at intended place of return Fig 11: Condition of house at the place of origin

5. LIVELIHOOD AVAILABLE AT PLACE OF ORIGIN

One of the aims of the survey is to determine the existing means of livelihood at places of origin. It was found that family businesses emerged as the most prevalent means of livelihood, with 41 per cent of respondents citing them. Following closely were pastoral activities, mentioned by 31 per cent of respondents, and unskilled manual labour, mentioned by 15 per cent of respondents.

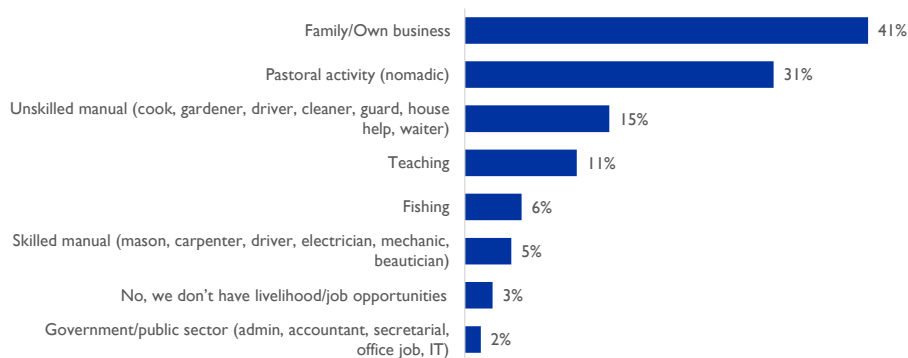


Fig 12: Available livelihood at place of origin (multiple choice responses)\*

6. ASSISTANCE AND CONDITIONS FOR RETURN

Respondents have identified several conditions and factors crucial for facilitating the implementation of their return agenda. Topping the list of conditions is the safety of displaced persons in their place of origin, as insecurity was the primary cause of displacement and unresolved security issues would prolong their displacement. This condition accounted for 67 per cent of household responses.

Following security concerns, access to food at places of origin emerged as another critical condition. Approximately 54 per cent of respondents identified this as their primary need in their places of origin, emphasizing that guaranteed access to food would initiate the return to their place of origin.

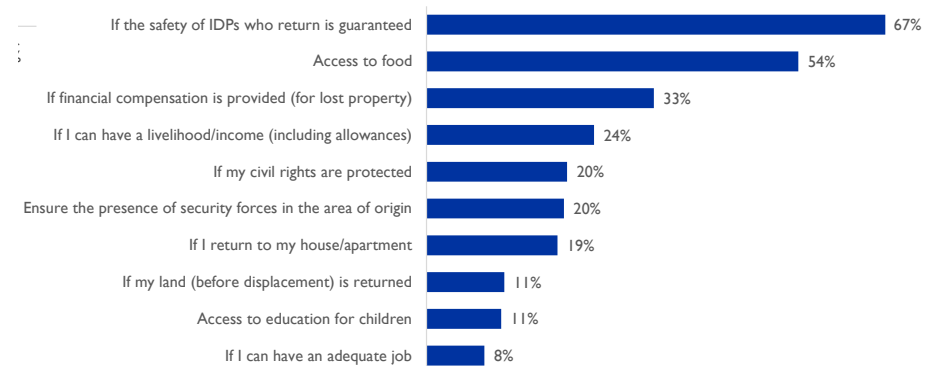


Fig 13: Top 10 Conditions of return (multiple choice responses)\*

7. INTENDED RETURN TO GOMBE FROM OTHER STATES

The intention survey extended its coverage to other northeast states, revealing insightful findings. Among these findings, it was discovered that four per cent of displaced persons in Adamawa State, expressing a desire to return, intend to return to their original location in Gombe State.

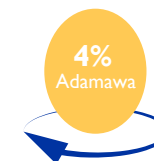


Fig 14: Intended return from other states

\*Multiple choice responses

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



### 1. REASONS FOR INTEGRATION

Forty per cent of respondents expressed their intention to assimilate into the community where they are displaced. The primary rationale behind this choice was the overall security situation in their LGAs of displacement, cited by 64 per cent of the respondents. Another significant factor was the loss of all belongings in their original place of residence, mentioned by 46 per cent of respondents. Additionally, economic prospects in the areas of intended assimilation played a role. Other contributing factors included the desire to maintain ties with family or community members.

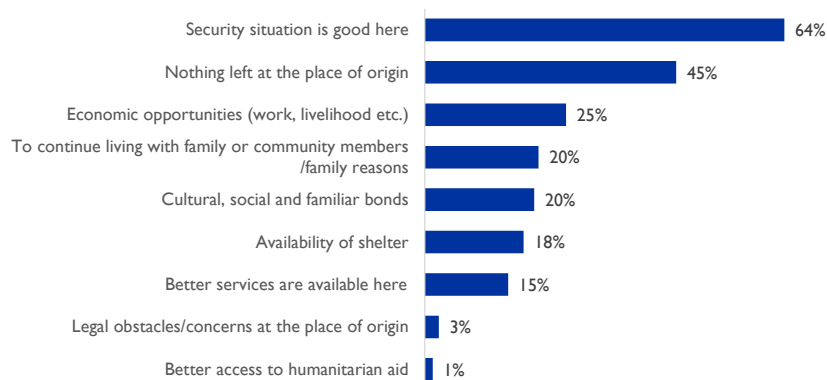


Fig 15: Reasons for integration (multiple choice responses)\*

### 2. CONDITIONS FOR INTEGRATION

During the survey, respondents were asked about the conditions necessary to facilitate the integration of households into the community of displacement. The overwhelming majority, constituting 62 per cent of responses, identified access to livelihood and income opportunities as paramount. Following closely, 42 per cent of respondents emphasized the importance of available housing for successful integration. Additionally, 39 per cent highlighted the significance of access to land for cultivation. Education emerged as another crucial factor, with 34 per cent of respondents recognizing its importance in facilitating integration efforts. These findings underscore the multifaceted nature of integration, emphasizing the need for comprehensive support across various domains to ensure successful resettlement and community integration for displaced households.

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

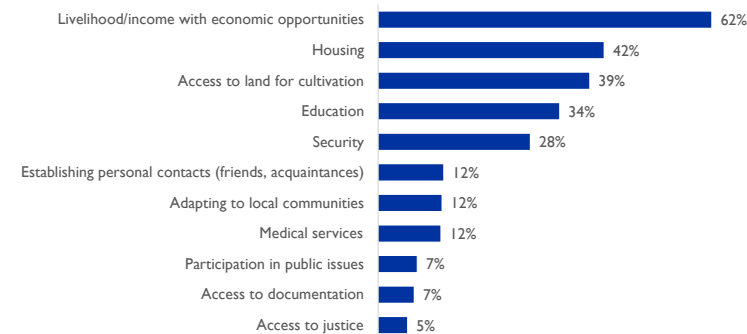


Fig 16: Conditions for integration (multiple choice responses)\*

### 3. CHALLENGES RESTRICTING INTEGRATION

Respondents highlighted several key hurdles in expressing their challenges with integration. Chief among these concerns is the deficiency in adequate shelter conditions, which resonated with 62 per cent of the responses, indicating its prominence as a pressing issue. Following closely is the constraint posed by the limited availability of livelihood and economic opportunities within their current displacement setting. This shortage of income-generating prospects is compounded by the subsequent obstacle of lacking access to such opportunities altogether, underscoring the multifaceted nature of the integration challenges displaced individuals face.

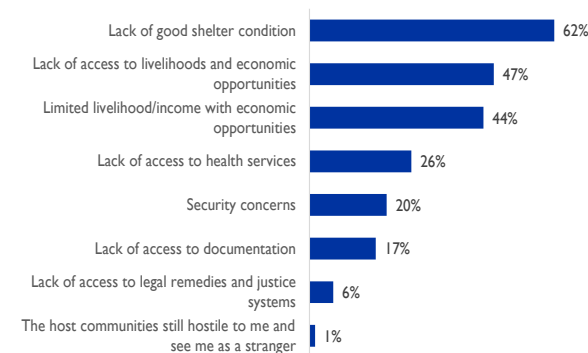
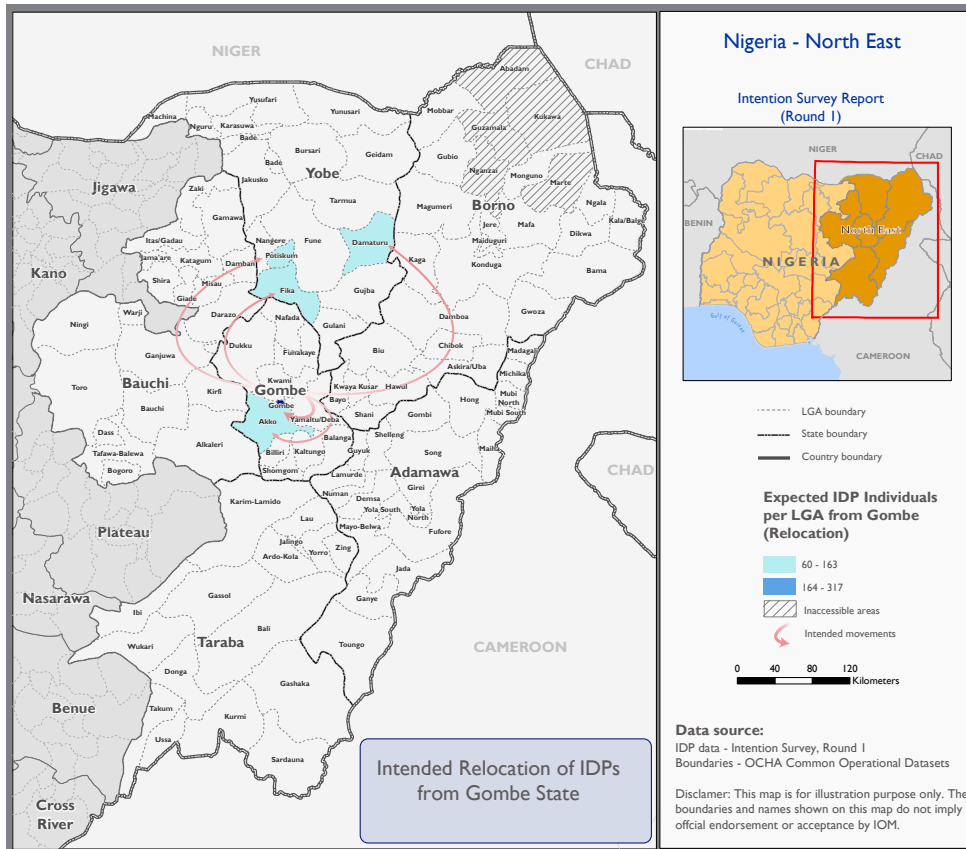


Fig 17: Challenges restricting integration (multiple choice responses)\*

### 4. PERCEPTION ON INTEGRATION

Inquiries regarding their perception of integration revealed that 62 per cent of respondents perceived themselves as already integrated, while 14 per cent do not. Twenty-one per cent perceive themselves as partially integrated, while three per cent are uncertain about their level of integration.

### MAP SHOWING AREAS OF INTENDED RELOCATION/RESETTLEMENT



### 1. REASONS FOR WANTING TO RELOCATE

Three per cent of respondents expressed a willingness to voluntarily relocate to another LGA or state apart from their place of origin. Sixteen per cent intended to relocate within the same state of their origin, while 29 per cent aimed to move to another state. The target LGAs for relocation within the state include Akko and Gombe, the state capital.

The primary motivation for wanting to relocate is the availability of livelihood and income opportunities in the areas of intended relocation, cited by 25 per cent of respondents. This was closely followed by the pursuit of better economic prospects. Security concerns in the areas of intended relocation also serve as a significant factor motivating displaced persons to seek relocation.

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

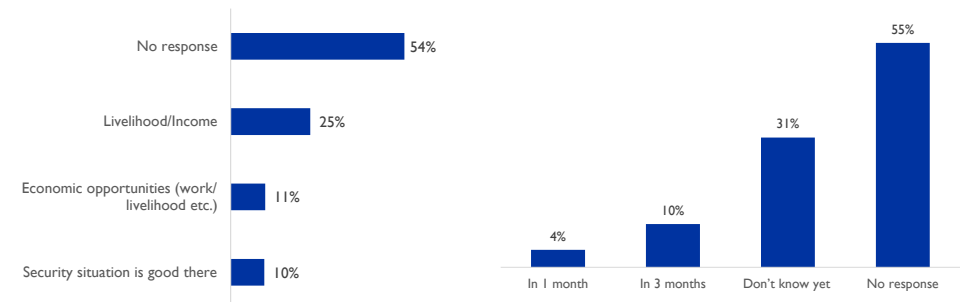


Fig 18: Main reasons for relocation/resettle

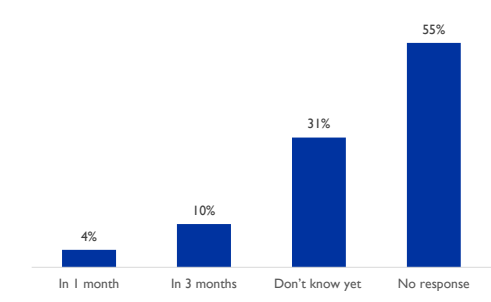


Fig 19: Preferred period of relocation

### 2. PREFERRED CHOICE OF RELOCATION

Thirty-six per cent of the respondents who wanted to relocate preferred a village, followed by the respondents who preferred towns. About one per cent of the respondents preferred to relocate to a city.

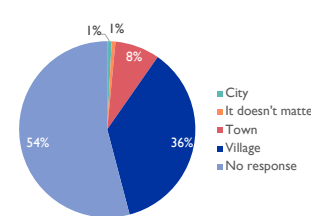


Fig 20: Preferred choice of settlement of relocation

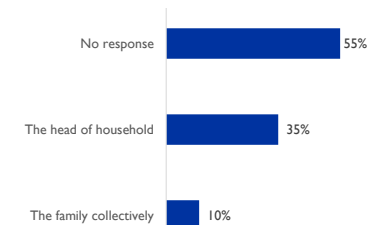


Fig 21: Who takes the decision to relocate

### 3. INFORMATION ON PLACE OF RELOCATION

It is essential to have access to information about the intended relocation areas. The primary sources of such information in planned relocation areas are mobile phones, followed by information from family and friends residing in those areas. However, 34 per cent of the respondents expressed a need for additional information regarding the relocation destination.

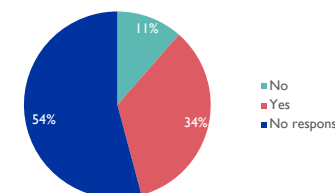


Fig 22: Need information on place of relocation

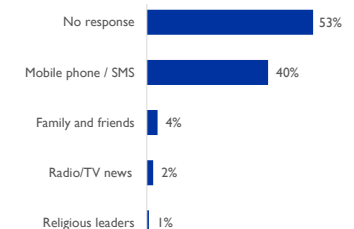


Fig 23: Sources of information on place of relocation

## CONCLUSION

The survey findings provide valuable insights into the intentions and challenges of the IDPs in Gombe State. While a significant portion (40%) of respondents expressed a desire to integrate into their current communities, a notable percentage (29%) 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, the absence of housing pose a significant barrier to return for many IDPs, highlighting the need for targeted assistance to overcome these challenges. Additionally, the security situation emerged as a critical factor influencing decisions to integrate into current locations, emphasizing the importance of creating safe environments for displaced populations. The relatively small percentage (3%) 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 Gombe State](#)

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

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

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**GOSEMA:** Gombe State Emergency Management Agency

**NBS:** National Bureau of Statistics

**NEMA:** National Emergency Management Agency

**NRCS:** Nigerian Red Cross Society

