

## Challenges of IDPs in Camp Setting in Greater Yola Area, Adamawa State, Nigeria.

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### Abstract

This study examines the challenges of IDPs in camp setting in greater Yola. The primary sources of data for this study were observations and information on migrants from interview schedules, while secondary data were obtained from published and unpublished materials especially documents from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on the number of IDPs living in each camp in the study area. Random sampling technique was used in selecting the respondents for the study. Descriptive statistics, such as tables and percentages were used to analyze the collected data. The results indicate that IDPs living in Camp settings have a peculiar challenge which ranges from poor basic amenities, sexual harassment, ethnic and tribal sentiment, inadequate presence of government and burglary etc. (you need one concluding sentence). Based on the findings, the study recommends that government should improve the living conditions of the IDPs in the camps through provision of social amenities and adequate securities.

**Keyword:** Greater Yola, peculiar, challenges, forced migration and IDPs

### Introduction

Millions of people have been forcefully displaced from their home in the past decade. The number of people who seek refuge within their own country as internally displaced persons (IDPs) is significantly higher than those who cross national borders as refugees and asylum seekers (UNHCR, 2021). Internally displaced persons (IDPs) are defined as “persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border (UNHCR, 2020). According to (UNHCR, 2021), there are about 82.4 million forcefully displaced persons worldwide of which 55 million are IDPs, with 48 million resulting from conflict and violence and 7 million from disaster. Once internally displacement have stayed away from home for six month, affected person have a high probability of being displaced for protracted period of at least three years or more (Crawford *et al*, 2015). According to Adesote & Peters (2015), Internal Displacement is not a new thing in Nigeria as it has occurred many years ago. It has a long History in the country, for instance, the Biafran war in 1967-1970 that led to the displacement of ten million people and the death of two million people. Since then, the displacement of this magnitude has not been common in the country until in October 2016 where ethnic crises rocked Nigeria and led to the displacement of approximately 500,000 IDPs (Adesote & Peters, 2015). In 2013, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC), recorded 3.3 million internally displaced persons in Nigeria as a result of Boko Haram insurgency and also recorded over one million internally displaced persons as at April 2015 and December 2015.

The genesis of Boko Haram has been traced in large part to the frustration of disenfranchised Northeastern youths who have been denied livelihood opportunities and education (Ayo, 2015). In addition, livelihoods, access to water, and grazing pastures have also been under strain for decades as the surface area of Lake Chad has shrunk by 90 percent over the last 45 years (Uche *et al.*, 2014). This is a result of climate change and anthropogenic factors including the damming of tributaries, lack of sustainable water management policies, and overgrazing (Gao *et al.*, 2011). People have increasingly migrated southwards along the Lake Chad basin perimeter which, over time, has led some 70 ethnic groups to converge and led to resource competition, tension, and conflicts. These have increased in scale and geographical scope since 1972 (Donald & Jo-Ansie, 2010).

This group of people has been attacking the inhabitants of Borno, Adamawa, Yobe, Bauchi, Gombe, and Taraba States in recent years. These attacks have led to mass displacement of people to the various State Capitals in the North East and across the country thereby bloating the urban population size and living conditions. Figure of IDPs identified in Adamawa, Borno, Gombe, Yobe and Taraba State, amounted to 2,152,000 people (Alobo & Obaji, 2016). Out of the total figure of the internally displaced persons in this region, the result shows that 13.33 percent are displaced by due to communal clashes, 0.99 as a result of natural disaster and 86.68 as a result of Boko-Haram (Obikaeze & Onuoha, 2016). Yola being one of the State headquarters has experienced mass movement of these displaced population which was due to Boko Haram attacks which put pressure on urban services and infrastructure plans. On getting to the state capital where the displaced population normally get refuge, the affected population mostly migrate to camp-like setting or host communities. It is against this background that this study is designed to examine the challenges being experienced by Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in camps settings in Greater Yola Area, Adamawa State, Nigeria.

### **Concept of Forced Displacement.**

Forced or involuntary migration, sometimes referred to as forced or involuntary displacement, a distinction is often made between conflict-induced and disaster-induced displacement. Displacement induced by conflict is typically referred to as caused by humans, whereas natural causes typically underlay displacement caused by disasters. The definitions of these concepts are useful, but the lines between them may be blurred in practice because conflicts may arise due to disputes over natural resources and human activity may trigger natural disasters such as landslides (Sarzin, 2017).

Some Countries that are faced with forced displacement induced by humans or nature collect data on displaced populations. Such data are typically collected through a combination of population censuses, household surveys, border counts, administrative records and beneficiary registers.

At the international level, data on forced migration are collected and/or compiled by various intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs), such as the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC). Key terms that are used in the context of forced migration or forced/involuntary displacement include:

According to IOM, forced migration is “a migratory movement which, although the drivers can be diverse, involves force, compulsion, or coercion (UNHCR, 2017) The definition includes a note that clarifies that, “While not an international legal concept, this term has been used to describe the movements of refugees, displaced persons (including those displaced by disasters or development projects), and, in some instances, victims of trafficking. At the international level, the use of this term is debated because of the widespread recognition that a

continuum of agency exists rather than a voluntary/forced dichotomy and that it might undermine the existing legal international protection regime.” (IOM Glossary on Migration, 2019).

Refugees are persons who flee their country due to "well-founded fear" of persecution due to reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, and who are outside of their country of nationality or permanent residence and due to this fear are unable or unwilling to return to it. The refugee population also includes people in refugee-like situations (UNHCR, 2017). Persons in a refugee-like situation include “groups of persons who are outside their country or territory of origin and who face protection risks similar to those of refugees, but for whom refugee status has, for practical or other reasons, not been ascertained (UNHCR, 2013). According to UNHCR, asylum-seekers are “individuals who have sought international protection and whose claims for refugee status have not yet been determined (UNHCR 2017).

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) are defined as “persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border (UNHCR,2020).

**Mixed movement** (also called mixed migration or mixed flow) is “a movement in which several people are travelling together, generally in an irregular manner, using the same routes and means of transport, but for different reasons. People travelling as part of mixed movements have varying needs and profiles and may include asylum seekers, refugees, trafficked persons, unaccompanied/separated children, and migrants in irregular situations (IOM, 2019).

Disaster-induced migration is the displacement of people as a result of “a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society involving widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses or impacts, which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its resources (UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2009).

Resettlement, according to IOM, is the transfer of refugees from the country in which they have sought protection to another state that has agreed to admit them — as refugees — with permanent residence status (IOM Glossary on Migration, 2019).

### **Description of Study Area**

The study area lies between latitudes 9° 7” to 9° 19” N and longitudes 12° 17” to 12° 22” E. It is made up of the twin towns of Yola which is the traditional seat of the paramount ruler (Lamido Adamawa) known as Yola South Local Government Area and Jimeta which is the administrative and commercial nerves of the State known as Yola North Local Government Area. The Study area also extends to some parts of the Girei Local Government area about 15 kilometers away from the State capital (Fig.1.).

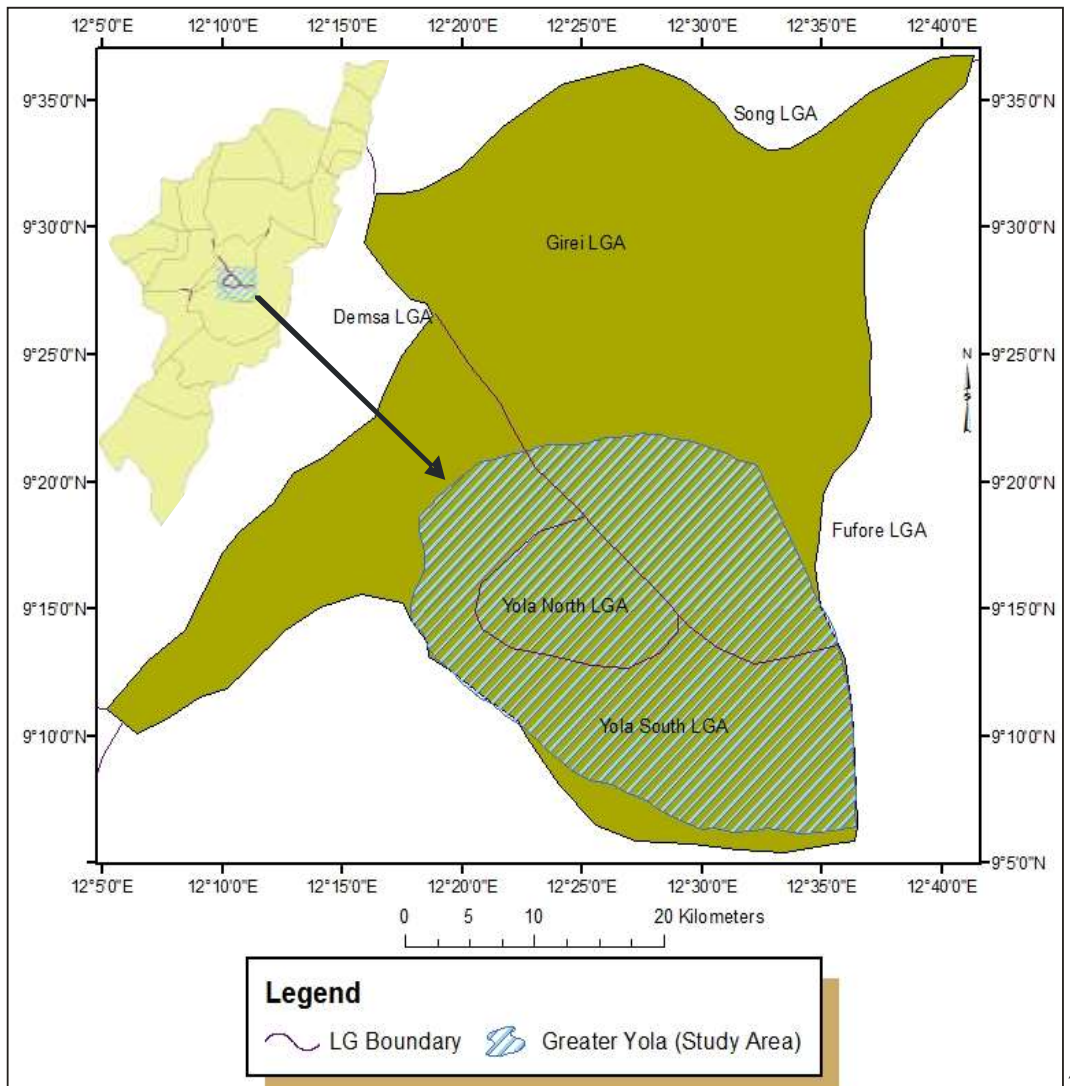


Fig. 1 Map of the study area

### Materials and Methods

Data for this study were sourced from both primary and secondary sources. First reconnaissance survey was conducted to familiarize with the study area. Part of the reconnaissance survey includes familiarization with IDP camps and a pretest of the questionnaire to ensure its suitability among the respondents and common challenges being faced by the IDPs in camps settings. Primary Sources of data that were used for the study include observations and information on migrants from interview schedules. Secondary data were extracted from published and unpublished materials especially documents from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on the number of IDPs living in each Camps in the study area (Table 1).

The questionnaire for this study was administered to registered IDPs living in Camps. A total of 1,299 constitute the population of IDPs living in the camps. Adopting Saunders and, et al., (1997), 269 respondents were allocated to the fifteen (15) IDP camps in the three Local Government Areas according to their population size proportionately at 5% marginal error using the formula below;

$Q_i =$  The Number of respondents selected from each camp.

$F =$  Population of respondents in each camp.

P = The Total population of respondents in all the camps.

N = 269 selected sample size.

**Table 1 Sampling distribution to IDP camps**

Location	Calculated No. of IDPs	Total
EYN Church Vunoclang	24/1299x269	4 respondents
Saint Theresa Cathedral	139/1299 x 269	28 respondents
DokitillaWurocheke	79/1299x 269	16 respondents
Kilbaje Extension	57/1299 x269	11 respondents
SangereDutse	21/1299 x269	4 respondents
Nana Villa	60/1299 x269	12 respondents
Wadai	12/1299 x269	32 respondents
Unguwan Abuja	50/1299 x269	10 respondents
Chakamidari	99/1299 x269	20 respondents
Lowcost Quarters	44/1299 x269	9 respondents
Unguwan Kara	138/1299 x269	28 respondents
Rumde Alkali Gujibabu	26/1299 x269	5 respondents
Malkohi Camp	24/1299 x269	5 respondents
Malkohi Village	526/1299 x269	109 respondents
	<b>Total</b>	<b>269</b>

Source: (International Organization for Migration, 2017)

Saunders (1997) was used to determine the desired sample size for the IDPs living in Camps at 5% marginal error. Based on this the desired sample size for the study is 269 heads of households (Table 1). The Questionnaire was distributed randomly to the heads of households in the IDP camps to examine the effects of forced migration on their livelihood. The households were selected using the balloting method (crude method). During the selection process, the researcher assembled all the IDPs in each of the camps visited to select the required number of respondents. In St. Theresa Camp, for example, there were 139 heads of household, and the number of IDPs sample size for the camp was 28. To select 28 respondents without any bias, the researcher did some preliminary work by giving each IDP a number from 1-139. This number from 1-139 was written from 1, 2, 3, 4,5, until the last number 139 each on a small sheet of paper, it was then folded or squeezed and mixed thoroughly to avoid biases and then 28 was selected out of that 139 folded or squeezed paper and the 28 samples that was selected were used as the sample for the study. The same method was applied in selecting the rest of the respondents in all the camps.

Descriptive statistics were the analytical tools that were used for the study. The descriptive tools include; tables, percentages, charts and graphs. How was the data analyzed?

### Result of the findings

This section analysed the demographic characteristics of the respondent. The demographic characteristics of the respondents that were analysed for this study include gender, age, marital status and educational.

**Table 2 Demographic Characteristics of IDPs in the Various Camps.**

Characteristics	Frequency	Percent
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	115	42.8
Female	154	57.2
<b>Total</b>	269	100.0
<b>Age</b>		
20-29	62	23.0
30-39	100	37.2
40-49	70	26.0
50-59	32	11.9
60 and above	5	1.9
<b>Total</b>	269	100.0
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Single	73	20.1
Married	159	59.1
Widow	45	14.8
Widower	13	4.8
Divorce	3	1.1
<b>Total</b>	269	100.0
<b>Edu. Qualification</b>		
Primary	78	29.0
Secondary	131	48.7
Tertiary	39	14.5
Others	21	7.8
<b>Total</b>	269	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2019

Table 2 revealed that over 50% of the respondents living in the various IDP camps across the study area were females. The higher percentage of females in the camps setting may be due to the fact that the females were not capable of taking care of themselves like males can do and hence their high number in camps for assistance and adequate care. More so, men can take refuge anywhere with friends while women cannot. In addition, the insurgency may have claimed the lives of more men than women over time.

Table 2 also shows that over 86% of the respondents were below the age of 50 which is an active age group that needs to be on farm since this displaced population came from agrarian communities. This agreed with the work carried out by IOM in 2021 across IDP Camps in Nigeria which found out that 94% of the IDPs found across various Camps in Nigeria are below the ages of fifty-nine (59). These able-bodied men who were supposed to be on the farm were now kept in seclusion which is a camp setting and have been rubbed off their daily struggle for livelihood which may consequently lead to food insecurity for themselves and also to the State and the entire country at large. The remaining less than 20% were the old men and women who were supposed to be taken care of by the able active group of men and women.

Table 2 shows the marital status of the respondents. The table shows that over 50% of the respondents were married while less than 30% were either widows, widowers or divorced. The remaining 20% accounted for singles. The higher percentage of widows and widowers among the IDPs may be because a substantial number of either husbands or wives of the IDPs have been killed during the insurgency hence their presence in camp settings for assistance.

Table 2 also shows the educational qualifications of the respondents. Over 80% of the respondents have attained primary, secondary or no education at all. While less than 20% of the respondents had tertiary education. The higher percentage of lower or no educational qualification among the IDPs may be one of the reasons why Boko-Haram had gained ground in recruiting more members in the northern part of the State, north-east and the entire country

at large since illiteracy is one of the weapons used by Boko-Haram to recruit member into their sect.

**Challenges of IDPs in camp settings**

Just like IDPs living in host communities have some challenges; IDPs in camps setting also have their peculiar challenges. These challenges according to the IDPs range from sexual harassment, burglary, lack of social amenities and religious and ethnic sentiment etc (there is nothing peculiar about these challenges because they are the usual challenges with IDPs across the globe).

**Table 3: IDPs Experiences on Camps**

<b>Stay in Camp</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Bad and Terrible (Like Prison)	193	71.7%
Lack of Basic Amenities	46	17.1%
Interesting	16	5.9%
Boring	14	5.2%
Total	269	100%

*Source: Field Survey, 2019*

Table 3 shows the experience of the IDPs in Camps. The table 3 shows that over 70% of the IDPs in camps are of the opinion that the camp setting is bad and terrible (Like Prison). Less than 30% of the IDPs were of the opinion that camp settings lack basic amenities, interesting to some and boring to others. During an interactive session with some of the IDPs, they stated that camp like setting is just like a prison in that there is no freedom at all for them to do what they want because the security personnel moves around the camps and that if they found you wanting as an IDP, you will be in trouble or be punished as the case may be. Their movement has been restricted in that before you can go outside the camp, you have to get permission from the security personnel, and if you mistakenly come back late, it attracts punishment of different types depending on the degree of the offences committed by the IDPs. Punishment is also carried out severely on their wards depending on the offence committed by them. On a general note, their experience was a terrible one. Cases of humiliation have also been noticed among the IDPs. Over 20% of the IDPs experience cases of humiliation during their stay in camps. Those who were humiliated were mostly on the grounds of distribution of food and other necessities, gender discrimination and farmland distribution. Sexual discrimination cases were few. Table 4 shows forms of humiliation experienced by the IDPs

**Table 4 Forms of Humiliations Faced by IDPs in Camps**

<b>Forms of Humiliations</b>	<b>Frequencies</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Accused of being thief	9	15%
Ethnic/ tribal humiliation	26	44%
Gender/Sexual humiliation	21	36%
Education	3	5%
Total	59	100%

*Source: Field survey, 2019*

Table 4 shows forms of humiliation experienced by IDPs in camps. The table shows that over 70% of the IDPs stated that they were humiliated based on ethnic and tribal differences and gender/sexual humiliation. Camp life is always a different one indeed, this is because there are faced with one form of problem or another compared to normal life outside the camp setting as over 30% of the respondents were of the opinion that women have faced sexual harassment during their staying in the Camp setting. This was in agreement with the work of Jenifer (2021) who carried out research in one of the IDP camp in Benue and found out sexual harassment

abound among women in IDP camps. This also agreed with (IOM, 2024) and found out that displaced women in and girls in Somalia at high risk of rape, sexual harassment and domestic violence. This also agreed with the work of Onuoha and Chukwu, (2022), which carried out research in Bakasi camp in cross River state and found out that there have been cases of sexual harassment among IDPs in the camp. Table 5 shows those responsible for sexual harassment in IDP camps in the study area

**Table 5: Those Responsible for Sexual Harassment**

Who are those responsible for the harassment?			
		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Government officials	22	26.5
	Security Personnel	43	52
	Individuals	16	19
	Colleagues in the camp	2	2.4
	Total	83	100

Source: Field Survey 2019

Table 5 shows those who are responsible for sexual harassment among the IDPs in the camp. The table shows that over 70% of those responsible for sexual harassment in camps are government officials and security personnel. While less than 30% of the IDPs were of the opinion that individuals and colleagues are those that are responsible for the harassment. There have also been a few cases of security challenges in the various camps across the study areas.

**Table 6 Security Challenges in IDPs Camps across Greater Yola**

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes	184	68.4
	No	77	28.6
	Total	261	97.0
	No Reply	8	3.0
Total		269	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2019

Table 6 shows security challenges in IDP camps across Greater Yola. The table shows that over 60% of the IDPs were of the opinion that there was no adequate security in IDP camps across the study area. Less than 40% of the IDPs were of the opinion that there was adequate security protection in the IDPs camp in Greater Yola.

**Table 7: Reasons Migrants stated that there was no adequate security protection across the Camps in Greater Yola**

Reasons	Frequency	Percentage
High Rate of Crime	32	42%
Bugling/Stealing	34	44%
Inadequate Security Personnel	9	11%
Lack of Government Concern	2	3%
Total	77	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2019

Table 7 shows the reasons why the IDPs stated that there was no adequate security in the various IDP camps in Greater Yola. The table shows that over 60% of the IDPs complained of



Burgling and a high rate of crime in all the IDP camps across Greater Yola. While less than 40% of the IDPs complained of inadequate security personnel and lack of government concern as the reason why there was no adequate security protection in the various IDP camps in the study area.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, the study has revealed the experiences of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Camps settings (one expected to see a new form of experiences of IDPs that is very peculiar to the study area and very different from the usual challenges). Some of the IDPs are of the opinion that they have had bad and terrible experience during their period of stay in the camp (do they actually expected a paradise treatment in the camps?). Some stated that there were no social amenities in the camps and that make the conditions of the camp to be boring to them. While to others, the camp-like setting was an interesting one for them. The study further reveal that there was sexual harassment among the women in the camps and those responsible are government officials, security personnel and individuals.

## **Recommendations**

Based on the result of the findings, the following recommendations are put forward;

- i. Government should beef up security in all the IDP Camps to tackle cases of burgling
- ii. Social amenities should be provided in IDP camps to make the camps lively.
- iii. Sanction should put on any government officials, security personnel or individual that harasses female IDP.

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