



CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH PERSONS INTERNALLY DISPLACED BY BOKO HARAM INSURGENCY IN YOBE STATE

Muktari Garba¹ and Muhammad Tasiu Dansabo (Prof.)²

¹Department of Sociology, Yobe State University, Damaturu, Nigeria.

Email: muktari Garba2014@gmail.com; muktari Garba@ysu.edu.ng

²Department of Sociology, Usman Danfodio University, Sokoto, Nigeria.

Email: muhammادتasiudansabo@gmail.com; dansabo.tasiu@udusok.edu.ng

Cite this article:

Garba M., Dansabo M. T. (2024), Challenges Associated with Persons Internally Displaced by Boko Haram Insurgency in Yobe State. African Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Research 7(2), 394-407. DOI: 10.52589/AJSSHR-I1OQDULD

Manuscript History

Received: 11 Mar 2024

Accepted: 7 May 2024

Published: 25 Jun 2024

Copyright © 2024 The Author(s).

This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0), which permits anyone to share, use, reproduce and redistribute in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

ABSTRACT: *This study investigates the challenges confronting individuals displaced by the Boko Haram insurgency in Damaturu Local Government Area, Yobe State, shedding light on the broader impact of global terrorism and insurgency. The research objectives focus on understanding the reasons for displacement and identifying obstacles faced by Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in accessing essential/everyday life items. Using a mixed-method approach, including surveys and in-depth interviews, data was gathered from 805 respondents for the survey and 5 participants for the IDI in 5 IDPs' settlements including Abbari YBC, Abujan Mai-Mala, AMG Farm, Kasaisa and Kukareta. Key findings reveal that 99.0% of respondents attribute their displacement to Boko Haram, with 50.2% experiencing the loss of family members. Challenges in accessing basic necessities are prevalent, with 93.9% reporting difficulties, particularly in food (78.8%), toiletries (61.1%), and clothing (77.9%). The demographic profile highlights a higher representation of women (61.5%) and a younger demographic. The study underscores the urgent need for comprehensive support mechanisms, including humanitarian aid, enhanced security, psycho-social support, tailored education, and sustainable livelihood programs. Vulnerable groups, particularly women and youth, require targeted interventions. In conclusion, the study emphasises the necessity for coordinated efforts to address the multifaceted challenges faced by internally displaced persons in Yobe State, ensuring their survival, dignity, and future stability in the aftermath of insurgency. Recommendations of this study include intensified humanitarian aid, collaboration with security agencies, psycho-social support programs, tailored education initiatives, sustainable livelihood support, and facilitation of collaboration among governmental agencies, non-governmental organisations, and local communities.*

KEYWORDS: Boko Haram insurgency, Displaced persons, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).



INTRODUCTION

The global menace of terrorism and insurgency has cast a long shadow over nations, impacting them in multifaceted ways and revealing the vulnerabilities of socioeconomic and political systems to conflict. There were widespread conflicts, involving 572 militia, guerrilla, and separatist groups across 64 nations. This issue transcends regions, affecting Africa, the Middle East, Asia, America, and Europe, each grappling with distinct conflict forms (Alao, cited in Garba & Muktar, 2019). Northeast Nigeria has seen increasing numbers of IDPs in the main cities of the region, in response to the violence perpetrated by the insurgency of the Islamist group Boko Haram (Kamta & Scheffran, 2022). The conflict's complexities have led to significant displacement trends, forcing individuals and families into Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps and host communities. This displacement mirrors broader patterns observed in conflict-ridden regions across Africa.

The impact of insurgency-induced displacement extends beyond physical relocation, causing the loss of homes, disruption of livelihoods, and breakdown of community structures. Damaturu's socio economic fabric vividly illustrates the profound consequences of the Boko Haram insurgency, necessitating a critical examination of its implications (Cederman & Pengl, 2019; Kamta & Scheffran, 2022).

Recent statistics underscore the severe consequences of conflict-driven displacement globally, revealing millions of deaths and an overabundance of socioeconomic challenges, particularly evident in Nigeria's northeast, experiencing a worrying decade-long rising trend (Cederman & Pengl, 2019). By the end of 2020, a staggering 82.4 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide, with 48.6 million being internally displaced persons (IDPs) (United Nation High Commission on Refugee, 2022). The situation escalated in 2021, reaching 89.3 million forcibly displaced individuals, more than double the figures from 2012. This marked an 8% increase of nearly 7 million people within a year, equating to over 1% of the world's population being forcibly displaced. The stark comparison highlights the urgency of addressing the global crisis of displacement (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2021).

Despite a significant decline in insurgents' control since 2018, Boko Haram continues to carry out abductions, suicide bombings, and attacks on military and civilian targets, as noted by Human Rights Watch (HRW, 2022). This ongoing threat sustains the plight of internally displaced persons in the north-eastern part of Nigeria, posing a contemporary challenge in Damaturu, Yobe State. Since the group's inception in 2009, numerous lives have been lost, and properties worth millions of naira destroyed, leading to mass displacement. Vulnerable groups, especially children, the elderly, and women, face severe socioeconomic challenges. Despite government efforts to establish IDP camps, challenges persist, including overcrowding, poor sanitation, unemployment, poverty, increased illiteracy, and insecurity in Damaturu and across the Northeast (Adeboye, 2021; Garba & Muktar, 2019; Jamri, 2021).

In 2022, the global number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) reached 59.1 million, with 53.2 million resulting from conflict and violence, and 5.9 million from natural disasters (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2022). Specifically, the Boko Haram conflict displaced 2.2 million individuals in the northeast of Nigeria, with the majority affected in Borno State (Human Right Watch, 2022). These figures encompass people displaced by Boko Haram attacks, government counter-insurgency operations, and inter-communal clashes. The



largest increase in IDPs occurred in Borno State, the most vulnerable among the north-eastern states affected by the Boko Haram insurgency, followed by Adamawa and Yobe States.

The IDP figures in Nigeria have risen significantly due to the Boko Haram Insurgency and inter-communal conflicts, according to (HRW, 2022; UNHCR, 2022). The escalation of Boko Haram attacks and heavy-handed counter-insurgency measures has adversely impacted every aspect of life, especially for internally displaced people. In Yobe State, economic infrastructure damage has obstructed income sources, affecting both IDPs and host communities, primarily farmers denied access to their land. Non-agricultural livelihoods have also suffered. The World Food Programme aims to support over 40,000 households in Yobe State in 2022, predominantly comprising direct victims of Boko Haram activities (World Food Programme, 2022).

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Yobe State, particularly Damaturu, confront various challenges due to forced displacement caused by the Boko Haram insurgency. Many are housed in congested, isolated, or insecure shelters, with fragmented humanitarian responses failing to address the specific needs of vulnerable groups. Notably, unaccompanied children, the elderly, sick, handicapped, and pregnant women lack proper attention. The study by Alkali and Sharma (2022) underscores the urgency of exploring modalities to alleviate the socio-economic impact of Boko Haram on IDPs, aiming to enhance their well-being and enable their meaningful contributions to the broader development of Yobe State and Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

The violent activities of Boko Haram insurgents against civilians and sporadic attacks on Nigerian security agents in northeast Nigeria have subdued in the region. However, internal displacement and its resultant effects remain nearly fresh in the region. According to the UNHCR (2020) report, a total of 26 million Nigerians have been affected by the crisis, with an estimated 2.7 million people internally displaced in north-eastern Nigeria, further aggravating the humanitarian crisis. The World Food Programme (WFP, 2022) reports that conflict in northeast Nigeria remains a protracted crisis, with persistent inequalities and poverty affecting the region. As of August 2020, 2.3 million individuals remain internally displaced in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe (BAY) States, with women and children comprising the majority.

The greatest cause for concern is the unimaginable suffering these defenceless and vulnerable groups must endure in their new homes. This condition has occasionally compelled the IDPs to leave the camps to protect themselves, worsening their situation. However, due to the increasing complexity and devastating ramifications, there is currently no accurate, officially agreed-upon record of the overall number of IDPs brought about by Boko Haram insurgents.

IDPs in Damaturu face various socioeconomic issues, including lack of access to food, clothing, shelter, sanitation, employment, and disrupted social networks. The upheaval of internal relocation obstructs IDPs' social networks and may lead to prejudice and dropouts for IDPs' children in schools. Unsanitary dwelling conditions accelerate the spread of infectious diseases (Christelle, 2018). Internally displaced people coexist and share resources with host communities, placing additional strain on existing structures. Whether in camps, camp-like settlements, or host communities, IDPs confront socioeconomic obstacles such as a lack of access to basic necessities and loss of employment (IDMC, 2018; WFP, 2022). Host



communities also suffer from accommodating the massive influx of displaced individuals from areas directly attacked by Boko Haram.

Despite existing studies examining the consequences of the Boko Haram insurgency and internal displacement, there is a gap in understanding the full spectrum of its socioeconomic effects on internally displaced people. Most studies focus on specific nations, geopolitical regions, and states. Therefore, this study aims to address this gap by examining social service problems among internally displaced persons (IDP) in Yobe State.

Research Objectives

The main objective of this study is to examine challenges associated with persons displaced by Boko Haram insurgency in Yobe State, while the specific objective include:

1. To investigate how the Boko Haram insurgency stampeded families to the status of Internally Displaced Persons in Damaturu Local Government Area of Yobe State; and
2. To identify the challenges faced by the Internally Displaced Persons in accessing everyday life items in Damaturu Local Government Area of Yobe State.

Forced Displacement due to Boko Haram Insurgency

The Boko Haram insurgency in West Africa, particularly in Nigeria, has led to a severe humanitarian crisis characterised by widespread forced displacement. Boko Haram, founded in 2002, escalated its violent campaign in 2009, causing immense suffering and upending the lives of millions (Britannica, 2023). The forced displacement resulting from the Boko Haram insurgency is multifaceted. Boko Haram, a jihadist militant group, seeks to establish an Islamic state in the region (HRW, 2022). The group's ruthless tactics, including bombings, abductions, and massacres, have instilled fear and insecurity, compelling civilians to flee their homes to escape violence (Boye et al., 2021; Garba & Muktar, 2019).

The forced displacement caused by the Boko Haram insurgency has resulted in dire consequences for affected populations. Displaced individuals often face inadequate living conditions, lack of access to basic necessities such as food and water, and limited healthcare services (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2022). Moreover, the strain on host communities and the inadequate response of governments to address the needs of displaced populations exacerbate the crisis (Paola et al., 2023). The displacement crisis has also strained regional stability, as neighbouring countries like Cameroon, Chad, and Niger have had to contend with the influx of refugees, further challenging their already fragile infrastructures (Cederman & Pengl, 2019)

In north-western Nigeria, intercommunal fighting led to the displacement of 210,300 people, resulting in over 35,000 refugees crossing into Niger. Simultaneously, escalating security concerns in north-east Nigeria prompted additional waves of displacement, bringing the total number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to 2 million in 2020. Within the north central states of Benue, Nasarawa, and Plateau, approximately 277,400 individuals faced internal displacement, with around 57% of them being children under 18 years old. A December 2020 report from the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) highlighted a nationwide total of 2,730,000 IDPs, encompassing those displaced by armed conflict and violence in various regions. These include the northeast due to an 11-year insurgency, the Central region



due to intercommunal violence between farmers and herders, and the North West and North Central regions due to criminal and intercommunal clashes. Concurrently, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimated 2,150,243 IDPs in the north-eastern states affected by conflict and violence during 2020.

Moving into 2021, an IDMC baseline assessment recorded a significant increase, indicating a total of 3,228,000 people internally displaced by conflict and violence across five regions. These regions include the North East, affected by a 12-year insurgency; the Central region, experiencing intercommunal violence; and the North West and North Central regions, witnessing criminal and intercommunal violence. Additionally, Niger State faced displacement due to intercommunal violence.

Challenges in Accessing Everyday Essentials for IDPs

One of the daunting challenges confronting the Internally Displaced Persons in north-east Nigeria lies in accessing the basic necessities of life – food, clothing and shelter. UN High Commissioner for Refugees (2017) reported that as part of Nigeria's 2017 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), the findings of the protection sector working group revealed a full spectrum of protection concerns in north-east Nigeria, with 6.7 million people (IDPs and Host) estimated to be in need of protection and assistance in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States. These are areas most affected by Boko Haram insurgency and with high concentration of IDPs.

In Nigeria, the incidence of internal displacement occurred solely because it has ethnic, religious and political undertones. Displacement leaves negative socio-economic footprints in the lives of millions of people worldwide (Adeboye, 2021). IDPs are often unable to exercise their basic rights to food and essential household items such as sleeping mats, mosquito nets, jerry cans, soap and cooking utensils. They usually lose access to their sources of revenue when they flee. Assistance for those living in camps, when provided, is inadequate. The destruction of property, crops and stores of food at the time of displacement is a major driver of food insecurity among IDPs. During the early phases of displacement, State governments and donor agencies provided basic food items through the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) and sometimes directly, but supplies were often quickly exhausted. IDPs may then be forced to turn to their hosts for help in meeting their basic needs (Alkali & Sharma, 2022).

Consequently, during violent conflicts or natural disasters, IDPs are usually forced to leave; most houses and properties are destroyed, looted or burnt down. It rendered the displaced with the quest for shelter and survival. However, with the incapacity of IDPs, these quests are usually hindered. Meanwhile, they are either catered for by relatives/philanthropists or the government. While it is the constitutional responsibility of the latter that these needs are met, the former through social ties and sense of communal relationship may provide such. It should be noted here that the primary needs of IDPs remain to be food, shelter, clothing and opportunities to reduce dependence. The conflicts have brought about fundamental problems of human security in the north-eastern region, particularly with regard to humanitarian crises (Kamta & Scheffran, 2022; World Food Programme, 2022).



METHODOLOGY

The paper had primarily sourced data, through the use of a mixed-method approach (quantitative and qualitative). The quantitative data were elicited through surveys (Questionnaire) administered to the sampled displaced persons in Damaturu electronically using Open Data Kits (ODK). The qualitative data were elicited through the use of In-depth Interview (IDI) with five (5) IDPs leaders. The sample size of this study is 803 for survey and 5 for IDI totalling 810 from Abbari YBC, Abujan Mai-Mala, Alhaji Muhammadu Gombe (AMG) Farm, Kasaisa and Kuareta IDPs settlements. Simple random and purposive sampling strategies were used in sampling the research respondents and participants respectively. For data analysis, the study employed descriptive statistics in the form of simple percentage and frequency count. The qualitative data obtained through in-depth interviews were analysed using Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) where the data were organised in theme aligned to the research objectives and the findings were used in complementing the quantitative data. Overall, the methodology is rooted in quantitative rigour, with qualitative components serving as supplementary tools to enrich the understanding of the multifaceted impact of displacement in Damaturu.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Socio-demographic Characteristics of the Study Sample

Table 1: Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Population

Sex	Categories	Frequency	Percentage (%)
	Female	495	61.5
	Male	310	38.5
Total		805	100.0
Age			
	21 – 30	217	27.0
	31 – 40	245	30.4
	41 – 50	174	21.6
	51 years and above	138	17.1
	Below 20 years	31	3.9
Total		805	100.0
Marital Status			
	Divorced	11	1.4
	Married	707	87.8
	Single	38	4.7
	Widowed	49	6.1
Total		805	100.0
Family Members Living Together as IDPs			
	1 – 2	61	7.6
	3 – 4	183	22.7
	5 – 6	192	23.9
	7 or more	369	45.8
Total		805	100.0

Source: *Field Survey, 2023*



The sociodemographic analysis of the study's respondents, as presented in Table 1, provides key insights into the composition of the sample. The majority of respondents are female (61.5%), emphasising the need for gender-sensitive interventions. In terms of age, the concentration of internally displaced persons (IDPs) within the 21 – 40 age group (57.4%) highlights the impact of the conflict on the productive segment of the population, with implications for future workforce and community development. Marital status diversity is evident, with 87.8% being married and 6.1% widowed, underscoring the complex dynamics of families affected by displacement. The data on family size as IDPs reveals that 45.8% live with seven or more family members, emphasising the challenges faced by larger households and the need for comprehensive aid packages and community support. This sociodemographic overview provides a foundation for contextualising and analysing the study's findings within the broader social and familial context of the displaced population.

Analysis of the Respondents' Views on How Boko Haram Insurgency Stampeded Families to the Status of Internally Displaced Persons in Damaturu

Table 2 in this section presents detailed insights into the repercussions of the Boko Haram insurgency, covering aspects such as displacement, loss of family members, and diverse perspectives on Boko Haram's actions and their role in forced displacement. The qualitative data obtained through IDI serves to complement and enrich the information presented in these tables.

Table 2 Impact of Boko Haram Insurgency on Displacement and Loss of Family Members

Theme	Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Stampede's Direct Impact on Displacement	No	23	2.9
	Yes	782	97.1
	Total	805	100
Targeted by <i>Boko Haram</i> Leading to Displacement	No	92	11.4
	Yes	713	88.6
	Total	805	100
Loss of Family Members Due to <i>Boko Haram</i> Insurgency	No	401	49.8
	Yes	404	50.2
	Total	805	100.0
Specific Family Members Lost (Died) Due to <i>Boko Haram</i> Insurgency	Both	18	2.2
	Parents		
	Entire	5	0.6
	Children		
	Father	49	6.1
	Mother	13	1.6
	Relatives	250	31.1
	Some	69	8.6
Children			
Total	404	50	

Source: *Field Survey (2023)*



Table 2 reveals the profound impact of the *Boko Haram* insurgency on displacement and the loss of family members among the surveyed population. Concerning the stampede's direct influence on displacement, an overwhelming majority of respondents specifically 97.1 per cent affirmed that they were displaced due to the *Boko Haram*-induced stampede, with only 2.9 percent indicating otherwise. However, this is in line with what was obtained from the IDPs chairman Kasaisa during an In-depth interview that:

As an IDP since 2015, the insurgency disrupted our lives. The midnight escape, leaving everything behind, was a desperate response to the imminent danger posed by Boko Haram. Boko Haram's presence near our village sent shockwaves through us. Witnessing the atrocities in a neighbouring village made us fear for our lives, forcing us to pack and migrate to this village. The memory of that night is etched in my mind — the urgency to leave, the darkness, and the uncertainty. Boko Haram's actions in our vicinity left us with no choice but to abandon our homes (IDI with male IDPs' leader, Abbari YBC, 2023).

Deduced from the above findings is that most IDPs were in this status for more than seven years but the terrible experience is still fresh in their memory. For instance, as the IDP leader in Kasaisa recounts the personal experience of being forced to flee due to the Boko Haram attack on a neighbouring village, highlighting the immediate threat that prompted the displacement and severity of the stampede nature caused by Boko Haram activities in their areas.

In terms of being specifically targeted by Boko Haram leading to displacement, 88.6 percent of respondents believed they were specifically targeted, while 11.4 percent disagreed. The table also revealed that the Boko Haram insurgency resulted in a nearly equal number of respondents experiencing the loss of family members where 50.2 percent answered yes, and 49.8 percent answered no. Finally, specific family members lost due to the insurgency include both parents at 2.2 per cent, entire children at 0.6 per cent, father at 6.1 per cent, mother at 1.6 per cent, relatives at 31.1 per cent, and some children at 8.6 per cent. These findings underscore the profound and varied impact of the Boko Haram insurgency on displacement and the tragic loss of family members among the surveyed population. However, this is further supported by a qualitative data sourced during an IDI with a Female IDP Leader in Kuareta, who stated that:

About 133 BH members were killed and 112 of our youth were killed in one unfortunate fight between the Boko Haram insurgent and our youths. After that event, they went back prepared and came back with about 53 vehicles. As they came back, they just embarked on burning our houses indiscriminately. We ran to Malam Maja, Dikwa LGA, Maiduguri, then Kaduna and later to Kukareta here in Damaturu, Yobe State (IDP Female IDPs leader in Kukareta, 2023).

Deduced from the above findings is that the devastating attack by Boko Haram in their village, resulted in the loss of many lives and the burning of houses leading to forcible and unplanned multiple displacement epoch before finally arriving at Kukareta.

Analysis of the Challenges Faced by Internally Displaced Persons in Accessing Everyday Life Items in Damaturu

In this section, the study analyses the challenges faced by internally displaced persons (IDPs) in accessing everyday life items in Damaturu. The findings are presented in Table 3, which offers valuable insights into the specific hurdles and difficulties encountered by IDPs in obtaining essential items necessary for their daily lives. This table provides a comprehensive



overview of the various obstacles faced by IDPs, ranging from limited access to food, water, and healthcare, to difficulties in securing adequate shelter and education. By examining these tables, we can gain a deeper understanding of the multifaceted challenges experienced by IDPs, highlighting the need for targeted interventions and support to improve their overall well-being and enhance their quality of life.

Table 3: Challenges Faced by IDPs in Accessing Everyday Life Items

Theme	Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Easy Access to Food Items	Missing	49	6.1
	No	634	78.8
	Yes	122	15.2
	Total	805	100.0
Access to Potable Water Supply	Missing	49	6.1
	No	309	38.4
	Yes	447	55.5
	Total	805	100.0
Access to Toiletries	Missing	49	6.1
	No	492	61.1
	Yes	264	32.8
	Total	805	100.0
Access to Clothes	Missing	49	6.1
	No	627	77.9
	Yes	129	16.0
	Total	805	100.0
Access to Healthcare Services	Missing	49	6.1
	No	638	79.3
	Yes	118	14.7
	Total	805	100.0

Source: *Field Survey, (2023)*

Table 3 presents findings on the respondents' perspectives on challenges faced by Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in accessing everyday life items. Across various themes, including Easy Access to Food Items, Access to Potable Water Supply, Access to Toiletries, Access to Clothes, and Access to Healthcare Services, respondents were asked to express their views. Notably, 6.1% of the responses are missing in each theme, indicating non-responses.

In terms of Easy Access to Food Items, a significant 78.8 percent of respondents expressed the opinion that there is no easy access to food items, while only 15.2 per cent believed in the presence of such accessibility.

In an IDI conducted with a Female IDP leader in Kuareta, highlights the devastating challenges IDPs were struggling with, in accessing food and water, even facing hunger and water scarcity as she recounted that:

As for the food we also have challenges... Some even confess that they spend more than 2 days without preparing food in their houses. We have a serious problem with drinking water. In my life I never buy water for domestic use before displacement, but here we buy 25 litres at the rate of N40 naira from a water vendor (IDI with Female IDP leader in Kukareta, 2023).



On access to potable water supply, 38.4 percent of respondents felt that there is no easy access, contrasting with 55.5 percent who perceived easy access. This pattern continues across other themes, where a majority of respondents expressed concerns about the challenges in accessing essential items. In the same vein, qualitative data from an IDI with Kasaisa IDPs' leader further intensify these challenges when he narrates that:

Accessing food, medications, and even water has become a daily challenge. The regular food assistance we used to receive has dwindled, leaving many of us struggling to meet our basic needs. Days without food have become a stark reality for some IDPs. The lack of assistance not only impacts our nourishment but also raises concerns about healthcare, toiletries, and other essential items. The discontinuation of support from NGOs like WFP has exacerbated the problems. What used to be a community sharing resources has transformed into a struggle for even the most basic necessities (IDI with male IDPs' leader in Kasaisa, 2023).

The aforementioned finding outlines the challenges faced by IDPs in accessing basic necessities, emphasising the scarcity of food, medications, and water, which has intensified due to the discontinuation of assistance from donor agencies like WFP and the like.

Also, Another IDI with IDPs leader in Abbari YBC reaffirm that:

As an IDP, the challenges we face in accessing everyday life items are indomitable. While water needs are somewhat addressed by an NGO, issues with obtaining food persist. Many female IDPs, including married women, venture into the rainy season for farm labour, facing uncertainties in securing jobs. Some resort to searching for edible leaves in the bush to feed their children, highlighting the profound challenges in meeting basic needs like food, clothes, health care, and more (IDI with Male IDPs leader in Abbari YBC, 2023).

This excerpt makes it clear that challenges faced by IDPs in accessing everyday life items are multifaceted, with food scarcity being a significant concern. Despite efforts by NGOs to address water needs, the struggle for food persists, leading some female IDPs to engage in desperate measures for survival making them vulnerable to abuse. This highlights the broader impact of the Boko Haram insurgency on the daily lives of displaced individuals.

Regarding Access to Toiletries, 61.1 percent of respondents believed there is a lack of easy access, while 32.8 percent thought otherwise. Access to Clothings revealed a similar trend, with 77.9 percent of respondents perceiving a lack of accessibility, in contrast to 16 per cent who considered access to clothes as easy. Access to Healthcare Services also emerged as a significant concern, with 79.3 percent of respondents indicating a lack of easy access, while only 14.7 percent expressed a positive view.

To further complement the quantitative findings, a female IDPs leader in Kukareta during an IDI highlights the health issues faced in the IDP camp due to the lack of health workers:

As far as everyday life is concerned, we have numerous challenges, particularly health issues. Here in Kukareta we have a hospital but there are no health workers. Because, even yesterday I have taken a pregnant woman to hospital trying to deliver but we have to come back home and she deliver here at home for lack of health workers. What if there are complications? (IDI with Female IDP leader in Kukareta, 2023).



Another qualitative data stand as backup to this finding were sourced during an IDI with the IDPs leader in AMG Farm who stated that:

As an IDP leader, I've witnessed numerous challenges faced by our community in accessing everyday life items. The inadequate food supply, particularly for larger families, has led to malnutrition and health issues. Additionally, accessing clean water and basic healthcare remains problematic for several families, further exacerbating their hardships (IDI with IDP leader in AMG Farm, 2023).

Deduced from these findings is the affirmation that the challenges faced by IDPs in Damaturu are multifaceted, generally in accessing everyday life items. Inadequate food supply, coupled with difficulties in obtaining clean water and basic healthcare, has become a pervasive issue.

In summary, the survey and the IDI highlights a prevailing perception among respondents that IDPs face substantial challenges in accessing fundamental items for daily living. The majority of respondents expressed scepticism about the ease of access to food items, portable water supply, toiletries, clothes, and healthcare services. This underscores the need for targeted interventions and support mechanisms by relevant authorities to address these challenges and improve the overall well-being of internally displaced populations

DISCUSSION OF MAJOR FINDINGS

This section summarises crucial findings from the Damaturu Local Government Area study in Yobe State. The study investigates the impact on occupations, education, and shelter accessibility, providing a comprehensive understanding of the conflict's repercussions on affected communities.

Among the 805 participants, 61.5% were women, emphasising a higher female representation. The age distribution highlights a younger demographic, with 27.0% in the 21–30 age group and 30.4% in the 31–40 age group. This aligns with the Displacement Tracking Matrix, (2021) report, emphasising a similar age trend among IDPs in the region. Gender distribution among IDPs reveals 53% female and 47% male, with 58% being minors (under 18) and 6% over 60. Marital status indicates that 87.8% of respondents were married, while 6.1% were widowed (Table 1).

Regarding how families in Damaturu were forced to become internally displaced due to the Boko Haram insurgency. The results of this study show that the vast majority of participants (99.0%) largely blamed Boko Haram for their displacement. Many respondents also believed that they were specifically targeted (88.6%) and experienced the loss of family members (50.2%), highlighting the devastating impact of the insurgency on their lives (families and their forced displacement).

The findings further explored the challenges faced by IDPs in accessing everyday life items in Damaturu. The results indicate that the majority of respondents (93.9%) reported facing various challenges in accessing these items. Key difficulties included limited access to food items (78.8%), toiletries (61.1%), and clothing (77.9%). Furthermore, respondents highlighted the lack of balanced diets for IDPs (37.1%) and the difficulty in obtaining essential healthcare services (58.8%). These findings emphasise the significant obstacles IDPs encounter in



meeting their basic needs (Table 4.17 – 4.27). In the recent past, an assessment by DTM (2021), Alkali and Sharma (2022), Garba and Muktar (2019), and Gwadabe et al. (2018). The ongoing conflict in north-eastern Nigeria, particularly in Borno and Yobe, has continued to be the predominant cause of IDPs' displacement, with communal conflicts accounting for 7 per cent of those instances and natural catastrophes accounting for 1 per cent.

CONCLUSION

This study conducted in Damaturu, Yobe State, provides a comprehensive overview of the severe challenges faced by those displaced due to the Boko Haram insurgency. The majority attribute their displacement to Boko Haram, experiencing significant personal losses and disruptions. Vulnerable groups, particularly women and younger individuals, are heavily affected. The study underscores urgent needs for holistic support mechanisms, including humanitarian aid, enhanced security, psycho-social support, tailored education, and sustainable livelihood programs. The findings stress the necessity for collaborative efforts between government and non-governmental entities to address the multifaceted challenges, ensuring the survival, dignity, and future stability of internally displaced persons in Yobe State.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Implement an intensified humanitarian aid plan, led by relevant governmental agencies and supported by non-governmental organisations, to address the immediate needs of displaced populations. Prioritise the provision of food, toiletries, clothing, and essential healthcare services.
2. Collaborate with security agencies to enhance measures ensuring the safety and protection of internally displaced persons (IDPs) from ongoing threats.
3. Initiate psycho-social support programs, coordinated by mental health professionals and community-based organisations, to address the emotional trauma experienced by displaced individuals. Prioritise those who have lost family members or feel specifically targeted.
4. Establish counselling services and community-based support networks, with responsibility shared between mental health professionals, local NGOs, and government entities.
5. Develop and implement tailored education initiatives for displaced youth, assigning responsibility to the Ministry of Education and collaborating with non-profit organisations. These programs should not only provide formal education opportunities but also address the psychological impact of the conflict on the educational aspirations of the younger demographic.
6. Launch sustainable livelihood support programs, spearheaded by relevant government ministries and in collaboration with women's empowerment organisations. Equip displaced individuals, particularly women, with skills and resources to generate income, aiming to enhance economic resilience and reduce dependency on external aid.



7. Facilitate collaboration among governmental agencies, non-governmental organisations, and local communities. Establish a task force with representatives from relevant ministries, NGOs, and community leaders to ensure a comprehensive and coordinated response. This includes joint efforts in delivering aid, ensuring security, and providing ongoing support services for internally displaced persons.

REFERENCE

- Adeboye, A. O. (2021). Addressing the boko haram-induced mental health burden in Nigeria. *Health and Human Rights Journal*, 23(1), 71–73. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8233029/pdf/hhr-23-01-071.pdf>
- Alkali, I., & Sharma, K. (2022). An Assessment of the Humanitarian Crisis Created by Boko Haram Insurgency in Yobe State , Nigeria. *GD Goenka University Journal of Perspectives in Social Science and Humanities Research, Vol. 1 (1), 1(December)*, 66–80. [https://www.gdgoenkauniversity.com/pdf/An Assessment of Humanitarian Crisis Created by Boko Haram Insurgency in Yobe State, Nigeria- PSSHR, Vol 1, Issue 1.pdf](https://www.gdgoenkauniversity.com/pdf/An%20Assessment%20of%20Humanitarian%20Crisis%20Created%20by%20Boko%20Haram%20Insurgency%20in%20Yobe%20State,%20Nigeria-PSSHR,%20Vol%201,%20Issue%201.pdf)
- Boye, R., Abubakar, Y., & Ali, H. (2021). An Assessment of Socio- Economic Effects of Buhari ' s Policy of Reconstruction and Rehabilitation on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Damaturu and Gujba Local Governments , Yobe State. *THE American Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences Research (THE AJHSSR)*, 04(03), 143–155. www.theajhssr.com
- Britannica, E. (2023). Boko Haram. In *Boko Haram* (pp. 1–5). <https://doi.org/10.1515/9781400888481>
- Cederman, L.-E., & Pengl, Y. (2019). *Global Conflict Trends and their Consequences*. https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/publication/SDO_BP_Cederman_Pengl.pdf
- Christelle, C. (2018). *Thematic Series - The Ripple Effect: Multidimensional Impacts of Internal Displacement* (Issue October).
- Garba, M., & Muktar, K. B. (2019). Internally Displaced persons as Victim of Boko Haram Insurgency and the Consequences of Accessing the Basic Necessity of Life in Damaturu, Northeast - Nigeria. *Yobe Journal of Environment and Development (YOJED)*, 5(1), 128–138.
- Gwadabe, N. M., Salleh, M. A., Ahmad, A. A., & Jamil, S. (2018). Forced Displacement and the Plight of Internally Displaced Persons in Northeast Nigeria. *Humanities and Social Science Research*, 1(1), p46. <https://doi.org/10.30560/hssr.v1n1p46>
- Human, Right, & Watch. (2022). "Those Who Returned Are Suffering" Impact of Camp Shutdowns on People Displaced by Boko Haram Conflict in Nigeria. <http://www.hrw.org>
- Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre. (2022). *Children and youth in internal displacement*. info@idmc.ch
- International Organization for Migration. (2021). *DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX NORTH-EAST NIGERIA / DISPLACEMENT REPORT 36* (Issue October).
- Jamri, B. (2021). Post-Boko Haram Insurgency and Trafficking of IDPS in the Northeastern Nigeria: Consequences and Solutions. *International Journal of Trend in Scientific Research and Development (IJTSRD)*, 5(4), 517–528. www.ijtsrd.com/papers/ijtsrd42359.pdf %0ACopyright
- Kamta, F. N., & Scheffran, J. (2022). A social network analysis of internally displaced communities in northeast Nigeria: potential conflicts with host communities in the Lake



- Chad region. *GeoJournal*, 87(5), 4251–4268. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10708-021-10500-8>
- Paola, E., Flore, F. M., & Reichert, A. R. (2023). *Religious Terrorism , Forced Migration , and Women ' s Empowerment Evidence from the Boko Haram Insurgency* (No. 10524; Issue August).
- United Nation High Commission on Refugee. (2020). *Global Focus UNHCR Operation: Nigeria*. <https://reporting.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/pdfsummaries/GR2019-Nigeria-eng.pdf>
- UN High Commissioner for Refugees. (2017). Nigeria Situation 2017. In *The UN Refugee Agency: Vol. Supplement* (Issue JULY). <https://www.unhcr.org/597704b87.pdf>
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2021). *Global Compact on Refugees Indicator Report*.
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2022). *Global Trends Force Displacement in 2021*. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-68364-1_10
- World Food Programme. (2022). *Essential Needs Analysis Northeast Nigeria* (Issue October 2020).