

Interrogating Migration and Resilience building in Lagos Urban Margins: Focus on IDP Communities



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Acknowledgements:

Mapping IDPs in Nigerian Cities: Lagos, Onitsha and Ibadan

Heinrich Boell Stiftung, Nigeria 2020

Land and associated Vulnerabilities of Urban Poor Communities in Lagos, Nigeria.

Global Land Alliance, 2021

Sustainable Agriculture in Nigeria: Understanding the link between conflict (and terrorism) and climate change in farmers' displacement and livelihood transformation

Centre for Advanced Social Research, Leeds Beckett University, 2023



Outline



Introduction:
Migration,
Displacement
and
Resettlement in
Lagos



**Profiling
Migrant and
Displaced
Communities:**



**Migrant
Trajectories:**
Risks and
vulnerabilities
along the
urban
integration
journey



**Resilience
Building:**
Social Capital
and agency in
the transition
from IDP to
Migrant and
Lagosian



Conclusion:



Introduction

MIGRATION, DISPLACEMENT AND RESETTLEMENT IN
LAGOS



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Why do we need to understand Internal Displacement in Nigeria?

- A significant proportion of **migration** over the last twenty years have been by **forcibly/ violently displaced people** especially from Nigeria's north east and central regions
- Many of them are moving to cities, but there is a **significant data gap on IDPs** outside camp
- There is an urgent need for understanding IDPs in cities as cities **offer the opportunity for new beginnings and economic opportunities**
- The significance of understanding the **patterns, processes and implications** of such is beneficial for both city governments and humanitarian agencies.
- From a scholarly perspective, the interplay of **people, communities and spaces** point to interrelationship between **power, social and cultural structures**, and these must be interrogated
- Holistic understanding could inform operationalization of **various interlinkages of migration, humanitarian response and urban management**



Where is most internal displacement occurring in Nigeria?

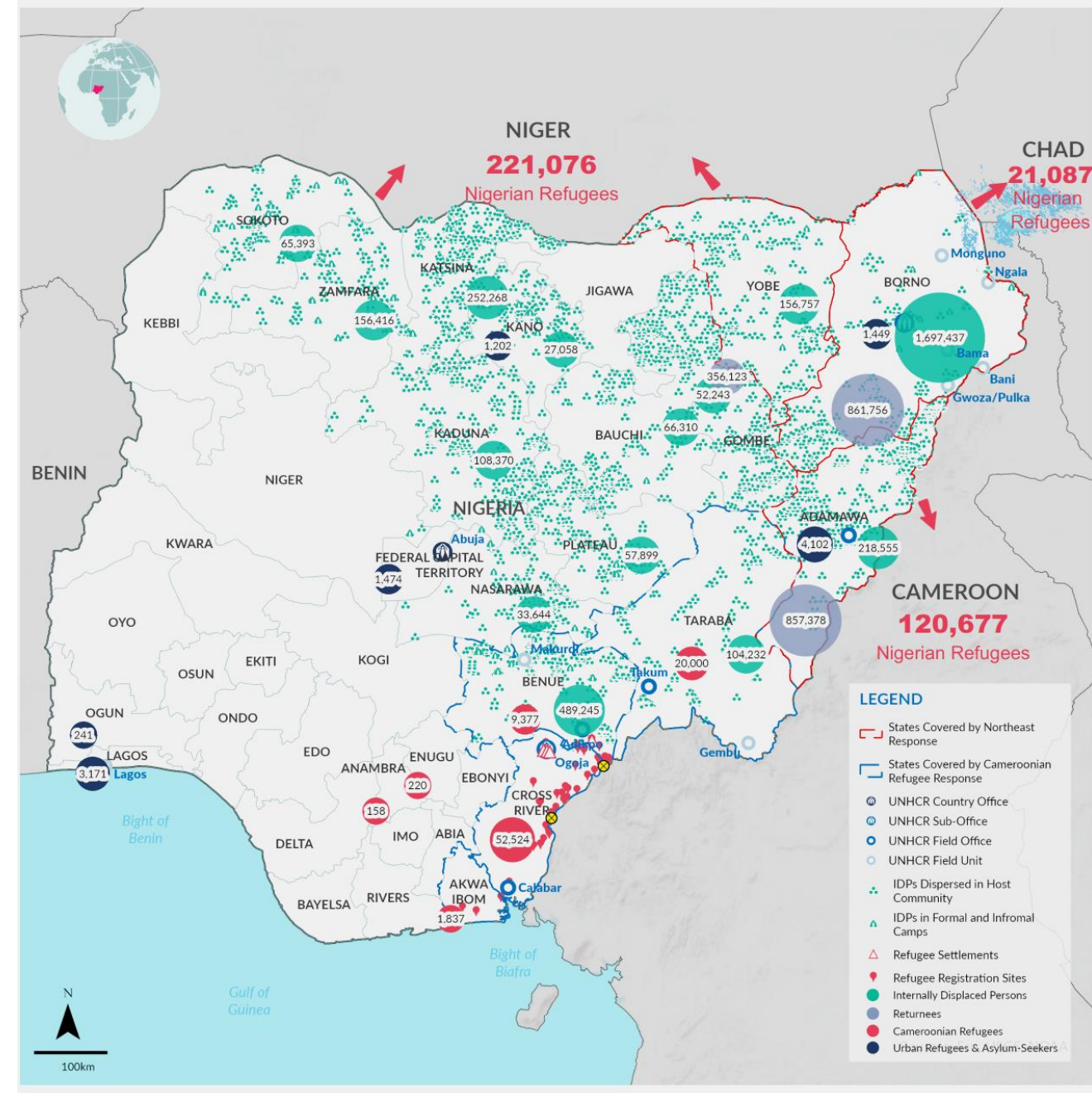
Borno, Benue, Katsina, Zamfara, Yobe, Kaduna

Where do the displaced go?

Yola, **Lagos**, Abuja, Maiduguri, Kano, Abeokuta

UNHCR, September 2023:

However, **low data reliability** as IDPs registrations extremely dependent on UNHCR's presence on the territory



IDPs in Lagos

- Limited information on presence of IDPs in Lagos
- The arrival of both migrants and IDPs is leading to **increased homelessness and expansion of slums**
- IDPs are contributing to their local community and the city – and if some challenges are overcome their contribution can increase further
- IDPs are **Nigerian citizens** and have the same rights as other residents, however, their status **constrains access** to social and economic resources in the city
- Poor **IDP integration** into urban life due to fear by host communities, hence they are contributing to formation of new slums especially in the peripheral areas.
- Within the city, IDPs often suffer from **discrimination and/or stigmatisation** in host communities, which can further fragment fragile social structures in Lagos



IDPs in Lagos: What do we know?

- **3 formal IDP camps** in Agbowo, Igando and Mushin
- Humanitarian responses only targets **international refugees and local urban displaced**
- Temporary in nature: 3 - 12 months stay duration
- North-East IDPs in Lagos are not recognized as IDPs by the state as they are seen as *'illegal migrants'* who have no business in the city
- **Disconnected humanitarian policy framework** between Lagos state and the Federal government
- Self settlement is most assured pathway to urban resettlement.
- **Over 60 communities** mapped so far – many of which are exclusive IDP shack settlements



Lagos State Relief and Resettlement Camp in Igando. © Joseph Jibueze - the Nation newspaper





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Profiling Migrant and Displaced communities?



local government area kyana nasarawa state abande kwande lga
vandeikya lga ikyoawe kwande lga
katsina lga
guma lag gbajimba kiyana kwande lga
tara taraba state
maav mkonon district sabon gida jigawa state
zongon turaki
katsina ala lga guma lga borno state
maav asaav
turan community gbajimba guma lga ute vandeikya lga
benue state chibok lga
kebi state div nzaav mai hola
moon district makurdi lga
original place taraba state
adamawa state place of abode borno turan ibeju lekki
chitile lga katsinara nasarawa state dan nacha
local government kwande local government
waya jako chibok kachia lga abuja
jato aka kaduna state



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Reasons for displacement

Only 12.43% moved voluntarily

23.27% had suffered multiple displacements

82.86% were displaced along with their families

Displacement wave has increased since 2013

Value	Frequency	percent age
Attack by bandits/terrorists / herdsmen	153	71.48
Other types of Conflict	10	4.69
Area is safer/land is better quality/ or more profitable	3	1.41
Others	10	4.69





‘For my own community in Buktari community Borno in Chibok, I be de the head of village - which Yoruba call Baale. But today, everybody run away because Boko Haram kill about thirteen men at Buktari community.

They kill my father, they kill my mother, and they kidnap my younger sister for school.

.... Because Boko Haram pursue me, there’s nowhere to go. I have to come Lagos’



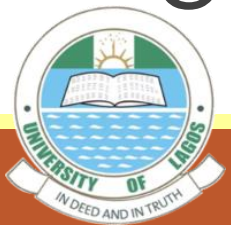
Value	Frequency	Percentage
Farming	92	43.19
Others	65	30.52
Petty trading & Hawking	36	16.9
Unemployed	15	7.04
Commercial motorcycling (Okada/keke marwa)	11	5.16
Civil service	7	3.29
Factory workers	6	2.82
Tailoring	2	0.94
Carpentry	2	0.94
Student	1	0.47



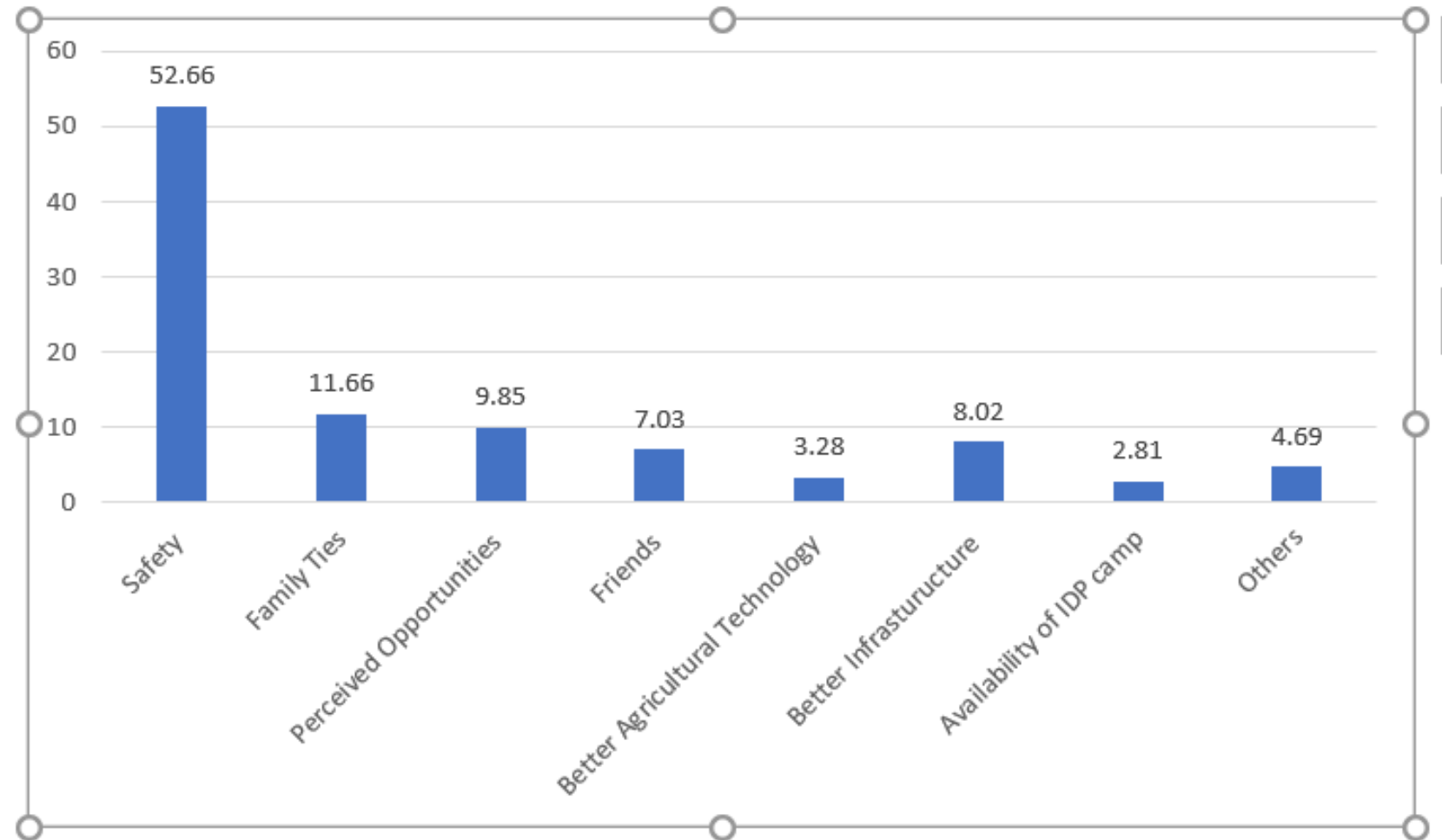
Current occupation

Over 50% of respondents have not been able to return to agriculture

23.94% have no interest in returning to agricultural activities



Why did you
move to
Lagos?





'SOCIAL CAPITAL

'After we left the IDP camp in Abuja, we followed them (our relatives) to that place (Kubwa) and found our way from there.

When we were going to Lagos, it took us so long because when we got to Benin city, we actually wanted to stay there, we tried to find a place to stay even though we didn't know anyone there. But it was really difficult as people kept chasing us away from where we were sleeping, so we decided to continue our journey to Lagos where we know our people there,,

Migration Trajectories

RISKS AND VULNERABILITIES ALONG THE URBAN
INTEGRATION JOURNEY



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Average Monthly income

BEFORE DISPLACEMENT

Value	Frequency	Percentage
N100, 001 and above	44	20.66
Below N20, 000	31	14.55
N20, 000 – N40, 000	18	8.45
N40, 001 – N60, 000	16	7.51
N80, 001 – N100, 000	12	5.63
N60, 001 – N80, 000	9	4.23

AFTER DISPLACEMENT

Value	Frequency	Percentage
Below N20, 000	96	45.07
N20, 000 – N40, 000	18	8.45
N60, 001 – N80, 000	4	1.88
N100, 001 and above	3	1.41
N80, 001 – N100, 000	1	0.47
N40, 001 – N60, 000	1	0.47

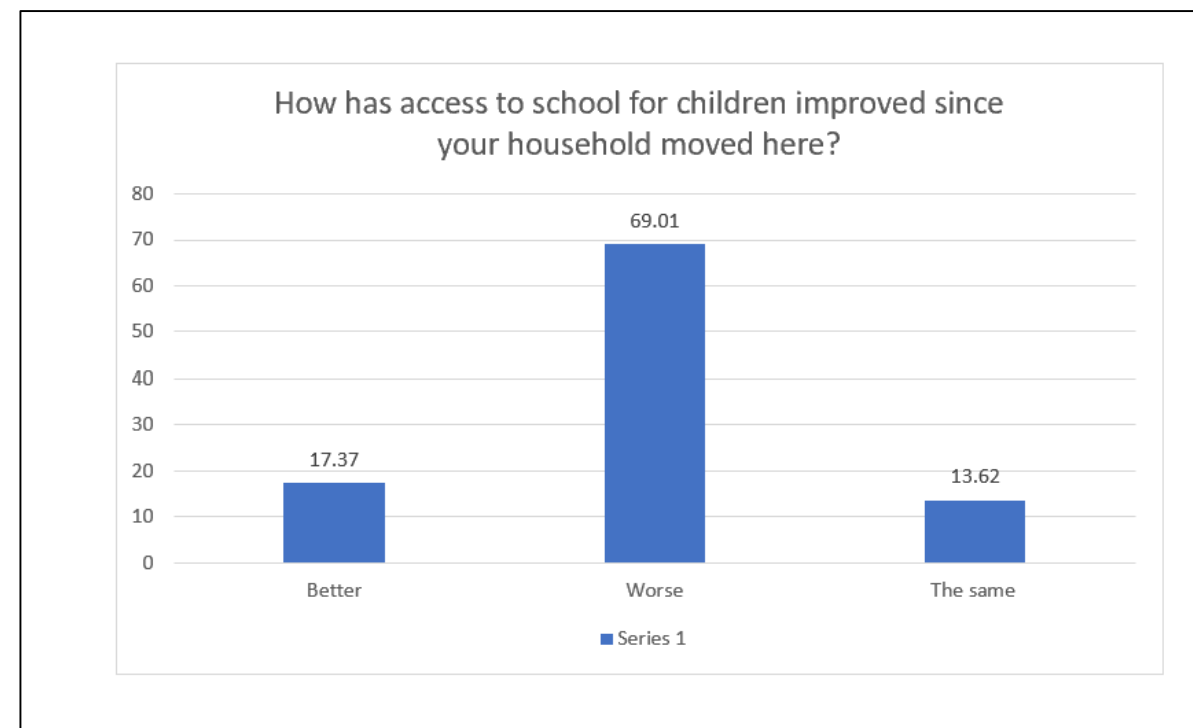
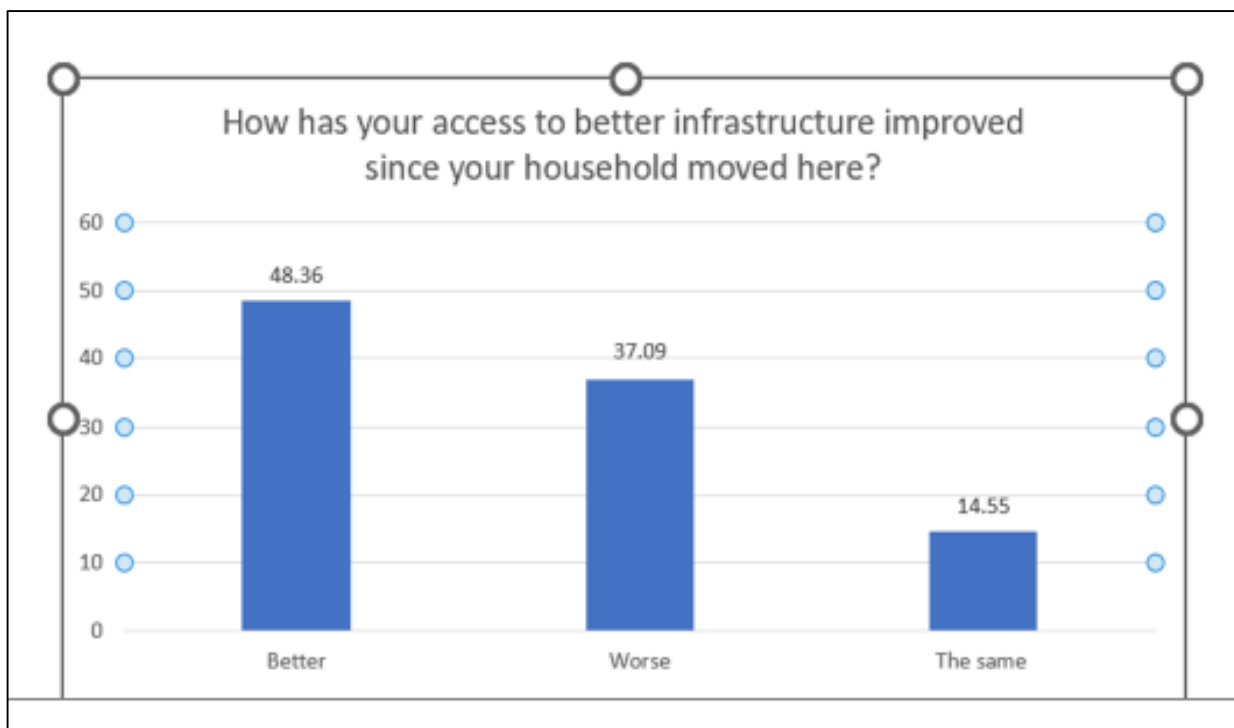


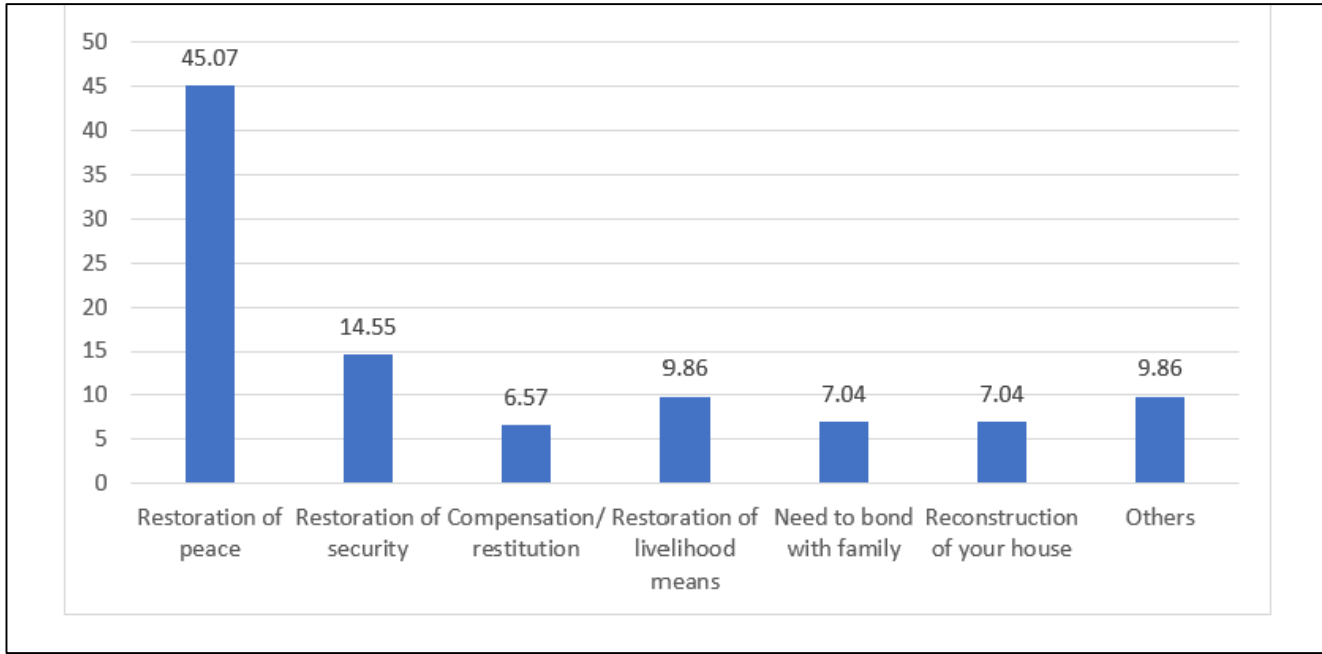
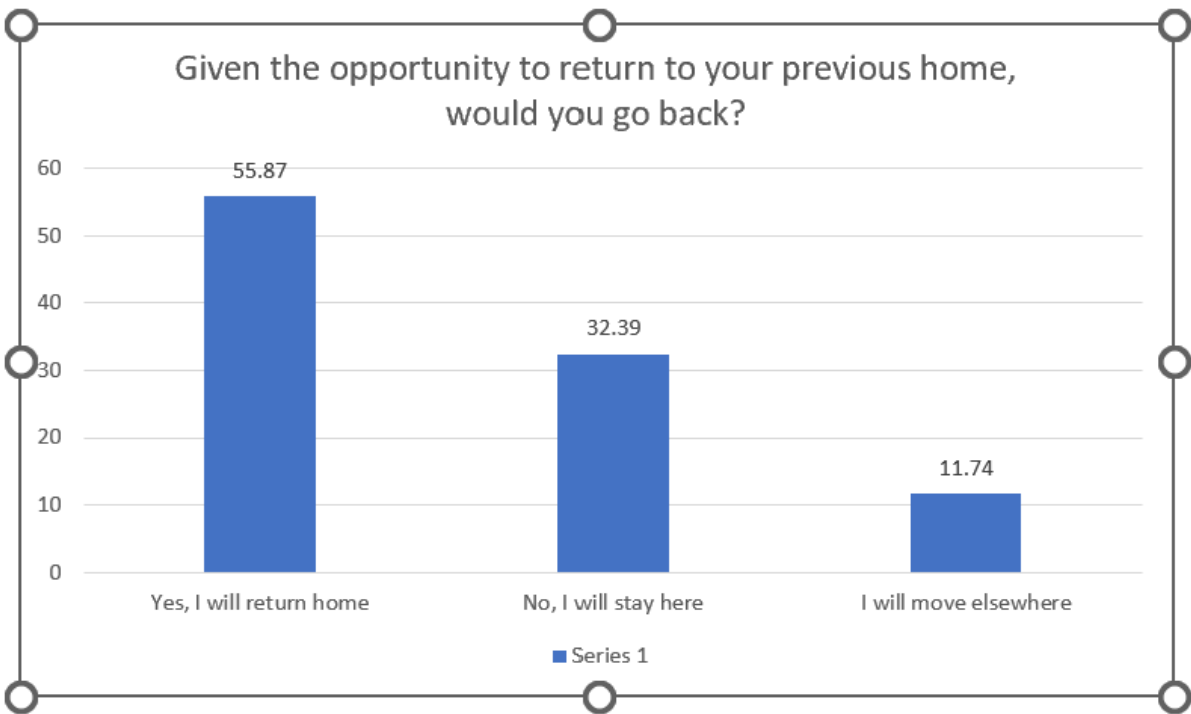


Before, I dey do business of two point something million naira, but wen dey come take over the village I have only two thousand naira in pocket. Business money, we are not putting inside account, because no bank for our side. I dey buy beans, corn, guinea corn, even cow. If I buy cow, I fit buy thirty thousand (N30,000) sell forty thousand (N40,000)

.... The day they come, the cow wey I buy say I wan carry am go market, with the market wey I buy - beans, groundnut, guinea corn - everything, they put it for their motor carry am go till today.









GENDER EMPOWERMENT

"I dont want to go back. I like Lagos. Now I have my business, selling recharge card. I can take care of my children. I even open bank account for myself,



” When we were at home [in Benue], I was assisting my husband with farming, but here in Lagos, I have my own small shop where I sell food. Now I have my own money and my own work.,,

Resilience Building

SOCIAL CAPITAL AND AGENCY IN THE TRANSITION FROM IDP TO
MIGRANT AND LAGOSIAN



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SOCIAL CAPITAL

‘When I come to Lagos in 2017, I come straight to Eleko, my friend help me with house rent, after house rent he buy food for my family,,



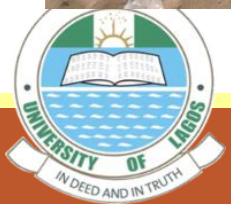
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LEVERAGING SOCIAL CAPITAL:

“If you check very well, many Chibok people never lived in IDP camps. We move to other areas and struggle to make a life, so that we can host other Chibok people who are displaced.

Like my family, we are hosting two other families because we have space in our compound and we have a business that is successful and growing,,.





COMMUNITY MOBILISATION AND ORGANISATION

"We live here peacefully with the people. It took time for them to allow us into the community, but we had to come together to form our own IDP leadership. As soon as we organized, our leaders went to see the local chief to formally plead that we are allowed in, because, before then, anywhere we try to live, they will chase us away. But now I can say after 7 years, we are now settled,,,"



HOST COMMUNITY BENEVOLENCE

"In this community, all the community... Yorubas... wey I de among them.... I thank God, make God help them because they really help me. More than two months I no know how much they are selling food stuff because they gave my family food,,.





DELIBERATE ACCULTURATION

'I think once you learn Yoruba and try to not only live in the IDP community, and come out and mingle with local people, life is easier. That is how I got this job I am doing now as a cleaner ,,



Conclusion:



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Safety, Social Capital and Economic Opportunities are key drivers for destination choice of IDPs

Safety, Economic Opportunities and Kin networks are key motivations for return. Almost **50%** of IDPs have **no willingness** to return to their homes.

IDP Migration and willingness to return has a **nuanced gendered context** based on **economic empowerment** and independence.

IDP Migration **short-circuits opportunities for children**, even when there is access to better social and physical infrastructure.

Acculturation, Community Organisation and Leveraging **Social Capital** are key resilience strategies.

Host community benevolence is a key factor to successful urban integration



With more IDPs unwilling to return home, How can we support their successful transition from **IDP – Migrant – Urban Citizen**?

With IDPs being at the forefront of creation of new urban slums/squatter settlements, we need to understand **the complexities of out-camped IDPs**, and generate the evidence required for effective policy framing for

- Urban management and governance processes
- Internal migration programming, and
- Fit for purpose and targeted humanitarian interventions for children, women and other groups.

A national (**multi-level governance**) **conversation around extraneous events affecting local governance** is urgently required. Boko Haram/ Farmers-Herdsman clashes are seen as North-east and North central issues being addressed by federal military interventions. The footfall is becoming increasingly urban/southern and socio-economic, presenting a new set of challenges for sub-national units that are not considered to be geographically relevant.

