



ADAMAWA STATE
MINISTRY OF RECONSTRUCTION, REHAB,
REINTEGRATION & HUMANITARIAN SERVICES



**National Commission For
Refugees, Migrants, And
Internally Displaced Persons**

IDP INTENTION SURVEY ADAMAWA STATE

June 2025



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY-----	3
2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS-----	3
3. INTRODUCTION-----	4
4. FUTURE INTENTION-----	5
5. INTENTION TO RETURN TO PLACE OF ORIGIN-----	6
6. INTENTION TO INTEGRATE-----	8
7. INTENTION TO RELOCATE/RESETTLE-----	10
8. CONCLUSION-----	11
9. RECOMMENDATIONS-----	11
9. LIMITATIONS-----	11



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The IDP Intention Survey conducted in Adamawa State provides critical insights into the future intentions of internally displaced persons (IDPs) residing in camps and camp-like settings. The survey, implemented by the Adamawa State Government in collaboration with key partners including Ministry of Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, Reintegration and Humanitarian Services (MRRR), Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency (ADSEMA), Adamawa State Bureau of Statistics (ADSBS), National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internal Displaced Persons (NCFRMI), Ministry of Women Affairs (MoWA), Adamawa State Budget and Economic Planning Commission, Adamawa State Planning Commission (ASPC), Ministry of Information & Strategy, Ministry of Local Government Affairs, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Nigeria Red Cross Society (NRCS) and Modibbo Adama University and supported by the Internal Displacement Solutions Fund (IDSF), reached 383 households across 20 sites in four LGAs. It aimed to assess IDPs' preferences to return to their places of origin, integrate locally, or relocate elsewhere in Nigeria, and to identify the conditions influencing these decisions.

Most respondents (76%) were displaced before 2016, with many experiencing multiple displacements. The survey reveals a complex and evolving displacement landscape shaped by conflict, environmental shocks, and socio-economic challenges. While 45 per cent of IDPs expressed a preference to integrate locally, 15 per cent wish to return to their place of origin, and only 4 per cent intend to relocate elsewhere. Notably, 36 per cent remain undecided, underscoring the need for flexible, informed, and inclusive durable solutions.

The findings highlight that decisions around return, integration, or relocation are primarily made by heads of households, and are influenced by factors such as security, access to livelihoods, housing, and social networks. The report also reveals significant uncertainty regarding timelines for action, with many IDPs unable to specify when they might return, integrate, or relocate.

The findings are intended to guide durable solutions planning by the Adamawa State Government and partners, ensuring that interventions are evidence-based, voluntary, and respectful of IDPs' choices.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Ministry of Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, Reintegration and Humanitarian Services (MRRR)
Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency (ADSEMA)
Adamawa State Bureau of Statistics (ADSBS)
Adamawa State Budget and Economic Planning Commission (ASBEPC)
Adamawa State Planning Commission (ASPC)
Ministry of Information & Strategy
Ministry of Women Affairs
Ministry of Local Government Affairs
National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)
National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internal Displaced Persons (NCFRMI)
National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)
Nigeria Red Cross Society (NRCS)
Modibbo Adama University, Yola



INTRODUCTION

Adamawa State grapples with a protracted displacement crisis, bearing the brunt of conflict-induced displacement driven by non-state armed groups (NSAGs), communal clashes, and farmers-herders clashes, compounded by environmental shocks such as floods and droughts. Since the escalation of violence in 2014, the state has faced a complex humanitarian emergency, resulting in large-scale internal displacement and significant challenges to recovery and reintegration.

In response to this enduring crisis, the Adamawa State Government—through the MRRR, SEMA, and other key Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs)—has intensified efforts to pursue durable solutions for internally displaced persons (IDPs). These efforts have been significantly bolstered by the support of the **Internal Displacement Solutions Fund (IDSF)**, which has provided a strategic platform for the government to collect, analyze, and disseminate critical data on displacement dynamics and future intentions of IDPs.

In collaboration with key government partners such as the MRRR, SEMA, ADSBS, ASBEPC, ASPC, NEMA, NCFRMI, NEMA, a comprehensive **intention survey** was conducted in IDP camps across the state as part of this initiative.

This survey aimed to assess the future intentions of displaced households—whether to return to their places of origin, locally integrate, or relocate—within the next 12 months. By reaching 383 households, the survey provides evidence-based data to inform policy and programming that respect the choices of IDPs and support safe, voluntary, and dignified solutions.

The data generated through this exercise not only reflects the voices and aspirations of displaced communities but also strengthens the capacity of the Adamawa State Government to plan and implement targeted interventions. It demonstrates the state's leadership in advancing recovery and resilience, while reinforcing the collective commitment to ensure that no one is left behind in the journey toward sustainable peace and development.

OBJECTIVES

The intention survey tool aims at understanding IDPs' preferred solution options and the conditions that influence their preferences. 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 locations of

solutions.

IV. To determine the estimated timelines for return, relocation, and local integration.

METHODOLOGY

A structured, face-to-face interview methodology was chosen for the survey to allow for in-depth responses and to account for literacy levels. Interviews were conducted by trained enumerators who administered the survey instrument to each sampled head of household across 20 camps and camp-like settings in Adamawa State.

Given the population size of IDPs living in camps and camp-like settings in Adamawa State, the survey targeted a sample of households. This approach ensured representative coverage and maximized data accuracy for analyzing household intentions.

The questionnaire was developed to capture demographic information, household size, length of stay in the camp, and specific intentions regarding return, local integration, or relocation. Additional questions were included to understand factors influencing these choices, such as safety, access to basic services, livelihood opportunities, and family considerations.

The questionnaire was pre-tested in a pilot camp within Adamawa State to ensure clarity, cultural relevance, and suitability. Feedback from the pilot was used to refine question wording and response options.

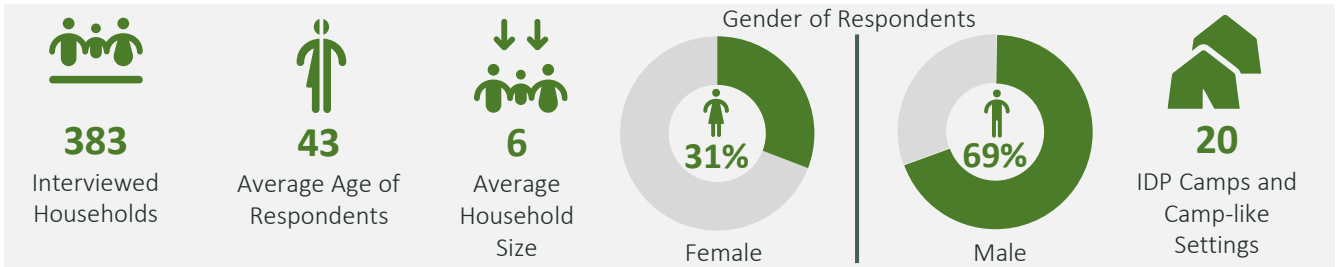
A team of enumerators, fluent in English and local languages (Fulfulde, Hausa and Kanuri), and familiar with the cultural context of the camps from SEMA and other partners, was trained. The training covered survey objectives, interview techniques, ethical considerations, and the importance of neutrality and confidentiality.

Enumerators visited each household within the camps and conducted interviews with the heads of household. In cases where the head was unavailable, a senior household member was interviewed. Responses were recorded digitally on tablets to ensure accuracy and facilitate real-time data entry.

Informed consent was obtained from each respondent before beginning the interview. Participants were assured of confidentiality, and responses were anonymized to protect identities. Participation was entirely voluntary, with no repercussions for opting out. Data collected was cleaned, anonymized, and processed for analysis.

IDP Intention Survey – Adamawa State

June 2025



To understand the future intentions and aspirations of IDPs living in camps and camp-like settings in Adamawa State, the state government, through the Durable Solutions Data Management Working Group, surveyed four Local Government Areas (LGAs) where IDPs living in camps and camp-like settings were situated. Out of the 2,758 displaced households living in 20 camps and camp-like settings in the state, 383 were sampled and interviewed. The respondents were primarily heads of households (HoH). Where the HoH was absent, a senior household member was interviewed.

Figure 2: Number of Displacement

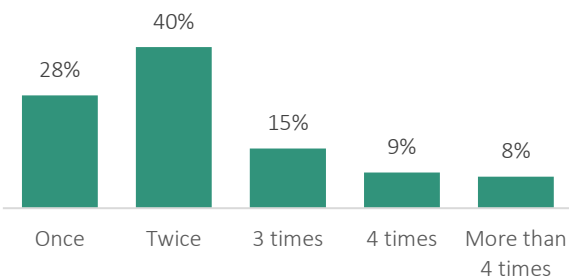
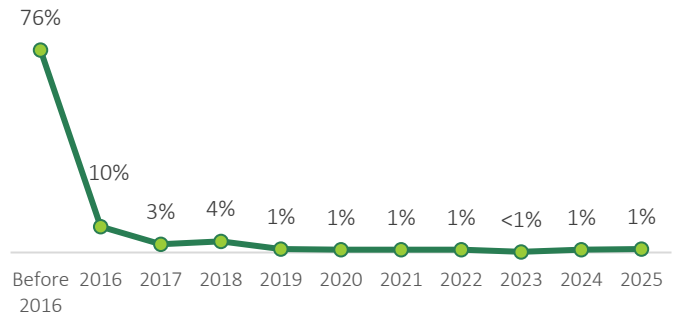


Figure 3: Year of Displacement**



FUTURE INTENTION

The future intentions of IDPs in Adamawa State reveal a diverse range of preferences and uncertainties. Approximately 45 per cent express a desire to stay at their current location, indicating a preference for integration into the local community. Many IDPs have found a sense of stability and support in their current environment, which they are reluctant to leave.

On the other hand, a smaller percentage, around 15 per cent, wish to return to their place of origin. This group hopes to rebuild their lives in familiar surroundings once conditions permit. However, the relatively low percentage indicates that returning home may not be a viable option for many, possibly due to ongoing insecurity or lack of resources.

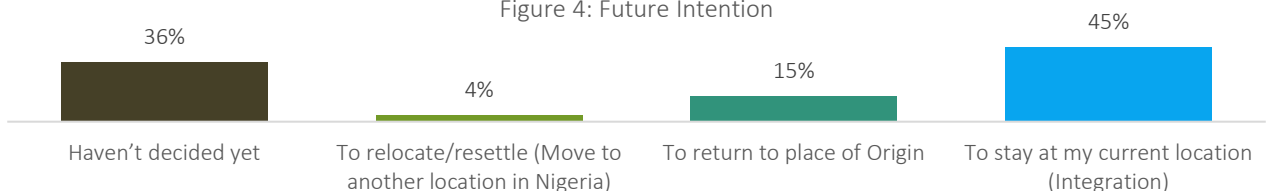
A very small fraction, about 4 per cent, intends to relocate or resettle in another location within Nigeria. Some IDPs may be seeking new opportunities or

environments that they believe may offer better prospects for their future.

Interestingly, a substantial portion of the IDPs, approximately 36 per cent, have not yet decided on their future intentions. This uncertainty is a result of the complex and fluid nature of displacement, where many individuals are still weighing their options and considering various factors before making a definitive decision.

Continued support and tailored interventions is needed to address the diverse needs and aspirations of IDPs in Adamawa State. Efforts to facilitate integration, support voluntary return, and provide information and resources for those undecided will be crucial in helping IDPs navigate their future paths.

Figure 4: Future Intention

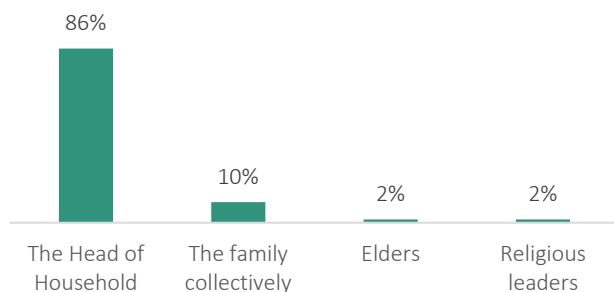


**Due to rounding, the sum of the percentages may not be 100%.



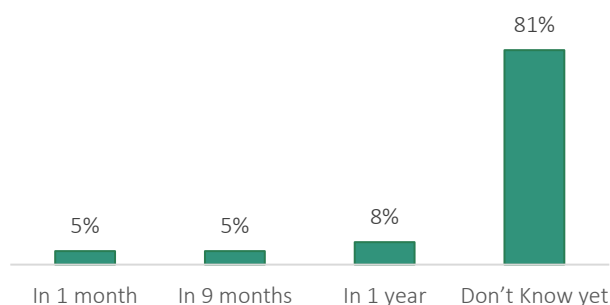
INTENTION TO RETURN TO PLACE OF ORIGIN

Figure 5: Who Makes Decision to Return?



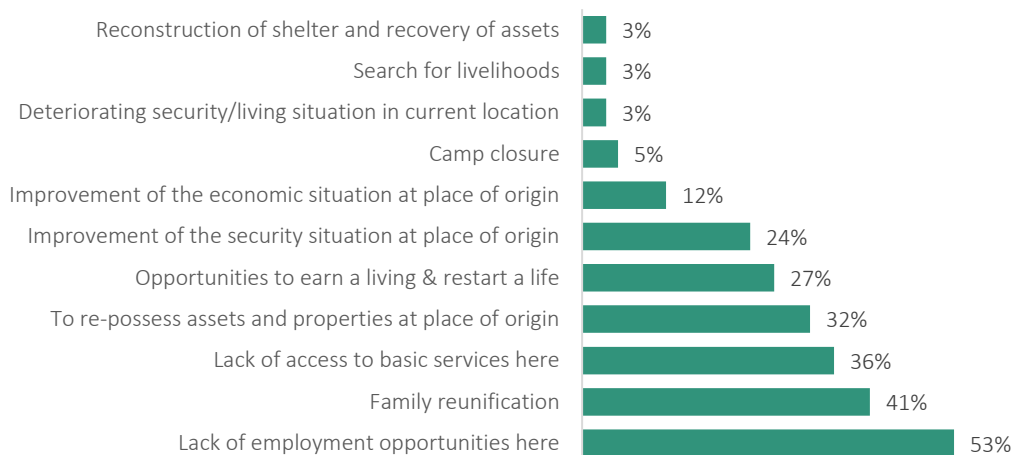
The head of household is the main decision maker in the intention to return to the place of origin, accounting for 86 per cent of responses. This shows the importance of targeting heads of households in return-related communication and assistance planning. A smaller proportion of decisions are made collectively by the family (10%), while elders and religious leaders each influence two per cent of decisions.

Figure 6: Intended Time of Return **



There is a significant level of uncertainty among displaced populations regarding their return intentions. A substantial 81 per cent of respondents indicated that they did not know when they would return. Only eight per cent foresee returning within one year, while five per cent each anticipate returning within nine months or one month.

Figure 7: Reasons to Return to Place of Origin*



The decision to return to one's place of origin is driven by a multi-faceted range of drivers and motivations. The return intentions are shaped by both push and pull factors, with the most cited reason being the lack of employment opportunities in the current location (53%). This is closely followed by family reunification (41%) and lack of access to basic services (36%), indicating that socio-economic pressures and family ties are key drivers of return.

Some other motivations included the re-possession of

assets and properties at the place of origin (32%), security (24%) and economic (12%) improvements at the place of origin, and opportunities to earn a living and restart life (24%).

Less frequently cited reasons included camp closure (5%), reconstruction of shelter (3%), and deteriorating conditions in the current location (3%), suggesting that while structural and environmental factors are relevant, they are secondary to economic and familial considerations.

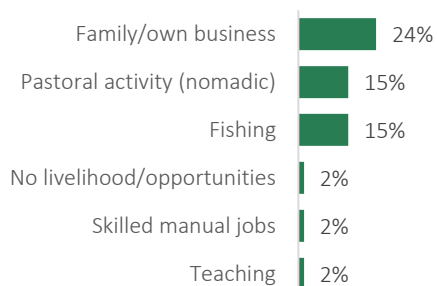
*Multiple options selected

**Due to rounding, the sum of the percentages may not be 100%.



INTENTION TO RETURN TO PLACE OF ORIGIN

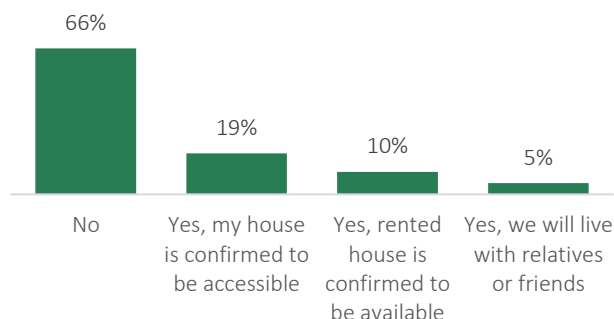
Figure 8: Access to livelihood in place of origin*



Focusing on the economic landscape in areas of origin, which is a critical factor influencing IDPs’ decisions to return. Family or self-owned businesses are the most accessible livelihood option, cited by 24 per cent of respondents. Return intentions are stronger among those who have retained or can re-establish personal economic activities.

Pastoral activity (nomadic) and fishing were each cited by 15 per cent of respondents. These traditional

Figure 9: Available/Accessible Housing in Intended Place of Return



livelihoods are tied to specific geographic or cultural contexts.

Housing availability is a major barrier to return for IDPs. A significant 66 per cent of respondents reported that no housing is currently available or accessible in their intended place of return. As such, displaced individuals may face structural or financial obstacles that hinder their ability to re-establish residence.

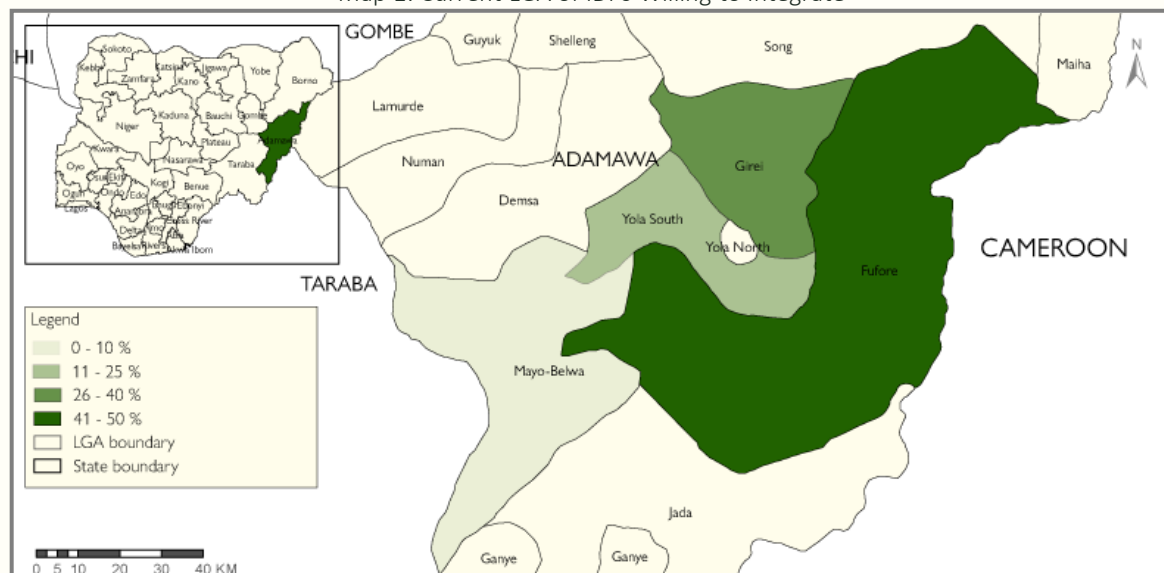
Table 1. Areas of Intended Return

State	LGA	Percentage of Return
Adamawa	Demsa	2%
Adamawa	Madagali	41%
Adamawa	Michika	3%
Adamawa	Yola South	2%
Borno	Bama	10%
Borno	Dambo	3%
Borno	Gwoza	39%

*Multiple options selected

INTENTION TO INTEGRATE (STAY AT CURRENT LOCATION)

Map 1: Current LGA of IDPs Willing to Integrate



This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

Table 2: Current Location of IDPs Willing to Integrate

State	LGA	Site Name	Percentage of IDPs Willing to Integrate
Adamawa	Fufore	Angwan Mumuyawa	2%
Adamawa	Fufore	Fufore Camp	44%
Adamawa	Fufore	Wuro Ahi	2%
Adamawa	Girei	Angwan Kara	11%
Adamawa	Girei	Fombina Camp	3%
Adamawa	Girei	Lowcost Quarters	3%
Adamawa	Girei	Salama Housing Jabbilamba	2%
Adamawa	Girei	Segere Dutse	5%
Adamawa	Girei	Ungwan Abuja	2%
Adamawa	Girei	Wadai	1%
Adamawa	Mayo-Belwa	Mayo Farang Camp	1%
Adamawa	Yola South	Gujibabu Sabon Gari Camp	4%
Adamawa	Yola South	Malkohi Camp	3%
Adamawa	Yola South	Malkohi Village Camp	13%
Adamawa	Yola South	Njaccingo Camp	4%

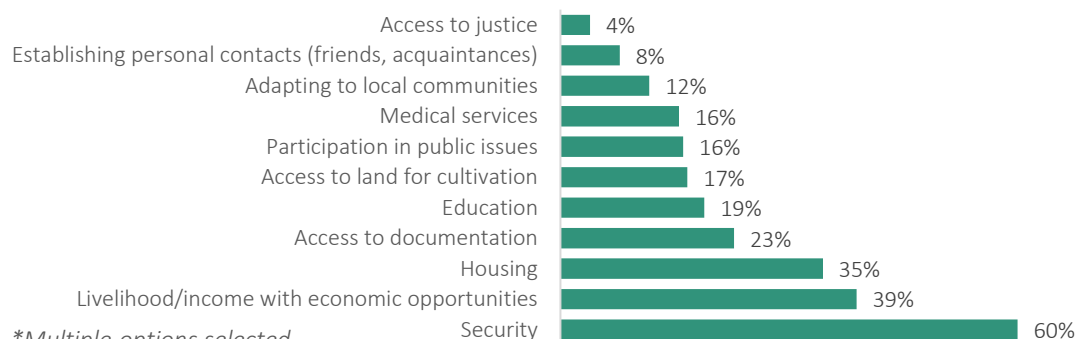
The majority of IDPs intend to integrate within Fufore, accounting for 47 per cent of responses. There is a preference for remaining in this LGA, possibly due to familiarity, existing social networks (family and friends), or perceived stability.

Among IDPs planning to integrate, 27 per cent intend to stay in Girei, making this LGA another significant

destination for integration, potentially offering favourable conditions or opportunities for IDPs. Meanwhile, 24 per cent of IDPs intend to integrate in Yola South, cementing its role as another key area for integration within Adamawa State.

Only one per cent of IDPs plan to integrate in Mayo-Belwa.

Figure 9: Conditions to Ensure Integration*

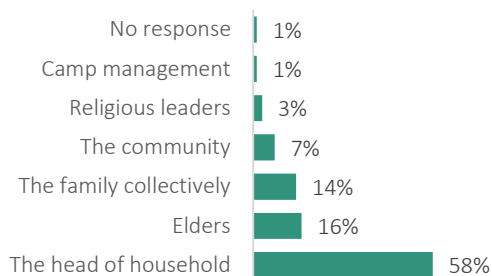


*Multiple options selected



INTENTION TO INTEGRATE (STAY AT CURRENT LOCATION)

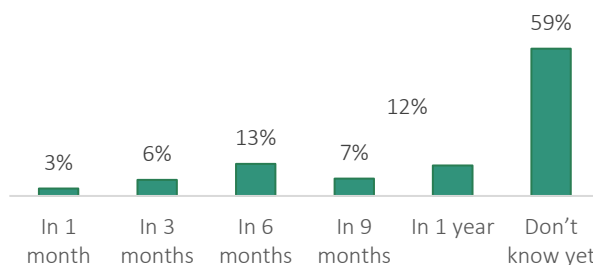
Figure 10: Who Makes the Decision to Integrate?



Decisions to integrate are predominantly made at the household level, with 58% of respondents indicating that the head of household is the primary decision maker. This underscores the importance of targeting heads of households in integration-related programming and outreach.

Other notable contributors to the decision-making process include elders (16%), the family collectively (14%), and the community (7%).

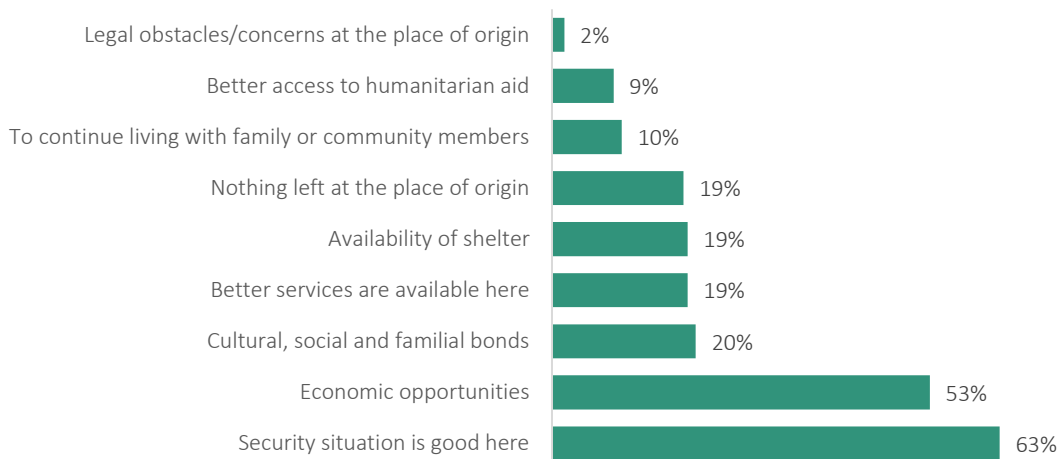
Figure 11: Intended Time to Integrate



There is a high degree of uncertainty among IDPs regarding their integration plans. A significant 59 per cent of respondents indicated that they did not know when they would intend to integrate.

Only three per cent expect to integrate within one month, 6 per cent aim for three months, 13 per cent intend to integrate within six months, 7 per cent foresee integration within nine months, and 12 per cent plan to do so within one year

Figure 12: Reasons to Integrate*



Security and economic stability are the primary drivers of integration among displaced populations. The most cited reason is the good security situation in the current location (63%), followed by economic opportunities (53%). These findings suggest that IDPs prioritize safety and the ability to sustain livelihoods when deciding to integrate.

Other notable reasons include cultural, social, and familial bonds (20%), with IDPs feeling a sense of belonging in their current location due to shared language, traditions, or social networks, which fosters a willingness to integrate. IDPs mentioned the availability of better services at their current location (19%) and the availability of shelter (19%) as drivers to integrate

locally, alongside the fact that nothing was left at their place of origin (19%).

Less frequently cited motivations include continuing to live with family or community members (10%) and better access to humanitarian aid (9%), as aid distribution in the current location is more reliable or accessible than at the place of origin. It may include food, medical care, or livelihood support. Additionally, legal obstacles or concerns at the place of origin were mentioned by 2 per cent, with IDPs facing legal barriers such as land disputes, documentation issues, or unresolved claims that prevent them from returning. These concerns can be complex and require targeted legal assistance.

*Multiple options selected



INTENTION TO RELOCATE OR RESETTLE ELSEWHERE WITHIN NIGERIA

Only about four per cent of the surveyed respondents planned to relocate or resettle in another part of Nigeria.

Table 3. Areas of Intended IDP Relocation/Resettlement

State	LGA	Percentage of IDPs Willing to Relocate/Resettle
Adamawa	Fufore	29%
Adamawa	Girei	7%
Adamawa	Madagali	7%
Adamawa	Yola South	29%
Borno	Magumeri	7%
Kano	Dala	7%
Nasarawa	Karu	14%

There is a concentration of relocation intentions within specific LGAs and states.

The majority of IDPs in Adamawa State intend to relocate within Adamawa State, with Fufore and Yola South LGAs each accounting for 29 per cent of responses. Girei and Madagali, two other LGAs situated in Adamawa State, each account for seven per cent of relocation intentions, highlighting a diverse range of preferred destinations within the state.

As such, IDPs seem to prefer remaining within the state, possibly due to familiarity and existing social networks.

In Nasarawa State, Karu is the intended destination for 14 per cent of IDPs, suggesting that some displaced individuals are considering relocation to areas with perceived better opportunities or conditions.

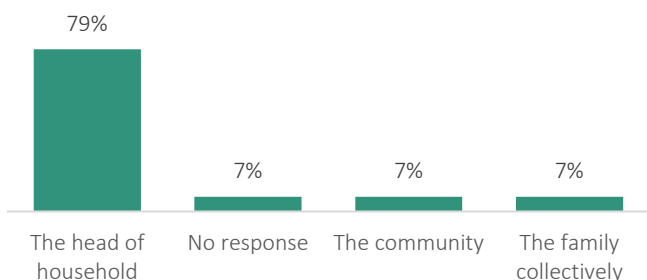
In Borno State, Magumeri accounts for seven per cent of relocation intentions, reflecting a smaller but notable interest in moving to this area.

In Kano State, Dala also represents seven per cent of responses, indicating that economic or social factors may be driving relocation to this urban centre.



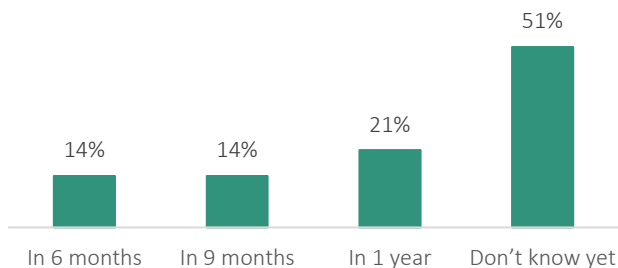
INTENTION TO RELOCATE OR RESETTLE ELSEWHERE WITHIN NIGERIA

Figure 13: Who Makes the Decision to Relocate?



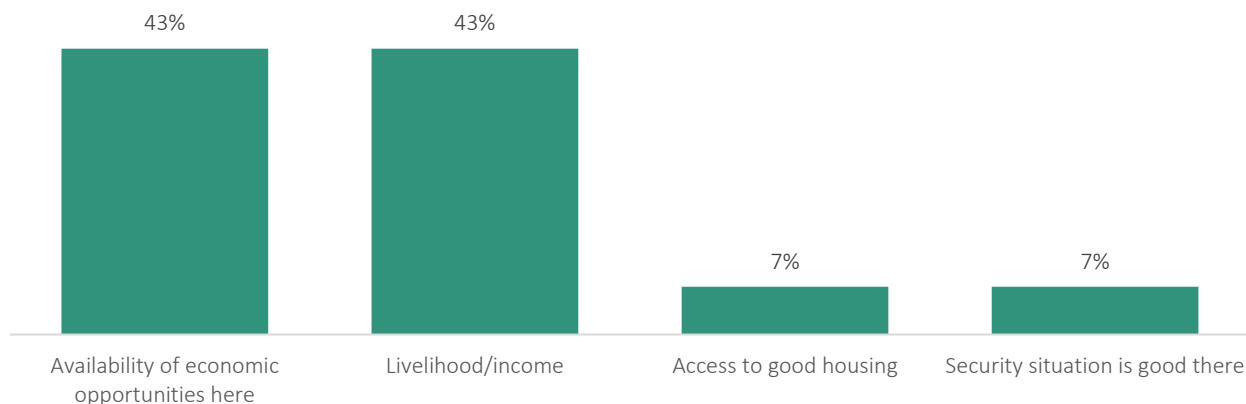
Among respondents, 79 per cent indicated that the relocation decision was made by the head of household. Meanwhile, seven per cent of respondents attributed the decision to the family collectively. While relocation decisions are predominantly individual (household-level), a small but significant portion of the population may be influenced by broader social or communal factors (7%). The remaining seven per cent did not disclose their decision-making structure. Similar to intention to return to the place of origin and

Figure 14: Intended Time to Relocate/Resettle



intention to integrate in the current location, there is a significant level of uncertainty among displaced populations regarding when the intended relocation would happen. Half of the respondents who intend to resettle elsewhere indicated that they did not know when they intended to relocate. Meanwhile, 21 per cent foresee relocating within one year, while 14 per cent each anticipate returning within nine months or within six months.

Figure 15: Reasons to Relocate/Resettle Elsewhere within Nigeria



Economic motivations are the dominant drivers of internal relocation. Both the availability of economic opportunities and livelihood/income were cited by 43 per cent of respondents, which shows that displaced populations prioritize locations where they can sustain themselves economically.

In contrast, access to good housing and a favourable security situation were each cited by only seven per cent of respondents. While shelter and safety are important, they are secondary to economic viability in influencing relocation decisions.



CONCLUSION

The IDP Intention Survey in Adamawa State underscores the urgent need for a multi-pronged, context-sensitive approach to durable solutions. The majority of IDPs have found relative stability in their current locations and are inclined toward local integration, particularly in LGAs like Fufore, Girei, and Yola South. However, the high percentage of undecided respondents reflects the fluidity of displacement dynamics and the persistent barriers to return or relocation.

Key barriers to return include lack of accessible housing (66% of respondents intending to return), limited livelihood opportunities in areas of origin, ongoing insecurity and legal obstacles.

For those considering integration, the availability of economic opportunities, security, and social cohesion are decisive factors. Meanwhile, relocation intentions are driven primarily by economic motivations, with a preference for destinations within Adamawa or nearby states.

The findings emphasize the importance of strengthening local integration frameworks, supporting voluntary and informed return, facilitating safe and sustainable relocation pathways, and addressing the needs of undecided IDPs through targeted outreach and support by centering IDPs' voices and intentions. The survey reinforces the Adamawa State Government's commitment to durable solutions that are safe, voluntary, and dignified. It also provides a roadmap for humanitarian and development actors to align their interventions with the aspirations and realities of displaced communities.

The findings from the intention survey reveal that while a significant portion of IDPs in Adamawa State are inclined to integrate locally, a substantial percentage remain undecided or face barriers to return or relocation. Economic viability, security, and access to services are central to decision-making. The predominance of the head of household in decision processes underscores the need for targeted

engagement strategies.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Support Local Integration:

- Strengthen access to livelihoods, housing, and services in preferred LGAs (e.g., Fufore, Girei).
- Promote social cohesion and inclusion programmes.

2. Facilitate Voluntary Return:

- Address housing reconstruction and property restitution.
- Improve security and service delivery in areas of origin.

3. Enable Informed Relocation:

- Provide information on viable relocation destinations.
- Support economic reintegration and housing access in new locations.

4. Target Undecided Populations:

- Expand counselling, legal aid, and community dialogue.
- Ensure IDPs have access to updated information on all durable solutions.

5. Engage Decision Makers:

- Tailor communication and programming to heads of household.
- Involve elders and community leaders in outreach and planning.

LIMITATIONS

- 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.
- 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).



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CITATION

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