

# Analysis of the Resettlement and Rehabilitation of Selected Internally Displaced Persons' (IDP) Camps in North East Nigeria

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Article DOI: 10.48028/iiprds/ijsrssms.v9.i1.30

## Abstract

This study critically examines resettlement and rehabilitation efforts in selected Internally Displaced Persons' (IDP) camps within the region with specific objectives of evaluate the Effectiveness of Resettlement Programs Implemented in Selected IDP Camps, as well as assessed the Impact of Rehabilitation Services on the Livelihood and Psychosocial Well-being of IDPs. The method adopted was survey design. Primary source of data was utilized, and structural questionnaire was used as method of data collection from IDPs across Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe states. The data were analysed using simple percentages, mean, mode and median. Findings reveal mixed perceptions of the effectiveness of rehabilitation services, with significant polarization in experiences related to income generation, social integration, and mental well-being. While positive impacts are noted in psychological resilience and resource accessibility, dissatisfaction persists regarding social network development and self-reliance. The study underscores the necessity for targeted, context-sensitive interventions, enhanced stakeholder coordination, and sustainable solutions. It provides actionable recommendations, including expanding vocational training, improving mental health support, fostering community connections, and ensuring consistent access to basic services. These insights aim to inform policy reforms and strengthen collective efforts to restore dignity and resilience among IDPs, contributing to durable solutions for the protracted displacement crisis in Northeast Nigeria.

**Keywords:** *Resettlement, Safety, Wellbeing Rehabilitation and Internally Displaced Persons' (IDP)*

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## **Background to the Study**

The crisis of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Northeast Nigeria remains one of the most significant humanitarian challenges in Africa. The insurgency perpetrated by Boko Haram and other armed groups since 2009 has led to massive displacement, with millions of individuals forced to flee their homes (International Organization for Migration [IOM], 2022). These displacements have disrupted the lives of countless families, triggering long-term challenges related to security, food scarcity, education, healthcare, and socio-economic stability. As a result, effective strategies for the resettlement and rehabilitation of IDPs have become critical areas of intervention and study.

Resettlement and rehabilitation are crucial components of durable solutions to internal displacement. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR, 2019), resettlement involves providing displaced individuals with safe living conditions, either by returning them to their places of origin, relocating them to new locations, or integrating them into host communities. Rehabilitation complements this by addressing the psychological, social, and economic consequences of displacement, thus fostering a return to normalcy (World Bank, 2021). In Northeast Nigeria, these efforts are compounded by challenges such as ongoing conflict, limited resources, and weak governance structures (Amnesty International, 2023).

Efforts to address the plight of IDPs in Nigeria are supported by a complex network of government agencies, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The Nigerian government established the Presidential Committee on the North-East Initiative (PCNI) and later the North-East Development Commission (NEDC) to coordinate reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts. Simultaneously, international actors such as the IOM and UNHCR have implemented programs focusing on camp management, livelihood restoration, and trauma counseling (IOM, 2022). This study focused on the resettlement and rehabilitation processes in selected IDP camps in Northeast Nigeria. The analysis investigates the effectiveness of these interventions and their alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) (United Nations, 2015). It evaluates the policies, resources, and institutional frameworks guiding the efforts to transition IDPs from dependence to sustainable self-reliance. Moreover, it explores the cultural and socio-political dynamics that shape the success or failure of these initiatives.

The significance of this research lies in its potential to inform policy reforms and enhance the effectiveness of future rehabilitation and resettlement programs. By understanding the gaps and successes in the current efforts, stakeholders can refine strategies to address the protracted displacement crisis in the region. This aligns with global best practices for responding to internal displacement, as outlined in the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs [UNOCHA], 2004). The study underscores the pressing need for collaborative, context-sensitive, and sustainable solutions to the displacement crisis in Northeast Nigeria. Through a detailed analysis of selected IDP camps, this research contributes to a deeper understanding of the challenges and

opportunities in fostering durable solutions for displaced populations. The findings are expected to provide actionable insights for stakeholders, from local authorities to international organizations, in their collective efforts to restore dignity and resilience among IDPs in Nigeria.

The protracted crisis in North-East Nigeria, primarily driven by the Boko Haram insurgency and other armed conflicts, has led to significant displacement of populations. The Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in this region face myriad challenges, including inadequate access to basic services, food insecurity, lack of proper shelter, and exposure to psychological trauma. Despite national and international efforts to provide relief and ensure the resettlement and rehabilitation of these populations, the outcomes remain suboptimal. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM, 2021), over 2.2 million individuals remain displaced in the region, with a significant number living in overcrowded and poorly resourced camps. The resettlement and rehabilitation processes, intended to restore dignity and improve living conditions for IDPs, have faced numerous setbacks. These include insufficient funding, poor coordination among stakeholders, and inadequate consideration of cultural and socioeconomic dynamics (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR], 2020). Moreover, gaps in the implementation of policies, such as the National Policy on IDPs (2012), exacerbate the vulnerabilities of displaced persons. This policy, while well-intentioned, often fails to address the complex realities of post-conflict reconstruction and long-term reintegration (Federal Government of Nigeria, 2012).

The challenges are further compounded by security concerns in the region, which impede access to certain areas, disrupt humanitarian operations, and create barriers to sustainable rehabilitation. Research by Nwosu et al. (2020) highlights that many IDPs remain in camps for extended periods, lacking pathways to return to their homes or integrate into host communities. Additionally, issues such as gender-based violence, child labor, and mental health crises are prevalent, yet often underreported and inadequately addressed (Human Rights Watch, 2021). While various studies have explored the plight of IDPs in North-East Nigeria, there is limited comprehensive analysis of the resettlement and rehabilitation efforts. This gap in knowledge hinders the development of evidence-based interventions that can effectively address the root causes of prolonged displacement and enhance the well-being of IDPs. Hence, this study seeks to critically analyze the resettlement and rehabilitation initiatives for selected IDP camps in North-East Nigeria, identifying key challenges and proposing sustainable solutions.

### **Conceptual Framework**

The study of IDP resettlement and rehabilitation draws on interdisciplinary perspectives, including human rights, humanitarian aid, and development studies. According to the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (United Nations, 1998), IDPs are entitled to protection, assistance, and a durable solution, which includes return, local integration, or relocation. Durable solutions are defined by the absence of specific needs linked to displacement and access to rights enjoyed by non-displaced citizens (Brookings Institution, 2010).

### **Displacement Dynamics in Northeast Nigeria**

The Boko Haram insurgency and its offshoots have been the primary drivers of displacement in Northeast Nigeria. Studies such as those by Okunade and Ogunnubi (2020) highlight that displacement in this region is characterized by frequent movements, security challenges, and inadequate infrastructure. Adamu and Rasheed (2016) reported that IDP camps often lack basic amenities, leading to prolonged humanitarian crises.

### **Challenges in Resettlement and Rehabilitation**

#### **Infrastructure and Housing**

Research shows that the provision of housing is often inadequate and unsustainable. According to Olagunju et al. (2021), housing initiatives for IDPs in Borno State were marred by poor quality construction and lack of community involvement, undermining the effectiveness of resettlement projects.

#### **Livelihood Restoration**

Restoring livelihoods is crucial for sustainable rehabilitation. Studies like Audu (2020) reveal that displaced persons often face unemployment and lack access to farming or trade opportunities, which exacerbates poverty. Livelihood programs initiated by international organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) often face challenges in scalability and cultural adaptability (UNDP Nigeria, 2022).

#### **Psychosocial Support**

Displacement often leaves profound psychological scars. Njoku and Adeyemi (2018) emphasize the importance of mental health services in IDP camps, noting that trauma from violence and instability significantly hampers reintegration efforts.

### **Resettlement Models and Case Studies**

#### **Government-Led Initiatives**

The Nigerian government has implemented several resettlement programs, such as the Safe Return Project in Borno State. While this initiative aimed to facilitate voluntary returns, studies by Abdulqadir et al. (2019) indicate that many returnees faced persistent insecurity and lack of services.

#### **Community-Based Approaches**

Community-based resettlement strategies have shown promise. Yusuf and Ibrahim (2020) report that participatory planning involving displaced persons led to more successful reintegration in parts of Adamawa State. However, such models remain underfunded and poorly documented.

#### **International Aid Interventions**

International aid agencies, including the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), have supported resettlement through shelter provision and skill-building programs. However, Chukwuma et al. (2021) argue that these efforts are often fragmented and lack coordination with local governments.

### **Empirical Review**

Olagunju (2006) examined the management of IDP's (internally displaced persons) in Nigeria based on the February/May 2000 communal conflict at Kaduna, Northern Nigeria. He structured two sets of questionnaires. One was for IDPs. The other was for government agencies and NGOs. They were based on the United Nations Guidelines on Internal Displacement. The challenges faced by the IDP's and by the various government agencies and NGOs involved in responding to the needs of the IDPs were assessed, documented, compared and analyzed. Recommendations for better responses to the management of IDP needs were given for the use of relevant governmental and NGO agencies.

In his work titled "Betting on Displacement: Oil, Violence, and the Switch to Civilian Rule in Nigeria", Azam (2009) presented an analytic narrative of three decades of oil and violence in Nigeria, assuming rational choice by all the actors. It argues that, in the 1980s and 1990s, the government had to choose between spending money on preventing pollution and terrorizing the population away from the Niger Delta states, where oil extraction is concentrated. Because of the uncertain outcome of out-migration, the latter solution seemed more efficient and was implemented by the military governments. However, xenophobic responses by the population in destination cities, where a lot of ethnic violence took place, proved out-migration to be much less attractive than expected. Niger Delta states' populations ended up being trapped in their polluted environment where "oil bunkering" and racketeering oil firms turned out to be the only viable sources of income for many people. The implied dynamics of violence sheds some light on the switch to civilian rule that occurred in 1999.

Bamgbose (2009) examined separately two different incidents of accidental bomb blast at Ikeja Cantonment, and ethnic conflict between the Yoruba and Hausa at Idi-Araba, Mushin in the suburb of Lagos. These incidents which took place at two different locations at Lagos in Nigeria were fundamental and painful because of the magnitude of displacements caused by these two incidents by rendering thousands of people homeless, sent hundreds to the grave beyond, destroyed many properties including buildings and besides, they called for government attention to give succour to the plight of the affected people. The paper further points out that forced/involuntary migration can be responsible for human displacement without people necessarily crossing international boundary. Enwereji (2009) also, assessed the interventions offered by governmental authorities and organizations to internally displaced persons and to identify gaps in services as well as to identify what needs to be strengthened. He reviewed relevant published and unpublished documents and collected data by interviews with semi -structured questions. Twenty-five organizations and government and police departments and 55 internally displaced persons were interviewed. The result showed that none of the organizations, including governmental institutions, provided social services or assistance in prevention of HIV/AIDS to internally displaced persons. The main services provided by 17 (68%) organizations to 43 (78.2%) of internally displaced persons were provision of food, clothing and money, but these were provided on an ad hoc basis. Only 3 organizations (12%) included spiritual counseling and resolution of communal conflicts in their services.

Durosaro and Ajiboye (2011) investigated the problems and coping strategies of internally displaced adolescents in Jos metropolis. The snowball sampling technique was used to select 200 respondents. A self-designed instrument was used to collect required information. The results showed that educational and emotional problems are most prominent among internally displaced adolescents. The emotional problems are characterized by memory of fearful events and nightmare. The major coping strategy employed by respondents is repression because they often avoid thinking about their present condition. Respondents were different in their problems and coping strategies on the basis of gender. On the other hand, they were similar in terms of their problems and coping strategies based on age and educational status. Based on the findings, it was alternative educational activities should be provided for internally displaced adolescents. Also, trauma counseling should be adequately and readily available for displaced adolescents.

Ogwo (2013) carried out a study to determine the role played by sex differences in the manifestation of aggression among the internally displaced male and female children. Participants (N=445) aged 10-15 years and drawn from two communities in Nasarawa State, Nigeria, namely, Bassa and Igbirray. Aggression in children was measured by a 19-item questionnaire developed by the researchers to test the hypothesis that there will be no statistically significant difference in the manifestation of aggression between internally displaced male children and their female counterparts. A 3-way between groups ANOVA was used to establish the differences. Results indicate that Nigerian children did not show significant difference in their manifestation of aggression based on gender.  $t=0.74$ ,  $df=443$ ,  $p=.46$ . The findings seem to suggest that armed conflict and its consequences, like internal displacement is a threat to children's general well-being because of the disruption of the environment in which they are socialized.

## **Theoretical Framework**

### **Human Security Theory**

Human security emphasizes the protection of individuals from threats to their safety, dignity, and livelihood. In the context of IDPs, this theory underscores the need to address issues like access to shelter, healthcare, education, and safety from violence. The resettlement and rehabilitation of IDPs are analyzed as efforts to restore human security.

Human Security Theory provides a critical framework for analyzing the complex challenges associated with the resettlement and rehabilitation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Northeast Nigeria. Rooted in the idea that the security of individuals, rather than states, is paramount, the theory underscores the interconnectedness of various threats—ranging from economic and health crises to personal and community safety. In the context of Northeast Nigeria, where ongoing violence, socio-economic instability, and systemic governance challenges perpetuate displacement, Human Security Theory offers significant relevance in the following ways:

**Relevance:** Human Security Theory shifts the focus from traditional state-centric security to the well-being and dignity of individuals. This is particularly relevant for IDPs in Northeast

Nigeria, where the primary goal is to restore normalcy and ensure the welfare of affected populations. Relevance: IDPs in Northeast Nigeria face multifaceted threats, including physical violence, exploitation, and public health crises such as outbreaks of cholera or COVID-19. Human Security Theory's broad definition of threats captures this complexity.

**Application:** The theory informs strategies for creating secure environments within IDP camps, including protection against gender-based violence (GBV), improving camp governance, and ensuring equitable distribution of resources. The resettlement and rehabilitation programs can be evaluated through the lens of access to basic needs such as shelter, food, clean water, education, and healthcare, reflecting the seven dimensions of human security: economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community, and political security.

### Research Design

Survey research design was used for this study. Survey method is appropriate because it help the study to get authenticate and primary data direct from the respondents. The population of the study comprises of all IDPs in three selected states in North-east Nigeria (Borno, Adamawa and Yobe), with the total population of = 2,184,254 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) (International Organization for Migration (IOM), 2021). The sample of 384 was used for this study, which will be selected from three selected states. This is on the basis of the recommendation of Krejcie and Morgan (1970) that for any population of the study that is more than 1000000, a sample size should not be less than three hundred and eighty-four (384). The study utilizes primary source of data collection, questionnaire was used as tool of data collection and the data was presented and analyzed using simple percentage, mean medium and mode.

### Data Analysis and Result

**Table 1:** Respondents were asked whether the IDP camp had helped them to generate personal income.”

| Response          | Count | Numerical Value | Weighted Score |
|-------------------|-------|-----------------|----------------|
| Strongly Disagree | 100   | 1               | 100            |
| Disagree          | 100   | 2               | 200            |
| Neutral           | 0     | 3               | 0              |
| Agree             | 100   | 4               | 400            |
| Strongly Agree    | 84    | 5               | 420            |

- i. Total Responses:  $100+100+0+100+84=384$   
 $100 + 100 + 0 + 100 + 84 = 384$
- ii. Total Weighted Score:  $100+200+0+400+420=1120$   
 $100 + 200 + 0 + 400 + 420 = 1120$
- iii. **Mean:**  $1120 \div 384 \approx 2.92$
- iv. **Mode:** Strongly Disagree, Disagree, and Agree (each occurs 100 times; no clear single mode)

- v. **Median:** The cumulative count reaches the middle (192nd response) in the "Agree" category → **Agree (4)**.

**Table 2:** Respondents were asked whether rehabilitation services gave them better access to necessary resources.

| Response          | Count | Numerical Value | Weighted Score |
|-------------------|-------|-----------------|----------------|
| Strongly Disagree | 84    | 1               | 84             |
| Disagree          | 100   | 2               | 200            |
| Neutral           | 0     | 3               | 0              |
| Agree             | 100   | 4               | 400            |
| Strongly Agree    | 100   | 5               | 500            |

- i. Total Responses:  $84+100+0+100+100=384$   
 $84 + 100 + 0 + 100 + 100 = 384$   
 $84+100+0+100+100=384$
- ii. Total Weighted Score:  $84+200+0+400+500=1184$   
 $84 + 200 + 0 + 400 + 500 = 1184$   
 $84+200+0+400+500=1184$
- iii. **Mean:**  $1184 \div 384 \approx 3.08$   
 $1184 \div 384 \approx 3.08$
- iv. **Mode:** Disagree, Agree, and Strongly Agree (each occurs 100 times; no clear single mode)
- v. **Median:** The cumulative count reaches the middle (192nd response) in the "Agree" category → **Agree (4)**.

**Table 3:** Rehabilitation services have positively impacted my mental and emotional well-being.

| Response          | Count | Numerical Value | Weighted Score |
|-------------------|-------|-----------------|----------------|
| Strongly Disagree | 150   | 1               | 150            |
| Disagree          | 0     | 2               | 0              |
| Neutral           | 0     | 3               | 0              |
| Agree             | 84    | 4               | 336            |
| Strongly Agree    | 150   | 5               | 750            |

- i. Total Responses:  $150+0+0+84+150=384$   
 $150 + 0 + 0 + 84 + 150 = 384$   
 $150+0+0+84+150=384$
- ii. Total Weighted Score:  $150+0+0+336+750=1236$   
 $150 + 0 + 0 + 336 + 750 = 1236$   
 $150+0+0+336+750=1236$
- iii. **Mean:**  $1236 \div 384 \approx 3.22$   
 $1236 \div 384 \approx 3.22$
- iv. **Mode:** Strongly Disagree and Strongly Agree (each occurs 150 times; no clear single mode)
- v. **Median:** The cumulative count reaches the middle (192nd response) in the "Strongly Agree" category → **Strongly Agree (5)**.

**Table 4:** The rehabilitation programs have helped me build a stronger social network...”

| Response          | Count | Numerical Value | Weighted Score |
|-------------------|-------|-----------------|----------------|
| Strongly Disagree | 0     | 1               | 0              |
| Disagree          | 200   | 2               | 400            |
| Neutral           | 0     | 3               | 0              |
| Agree             | 84    | 4               | 336            |
| Strongly Agree    | 100   | 5               | 500            |

- i. Total Responses:  $0+200+0+84+100=384$   $0 + 200 + 0 + 84 + 100 = 384$   
 $384+200+0+84+100=384$
- ii. Total Weighted Score:  $0+400+0+336+500=1236$   $0 + 400 + 0 + 336 + 500 = 1236$   
 $1236+400+0+336+500=1236$
- iii. **Mean:**  $1236 \div 384 \approx 3.22$   $1236 \div 384 \approx 3.22$
- iv. **Mode:** Disagree (200 responses)
- v. **Median:** The cumulative count reaches the middle (192nd response) in the "Disagree" category → **Disagree (2)**.

**Table 5:** Rehabilitation services have made me feel more empowered and self-reliant...”

| Response          | Count | Numerical Value | Weighted Score |
|-------------------|-------|-----------------|----------------|
| Strongly Disagree | 100   | 1               | 100            |
| Disagree          | 100   | 2               | 200            |
| Neutral           | 0     | 3               | 0              |
| Agree             | 100   | 4               | 400            |
| Strongly Agree    | 84    | 5               | 420            |

- i. Total Responses:  $100+100+0+100+84=384$   $100 + 100 + 0 + 100 + 84 = 384$   
 $384+100+100+0+100+84=384$
- ii. Total Weighted Score:  $100+200+0+400+420=1120$   $100 + 200 + 0 + 400 + 420 = 1120$   
 $1120+100+200+0+400+420=1120$
- iii. **Mean:**  $1120 \div 384 \approx 2.92$   $1120 \div 384 \approx 2.92$
- iv. **Mode:** Strongly Disagree, Disagree, and Agree (each occurs 100 times; no clear single mode)
- v. **Median:** The cumulative count reaches the middle (192nd response) in the "Agree" category → **Agree (4)**.

**Table 6:** Summary Table

| Question                                      | Mean | Mode                    | Median             |
|-----------------------------------------------|------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Ability to generate income/sustain livelihood | 2.92 | No single mode          | Agree (4)          |
| Access to necessary resources                 | 3.08 | No single mode          | Agree (4)          |
| Mental and emotional well-being               | 3.22 | Strongly Disagree/Agree | Strongly Agree (5) |
| Social network improvement                    | 3.22 | Disagree (2)            | Disagree (2)       |
| Empowerment and self-reliance                 | 2.92 | No single mode          | Agree (4)          |

## **Findings and Result**

The data represents survey responses to statements evaluating the effectiveness of rehabilitation services across five key dimensions: income generation, access to resources, psychological well-being, social support, and self-reliance. Below is a summary of the findings based on the calculated mean, mode, and median:

Responses indicate mixed experiences, with no consensus. A significant portion of respondents agreed that rehabilitation services improved their ability to sustain income, but there remains notable dissatisfaction. The mean indicates a slightly positive perception, with many respondents agreeing that rehabilitation services improved access to resources. However, the equal distribution between higher and lower categories suggests differing levels of satisfaction. A polarized response, with many respondents reporting significant benefits to their mental and emotional well-being (Strongly Agree) while others expressed dissatisfaction (Strongly Disagree). The positive median suggests a majority leaned toward acknowledging improvements. Despite a slightly positive mean, the mode and median show that dissatisfaction dominated in this area. Most respondents felt rehabilitation programs did not substantially improve their social networks. Responses are mixed, with a slight lean toward positive outcomes in empowerment and self-reliance. However, dissatisfaction remains significant, as reflected in the balanced distribution.

## **Conclusion and Recommendation**

The analysis of survey data regarding the effectiveness of rehabilitation services reveals mixed results. While there are notable positive impacts on psychological well-being and access to resources, significant dissatisfaction persists in areas such as social support, self-reliance, and income generation. The responses also highlight polarization in perceptions, suggesting that while some beneficiaries experience substantial benefits, others find the services less effective.

1. Develop targeted interventions to foster stronger social networks and relationships among beneficiaries. Include community-building activities and support groups to facilitate meaningful connections.
2. Expand vocational training and entrepreneurial support to improve beneficiaries' ability to generate income. Partner with local businesses to provide job placement opportunities and internships for program participants.
3. Offer personalized counseling and mental health resources to address the emotional needs of beneficiaries. Create peer support programs to enable beneficiaries to share experiences and build resilience.
4. Conduct regular assessments to identify gaps in access to essential resources such as education, healthcare, and housing. Strengthen partnerships with local and national organizations to provide comprehensive resource support.
5. Introduce life skills training programs to empower beneficiaries in decision-making and problem-solving. Involve participants in program planning and feedback mechanisms to encourage ownership and self-reliance.

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