

# An architectural response to Internally Displaced Persons' psycho-social and Economic needs in Adamawa state, Nigeria. (2015-2021)

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**Abstract**—Globally, terrorism has been a serious concern. In recent years, the federal government of Nigeria and its citizenry were startled by the escalation of Boko Haram insurgence. The insurgence presents adverse negative effects to the psycho-social setting of its citizenry and the economy of the north-eastern region. This exposed the non-responsive approach for IDPs' condition in the country, indicative in the inability to meet IDPs' Psycho-social and economic needs in the facilities provided to cater for them. In fact, the few rehabilitation camps in the affected area have proven abortive due to individuality and non-integrated approach used in the design of such facilities which have failed to rehabilitate the IDPs' for a sustainable life after camp. The most affected States in Nigeria are Adamawa, Borno and Yobe, the research focused on Adamawa State due to high volatility of insecurity in Borno and Yobe State. Data collection was limited to Adamawa State. The research methodology employed is a quantitative approach in conjunction with multiple case studies through visual survey. Questionnaires were used to gather relevant data from the IDPs and visual observation was used to assess the facilities provided in the purposively selected three case studies (Malkohi, Fufore and Damare). The novelty of this research is to establish the core psycho-social and

economic needs of the IDPs and subsequently integrate same in the design of an empowerment center that reflect the inherent skills, trade and modernisation of same for a sustainable development of the region. The research finding shows that 73% of the IDPs lost members of their nuclear family, 23% were kidnapped and tortured, 15% and 7% of the IDPs are physically and mentally impaired respectively. Furthermore, 98% desperately want to go home but 4 out of every 5 IDPs that left the camp don't really return home for fear of unknown instead resettles somewhere else. The research also revealed that all the facilities provided for the IDPs were not adequate to meet the IDPs psycho-social and economic needs, the major reason being they were not originally design for such purpose, making it ill-functional and unsuitable.

**Keywords**—IDPs; psycho-social needs; economic needs; architectural response.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Terrorism is arguably the biggest threat to global peace that is on a steady rise worldwide [2]. Few years ago terrorism seemed to be restricted to few isolated places such as Northern Ireland, Basque in Northern Spain, and few areas in the Middle East, but since the destruction of the twin towers

in New York on September 11 2001, terrorism has grown to a worldwide phenomenon [1]. The painful and unforgettable blow terrorism had on the global peace in the recent years is the attacks spread all over the world by different terrorist groups. These include the multiple Paris attacks in France, Brussels attacks in Belgium, continued attacks in various part of Syria and few selected countries in Northern, Western, Eastern and central Africa. Indeed, the worldwide manifestation of terrorism has been evident in Africa with particular reference to west Africa, the phenomenon found expression in the emergence of Boko Haram insurgence from 2002 to date [2]. A West African country, Nigeria has been on news in both domestic and international media due to Boko Haram insurgence, which was originally labeled as the Nigerian Taliban for its ideology and methods. This is evident in the nature of their attacks across the country; resulting to loss of lives and properties, therefore leaving the dead gone for life and the living encompassed with challenges they can't solve alone.

Since 2009 when the current insurgence in the North-Eastern Nigeria started, Boko Haram has killed over 20,000 and displaced about 2.3 million people from their homes out of which at least 250, 000 have fled to the neighbouring Cameroon, Chad or Niger [3]. In 2014 the group have killed 6,600 and carried out mass abductions including the kidnapping of the 276 school girls from Chibok. As a result of people's displacement, means of livelihood are lost; they are then left with no choice but to rely on support

from aid and government agencies for their basic needs [6]. However, the capacity of these agencies to give support drops from time to time as their resources become strained hence, the need to help Internally Displaced Persons make a conceptual shift from dependence on aid to self-reliance. Therefore, Rehabilitation, restoration and resettlement of these affected people requires an architectural response to help in mitigating these human and economic consequences.

These therefore created a vacuum for better and sustainable solution to these consequences, as such there is an urgent need to help IDPs make a conceptual shift from dependence on aids to self-reliance fuelled by responses from all fields especially architecture. This will require the IDPs undergo a post IDP camp experience for skills acquisition and rehabilitation programs, the post insurgence life after return to their communities needs to be adequately prepared and planned for. Though there is a negligible number of skills acquisition and rehabilitation centres in Adamawa state, it is characterised by individuality in design approach creating the need for a wholesome approach for a multipurpose facility to house the solutions for these psycho-social and economic needs. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee (UNHCR) stated that shelter for emergency situations must be culturally appropriate and acceptable and should be people centred in order to promote self-reliance and equipping communities to develop suitable solutions themselves and dynamics, adaptable and capable of responding to changes. Hence, these

changes could be in terms of usage or duration of usage of these provided facilities, making it necessary to possess both **transitional** and **transformational** features for maximum utilisation.

## II. SPACE AND PSYCHOLOGICAL REACTIONS

Lifestyles, behaviours, values, and beliefs of a society develop under the mutual influence of the physical environment, and are thus revealed through the structural organization of space [5]. Human being equally shapes the environment with various building equipment, models and arrangements, and then the same environment shapes the human being. This is because as Rapoport (1977) stated (as cited by [8]) that the characteristics of physical environment affect the psychological processes of the individuals and societies using that physical environment, their socialization with the environment and their physical dynamics. Architectural space should be formed to fulfill all physiological, psychological and social requirements of its users [8]. Moreover, the psychological requirements and desires of the human being in space expose a two-way interaction process between human and space by forming a feedback [7]. This is shown in figure 1 below.

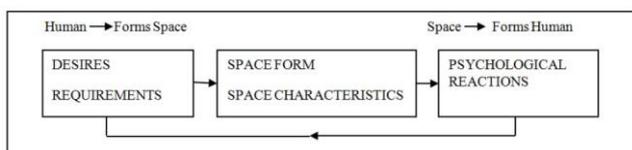


Figure 1: Space and psychological reactions.

Source: Özel (2008).

With the recent emergence of terrorist attacks all over the world in addition to natural and manmade disaster that causes displacement into an IDP or refugee conditions, there are several ways architecture can respond through the use of space.

## III. AIM, SCOPE AND SIGNIFICANCE

This paper seeks to unravel how architecture can respond to IDPs' psycho-social and economic needs to foster environmentally induced healing and rehabilitation for sustainable development in Adamawa State. Though the insurgence majorly affected three States in North-Eastern geopolitical zone of Nigeria; the requirements of the IDPs across the region differ per state because of the different levels of development and discriminate level of damage to lives and properties per State. However to avoid generalizing their needs and for the volatility of the security situation in Borno and Yobe State presently, this paper will concentrate on the psychosocial and economic needs of the IDPs in Adamawa State.

The Kampala Convention highlighted specific needs of separated and unaccompanied children, female heads of household, expectant mothers, mothers with young children, the elderly and the disabled. These include the following policy which the Federal Government of Nigeria signed, and ratified for the Protection and Assistance of IDPs.

*States shall provide internally displaced persons to the fullest extent practicable and with the*

*least possible delay, with adequate humanitarian assistance, which shall include food, water, shelter, medical care and other health services, sanitation, education, and any other necessary social services, and where appropriate, extend such assistance to local and host communities (Article 9, 2b)*

Though a lot is being done by humanitarian organizations, the Federal Government and other stakeholders, the need for shift from dependence on aid to being self-reliant is necessary. This will enable them develop an independent and viable household economics and once more start fending for themselves. Support for IDPs' self-reliance should focus on addressing constraints to their livelihood strategies and improving their human, physical, natural, financial and social assets so they can build more independent and viable household economies [6]. Therefore this paper will be an eye opener to the plight of the IDPs to the government; leading to favourable policy formation and execution. Professionals will discover ways IDPs' Psycho-social and economic needs can be accommodated for sustainable development as developers also will realise the enormous investment opportunities embedded in the seemingly economically retarded North-east Nigeria.

#### IV. METHODS AND ANALYSIS

This research adopted a non-experimental design; survey research in particular as it provides a quantitative or numeric description of trends,

attitudes or opinion of a population by studying a sample of that population [4]. The research methodology employed is a quantitative research approach in conjunction with a multiple case studies through a visual survey. There are two sources of data collection employed for this research, well-structured questionnaires were used for data collection from the IDPs with the assistance of translators and visual observation was used to assess the facilities provided in the purposively selected three case studies. Though the IDPs can be found in other places but the government recognised IDP camps will give a clear picture of the level of care by the federal government of Nigeria. According to the DTM team report in 2015, there are three government-recognised IDP camps in Adamawa State and these include:

1. Malkohi camp located in Yola south local government of the state with the total population of 1,479 IDPs spread across the demography.
2. Fufore camp located in Fufore local government of the state with the total population of 1,295 IDPs spread across the demography.
3. Damare camp located in Girei local government of the state with the total population of 2,411 IDPs spread across the demography.

However, the population for this research is the IDPs in the government recognised camps in Adamawa State and the sampling technique employed in the selection of the required sample

was a non-probability sampling technique (purposive sampling). At the course of the research 10% of the adult population was administered with questionnaires. The method for analysing the research finding was basically descriptive statistics whose result will be presented and interpreted appropriately.

#### V. PCSYCHO-SOCIAL NEEDS AND IMPLICATIONS

This paper highlights the psycho-social and economic needs of the IDPs in the government recognised camps within the boundaries of Adamawa State. Subsequently, the facilities provided for their camping is assessed vis-à-vis the contents of the checklist used per IDP camp visited. Figure 5.1 shows the demography of the IDPs in the three camps, greater population of the IDPs in the three camps is the age group between 0-19 as seen below.

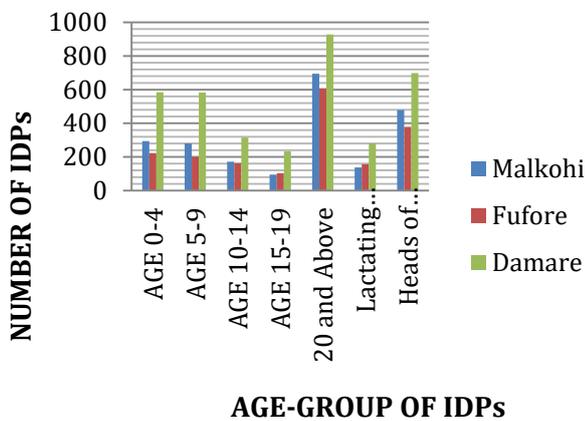


Figure 2: Showing the Demography of the IDPs in the three Camps

The need for skills acquisition and rehabilitation programs for the IDPs living in the government recognised IDP camps across Adamawa State can be seen reflected in Figure below. 73% of the IDPs lost a member of a nuclear to the insurgence

as majority of the cases were under their watch with nothing to do about it. Some of the IDPs; in remembrance of the incidence are still full of grief, thus making it difficult for them to relate with others on camp and almost impossible for them to make new friends. This is the case of the IDPs especially those kidnapped and tortured, as there is a significant number of them that escaped and now leaving with several challenges including disabilities and mental cases as shown in Figure 3 below.

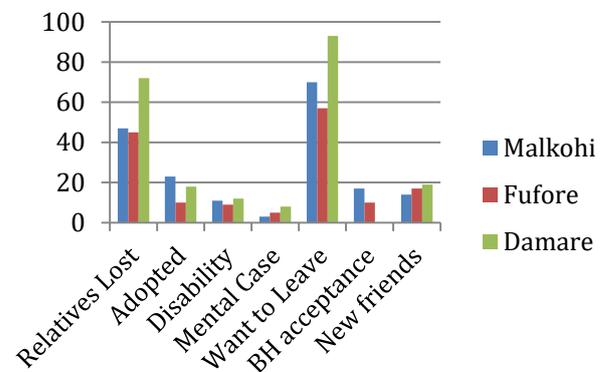


Figure 3: IDPs' Psycho-social Needs in the three Camps

The following psycho-social implications in the three camps were the representation showing in Figure above:

#### A. Malkohi IDP Camp

The representative sample in this camp was 70 IDPs; as such the data collected shows that 67% of the representative number lost very close relatives that could include husband, wife, son, daughter, father, mother or sibling. About 33% were adopted and tortured by the insurgents, contributing to 16% of them being disabled and an estimated 4% of the IDPs in the camp were mentally affected. This resulted to only 24% of

the representative number of the IDPs in this camp willing to welcome the Boko Haram insurgent back after undergoing appropriate de-radicalisation process.

### B. Fufore IDP Camp

This camp has 61 IDPs as the 10% representative sample of the adults in the where the data collected shows that 74% of the representative number lost very close relatives. About 16% were adopted and tortured by the insurgent causing 15% of them disabled and 8% of the IDPs in the camp mentally affected, hence only 16% of the IDPs are willing to welcome Boko Haram insurgent if completely undergone de-radicalisation process.

### C. Damare IDP Camp

10% of the adults in Damare IDP camp were 93 IDPs at the time of collecting this data, the result shows 77% of the representative number of the IDPs in this camp lost very close relatives. About 19% were adopted and tortured by the insurgent causing 13% of them to be disabled and 9% of the IDPs in the camp to be mentally affected; hence none of them were willing to welcome the insurgent back after de-radicalisation process.

## VI. ECONOMIC NEEDS AND IMPLICATIONS

In all the three government recognised camps there is an alarming sign for a need of economic intervention as presently there is no source of livelihood for them other than aid from the government and the humanitarian organisations. However, this can be reverse into a viable and

independent household economics if only their potentials can be harnessed, especially their inherent and preferred skills. The inherent skills of the IDPs in all the three camps have a vital role in the conceptual transformation of the IDPs' dependence on aids from government and nongovernmental organisations to self-reliance. Therefore figure 4 shows the inherent skills in the three government recognised camps in Adamawa State.

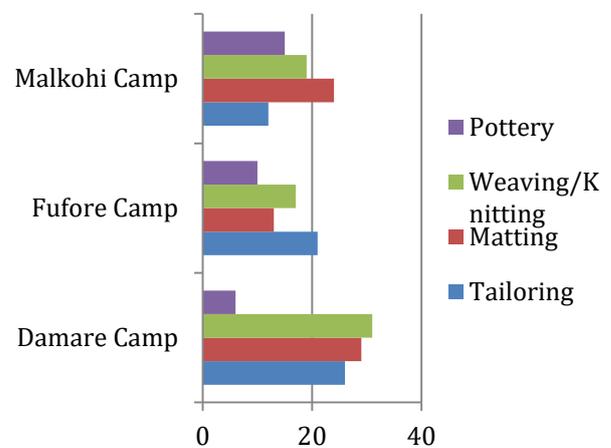


Figure 4: IDPs' Inherent Skills in the three Camps.

Hence, the following highlights the skills preference of the IDPs in all the three government-recognised camps:

### A. Malkohi IDP Camp

It is worthy to note here that about 23% are engaged in one stage of farming or the other, which could be either the cultivation of the crops or the buying and selling of the produce. Hence a close look at the IDPs here could open them to a world of new possibilities if only they can harness the preferred skills of the remaining 77% of the IDPs in this camp. These preferred skills ranges from cattle rearing, poultry, shoes and bag

making, tailoring, matting, pottery, knitting and weaving.

### B. Fufore IDP Camp

The economic condition in this camp shows that 20% were farmers and will want to continue with farming after the insurgency. Hence, 80% of the IDPs here have the potentials for new possibilities if only they can harness the skills inherent in them in the light of their preferred skills after the insurgency.

### C. Damare IDP Camp

The interviewer completed questionnaire exposed that 18% of them had engaged in one stage of the farming process or the other, which could be either cultivation of the crops, or buying and selling of the produce. The remaining 82% of the IDPs here can be trained in line with the skills inherent in them to build a viable household economics.

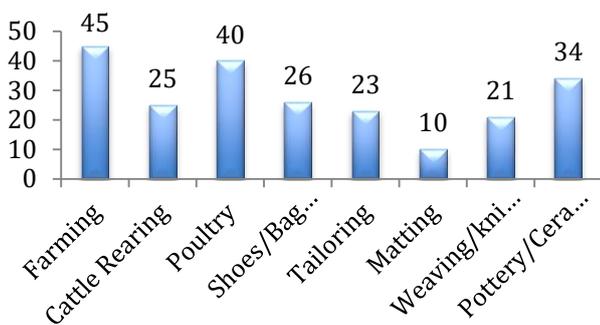


Figure 5: Showing IDPs' Skills Preference in the Government-recognised Camps

## VII. ARCHITECTURAL NEEDS AND IMPLICATIONS

The facilities provided for the IDPs which were assessed through the use of checklist shows that the facilities in all the three camps were not originally designed for disaster victims and only

one out of the three averagely met a standard for a camp design as shown in Figure 6 this is far from the fact that Damare IDP camp used the Adamawa State NYSC orientation camp facilities to camp the IDPs.

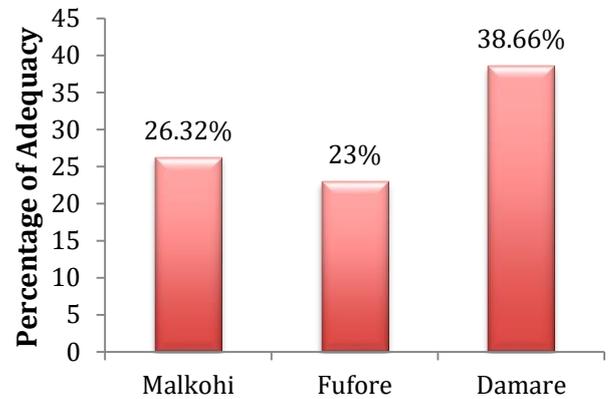


Figure 6: Architectural Implication in the Government-recognised Camps

The variables used to assess these facilities in checklist include the following:

1. Sense of equity
2. Psychological space requirements
3. Social space requirements
4. Economic space requirement
5. Easy navigation and way finding
6. Security and safety principles used

Hence, the following paints the picture of the existing facilities provided for the IDPs in the government recognised camps in Adamawa State:

### A. Malkohi IDP Camp

Apart from the facilities provided for the IDPs in this camp not being originally designed for emergency purpose it also fail short of standard base on the aforementioned variables that were used to know how adequate they were. Malkohi IDP camp scored 26.32% because there were no

equal accesses to Pedestrian connection to major facilities such as dining, accommodation, relaxation spots. Hence, allocation of amenities that shows concern for health and wellbeing of the IDPs were not adequately provided for. However, the spatial requirements for a therapeutic effect of healing on the negative psychological and social effect of the insurgency were absolutely inadequately provided. The psycho-social space in this camp has to itself the allocation of a tree shed which is mostly utilised by children, whereas the skills acquisition facility is not provided resulting to 87% not acquiring any skill. Furthermore, there is an averagely good ease of navigation and way finding with the camp and at the same time the security principles employed in this camp is adequate base on the parameters used to measure it.

### *B. Fufore IDP Camp*

The facilities in Fufore IDP camp are similar to Malkohi camp it was not originally designed for emergency purpose and that it is an abundant Government Girls Secondary School that was never used. The school has only two blocks of classrooms and a warehouse, NEMA presently used the warehouse as their store and the classrooms are used by UNICEF for Primary school for the children. However, Fufore IDP camp scored the lowest in this research because some of the variables checked into were absent especially the economic spatial requirement as there are neither skill acquisition space nor skills acquisition programs in this camp. Hence, there is no psycho-social space in this camp as such on a

general note the camp scored 23% on the checklist assessment consequently putting the IDPs in a dire psycho-socioeconomic condition.

### *C. Damare IDP Camp*

This IDP camp was not originally designed for emergency purpose but the facility is the Adamawa state NYSC camp which was originally a Technical school before the conversion to an NYSC camp. This camp has a setting that favours emergency condition as there are enough accommodation facilities for the IDPs, healthcare and rehabilitation facility though too small but fully equipped. The psycho-social space in this camp has to itself the allocation of a tree which is mostly utilised by the children and not adult similar to that of Malkohi camp. The skills acquisition and rehabilitation in this camp is impressive though not adequate compared to the previously three as there is a tent allocated for this purpose. Damare IDP camp generally scored 38.66% on the checklist assessment of the facilities provided to camp the IDPs in Damare.

## VIII. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The majority of the IDPs lost their close relatives, some were kidnapped and tortured resulting in a significant number of physically and mentally disabled. This is indicative in the fact that IDPs are scared of returning to their communities after leaving the camp evident to host community formation in communities bounding the government recognised IDP camps in Adamawa State. Hence, an average of 98% of the IDPs in the government recognised camps want to go

home but for every 5 IDPs that leave the camp daily; an average of 4 IDPs don't really go home after leaving the camps. However, this generated an economic setting that is dependent on support from other sources, which is detrimental to the recovery of the dilapidated economy of the State and the geopolitical region at large. The facilities provided in all the three camps were not originally designed for disaster victims as only one out of the three averagely met a standard for a camp design. This is because Malkohi and Fufore IDP camp were originally design as a Government Girls Secondary School which was never used for the said purpose. The Damare IDP camp was originally a Technical school that was later converted to NYSC camp and now being used as an IDP camp.

This research covered only one out of the three States affected by the insurgency, hence it is suggested that research be made on the psycho-socio-economic needs of the IDPs in the remaining two North-eastern States affected by the insurgence. Additionally the following are the recommendations this research exposes:

- i. The Federal Government of Nigeria should formulate policies backing the construction of Trans-empowerment centre or full-fledged IDP camps in Nigeria.
- ii. There should be government initiated post IDP camp resettlement scheme to help them rebuild their destroyed communities.
- iii. Professionals from other fields should concentrate more on responses from their

fields on recent emergency issues arising all over.

All responses or aids from all organisations and fields should be geared towards creating a viable household economics, empowering the IDPs to conceptually shift from dependence to self-reliance.

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