Migration Challenges for Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria

Photo Credit: Sunday Alamba/AP

Assessing Resettlement Options for Displaced Persons in North-East Nigeria
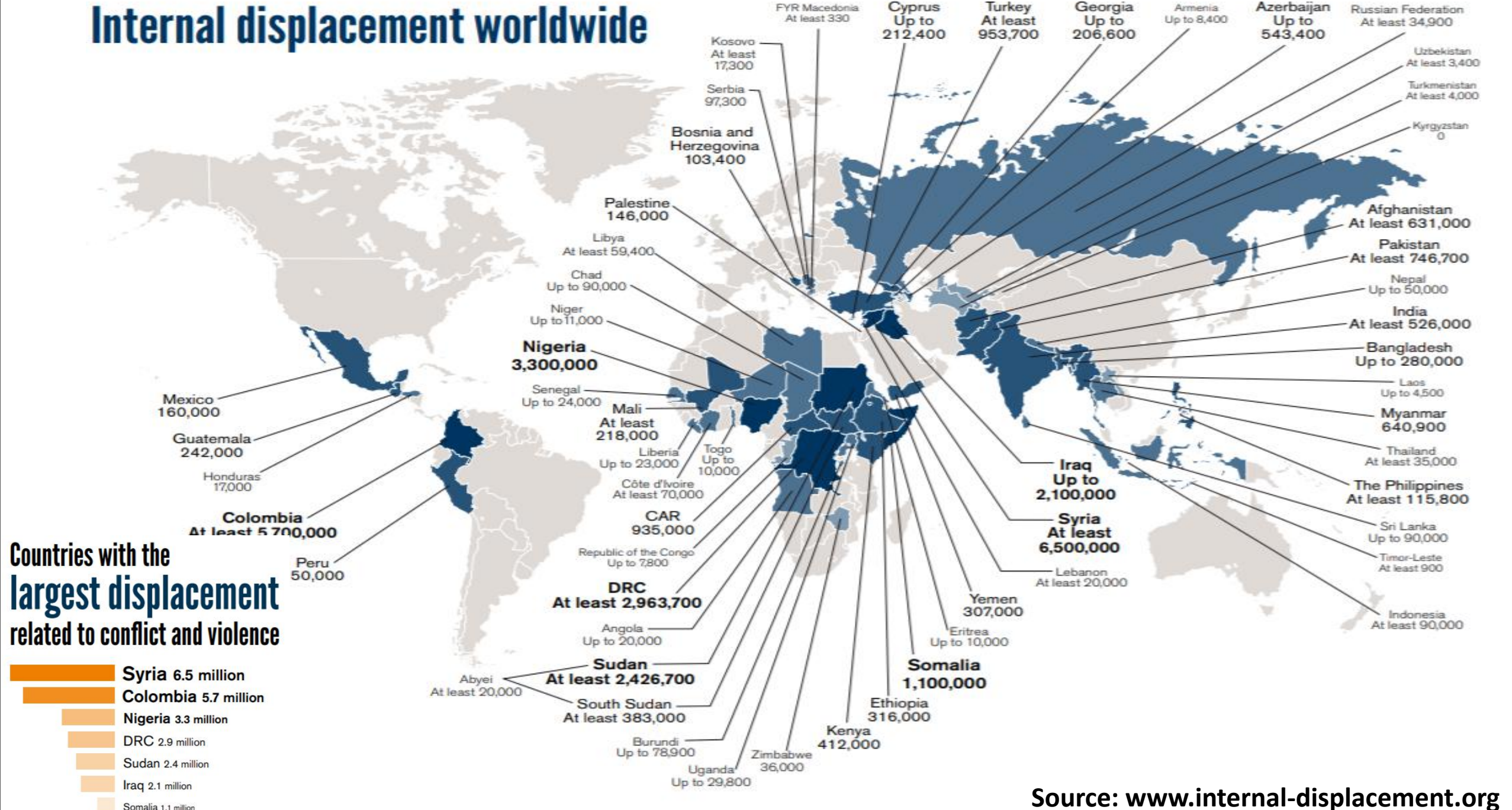
Okechukwu Ikeanyibe - Senior Lecturer, Department of Public Administration and Local Government, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria (okey.ikeanyibe@unn.edu.ng)

Rosaline G. Agiamoh - Graduate Student (PhD), Department of Management & Public Administration, Higher School of Economics, National Research University, Moscow - Russia (ragiamoh@hse.ru)

Introduction -IDPs in Nigeria

- Over 2.3 Million people have been displaced in Nigeria since 2009 (UNHCR 2017)

- The cause of displacement is largely due to sectoral violence by the terrorist group 'Boko Haram' (An Islamist sect formerly known as Jamā'at Ahl as-Sunnah lid-Da'wah wa'l-Jihād) ranked as the world's deadliest terror group by the Global Terrorism Index in 2015

- The North-Eastern part of Nigeria is the most affected region

- There has been continuous insecurity across North-East Nigeria for over 10 years

- The security crisis has triggered forced migration to cross-border countries

- A large number of Nigerians have also fled the continent and are seeking asylum in UK, Europe and USA.

Internal displacement worldwide

**Countries with the
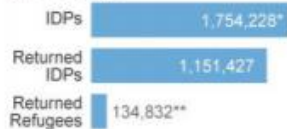largest displacement
related to conflict and violence**

- **Syria** 6.5 million
- **Colombia** 5.7 million
- **Nigeria** 3.3 million
- **DRC** 2.9 million
- **Sudan** 2.4 million
- **Iraq** 2.1 million
- **Somalia** 1.1 million

FYR Macedonia
At least 330

Cyprus
Up to
212,400

Turkey
At least
953,700

Georgia
Up to
206,600

Armenia
Up to 8,400

Azerbaijan
Up to
543,400

Russian Federation
At least 34,900

Kosovo
At least
17,300

Uzbekistan
At least 3,400

Turkmenistan
At least 4,000

Serbia
97,300

Kyrgyzstan
0

Bosnia and
Herzegovina
103,400

Afghanistan
At least 631,000

Palestine
146,000

Pakistan
At least 746,700

Libya
At least 59,400

Nepal
Up to 50,000

Chad
Up to 90,000

India
At least 526,000

Niger
Up to 11,000

Bangladesh
Up to 280,000

**Nigeria
3,300,000**

Laos
Up to 4,500

Senegal
Up to 24,000

Mexico
160,000

**Mali
At least
218,000**

Myanmar
640,900

Guatemala
242,000

Liberia
Up to 23,000

Togo
Up to
10,000

Thailand
At least 35,000

**Iraq
Up to
2,100,000**

Honduras
17,000

Côte d'Ivoire
At least 70,000

The Philippines
At least 115,800

**Colombia
At least 5,700,000**

**CAR
935,000**

**Syria
At least
6,500,000**

Sri Lanka
Up to 90,000

Republic of the Congo
Up to 7,800

Peru
50,000

Lebanon
At least 20,000

Timor-Leste
At least 900

**DRC
At least 2,963,700**

Yemen
307,000

**Countries with the
largest displacement
related to conflict and violence**

Angola
Up to 20,000

Eritrea
Up to 10,000

Indonesia
At least 90,000

Abyei
At least 20,000

**Sudan
At least 2,426,700**

**Somalia
1,100,000**

South Sudan
At least 383,000

Ethiopia
316,000

Burundi
Up to 78,900

Kenya
412,000

Zimbabwe
36,000

Uganda
Up to 29,800

Source: www.internal-displacement.org

NIGERIA SITUATION

Populations forcibly displaced by the insurgency in the Lake Chad Basin Region
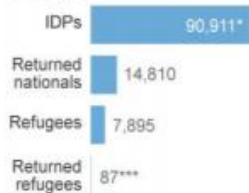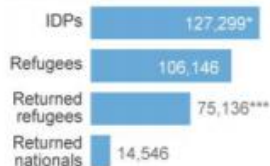
As of 30 June 2017 or latest figures available

NIGERIA

IDPs	1,754,228*
Returned IDPs	1,151,427
Returned Refugees	134,832**

CAMEROON

IDPs	219,305*
Refugees	93,186
Returned refugees	59,609***
Returned IDPs	58,027

CHAD

IDPs	90,911*
Returned nationals	14,810
Refugees	7,895
Returned refugees	87***

NIGER

IDPs	127,299*
Refugees	106,146
Returned refugees	75,136***
Returned nationals	14,546
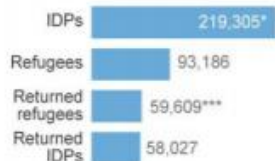
* Figures represent the number of people displaced by the Boko Haram-related. insurgency

** Figures represent Nigerian refugee returnees who have arrived in north-eastern Nigeria from Cameroon, Chad and Niger in 2017.

*** Figures represent Nigerian refugee returnees who have arrived in north-eastern Nigeria from neighbouring countries in 2017.

Legend:
- UNHCR presence
- IDP Camp
- Refugee Camp
- Refugee Center
- Refugee Location
- Most affected State
- Area hosting displaced population
- Inaccessible areas to humanitarian partners due to insecurity
- Refugee crossing
- Return movement
- International Boundary
- Admin 1 Boundary
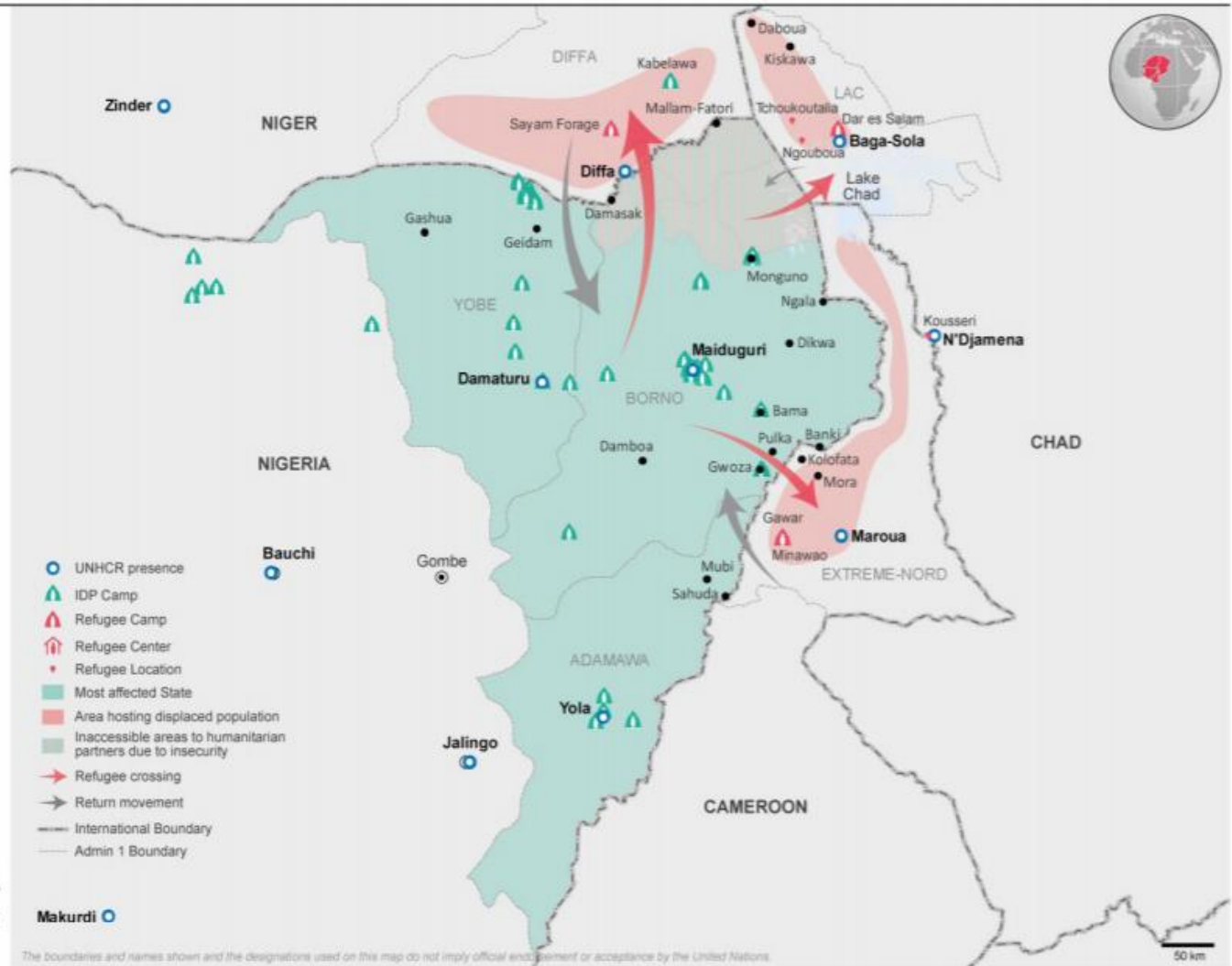
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

50 km

Creation date: 19 July 2017   Sources: UNHCR, Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS)   Feedback: mapping@unhcr.org

NIGER

CHAD

NIGERIA

CAMEROON

Area hosting
displaced people

Area hosting
displaced people

Area hosting
displaced people

Most affected area

Lake Chad

Area least accessible
to aid workers
due to insecurity

50 km

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Populations of concern

OPERATION		DISPLACED POPULATIONS *as of January 2017*	CURRENT DISPLACED POPULATIONS *as of 30 June 2017*	UNHCR PLANNED ASSISTED POPULATIONS* *by the 31 December 2017*
NIGERIA	IDPs	1,717,330	1,754,228**	885,200
	IDP returnees	1,039,267	1,151,427**	495,700
	Refugee returnees*	164,281	134,832***	150,000
CAMEROON	Nigerian refugees	87,282	93,186	90,000
	IDPs	182,978	219,305**	199,000
	IDP returnees	36,068	58,027**	36,000
CHAD	Nigerian refugees	8,218	7,895	8,000
	IDPs	105,070	90,911**	110,000
NIGER	Nigerian refugees	105,491	106,146	85,300
	Returning nationals	14,678	14,546***	27,800
	IDPs	121,391	127,299***	176,200
	TOTAL	**3,582,054**	**3,757,802**	**2,263,200**

* UNHCR operations are implemented in evolving contexts; subsequent changes to planning figures will be amended through a budget revision as required.
** Source: IOM's latest DTM
***Source: Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS). Figure represents Nigerian refugee returnees into north-eastern Nigeria from neighbouring countries, in 2017.
**** Source: Government of Niger

Source: UNHCR 2017

Condition of IDPs in Camps and Non-Camp Conditions in North-East Nigeria

- Causes of displacement in Nigeria largely due to:
  - Natural disasters, environmental degradation and climate change (floods, rising sea levels, oil spills)
  - Communual & ethno-religious conflict (Riots in Kano and Kaduna in the 90's)
  - Political Violence (election violence)
  - Boko Haram Insurgency in the North-East which is by far the greatest trigger of displacement in the country
- The Nigerian government has had challenges managing the volume of displaced persons which in comparison exceeds the entire population of some countries (e.g. Estonia, Cyprus and Bahrain all have populations below 2 million).
- Across some states public schools were converted into temporary camps.
- There is still no central administrative database for recording displaced individuals across the country
- Camps do not conform to UN standards and thousands live in sub-human conditions with no access to basic services or amenities (Health, Water and Sanitation, Education and Security)

# Nigeria has the largest extreme poverty population (June 2018)

People living in extreme poverty

Country	People living in extreme poverty
Nigeria	86.9 million
India	71.5
Democratic Republic of Congo	60.9
Ethiopia	23.9
Tanzania	19.9
Mozambique	17.8
Bangladesh	17
Kenya	14.7
Indonesia	14.2
Uganda	14.2
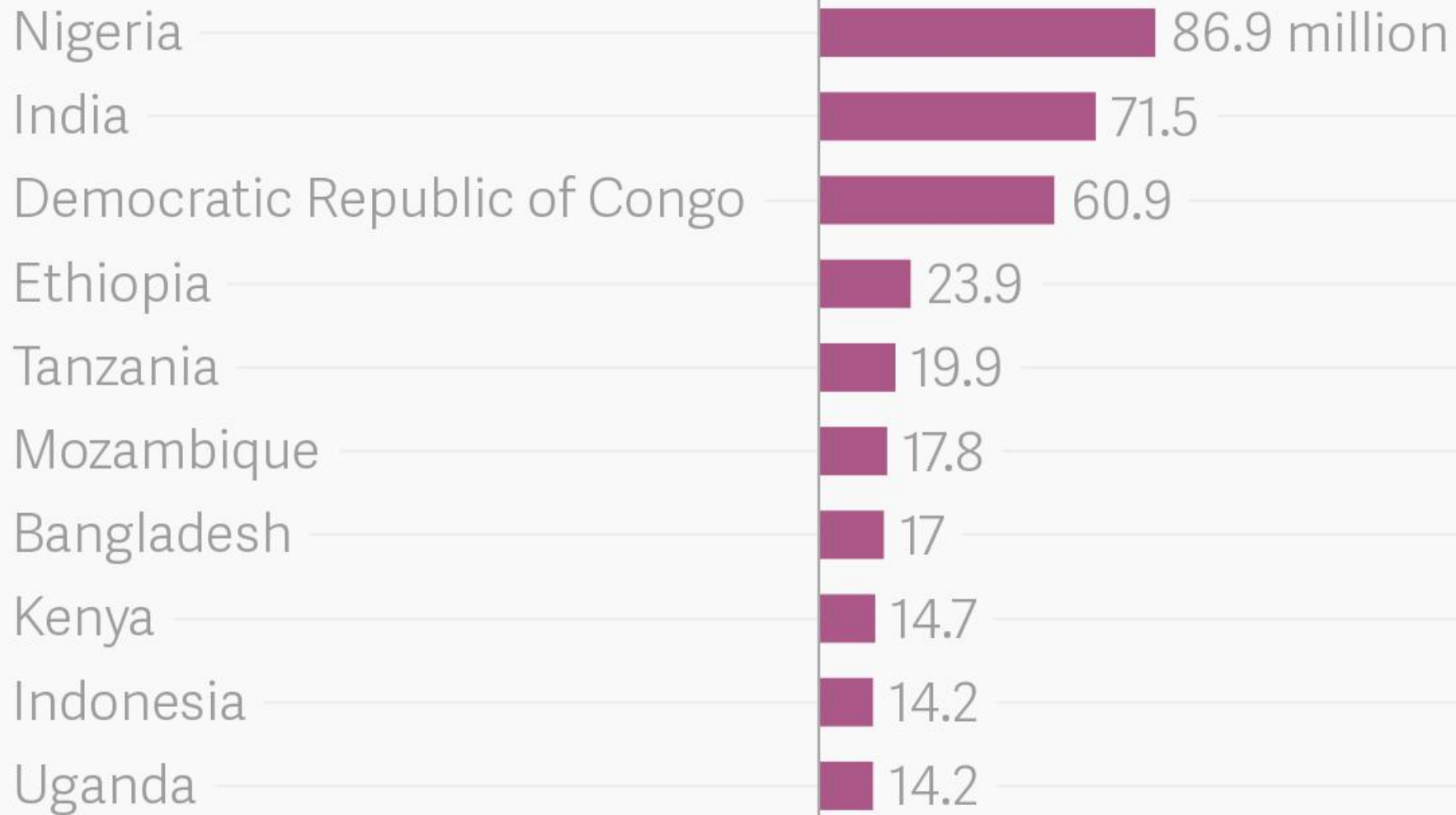
A Framework of Sustainability in the Resettlement of IDPs

- Displacement is often treated as an emergency situation
- In Nigeria's case the Government responded with NEMA
- UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) template is used as guide for immediate humanitarian support by NGOs and Int'l Aid Agencies.

_____

- However displacement can be protracted for years (17-20 years) at which point the temporary emergency situation has to transition to a more permanent sustainable development plan.
- Cernea's Impoverishment Risks and Reconstruction (IRR) model developed in the 90s can help articulate requirements for more durable resettlement solutions.

A framework for analyzing the impoverishment risks of involuntary displacement and resettlement and consequences
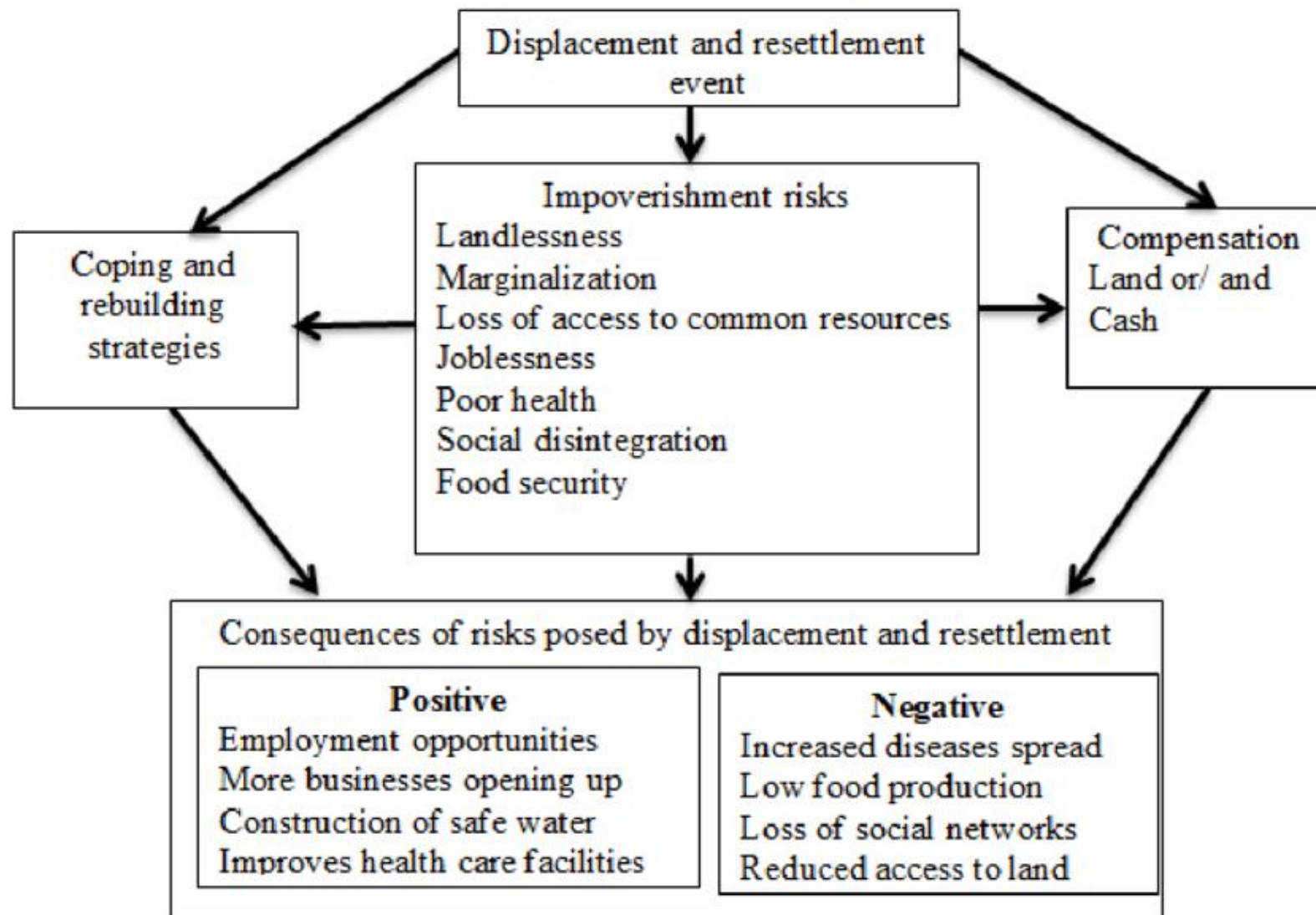
Source: Aboda *et al,* 2019 (Makerere University, Uganda)

Options for durable solutions in resettlement of Boko Haram displaced persons: An assessment

- Integration in Urban communities to avoid stigmatization as opposed to Rural localities
- New policy blueprint implementation - similar to post-war reconstruction (e.g. Marshall Plan (1948) or South Africa's Post-apartheid Reconstruction and Development Programme (1994))
- Centrally coordinated flow of aid/donations to support policy blueprint implementation (medication - clinics, nutrition - farms/equipment, trade agreements)
- Subsidized Public Infrastructure (Health, Education, Water & Sanitation)
- Institution and support of IDP cooperatives
  - Mass housing projects
  - Farm land allocation + trade/export contracts
  - Credit Union - Micro-financing

Risk Assessment Matrix

Impact of risk	Integration in host communities	Relocation to another place	Voluntary return to places of original residence
Relocation Cost	Medium	High	High
Security	Low	Medium	High
Integration to society	Low	Medium	Low

Probability of risk

Poor SDG compliance in IDP Camps

Photo Credit: Premium Times Nigeria

Ongoing Military activities in North-East Region

Photo Credit: Aljazeera

Photo Credit: BBC

Conclusion & Recommendations

- Local integration in host communities (preferably urban centres) currently appears to be the most economical and efficient option for the reintegration of IDPs to society. This option also reduces stigmatization and provides greater access to development infrastructure

- Vocational Training Programmes should be structured to provide immediate employment for IDP trainees.

- The formation of cooperatives within host-communities could help speed up the process of cultural interaction and socio-economic well-being.

- The Nigerian government could greatly benefit from a centralized policy document to serve as a blueprint for sustainable socio-economic development for IDPs and those living below the poverty line. Administrative database management and budgetary allocations could help reduce the national poverty index towards meeting the global SDGs.

IDPs and thousands below the poverty line in Nigeria work as scavengers in waste dumps and landfills. They expose themselves daily to health hazards and are potential hosts for environmental pathogens

Waste is sorted by hand without any protective gear. Sorted bales are carried on backs onto lorries which transport them to ports for further compression and export.
IDPs interviewed said they received between $1-$3 per day which helped them sustain their families. This motivation outweighed the obvious health risk they continue to face daily.

Waste workers (majority of whom are IDPs) live in shanty conditions on vacant plots right next to waste dumps and landfills.

Social segregation is noticeable within these groups evidenced by:

Gang/clique set-up based on - Type of waste collected and territory covered.