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# EXAMINING SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF COMMON PLACES OF ABODE OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN HOST COMMUNITIES: THE CASE OF GREATER YOLA AREA ADAMAWA STATE, NIGERIA

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#### **Abstract**

This study examines the Spatial Distribution/Common places of abode of Forced Migrants into Greater Yola from 2015 to 2019. The study made use of both primary and secondary data sources. Primary data sources used for the study include questionnaire administration which was used to solicit information from the respondents on their reason for their spatial distribution/common places of abode in the study area since displacement. Secondary data sources used for the study was the displacement tracking matrix of the records of international Organization for Migration (DTM) to examine the spatial distribution/common places of abode of the migrants in Greater Yola since 2014. The result obtained shows that the spatial distributions/common places of abode of the IDPs were the fringes of the study area and that the reasons was due to availability and affordability of accommodation. Others were due to friends, relatives and agricultural activities. The study recommends that government and landlords should lower the prices of accommodation so that IDPs can afford accommodation even in the core areas of the town.

Keywords: Spatial, Distributions, Displaced, Migration, Greater-Yola

#### Introduction

Millions of individuals have experienced forced displacement from their residences over the previous decade. The quantity of individuals who opt for shelter within their own nation as internally displaced persons surpasses significantly those who traverse international borders as refugees and asylum seekers (UNHCR, 2021). Internally displaced persons (IDPs) are delineated as "individuals or groups of individuals who have been compelled or

forced to evacuate or abandon their homes or habitual dwellings, particularly due to the repercussions of armed conflicts, instances of widespread violence, infringements on human rights, or natural or man-made calamities, and who have not crossed an internationally accepted State boundary" (UNHCR, 2020). As per (UNHCR, 2021), the global population of forcibly displaced persons stands at about 82.4 million, with 55 million being IDPs, of which 48 million stems from conflicts and violence, and 7 million from disasters.

Once internal displacement extends beyond six months, the affected individuals have a high likelihood of enduring protracted displacement for a minimum of three years or more (Crawford *et al.*, 2015).

Adesote and Peters (2015) indicate that Internal Displacement is not a recent occurrence in Nigeria, having transpired many years ago with a lengthy historical backdrop in the nation, such as the Biafran war from 1967-1970 resulting in ten million individuals being displaced and two million fatalities. Subsequently, such large-scale displacements were uncommon until October 2016, when ethnic conflicts shook Nigeria, leading to the displacement of roughly 500,000 IDPs (Adesote and Peters, 2015). In 2013, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) documented 3.3 million internally displaced persons in Nigeria due to the Boko Haram insurgency, with over one million recorded by both April and December 2015.

The inception of Boko Haram is largely attributed to the disillusionment of marginalized youths in the North-east deprived of livelihood opportunities and education (Ayo, 2015). Furthermore, livelihoods, water access, and grazing lands have been under strain for decades Lake Chad's surface area has diminished by 90% in the past 45 years owing to climate change and humaninduced factors like tributary damming, inadequate water management policies, and excessive grazing (Gao et al., 2011). The populace has progressively migrated southwards along the periphery of the Lake Chad basin, leading to the convergence of some 70 ethnic groups, escalating resource contests, tensions, and conflicts since 1972 (Donald and Jo-Ansie, 2010).

This assemblage of individuals has been perpetrating assaults on the residents of Borno, Adamawa, Yobe, Bauchi, Gombe, and Taraba States in recent times. The aforementioned attacks have resulted the large-scale displacement of individuals towards the different State Capitals located in the North Eastern region and throughout the nation, thereby inflating the urban population and altering living conditions. The number Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) documented in Adamawa, Borno, Gombe, Yobe, and Taraba State was recorded at 2,152,000 individuals (Alobo and Obaji, 2016). Analysis of the total population in this specific area reveals that 13.33 percent were displaced due to communal conflicts, 0.99 percent due to natural calamities, and 86.68 percent as a consequence of activities linked to Boko Haram (Obikaeze and Onuoha, 2016). Yola, serving as one of the primary State headquarters, has witnessed a substantial influx of these displaced communities, primarily triggered by the Boko Haram assaults, which in turn strained urban amenities and infrastructure blueprints. Upon arrival at the state capital where the displaced populace typically seek refuge, the impacted individuals predominantly gravitate towards camp-like environments or host communities. It is within this context that the current study is crafted to scrutinize the spatial distribution and prevalent dwelling locations of IDPs in Host Communities spanning from 2015 to 2019 within the Greater Yola Area, Adamawa State, Nigeria.

# Study Area

The study area, lies between latitudes 9° 7" to 9° 19" N and longitudes 12° 17"

to 12° 22" E. It is made up of twin towns of Yola which is the traditional seat of the paramount ruler (Lamido Adamawa) known as Yola South Local Government Area and Jimeta which is the administrative and commercial nerves of

the State known as Yola North Local Government Area. The Study area also extends to some parts of Girei Local Government area about 15km away from the State capital (Fig.1).

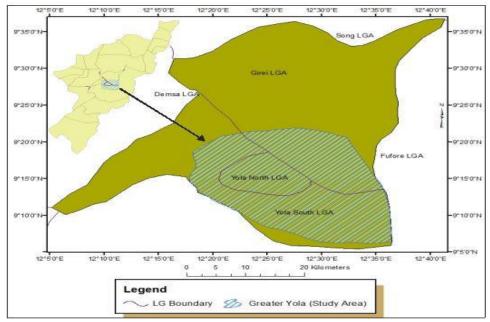


Fig. 1: Map of the study area

# Material and Methods Types and Sources of Data

Data for this study were sourced from both primary and secondary sources. Primary Sources of data that was used for the study include observations and information on migrants from questionnaire administration. Such information includes reasons for the common places of abode of the respondents. Secondary data were extracted from published and unpublished materials especially documents from Primary HealthCare (PHC) of house numbering list in Yola, Jimeta and Girei Local Governments Areas respectively (Table 1). Data from International Organization for Migration (IOM) on the number of IDPs in host communities in the study area were also used.

#### Sampling and Sample Size

Saunders et al. (1997) is adopted to select the sample size for this study. According to Saunders et al (1997), sample size for any population may be decided using Proportionality factor at 5% marginal error. Therefore. population of five thousand to ten thousand (5001-10000) persons a sample 354 will be sufficiently representative, allowing a 5% marginal error. Table 1 shows the number of Wards and number of households in each of the wards in Greater Yola. Questionnaire for this study were administered to IDPs living within the host community. A total of 8876 (Table 1) constitute population of IDPs living in host communities. Proportionately, the 354 IDPs respondents were allocated to the Three Local Governments Area according to the population of the IDPs living within the host community. Using the formula

 $Q_i = (F_i / P) \times N$ 

Where:

Q<sub>i</sub> = The Number of respondents from each Local Government Area.

F = Population of each Local Government Area

P = The Total population of the three Local Government Areas.

N = (354) adopted sample size.

Yola North = 2504/8876x354 =100 respondents, Girei = 3185/8876 x 357 = 127 respondents

Yola South=3187/8876x 357 = 127 respondents, Total = 354

Table 1: Number of IDPs Households in each Ward in Greater Yola

L.G. A	Ward	Number of households	Sample Size
Yola North	Ajiya	194	8
	Alkalawa	10	1
	Dobeli	207	8
	Gwadabawa	60	2
	Jambutu	1009	41
	Karewa	589	21
	Limawa	86	3
	Luggere	194	7
	Nassarawo	64	2
	Rumde	0	0
	Yelwa	91	7
Girei	Modire	664	27
	Damare	748	30
	Dakri	299	11
	Girei 1	1474	59
Yola South	Bako	54	2
	Bole Yolde Pate	949	38
	Makama A	168	7
	Makama B	142	6
	Mbamba	155	6
	Namtari	1461	58
	Adarawo	178	7
	Mbamoi	80	3
	Tongo	0	0
Total	24	8876	354

Source: IOM (2017)

### Methods of Data Collection/Analysis

Data for this research was acquired through the compilation of all records pertaining to displaced individuals in Greater Yola within the period of study; the data was obtained from the International Organisation for Migration

(I.O.M). Secondary data sources just like the name implies is not a first-hand data, hence it has its own limitation of low level of accuracy in the data collection process and quality because the researcher was not the one that collected the data directly from the field. But this did not in any way affected the outcome of the research. Furthermore, a questionnaire was administered to inquire about the rationale behind the prevalent places of residence among the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). Information extracted from the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) was used in ascertaining the typical places of abode for the IDPs.

# Sampling Method

To acquire information regarding the impact of forced migration on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) residing in host communities within Greater Purposive sampling was employed to choose the initial participants from each host communities (Ward), given the intermingling of IDPs with the local populace. Subsequently, the utilization of sampling technique snowball implemented to select the remaining interviewees, in accordance with the predetermined sample size of IDPs allocated to each host communities. During the engagement with the initial participant at the preliminary stage of the research, the respondents were tasked with identifying at least one other IDP in close proximity for interview, until the desired target sample size was achieved (Refer to Table 1).

#### Results

# Common Places of Abode of IDPs in the Study Area

The destinations of the IDPs as revealed by IOM, 2014 are; Greater-Yola and its environs, Cameroon Republic, and to other States in Nigeria. Majority of the movement of the IDPs from Northern part of Adamawa State was to Greater Yola being the Capital of Adamawa State which serves as a centre of refuge to the IDPs with adequate security. The IDPs in Greater Yola were not evenly distributed across the wards due to some reasons such which includes but not limited to; availability of accommodation. affordability of accommodation, friends and family etc. (Table 2).

Table 2: Reason of IDPs Choice of Place of Abode

	Frequency	Percent	
Affordability	88	24.8	
Availability of accommodation	124	35.0	
Friend and relatives	106	29.9	
Other (for agriculture)	34	10.2	
Total	354	100	

Table 2 revealed that the reasons why the migrants (IDPs) choose their places of abode or residence as revealed in the questionnaire. The table shows that over 59% of the IDPs in various host communities choose where they lived based on availability and affordability of accommodations. While Friends and relatives account for 29.9%. Since over 59% of the IDPs went for affordability and

availability, this suggests the reasons why majority of the IDPs stay in fringes of the town as their places of abode was driven by availability and affordability of accommodation. According to Mberu *et al.* (2013), housing is usually a major concern for migrants in terms of finding the right neighbourhood that is safe for their families and affordable.

Table 3: The Spatial Distributions/common Places of Abode of IDPs from Jan- Dec 2015

S/NO.	Name of	Jan-Feb	Mar-App	May-	Jul-Aug	Sep-Oct	Nov-Dec	Total
	Ward	2015	2015	Jun 2015	2015	2015	2015	
1	Dakri	352	324	147	187	178	124	1312
2	Damare	13101	12987	3897	3192	3223	3022	39422
3	Girei I	11320	10399	2592	3213	3333	3297	34154
4	Modirei	11267	10086	2674	2191	1817	1761	34154
5	Ajiya	9366	3022	1129	1889	1024	1007	17437
6	Alkalawa	2559	2507	802	1033	812	750	8468
7	Dobeli	3671	3519	1553	1388	1565	1320	13016
8	Gwadabawa	2461	2301	1931	1718	1793	1250	11454
9	Jambutu	4248	4080	1621	2265	1567	1119	14900
10	Karewa	2947	2771	1281	1987	1251	1015	11252
11	Limawa	2446	2286	869	686	782	802	7871
12	Luggere	2938	4765	2972	2843	1643	1657	16818
13	Nassarawo	2169	2006	981	1339	962	712	8169
14	Rumde	2258	2114	1015	1422	1006	905	8730
15	Yelwa	4306	4146	1891	2043	1821	1553	15760
16	Adarawo	1533	2449	678	975	629	515	6779
17	Bako	7561	5576	1632	1872	1732	1682	20055
18	Bole-	4570	3037	2620	3006	2683	2152	18068
	YoldePate							
19	Makama A	525	462	518	783	518	321	3127
20	Makama B	992	950	654	807	514	476	4025*
21	Mbamba	624	532	368	684	524	1026	3758
22	Mbamoi	13287	3238	0	0	0	0	16525
23	Namtari	3987	4037	1254	2411	2509	3350	17548
24	Toungo	2284	1236	0	0	0	0	3520
	TOTAL	110772	88835	33068	37934	31886	29816	

Source: International Organization for Migration (2015)

Table 3 above Show the spatial distribution/Common places of abode of IDPs in the study area from January -December 2015. A close look at the table shows that with the exception of Dakri and Mbamba wards, majority of the IDPs had their common places of abode in the fringes of Greater Yola (Namtari, Damare, Modirie, Girei. Bole-Yolde Pate, and Jambutu respectively). The reason for the high number of the IDPs in the abovementioned wards may be due to availability affordability and of accommodations in those areas in that over 50% of the IDPs choose where there residing due to availability affordability of accommodations table (3.) while the central part of the study area attracts fewer number of IDPs which may

non-availability due to affordability of accommodation. Dakri and Mbamba wards are parts of the suburb of the study area but did not attract high number of IDPs, due to the fact that Federal Housing Estate which is the most developed part of Dakri ward is not affordable by the IDPs due to cost and no availability accommodations. of Similarly, Doctors Quarters in Mbamba Ward which is the most developed part of the ward has a costly accommodation and it is beyond the reach of the IDPs. Only the well to do among the IDPs could secure accommodations in those areas. Fig. 2 shows the visual presentation of the common places of abode of the IDPs across the Wards in Greater Yola from January to December 2015.

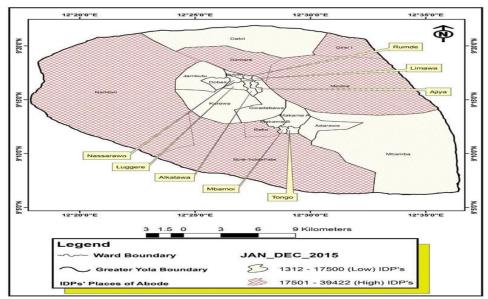


Fig. 2: Spatial Distributions/Common Places of Abode of IDPs in 2015

Just like in 2015, the IDPs also had their distributions/Common places of abode in 2016 and until 2019. Table 5 show the common places of abode of IDPs in 2016

Table 4: Spatial Distributions /Common Places of Abode of IDPs in the Study Area from Jan-Dec.2016

S/NO.	Name of Ward	Jan-Feb	Mar-Apr	May-Jun	Jul-Aug	Sept-Oct	Nov-Dec	TOTAL
		2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	
1	Dakri	195	857	1940	1950	1927	1927	8796
2	Damare	2653	3597	7623	7621	7364	6035	34893
3	Girei I	3250	2421	7532	8952	9052	8225	39437
4	Modirei	1753	6975	6654	6791	6754	4961	33888
5	Ajiya	980	684	850	831	795	798	4938
6	Alkalawa	514	596	564	545	1176	228	3623
7	Dobeli	970	1874	1381	906	896	806	6833
8	Gwadabawa	1142	1013	1244	1102	950	798	6249
9	Jambutu	1029	2672	4434	4394	3750	3800	20079
10	Karewa	847	2707	3246	3080	2996	2651	15527
11	Limawa	668	117	790	905	860	329	3669
12	Luggere	3078	2090	1667	1476	1537	1232	11080
13	Nassarawo	712	572	724	580	656	413	3653
14	Rumde	718	0	0	0	0	0	718
15	Yelwa	2027	732	622	622	3872	458	8333
16	Adarawo	324	667	2029	2112	2112	992	8236
17	Bako	952	844	738	4384	738	369	8025
18	Bole-YoldePate	664	3000	4034	4034	4034	4034	19800
19	Makama A	136	216	1187	1225	920	920	4604
20	Makama B	291	279	1658	1658	1658	750	6294
21	Mbamba	478	968	1260	1260	2012	894	6872
22	Mbamoi	183	430	756	756	756	490	3371
23	Namtari	2703	5748	3824	77377	7949	6803	104.404
24	Tongo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	26267	38786	54752	135561	62784	48030	

Source: International Organization for Migration, 2016

illustrates spatial Table 4 the distribution and common places of residence of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) across the Wards within the study area throughout the period from January to December 2016. Similar to the findings presented in Table 4, the prevalent places of abode for the IDPs continue to be the suburban areas or the outskirts of the study area, attributed to the availability and affordability of housing options. The tabulated data indicates a notable concentration of IDPs in the suburban regions of the study area. It is evident that a significant majority of the IDPs opted to reside in the outskirts of the town rather than in the central areas. accommodation is scarce and expensive. This observation aligns with the research conducted by Mberu et al. (2013), which emphasizes the significance of housing concerns among migrants, emphasizing importance of accessible

reasonably priced accommodation with adequate transportation facilities. Major cities, serving as primary destinations for both internal and international migrants. offer diverse housing options based on cost and availability. The scenario observed in the study area mirrors the findings of Mberu et al. (2013),showcasing the influence of accommodation availability and affordability on the selection of common abode by IDPs. Thus, it is unsurprising that Dakri and Mbamba wards continued to attract a lower number of IDPs in 2016. despite experiencing a peak in IDP influx, owing to the high cost and limited availability of housing in these areas. Figure 3 provides a clear visual representation of the distribution and common places of residence of IDPs during the period from January to December 2016.

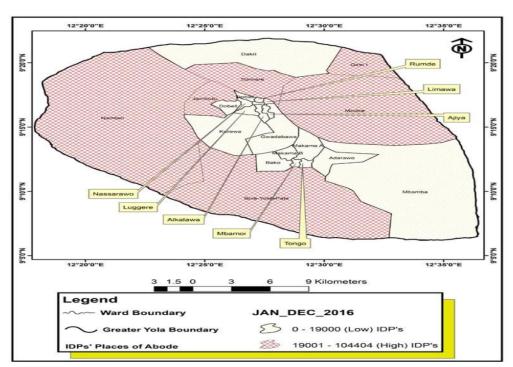


Fig. 3: Spatial Distribution/Common Places of Abode of IDPs in the Study Area in 2016

Table 5: Spatial Distribution/ Common Places of Abode of IDPs Across the Wards in the Study area from Jan-Dec. 2017

S/NO.	Name of Ward	Jan-Dec	Feb-	Apr-	Jun-Jul	DTM	Nov-	TOTAL
		2017	Mar	May	2017	Round	Dec	
			2017	2017		2017	207	
1	Dakri	1927	1313	1313	1313	1313	1313	4892
2	Damare	6098	4766	4357	5994	2951	2857	27023
3	Girei I	5540	5251	5250	6104	6519	5093	33657
4	Modirei	5010	4729	3781	3781	3575	3575	24451
5	Ajiya	717	789	789	790	759	759	4603
6	Alkalawa	228	218	32	32	32	32	574
7	Dobeli	806	800	792	794	787	788	4766
8	Gwadabawa	520	625	420	420	590	394	2969
9	Jambutu	4149	4064	3970	4002	3965	3950	24100
10	Karewa	2232	2232	2232	2232	2210	2210	14348
11	Limawa	329	331	331	338	331	331	1991
12	Luggere	1239	1059	1059	1059	1093	1049	6524
13	Nassarawo	413	399	399	399	399	401	2410
14	Rumde	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Yelwa	456	467	467	468	542	452	2852
16	Adarawo	994	994	994	998	998	398	5976
17	Bako	369	369	292	292	293	295	1910
18	Bole-YoldePate	4034	4034	3862	3862	3819	4067	23678
19	Makama A	920	925	901	909	893	893	5441
20	Makama B	1056	1056	1056	1056	1035	1035	6294
21	Mbamba	895	886	876	876	864	864	5294
22	Mbamoi	606	606	410	410	410	410	2852
23	Namtari	1025	6857	5830	6109	7946	6401	34168
24	Tongo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	39463	42770	39413	42238	41324	37567	

Source: International Organization for Migration, (2017)

Table 5 shows the spatial distribution/common places of abode of IDPs across the Wards in the Study area from January-December 2017. The table shows that the IDPs still prefer fringes of the study area as their common places of abode. Even though there were other reasons such as agricultural purposes and friends and relatives, which accounted for 30%, the major reasons for this just like in

the previous discussion was due to availability and affordability of accommodation (table 5). While the core parts of the study area remain unattracted to the IDPs due to no availability and affordability of accommodation. Even though some of the IDPs have gone back due to improvement in security in their home town but those left behind still lives in the fringes of the town.

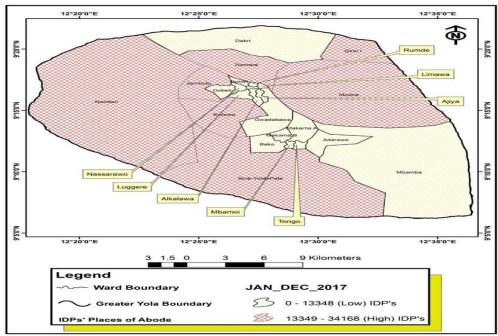


Fig. 4: Distributions/Common Places of Abode of DPs in 2017

Table 6: Spatial Distribution/Common Places of Abode from Jan-Dec 2018

S/NO.	Name of Ward	Jan-Feb	Mar-Apr	May-Jun	Jul-Aug	Sept-Oct	Nov-	TOTAL
		2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	Dec 2018	
1	Dakri	1283	1283	1283	1719	1005	814	7387
2	Damare	3845	3105	4330	3172	3325	4755	22514
3	Girei I	6406	7261	3443	11219	6327	6254	40910
4	Modirei	3658	3660	3403	6702	3362	3866	24651
5	Ajiya	693	703	703	692	692	692	4175
6	Alkalawa	17	32	32	14	14	9	118
7	Dobeli	779	794	794	758	758	758	4641
8	Gwadabawa	465	550	550	569	588	666	3388
9	Jambutu	3835	4075	4107	3565	3379	3434	22395
10	Karewa	2059	2206	2206	2104	2099	2037	12711
11	Limawa	332	345	974	350	350	350	2701
12	Luggere	1641	885	885	959	866	564	5800
13	Nassarawo	375	375	375	380	383	383	2271
14	Rumde	0	0	0	82	82	85	249
15	Yelwa	425	425	563	392	392	392	2589
16	Adarawo	908	879	879	933	901	824	5324
17	Bako	270	270	270	210	121	41	1182
18	Bole-YoldePate	4581	5026	5026	5878	5718	9985	36214
19	Makama A	834	834	834	734	686	643	4556
20	Makama B	1010	1010	1010	1000	984	904	5918
21	Mbamba	910	770	770	712	554	554	4270
22	Mbamoi	400	400	500	338	280	245	2161
23	Namtari	9028	7576	7576	9317	9081	9363	51941
24	Tongo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	43753	42454	40513	51799	41947	47254	

Source: International Organization for Migration, (2018)

Table Shows the spatial distribution/common places of abode of IDPs across the Wards in the Study area from January to December 2018. Still during this period, the majority of the IDPs had their common places of abode at the fringes of the study area. It could be seen on the map that with exception of Dakri and Mbamba which has less population of IDPs compared to the other fringes of the study area, all other parts of the study area have high population of IDPs in the study area. The reason for the low population of IDPs in other parts of the study area compare to the other parts is due availability and affordability of

accommodations which was the same reason in 2015, 2016,2017 as can be seen in the previous discussions. Agricultural purposes and friend and relative were also of some the reasons for the distributions/common places of abode of the IDPs since over 30% of the IDPs were of the opinion that agricultural purposes and friends and relatives were some of the reasons for their choice of common places of abode, but the major reasons are availability and affordability accommodation (over 50%). Fig 5. clearly visualises the common places of abode of IDPs in 2018.

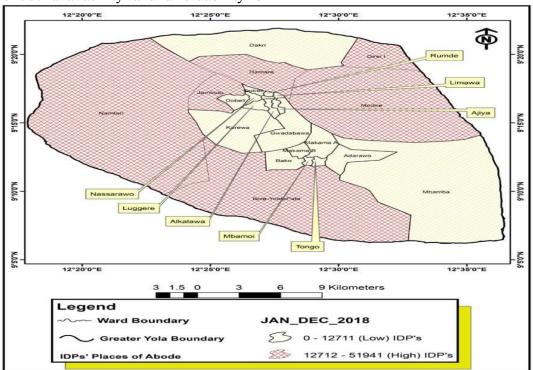


Fig. 5: Spatial Distribution/ Common Places of Abode of IDPs in Study Area in 2018

Table 7: Spatial Distributions/Common Places of Abode of IDPs in Host Communities

Across the Wards in the Study Area in 2019

S/NO.	Name of Ward	Jan-Feb 2019	Mar-Apr 2019	May-Jun 2019	Jul-Aug 2019	Sep-Oct 2019	Nov-Dec 2019	TOTAL
1	Dakri	814	831	825	823	822	820	4935
2	Damare	3266	1989	1894	1892	1988	1885	5255
3	Girei I	10068	5050	5045	5045	5043	5040	14054
4	Modirei	3866	3461	3452	3453	5451	5450	7327
5	Ajiya	191	707	705	705	703	701	898
6	Alkalawa	11	10	9	8	8	7	55
7	Dobeli	185	773	773	771	770	770	958
8	Gwadabawa	135	714	713	132	712	710	309
9	Jambutu	3525	3525	3525	3525	3525	3520	7050
10	Karewa	2042	2042	2042	2040	2040	2040	4084
11	Limawa	394	394	394	392	391	390	788
12	Luggere	307	307	307	307	305	302	614
13	Nassarawo	994	994	994	993	992	990	1988
14	Rumde	105	105	104	104	103	100	210
15	Yelwa	402	402	402	402	400	400	804
16	Adarawo	174	174	172	172	171	170	348
17	Bako	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Bole- YoldePate	9669	9709	9709	9705	9703	9700	19378
19	Makama A	120	604	614	615	6100	604	724
20	Makama B	113	860	865	864	860	860	973
21	Mbamba	98	533	533	533	540	533	631
22	Mbamoi	37	218	218	218	210	210	255
23	Namtari	5355	6417	6417	6417	6419	6419	11772
24	Tongo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	40817	40429	32936	39116	47253	41621	

Source: International Organization for Migration, (2019)

Table 7 shows the spatial distribution/common places of abode of IDPs across the wards in the Study area from January-December 2019. The table shows that the distribution and preferred places of abode of IDPs in 2019 was still the fringes of the study area, which was due availability and affordability of accommodations. However, here Damare, which use to attract high population of IDPs just like the other parts of fringes of the study area

now, has low population of IDPs. The reason for this may be that improvement of security in the northern parts of the state, which was ravaged by Boko-Haram in recent years, has gradually improved as the study area has witnessed a decline in the number of IDPs. Fig 6 shows Visual Presentation of the Distribution/Common Places of Abode of IDPs from January-December 2019.

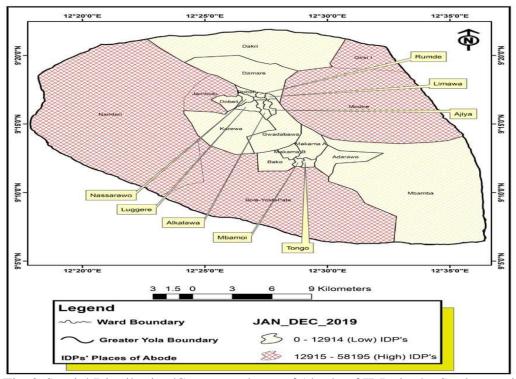


Fig.6: Spatial Distribution/Common places of Abode of IDPs in the Study area in 2019

#### **Conclusion**

The study revealed that IDPs has reasons for been spatially distributed within Greater-Yola with respect to their common places of abode. The reasons among others were availability and affordability. The study also revealed that common places of abode of the IDPs were the fringes (peripheries) of the study area.

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