CITIES IN
TRANSITION

Displacement Urbanisation and the Urgency of Inclusive Policy Reform in Nigeria

A Multi-City Analysis of Protracted Displacement Urbanisation, Settlement Practices and Governance Gaps

CITIES IN

TRANSITION:

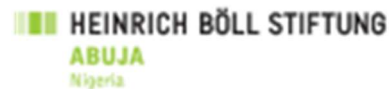## *Displacement Urbanisation and the Urgency of Inclusive Policy Reform in Nigeria*

A Multi-City Analysis of Protracted Displacement Urbanisation, Settlement Practices and Governance Gaps

Rebecca Enobong Roberts, Habitat Unit/ Technical University of Berlin (lead author)
Taibat Lawanson, University of Lagos/ University of Liverpool (co-author)
Philipp Misselwitz, Habitat Unit/ Technical University of Berlin (co-author)

Imprint

Acknowledgements

List of Abbreviations

AAWG – Assessment and Analysis Working Group
AfDB – African Development Bank
AWG – Access Working Group
CDA – Community Development Association
CMCoord – Civil-Military Coordination Forum
CWG – Cash Working Group
DTM – Displacement Tracking Matrix
EU-ECHO – The European Commission's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations Department
GBV – Gender-Based Violence
GCF – Green Climate Fund
GIPSID – UN-Habitat Global Institutional Plan on Solutions to Internal Displacement
GIZ – Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Corporation for International Cooperation)
HC – Humanitarian Coordinator
HBS – Heinrich Böll Stiftung
HCT – Humanitarian Country Team
HCWG – Humanitarian Communication Working Group
HHT – Humanitarian Hubs Taskforce
IDMC – Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
IDP – Internally Displaced Person
INGO – International Non-Governmental Organisation
IOM – International Organization for Migration
ISCG – Inter-Sector Coordination Group
JIPS – Joint IDP Profiling Service
LASEMA – Lagos State Emergency Management Agency
LASURA – Lagos State Urban Renewal Agency
LASSRA – Lagos State Residents Registration Agency
LGA – Local Government Area
LGCWG – Local Government Coordination Working Group
LOTs – LOTS Charity Foundation

MoEPB – Ministry of Economic Planning & Budget (Lagos State)
MoH – Ministry of Health
MoWA – Ministry of Women Affairs (Lagos State)
MUCA – Migration, Urbanisation & Conflict in Africa
NCFRMI – National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons
NEMA – National Emergency Management Agency
NHCC – Nigerian Humanitarian Coordination Committee
NHF – Nigeria Humanitarian Fund
NIMC – National Identity Management Commission
NIN – National Identification Number
NPC – National Population Commission
NSISF – Nigerian Slum/Informal Settlement Federation
OCHA – United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals
SEMA – State Emergency Management Agency
TUB – Technische Universität Berlin
UN-Habitat – United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNDP – United Nations Development Programme
UNHAS – United Nations Humanitarian Air Service
UNHCR – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF – United Nations Children's Fund
USAID – United States Agency for International Development
WB – World Bank
WFP – World Food Programme
WHO – World Health Organization

Table of Contents

1. Executive Summary

Nigeria is home to **approx.** 4.5 m internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 7.9 m people in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 2024). Nigeria's national frameworks, international assistance, and funding remain focused on resettlement and encampment in the Northeast, even though only about 40% of IDPs are captured in this context (Akinrolie et al., 2022). The majority, nearly 60%, have migrated to cities across Nigeria, where they remain invisible, unrecognised and excluded from formal systems of protection (Olarenwaju et al., 2019; Bryant et al., 2024).

Where **60% of IDPs avoid camps** and adopt self-solutions through urban migration, there is a critical lack of knowledge about **post-conflict mobility** and the **urban arrival of IDPs in Nigeria**. This gap is marked by insufficient data, the absence of clear definitions for urban IDPs, and limited understanding of their distinct needs for services and protection compared to non-displaced urban populations. This knowledge deficit undermines effective and inclusive policy and humanitarian responses, as the national government and its aid partners have yet to fully embrace the realities of the **mass migration of IDPs into cities**.

Displacement urbanisation, the rapid inflow of displaced groups into cities, reshapes urban space, fuels informal settlement growth, and strains already fragile resources. This **rapid informality** threatens sustainable and resilient urban futures by deepening poverty, widening socio-economic gaps, and exposing marginalised communities to climate risks such as flooding and heatwaves. Tackling this requires **integrated, community-led and participatory strategies** that strengthen equity, services, and climate adaptation in the urban fabric (Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS), 2023). Little is known about their urban realities: how the city reshapes them, and how, in turn, they shape urbanisation.

2. Mapping the Critical Unknown: Displacement as Threat to Resilience

Across ten Nigerian cities, this study mapped displacement urbanisation within the wider context of urban resilience. The analysis integrates geospatial data with social and environmental factors to identify vulnerabilities and guide interventions. Using base maps of infrastructure and ecosystems, overlaid with information on hazards, exposed assets, and settlement patterns, the mapping reveals how displacement-driven urbanisation amplifies risks to urban life and undermines the capacity of cities to withstand shocks and stresses. The report presents findings from a seven-year collaboration between the University of Lagos, Technische Universität Berlin, and civil society partners, with its deep dive and launch supported by Heinrich Böll Stiftung Abuja. Data are drawn from participatory mapping in ten Nigerian cities since 2019, with an in-depth focus on 67 IDP settlements in Lagos and on the Lagos–Ogun State fringes (Roberts & Lawanson, 2023; UNILAG–TU Berlin field data, 2022–2025).

The research followed an experimental approach, prioritising highly urbanising cities where displacement flows intersect with rapid growth. Mapping began in 2018, when fieldwork in Lagos uncovered clusters of displaced Nigerians living in makeshift enclaves outside any official camp system (Roberts & Okanya, 2018). This discovery launched a three-phase programme:

Phase I (2018–2020) – Lagos pilot→ urban scan (**Ibadan, Ogun, Onitsha, Port Harcourt, Abuja, Kaduna**)

Phase II (2021–2024) – MUCA expansion → northern cities (**Jos, Maiduguri, Lokoja**)

Phase III (2021–2025) – Urban Lab deep dive → culminating in this **final report**

2.1. Objectives: Building Pathways for Durable Solutions in Urban Context

This study maps the migration of vulnerable populations displaced from northern Nigeria into cities, tracing circulation trajectories, transition points, and the factors driving onward mobility. It examines how displaced groups resettle and integrate, and how these dynamics shape emerging forms of displacement urbanisation, with implications for migrants, urban resilience, and national displacement governance. A further objective is to translate community-led evidence into targeted interventions through a gender-responsive, rights-based framework and policy roadmap for durable solutions, aligned with the UN-Habitat Global Plan of Action on Solutions to Internal Displacement (GIPSID, 2023).

2.2. Methodology for Co-creation and Local Knowledge

Grounded in participatory-action research, spatial ethnography, and citizen science, this project aligns with UN-Habitat's GIPSID framework and the JIPS (2021) joint-analysis approach, recognising IDPs as experts of their own challenges. Methods combined qualitative and geospatial tools, with deeper analysis in Lagos, including mapping workshops, household surveys, transect walks, interviews, and service audits (see Ceola & Roberts, 2024). Community researchers—103 IDPs and 42 members of the Nigerian Slum/Informal Settlements Federation—were trained in KoboToolbox, GPS, and interview ethics, ensuring fair compensation and skills transfer. Data were validated through community feedback and mapped onto GIS to expose what official datasets obscure, producing policy-ready insights for the inclusive-urbanisation framework. Engagement spanned federal and state agencies (Budget and Planning, Population Commission, NCFRMI, Intersos, INGO Forum, Borno, Ogun, Anambra, Lagos), alongside international partners (UNDP, NRC, JIPS, IOM). Finally, joint action-planning with IDPs translated evidence into practical, community-led recommendations. Despite challenges of access, digital fluency, and participation fatigue, mitigation strategies ensured robust outputs. The process followed an equity-first ethic of co-creation, embedding mutual learning and informed consent, and feeding directly into the inclusive-urbanisation framework detailed later in this report[1].

---

[1] *Throughout this report, the term "terrorist groups" refers to Boko Haram, its splinter factions such as ISWAP and Ansaru, and other armed groups responsible for violent attacks in northern Nigeria. The term is used for analytical clarity given the evolving security landscape and multiple actors involved.*

2.3. Characteristics of Displacement Urbanisation

Across ten cities, **3,892 household surveys** were completed with **Lagos alone accounting for 28%**. Respondents overwhelmingly identified **terrorist insurgency** as the primary driver of displacement—especially in **Maiduguri, Jos, and Lokoja**—followed by **ethno-religious unrest, climate shocks,** and **farmer–herder conflicts** concentrated in **Kaduna and Lokoja**. Major displacement waves occurred between **2009 and 2014**, with **continued arrivals through 2022**. Together, these overlapping crises have produced **multiple displacements per household**, creating long-term urban pressures and shaping the demographic realities now visible across Nigeria's cities.

Displacement urbanisation is bidirectional

People uprooted by terrorism, ethno-religious and political conflict, disasters, or climate change adapt to new urban environments while simultaneously reshaping cities through their participation in labour markets, housing, and informal settlements. This co-production also produces new vulnerabilities: IDPs face systematic marginalisation that requires urban planning responses aimed at integration and equity. Understanding displacement urbanisation therefore means recognising how cities both **receive** IDP migrants and, at times, **produce** displacement themselves, creating complex local realities that demand data-driven, integrated support for displaced populations and vulnerable urban poor (Lawanson, 2023).

Mobility Patterns and Urban Impacts

Displacement mobility is multi-stage and circular. Eighty-seven percent of respondents faced two to three secondary displacements before any inter-state move, and 92% first relocated within their home state, cycling through nearby LGAs. Intermediate stops—Jos, Kano, Kaduna, Yola, Maiduguri, Mubi, Bauchi, Sokoto, Gombe, Lokoja—rarely offered safety or work, prompting onward migration. Abuja often served as a sorting hub; when stabilisation failed, migrants moved farther south to Benin City, Onitsha, or Port Harcourt, with many—especially farmers—maintaining north–south agricultural trade links. As one trader put it: *"I supply tomatoes by the truckload, bringing them down and redistributing them here—the business is good."*

Mobility remains circular

69% circulate between north and south; 49% of assisted returnees and climate-affected IDPs moved up to four times between 2019–2023; seasonal workers travel three times annually; family visits occur once a year. Yet most urban arrivals are now permanent, as violence, curfews, joblessness, and weak resettlement undermine return. Cities absorb the housing, labour, and service pressures of this circulation, producing a displacement–urbanisation trap with no durable solutions in sight.

Avoidance of camps is widespread

79% had never entered one; of those who had, 89% left due to overcrowding, food diversion, rivalries, or sexual violence, calling camps **"places that strip people of dignity."** Urban arrivals peaked 2014–2018, with continued inflows through 2022. By the time of study, many households had lived in displacement for six to ten years, making urban displacement a structural, long-term reality.

Demographics and Settlement Patterns

Women comprise 45% of households, children under 14 are 33%, young men 22%, and female-headed households 40%, with the highest concentrations in Lagos, Kaduna, Abuja, and Ibadan. Settlement falls into three main types: concealed arrival shelters, street homelessness, and enclave neighbourhoods in Onitsha, Otta, Abeokuta, and Ibadan.

Before displacement, only **11% of women** earned income compared to **79% of men.** After migration, **52% now work**—peaking in Lagos, Port Harcourt, Onitsha, and Ibadan—while northern cities show the lowest female participation due to conservative norms and limited markets. Integration barriers persist: IDP women rarely join host-community meetings, though labour-exchange partnerships in Onitsha, Ibadan, Otta, and Abeokuta have boosted incomes and cohesion.

Risks and Livelihoods

Risks remain severe. Women, widows, youth, and persons with disabilities face GBV, exclusion, and marginalisation. Livelihoods shifted sharply: 89% farmed before displacement, but only 39% still do so, mostly on rented or share-cropped land. Despite 69% reporting some income, extreme poverty is near-universal, with many families unable to feed under-fives twice daily. Food insecurity is less acute in Onitsha, Ibadan, and Lagos where farming continuity persists and women's labour participation is highest. Remittances now surpass farming income in some areas: most income-earning IDPs send weekly or monthly transfers, working long hours in crowded housing and risk-prone jobs while passing back urban know-how that supports petty commerce in rural communities.

Policy Gaps and Exclusion

Interviews and stakeholder dialogues expose a widening policy vacuum. Humanitarian and government frameworks remain tied to the Northeast camp paradigm, overlooking that most IDPs live in cities. Federal and state governments lack clear mandates or resources; one Lagos official admitted: *"We cannot plan for what we do not know."*

The aborted census excluded IDPs in cities, keeping displacement off planning radars and tying donor funding to Northeast-focused narratives. International assistance remains concentrated in Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa, while arrival cities such as Lagos, Abuja, Ibadan, and Port Harcourt receive little or no allocation. Responses are fragmented, with LGAs, civil society, and host communities acting in silos. Without recognition, urban IDPs risk permanent exclusion from education, healthcare, housing, and civic rights, with long-term implications for stability and development.

As one stakeholder summarised: *"IDP migrants are not temporarily urban visible, but integral to Nigeria's urbanisation—yet remain unrecognised, unprotected, and structurally excluded. Holistic data is essential for integrative urban planning."*

Missed Opportunities

Despite constraints, IDPs bring skills, labour, remittances, and social capital that could strengthen urban economies if integrated into city planning rather than treated solely as humanitarian burdens. Evidence points to the need for city-led integration frameworks, rights-based tenure and service reforms, gender-responsive planning, and multi-level coordination across federal, state, local, and community actors.

2.4. Evidence Snapshot: Displacement Urbanisation

- **Drivers:** Terrorist insurgency (esp. Maiduguri, Jos, Lokoja), ethno-religious unrest, climate shocks, and farmer–herder conflicts (Kaduna, Lokoja).
- **Multi-stage Mobility:** 87% faced 2–3 displacements before inter-state moves; 92% first relocated within home states. Abuja acts as a sorting hub; onward flows to Benin City, Onitsha, PH.
- **Circular Flows:** 69% circulate between north–south; seasonal work, return visits, and trade sustain mobility, but urban arrivals are now largely permanent.
- **Camps Avoided:** 79% never entered; 89% exited due to overcrowding, diversion, rivalries, or GBV—calling camps "places that strip dignity."
- **Demographics:** Women 45%, children under 14 are 33%, female-headed households 40%. Settlement forms: concealed shelters, street homelessness, enclave neighbourhoods.
- **Livelihood Shifts:** From 89% farming pre-displacement to 39% now. Female labour participation rises (52% in Lagos, PH, Onitsha, Ibadan). Remittances surpass farming income.
- **Urban Pressures:** Rising rents, overstretched schools, clinics, and water systems. Cities absorb long-term displacement with no durable solutions.
- **Policy Vacuum:** Census exclusion and Northeast donor bias (>90% of funds) leave Lagos, Abuja, Ibadan, PH underserved. Responses fragmented across LGAs, civil society, and host communities.
- **Missed Opportunities:** IDPs bring skills, labour, remittances, and social capital that could strengthen urban economies if integrated into planning.

This multi-city analysis now transitions to a **Lagos deep-dive**, where displacement urbanisation, economic adaptation, and governance challenges converge most sharply, offering lessons for national replication.

3. Spotlight Lagos: Nigeria's Largest Site of Displacement Urbanisation

The Lagos study employed a rights-based, participatory methodology that combined community co-mapping with citizen science. Enumerators were drawn from both displaced and host populations — **60 percent IDPs and 40 percent host-community members** — selected on the basis of trust, proximity, and digital fluency. Tools were piloted in local dialects, anonymised, and GPS-tagged to safeguard participants while systematically recording settlement layouts, demographics, conflict histories, land access, livelihoods, and governance structures.

Two Steps Deep Dive

Phase 3a (2018–2023): Mapping Lagos Communities
The Lagos scan revealed long-term settlement, large and diverse populations, and layered vulnerabilities. Phase 3a examined **45 communities across ten Lagos LGAs** (Ikeja, Kosofe, Shomolu, Eti-Osa, Ifako-Ijaiye, Badagry, Amuwo-Odofin, Ibeju-Lekki, Ikorodu, and Alimosho) and **four Ogun State fringes** (Ifo, Abeokuta North, Obafemi Owode, and Ado-Odo/Ota). Sampling drew on selective referrals and community entry points, uncovering hidden enclaves across the metropolitan corridor.

Phase 3b (2025): Deep-Dive Case Studies
Building on this foundation, Phase 3b extended coverage to **22 additional settlements**, bringing the total to **67 communities** across Lagos and the Ogun fringes. This represents the most detailed portrait of self-settled IDPs in Nigeria to date. Profiling was adapted to each enclave's realities, blending door-to-door surveys, GPS transects, key-informant mapping, and spatial ethnography. The process captured diverse groups differentiated by religion, ethnicity, livelihoods, and settlement-tenure status.

3.1. Methodological Features

The study underscored that **displacement urbanisation is not one-size-fits-all**. Lagos accommodates rural-to-urban farmers, inter-city traders, cross-border migrants, and climate-affected households distributed across enclaves shaped by ethnicity, religion, and tenure. A multi-method design — including household surveys, GPS transects, ethnography, and multi-stakeholder consultations — generated a dataset relevant for humanitarian agencies, urban planners, civil society actors, and service providers. A strong participatory ethic guided the process. **IDP-led mapping, validation workshops, and democratic case selection based on severity of need and representational capacity** ensured that evidence remained locally grounded and policy-ready.

3.2. Outputs and Evidence Base

The Lagos mapping generated an integrated citywide evidence base for:

- **Action planning and actor mapping**
- **Framework development and policy engagement**
- **Co-produced recommendations for urban inclusion**

The dataset tracked:

- Displacement and migration trajectories
- Arrival timelines
- Shelter and tenure systems
- Settlement typologies
- Sub-population vulnerabilities
- Gender-differentiated risks
- Community governance structures
- Livelihood patterns and integration barriers

3.3. Population Demography and Post-Displacement Circulations

Most residents of surveyed Lagos IDP communities fled during the **2011–2014 terrorism surge**, with smaller trickles between **2003–2008** and a **new wave between 2020–2023** driven by farmer–herder violence and climate shocks.

- **Origin States:** Borno dominates, followed by Adamawa, Plateau, Bauchi, Yobe, Zamfara, and Sokoto; smaller flows from Niger, Taraba, Katsina, and Kebbi.
- **Socio-economic Profiles:** Predominantly rural farmers now surviving through precarious urban informalities.
- **Mobility:** 87% avoided camps entirely; 72% experienced up to five relocations before Lagos. Movements were circular, shaped by repeated violence, hostility, and failed resettlement.

Timeline of displacement

- 2003–2008: Early displacement, limited movement
- 2009–2011: Escalation of terrorism → first major wave
- 2011–2014: Initial arrivals in Lagos → onset of displacement urbanisation
- 2015–2019: Peak arrivals after multiple relocations
- 2020–2023: New waves from repeat displacement, instability

Pathways

- Kano → Jos → Sokoto → Kaduna → Abuja → Lagos
- Yola → Mubi → Makurdi → Abuja → Lagos
- Damaturu → Maiduguri → Calabar → Lagos
- Bauchi → Abuja → Lokoja → Lagos

Transit Experiences

Abuja was often hostile, described as "specifically designed to discourage IDPs… the worst place I went as an IDP." Kaduna and Abuja emerged as **key hubs** (sorting and filtering points), while Damaturu, Maiduguri, Yola, and Mubi served as **temporary recovery stops**. Calabar offered limited refugee facilities. The Abuja–Lagos leg marked the decisive southward move after failed resettlement elsewhere.

Mobility Patterns

Journeys relied heavily on word-of-mouth networks and informal support. Lagos provided no formal assistance but became the **last resort** for safety, livelihoods, and relative stability.

Circular Movements

- Assisted returnees & climate-affected IDPs: up to four trips annually (2019–2023).
- Itinerant livelihood seekers: three trips annually for seasonal trade.
- Family-based returnees: once annually to maintain kinship and cultural obligations.

   "I have been displaced since 2006, moving from place to place without finding any solution. For us, movement is about survival, but it is impossible to disconnect from home." (Respondent, Badagry, project field note[2], 2022)

---

[2] Project field notes, *Mapping IDP Migrants Settlement* study, 2022.

3.4. Arrival, Settlement, and Tenure Patterns

Arrival Dynamics:

New arrivals rely on kin, neighbours, or faith contacts for temporary shelter, but resources rarely last beyond a few nights. Most shift quickly into rough sleeping without cash for rent.

- **Visible phase:** Pavements, market stalls, bus stops near day-labour zones → exposure to harassment, theft, police raids.
- **Hidden phase:** Unfinished buildings, abandoned houses brokered by guards/IDPs → privacy but little security.
- **Entrenched cycles:** Families alternating between both forms for months, cut off from income and kin.

Gendered Risks:

- Men cluster openly under bridges and bus parks.
- Women conceal themselves in half-built structures, shopfronts, alcoves — "arriving at dusk, disappearing before dawn" to avoid assault.
- Widespread reports of sexual violence, coercive 'protection,' and stigma, especially against widows and unaccompanied women.

Settlement Locations: Margins, waterfronts, roadside niches, abandoned plots, landfills, and vacant yards. Populations range from **121 (Ojo-Koro/Irede Island)** to **25,000 (Ajah)** and **100,000 (Badagry)**. Roughly 70% of sites host 2,000–12,000 residents across 15 Lagos LGAs and Ogun LGAs (Ado-Odo/Ota, Ifo).

Tenure Forms:

- Paid occupancy (76%) via informal rentals and brokers (Ifako-Ijaiye, Marwa-Lekki, Ojodu, Mile 12).
- Caretaker deals (19%) exchanging security/watchman roles for shelter (Gbagada Canal, Bariga).
- Benevolence access (14%) via land donations from Obas, churches, or absentee landlords (Ajah, Egbeda-Idimu, Abraham Adesanya).

All are **extra-legal** with constant eviction threats.

Settlement Layouts:

- 57% mono-ethnic Hausa–Kanuri compounds
- 28% mixed Christian–Muslim areas
- 14% integrated quarters

Clustering supports pooled savings, cultural familiarity, and religious anchorage.

Shelter Typologies: Shacks, rented enclave rooms, squats on drains/dumps, container homes, abandoned vehicles (Egbeda, Ogun LGAs), landfill sites.

Durability: Most sites on floodplains or polluted industrial zones. 62% of households have lived in place for 10+ years, the remainder 6–10, signalling **lock-in**.

Community Administration: Seriki leaders, women's reps, youth coordinators, imams/pastors maintain registries of new arrivals for headcounts, tracing, and vetting.

3.5. Household Profiles and Barriers to Integration

- **Household Structures:** Christian households = 5–7 members (up to 12 including orphans); Muslim compounds = 15+ members, often polygamous.
- **Education:** Primary = highest attainment; secondary rare; higher absent. Literacy highest among Borno/Adamawa adults, lowest among Zamfara/Sokoto/Bauchi/Gombe women.
- **Gender Gaps:** Early marriage, cultural norms, displacement turbulence → severe female exclusion.

Socio-economic Hotspots:

- *Badagry:* refuge for abused women, near-zero incomes.
- *Ibeju-Lekki:* industrial evictions, child marriage, maternal deaths, malaria deaths under age 5.
- *Other hotspots:* Alimosho, Ifako-Ijaiye, Kosofe.

Urban Labour Exclusion:

- No capital, no networks, no safety nets.
- Men's farming/herding skills were poorly absorbed; women had low prior experience.
- Lowest female participation: Badagry, Ifako-Ijaiye; highest: Eti-Osa, Ikeja.

Livelihood Trajectories:

1. **Street begging:** entry survival strategy, especially women/children.
2. **Petty trade:** food/water sales, small kiosks, sewing; faith-based cooperatives provide pooled savings.
3. Informal labour and waste-picking became fallback strategies after the 2020 ban on commercial motorcycles, locally known as 'okada,' in Lagos sharply reduced incomes (see *The Guardian Nigeria*[3], 2020). Plastic waste-picking (≈ ₦80–100/kg, ≈ €0.61) and casual labour such as washing, offloading, or errands now provide marginal survival options, underscoring how survival strategies are largely self-reliant.

---

[3] The Guardian Nigeria. (2020, February 5). *The ban on okada in Lagos State*. Retrieved from https://guardian.ng/opinion/the-ban-on-okada-in-lagos-state

Christian women often transition more quickly through church-based networks, yet external shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the okada ban have repeatedly undermined these fragile gains, collapsing already precarious incomes (Otaigbe[4], 2023).).

Key insight: **Households & Gender:** Smaller Christian and larger Muslim households, women facing severe exclusion due to low literacy, early marriage, and cultural barriers.
Hotspots of Vulnerability: Badagry (destitute women), Ibeju-Lekki (evictions, child marriage, maternal deaths), with further clusters in Alimosho, Ifako-Ijaiye, and Kosofe.
Labour Exclusion: Agrarian male skills and women's low prior work experience are poorly absorbed in Lagos; female labour participation is lowest in Badagry/Ifako-Ijaiye and highest in Eti-Osa/Ikeja.
Precarious Livelihoods: Survival depends on unstable-casual labour; church networks help some Christian women, but shocks like COVID-19 and the okada ban collapse fragile incomes.

3.6. Joint Analysis & Seven Interlocking Barriers

Community-led validation (44 reps, 69% women, 22 settlements) applied to the **JIPS Engagement Canvas**. By Phase 4, participants reached the **Collaborate/Lead** stage, correcting misinterpretations and ranking needs via Scorecard (JIPS 2021).

Barrier Ranking[5]: The ranking scale, based on how IDPs themselves order their needs, provides a community-led evidence base that enables humanitarian actors to prioritize interventions, coordinate resources, and monitor progress (JIPS, 2021).

- 🔴 High impact = solve first
- 🟡 Required = interconnected needs
- 🟢 Moderate impact = phased later

As one participant at the IDP Framework Workshop in Lagos (10 February 2025) explained, *'Unless you have been displaced and lived like we have lived, you will never be intelligent enough to propose solutions for us.'* This insistence on lived experience echoes broader findings

---

[4] Otaigbe, E. K. (2023). *Gender Dynamics in the Management Care of Internally Displaced Persons: The Boko Haram Insurgency* (Doctoral dissertation, Walden University).

[5] Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS). (2021). *The JIPS Essential Toolkit: Guidance for collaborative and evidence-based profiling.* Geneva: JIPS. Retrieved from https://jet.jips.org/

that durable solutions and displacement policies often fail when they exclude the perspectives of the displaced outside contemporary setting, especially self-resettling urban migrants (see Beyani[6], 2013; Ekezie et al[7]., 2022; JIPS, 2021).

3.6.1. Seven Interlocking Barriers to Integration

1 **Invisibility (90%)**: exclusion from registers, social protection, COVID relief, police reports.
2 **Conflict & Social Cohesion (80%)**: ethnic/religious clashes, land disputes, stigma, exclusion.
3 **Gendered Vulnerability (75%)**: GBV, maternal risks, exclusion; survival sex, child marriage, trafficking.
4 **Documentation Gaps:** missing NIN, LASSRA, birth certs, voter cards, school records → civic exclusion, statelessness risk.
5 **Livelihood Fragility:** street begging → petty trade → okada/waste-picking; excluded from formal labour via KYE rules.
6 **Cross-Cutting Risks:** widows, disabled, orphans, youth, children born in displacement, circumstantial minorities.
7 **Structural Exclusion:** absence of federal/state/local support → long-term precarity.

3.7. Key Takeaway: Lagos as Nigeria's Epicentre of Displacement Urbanisation

- **Largest Site:** 67 mapped communities across 10 Lagos LGAs + Ogun fringes.
- **Protracted Reality:** 6–10+ years in place; >3 million IDPs remain uncounted in registers/plans.
- **Layered Vulnerabilities:** tenure insecurity, gendered exclusion, fragmented services, livelihood fragility, data gaps, recurrent mobility.
- **Urban Footprint:** settlements spread across floodplains, landfills, and industrial fringes.
- **Governance Gaps:** no urban mandate; donor funding still camp/Northeast focused.
- **Community Clustering:** 22 settlements → 10 pilot sites selected via joint analysis.
- **Top Priorities:** cash, mobile health, on-site birth registration, safe spaces for women/girls, youth training, interfaith inclusion.

Implications: Displacement urbanisation in Lagos is a **structural governance challenge**. IDPs must be recognised as **long-term residents and co-producers of the city**, requiring city-led, rights-based, and gender-responsive solutions linking humanitarian action, urban planning, and social protection.

[6] Beyani, C. (2013). *Protection of the right to seek and obtain asylum under the African human rights system* (Vol. 12). Martinus Nijhoff Publishers.

[7] Ekezie, W. (2022). Resilience actions of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) living in camp-like settings: a Northern Nigeria case study. *Journal of Migration and Health*, *6*, 100115.

4. Humanitarian–Migration–Urbanisation Governance Loopholes in Nigeria: Resource & Capacity Gaps

Framework development combined **policy reviews, grey literature, and state-level interviews (e.g., LASEMA)** to map Nigeria's **humanitarian–migration–urbanisation governance gaps**. Findings expose:

- **Overlapping federal–state mandates**
- **Northeast-focused donor bias**
- **Lack of urban response frameworks** for self-settled IDPs
- **No clear definition of IDPs as forced migrants** in national policy or IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) → self-settled urban IDPs remain *statistically invisible*.

A **UNILAG-TUB-JIPS–UNDP validation workshop** with federal ministries, Lagos state agencies, Borno advisors, INGOs (NRC, Intersos), UN agencies (UNHCR, OCHA), donor partners (EU-ECHO, USAID), and civil society actors confirmed **systemic blind spots in urban displacement governance**.

Key Gaps Identified

Underfunded Plans → Food, health, education, and shelter programs stall for lack of resources.

Fragmented Coordination → Federal, state, and city agencies operate in silos; funding remains Northeast-bound.

Urban Blind Spot → *"We can't plan for people who are neither counted nor known."* — no urban IDP registry, no city mandate.

Forced Returns → IDPs pushed back to unsafe areas face secondary displacement, fatalities.

Security Tensions → Rising host–IDP conflicts in overstretched LGAs; humanitarian access shrinking.

Weak Migration Governance → Policies exist but lack enforcement; IOM's DTM doesn't track **self-settled urban IDPs** as a distinct category.

Political Bias → Camped IDPs prioritized; urban IDPs structurally excluded from budgets, plans, and data.

Data Invisibility → No disaggregated data for urban IDPs → planning paralysis at city, LGA, and state levels.

State Capacity Gaps → Arrival states lack legal mandates, budgets, or technical capacity for response.

4.1 Actor Mapping & Governance Layers

Layer	Gap	Implication	Consequence
Federal Ministries	IDP Policy (2021) lacks legal mandate; urban IDPs unacknowledged	No federal budget lines for urban forced migration; return-focused politics dominate	Urban IDPs excluded from federal interventions & social protection
States of Origin	No cross-state coordination or liaison offices in Lagos	Lost records (school, health, ID) remain unreplaced; displaced citizens untracked	IDPs cut off from services, education, voting rights
Arrival States (e.g., Lagos)	No legal or budgetary mandate for IDP inclusion	Ministries operate without data, plans, or integration frameworks	Ad hoc, NGO-dependent responses; no urban upgrading or service delivery
LGAs & CDAs	No training, registry, or funding allocation for IDPs	Informal gatekeepers impose fees or deny access	Tenure insecurity, exclusion from local planning
International Donors	Emergency-driven, Northeast-focused funding architecture; no recognition of self-settled IDPs as forced migrants	Urban forced migration absent from appeals, donor frameworks, pooled funds → no urban programming tools	INGOs lack mandates, budgets, or multi-year funding for urban responses
Faith-Based Actors	Siloed, volunteer-dependent aid models; no pooled funding or training	Fragmented, uneven, religion-tied services; no trauma-informed systems	Burnout, duplication, exclusion of minorities or less visible IDP groups

4.2. Implications

- **Policy Vacuum:** Lack of legal recognition for urban IDPs as *forced migrants* → humanitarian actors default to rural/camp models.

- **Budgetary Paralysis:** No urban budget lines at federal or state levels → cities rely on overstretched NGOs.

- **Planning Blind Spots:** Census exclusion + IOM's narrow DTM scope → no data for city planners, donors, or service agencies.
- **Donor Misalignment:** Funding flows tied to Northeast emergencies block urban integration programs.
- **Return Bias:** Origin-state politics prioritise unsafe returns over arrival-city investments.

4.3. Consequences

- **Invisible Populations:** 60% of Nigeria's 4.5M IDPs self-settled; Lagos alone hosts >3M (victim registry, 2024).
- **Chronic Urban Exclusion:** IDPs denied education, health, housing, and livelihood support in arrival cities.
- **Security Strain:** Host–IDP tensions rise as cities absorb unplanned influxes without resources or coordination.
- **Perpetual Displacement:** Failed return programs + forced evictions trigger *secondary and tertiary displacement*.
- **Humanitarian Gaps:** Women, children, and disabled IDPs fall through cracks of emergency-only aid models.
- **Unsustainable Models:** Northeast-centric, camp-focused humanitarianism ignores urbanisation realities shaping displacement.

4.4. Key Takeaway

Nigeria faces a **hidden urban displacement crisis**. Without **legal definitions, disaggregated data, or urban mandates**, millions of self-settled IDPs remain outside humanitarian budgets, censuses, and service plans. Current **emergency-driven, Northeast-focused funding models**—reinforced by national migration governance —IOM's failure to classify urban IDPs as forced migrants—leave arrival cities like Lagos without protection, demanding **urgent governance reforms** linking humanitarian action, urban planning, and social protection into one coherent framework.

5. Toward Durable Solutions: Framework for Inclusion

The Lagos deep-dive shows internal displacement in Nigeria is no longer a temporary crisis but a **structural urban reality** requiring **government-led, community-anchored, rights-based frameworks**. Over **3 million self-settled IDPs**live in Lagos, **62% displaced for over a decade**, yet remain **absent from census counts, donor models, and state plans**.The **Framework for Inclusion**, co-developed with **22 communities action-planning workshops**, draws on **UN-Habitat's GIPSID**, the **Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement**, **Migration Governance**, and **UNHCR's urban response criteria** to deliver a **five-pillar, people-in-a-place action plan** for durable solutions.

Key Goals

- Recognise **IDP urban migrants** as a special category of concern, similar to refugee migrants.
- Integrate **self-resettlement** into the **national durable solutions framework** based on existing realities.
- Shift from **northeast encampment relief** to **IDP-led, city-driven, rights-based integration**.
- **Enumerate IDPs** wherever they live for planning and budgeting.
- Embed **urban self-resettlement** into **national, state, and LGA budgets**.
- Support **social cohesion** through multi-stakeholder alliances.
- Prevent **long-term exclusion** fueling insurgency recruitment, trafficking, poverty traps, and instability.
- Integrate **sub-vulnerable groups** (children, youth, elderly, women).
- Deliver **gender-sensitive, area-based, multi-level planning** linking community safety with city governance.

5.1 Strategic Lens: People-in-a-Place Approach

This framework links **IDP vulnerabilities** with **place-based risks** to design **locally grounded, durable solutions** for displaced populations and host communities.

- **Protracted Displacement & Vulnerabilities:** gendered exclusion, skills mismatch, age/disability risks, widowhood, minority status, legal invisibility.
- **Place-Based Risks:** resource gaps, policy–legal voids, insecure tenure, environmental hazards, hostile urban policies, rising social tensions.

5.2. Core Objectives

- **Prevent & Mitigate Exclusion:** Tackle gender inequality, documentation loss, and tenure insecurity as structural barriers.

- **Foster Area-Based Resilience:** Improve settlement safety, services, and livelihoods; reduce host–IDP tensions.

- **Institutionalise Gender-Sensitive Planning:** Embed women's safety, leadership, priorities across design, implementation, monitoring.

- **Integrate People & Place:** Link rights, social protection, and community upgrading to secure tenure, infrastructure, and civic inclusion—or plan safe resettlement where needed.

5.3. Through Inclusive Urban Governance

Embedding **self-urban resettlement** into **urban budgets, humanitarian financing, and capacity-building systems regionalises** humanitarian governance while treating **IDPs as active participants** shaping community protection and solutions. **Integration into host communities** counters stigma, fosters **cohesive, inclusive neighbourhoods**, and equips **city governments** with capacity to manage **migration pressures, urban growth, and fiscal stress** through **evidence-based planning** and **multi-stakeholder collaboration**This shifts displacement responses from **emergency relief** toward **development-oriented urban solutions** aligned with **city growth agendas**. Locally tailored responses require **partnerships between municipalities, civil society, national governments, and international agencies**, embedding **IDP mobility and durable solutions** within **housing, infrastructure, and poverty reduction programs**. Linking **humanitarian aid, development, and peacebuilding**, this partnership approach combines **better data collection, increased agency and choice, gender-sensitive, community-led planning,** and **faith-based first responders** under a dual **people-and-place lens**, reframing IDPs as **partners in resilient, inclusive cities** rather than burdens in **camp-based, Northeast-focused models**.

6. From Planning to Action: Governance, Coordination & Financing Durable Solutions

The **UNILAG–TUB–JIPS–UNDP Nigeria workshops (2022–2023)** mapped the full humanitarian governance chain, revealing why **urban IDP self-resettlers remain invisible** and how **mandates, budgets, and coordination** must pivot toward **durable solutions**.
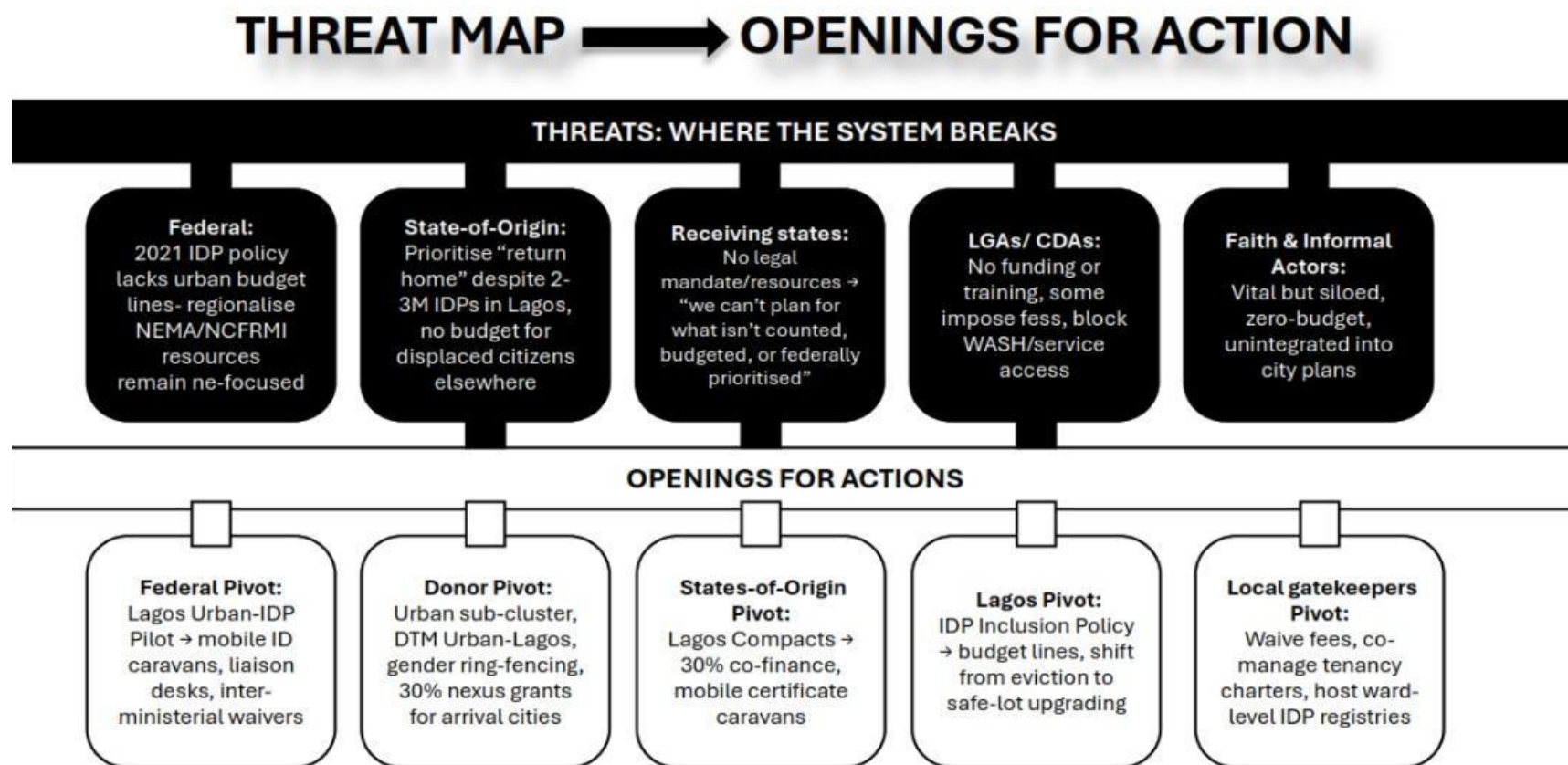

Figure 6: System Gaps and Action Pivots: From Threats to Durable Solutions.

6.1. System Gaps and Action Pivots: Lagos as a Pilot Case

Using **Lagos as a pilot city**, this analysis maps **urban displacement governance gaps** across **federal, state, local, donor, and informal actors** while identifying **action pivots** replicable in other urban centres (*see Figure 5*).

- **Federal:** *2021 IDP Policy* omits urban budget lines; **NEMA/NCFRMI** funds remain NE-focused.
- **States of Origin:** Prioritise "return home" despite **2–3M IDPs** in Lagos; no external budgets for displaced citizens.
- **Receiving States (e.g., Lagos):** No legal mandate/resources → *"we can't plan for what isn't counted, budgeted, or federally prioritised."*
- **LGAs/CDAs:** No funding/training; some impose fees, block **WASH/services**.
- **Donors: 90% of pooled funds** (ECHO, USAID-BHA, UN grants) stop in BAY states; urban IDPs coded as "voluntary migrants."
- **Faith & Informal Actors:** Vital but siloed, zero-budget, unintegrated into city plans.

Action Pivots:

- **Federal:** *Lagos Urban-IDP Pilot* → mobile ID caravans, liaison desks, inter-ministerial waivers.
- **Donors:** *Urban sub-cluster, DTM Urban-Lagos, gender ring-fencing, 30% nexus grants* for arrival cities.
- **States of Origin:** *Lagos Compacts* → 30% co-finance, mobile certificate caravans.
- **Lagos State:** *IDP Inclusion Policy* → budget lines, shift from eviction to safe-lot upgrading.
- **Local Gatekeepers:** Waive fees, co-manage tenancy charters, host ward-level IDP registries.

Figure 6 visualises these threats and action pivots across governance levels, showing how city-level durable solutions can be scaled nationally.

6. 2. Governance, Roles & Pathways: Nationally Owned, Regionally Coordinated

National Action: *FMHDS* and *NHCC* lead policy domestication, budget tagging, and strategy for urban IDPs; *NEMA* and *SEMA* integrate urban displacement into emergency plans.

State/Regional Action: *Lagos* pilots urban self-resettlement; *States of Origin* (Borno, Yobe, Zamfara, Adamawa, Sokoto, Plateau) finance **mobile documentation caravans** for birth records, school certificates, and ethnicity papers.

City/LGA Action: Integrate IDPs into **resilience plans, land-tenure reforms, settlement upgrading, informal trade regulation,** and **safe-lot pilots**.

Humanitarian–Development Nexus: Align *OCHA, UNHCR, IOM, UN-Habitat,* and donors with **urban upgrading, livelihoods, WASH, safe tenure** and create a **Displacement Urbanisation Sub-Cluster** under *NHF* and *EU/World Bank nexus financing* for **multi-year funding**.

Coordination Architecture:

- **Federal Level:**
  - *Policy Gaps:* 2021 IDP Policy lacks urban mandates; federal agencies work in silos.
  - *Reforms:* Amend policy for urban IDPs; integrate data into *National Migration Policy* & *Development Plan 2025–2030*; deploy **mobile NIN/birth-registration teams** with *MoWA*.
- **International Actors:** *OCHA, UNHCR, IOM, UN-Habitat, UNDP, WFP, UNICEF, WHO, FAO, IRC, NRC,* and *EU-ECHO* link **humanitarian, development, peacebuilding** agendas; *NHF* provides pooled rapid funding; *GIZ* builds skills & local capacity.
- **States of Origin:** Post **liaison officers** to Lagos Coordination Platform; co-finance **30% mobile documentation caravans**; issue certificates for displaced citizens.
- **Arrival States (Lagos, Abuja, Anambra):** Create **Urban-IDP annexes** in disaster agencies; integrate IDPs into **state budgets, resettlement plans,** and **urban response frameworks**.

Local Government & Community Gatekeepers

- **Current Gaps:** No mandates, budgets, or mapping; informal fees, evictions, and security tolls common; services often denied.
- **Scaling What Works:**
  - **Safe-Lot Pilots:** 10-year leases on benevolent/royal land linked to **WASH standards**.
  - **Ward-Level Mapping:** Clinics, taps, and school subsidies aligned with settlement data.
  - **Tenancy Charters:** Landlord/caretaker unions sign MoUs; complaints handled via *MoWA* helpline + paralegals.
  - **IDP Representation:** Gender-parity seats in ward committees/CDAs; MoUs co-signed by *MoWA*.

Faith-Based & Customary Leaders

- Partner with **imams, pastors, and traditional rulers** for outreach, stigma reduction, and interfaith collaboration.
- Launch **Interfaith Humanitarian Coordination Forum** co-chaired by *MoWA*; create shared dashboards to prevent assistance gaps.

Next Steps

1. **Policy Reform:** Amend *2021 IDP Policy*; add urban annex to *NEMA's 2025 Action Plan*.
2. **Urban-IDP Compact:** Led by *OCHA, UNHCR, IOM, UN-Habitat* with **multi-year funding** for *safe-lot upgrading, mobile caravans, women's livelihood hubs, interfaith peacebuilding*.
3. **Data Integration:** Embed urban displacement indicators in national migration and development plans.

7. Lagos as a Pilot Case: Suggested Action Points for Urban IDP Inclusion

This section translates research findings into a **rights-based, gender-sensitive, area-focused framework** embedded in **Lagos urban plans, budgets, and data systems**. The actions align **federal–state–local roles** with **donor financing**, ensuring city-led durable solutions.

7.1 Five Pillars for Urban IDP Inclusion

*Figure 7.1 illustrates the action framework across five pillars with core components, lead actors, partners, a*nd proposed financing sources.

Pillar	Core Components	Lead Actors	Key Agencies & Partners	Proposed Funders
Legal & Civic Inclusion	Mobile ID & birth-registration caravans; legal aid for women, elderly, disabled	FMHDS, MoWA, NPC	UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, NHRC, State Justice Ministries, Legal Aid Council	NHF, EU-ECHO, USAID, Federal Budget, Private Foundations
Shelter & Basic Services	Safe-lot tenure; WASH upgrades; maternal–child health kiosks; education hubs	Lagos Ministry of Urban Dev., LGAs	UN-Habitat, WHO, NRC, Faith Networks, Local CDAs	World Bank, NHF, State Budgets, Urban Resilience Funds
Livelihoods & Economic Recovery	Women's cooperatives; youth skills centres; micro-loans; informal trade markets	Ministry of Labour & Employment	ILO, UNDP, GIZ, CARE, Local Cooperatives, Chamber of Commerce	GIZ, ILO, Private Sector CSR, Donor Nexus Funds
Social Cohesion & Protection	Interfaith peace platforms; early-warning systems; landlord–tenant charters; women's protection hubs	MoWA, Interfaith & Customary Leaders	UNDP, Search for Common Ground, Local Women's Peace Networks, Faith-Based CSOs	UN Peacebuilding Fund, State Budgets, Philanthropy
Data & Planning Systems	Urban DTM, GIS-linked settlement profiles, census integration, city dashboards	FMHDS, MoEPB, NBS, LGAs	OCHA, IOM, NHF, UN-Habitat, Academic Partners, Digital Mapping Units	NHF Multi-Year Grants, State Resilience Funds, Donor Mechanisms

Building on the Five Pillars, the next sections (6.2–6.5) translate this framework into concrete systems, research anchors, capacity investments, and strategic commitments that align federal, state, local, donor, and community roles toward long-term urban IDP inclusion. **Textbox:** *Together, the Five Pillars provide the foundation for IDP documentation, basic services, livelihoods, tenure security, gender equity, and participatory data systems needed for durable urban integration.*

Integrated Urban IDP Systems & Coordination

- **Urban DTM Expansion:** Track gender, tenure, livelihoods, service access across wards.
- **Quarterly Dashboards:** Public updates for states & LGAs.
- **Mobile Documentation Caravans:** Birth certificates, NIN, school records in high-IDP wards.
- **Lagos Urban IDP Coordination Platform:** Co-chaired by *LASEMA* & *MoWA*, linking federal agencies, LGAs, UN clusters, research partners, and faith actors.
- **Settlement Upgrading Pilots:** Tenure security, WASH points, maternal health kiosks, youth skills hubs.

Research, Civil Society & Accountability Anchors

- **Urban Inclusion Week:** Annual evidence forum linking city data to Lagos State Assembly & donor dashboards.
- **Research–Policy Hub:** Real-time data briefs to ministries, donors, LGAs for evidence-led planning.
- **Community Scorecards:** Settlement-level monitoring on tenure, livelihoods, and GBV services.
- **Digital Platforms:** Shared data repositories for all partners via *MoEPB + NHF* support.

Capacity Building & Local Ownership

- **Urban Planning & Tenure Law Training:** For LGAs, LASURA, Royal Land Councils.
- **GBV & Psychosocial Support Skills:** MoWA staff, CSO volunteers.
- **Digital Data & GIS Mapping:** 40 enumerators (≥50% women) trained by UN-Habitat & JIPS.
- **Urban IDP Steering Group:** LASEMA + MoWA co-chair binding decisions across agencies.

Strategic Commitments & Theory of Change

- ≥40% IDP funds for women, widows, girls, high-risk groups.
- **Joint Urban IDP Support Window** with multi-year donor funding.
- **Urban Data Infrastructure:** DTM Urban Lagos + MoEPB dashboard integrated into census.
- **Rights-Based Inclusion:** Urban IDP Inclusion Law + Tenancy Rights Charter + GBV safeguards.
- **Urban–Development Nexus:** WASH, schools, PHCs in ≥2 IDP-dense wards per planning cycle.
- **Safe-Lot Pilots + Mobile Caravans:** Documentation + tenure security + livelihood hubs with crèches.
- **Global Alignment:** SDG 5 & 11, New Urban Agenda, UN-Habitat GIPSID, EU Nexus Financing, GCF.

7.2. Why a Dedicated People-in-a-Place Framework?

A *People-in-a-Place* (PiP) framework shifts IDPs from passive aid recipients to **active partners** in designing solutions, grounding interventions in **lived realities** rather than top-down assumptions.

Key Benefits

- **Agency & Choice:** IDPs shape solutions and decide on long-term integration options beyond emergency relief.
- **Context-Specific Responses:** Captures perspectives of IDPs and host communities so interventions fit urban realities rather than generic templates.
- **Better Data & Planning:** Participatory methods produce evidence for short-, medium-, and long-term planning.
- **Local Ownership:** Joint profiling and planning strengthen political buy-in and reduce resistance.
- **Durable Solutions:** Links humanitarian aid to development goals for self-sufficiency and stability.

Research, Civil Society, and Accountability Anchors

Current evidence flows are fragmented: **community networks map settlements quarterly**, **academic partners produce GIS layers**, and **civil society alliances collect GBV and child-protection data**, yet there is no **single platform** forcing ministries, donors, and city actors to coordinate or debate findings together.

Proposed Actions

- **Urban Inclusion Week:** Annual forum presenting city data to Lagos State Assembly and donor platforms.
- **Research–Policy Hub:** Real-time briefs to ministries and LGAs for planning decisions.
- **Rapid Data Service:** Respond to ministry data requests within ten days.
- **Community Scorecards:** Settlement-level tracking on tenure, livelihoods, and GBV.
- **Digital Platforms:** Open data repositories managed by *MoEPB* with *NHF* support.

Outcome: Evidence-driven, city-wide planning replaces piecemeal humanitarian responses.

7.3. Capacity-Building and Accountability Framework

A) Oversight & Delivery

- *LASEMA + MoWA* co-chair the **Lagos Urban IDP Steering Group** for binding decisions.
- Mobile ID/health caravans (*MoH, NIMC, WHO, UNHCR*) support documentation and basic services.
- Tenure upgrading via *LASURA* + local community reps.
- Women's livelihood hubs coordinated by *MoWA + AfDB* + CSOs.
- Open data systems managed by *Planning Ministry* + academic–community technical partners.

B) Training Tracks (2026–2028)

- Urban planning & land law: *LASURA planners* + royal estate officers.
- GBV case management: *MoWA* staff + CSO volunteers.
- Digital data & GIS mapping: *40 enumerators* (≥50% women) via *UN-Habitat + JIPS*.
- Grant management: LGA finance teams with *OCHA* mentorship.
- Peer learning: Annual exchanges with *World Bank/AfDB* projects.

C) Governance & Ownership

- *MoEPB* as Data Custodian.
- Academic–Community Technical Hub for data analysis.
- Community "Data Champions" for monthly validation.

D) Accountability Loop

- **Quarterly scorecards** on tenure, livelihoods, GBV.
- **Bi-annual town halls** with IDPs, ministries, donors.
- **Live dashboards** for caravans, safe-lots, and grants.
- **Independent evaluation** in 2027 to scale or adjust interventions.

Why It Matters: *Visibility ends invisibility; gender equity tracked via MoWA lines; local capacity ensures ownership; evidence alignment unlocks donor financing.*

7.4. Strategic Commitments and Theory of Change

If Lagos integrates gender, rights, and data into laws, budgets, and planning frameworks, then IDPs will shift from invisible survivalism to lawful residents with access to health, income, and voice—creating a scalable model for urban inclusion across Nigeria.

Immediate Next Steps (12 Months)

- **Policy & Budget:** Pass Lagos IDP Inclusion Law + ₦5bn starter budget.
- **Data Systems:** Launch Urban DTM + MoEPB live dashboard.
- **Donor Alignment:** Sign MoU to fund 2 mobile caravans + 3 safe-lot pilots.
- **Accountability:** Q4 2027 → Publish first public scorecard on ID, tenure, livelihoods, and GBV outcomes.

7.5. Seven Interlocking Levers for Structural Reform

1 **Gender Lens:** ≥40% IDP funds for women, widows, girls, and high-risk groups.

2 **Capacity Support:** Joint Urban IDP Support Window with embedded technical assistance teams (planning, GIS, GBV, tenure law).

3 **Urban Data Infrastructure:** IOM–DTM Urban Lagos + MoEPB dashboards integrated with census and donor systems.

4 **Rights-Based Inclusion:** Lagos IDP Inclusion Law + Urban Tenancy-Rights Charter + GBV safeguards.

5 **Urban–Development Nexus:** WASH, schools, PHCs in ≥2 IDP-dense wards per state planning cycle.

6 **Targeted Interventions:** Safe-lot pilots, mobile ID–health caravans, livelihood hubs with childcare facilities.

7 **Global Alignment:** SDG 5 & 11, New Urban Agenda, UN-Habitat GIPSID, EU Nexus Financing, GCF funding windows.

8. Why Further In-Depth Analysis of Displacement Urbanisation in Lagos Matters

Displacement urbanisation in Lagos is shaped by factors that remain poorly understood. IDP lives intersect with **land governance, interfaith dynamics, gender norms, livelihood precarity, and climate risk** in ways that have not been systematically studied. Without deeper analysis, urban policies risk **treating displacement as a temporary crisis rather** than a **structural urban reality** requiring durable solutions.
Unknown or Under-Explored Factors Requiring Deeper Research

Urban Governance & Spatial Transformation
- How informal tenure, land use, and self-governance reshape city edges remains under-researched.
- The role of community leadership in filling institutional voids at the LGA level is poorly documented.
- **Research Need:** Link displacement trajectories to urban planning, land policy, and tenure reforms.

Social Cohesion & Religious Identity
- Parallel Christian/Muslim networks, mistrust, and exclusion risks among Muslim women are often invisible in datasets.
- **Research Need:** Understand faith-sensitive inclusion, interfaith peacebuilding, and cultural legitimacy in city planning.

Sub-Vulnerable Groups: Who Is Falling Through the Cracks?
- Children born in displacement, youth at risk of dropout, widows, elderly, and religious minorities lack systematic profiling.
- **Research Need:** Targeted studies on intersecting vulnerabilities and registration gaps for social protection systems.

Livelihood Transitions & Economic Inclusion
- IDPs remain trapped in informal survivalism; little is known about transitions to formal labour markets or urban food economies.
- **Research Need:** Examine pathways from street-level micro-enterprise to climate-adaptive urban economies.

Climate Risk & Displacement Urbanisation
- Settlements on floodplains, canals, and landfills face compounded risks from environmental degradation and climate shocks.
- **Research Need:** Integrate displacement risk analysis into city climate resilience and land-use planning.

A deeper analysis matters because it…

- Makes **invisible dynamics measurable**: tenure insecurity, interfaith exclusion, gendered risks, livelihood barriers.
- Generates **evidence for policy**: urban IDP laws, budgets, planning frameworks, and safety nets.
- Ensures **scalability**: models tested in Lagos can inform Abuja, Onitsha, and other cities facing similar pressures.
- Aligns with **global standards**: SDG 5 & 11, New Urban Agenda, UN-Habitat GIPSID metrics for urban displacement.

9. Summary of Key Findings

Internal displacement in Nigeria has become **urban, protracted, gendered, and structurally embedded** in city life. Analysis across Lagos and other urban centres shows:

- **Urban and Long-Term:** Over 60% of IDPs have lived in cities for more than a decade, with Lagos alone hosting over three million self-settled IDPs excluded from urban plans, budgets, and legal protections.

- **Spatial and Gendered Risks:** Displacement produces new urban margins defined by tenure insecurity, gender-based vulnerabilities, fragmented services, and precarious livelihoods.

- **Policy and Governance Gaps:** Federal and state frameworks remain **camp-focused**, while urban arrivals lack **mandates, financing, and integrated data systems** for planning or service delivery.

- **Community Innovation vs. Systemic Neglect:** IDP-led initiatives on tenure security, livelihoods, and social cohesion exist but remain **under-resourced, siloed, and disconnected** from formal urban governance structures.

- **Missed Urban Opportunities:** Without coordinated frameworks, cities lose the chance to harness IDPs' skills, labour, and social capital for **inclusive urban growth and resilience**.

9.1 Policy Recommendations: Toward Inclusive Urban Displacement Governance

To shift from **emergency relief** to **development-oriented, rights-based urban governance**, coordinated action is required across **federal, state, local, and donor systems**:

Decentralised Humanitarian Governance

- Extend *durable solutions* frameworks to include **self-settled urban IDPs**.
- Give states, LGAs, and host communities **clear mandates, budget lines, and technical capacity** for urban displacement planning.

Tracking Forced Migration

- Classify **post-displacement mobility** as *forced migration* rather than voluntary migration.
- Integrate urban IDPs into **national protection, resettlement, and social protection frameworks**.

Legal & Civic Inclusion

- Deploy **mobile ID/birth registration clinics** and tenure documentation caravans.
- Fast-track **land tenure reforms** and provide **legal aid** for vulnerable groups (women, widows, youth).

Basic Services & Livelihoods

- Implement **WASH upgrades** and launch **safe-lot tenure pilots**.
- Develop **women- and youth-focused livelihood hubs** for long-term economic self-reliance.

Social Cohesion & Protection

- Establish **interfaith platforms** and **early-warning systems** in high-IDP settlements.
- Embed **gender-sensitive GBV prevention** and psychosocial support services.

Data & Accountability

- Expand **Urban DTM** with sex- and age-disaggregated data.
- Introduce **quarterly dashboards** and integrate **ward-level planning tools** into state urban systems.

Financing & Partnerships

- Secure **multi-year donor windows** for urban displacement solutions.
- Create **state–federal budget allocations** and incentivise **private-sector co-financing** for infrastructure and livelihoods.