

# 2 persons die as fire guts 1,613 IDP shelters in Borno

By Ndahi Marama & Ibrahim Hassan

**MAIDUGURI**—TWO Internally Displaced Persons, IDPs, lost their lives, following a mysterious fire that razed no fewer than 1,613 makeshift shelters at Muna Garage Resettlement Camps at the outskirts of Maiduguri Metropolis of Borno State.

**Vanguard** gathered that the inferno, which took place on Saturday, could not be put off because the makeshift camps were in clusters and a windstorm aided the spread to other IDPs' shelters.

Chairperson of Borno State Emergency Management Agency, SEMA, Hajiya Yabawa Kolo, who confirmed the incident yesterday, said,

"The IDP camp fire occurred on the eve of Eid-el-Fitr destroying about 1,613 makeshift shelters."

Recall that earlier in the year, reoccurring inferno in IDP camps destroyed camps in Nganzai, Ngala, Mafa and Monguno, 135 kilometres north of Maiduguri, the state capital.

While briefing Governor Babagana Zulum on the casualties, Kolo said the IDP camp was gutted by fire because the shelters were clustered, lamenting that windstorm also fueled the rapid spread of the fire to other shelters razing them to ashes.

"Immediately I was informed about the camp fire incident, I rushed to the scene and mobilized support to put off the fire," she said..

Speaking, Governor

• *Kajuru IDPs relocate to Kaduna, beg for food, water*

Zulum, said: "I sympathise with you (IDPs) and family members over the destruction of your temporary shelters. May the departed souls of those IDPs rest in peace."

He said the state government was looking at the possibilities of closing 24 IDPs camps so that every displaced person currently living in camps could go back home.

According to him, the Federal Government had approved the building of 10,000 housing units across the state.

The governor assured that "the state government will soon rebuild this destroyed IDPs camp."

In a related development, over 30 IDPs who survived recent bandit attacks on Kajuru

communities in Kaduna State, are seeking for assistance from the government and individuals.

The survivors who were temporarily kept at Ungwan Maigero along New Yakowa Road in Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State, are mostly women and children.

According to a clergy in the area, Pastor Idowu, "the IDPs are over 30 women and their children. More are still trooping in as a result of the herdsmen attack somewhere in Kajuru. Presently they are being camped in a dilapidated, makeshift mud house yet to be plastered and floored with emergency doors and windows. The building has no toilet facilities and portable water.

"Our attention was drawn to the emergence of IDPs in our community on Sunday by some concerned individuals.

"We took a trip there immediately and discovered over 30 women and their children with more still trooping in as a result of the herdsmen attack somewhere in Kajuru. We as a community are appealing to good spirited persons to come to their aid by contributing food items, clothing, mattresses and whatever you are able to contribute for their immediate welfare.

"We shall be meeting with the relevant security agencies and government parastatals responsible for Internally Displaced Persons in the state. All donations in cash and kind should be channeled through the church in the community."

## COVID-19: WHO suspends hydroxychloroquine clinical trials

By Chioma Obinna

**THE** World Health Organization, WHO, has temporarily suspended the clinical trial of malaria drug, hydroxychloroquine in COVID-19 patients over safety concerns.

Hydroxychloroquine is an anti-malarial drug that is used to control autoimmune diseases such as arthritis and lupus.

The Director General of WHO, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who disclosed this, yesterday,

said the trials of the drug as a coronavirus treatment had started around two months ago.

He said the executive group was implementing a temporary pause of the hydroxychloroquine arm within the solidarity trial, while the safety data was reviewed by the data safety monitoring board.

Tedros, however, said the other arms of the trial were continuing, noting that the initial findings suggested a higher mortality rate among COVID-19 patients receiving hydroxychloroquine and

chloroquine.

"There will now be a temporary pause of the trials while the safety data is reviewed to evaluate the potential benefits and harms of the drug," he said.

Tedros also informed that the drugs could still be used safely by patients with autoimmune disease or malaria.

Recall that the US Food and Drug Administration, FDA, had warned against the use of the drugs outside the hospitals due to its side effects on the heart.