The need to integrate humanitarian actions in conflict-ravaged regions of the world with sustainable development efforts is becoming increasingly recognised by governments and the international community. To overcome the challenges posed by conflict-induced humanitarian crisis to sustainable development, efforts to achieve durable solutions to displacement seek to address poverty and social inequality on a long-term basis. Achieving this requires giving displaced persons the opportunity to make voluntary decisions on whether to return to their place of origin, resettle in a different part of the country or reintegrate in the area where they fled to. It also requires allowing them to actively participate in the planning of these ‘durable solutions’. To get a contextual understanding of opinions and potential role of IDPs who fled the Boko Haram conflict in North-eastern Nigeria in attaining durable solutions, we analysed interviews and focus groups with IDPs in the region. Our analysis uncovers similarities, differences and tensions in their understandings and preferences of durable solutions. Overall, male IDPs living camps where found to be more likely to prefer to return to their place of origin than females and those living in host communities. However, significant differences exist in opinions regarding conditions that need to be met before their return. A majority of female IDPs tend to prefer reintegration and resettlement to return. Compared to IDPs living in camps, those living in host communities have expressed more willingness to remain and reintegrate within the place they sought refuge, provided they can get better opportunities to farm. These IDPs were also more likely to see themselves as active agents with the capacity and freedom to shape their future despite being victims of conflict. Personal experiences of violence, religious beliefs and place of origin are some of the factors that seem to influence preferences of durable solutions. 

We conclude the paper with a discussion of the implications of our findings to effective planning of return, resettlement and reintegration and to achieving sustainable development and peace in the aftermath of this brutal conflict.