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"PRIMARY HEALTH CARE: A PATH
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SYSTEMS AND COMMUNITY BASED
RESPONSES TO COVID-19

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TUFH 2020 Abstracts

Title	Malnutrition among internally-displaced Almajiri children in Ibadan, fact or fiction?
Type	Oral Presentation <i>Working with Underserved Populations towards Community Empowerment</i>
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Content

The "Almajiri" are a group of internally-displaced persons, found living in slums, under conditions of abject poverty, surviving off alms from generous passersby. There are an estimated 10million Almajiri children in Nigeria at any given time, and due to their deprived socio-economic condition, it is assumed that these children are predisposed to malnutrition. This study investigates this association in the Almajiri community of Sabo-Jembewon, Ibadan. Method: A cross-sectional descriptive study involving Almajiri children between the ages of 5-15years was carried out. Anthropometric data including: height(m), weight(kg) and mid-upper arm circumference(cm) were collected. Body mass indices(kg/m²) were calculated for each respondent. The BMI-for-age z-scores were derived using the latest CDC growth charts, data analysis was carried out using the IBM SPSS version25 software. Results: A total of 150 respondents comprising of 91 girls(60.67%) and 59 boys(39.33%). 24 children(16%) were underweight, 8(5.33%) were overweight, 9(6%) were obese and 109(72.67%) had expected BMI-for-age. Based on gender, 11.86% of boys/18.68% of girls were underweight; 6.78% of boys/4.40% of girls were overweight; 5.10% of boys/6.60% of girls were obese; and 76.27% of boys/70.33% of girls had expected BMI-for-age. Conclusion: There is a male preference in nutrition with a higher percentage of females being underweight, reflecting cultural preference for male children in Hausa communities. The children are generally not more malnourished than those of higher socio-economic status, possibly due to a regular but unsustainable stream of donations received by this community.