EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
This report presents the findings of the joint rapid needs assessment conducted by Action Against Hunger and NRC in Gajiram in response to alert of an influx of new arrivals/IDPs in Gajiram. Alert was raised by IOM and OCHA shared the information on 27 December. The major aim of the assessment is particularly intended to identify the urgent immediate needs of the community particularly the newly displaced people in order to arrange for possible response. This is a follow up to assessment done by IOM.

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CONTEXT, GENERAL SECURITY SITUATION, POPULATION MOVEMENTS
The ongoing military operations around Gajiram, Marte, Monguno and Nganzai LGAs have resulted in large movement of people into Gajiram. The large population movements is also associated with the departure of the military in villages like Burimari and recent attacks along Maidu-guri -Monguno road. Many people are fleeing away from their homes because of fear of attack and in search of relative safety. Some of the new arrivals come from the following villages: Mara’am, Burimari, Gasarwa, Charamari, Kumowon, and Alajiri. Due to the ongoing military operations in surrounding villages of Nganzai, Marte and Monguno LGAs, Gajiramu and Monguno have remained a center harboring newly displaced people.

According to source on ground, a cumulative total of 777 Households/ 2069 individuals have arrived in Gajiramu since early December and most of them came at the end of December. The displaced persons are currently residing in 9 different informal camps in Gajiramu. Some of the IDPs are integrated in the community. The security situation in Gajiram town remains calm.
Table 1. Populations of Gajiramu

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Estimated current population of site</th>
<th>Total HH</th>
<th>HH new arrivals with immediate urgent needs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gajirmu IDPs</td>
<td>3,485</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Host Community</td>
<td>11,250</td>
<td></td>
<td>HC not captured here</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>14,735</td>
<td></td>
<td>At least 777HH</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other actors may have accurate population figures. IOM have conducted Biometric & ETT registration in the past. Through discussions with KI and FGDs, most IDPs are directed to Gajiramu community where the community head allocates land for construction of makeshift shelters while some of the new arrivals are facing troubles getting grasses to construct their shelters.

EXTERNAL CAPACITY - LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS OPERATING IN THE AREA

The humanitarian organizations present on ground in Gajiramu operate from Monguno. The following humanitarian organizations are present on ground in Gajiramu:

- IOM - has site facilitators in all the camps, they conducting biometric registration in Gajiramu and constructed shelters
- Action Against Hunger is involved in WASH, GFD, Nutrition activities.
- MAG carried out mine risk education activities

METHODOLOGY AND APPROACH

The key information was gathered from the interaction with the community members, discussion with the local authorities, key informants and observation. The methodology is based on key informant interviews (KII), AGDM focus group discussions (FGDs) and structured direct observation (DO). The tools used tries to capture information from multiple sources taking into account views and needs of various groups in the population in shortest possible timeframe. Assessment team members are trained on the methodology received pre-departure brief and de-brief upon return; team members speak local languages. A total of 8 FGDs and 3 KI interviews were conducted. The participants were drawn from the village heads or Bulamas of Boarding primary school and Bakassi. The team made sure that there is enough representation of men and women, traders, vulnerable groups like the newly displaced IDPs, the elderly to get the view from different group of people. ACF also conducted a mass MUAC screening to assess nutritional status of the children between 6-59 months.

MAJOR FINDINGS

NUTRITION AND HEALTH

Action Against Hunger currently operates OTP sites in Nganzai LGA. The nutrition intervention is being provided by Action Against Hunger supported by UNICEF through the community based management of severe acute malnutrition (and the facility has approximately 128 beneficiaries on the program). A mass
MUAC screening was conducted particularly among the new arrivals so as to identify the malnourished children that are not in the program. The aim is to assess the nutritional status of the children of the new arrivals. There are also clinical consultations conducted in the locality.

The nutritional status of the screened children between 6-59 months in Gajiram is at stake as shown in table 2 below.

Table 2: Summary of children 6-59 months screened

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDICATOR/ MUAC</th>
<th>GAJIRAM COMMUNITY</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OEDEMA</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;11.5CM</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.5-12.5CM</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;12.5CM</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>221</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In summary, 535 (258M, 277F) children (0-59 months) were screened. Referrals to the OTP sites for treatment were made to the MAM and SAM cases.

According to the clinical records and FGDs conducted, an average of 10 deliveries in the last 7 days and only 2 were attended by skilled attendants. In the last 6 months, there was an outbreak of cholera, whooping cough and measles. The current crisis had a negative impact on disease control programs as morbidity and mortality rate has increased and had made it difficult to reach some communities.

Food Security and Livelihoods

From the assessment conducted, it was established that before the crises the displaced population were involved in crop production, livestock breeding and selling of firewood. These activities were the major...
sources of their livelihoods in the area for both the males and the females, while some of the women used to engage their children into economic activities such as street hawking and this crisis has intensely affected their activities and the household income.

It was also gathered that, prior to the crises, crop production, livestock rearing and trading were the leading ways in which the IDPs get incomes to access and meet their food needs. Currently they have resorted to cutting of firewood and grasses from the scrublands to sell, street begging and child labor are some of the underlying practices the IDPs do to meet their food needs. Some of the IDPs are getting assistance from their relatives and friends that are benefiting from Action Against Hunger’s GFD in Gajiram. In order to manage the situation of food shortage and in a bid not to put pressure on their relatives they have resorted to periodically eat once in a day. Very few of them have access to credit from their relatives and friends prior to the crises just to get about 10% of their basic needs, but majority of them do not have access to credit before and after the crises. The displacement has thus greatly affected their ability to continue with their normal livelihoods activities and this has been exacerbated by the fact they have moved into an equally strained environment for alternative livelihoods.

LIVESTOCK

About 80% of the households owned large livestock. 60% of households that owned small livestock have been affected by the crises and most of these livestock owning households could not ration adequate water, feed and shelter for their animals, they travel about 20KMs to get water for their livestock and also there are pastoral migration due to the current situation.

HOUSEHOLD COPING STRATEGIES

In most of the households, adults have reduced and scaled down the quantity and the number of meals consumed in a day due to lack of sufficient food items and also eat less preferred food as a coping strategies.

MARKET FEASIBILITY AND TREND

Based on our observations, we observed that the market in the area is competent, there are many traders and many items available in the market for sell. In addition, people lost their stocks during the crisis and now they are finding it difficult to obtain credit to purchase goods to bring to the market initially, but now
at least they are able to accommodate the households’ primary needs. Recently, the cost of goods in the market and the transportation has increased and people lack the resources to promote and patronize the market.

**MARKET CAPACITY**
The market in Gajiramu is fully functional and has the capacity to provide the households with most of the basic food and non-food items needed and in an acceptable distance to the affected communities.

**SHELTER AND ESSENTIAL NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFIS)**
The majority of the newly displaced households live in temporary makeshift shelters constructed of local materials like grass and tree branches. The community leaders upon arrival allocate them land. Taking into account the materials used in construction, the make shift shelters are not able to protect the IDPs from the current harsh weather conditions.

The high influx of people has overstretched the available limited resources. The community indicated that they are in need of shelter, NFI and hygiene items to meet their immediate shelter and WASH needs. Most of the community members said they could not carry along most of their utensils and assets.

There are IDPs staying in Gajiramou 1 and 2 primary schools. The community is in the process of opening the schools, which are housing a number of IDPs. To date, half of the IDPs in Gagitam School have moved out of the school and constructed temporary shelters near the school. The community indicated that only IDPs with means to buy grass were able to move out of the school voluntarily. The community leaders still advocate for humanitarian organizations to support the movement of people out of the school.
WASH

There seven boreholes water, which according to the community is not enough to satisfy the demand. Of the seven boreholes, IDPs have free access to three boreholes, one free flow and two solar powered boreholes. Usually, IDPs que for long hours in order to fetch water. The community indicated that water collected from the boreholes is not clear (brown in color) and has odor. At the water points, men do not follow the que making women and children.

The other four are privately owned boreholes powered by generators. As such, the owners sell the water from these boreholes. Most of the newly displaced IDPs cannot afford to buy the water. A 20-litre jerry can of water is sold at 50 naira.

From the direct observations, open defecation is common. The people in the sites we visited indicated that latrines and showers are not able to cater for the increased population. There are only two camps/sites, which has latrines. The latrines are not segregated by gender, a situation that poses protection concerns. The sites for new arrivals do not even have toilets. The poor hygiene and sanitation practices make them prone to diseases. The IDPs do not have access to soap.

There is no solid waste management.
IMMEDIATE/PRIORITY NEEDS

Food
- Implementation of supplementary feeding program due to high proxy gam rate high with a prevalence of proxy SAM of 1.1% and proxy GAM of 18.3. Need to expand OTP activities in the locations where the new arrivals are.
- Immediate food assistance particularly to the new arrivals

WASH
- There is need for drilling of new boreholes since there are very few accessible water points
- Latrine construction
- Hygiene promotion to address the problem of open defecation and improper waste disposal which is common in the assessed locations

NFI and Shelter Kit
- There is need to provide NFI kit to the new arrivals immediately upon arrival to meet their shelter and NFI needs. Emergency shelter kits – in the long run, there is need for construction of shelters for the new arrivals

Emergency shelter
- Humanitarian organization called upon to support the movement of people from Gajiram 1 and 2 primary schools by construction of emergency shelters to allow the opening of schools. The authorities indicated that if support is given to the remaining vulnerable families staying in the schools, they are willing to provide land for the family that voluntarily relocate out the schools.

Protection
- Protection mainstreaming needed when giving assistance to this community, including gender considerations when constructing latrines. Vulnerable groups must be prioritized.