

MULTISECTORAL RAPID ASSESSMENT

Ngala-Gambaru Host community, 22 to 26 January 2018

Date of assessment	22-26 January 2018	Type:	MSA
Date of report	27 January 2018	Report by:	Daniel Ali Garga
Location (LGA)	Ngala	Location name:	Gambaru returnee & host community.
Type (camp/town)	Host community	Sub-location name:	Ward A, B & C.
Coordinates:	Lat: 12.37151, Long; 14.19871		

BACKGROUND



In NE Nigeria, armed attack and counter attacks between Security Forces (SF) and Armed Groups (AGs) have resulted in prolonged insecurity and waves of displacement (primary and secondary displacement).

Gambaru town in Ngala LGA, Borno state, is one of the area affected by ongoing crisis. The entire community was initially displaced to other parts of the country or crossed the international border to Cameroon, becoming refugees. Gambaru town was taken by Nigerian military in September 2016 after which IDPs and refugees started returning to their place (or LGA) of origin.

The town is located 135km from the city of Maiduguri, and is one of the major commercial towns in northern part of Nigeria. It is neighbored by the LGAs of Dikwa, Marte and Kala Balge by road and has a shared boarder with Cameroon. Being a border town, it forms a major trading post with neighbouring countries such as Chad, Cameroon and Central African Republic.



Humanitarian agencies access Gamboru via UNHAS flights while commercial vehicles use military escorts from Maiduguri to Gamboru. Common communication languages in Gamboru are Kanuri, Hausa and Shuwa, with 50% of the population speaking Hausa, 30% Shuwa and 20% Kanuri.

There is presence of a military formation in Gamboru town under 3BN task force, along with the Nigerian Custom Service, Nigerian Immigration Service, Civil Defence Corps, CJTF and the Police Force. Currently the security situation within the town is dynamic, as there have been a series of attacks in the surroundings environs of Gamboru host communities. Residents have been collecting firewood from the surrounding bush with pastoralists grazing their animals upto 3km from the town.

According to District Head representatives of Gamboru and L Wakil Hassan, Ngala LGA has an approximate population of 285,000 individuals. Gamboru had a population of 75,000 individuals before displacement. During focus group discussions with the communities leaders in Gamboru A, B and C ward, approximately 30,000 individuals have returned to Gamboru host community. Presently, Gamboru has three wards (A, B & C) with an approximate population of 55,000 individuals. Out of these, approximately 30,000 individuals are IDPs residing in formal camps while 25,000 individuals have settled in the host communities with the consent and approval of Gamboru district and village heads.

There are daily influxes from Cameroon through Fotokol coming from Kushiri, Nigre, Sigal and Marwa areas. Other returnees come from Maiduguri using military escort convoy.

ALERT OF MOVEMENT TO GAMBORU HOST COMMUNITY:

On 10 January 2018, 76 households (353 individuals) arrived in Bidiya community Gamboru C ward while on 11 January 2018, 43 households (341 individuals) arrived in Yobe community, Gamboru A. From 15 to 19 January 2018, 93 households (677 individuals) arrived in Gamboru host community while 38 households (182 individuals) arrived during this assessment and were awaiting screening by Nigerian Customs Service at the border.

POPULATION INFORMATION

Based on the assessment findings conducted over a period of five days in Gamboru host communities (22 to 26 January 2018) new arrival figures were gathered in the field jointly with IOM Emergency Tracking Tool (ETT) team, through community assessment and focus group discussions.

Community leaders, stakeholders and newly arrived beneficiaries were interviewed during focus group discussions to harmonize the number of new arrivals (both displaced, returnees and refugees coming back). The table below indicates the communities in respective Gamboru wards.

LGA	Ward	Community
Ngala	Gamboru A	Yobe, Kannumbiri and Gamboru Dina.
Ngala	Gamboru B	Gana, Zawiya, Mallumbiri, Kasuwan Katako and Abuja.
Ngala	Gamboru C	Flatari, Kasuwan shanu, Bash, Ajari, Prisonari, Hausari, Bidiya, Shuwari gana, Shuwari kura, Samunaka and Ndjemaina.

The table below also indicates the new arrivals from first week of January 2018.

Ward	Community	Total No. of HH	Individuals	Arrival dates
Gaboru A	Yobe, Kannumbiri and Gaboru Dina.	443	2,137	18 th December 2017 to 25 th Jan. 2018
Gaboru B	Gana, Zawiya, Mallumbiri, Kasuwan Katako and Abuja.	318	1,469	3 rd December 2017 to 25 th Jan. 2018
Gaboru C	Flatari, Kasuwan shanu, Bash, Ajari, Prisonari, Hausari, Bidiya, Shuwari gana, Shuwari kura, Samunaka and Ndjemainia.	603	4,521	15 th December 2017 to 26 th Jan. 2018.
Total		1,364HHs	8,127 Ind.	From 3rd Dec 2017 to 26th Jan 2018.



Figure 1: Operational bridge linking Nigeria and Cameroon

KEY PROBLEMS AND IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

From the RRM assessment in the immediate term, food, water and shelter remain high priority needs for new arrivals in Gaboru host communities. 65% of the newly arrived IDPs are living in incomplete

shelters belonging to missing owners and having been allocated to them by village heads/community leaders. This also poses a potential HLP issues that should be monitored carefully.

EXTERNAL CAPACITY

- SIF - Previously food distributions, now livelihoods and protection work.
- IOM - Biometric/ETT/DTM and NFI. Planned to distribute 300 emergency shelters in Ngala and Gamboru
- INTERSOS - Protection and health
- ICRC - Health
- MERCYCORPS - Cash based transfer and livelihoods. Planning to build 500 T-Shelters.
- WHO - Health
- DRC – GFD and BSFP (WFP) food distribution in IDP camp in Ngala; planning for rehabilitation/repair of 1300 shelters in Gamboru host community and distribution of around 1400 Core Relief Kits to new arrivals.

FINDINGS BY SECTOR, BY PRIORITY

FOOD SECURITY:

The last general food distribution (GFD) by SIF in Gamboru host community was conducted in December 2018. 83% of the interviewed households reported that did not receive December's GFD since they were not captured in food distribution database. The affected group are awaiting GFD distribution from the new partner who will take over from SIF. However, it should be noted that there are concerns regarding duplication and transferal of populations between the host community and camp during food distributions. Exact figures receiving and not receiving food are disputed.

SHELTER:

The majority of IDPs who have come back to Gamboru as their LGA of origin have settled in the houses belonging to others and pay rent. When interviewed, 85% of the households stated that they settled in the houses after getting consent from district, community and village heads. Housing tenure is therefore not guaranteed for this population and there is a risk of eviction.

45% of new arrivals who are originally from Gamboru and had earlier been displaced some years ago, have settled in their own buildings / land, although most of these are severely damaged or destroyed. Others have settled in unoccupied belonging to others since their houses had earlier been destroyed and they do not have resources or means to rebuild their homes. During assessment, IOM are planning to distribute 300 shelters kits to 300 households in Ngala, Gamboru A, B, and C wards. The kits comprises of timber, zinc, nails and four bags of cement for each 300 households.



Figure 2: Destroyed houses in Gamboru host community



Figure 1: Destroyed house currently being inhabited by returnees in Gamboru host community.



HEALTH:

WHO, UNICEF and ICRC are providing health services to returnees and IDPs in Gamboru host communities. All the health facilities are located in one place for safety reasons which poses a challenge to those living on the outskirts of the Gamboru area. 25% of interviewed households prefer using the health centre located within the IDP camp as it offers better services including resident doctor provided by UNICEF.

WASH:

65% of the interviewed households spend an average of 35 minutes each way to fetch water, and queue for at least 45 minutes. Most of the households collect 30 litres of water per day which is shared within the households. Estimating an average of 7 persons per household, this equates to just over 4 litres of water per person per day. Open defecation is rife in the area and is particularly practised by children. Self-built on-site sanitation facilities exist in most of the occupied shelters, which could pose a contamination risk if poorly constructed or maintained. Most of the interviewed households do not wash their hands at critical times due to inadequate water availability. Risky hygiene practices were also observed in most households and most of the interviewed beneficiaries attributed this to lack of hygiene and NFI kits.

NFI:

Due to insufficient buckets/jerry cans, 85% of the interviewed households stated that they rent buckets and jerry cans from the local host community for domestic use. 55% of the elderly community members highlighted that they are heavily affected by the cold weather and required blankets. Basic NFI items were observed to be lacking in most households in the area.

Even though IOM distributed 456 NFI kits four months ago in Gamboru A, B and C wards, there still exists substantial NFI gaps as most support has been concentrated in the IDP camp.

EMERGENCY LIVELIHOODS:

Livelihoods activities provide income for inhabitants of Gamboru Ngala (both host/local community and IDPs). The town is a major commercial centre for Nigeria and neighboring countries which makes it a busy trading place.

The majority of host community members are farmers, who still cannot access their farmlands due to security concerns. They mentioned that sporadic armed attacks are common in the surrounding areas. This has resulted in most switching to petty trade as a source of livelihoods. Mercy Corps is currently conducting cash transfers in the area. .



Figure 2: Trading centre in Gamboru host community

PROTECTION:

The area is relatively calm but most residents fear moving out the area's boundaries due to sporadic armed attacks. There is heavy presence of military and CJTF patrols in the area. There have been numerous cases of suicide bombings in the recent past which resulted in fatalities. There is no protection agency currently serving Gamboru host community. Protection concerns identified in Gamboru host community include GBV, secondary displacement which has resulted in increased vulnerabilities and negative coping mechanisms for survival, child labour, and HLP issues (such as secondary occupants being evicted by the primary occupants), poor health facilities which only provides primary health care, and no facilities for secondary referrals.

Recently IDPs are leaving the host community for the camp for fear of the Armed Groups.

EDUCATION:

Schools are currently operational in Gamboru host community with approximately 65% sending children to school (both primary and secondary school). Most of the IDPs do not send their children to school as they state it is not a priority at the moment.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Food Security: Rapid registration of newly arrived households in the host community for the next general food distribution (GFD).



Shelter: Shelter reconstruction in host community areas is required as most shelters are in poor structural condition. Reconstruction will improve housing tenure in the long term, but immediate HLP risks should be assessed.

Health: Deployment of more health personnel in Gamboru host community to address current challenges being faced by the community, which will relieve pressure on the current health facility located in the IDP camp.

WASH: More waterpoints are required, as well as provision of hygiene kits accompanied by hygiene promotion are required in the host community in the short to medium term. A particular focus should be on safe latrine construction and maintenance and reduction of open defecation practices.

NFIs: NFIs are required to address the current gaps existing in the area, particularly for new arrivals and vulnerable IDP and host community households (notably those with young children or elderly members, who are affected more by the cold). Water collection and storage items are particularly in need.

Livelihoods: There is need to scale up existing livelihoods activities in Gamboru host communities, in coordination with Mercy Corps.

Protection: DRC Protection has plans to open a Protection Desk in the host community of Gamboru within the first quarter of 2018 as a priority. However, there is the need for specialized services such as GBV, Child Protection and HLP in the host community.

Education: Multi sector approach involving educational stakeholders should seek to address the current gaps existing in the area, particularly in inequitable access (or challenges in being able to access) education between returnees, IDPs and host communities.