

Rapid food security Assessment in Doro Baga, Baga, Kukawa and Cross Kauwa (Kukawa LGA)



Team composition

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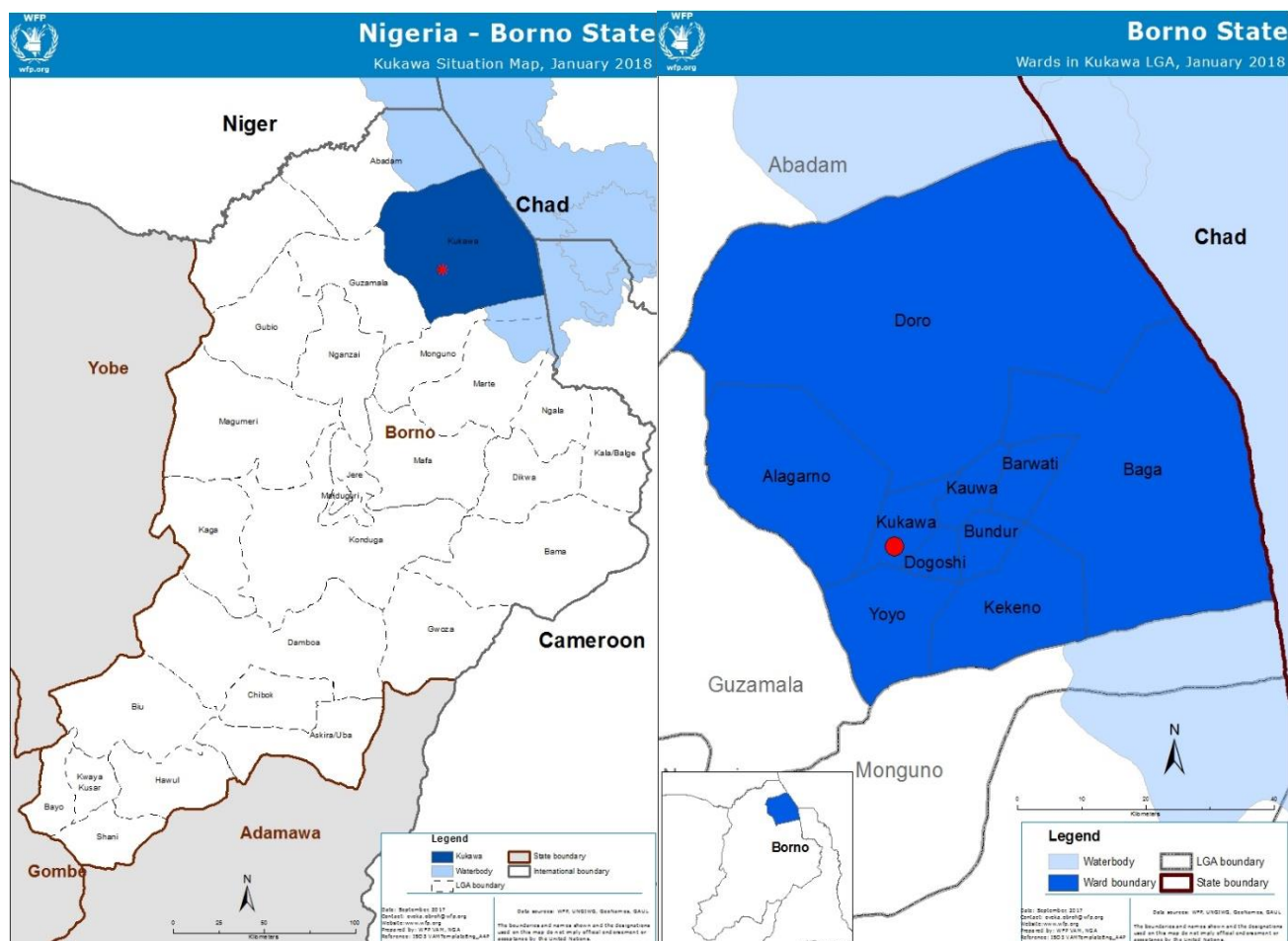
Key Messages for Decision Makers

- The food security situation is critical amongst IDP population living in informal settlements in both Cross Kauwa and Baga. More people are expected to arrive, as a result of the ongoing military operations and threats from the Non State Armed Group (NSAG) in interior villages surrounding Kukawa LGA.
- Before the crisis, main source of livelihood was fishing and farming in Doro Baga, Kukawa, Baga and Cross Kauwa. At the moment, source of livelihood includes fishing, casual labour, sale of firewood and petty trading. Women are involved in firewood gathering, which is sold and used as cooking fuel.
- At the moment households engage coping strategies such as borrowing food, begging, cooking of wild food and less preferred food (cooking wild grasses and onion leaves), scavenging for firewood which are sold at low prices. Women and children are the most exposed to protection risk associated with firewood scavenging.
- **Given the critical food security situation, there is an immediate need to provide food assistance to the IDPs in informal settlements in Baga and Cross Kauwa.**
- **Vulnerable IDPs and host communities in Kukawa, Cross Kauwa and Baga, that cannot meet their basic food needs should be targeted and prioritized for food assistance as we are approaching the lean season (May/June).**
- Food insecurity is expected to increase towards the peak of the lean season in July/August, considering that harvest was below the normal level, therefore food assistance should be considered in the next 3-4 months to the most vulnerable. The Emergency food security assessment (EFSA) in February 2018, will provide more insight into the food security situation.
- **In order to build the resilience of communities and reduce their dependency on food assistance, more attention should be given to livelihood and resilience building activities, especially for agriculture, livestock and fishing.**
- As at the time this assessment was been conducted across all location visited there was no case reported on Sexual Exploitation Abuse (SEA) or Gender Based Violence (GBV).

1. Background

Northeast Nigeria remains highly dependent on humanitarian assistance. The impact of the conflict has led to the destruction of houses, limited access to food and disruption of livelihood activities. In addition to the conflict that has lingered in the Northeast, continued displacement, low market functioning, reduced land cultivation and destruction of infrastructure further deepen the food insecurity situation.

Kukawa Local Government is located in the northern part of the conflict-affected state of Borno, Kukawa LGA borders Lake Chad. It is made up of 10 wards, of which: Baga, Doro Baga, Kauwa and Kukawa are amongst the 10 wards in Kukawa LGA. The recent return of IDPs to Kukawa LGA from neighbouring countries and states has been triggered by accessibility of the LGA to the civilian population, which has led to the gradual return of agricultural and livelihood activities, access to basic services as well as the functionality of local markets. Recent movements of livestock such as sheep, donkeys, horses and cattle by nomadic pastoralist is observed along major routes to Kukawa LGA.



In Kukawa LGA, the findings of the October 2017 EFSA show that 23% of the households are food insecure, of which 2% are severely food insecure. According to the October 2017 Cadre Harmonise (CH), from June to August 2017, Kukawa was in CH Phase 4 (emergency) with 168,000 people in phase 3 to 5 including 2,946 in famine situation.

The November 2017 CH revealed that Kukawa LGA will be in CH phase 2 (stress) from October to December 2017, with 14,400 people in CH phase 3 and 4 (crisis and emergency). During the 2018 lean season (June to August), the LGA will be in CH phase 3, and the number of

people in phase 3 and 4 (crisis and emergency) will increase to 23,300. According to the October 2017 EFSA, about 51.3% of households resorted to crisis or emergency coping strategies in Kukawa LGA.

Following discussions and mutual agreement reached by World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), it was agreed that WFP will take over provision of food assistance following needs assessments in Kukawa LGA. Meanwhile, ICRC will continue its support to the affected population in these locations, focusing on recovery programs in order to support the populations to restart their livelihoods.

This assessment sought to collect data on the food security situation, market condition, humanitarian needs and population movements. This will provide WFP and AAH evidence-based information for decision making.

2. Methodology

The assessment was conducted jointly between the World Food Programme and Action Against Hunger from the 16th to 17th of January, 2018. This exercise held across 4 wards (Kukawa town, Doro Baga, Baga and Cross Kauwa) in Kukawa LGA. The assessment was done by holding key informant interviews and focused group discussions (FGDs). The focus group discussions were with key informant interviews (KII), market traders, men, youths and women. A group of IDPs, host communities and newly arrived IDPs were amongst those interviewed in the panel for the FGDs. The discussions centred around access to food, agricultural production, livelihood activities, access to markets, coping strategies adopted by households and daily wages for labourers and humanitarian assistance/aid received.

3. Security situation and displacement trends

General security situation has been stable for some time now, although the situation is dynamic in the villages few kilometres from the town. However, there is only one route, open for commercial trucks to enter into Kukawa from Monguno, the other roads are at the moment closed.

There has been no report of a major security breach in Baga town for one year now, the security situation is still considered fluid. In the villages IDPs were compelled to pay a tax of NGN 50,000 by the Non state Armed Group (NSAG) before they will allow them fish or cultivate their lands. Their inability to pay, forced the IDPs to return back to the camps, abandoning their farm and communities for fear of attack.

➤ Baga

NSAG took over Baga on the 3rd of January 2015, the town was under their control for 52 days, until the Government forces re-took Baga by March, 2015. Civilians were only allowed to return to the town in June 2015. However, the roads were only opened to movement for vehicles and commercial trucks by 25th December 2016.

The Origin of the IDPs hosted in Baga, are people mostly from Kukawa LGA and Baga ward (up to 3 to 11 km). The new arrivals that were received in December 2017, were about 25 Households. These are returnee households, previously displaced to Maiduguri, but have returned and could not proceed further to their place of origin, due to insecurity in their villages. Some of the households have been displaced for the past 3 years.

➤ **Doro Baga**

NSAG took over Doro-Baga around 8th and 9th of December 2016, as a result of the conflict, households were displaced to Maiduguri (about 70%), other states in Nigeria (Yobe, Jigawa, Kano), while some to neighbouring countries like Chad, Niger and Cameroun. A significant number of the population started returning in December 2017 on hearing news of an improving security situation. On a monthly basis approximately 60 Households return to Doro-Baga (in October 2017 alone as much as 100-150 people were seen to come into Baga), with another inflow of 50 new arrivals of IDP households moving into the town from Doron Naira, Katan Yobe and nearby villages since December 2017. As of now, 45% of the population are considered to have returned to Doro Baga.

➤ **Cross Kauwa**

NSAG attacked Cross Kauwa in March 2014, which resulted in households fleeing to Niger, Geidam in Yobe and Maiduguri. After the Army re-took the town in June 2016, the roads were opened for movement by December of the same year. It was not until December 2016 to January 2017 that people started returning to the town. These villages (Mangari, Kaikura, Katan Yobe, Bunduru and Doran Naira) where IDPs are from are within a radius of 4-15 km Cross Kauwa.

In November 2017, a sizeable number of new arrivals of IDPs (composed mainly of Fulani's) were received into Cross Kauwa, about 70% of them came to the IDP settlement, while the remaining 30% moved into the host communities. The ethnic groups found in Cross Kauwa were the Fulani's, Shuwa's and Kanuri's.

➤ **Kukawa town (host community and IDPs in host community)**

NSAG like other wards of Kukawa, took over Kukawa town on the 26th of October 2014, the Government Forces retook Kukawa town by July, 2015. This triggered a return of residents from the 26th of December 2016. During the period of occupation of Kukawa by the NSAG, the indigenes fled to neighbouring villages, Maiduguri and some of them to neighbouring countries like Niger and Chad.

4. Population figures

➤ **Baga**

According to the figures shared by IOM, 1,237 individuals (420 HHs) are living in the informal settlement (328 shelters). The remaining are within Baga town (living in the host community or car parks/garages). The IDPs were relocated from the primary school to this informal settlement called "IOM Camp" 3 months ago. Previously, the IDPs were sheltered in a primary school in Baga town, but in October 2017, they were asked to relocate due to the resumption of schools. The IDPs make up about 50% of the population of people in Baga. When asked when they would return, they responded until safety and peace returns fully. They find it difficult to return to their villages because these locations have not been cleared completely, more so sporadic attacks from the NSAG are reported.

➤ **Doro Baga**

There is no IDP camp located in Doro Baga, the IDP population live within the host community. They form about 30-40% of the population of Doro Baga which is about 9,000 households according to information shared by the community.

➤ **Cross Kauwa**

Cross Kauwa primary school is the only IDP settlement in Cross Kauwa, sheltering about 440 individuals (217 HHs) are said to be living in the IDP settlement. The IDP settlement is the only option for accommodation for some of the IDPs, as they indicated that they cannot afford to pay for a rented house in the host community. The IDPs that live in the host community are accommodated by their relatives, a few are able to rent their own house.

➤ **Kukawa**

The numbers of IDPs in Kukawa, are approximately 3,500 to 4,000 individuals, the new arrival received since November 2017 are about 1,500 to 2,000 people. The IDPs came from neighbouring villages, states and countries like Chad. Their arrival was triggered by insecurity and hunger in the villages where they resided in. In the course of the discussions many said the NSAG come to their villages at night to demand for food and collect livestock.

5. Livelihood Activities

➤ **Baga**

The IDPs from Mallam Karati, Karwaram and Kwartan Yobe were predominantly farmers with a higher proportion of the community being farmers, while a smaller fraction were fishermen. Before the conflict the main source of income for men was farming of crops (beans, maize and onions) both rain-fed and irrigation, fishing on the Lake Chad, trade and business. The women were involved in the selling of fish, groundnut, cake baking, tailoring and petty trading before the conflict, at the moment women cut firewood and grass. Access to capital is a limiting factor to households expanding their business and trading venture.

At the moment, they are not allowed to go to fish very far. They can only farm within a safe distance, hence they are forced to reduce their plot sizes. Men also engage in casual labour, the daily wage amount is 800 to 1,000 NGN/day depending of the distance covered, previously it was 500 NGN/day.

➤ **Doro Baga**

Before the conflict livelihood activities were fishing (80%), farming (70%), trading agricultural (40%) and animal rearing. About 70-80% of the men were actively involved in fishing, while the remaining 20-30% cultivated and sold agricultural produce. Crops cultivated before the unrest were rice, water melon, beans, cassava, onion, sweat potatoes, pepper, garden egg and other choice vegetables. While women engaged in livelihood activities such as: weaving; sewing and mending of fishnets. Before the conflict women were not involved in farming, a vast majority of them being housewives that keep their homes with no livelihood activity except a few who are involved in sewing and processing activities along the fish value chain (selling and smoking of fish).

Casual labourers earn 1500 NGN/Day before the crisis; at present the casual labour wage is 800 to 1,000 NGN. The decrease in price for casual labour was attributed to the fact that before the crisis, most people owned their own farm and utilized family labour, at the moment there are more labourers available with few farms and smaller plots to work in.

➤ **Cross Kauwa**

Before the onset of the conflict, the livelihood activities practised by residents of Cross Kauwa was farming, fishing, rearing of livestock and trading. As much as 70% of the people were farming while 30% were either fishing, rearing livestock or trading. The livelihood activities women engaged in included the cultivation of maize; beans; onion; water melon; millet; cucumber; groundnut and rice.

➤ **Kukawa**

Before crisis, main livelihood activities were farming and animal rearing. Women in Kukawa were involved in groundnut and vegetable farming, cooking of street foods, tailoring and making of local mats. For the moment, the available livelihood relied on are low wage casual labour, cutting of firewood/grasses, moulding and sale of clay blocks. At the moment the women remain at home as care givers.

5.1 Agricultural production

➤ **Doro Baga**

Before the conflict, farming is practised throughout the year, this is because the distance from the community to the lake is less than 1 km, providing an enabling environment for farmers to practice both wet and dry season farming.

From March to May, the water in the Lake Chad recedes, hence allowing farmers to plant maize and beans along the shores of the river (recession agriculture). From April to June, farmers in Doro Baga practise irrigation farming, cultivating crops like: onion, garden egg, sweet pepper, water melon, cabbage and tomatoes. From June to September, rain-fed agriculture is practiced. Before the conflict lean season was hardly experienced, as crops were cultivated all year round.

In October 2017, the community received seeds (water melon, onion, sorghum, okra) from ICRC to cultivate on their farm. It was reported that some of the households cooked the sorghum seeds and consumed as food. Households that farmed, were able to harvest and sell some portion of their crops, while the remaining was consumed by the household. At the moment the type of crops cultivated are onion, tomatoes and vegetables.

Before the crisis, fishermen could go as far as 100 km on the Lake Chad fishing near (Cameroun, Niger and Chad). At the moment, fishermen can only fish as far as 5 to 6 km in the waters, on any day. Although, there is no restriction to accessing the Lake, the Government forces cannot guarantee their safety beyond a perimeter of 5 to 6 km. In their words they said ***“If you go beyond, you are on your own”***. According to the population, fishing activities have reduced by 80 to 90%.

➤ **Cross Kauwa**

The wet season begins in June-August, beans; millet and sorghum being the commonly cultivated crops. The crops are harvested in October. During the dry season, which last for as

long as 6 months (starting from November). They grow vegetable; maize; rice; water melon; sweet melon and onion. Irrigation farming is practised on a small scale.

Crops cultivated before the conflict included: maize, beans (mostly as cash crop), water melon, groundnut and cucumber. The last crop production season, farmers were not allowed to plant maize or sorghum, but only allowed to plant legumes and vegetables, due to security reasons.

➤ **Kukawa**

Before the conflict the main agricultural crops cultivated include: maize; beans; millet; onion; groundnut; tomato and sweet potato. The rainy season starts from July to September (crops grown in this season are beans; millet and groundnuts); while the harvest is in October. Dry season begins in October to January, when the water recedes, the farmers grow beans, water melon, cucumber and sorghum. Irrigation farming is practised during the dry season.

Food availability in stock is expected to be low from March 2018, according to information shared by the households that farmed. ICRC distributed seeds, which some households converted to food, other planted but the crops were affected by the weather (dry spells recorded in this part of the state) this contributed to a poor harvest.

5.2 Access to land

➤ **Baga**

Land for farming are small plots and within close safe radius, although no restriction is in place by the Nigerian forces as regards to land. However, the fear of attacks confines the farming activity. Some IDPs have access to free land for farming while others pay a rent of 2,000 to 3,000 NGN or on a sharecropping. In the planting period of 2017-2018, about 80% of households were able to farm.

The seeds used in the cropping season was purchased from the local market. ICRC distributed seeds to households in Baga town, but the IDP camp were not included in this distribution. Tall growing crops like cereals (maize, sorghum and millet) were not allowed to be cultivated for security reasons.

➤ **Cross Kauwa**

This year in Cross Kauwa, 70% of the households were able to cultivate their farm land. The cost of renting a land for farming is from 5,000 to 10,000 NGN, which could be afforded by a few. Majority of the IDP households had access to land where they were allowed to farm for free. They were told to go into the bush to select a suitable land and farm. Although in the host community, the residents complained of having access to smaller plots, which is a challenge affecting the farming households. Most households could not practise irrigation farming during the dry session.

There was restriction as to how far they were allowed to farm, within a radius of 2 to 3 km. Also restriction on tall crops (millet and sorghum) is in place.

➤ **Kukawa**

Since the return of people to Kukawa, access to land is restricted (according to the community about 75% of them do not have access to land). The constraints facing farmers are: closure of the gate to the city by 5pm daily (the gate is open from 7am to 5pm by Government forces)

and farm lands situated far from the community hindering accessibility. Although, farmers with land bordering Cross Kauwa (towards cross Kauwa axis), are allowed to farm beyond 8 km.

6. Food Security Situation

The food security situation is critical especially amongst IDP population living within the IDP settlements in both Cross Kauwa and Baga. More people are expected to arrive, as a result of the ongoing military operations and threats from the NSAG in interior villages surrounding Kukawa LGA.

➤ Baga

The last food distribution was done by ICRC in September and October 2017. Before, they were relocated to the camp they received two distributions when they were still in Baga town. This situation has led households to engage coping strategies such as begging, casual labour, gathering of firewood/ grasses and sale, consumption of onion leaves as a major meal (food is not diversified); they also sell beans to get money in order to buy food. Households are reliant on activities such as the cutting and selling of firewood in meeting their food needs (firewood is sold for NGN 600 to NGN 700). Both men and women are collecting and selling firewood. It is worth mentioning that children are also engaged in firewood collection.



➤ Doro Baga

The new arrivals get food from their relatives or from other members of the community assist in providing food to households in need. Previously households depended mainly on the ICRC food assistance. ICRC carried out 4 distributions in the community. The last ICRC distribution was carried out in October 2017, after which the ration cards were retrieved.

The food situation is improving as households have access to fish in the river. With more livelihood support in fishing activities, this will further bolster and strengthen the livelihood recovering process and the markets in Doro Baga.

➤ Cross Kauwa

ICRC carried out 3 distributions, the last one took place in October 2017. Since then, households in the IDP settlement access food via borrowing; use of money gotten from the sale of firewood and grass (for livestock and building shelter) to buy food. Previously, before the conflict 80% owned livestock, at the moment only 20% or less of the households own a livestock. Of which those who have livestock sell their animal in order to buy food. Households engage in casual labour to get money to feed, casual labourers are paid 500 to 600 NGN. The elderly can afford work for only 2 days, while the youth can work for up to 10 days in a month.

➤ Kukawa

Households that are able to buy food, get money from the sale of firewood. About 90% of the farming households were able to farm, but they households complained they experienced dry spells (early cessation of rain), which resulted in huge loss. Because dry season agriculture is practiced amongst the host community, IDPs leverage on this opportunity to get employed to work on farms. About 70% of IDPs are engaged in casual labour, the casual labour wage ranges from 400 to 700 NGN. On average, IDPs can work 7 to 10 days in a month.

7. Markets

Cross Kauwa, Baga and Kukawa markets are all operational, although still below pre-crisis level. However, the fish market in Doro Baga is partially functional as there are some restriction on quantities of fish sold. Market in Cross Kauwa, Baga and Kukawa are accessible throughout the year with major supplies of staples sourced from Maiduguri and Monguno markets the major staples sold are millet, rice, maize, beans and sorghum. Staple food commodities were widely available in Cross Kauwa, Baga and Kukawa markets.

Table 1: Prices of food commodities in Kukawa

Food commodity	Current price	Previous year	% Change in current price	Effect on Households
Loacl rice (Big mudu)	700	700	0%	➡
Sorgum(Small mudu)	150	200	-33%	⬆
Millet(Small mudu)	200	250	-25%	⬆
Peanuts(Small mudu)	400	350	13%	⬇
Red Beans (Big mudu)	800	500	38%	⬇
Biski-Maize coucous(Small mudu)	200	250	-25%	⬆
Palm oil (1 bottle)	450	450	0%	➡

Table 2: Prices of food commodities in Cross Kauwa

Food commodity	Current price	Previous year	% Change in current price	Effect on Households
Maize Flour(Big mudu)	500	500	0%	➡
Maize couscous-Biski (Big mudu)	300	600	-100%	⬆
Imported rice(Big mudu)	950	1100	-16%	⬆
Millet (Big mudu)	320	600	-88%	⬆
Red Beans (Big mudu)	800	700	13%	⬇

Units of measurement: Small mudu is 1.25KG and big mudu is 2.5KG

Kukawa markets functioning with an official market day on Mondays. The market has been opened and functional since march 2017. Staple food item including wide variety of grains, vegetable, eggs, bread and agricultural inputs are available. The prices of sorghum, millet and maize couscous (Couscous: *maize ground to a fineness*) are seen to have reduced as compared to the previous last year, this is expected to positively impact the households' access to food. In Cross Kauwa market, the prices of maize couscous decreased by over 100% when compared to the rice one year ago, imported rice and millet reduced as compared to last year. This is a positive change for households. About 80 percent of those interviewed consented to having

access to the market. Staples like pasta (local noodles and spaghetti), sorghum, maize and millet were all common food items across the markets.

8. Protection overview

Women and children are the most exposed to protection risk associated with firewood scavenging. As at the time this assessment was conducted across all location visited there was no case reported on Sexual Exploitation Abuse (SEA) or Gender Based Violence (GBV).

Majority of the households stated that they are open to innovation regarding the use of efficient cooking stoves and cooking materials such as (cow dung or wood shavings bricks); this will help mitigate the exposure of households especially women and children from protection associated risk in search of firewood from the forest and farm lands. The households in the IDP settlement are exposed to severe weather conditions. This exposure could pose protection risk due to inappropriate shelter and health risk to children and pregnant women.

9. Recommendations

9.1 Food security and livelihood

Location	Recommendations
Doro Baga	No immediate food assistance is required in Doro Baga due to the gradual restart of livelihood activities primarily fishing amongst households in Doro Baga community. Focus should be on livelihood support and income generating activities targeting fishing and farming households.
Baga	<p>Given the critical food security situation, there is an immediate need to provide food assistance to the IDPs in informal settlements.</p> <p>Vulnerable IDPs and host communities that cannot meet their basic food needs should be targeted and prioritized for food assistance as we are approaching the lean season (May/June).</p> <p>Subsequently livelihood intervention can be implemented as this will further bolster and increase sustainable local food supply options for households.</p>
Kukawa	Targeted food assistance is recommended as we approach the lean season from mid-May, 2018. Subsequently livelihood intervention can be implemented as this will further bolster and increase sustainable local food supply options for households.
Cross Kauwa	<p>Given the critical food security situation, there is an immediate need to provide food assistance to the IDPs in informal settlements.</p> <p>Vulnerable IDPs and host communities that cannot meet their basic food needs should be targeted and prioritized for food assistance as we are approaching the lean season (May/June).</p> <p>Subsequently livelihood intervention can be implemented as this will further bolster and increase sustainable local food supply options for households.</p>

9.2 Protection

- Conduct advocacy visit/meeting with IOM and UNHCR to advocate for more shelter structure construction in IOM Baga camp and Cross kauwa IDP settlement.
- Hold a meeting with the GBV sub-sector working group for more advocacy with the Nigerian army to employ more patrol teams in the environs of Kukawa with the aim of protecting households involved in firewood collection in these areas.
- Before WFP intervention, ensure gender is mainstreamed in the community representative set up and build on existing community structures especially the ones with high women participation. This is with the aim of ensuring all vulnerable households are carried along.
- Ensure women at host community are engaged in value chain income generating activities and backyard gardening for vegetable production, fish value chains should also be looked into in the host communities (Doron Baga, Kukawa, and Cross Kauwa host communities respectively).
- Once the findings of the SAFE assessment are finalized Kukawa LGA should be added as one of the pilot areas for the project since majority of the households are open to innovative practices.