



## Nigeria

Rapid assessment in Ngala LGA of Borno State.

January 2019

### Key Highlights

- Interviews with partner organizations revealed that the new arrivals, came mainly from: Cameroun, Chad, Dikwa, Munguno, Kusuru and **only 3 households came from Rann of Kala Balge LGA.**
- Amongst the reasons for the movement of the new arrivals were due to food insecurity and security attacks.
- The coping strategies used by new arrivals to meet their food needs are reliance on support from friends and relatives, ration control (**taking one or two meals a day to have food for longer period**)
- IDPs are involved in casual labour outside the camp often in exchange for food. While the main livelihood activities amongst the host community range from: petty trading and working as a labourer in agriculture field.
- The most **pressing needs** reported by the new arrivals were **food, NFI and shelter.**
- Protection concern is the exposure households, especially women and children face in gathering firewood for cooking, which entails trekking some kilometres to access their minimum basic needs.

### Background

The ongoing conflict in north eastern Nigeria has had negative impact on communities and have led to displacements of households and disruption markets, communal and individual livelihoods. The recent attacks by Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) on surrounding communities of Ngala Local Government Area in the north eastern part of Borno State like Rann/Kala Balge, resulted in a huge displaced population. The scale of displacement including the number of people left in Rann after the attack remains unconfirmed. However, there were speculations that some of the IDPs from Rann were headed for Bama, Dikwa and Ngala LGAs. This necessitated this assessment. Information about the current overall estimated population in Ngala town stands around 95,000 individuals. Several INGOs and UN agencies currently provide multi sectoral humanitarian services in Ngala.

A rapid assessment was conducted in two IDP camps and three wards of host communities in Ngala LGA from 23 - 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

## Objectives

The objective of the rapid assessment was to verify the presence of new arrivals specifically from Rann following the latest attack, to assess the living conditions of the new arrivals and their access to basic services within the IDP camps and host communities.

## Methodology

Data was collected through key informant interviews, Focus group discussions and observation. Key informant interviews were conducted with staff of IOM, Intersos, LGA humanitarian desk officer and community leaders. Focus group discussions were held with men and women groups among the new arrivals that arrived recently, as result of the recent attack. Discussions centered around access to food and basic needs, livelihood activities, access to markets, coping strategies adopted by households and humanitarian assistance/aid received.

## Findings

### IDP Camps

Ngala is in Northern Borno while sharing border with Cameroun and Chad. According to IOM in International School Camp (ISS), a total of 41,000 IDPs are currently in the camp while sharing over stretched facilities. Due to congestion and to maintain camp minimum sphere standard, no new arrivals are in the camp but rather referral is made to the other camp in town (Arabic camp).

In Arabic Camp, Intersos oversees camp coordination. Findings from KII with the camp management, confirmed the camp received about 222 HHs (788 individuals) as new arrivals within past 30 – 40 days. Verification in conjunction with LGA camp chairmen is currently ongoing for the latest batch of arrivals. Interviews with partner organizations revealed that the new arrivals, came mainly from: Cameroun, Chad, Dikwa, Munguno, Kusuru and **only 3 households were from Rann**, due to food scarcity and ongoing security operations. Returnees from other LGAs constitute most of the new arrivals population, the return of households was attributed to the perceived peace and relative safety of the town. Most of the new arrivals are currently been housed in the reception area pending verification and registration. Shelter and NFIs have been provided but still shortages abound. Several INGOs provide services in areas of nutrition, food security and livelihood, health, and protection within the camp. The coping strategies used by new arrivals to meet their food needs are reliance on support from friends and relatives, ration control (*taking one or two meals a day to have food for longer period*) and involvement in casual labour outside the camp often in exchange for food. The most pressing needs reported by the new arrivals were food, NFI and shelter. A market is operational within the camp, however Gamboru market serves as a

bigger market to meet food supply needs. Protection concern like trekking far kilometres for firewood remains a challenge.

### **Host Communities**

Three wards (Ward A, B and C) were visited and assessed in Ngala town. Most new arrivals as identified are mostly returnees who left the town for neighbouring communities in Cameroun, Chad (154 HHs) and Rann (8 HHs) but returned due to ongoing conflicts. No INGOs currently provide intervention for the returnees. Most returnees live with relatives and friends, who help them meet their food needs while others engage in some form of casual labour to meet their food needs. The main livelihood amongst the host community range from: petty trading and working as a labourer in farms (agricultural labour) are commonly practiced as an unskilled labour. The biggest needs identified also amongst the host population were food and shelter. The host communities are willingly to give land for farming to new arrivals if such opportunities were to be available.

### **Conclusions and recommendation**

- The food security situation is critical especially amongst recently returnees and IDPs in camp who depends on food assistance from the community and relatives. There is need to assist new arrivals/returnees especially with food assistance in the camp under monthly contingency caseload.
- There is need for humanitarian partners on ground to support households in the host communities and returnee's with access to land with livelihood intervention's as this will further boost the markets and help households restore their productive assets.
- WFP should continue to monitor the situation closely, especially amongst the new arrivals as NSAGs attacks continues in neighboring LGA's and communities near Ngala.