Rapid Assessment Report Chezcoan Community, Maiduguri, Borno State
Assessment date: 16/01/2019

1. Introduction

The main objective of this assessment was to conduct a verification on the presence and number of new arrivals, their general living conditions and their access to humanitarian assistance in Chezcoan informal settlement of Maiduguri, Borno State.

Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were held with both men and women groups in Chezcoan community to obtain more information on the conditions including the needs of these new arrivals.

2. Findings

Chezcoan is located in Bolori 1 ward of Maiduguri local government area (LGA). According to IOM’s DTM, a total of 671 individuals (167 households) that are predominantly from Baga in Kukawa arrived the community.

Findings from FGDs confirmed that the about the number of new arrivals reported by IOM are currently living with host communities in Chezcoan. About 350 of these individuals, which are mostly women and children (over 90 percent) are currently living in an empty primary school in the centre of the community – Alfridus International School. About 250 people (50 households) are living in an informal settlement donated by the district head of the community. The remaining new arrivals are being hosted by families and relatives with large compounds.

All the households were either from Baga and Cross Kukawa. The reason for their displacement was the recent attack and heightened insecurity in their place of origin – Kukawa LGA. The spontaneous nature of their displacement forced them to leave most of their belongings behind and travelled with only few items especially clothes.

Focus Group Discussions with both men and women in Chezcoan confirmed that most of the new arrivals have spent two to three week in the community.

There are no authorities currently managing or supporting (IOM, SEMA/NEMA) the new arrivals in Chezcoan. Some of the new arrivals reported that they resolved to come and live with their relatives in the communities because of their failed attempts to join formal camps in Maiduguri. The newly arrived households have not benefited from any formal support with food or NFIIs from government or humanitarian partners.
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), begging particularly by women and children and involvement in casual labour (e.g. house cleaning, sweeping, washing) often in exchange for food. The most pressing needs reported by the new arrivals were food, NFI and shelter.

The assessment team also identified WASH as a high priority need particularly in the challenge particularly in the school and informal settlement donated by the district head.

3. Conclusions and Recommendations

The food security situation of the new arrivals currently hosted in Chezcoan remains critical due to lack of coordinated response from the government and humanitarian community. However, the lack of assistance to the new arrivals in Chezcoan is underscored by the informal nature of the settlements as the new arrivals are a small fraction of the host communities and any sort of intervention that ignores these larger group could pose protection related risks and heighten tension and conflict between the new arrivals and host communities.

Moreover, such intervention would also have a pull effect in the host communities and environs, which would make targeting and identification of the newly arrived households challenging. Although the new arrivals are already adopting coping strategies to meet their food needs, there is need for high level advocacy to government to relocate these group of new arrivals in Chezcoan to a more formal setting like the Stadium in order for them to access critical lifesaving humanitarian assistance (food, nutrition and non-food).

No WFP GFD (CBT or in-kind) or nutrition assistance is recommended for now.