



# NEW ARRIVALS IN PULKA TOWN

## Gwoza LGA, Borno State, Nigeria

October 2018

### Introduction

In the eastern part of Borno state increased displacement has been observed in Bama and Gwoza local government areas (LGAs) towards Bama, Banki, Gwoza and Pulka towns. Over 16,400 new internally displaced persons (IDPs) arrived between June and September 2018 to these locations<sup>1</sup>, stemming from the hard-to-reach areas of Bama and Gwoza LGAs largely due to ongoing military operations, and returns from neighbouring Cameroon. With the aim of understanding displacement trends, intentions and humanitarian/service-related needs among the new arrivals and to support multi-sectoral coordination and response in the affected locations, REACH conducted a new arrivals assessment in Bama, Banki, Gwoza and Pulka towns, supported by the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO). New arrivals are those that have arrived in the new location within the three months prior to data collection (after 1 June 2018), more specifically (i) returnees either from Cameroon or from within Nigeria to area of origin (AoO), and (ii) IDPs who have been displaced to assessed locations. This factsheet is one of four covering Bama, Banki, Gwoza and Pulka towns, and presents main findings on Pulka town based on data collected between 11-14 September 2018 through (i) household (HH) surveys conducted with 251 randomly selected newly arrived households, providing a representative sample of the roughly 778 household units<sup>2</sup> in Pulka, and (ii) 8 focus group discussions (FGDs) with both IDPs and returnees. The findings from the household survey are generalizable at the town level, with a confidence level of 95% and a margin of error of 7%. Findings relating to a subset of the sample may have a lower confidence level and a wider margin of error. Findings from the FGDs are indicative only.

The average household size in Pulka town was 4.9 family members per household, close to the average of the four assessed locations. The household survey highlighted that the majority of new arrival HHs were female-headed (59%), among which 47% were either widowed or divorced. During the FGDs, female HoHs explained the difficulties they faced compared to male HoHs to protect themselves, to meet their HH's needs, and to cope with the trauma caused by the violence they experienced or witnessed.

### 2. Displacement patterns

Frequency of intermediary displacement<sup>4</sup> Main triggers of initial displacement from AoO<sup>5</sup>



84% of new arrivals originated from Gwoza LGA and 15% from Bama LGA. During the FGDs, newly arrived IDPs reported that their main influencing factor to leave their AoO was hostility from armed opposition groups (AOGs). Several FGD participants reported being unable to leave their villages surrounded by AOGs for four years, many others were reportedly kidnapped and held hostage in AOG hideouts in the Sambisa Forest. They highlighted the need for psychosocial support to deal with the trauma they experienced. FGD participants reported escaping on foot, or being facilitated by the military. Some reported taking no belongings in order not to raise suspicion among the AOGs, and some because their village reportedly burned down during AOG attacks. FGD participants reported dangerous conditions due to the presence of AOGs, and an inability to access food and healthcare whilst traveling to Pulka town.

### 1. Demographics

#### Newly arrived populations:

4,359<sup>1</sup>

HHs by population group



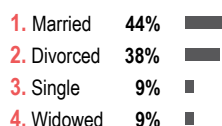
Length of time since HH arrived at current location



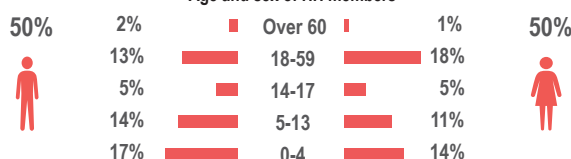
Sex of head of household (HoH)



Marital status of female HoHs<sup>3</sup>



Age and sex of HH members



#### Family Separation

%HH with at least 1 separated family member



Means of family separation for 25% of HH that reported having a separated member



25% of HHs reported experiencing family separation, among which 53% (33 HHs) had no contact with the separated family member(s) and 15% (9 HHs) did not know their whereabouts. FGD participants explained that separation often occurred during the displacement when they fled one by one and accidentally took different bush paths. Some families were reportedly separated due to members having been kidnapped. FGD participants highlighted that family separation negatively affected their livelihood and the education of their children, as they were needed to help meet the HH's needs, such as helping with chores or securing livelihood.

<sup>1</sup> IOM Emergency Tracking Tool (ETT, June - August 2018), Report No. 69 - 81.

<sup>2</sup> The HH figure is calculated using average HH size per LGA from the REACH MSNA in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States conducted in July 2018. While many of the newly arrived IDPs originate from inaccessible areas and the MSNA covered accessible locations, it is currently the best available information source.

<sup>3</sup> Percentages calculated based on the 148 HHs (59%) that reported having female head of household.

<sup>4</sup> The number of times the HH was displaced to another location for more than one month before arriving to assessed location.

<sup>5</sup> Households could select multiple answers.



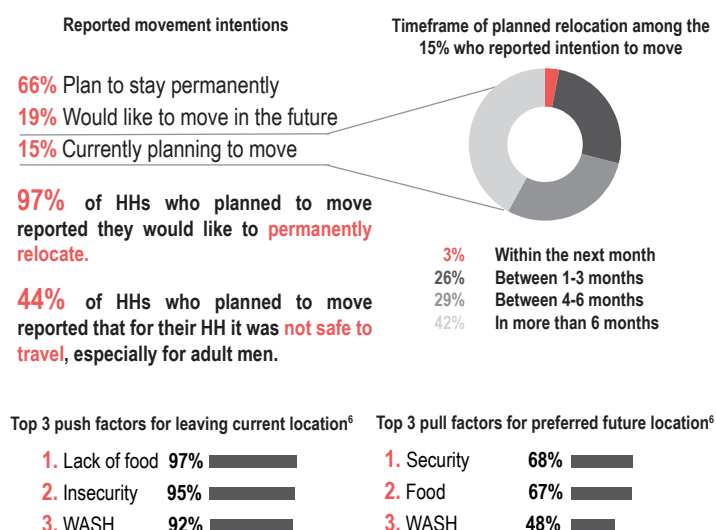
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## 3. Movement intentions of recent arrivals

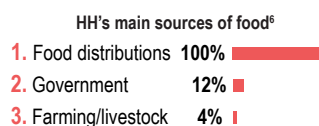


66% of new arrivals were planning to stay in their current location permanently. While most HHs reported lack of food being their main reason to leave their current location, improved security was the most commonly reported incentive to cite a preferred future location. During the FGDs, most IDPs emphasized their preference to return to their area of origin if the security situation improved and the unexploded ordnances (UXOs) were cleared, as they had better livelihood opportunities than in their place of displacement, while others reported a preference to stay due to poor provision of services in their AoO.

## 4. Living conditions and access to services

### Food

92% of HHs reported that access to food was better than in their AoO. FGD participants perceived the received two-week food ration to be insufficient, as the next distribution could take up to two months.



### Shelter & Non-food items (NFIs)

**74% of HHs reported that the shelter situation was better in Pulka town than in their AoO.**

IDPs reported during the FGDs that it could take more than two months to receive their allocated shelter, while returnees reported that their property got destroyed during AOG attacks and they were in need of assistance. IDPs emphasized the need for clothing and NFIs.

### Health services

**99% of HHs reported having access to free healthcare, and 98% perceived that no vulnerable groups had more difficulty accessing it.** Returnees expressed the need for an expanded health facility to accommodate the high number of patients.

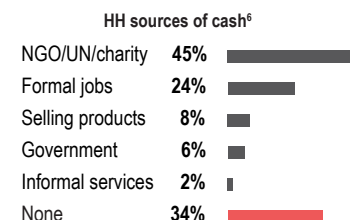
### Education

**2% of HHs reported that their children do not have access to education, with 94% perceiving that no vulnerable groups had more difficulty accessing it.** However, FGD participants highlighted the need for more teachers and education volunteers for the number of school-aged children.

## WASH

**76% of HHs reported that access to water was better in Pulka town than in their AoO.** However, FGD participants noted the long queuing time for water due to low water pressure, as well as for latrines, making it one of the main push factors among those IDPs who reported intention to leave their current location. Additionally, FGD participants reported resorting to paying for water to meet the HH's needs.

## Employment and cash



## Access to land

**46% reported that access to land was better in Pulka town than in their AoO, 10% reported that access was the same, while 44% reported that access was worse.**

34% of HHs reported having no access to cash. FGD participants expressed difficulties in securing livelihoods due to the restrictions on farming, and the lack of cash to restart trading.

## Security

**69% of HHs who planned to move reported that security was worse in Pulka than in their AoO.**

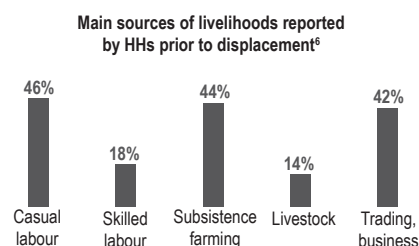
FGD participants emphasized the unstable security situation beyond the military controlled areas, during travel, and on the farms, while within the town and camp area they reportedly felt safer.

## Access to humanitarian aid

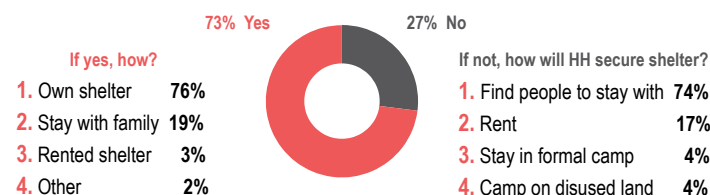
Most FGD participants reported only receiving aid from the military during their journey, who assisted some of them with food, water and clothing. Returnees emphasized the need for food, water, health, shelter and NFI assistance, as well as the reconstruction of schools.

**24% of HHs who planned to move reported that they had better access to humanitarian aid in Pulka town than in their AoO.**

## 5. Livelihood and shelter upon relocation



**Ability to access shelter in preferred future location among the 34% who reported intention to move in the future (85 HH)**



<sup>6</sup> Households could select multiple answers.



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## 6. Information and decision making

Main topics of interest when seeking information on preferred future location<sup>7,8</sup>

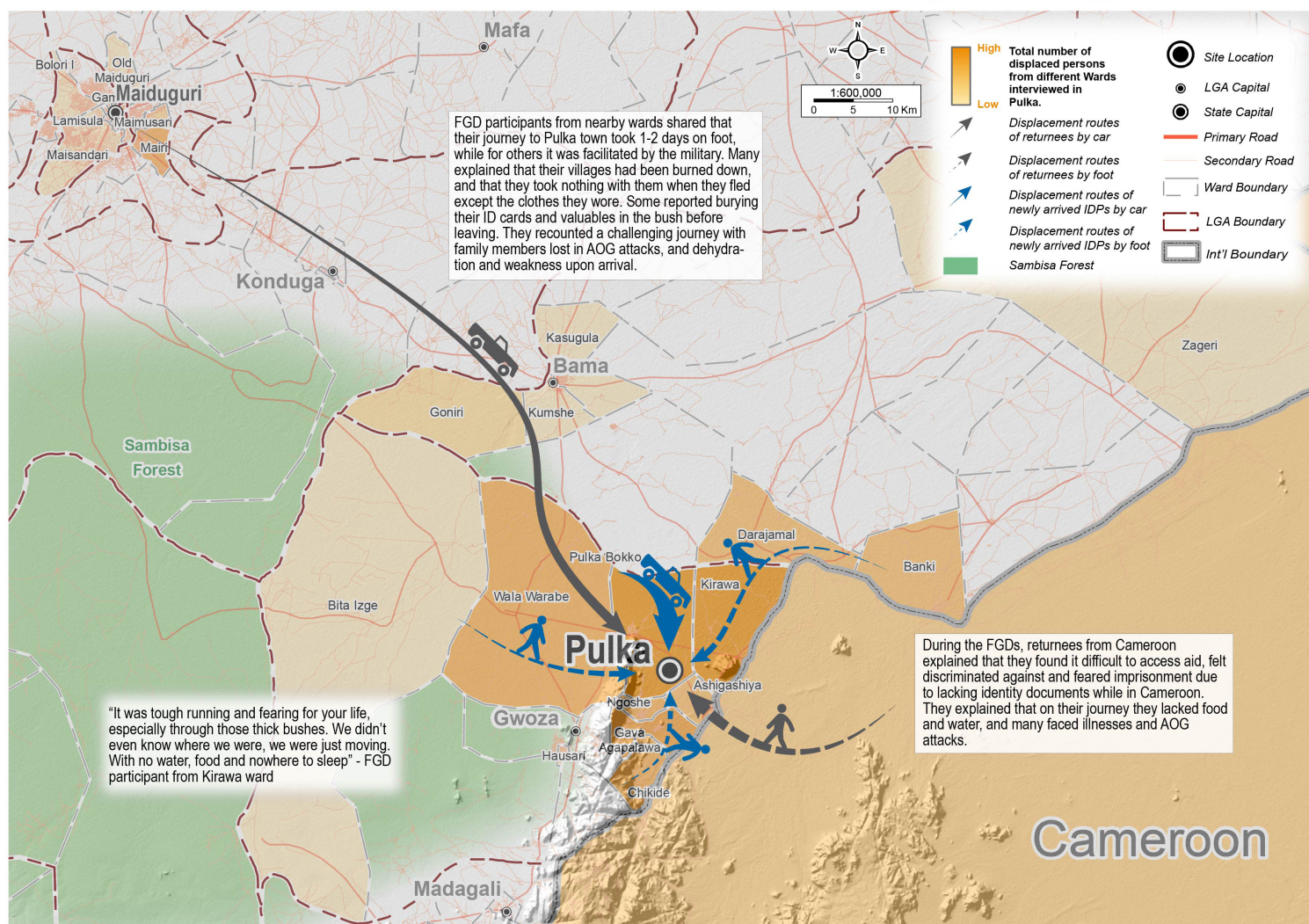
1. Access to food 74%
2. Security conditions 69%
3. Wellbeing of family members 51%

Duration since information on preferred future location was last received<sup>8</sup>

1. Between a week and a month 62%
2. Less than a week ago 16%
3. Never 14%

**91%** of HHs who planned to move reported that they trusted the information they received on their preferred future location. HHs most frequently obtained this information in person by visiting the location (65%), through their traditional leader (46%) or via radio (44%)<sup>7,8</sup>. FGD participants noted they also received information through the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) and the new arrivals to the area.

Map 1: Last displacement location of newly arrived households



### About REACH

REACH is a joint initiative of two international non-governmental organisations - ACTED and IMPACT Initiatives - and the UN Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT). REACH aims to strengthen evidence-based decision making by aid actors through efficient data collection, management and analysis before, during and after an emergency. By doing so, REACH contributes to ensuring that communities affected by emergencies receive the support they need. All REACH activities are conducted in support to, and within the framework of, inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. For more information, please visit our website: [www.reach-initiative.org](http://www.reach-initiative.org). You can contact us directly at: [geneva@reachinitiative.org](mailto:geneva@reachinitiative.org) and follow us on Twitter: [@REACH\\_info](https://twitter.com/REACH_info).

<sup>7</sup> Households could select multiple answers.

<sup>8</sup> Percentages calculated based on the 63 HHs (35%) that planned to move from current location.