



NEW ARRIVALS IN BAMA TOWN

Bama 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 locations¹, 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 Bama town based on data collected between 18-22 September 2018 through (i) household (HH) surveys conducted with 186 randomly selected newly arrived households, providing a representative sample of the roughly 1,477 household units² in Bama 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 household size was the highest in Bama town among the four assessed locations with an average of 6.7 family members per household. The HH survey highlighted that a large number of new arrival HHs were female-headed (29%), among which many were widowed (26%). During the FGDs, female new arrivals explained that married female HoHs also oftentimes find themselves as the only breadwinner, as many lost track of their husbands during displacement, or military screening.

2. Displacement patterns

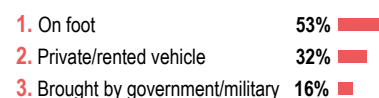
Time of initial displacement from area of origin



Main triggers of initial displacement from AoO⁴



Primary mode of transportation to current location



90% of new arrivals originated from Bama LGA, with a majority of them leaving their AoO in hard-to-reach areas for the first time in 2018. During the FGDs, newly arrived IDPs reported that their main influencing factor to leave their AoO was the presence of armed opposition groups (AOGs), while returnees perceived that the level of safety had improved and reconstruction efforts were underway in Bama, and preferred to return due to the higher cost of living in Maiduguri. FGD participants highlighted that most new arrivals left their AoO on foot, at night, without any belongings or supplies, in order not to raise suspicion among AOGs. They did not carry identity documentation as they perceived it would put them in danger when crossing paths with AOGs. As a push factor for displacement, FGD respondents from hard-to-reach areas drew attention to regularly occurring AOG attacks in their AoO in which many family members were killed or abducted, especially men and boys. As main triggers of their displacement they also reported lack of food in their AoO, ultimately making them resort to foraging wild foods, and lack of clean water.

1. Demographics

Newly arrived populations:

7,386¹

HHs by population group



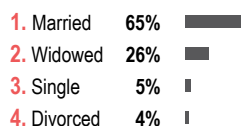
Length of time since HH arrived at current location



Sex of head of household (HoH)



Marital status of female HoHs³



Family Separation

%HH with at least 1 separated family member



Means of family separation for 26% of HH that reported having a separated member



26% of respondents reported experiencing family separation, among which 71% (34 HHs) had no contact with the separated family member(s) and 23% (11 HHs) did not know their whereabouts. 56% of HHs indicated that the separation was forced. 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 military screening. FGD participants highlighted that family separation negatively affected their receipt of shelter assistance, as they had to share shelter with other families.

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

² 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.

³ Percentages calculated based on the 54 HHs (29%) that reported having female head of household.

⁴ Households could select multiple answers.



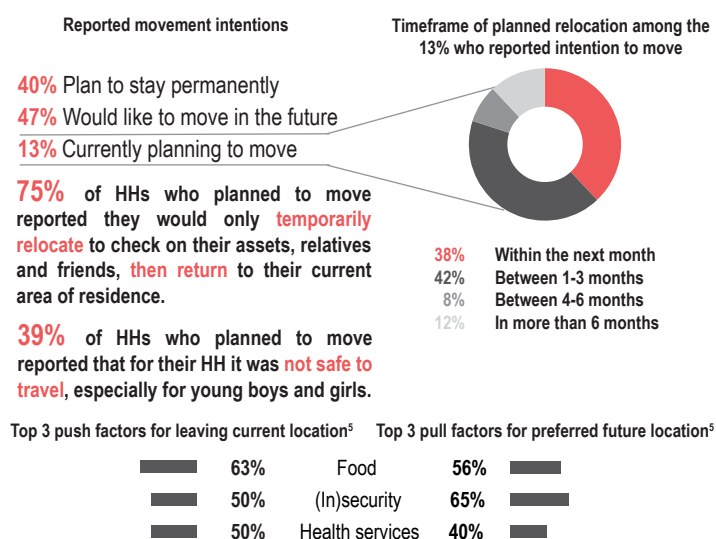
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3. Movement intentions of recent arrivals



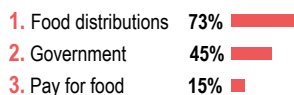
40% of newly arrived HHs were planning to stay in their current location permanently. While most HHs reported access to food as their main reason to leave their current location, improved security was the most commonly reported incentive to cite a preferred future location. Both IDP and returnee FGD participants reported preference to settle in place: returnees expressed motivation to rebuild their life, and IDPs reported the need for security.

4. Living conditions and access to services

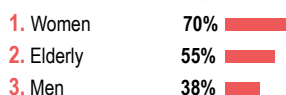
Food

25% of HHs reported that for certain groups it was harder to access food than for others, especially for women and the elderly. However, 80% of HHs reported that access to food was better than in their AoO. IDP FGD participants reported difficulties caused by delayed food assistance as most of them only received the first food ration a week after arrival to Bama IDP camp.

HH's main sources of food⁵



HHs reporting groups experiencing difficulties accessing food^{5,6}



Shelter & Non-food items (NFIs)

67% of HHs reported that the shelter situation was better in Bama town than in their AoO.

During the FGDs, IDPs reported that it could take up to four months to receive shelter, and more than a week for NFI kits. They emphasized the need for clothing upon arrival. Returnees reported destroyed property due to AOG attacks and the need for shelter and NFI assistance.

Health services

Over 80% of HHs reported having access to free healthcare, and 84% perceived that no vulnerable groups had more difficulty accessing it. Returnees expressed the need for rehabilitation of the health centres outside of the IDP camp.

Education

1% of HHs reported that their children do not have access to free education, and 20% perceived that girls experience the most difficulties in accessing education. However, while during the FGDs newly returned HHs reported already having enrolled their children to school, IDPs reported their children being too sick to go to school yet due to the challenges of the journey.

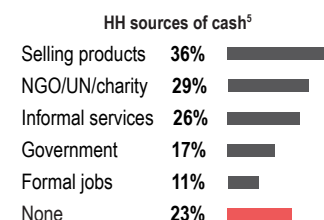
⁵ Households could select multiple answers.

⁶ Percentages calculated based on the 47 HHs (25%) that certain vulnerable groups experience more difficulties than others when accessing food.

WASH

82% of HHs reported that access to water was better in Bama town than in their AoO, and that it was provided for free by non-governmental organizations (NGOs). However, returnees reported during the FGDs the need for improved water sources, as wells in the host community were spoiled.

Employment and cash



Access to land

60% reported that access to land was better in Bama town than in their AoO, 31% reported that it was worse, and 9% reported that it was the same.

During the FGDs, female HoHs that arrived at the camp reported difficulties in obtaining cash as only men were allowed to farm or engage in casual labour, and female HoHs were without sources of livelihood.

Security

77% of HHs reported that the security was better in Bama town than in their AoO.

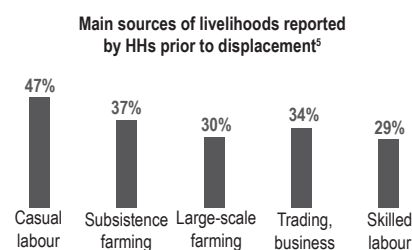
FGD participants reported improved security situation, ensured by the security forces and community security groups organized among the IDP camp residents. Witchcraft allegations often arose during FGDs among interviewed IDPs.

Access to humanitarian aid

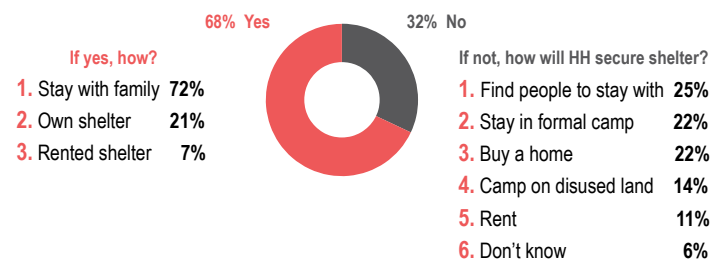
Most FGD participants reported only receiving aid from the military during their journey, who assisted some of them with food, water and clothing. During the FGDs, returnees emphasized the need for information on available services, and assistance.

88% of HHs reported that they had better access to humanitarian aid in Bama town, than in their AoO.

5. Livelihood and shelter upon relocation



Ability to access shelter in preferred future location among the 60% who reported intention to move (111 HH)



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6. Information and decision making

Main topics of interest when seeking information on preferred future location^{7,8}

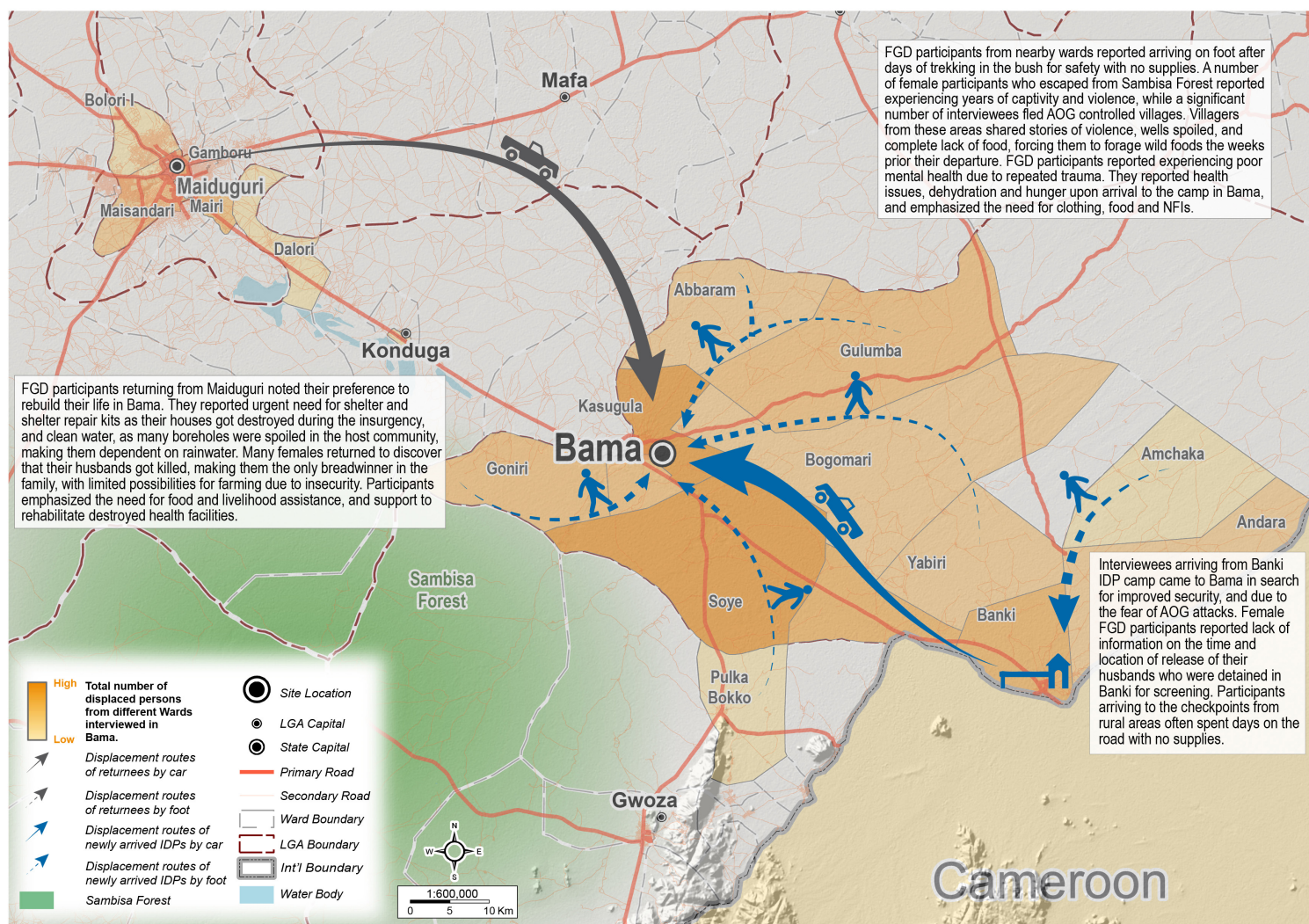
1. Wellbeing of family members **71%**
2. Security conditions **62%**
3. Access to food **60%**

Duration since information on preferred future location was last received⁸

1. Less than a week ago **37%**
2. Between a week and a month **32%**
3. Never **19%**

94% of HHs who reported intention to move noted that they trusted the information they received on their AoO and their preferred future location. HHs most frequently obtained information through NGOs (35%), via radio (34%), and through government agencies (22%) on their preferred future location^{7,8}. FGD participants reported they received information on their AoO through 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. You can contact us directly at: geneva@reachinitiative.org and follow us on Twitter: [@REACH_info](https://twitter.com/REACH_info).

⁷Households could select multiple answers.

⁸Percentages calculated based on the 111 HHs (60%) that reported intention to move.