



LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA SETTLEMENT PROFILING

Gwoza town, Gwoza LGA, Borno State, Nigeria

April 2018

Introduction

Since the conflict between Nigerian security forces and armed opposition groups (AOGs) escalated in 2013, more than two million individuals have been displaced. Most of them have been displaced within Borno State, particularly to urban centres across all accessible Local Government Areas (LGA).¹ The humanitarian response is challenged by many information gaps, including the security environment, access to services and areas of vulnerability. This settlement profiling assessment, conducted by REACH and facilitated by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) in accessible LGA towns in Borno State, aims to support multi-sectoral coordination and response at the LGA level through information management support. This factsheet aims to present baseline data on displacement, freedom of movement, perceptions of safety, operational presence and challenges, and infrastructure of basic services in the surveyed towns. For the first component of this assessment, infrastructure mapping, data collection teams identified and recorded the GPS locations, along with other relevant information (e.g. functionality), for water access points, latrine blocks, schools, markets, and health facilities. Context analysis, the second component of the assessment, was conducted through the review of secondary data and semistructured interviews with three humanitarian partner organisations working in Gwoza town. Primary data was collected between 20-21 March 2018, and information presented in the context analysis should be considered indicative only.

Population

Number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs): 55,647²

Freedom of Movement & Perceptions of Safety

Freedom of movement within the settlement:

Local authorities have instituted a curfew from 8pm to 6am, during which civilian movement within the town is prohibited. Partner organisations reported that civilian movement was freely authorised outside of curfew hours.

Freedom of movement into and out of the settlement:

Partner organisations interviewed reported that civilian movement without escort into and out of the town outside curfew hours was challenged by a tight no-go zone of approximately 2km around the town. Movements following a military convoy were allowed several times a week, with daily convoys reported between the towns of Gwoza and Pulka, notably for water trucking delivery.

¹ Local Government Areas constitute the 2nd administrative level in Nigeria. As of April 2018, only urban centres were accessible in most LGAs, and Abadam and Marte LGAs remained inaccessible (OCHA, April 2018).

² IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM, April 2018), Round XXII dataset of baseline assessment.

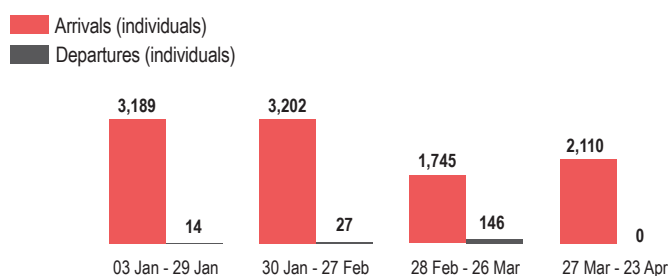
Perceptions of safety:

Partner organisations interviewed reported some incidents making the security situation in the town “unpredictable”, such as the explosion of unexploded ordnance (UXO) in a nearby waste disposal site resulting in the death of a child. When asked about issues relating to social cohesion in the town, two of the humanitarian partners reported grievances from the host population relating to food scarcity and food distributions originally targeting IDPs only; and an issue of returnees coming back to find their shelter occupied by IDP households.

Displacement

According to the International Organisation for Migration's Displacement Tracking Matrix (IOM DTM), 10,246 IDPs arrived in Gwoza town from 3 January to 23 April 2018, while 187 departed from the location. This important influx in the months previous to data collection was reportedly creating challenges to humanitarian operations to scale up to meet the basic needs of affected populations newly arrived in the town. Interviews with partner organisations revealed that arrivals originated mainly from the neighbouring States of Taraba and Adamawa (especially the Mubi LGAs for the latter); as well as from neighbouring villages within the Gwoza LGAs, where populations were displaced due to ongoing security forces operations at the time of the assessment.

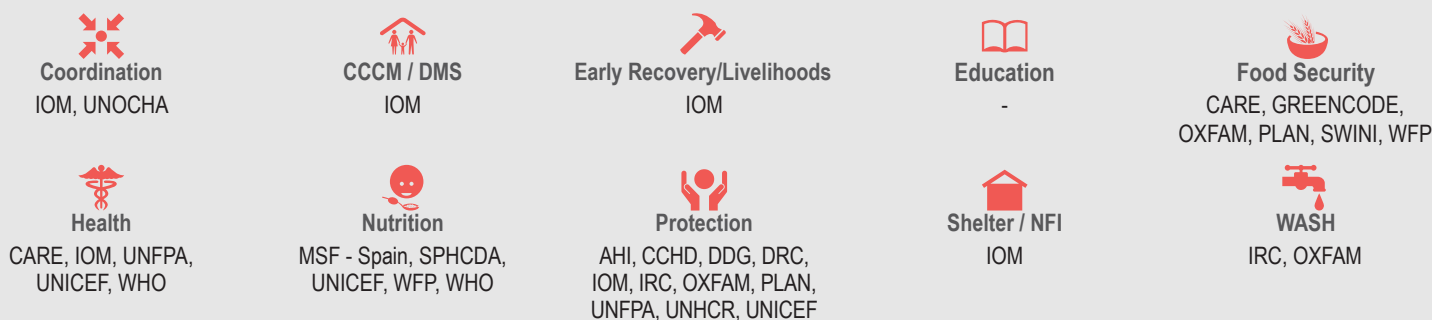
IDP arrivals vs. departures in Gwoza town in 2018 (data taken from IOM DTM)



Operational challenges

Most of the operational challenges in Gwoza town can be linked to the important influx of displaced populations since the beginning of 2018. Humanitarian organisations interviewed reported a difficulty to cope with new arrivals and meet basic needs, notably mentioning a lack of shelter for new arrivals in the camp areas. In addition, an organisation reported that the no-go zone secured outside the town prevented individuals from accessing farming lands and engaging in income-generating activities.

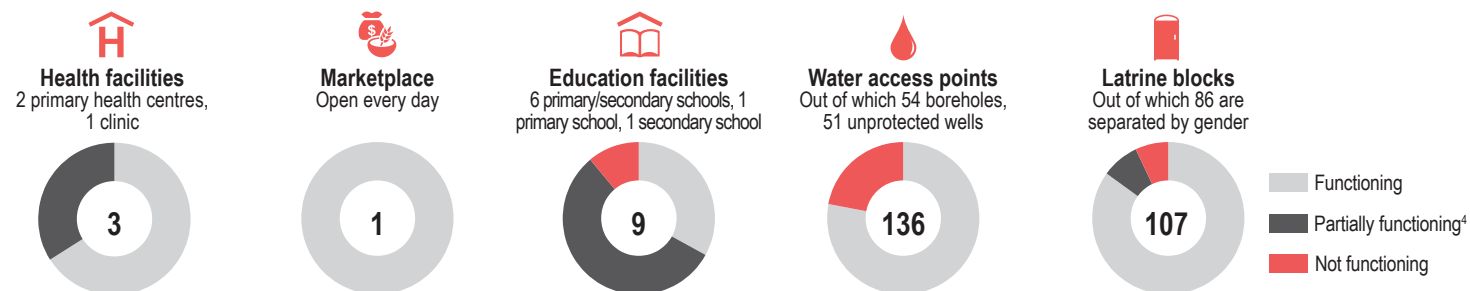
Who does What Where* - Gwoza LGA: 19 partners



³ OCHA (March 2018) Borno State, Ongoing Humanitarian Activities Overview - January-March 2018.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA SETTLEMENT PROFILING: GWOZA TOWN

Infrastructure



Gwoza Settlement Infrastructure

