



NEW ARRIVALS IN GWOZA 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 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 Gwoza town based on data collected between 10-14 September 2018 through (i) household (HH) surveys conducted with 156 randomly selected newly arrived households, providing a representative sample of the roughly 355 household units² in Gwoza 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 6%. 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 Gwoza town was 4.8 family members per household, close to the average of the four assessed locations. The household survey highlighted that close to half of the new arrival HHs were female-headed (49%), among which 40% were widowed, and 23% divorced. While the HH composition was 50% male and 50% female, adult women overrepresented adult men (20% vs. 12%). 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

Time of initial displacement from area of origin



Main triggers of initial displacement from AoO⁴



Primary mode of transportation to current location



80% of new arrivals originated from Gwoza LGA, with 61% of them leaving their AoO for the first time in 2018. FGD discussions highlighted that most new arrivals left their home on foot, at night, without any belongings, supplies, and some even footwear, in order not to raise suspicion among armed opposition groups (AOGs). FGD participants reported dangerous conditions due to the presence of AOGs, and an inability to access food and healthcare whilst traveling to Gwoza town. Returnees from Adamawa reported inhospitality on the part of the host community, oftentimes leaving them accused of belonging to AOGs. The lower cost of living, and the hope of reuniting with separated family members were among the main reported pull factors for them to return to Gwoza, their AoO.

1. Demographics

Newly arrived populations: HHs by population group



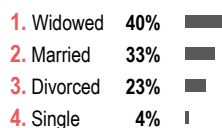
Length of time since HH arrived at current location



Sex of head of household (HoH)



Marital status of female HoHs³



Family Separation

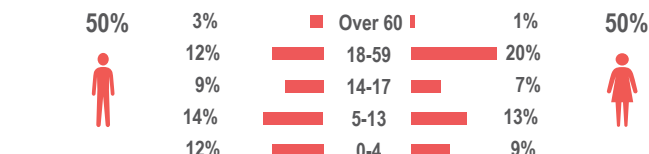
%HH with at least 1 separated family member



Means of family separation for 20% of HH that reported having a separated member



20% of respondents reported experiencing family separation, especially from adult male family members. 77% (24 HHs) had no contact with the separated family member(s) and 35% (11 HHs) did not know their whereabouts. FGD participants reported that separation often occurred during AOG attacks on their villages and during the journey. Elderly HoHs reported during the FGDs being negatively affected by the separation from their children who helped them meet the HH's needs. Female HoHs found themselves at increased risk compared to male HoHs when farming in order to provide for their HH.



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 77 HHs (49%) that reported having female head of household.

⁴ Households could select multiple answers.



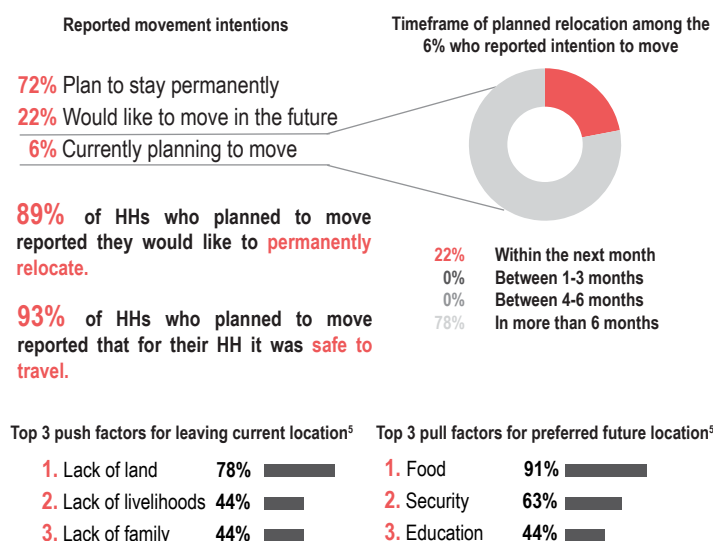
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3. Movement intentions of recent arrivals



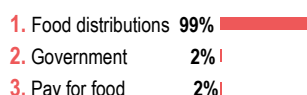
72% of HHs were planning to stay in their current location permanently, the highest among the four assessed locations. While most HHs reported lack of access to land being their main reason to leave their current location, access to food was the most commonly reported incentive to cite a preferred future location. While most FGD participants reported that they preferred to settle in their current location, IDPs staying in the host community preferred to return to their AoO, due to the lower cost of living in their AoO and the challenges of local integration in Gwoza town.

4. Living conditions and access to services

Food

90% of HHs reported that access to food was better than in their AoO. FGD participants reported difficulties caused by delays in the receipt of beneficiary cards for the food distributions, making them rely on community members' help. Recurring theft of food items by other IDPs were reported by IDP FGD participants.

HH's main sources of food⁵



Shelter & Non-food items (NFIs)

68% of HHs reported that the shelter situation was better in Gwoza town than in their AoO.

During the FGDs, IDPs reported that the reception tents were overcrowded, while returnees highlighted the need for shelter assistance in the host community. IDPs reported the need for clothing.

Health services

99% of HHs reported having access to free healthcare. IDPs from the transit area camp and returnee FGD participants reported the need for medical assistance immediately upon arrival.

Education

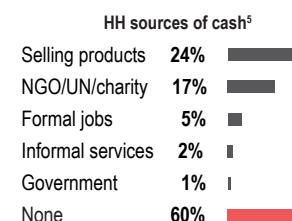
20% of HHs reported that their children do not have access to education, the highest among the four assessed locations. FGD participants reported the need for more classrooms, as many were destroyed during AOG attacks and the need for more teachers for the high number of school-aged children. New arrivals in the transit area camp reported during the FGDs the need for an emergency learning centre, as relocation to the official camps took time. Returnees reported that their lack of income hindered their children's education, as they were needed to help meet the HH's needs.

⁵ Households could select multiple answers.

WASH

88% of HHs reported that access to water was better in Gwoza town than in their AoO, and 96% reported that it was provided for free by non-governmental organizations (NGOs). FGD participants in the transit area camp reported the need for more latrines due to the long queuing time.

Employment and cash



Access to land

60% reported that access to land was worse in Gwoza town than in their AoO, while **33% reported that access was better,** and **7% reported that access was the same.**

60% of HHs reportedly did not have access to cash. Returnee FGD participants emphasized the need for accessing cash assistance to resume their usual trading activities, and reported challenges due to the lack of safe land for farming.

Security

Among those HHs who reported intention to move 100% reported that the security was better in Gwoza than in their AoO.

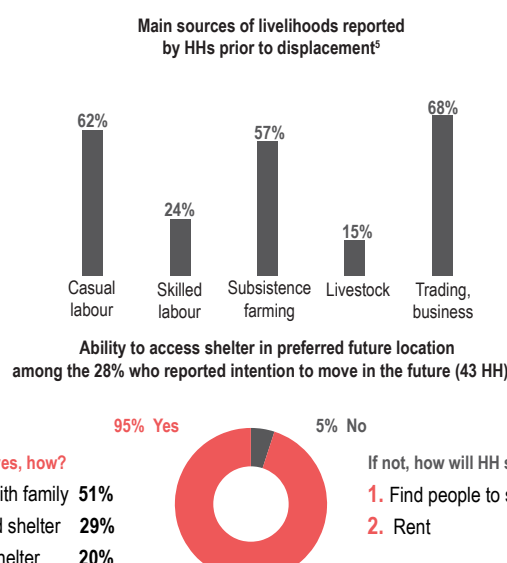
FGD participants reported recurring security incidents when farming in their current location. Male FGD participants reported being accused as suspected AOG members when on farms, leading them to avoid farming. FGD participants highlighted that as AOGs reportedly resided nearby, safety during travel could only be ensured by military escort.

Access to humanitarian aid

Most FGD participants reported only receiving aid from host community members and the military during their journey, who assisted some of them with food, water and clothing. IDPs residing in the host community reported the need for food, shelter, health and education assistance in the host community.

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

5. Livelihood and shelter upon relocation



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6. Information and decision making

Main topics of interest when seeking information on preferred future location^{6,7}

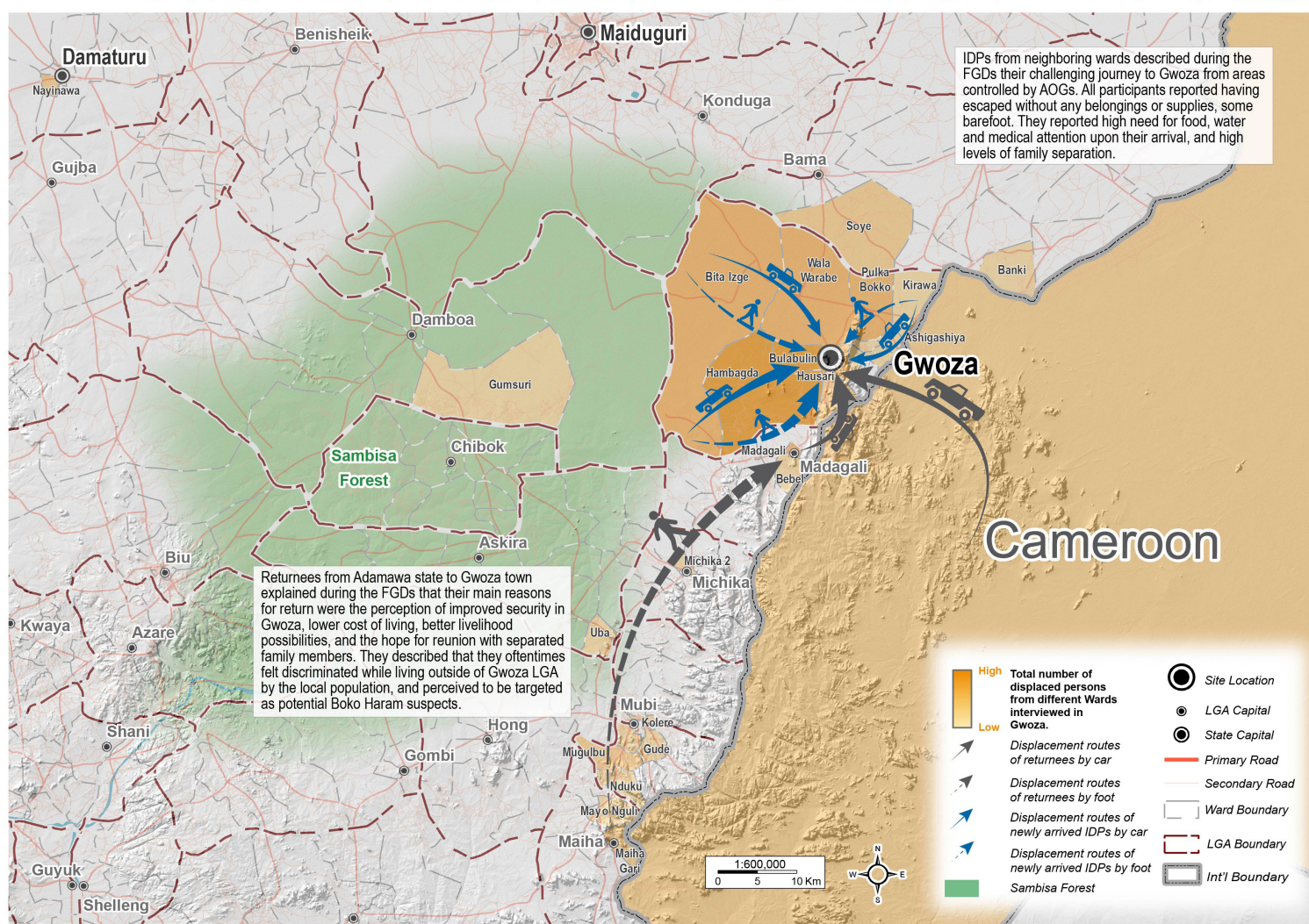
1. Security conditions 81%
2. Access to food 74%
3. Access to healthcare 42%

Duration since information on preferred future location was last received⁷

1. Between a week and a month 42%
2. Between 1-3 months 35%
3. Less than a week ago 16%

25% of HHs reported never receiving information about their AoO since they left. HHs most frequently obtained information on their preferred future location via radio (91%)^{6,7}. Some FGD participants reported difficulties obtaining information on their AoO as it was reportedly deserted, others reported obtaining information 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).

⁶ Households could select multiple answers.

⁷ Percentages calculated based on the 43 HHs (28%) that reported intention to move.