

Marte and Monguno LGA - Displacement Overview

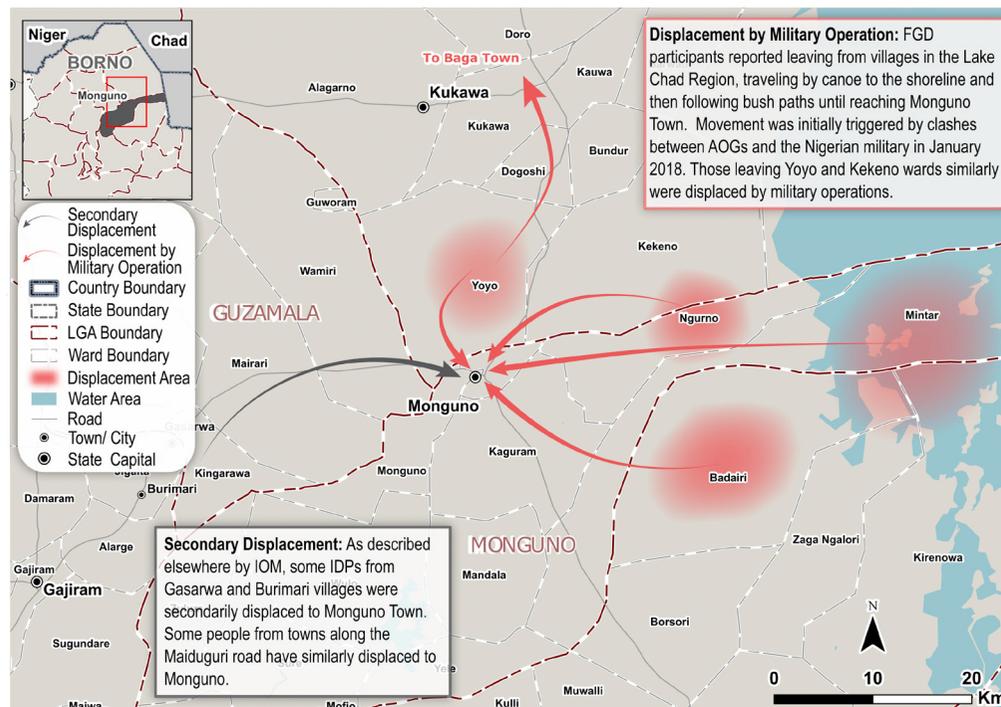
Borno State, Nigeria - January 2018



Funded by
European Union
Civil Protection and
Humanitarian Aid

REACH Informing
more effective
humanitarian action

Map 1: Areas of Displacement and General Routes



INTRODUCTION

The town of Monguno, in the Monguno Local Government Area (LGA) in northeastern Borno State, has long been a hub for IDPs, estimated by the International Organisation for Migration Displacement Tracking Matrix (IOM DTM) to house 124,000 IDPs as of February 2018.² Since the start of 2018, Monguno has seen an upsurge in arrivals, with the IOM DTM reporting that 3,646 IDPs had arrived since 27 December 2017³ from Nganzai LGA and surrounding villages in Monguno, further contributing to the already high humanitarian needs in the town. Many areas around Monguno, particularly Marte LGA and the islands in Lake Chad, are considered inaccessible to the humanitarian community due to conflict between the Nigerian government and Armed Opposition Groups (AOGs), and only limited information is available on the populations living in these areas. As a result, humanitarian actors have faced challenges in anticipating and preparing for new IDP arrivals.

KEY FINDINGS:

- Nigerian Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from villages on islands in Lake Chad, in eastern Monguno and Marte Local Government Areas (LGAs) have been arriving in the town of Monguno since the start of 2018, following recent clashes between the Nigerian government and Armed Opposition Groups (AOGs). Focus Group Discussion (FGD) participants reported that AOGs had prevented them from leaving their villages of origin for the past two to four years, but that recent clashes provided an opportunity for some households to escape.
- Displacement out of Marte LGA started as early as 2012 from Marte ward, with the majority occurring between July 2014 and December 2015 from other wards¹. Many households from Kulli and Muwalli wards reported leaving later between July 2016 and September 2017. FGD participants who have been displaced in January 2018 report originating from the Lake Chad areas of northern Marte and eastern Monguno.
- According to participants, IDPs travelled to the western shore of Lake Chad via canoe, before travelling onwards to Monguno on foot. The journey from participants' villages of origin to Monguno was generally reported to take one to two days if not stopping anywhere along the way. No participants reported receiving assistance en route, and some reported deaths due to thirst or exhaustion during the journey.
- FGD participants reported that they faced severe protection issues in their villages of origin, including restrictions on freedom of movement, threats of physical violence and killings, and seizure of agricultural produce.
- On villages where informants had information, most were reported as empty. Only a handful of villages were reported to still have some non-displaced households in the wards (a subdivision of LGAs) of Baga, Kekeno, Yoyo, Mintar, Musune and Borsori, with information as recent as November 2017. Though the current status of these non-displaced households may have changed since.
- FGD participants from the Lake Chad area most commonly reported food, livelihoods, shelter, clothing, and health services as their priority needs in Monguno, and stated they would need the most support with farming equipment, shelter, and education upon return to their villages of origin. Key informants, from varying locations in Marte LGA, reported food assistance as their top need on return to their village, followed by water, access to income, and to a lesser extent health, education and psychosocial services.

To fill these information gaps, REACH conducted an assessment from 29 January to 2 February, focussing on recent displacement patterns, the movement intentions of recent IDP arrivals in Monguno and remaining populations in nearby villages inaccessible to the humanitarian community, and conditions in those villages from which IDPs had fled. REACH conducted four focus group discussions (FGDs) with a total of 14 male and 14 female IDPs who had been displaced in the two months prior to data collection from villages in northern Marte and Lake Chad, in the eastern parts of Monguno and Marte LGAs. In addition, REACH conducted interviews with 69 Bulamas (traditional community leaders) of displaced communities in the Government Girls Secondary School (GGSS) Camp, as well as interviews with 36 commercial drivers and 14 market vendors who frequently travelled to or through villages near Monguno, in order to estimate how many of these villages were still inhabited.

To complement information on recent displacement, REACH had previously, in November 2017, conducted key informant interviews with 184 IDPs from Marte LGA, asking about their displacement, movement intentions and conditions in areas of origin. Of these IDPs, 125 of them had information on their village as recent as 2017. Overall findings should be considered indicative only.

DISPLACEMENT HISTORY

Key informants reported leaving Marte ward of Marte LGA as early as 2012, though the majority of displacement occurred between July 2014 through December 2015 when the conflict escalated, from other wards throughout the LGA. IDPs from Kulli and Muwalli wards were the exception, as nearly half of estimated households from these wards were reported leaving later, between July 2016 and September 2017. Most informants reported leaving their villages in large groups together, on average groups of 600 households at a time. The vast majority of informants reported that there were no households left in their villages of origin as of their last information (95%), suggesting there is likely minimal population groups remaining in Marte from reported areas. Only a handful of respondents (4%) reported any non-displaced households at their village of origin, with those being located in Musune and Borsori wards.

RECENT DISPLACEMENT

FGD participants reported that AOGs had imposed severe movement restrictions that prevented people from leaving for the past two to three years, including the creation of ditches and walls around villages. However, renewed clashes at the start of 2018 between the Nigerian military and AOGs led to a reduced AOG presence in the area, allowing participants to escape their villages.

FGD participants most commonly reported that they had left their villages with large groups of households (on average groups of 100 households at a time). Participants from all four villages stated that they had used canoes to cross Lake Chad from their villages of origin to the mainland. These canoes were reported to regularly travel routes between the islands and the mainland,

Area of Knowledge (AoK) Methodology

REACH utilized FGDs with recently displaced communities, interviews with informants with recent information or access to hard-to-reach areas, and key informant interviews with Marte IDPs located in several LGAs.

FGDs were conducted from 29 January to 02 February 2018. In total, four FGDs were conducted, each consisting of displaced participants from two villages, covering a total of four villages. Two FGDs were held with Bulamas and men from those villages, and two with women. FGD participants were all from villages displaced within the two months prior to data collection and are comprised of villages around the Lake Chad area of northern Marte and Eastern Monguno. Efforts were made to conduct FGDs with villages from a variety of LGAs of origin when possible. Questions focused on displacement patterns, routes, movement intentions, and needs and conditions in both their area of origin and current location. FGD transcripts were analysed for common themes experienced by displaced households, and for differences reported between men and women.

Village reporting interviews were conducted at the same time as FGDs, with displaced Bulamas, commercial drivers and market vendors. GGSS Camp in Monguno was focused on in particular for these interviews due to the reported presence of more recently displaced IDPs. These interviewees were asked to report on any villages with displaced and non-displaced households on which they had knowledge. Information collected was limited to the village name, displacement status, estimated number of households displaced and remaining, and reasons for displacement.

Key informant interviews with Marte IDPs were conducted in Maiduguri (Bakasi Camp), Monguno (Waterboard, GGSS and GSSSS Camps), Konduga (Gubio camp), Ngala (International School Camp), and Dikwa (Motor Park IDP Camp). Data was collected from 10 to 29 November 2017. Participants were purposively selected based on whether they were originally from Marte prior to displacement. For the purposes of this overview, only 125 key informants with knowledge of their villages of origin as recent as 2017 were included.

and some participants had brought money with them from their villages of origin to pay the canoe operators. Other than this money, and some people who carried their photo ID, most participants stated that they did not bring any belongings with them during the journey.

Upon reaching the mainland, most participants reported travelling eastwards to Monguno town on foot through the bush, either directly after reaching the Western Lake Chad shore or after stopping in a village on the shore for a couple of days. However, participants from one village stayed for two months in a village near the Lake Chad shore before subsequently proceeding to Monguno town. Participants reported passing through additional villages, but not stopping in any, while travelling on foot to Monguno.

As most households had reportedly not brought belongings with them, they faced dehydration and

Table 1: Number of villages with displaced households, and estimated displaced households, as reported by informants in three months prior to data collection.

Ward	# villages reported with displaced households in last 3 months	# estimated households displaced in last 3 months
Badairi	5	528
Marte	1	4
Zaga Ngalori	1	20
MARTE TOTAL	7	552
Yoyo	1	100
KUKAWA TOTAL	1	100
Mintar	1	120
Mofio	1	25
Ngurno	1	35
Sure	1	50
Zulum	1	60
MONGUNO TOTAL	5	290

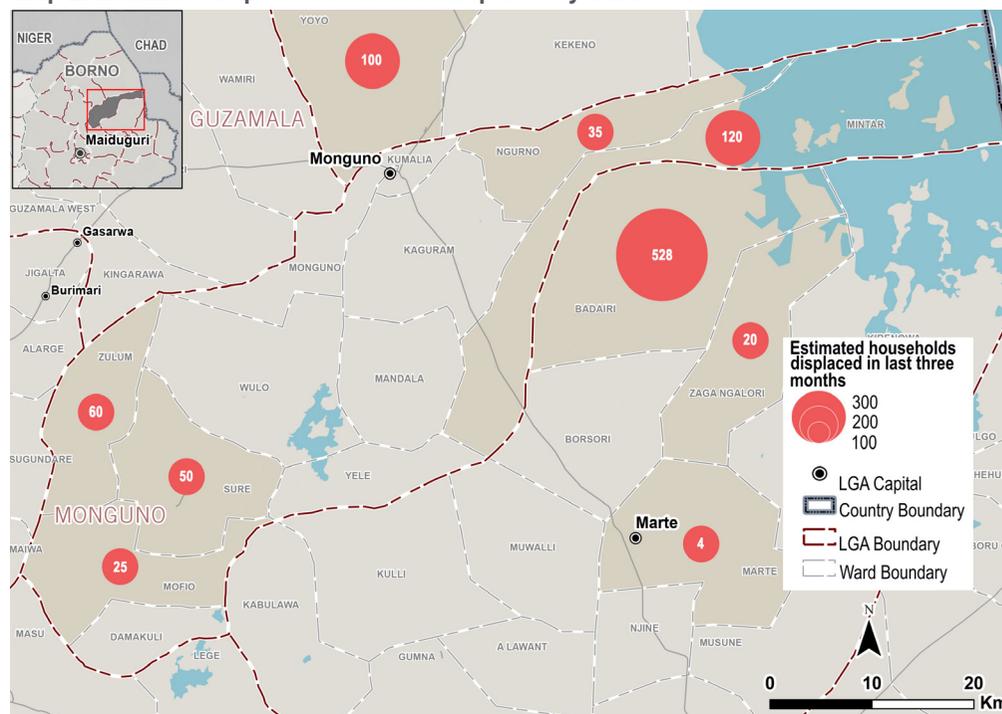
hunger during the journey to Monguno, with participants from multiple villages reporting that there had been deaths due to thirst or exhaustion along the way. Participants stated that they had not received any assistance while travelling. According to participants, they and others fleeing their villages of origin had chosen Monguno due to its relative proximity to their areas of origin, their perception that it was the nearest safe location, and their belief that they would be able to access food assistance there. While most displacement from participants' villages of origin had been to Monguno, some also stated that others from the area had instead travelled to the town of Ngala, the capital of Ngala LGA southeast of Monguno.

Displacement Intentions

Most FGD participants reported that they would be willing to return to their villages of origin if authorities were to tell them that it was safe, most commonly because they wanted to return to their farms, which had been their main source of livelihoods. In the immediate future, however, participants stated that they had no plans to leave Monguno for another location.

Nearly all key informants reported that if authorities told them it was safe, they believed everyone

Map 2: Estimated displaced households reported by ward



would return to their village of origin (79%), or to another safe location in Marte (71%), within the next 6 months. Wanting to return to their traditional home, as well as improved access to land, food and shelter and employment were key factors people considered when deciding to return. People expressed reunification with family members as another important reason.

NEEDS AND CONDITIONS

Needs and Conditions in Areas of Origin

FGD participants reported that few or no households remained in their villages of origin, and that they had no source of information about these villages since their displacement. However, participants were able to provide information about conditions in their villages of origin up to and at the time of their departure. Participants described significant protection concerns, including violence perpetrated by AOGs and restrictions on freedom of movement. Please see Table 2 for more details

Table 2: Needs and Conditions in Areas of Origin for Monguno IDPs

Communication	FGD participants reported not having any contact with their villages of origin since they left. Key informants reported having recent information from the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF), Nigerian Military, and other new arrivals.
Protection	<p>Key Informants indicated that security incidents still occur as of their last information, as nearly half (44%) of those interviewed reported an incident occurring in their village of origin since they left, while nearly a third (29%) didn't know if an incident had occurred. The most common incidents were the destruction or theft of property, attacks or bombings, killing of civilians and movement restrictions. Other reported, but less frequent responses included forced labor and recruitment, kidnapping, physical and sexual violence, and the presence of mines and UXOs.</p> <p>FGD participants reported that AOGs had imposed harsh rules on the populations in their villages of origin, including frequent and arbitrary executions of those perceived not to be following those rules or caught attempting to escape. Severe movement restrictions were in place, with AOGs prohibiting people from leaving their villages and in some cases denying them access to their farms. In villages where households could still access farms, AOGs reportedly seized agricultural produce after the harvest.</p>
Shelter	<p>More than half of key informants estimated that all (54%) or almost all (16%) of the homes in their community have been destroyed, as of most recent contact with the community in 2017. While some locally procurable building materials, such as mud for bricks, grass and timber, can be found, nearly all respondents reported that markets in their villages were not functioning (86%). This would limit people's access to key shelter supplies such as metal roofing, plastic sheeting, and rope. Just under half of the KIs stated that no NFIs were available in their communities as well (45%), or that they did not know the current availability (47%).</p> <p>FGD participants reported shelters in their villages of origin were mostly makeshift grass homes or mud homes. FGD participants in some villages reported that AOGs had destroyed some shelters as of the time of their departure.</p>
Food Security	FGD participants had reportedly planted maize, beans, okra, millet, onions, tomatoes, and watermelon this past season. The main barriers to accessing food were seizure of produce by AOGs and movement restrictions preventing access to farms. Participants generally reported eating three to four meals per day prior to displacement.
Livelihoods	FGD participants reported traditionally relying on farming and fishing, although some women reportedly engaged in petty trade or tailoring. Although AOG-imposed movement restrictions and seizures impeded livelihoods activities, traders were sometimes allowed to enter villages to buy produce from residents. Some participants reported that markets had functioned in their villages, but that it was unlikely they were still operating as most residents had left.
WASH	<p>FGD participants generally reported that their villages had three to four unprotected wells. As these villages were near Lake Chad, it was reportedly not difficult to access groundwater through these wells.</p> <p>According to key informants, access to water was reported as a challenge. Only a third of respondents indicated that there were boreholes present in their communities (36%), however they are in various states of disrepair. Of the IDPs reporting communities with boreholes, half of them explained that none of them were functional as of their most recent knowledge, with the proportion of functional boreholes varying for the rest of the communities.</p>
Health	<p>All FGD participants reported that there were no health facilities in their villages of origin, and that they were not able to access facilities in nearby larger towns due to movement restrictions.</p> <p>Key informants similarly reported destruction of health facilities in Marte, Ala Lawanti, Badairi, Borsori, Kirenowa, Zaga Ngalori, and Musune wards. They also reported facing access challenges even prior to displacement due to distance from facilities in Marte, Musune, Kulli, Borsori, A Lawanti, Njine and Ala wards.</p>
Education	<p>FGD participants reported that children in their villages of origin did not have access to formal education, although some had access to informal education through Islamic schools.</p> <p>Of key informants with knowledge of households in their community, the majority reported that children did not have access to education. Destruction of educational facilities were reported in Marte, Borsori, Badairi, Kirenowa, Zaga Ngalori, and Musune wards. Additionally, some key informants reported that even prior to the conflict schools were either too far or never were accessible to them in Borsori, Musune, Ala, Kulli, A Lawanti, Badairi, and Ala wards.</p>
Needs on Return	<p>Basic survival needs (food, shelter, water) and support to re-establish their livelihoods were expressed by KIs as priority needs upon return. In particular, IDPs expressed that food assistance would be by far their top priority. This was followed by farming tools/seeds and cash, and to a much lesser extent support for health, education, and psychosocial support services.</p> <p>Farming tools and shelter support were the most commonly expressed needs on return to villages of origin by FGD participants. This was followed by water access, schools and to less commonly mentioned foods and livelihood opportunities. To keep in mind, FGD participants mostly represented communities originating from the Lake Chad area of northern Marte.</p>

Needs and Conditions in Current Location

FGD participants were asked about their current needs in Monguno. In their current location in Monguno, FGDs participants reported that while they felt safe and did not face security threats, access to income generating activities was expressed as a significant challenge. Participants reported being able to access food assistance, health services, water from boreholes and latrines. Food, shelter, clothing, health and livelihoods were named by FGD participants as their key needs in Monguno.

Key information gaps

Based on the primary and secondary data available, the following information gaps can be identified:

Number of remaining households in hard to reach areas of Marte LGA and Lake Chad region

The number of villages with remaining households and the number of those households in inaccessible areas is likely greater than what is reported here. While many Bulamas displaced in Monguno were interviewed, it was not possible to interview them exhaustively due to their high number. Additionally, information was not gathered on villages from which IDPs displaced to other locations (such as Ngala) instead of Monguno.

Severity of needs in areas of origin

FGD participants provided qualitative information on their villages of origin, but as they had left these villages with large groups of households, it is likely that no or few households remain there. While the findings may be indicative of conditions in other nearby villages where the majority of households still remained, this cannot be ascertained for sure. Moreover, while FGD participants provided information on the priority needs in assessed villages, their inability to quantify the severity of need means that comparisons between villages may be difficult, especially given that data on these villages was collected remotely instead of through direct field visits.

Other displacement patterns into Monguno

Monguno is a hub for IDP arrivals from many different parts of Borno State. While many of the recent IDP arrivals into Monguno are believed to have come from the Lake Chad islands in eastern Marte and Monguno LGAs, additional arrivals from areas such as Kukawa and Nganzai have also been reported. This assessment has focussed on the Lake Chad arrivals, but other displacements into Monguno may warrant similar research.

Geographic distinction in sources of information

FGD participants and key informants represent two different groups of IDPs. The FGDs focused on recent IDPs coming from the Lake Chad areas of northern Marte and Eastern Monguno.

Meanwhile, the key informants focused on IDPs in camps in several LGAs, many who have been displaced for a longer period of time. Therefore, results presented in this report should be interpreted with caution as not all FGD results are representative of all areas in Marte LGA.

ENDNOTES

1. Wards are a subdivision of Local Government Areas (LGAs).
2. DTM Round XXI, 2 Feb 2018
3. IOM DTM Emergency Tracking Tool (ETT) rounds 47-53.

About REACH

REACH facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. All REACH activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. For more information, write to our global office: geneva@reach-initiative.org.

Visit www.reach-initiative.org and follow us @REACH_info.