



Nigeria: Yobe State

Weekly Situation Report No. 1

As of 28 May 2021

This report is compiled by OCHA Nigeria in collaboration with humanitarian partners.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The security situation in the northern parts of Yobe state, especially in Geidam and Yunusari Local Government Areas (LGA) remains precarious as suspected non-state armed group (NSAG) operatives have maintained presence in the general area in proximity to both Geidam and Yunusari towns.
- While more people are reported to have returned to Geidam town, the process is not sustainable because they still need urgent life-saving assistance, which is difficult to deliver due to limited access in the context of the prevailing security situation in the area.
- The Multi-Sector Rapid Needs Assessment was carried out this week by the state government with the support of humanitarian partners in 9 LGAs hosting internally displaced persons (IDPs) across the state.
- The scale-up of in-kind food distribution across the state has started as part of the World Food Programme (WFP) planned famine mitigation measure. The distribution is targeting 630,000 beneficiaries which will gradually be reached in the period from May to August 2021. There are normally 95,000 in-kind and cash voucher beneficiaries in Yobe.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

On the 24 May 2021, suspected NSAG operatives infiltrated Yunusari town, host to over 7,000 IDPs from Geidam and Kanamma towns and maintains two transit sites for newly arrived IDPs. On 25 May 2021, armed men suspected to be NSAG operatives also mounted a brief illegal vehicle check point along Yunusari-Yusufari Road. It is the first time that the suspected NSAG operatives infiltrated Yunusari town, firing sporadically and reportedly looted some medical supplies in the primary health care facility. It is also the first time that suspected insurgents have mounted a check point between Yunusari and Yusufari town along the northern highway route. These events triggered secondary displacement of IDP households to Gashua, Yusufari, Nguru and Damaturu, adding to the dire situation of the IDPs. Yunusari is about 70 KM and Yusufari only 25 KM from Gashua, which is a key humanitarian hub for response to the needs of the IDPs north of Yobe.

Many families continue to report cases of missing family members, especially children, in the month following the massive displacement from Geidam and Kanamma towns. There are speculations that some of the children may have escaped across the border into the neighboring Republic of Niger following the attack on Kanamma town on 1 May 2021. The state government, with the support of Protection Sector partners, continues to follow up and are consolidating names of reported cases to coordinate for the cross-border tracing.

While some of the displaced persons from Geidam are attempting to return back home, many of them report that they are traumatized by the continuous insecurity situation in their area. Local partners have reported that the IDPs are becoming more agitated during distributions. Some of the people who have tried to return to Geidam do not spend the night in the town but rather in the rural communities near Geidam. Many of them travel to see the situation and return to their place of displacement.

With the approaching rainy season, farmers have expressed concern over their safety as they are not able to securely access their farms to start preparing for planting. Dry season farmers in the wetlands have reported that they have lost their crops and vegetables because they could not irrigate them due to access challenges. This makes returns unsustainable in the context of the prevailing security situation. It also calls for continued lifesaving assistance for the returns as well as the IDPs in the places of displacement.

Critical gaps

Over 75% of the needs of the people displaced from Geidam and Kansas remain unmet. The Multi-Sector Rapid Needs Assessment was carried out in 9 LGAs hosting IDPs to further specify needs and gaps and inform resource mobilization. The report will be issued the week of Monday 31 May 2021.

Preparedness

As the lean season approaches, some 17,611 cartons of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) has been prepositioned at LGAs across the state, as well as an additional 18,710 cartons of ready-to-use supplementary food (RUSF) and routine drugs in the Central Medical Store in Damaturu. Request for the prepositioning of micro-nutrient powder have been made and is expected to arrive soon.

The Health sector-led Rapid Response Team (RRT) has started discussions on preparedness measures on the prevention and response to the outbreak of water borne diseases such as acute watery diarrhea and cholera as the rainy season approaches. In 2018, about 70 people died of cholera across 8 LGAs in Yobe.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE



Camp Coordination and Camp Management / Non-Food Items

Needs:

- While there are no formal IDP camps in Yobe state, there are informal settlements hosting IDPs from Borno and rural areas in Yobe. All the settlements lack adequate shelter materials, which poses a high risk during the approaching rainy season. There is no coordination mechanism in place to follow up on Camp Coordination and Camp management issues in the state.



Early Recovery

Needs:

- Men and male youth displaced from Geidam and Kanamma are requesting the state government and humanitarian partners to rollout cash-for-work programming so that they may engage in productive activities to support their families. This may also help revive dysfunctional community-based social service infrastructures in the places of displacement and create short term employment opportunities.

Response:

- WFP began its livelihood activities of food for asset creation in Bade and Damaturu LGAs where intended beneficiaries do work for the benefit of their community and in return they receive food ration or cash to buy food in payment for the work they have done. The programming targets 24,000 beneficiaries who will receive their entitlement in the first two weeks of June 2021. The project will run for a duration of seven months, ending in December 2021. Geidam was one of the three LGAs planned to benefit from the program but the security situation there is delaying the rollout of the program.
- FAO is working to identify 50 women in the Dachia fishing community along the River Kumodugu in Jakusko LGA to participate in a pilot project that provides a modern fish preservation/drying technology in partnership with the state government. The start date and capacity of the facility is yet to be confirmed.
- The partners of Building Resilience in Complex Crisis (BRICC)¹, recovery project in Yobe² conducted a review and learning process on the effectiveness of its food security and livelihoods, peacebuilding and social protection program carried out in partnership with the state government. It was underlined that systematic engagement of local community structures empowers the communities to take lead in peacebuilding mechanisms and contributes to positive coping mechanisms. The partnership with state government institutions and the links to the government recovery programs and private sector promotes sustainability. One challenge highlighted is that there is a tendency by the community to leave out people aged 25-35 years especially women, from participating in some interventions like the multi-stakeholder

¹ BRICCs is funded by the European Union (EU).

² Operating in six LGAs of Damaturu, Potiskum, Gujba, Gulani, Geidam and Yunusari. Partners are Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Mercy Corps (MC) and COOPI.

dialogue sessions. People in this age bracket are neither considered adults nor youth by the community members. In the future, the plan is to be more deliberate in targeting this age category for different activities.

Education

Needs:

- Most of the children from the 30,000 households that were displaced from Geidam and Kanamma one month ago are out of school. The sector estimates that there may be more than 60,000 school-aged children among the IDPs across nine LGAs hosting the IDPS. Most of these children were not enrolled in school when they were back home in Geidam and Kanamma LGA. Parents report that they are still undecided for where to enroll their children in school, whether in places of displacement or to wait until they return to their homes in Geidam and Kanamma. Even if parents were to decide to enroll their children in school, the challenge of availability of schools in places of displacement, especially in rural areas, remains a limiting factor.

Response:

- There are limited partners responding in the sector. The USAID-funded 30-month project, Addressing Education in North-east Nigeria implemented by FHI 360 and Save the Children International is soon ending, which will create an additional gap in the sector. The existing out-of-school programs implemented by partners in Damaturu and Potiskum have already identified their beneficiaries and may not have additional resources for expansion to include the children of the new displaced persons.

Food Security

Needs:

- Food is the priority need for the estimated 150,000 displaced persons from Geidam and Kanamma towns, who fled following attacks by suspected NSAGs in the period from 23 April to the first week of May 2021. This further exacerbates the already precarious food security situation in the state.

Response:

- This week, WFP, through its six implementing partners, continues to conduct cash-based transfer (CBT), voucher and in-kind food distribution targeting more than 320,000 beneficiaries. This is a significant scale-up from the April 2021 caseload of 95,000 beneficiaries. An additional case load of 170,000 beneficiaries will be targeted in June 2021. Gradually 630,000 beneficiaries aim to be reached by August 2021, which will be sustained moving forward unless the situation worsens.
- A total of 32,000 beneficiaries are being targeted in Yunusari LGA, where in-kind food distribution is taking place in Yunusari town, Dilala, Toshia, Kalgi and Bukarti. Geidam and Yunusari have severely been impacted by the recent deterioration in the security situation over the past one month following attacks on Geidam and Kanamma towns by suspected NSAGs.
- Action Against Hunger (ACF) has completed the disbursement/transfer of cash/voucher to its 4,788 beneficiaries in Gujba LGA to cover the May 2021 ration funded through the Food for Peace (FFP) food security grant. Due to budget constraints ACF will not be conducting any of the cash/voucher programming in Gujba, thus calling for any other partner to take over the gap created in the area.

Health

Needs:

- The sector continues to highlight the needs of the newly displaced persons from Geidam and Kanamma.

Response:

- This week, the Health sector, with support from the British Council, re-established two standard sexual assault and referral centres in Potiskum and Gashua general hospitals. There are now three such referral facilities including the one in Damaturu Referral Hospital and three other peripheral centers in Nguru, Buni yadi and Geidam. The referral facilities had been operating at a minimal capacity but now they are equipped to fully conduct clinical management of rape and other forms of sexual assault cases.

- Ten nurses were sent to Lagos to acquire further experience in the management of the intensive care units in the state in the context of COVID-19 pandemic and other needs. Another 20 nurses were sent to Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital (ABUTH), Zaria for special training in the management of special baby care, including premature born babies.
- The health sector engaged 35 civil society organizations to conduct community sensitization in the identification and referral mechanisms of gender-based violence (GBV) cases. There have been serious concerns of increased GBV cases across the state.

Nutrition

Needs:

- The state government is advocating with partners to commit to responding to nutrition needs in the entire LGA of their choice rather than selecting a few nutrition facilities within the LGAs. This is creating a capacity gap in many parts of the same LGAs where partners are operating. There are currently eight stabilization centers and 320 Out Patient Therapeutic (OPT) program centres across the state. The number of the OPTs being supported by partners will be confirmed in the next report.

Response:

- Ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) and ready-to-use supplementary food (RUSF) consignments have been delivered to the nutrition centers in all LGAs across the state. Some training and food demonstration activities are being conducted in some 11 selected Targeted Supplementary Feeding Program (TSFP) Sites targeting care givers to improve child nutrition status.
- Due to security challenges in the four LGAs of Geidam, Yunusari, Gujba and Tarmua, the sector was not able to supervise activities in the nutrition sites. However, all supplies and consumables have been delivered to the sites in those LGAs despite the security challenges.

Protection

Needs:

- The needs of the estimated 180,000 persons displaced from Geidam and Kanamma towns in the past one month continues to be the key protection challenge in Yobe State this week. The attack on Yunusari by suspected NSAGs this week triggered secondary displacement from Yunusari towards Gashua which is already overburdened with the presence of the IDPs who arrived earlier on.
- Increased competition over access to limited basic social services and limited shelter space at the host community household are some of the risk factors that may create friction between IDPs and host communities. Some households hosting IDPs are reporting that they have depleted their resources to continue to support the IDPs in their compounds. The sector is investigating reports that at least 12 IDP households are being evicted by the host community compound owner in Damaturu.
- While some families are trying to return to Geidam, most are returning to see the situation on ground. Reports of looted property from compounds in Geidam is now adding an additional burden on the stress of the IDPs who had hoped to return and/or retrieve their properties to support them in their place of displacement.

Response:

- The sector is consolidating the names of missing persons to coordinate with an international organization to support the tracing process.

Shelter

Needs:

- Most of the displaced persons from Geidam and Kanamma are being hosted by host communities, in congested conditions which poses high risk of disease outbreak. There are four transit sites; two in Yunusari town, one in Yusufari town and one in Mozugun hosting IDP households in school buildings. The conditions of the IDPs in the transit site is dire. Many of the IDPs in the sites sleep on the bare floor and do not have cooking kits. There is limited humanitarian access to these locations due to security concerns.

Response:

- It is estimated that less than 20% of the IDP households in transit sites and host communities across the state have received non-food item (NFI) support for far.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- WASH needs continue to be critical for displaced people and vulnerable host community households across the state. The approaching rainy season poses additional challenges and an urgency to scale up the WASH response to reduce the risk of water borne diseases.
- The massive displacement from Geidam and Kanamma is adding more burden on the existing WASH facilities in the areas of displacement. While IDPs in the host community are able to access portable water from the existing facilities in the community, IDPs in transit sites in Yunusari, Yusufari, and Mozugun are facing difficult situation.

Response:

- The rehabilitation of 17 hand pump boreholes across different communities in Potiskum LGAs started last week and is still ongoing. The completion of the boreholes ahead of the start of the rainy season will solve the shortages of portable water in these communities which are prone to acute watery diarrhea and were among those which reported cholera cases in 2018.
- The sector celebrated the annual 2021 menstrual hygiene day due on 28 May 2021. The focus this year is promoting menstrual hygiene for adolescent girls and women, underlining that menstrual hygiene management requires understanding and action on the part of individuals, communities, institutions including schools and government in collaboration with all stakeholders, including faith based and civil society organizations, private sector and development partners. The sector will continue to mobilize public and private stakeholders during the rest of the year to create awareness and take action. Menstrual hygiene continues to be a huge challenge, with poor management resulting in spread of diseases.

Coordination

- Three inter-agency emergency coordination meetings were held this week to follow up on response action to the needs of people displaced from Geidam and Kanamma towns. The meetings were led by the state government with support from OCHA and the sectors. For the past three weeks following the massive displacement of the IDPs, the emergency meetings were held daily but were revised to three times a week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- The monthly nutrition coordination meeting, which normally takes place at the last Wednesday of the month, could not take place because the state and partners were taking part in the infant and young child feeding (IYCF) training. The entire management of the primary care management board went for field monitoring mission in Bade LGAs.
- The Food Security Sector started to hold weekly emergency coordination meetings this week to follow up on response activities to the needs of the Geidam and Kanamma displacement. The monthly food security coordination meetings are held the last Tuesday of the month. The sector is also considering setting up a regular local operational coordination meeting in Gashua town for field staff, local government authorities, community and religious based organization as well as informal stakeholders responding to food needs of the IDPS in Bade and Yunusari LGAs.

Funding Overview

Out of the \$1.0 billion required for the 2021 humanitarian response in north-east Nigeria, \$272 million is required for Yobe State.



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