Fact Sheet
NE Nigeria: Pulka, Gwoza LGA (November 2017)

Background

- Gwoza Local Government Authority (LGA) has been at the centre of the humanitarian crisis in north-east Nigeria, with Pulka town experiencing intense fighting and insecurity.
- The LGA has seen the killing of hundreds of civilians, the abduction of women and girls, the destruction of towns, and the large-scale forced displacement of populations. Livelihoods have been devastated and assets looted.
- Gwoza LGA borders with Cameroon, and throughout the crisis civilians have fled across the border, including to Minawao Refugee Camp. In August 2014 Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) took control of Pulka. However, the Nigerian Armed Forces re-took the town in March 2015 and since then populations are slowly starting to return, especially since the start of 2017. Local government has been slow to be reinstated in Pulka town however, and this has had a negative impact on the humanitarian response. The security situation outside Pulka town remains tenuous, and concerns about the protection of civilians remain high. Freedom of movement is restricted due to a curfew after 8pm as well as a 2km security perimeter. Displaced populations continue to arrive regularly in Pulka, generally from insecure areas such as Dure, Ngoshe, Kirawa and Baladagawisha. These individuals are screened by the Nigerian military upon arrival.

Humanitarian Access

- The only locations which have a permanent humanitarian presence in Gwoza LGA are Pulka and Gwoza towns. Humanitarian personnel are transported to these locations by the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS).
- Humanitarian organisations have limited access to the area east of Pulka and the Mandara mountain range (that lie along the eastern edge of Gwoza LGA) due to ongoing hostilities between the parties to the conflict.
- Between Konduga and Pulka, humanitarian personnel and cargo traveling by road require an armed escort.

Humanitarian Situation

- Protection of civilians is of grave concern. Displaced civilians are regularly arriving from insecure areas. There have also been reports of civilian abductions in the Pulka area by NSAGs. There is a need for more comprehensive analysis surrounding the ability of beneficiaries to access services in a safe and dignified manner.
- Populations in Gwoza LGA continue to face emergency food security levels (IPC Phase 4) as farming activities remain far below normal.

CRISIS TIMELINE

- **MAR 2014 - AUG 2014**
  - Increased insecurity
  - NSAGs carry out attacks in villages across Gwoza LGA, including an attack on Pulka in July 2013 that result in the killing of hundreds of civilians, abductions, the destruction of towns, and civilian displacement.

- **MAR 2015**
  - The Nigerian Armed Forces re-take control of Pulka and establish the 121 Task Force Battalion.
  - Pulka town remains insecure due to its proximity to the Sambisa Forest, and sees additional attacks throughout 2016 and 2017.

- **JUL 2016**
  - The first humanitarian assessment is carried out in Pulka town; significant humanitarian needs in all sectors are identified.

- **OCT 2016**
  - Agencies complete a follow-up mission and assessment in Pulka town and begin to deliver lifesaving assistance.

- **JAN - MAY 2017**
  - Pulka town sees a large influx of return populations from surrounding areas as well as from Cameroon.
The recent influx of newly displaced populations into Pulka town from Cameroon has put a strain on humanitarian services, most notably with regards to shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene services. A significant challenge has been allocating land within the small security perimeter to build new shelters for those who are arriving to Pulka. As a result, new arrivals have been forced to live in common shelters with poor sanitation conditions.

Accessing safe water is difficult through the digging of boreholes due to Pulka town’s geographical landscape, and thus far WASH assessments have yielded poor results. However, water yields have increased in recent weeks after a change in management and maintenance of the Bulama borehole.

Due to the security context of Pulka town and the protection concerns around freedom of movement, both IDP and host communities have limited access to livelihood activities, including farming. This leaves them in a vulnerable state and reliant on food distributions by aid agencies.

The coordination of the humanitarian response has been decentralised to LGAs that are considered to be a priority in terms of humanitarian need. Gwoza is one of these priority LGAs. This means that humanitarian organisations communicate and coordinate through the local mechanism. This improves coordination among partners at local level, and improves information flow between partners in the LGA and state capital.

Humanitarian Response

In 2016, humanitarian organisations scaled up the response in Pulka town to provide life-saving and emergency support to IDP and host community populations.

Three IDP sites for over 7,000 IDPs were built in Pulka town: Umbaza Rock Site/Camp A, Wege Camp/Camp B and Wege Extension/Camp C. There are also hundreds of new arrivals in three transit sites: General Hospital, Wege Arrival Center, and Damara Arrival Center. Humanitarian organisations are currently assessing options to build an additional camp in the Damara area, and recently built 420 shelters in Wege Extension/Camp C. The majority of the displaced populations in these sites are from Gwoza LGA communities and the Shuwa, Mandra and Glaveda ethnic groups.

Humanitarian organisations delivered food assistance to nearly 65,000 IDPs and host community beneficiaries for the month of September. Nutrition programming is also being implemented.

Health organisations are delivering free and quality primary and secondary services to thousands of IDP and host community populations on a monthly basis. These interventions include Sexual and Reproductive Health Services and regular immunizations as well as a planned measles and cholera vaccination campaign. An operation theatre is also being built at the General Hospital in Pulka.

IDPs and host communities are receiving safe water and boreholes are being rehabilitated. Safe water is also trucked to camps and transit centres. WASH partners are also working with the Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) to build additional boreholes. Latrines and bathing facilities have also been built within the IDP sites, health promotion sessions are ongoing as well as the distribution of WASH NFIs including buckets and soap.

Protection partners are supporting affected communities with psychosocial and mental health support, family tracing and reunification activities, as well as establishing ‘Safe Space’ facilities in the IDP sites. In addition, charcoal has been distributed as there are protection concerns when civilians exit the security perimeter to collect firewood.

Schools are currently being set up in the IDP sites.
## Humanitarian Organisations in Pulka

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LGA Coordination</th>
<th>OCHA – IOM/Oxfam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Camp Coordination &amp; Camp Management (CCCM)</td>
<td>IOM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Recovery/Livelihood</td>
<td>IOM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Security</td>
<td>OXFAM, SWNI, WFP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>MSF-Spain, UNICEF, WHO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>POH, MSF-Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>GI, PI, IOM, UNHCR/GISCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter/NFI</td>
<td>IOM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water, Sanitation &amp; Hygiene (WASH)</td>
<td>OXFAM, RUWASSA, UNICEF</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The map gives an overview of Pulka town in Gwoza Local Government Area. An estimated of 27,529 IDPs reported in August 2017. 12,302 live in camps and 15,227 in host communities.