

## NORTH-EAST NIGERIA: Flash Update #2

Geidam and Yunusari LGAs, Yobe State

As of 5 May 2021

### HIGHLIGHTS

- A second attack in less than a week by non-state armed groups (NSAGs) occurred in Yobe State, this time in Kanama town, the capital of Yunusari LGA, where an estimated 30,000 people fled for safety. Kanama is about 35 kilometres from Geidam where the first attack occurred on 23 April and 150,000 people were known to have fled to neighbouring towns (see [Geidam Flash Update #1](#)).
- Ongoing insecurity in Geidam and Kanama towns, as well as remote locations in Yunusari, Yusufari, Bursari and Tarmua LGAs, is impeding access to IDPs. The scarcity of resources to respond to needs remains challenging for government and partners.
- Multiple displacements and unpredictable movements are impacting efforts to identify and register many of the IDPs.
- New arrivals in host communities have signalled food, NFI, shelter, WASH, health and protection services among the most urgent needs. The majority of those displaced are women and children, who face grave protection risks across transit and hosting sites. Several children are unaccompanied and family members are still missing.
- The Yobe State Government, humanitarian partners, civil society organisations and host communities continue to provide critical life-saving assistance to IDPs, some repurposing resources earmarked for other programmes to facilitate rapid response to emergency needs.
- Resource mobilisation efforts by State Government and partners are ongoing to ramp up the response, especially as resources of host communities rapidly deplete due to the influx of IDPs. OCHA is supporting the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) to roll out LGA-level mechanisms to scale up response and identify/register the most vulnerable groups for priority assistance.



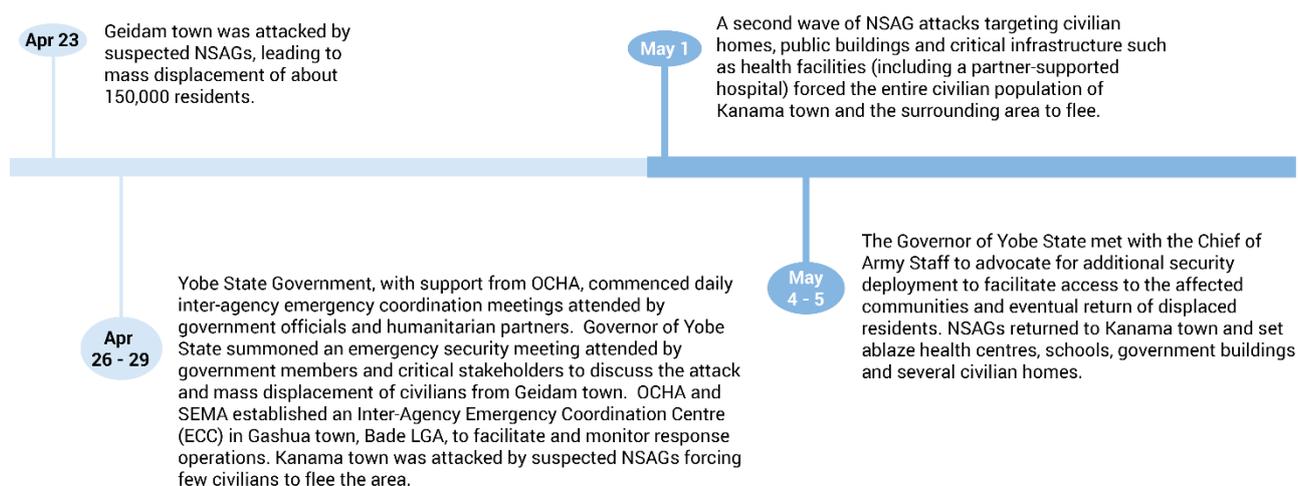
## Situation Overview

Attacks by NSAG operatives continue to trigger mass displacement of civilians across communities in northern Yobe. Barely a week after an estimated 150,000 residents of Geidam town fled their homes, NSAG launched repeated attacks on Kanama town, a distance of about 35 kilometres from Geidam, displacing almost the entire civilian population of about 30,000 people. Attacks on Kanama, which started on 29 April, were still ongoing as of 5 May with large-scale destruction of private and public property and critical infrastructure. Most of the displaced people are taking shelter in host communities across Yunusari, Bade, Damaturu and Nguru LGAs in Yobe while others are either still in transit or have crossed to neighbouring states, including Bauchi and Borno.

The conditions of the displaced people, the majority of whom are women and children, remain dire with food, NFI, shelter, WASH and health services among priority needs. Multiple displacements and unpredictable movements, including in and out of Geidam town to monitor the situation and to some remote locations in search of assistance and services are impacting efforts to identify and register many of the IDPs.

## Needs

An influx of IDPs into unprepared and under resourced host communities continues to add pressure on resources and infrastructure in these communities. New arrivals in host communities across Yunusari, Yusufari, Gashua and Damaturu have indicated that food, NFI, shelter, WASH, health and protection services are among their most urgent needs. There are increased protection risks for women and children housed in transit locations and hosting areas, as several cases of missing family members and unaccompanied minors and child-headed families have been reported.



## Response

The Yobe State Government, partners and host communities continue to provide support to IDPs. Humanitarian partners are repurposing resources earmarked for other programmes to facilitate rapid response to emergency needs. Donor outreach is ongoing for additional funding to meet these needs. The State Government is creating public awareness on the plight of IDPs, reaching out to key members of the public who may have resources to support the response. Operational partners in Yobe are engaging with the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) and the Cash Working Group (CWG) to explore the possibilities of conducting a rapid market assessment in communities hosting the IDPs to guide implementation of a multi-purpose cash response allocation (MPCA).

## **Coordination**

The Government, with the support of OCHA, continue to chair daily virtual emergency inter-agency coordination meetings to track priority needs and ongoing response, as sectors continue to hold emergency coordination meetings to assess needs/gaps and identify response priorities. An expanded emergency meeting of Yobe state stakeholders and the ISCG on 4 May mapped current response capacity of individual sectors which will guide general scale-up. SEMA and OCHA are rolling out LGA-based coordination mechanisms to bring together local government officials, partners, and local/community responders. This will aid the identification and registration of IDPs across host communities and transit locations and improve the quality of response.

## **Gaps and Challenges**

Ongoing insecurity in Geidam and Kanama towns, as well as remote locations in Yunusari, Yusufari, Bursari and Tarmua LGAs, is impeding access to IDPs who are stranded or in transit. The scarcity of resources to respond to needs remains challenging for government and partners. Displacements in Kanama have made the situation even more alarming with resources and coping mechanisms being stretched.

### **For further information, please contact:**

**Esty Sutyoko**, Deputy Head of Office, OCHA Nigeria  
**David Lominyo Lubari**, Head of Sub Office, OCHA Yobe State

[sutyoko@un.org](mailto:sutyoko@un.org)  
[lubari@un.org](mailto:lubari@un.org)

+234 903 781 0095  
+234 703 175 8922

### **For media contact:**

**Christine Cool**, Head of Public Information Unit, OCHA Nigeria

[christine.cool@un.org](mailto:christine.cool@un.org)

+234 907 343 0290

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