



# QUICK ASSESSMENT: NGALA IDP CAMP

SIF / NIGERIA



**Date of the mission:** 13th December, 2016.

**Location:** Ngala IDP Camp (Ngala LGA, Borno State, North-East Nigeria)

## Coordinates

- a. Military HQ (3rd battalion): 12°21'28.68"N 14°10'49.60"E A: 291m
- b. Helipad: 12°21'24.70"N 14°10'42.40"E A: 292m
- c. IDP camp: 12°21'34.87"N 14°10'19.57"E A: 288m

## Security and logistics

(source: SIF and *UN Joint Security Assessment*)

**Ngala has been liberated by NAF on March 2016.** Fighting against insurgents has been ongoing until summer 2016. The road and the border are now open and UNHAS helicopters are currently serving Ngala since December 2016.

**LGA level:** On June, a clearance operation has been conducted by 3rd Battalion from Ngala towards North of the LGA, along the Cameroonian border to push away insurgents groups present in this zone of Ngala LGA.

This LGA is part of the Area of Operations of Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP). This group remains active in the North of Ngala – due to the presence of bases in Lake Chad area – and in Kala Balge LGA where it has a freedom of movement in the southern part of the LGA. ISWAP groups are very mobile and base their actions on guerrilla warfare (ambushes, IED's, hit-and-run tactic). Skirmishes with NAF can occur during the patrols.

The actual NAF deployment is centered on:

- The control of the road Dikwa – Ngala to keep it open for commercial convoys,
- The control of the LGA's Headquarters,
- The capability to conduct combat patrols from bases in order to conduct a zone control deeply inside the LGA's.

The overall security situation is assessed to be safe by the UN in the towns where NAF are deployed, and under control along the main axis (Dikwa – Ngala and Ngala – Rann).

Conclusions of UN Joint Security Assessment (11/11/2016): “*Ngala Town is assessed to be safe for humanitarian operations including the deployment of staff for overnights*”.

**Road access:** Main trans-Sahara trade route. Straight highway leading from Maiduguri towards Ngala and the Cameroonian border, then to N'Djamena and further. No asphalt. 3 sensitive points (bridges) are identified on this portion: Gajibo, Logomane and Ngala Bridge. Troops are deployed to secure the spots.

Dikwa – Ngala is open but remains under threat of ISWAP (attack at Logomane bridge in the night of 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2016) → escorted convoys.

Ngala bridge: damaged but substitute bridge in place, highway tarmacked with sand in some locations, escorted truck movement along highway visible from the air, checkpoints.

**Border crossing:** Fotokol town on the Cameroonian side across the river. Frontier is materialized by Elbeid Bridge. Nigerian Customs and Immigration Services have a presence and relationship with Cameroonian security services are good. Commercial convoys can pass but have to transship goods on donkey carts which are the only one allowed to cross. Until now no custom fees were applied but it might change very soon. Lobbying should be done towards Nigerian and Cameroonian authorities to allow humanitarian transit at minimum cost and procedures.

**State services:** Police, Customs, Immigration and Department of State Services are present in Ngala/Gambaru.

**Weather:** Dry with a rainy season. Warmer than Maiduguri.

**Terrain:** Flat, sandy. No trees or bushes, fertile thanks to irrigation channels, agricultural land, vegetation is burnt off on wide stretches of land, vegetation near the highway burnt off strategically.

## Ngala IDP Camp/settlement

**Location:** the IDP settlement is located 5 km away from the Cameroonian border on the Gambaru-Dikwa road in the premises of Ngala International Secondary School. It is in front of the military garrison and former stadium which is now used as helipad (see sat map below).

**Date of creation:** end of 2015.

**Population:** 65,000 IDPs (14,000 HH) approx.

**IDP influx:** around 100 HH per week (source: MSF)

**Management:** Government is officially in charge with the support of the Nigerian Red-Cross.

**Security:** The compound is closed by a surrounding wall with barbed wire and secured by vigilantes. Army doesn't enter the camp except on request or specific need, but mobile police patrols around. According to community leaders security is good and they feel safe.

**Freedom of movement:** IDPs can go in and out of the settlement within curfew hours (6pm to 6am).

**Layout:** site not planned. No formal zoning but IDPs regroup by place of origin and date of arrival. Some buildings/concrete structures within the site. Some are partly destroyed; some of them are occupied by IDPs and others by agencies on site.

All IDPs have been displaced because of the conflict. Some are returnees back from Cameroon and there's also a small number of Cameroonian refugees.

### Quick assessment Methodology

Considering the lack of time (5 hours on site) we opted for direct observation and key informants / focus group methodology.

#### Key informants:

- Lt Col Omoke (Nigerian Armed Forces 3<sup>rd</sup> battalion commander)
- MSF Team (Field Co, Wash Off., Log Off., Medic)
- Nigerian Red-Cross Staff (Field Co)
- IOM Staff (Field Co)
- Camp "Chairman": Mr. Atif GONI

Focus Group (facilitated by MSF) with 20 community leaders (Bulamas).

## Humanitarian situation

**CCCM:** Government and Nigerian Red-Cross have limited capacity/resources and need support for CCCM which is needed and requested by humanitarian actors.

**FoodSec:** Food is first and foremost concern in Ngala IDP Settlement to where aid is only occasionally sent. The rations distributed by NAF, MSF, ICRC/NR-C or WFP did not ensure people received enough to survive.

→An October 2016 MSF screening of 7'163 children under 5 showed a prevalence of 8.5% of SAM and 14.3% of MAM (GAM of 22.9%), describing an untenable situation for the camp's population.

Both community leaders and key informants insisted on the urgent need for food distributions. According to MSF households are selling NFIs distributed to buy food and share plumpynut when given for Malnutrition treatment...

**Livelihood:** economic activities in the area include fishing, agriculture (irrigation), livestock, and trade. Gambaru's market is restarting, 50% functional according to NAF (beans and fish are available and cheap). Opportunity to restart agriculture if security improves. Some IDPs have access to their fields or to nearby backwater for fisheries but according to the camp chairman they represent less than 1%. IDPs requested support to restart economic activities including agriculture and fishery.

**Health:** only one primary health care staff for the whole camp and nearby cities. No doctor, no nurses, no midwives except when MSF is there 10 days a month. MSF do only child health, nutrition (450 children under treatment) and vaccination. They had more than 100 cases of pertussis (sample test has been done) and witness diarrhoeas and skin diseases but mainly due to a lack of hygiene rather than poor quality of water. Most common is malaria. UNICEF plans to bring in one nurse and one midwife but they were not in place at the time of the assessment.

**Shelter:** 10,000 + shelters on site. All are makeshift except 500 A-frame E-shelters built by the Nigerian Red-Cross. 2000 more are planned by IOM. IDPs say they don't like these shelters which are too small for the whole family. They prefer to get shelter kits with tarps, ropes, wood and manage themselves. 5000 tarpaulins already distributed by the Nigerian Red-Cross. At least 10,000 more should be distributed in view of the rainy season.

**NFI:** a total of 11,100 NFI kits have been distributed by ICRC/NR-C, UNHCR and IOM; but most of the items have already been sold in the local market in order to buy food. More NFIs will be needed especially ahead of the rainy season. Key informants insisted in the fact that without regular food distributions NFI will continue to be sold by beneficiaries.

**Water:** around 10 to 15L/pers./day. Infrastructures: 6 hand pumps + 6 solar pumps (A1) + 1 deep borehole (300m). Storage: 3\*T30, 1 water tower 22 m3, 1 concrete reservoir 33 m3.

A second deep borehole is under construction by MSF-CH, which should help reach the emergency standard of 20L/pers./day.

**Latrines/Showers:** No showers on site. 350 emergency latrines built by ICRC/Nigerian Red Cross (very basic, no waste disposal). Most people use traditional latrines (basic 2m hole without slab). No cleaning products and items are distributed. Construction of community latrines or distribution of latrine kits is urgent. MSF-CH started distribution of 300 kits (plastic slab/ plastic sheeting/5 poles). Could be duplicated if successful because people don't like community latrines, prefer to have one/HH.

**Waste management and drainage:** Neither waste management system nor proper drainage installations within the site. IDPs dig channels themselves during the rainy season.

**Protection:** no protection mechanism at all. Camp is secured by civilian militias (vigilantes). Army HQ is in front and mobile police patrols outside. No specific support for women and children are in place.

**Education:** 4 makeshift classrooms for 6350 students approx. Lack of rooms, materials and qualified teachers.

## Humanitarian actors

**ICRC/Nigerian Red-Cross:** 300 emergency shelters (A-frame) built, 200 additional units to be built soon, potentiality to build more shelters in 2017. 5,100 NFI kits (mats, blankets, mosquito nets, tarpaulins, soap, buckets) distributed alongside food.

**MSF-CH:** cross border from Fotokol, 10 days presence per month. Food and hygiene kits distribution, boreholes sinking, nutrition and child (<5) health, vaccination.

**UNICEF:** nutrition and immunization campaigns.

**UNHCR:** distribution of 3000 NFI kits.

**IOM:** construction of 1000 e-shelters (ongoing) and distribution of 3000 NFI kits. Biometric registration ongoing.

**SIF:** currently opening a sub-office in Gambaru. Discussions ongoing with WFP for general food distribution to 100,000 beneficiaries. Also keen to develop shelter, NFI and protection activities within the camp and the host community in order to complete partner's interventions. CCCM support could also be provided.

**Solidarités Internationales:** looking to deploy a mobile team asap in order to undertake WaSH activities (deep borehole sinking, latrine construction, hygiene promotion...).

## Main gaps

**1° FoodSec:** Both key informants and community leaders insisted in the dire need for food. During the focus group all bulamas ranked food as the first need of IDPs.

**2° Health:** without any doctor, nurse, midwives and proper infrastructures in the area, health is a major concern. MSF and community leaders are calling for deployment of MoH and NGO medical staff in order to provide at least primary health services.

**3° WaSH:** with 15L/pers./day access to water has improved but remains under the standards. People have to wait for long hours and the quality of water is poor (salty, not clear...). Latrines and showers are lacking, as well as a waste management and drainage system.

**4° NFIs:** most distributed NFIs have been sold by IDPs to buy food. General distribution will be needed ahead of the rainy season (especially tarpaulins, mats and mosquito nets).

**5° Protection:** women, child and elders protection mechanisms need to be put in place.

Satellite map of Ngala, Gambaru and Fotokol



Area Overview



IDP settlement







Makeshift shelters



MSF-CH WaSH infrastructure