

Population Movements

Since the 22nd of May, there have been no movements of returnees from Cameroon to Banki. By 5 June, the total number of returnees registered in Banki had reached **19,227** individuals including the **12,428** that arrived during the influx between April and May. Limited shelter, acute health facilities, severe water and food shortages have been the harsh realities of a town unprepared to receive such an influx. **3,704** returnees were relocated to Pulka in three separate convoys organized by the Borno State government between the 21st and 31st of May. The government said it supported the relocation to decongest Banki amidst concerns by aid agencies about the lack of water and sanitation facilities coupled with over-crowdedness and restriction of free movement outside Pulka due to security considerations. In Pulka, there was a meeting of humanitarian agencies on the situation there to review the response capacity.

Since 2015, more than **270,000** Nigerians driven by the insurgency in the North-East have fled from Cameroon, Niger and Chad and have been registered so far. About 7 per cent of the number is recorded to have been forcibly returned from Cameroon.

Situation Analysis

The extended break in further spontaneous movements from Cameroon to Nigeria could be as a result of the joint mission to Minawao Camp in Cameroon by UNHCR and the Governments of Nigeria and Cameroon with key messages to refugees about the situation in country of origin. But information about food distribution, which started on 7 June in Minawao Refugee Camp could trigger some movements in the coming days. The trend is that most of the movements that have taken place have always occurred after food distribution in the camp. However, UNHCR and the Governments of Nigeria and Cameroon will continue to emphasise the difficult living conditions in the areas of return in the North-East and the complex security and humanitarian environments affecting safety and dignity.

Gaps and Response Efforts

Food, shelter, health, water and sanitation remain critical gaps in Banki and other return areas in the North-East. WFP is yet to start food distribution for returnees and IDPs in Banki. The prolonged absence of food has led to an increase in serious protection risks for the population, and the UNHCR Protection team on the ground is reporting growing incidents of domestic violence, unwanted pregnancies, forced marriages and human rights abuses including negative coping mechanisms by women in exchange for food and other services in the Banki. This alarming situation requires a coordinated approach by the humanitarian community to reverse the trend. Shelter also remains a critical unmet need as many returnees from Cameroon mainly women, children and the elderly continue to sleep in open places under difficult weather conditions including the start of the rainy season. Space for the erection of additional shelter is a challenge in Banki. The government is currently excavating drainages as a security requirement before additional emergency shelters are constructed. There are only **304** latrines and **136** bathing areas for the over **42,000** population (returnees and IDPs) in the Banki Camp. The camp has only one health facility. Critical medical cases are transferred to Cameroon, but there is no ambulance to transport patients. During the last one week alone, about **10** people mainly children died of what medical sources in the camp said were due to measles and diarrhea. With overcrowding and lack of water and sanitation facilities, UNHCR and other humanitarian actors predict a growing disease outbreak if urgent steps are not taken to reverse the current situation. For the past three months, there is also no education for children who make up more than **50** percent of the population because there are no teachers. UNHCR is distributing **2,000** non-food item kits to returnees in Banki. Beneficiaries are receiving mattresses, cooking pots, buckets, jerry cans, blankets, slippers, sanitary pad, solar lanterns, mosquito nets, women's underwear, washing soap and bathing soap. UNHCR is re-echoing its call on other humanitarian agencies to deploy staff and intervene in areas where they have expertise and resources particularly in the areas of shelter, food, water and sanitation, health and education.

Key Operational Challenges

Humanitarian access outside main administrative areas remains a challenge, and movement of UN and other humanitarian staff and items by road is not the best option. There is no adequate field presence by aid agencies, and the lack of resources to address the critical needs of returnees remains a concern. These developments continue to undermine the effectiveness of humanitarian response.