

Population Movements

UNHCR staff in Banki and other NGO partners reported no further new spontaneous movements on 29 May. However, it is likely that another internal movement could take place for the remaining family members of the approximately **1,500** returnees transported to Pulka on Saturday, 27 May. Although there is the lack of basic facilities including water for the **22,000** inhabitants already in Pulka, family reunification is necessary to ensure that there is no further separation of women and children from the nucleus of the family. The number of individuals returning to Nigeria from Cameroon during the latest influx between 9 April and 22 May still remains at **12,202** as of 30 May. The main areas of return are Banki, Pulka, Mubi, Gwoza and Bama in North-Eastern Nigeria, with the entry points being Banki in Borno State and Sahuda in Adamawa State. Since 2015, more than **270,000** Nigerians driven by the insurgency in the North-East have returned from Cameroon, Niger and Chad.

Situation Analysis

The conditions in the areas of return remain precariously challenging and not conducive for any safe and dignified return movement. The reality is that majority of the individuals who have returned to the country so far have ended up in secondary displacement situation. Those interviewed upon arrival from Cameroon cited the **25 percent** reduction in food rations in the Minawao Camp and the desire for them to resume farming activities as some of the main causes that influenced their spontaneous return. Meanwhile, UNHCR and the Government of Cameroon have taken measures to address the water supply in the camp and surrounding villages. Refugees in the camp are currently receiving **16 litres** of water daily. The newly constructed water pipeline by UNHCR and the Cameroonian government is complete, and will soon be operationalized to also include the five surrounding villages.

Response Efforts

In Banki, there is water scarcity since the departure of MSF from the area. The Danish Refugee Council has taken over WASH activities but the use of solar panels for water pumping is only between **11** and **17 hours** daily. This is making sourcing water afterwards challenging for residents of the area particularly those who have no adequate water storage facilities. This situation has increased protection risks including long queues at water points, violence and incidents of abuse of power by some members of the local Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF). UNHCR Protection team on ground is planning to conduct sensitization and awareness on peace building and conflict resolution with the CJTF and other community leaders and at the same time, accelerate the process of establishing Protection Action Groups in the community. Provision of food for the returnees remains an urgent and unmet need, and the planned food distribution by WFP has not started due to the non-availability of food stock on the ground. Meanwhile, UNHCR is also continuing its advocacy with other humanitarian agencies within the coordinated response framework to intervene in areas where they have expertise.

Key Operational Challenges

While government forces are succeeding in securing main Local Government Areas, security in nearby villages and towns liberated remains fluid and unpredictable. The lack of road access from Maiduguri to areas of return continue to pose daily operational challenges. The only mode of transport is the UN Humanitarian helicopter; and the demand for it among humanitarian staff makes planning and effective execution operationally challenging. The lack of resources is also critically undermining effective response in the wake of the increasing number of returnees over the past few weeks.