On 24 March 2018, the Nigerian Military reopened the Maiduguri-Bama-Banki road after four years of its closure due to insecurity. The road, which runs from Maiduguri through Konduga, Bama, Gwoza and also connects to the neighboring countries of Cameroon and Chad, was shut to commercial and public traffic in September 2014. Following the reopening of the road, about 3,000 IDPs of Bama origin at Dalori I and II Camps in Maiduguri were relocated to Bama town by the Government of Nigeria (GoN), on 2 April 2018. The population of people in need of humanitarian assistance has increased significantly due to the influx, and larger number of returns are expected in the coming days/weeks.

Population:

While Bama Local Government Area (LGA) had an IDP population of 49,139 individuals (14,064 households) as per DTM Round XXI, it is the LGA of origin for the largest number (203,374) of displaced persons in Borno and neighbouring states (Table 1). Majority of the original population in Bama were displaced to other locations due to insecurity and inaccessibility. Prior to the recent population return to Bama, over 95 per cent of the remaining people in the LGA resided in Banki Camp (33,081 individuals) and GSS Camp (16,058 individuals). The Government has rehabilitated some communities in Shehuri and Kasugula wards of Bama, and IDPs are being assisted to return to these rehabilitated areas.

Flow monitoring and emergency tracking:

DTM emergency tracking in Bama and flow monitoring along Maiduguri-Bama-Banki road shows that since 24 March:

- 21 buses with capacity of 75 passengers each and 67 wagons transported about 3,000 returnees from Maiduguri to Bama on 2nd April 2018
- IOM has registered 1,688 new arrivals (returnees) in Bama since 2nd April, and registration activities are ongoing
- 55 trucks carrying relief items and commercial products have made trips to Bama and surrounding locations through the reopened road
- More than 200 public vehicles have been witnessed carrying people to and from Bama

The GoN, mainly through its State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) and Ministry of Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Reconciliation (MRRR), have trucked food items, NFIs, tricycles, small power generators and other logistical items to Bama, with the aim of encouraging people to return to the area. Traffic along the road has increased significantly, with flows involving people traveling to Bama for business, individuals visiting to ascertain the safety situation and status of their properties, and many who are returning to their homes due to the improved access. It is estimated that about 4,100 people have moved along the newly opened road since March 24th.