

Katsina, Sokoto and Zamfara

11 June 2019



16,257 individuals displaced within Katsina state



12,527 individuals displaced within sokoto state



38,113 individuals displaced within Zamfara state



IDPs in Batsari LGA of Katsina state © IOM/2019

BACKGROUND

An increase in violent crimes in the northwestern Nigerian states of Katsina, Sokoto and Zamfara has triggered large scale displacements and population movement within the states as well as across the international border to Niger Republic.

As per a rapid assessment conducted by IOM Nigeria in Katsina, Sokoto and Zamfara states, an estimated 66,900 people have been displaced within the states and are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

IOM Rapid Assessment found that the State of Zamfara has the highest number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) at 38,113. This is not surprising given that 13 out of its 14 LGAs have been affected with the ongoing hostilities. Gusau, the state capital, recorded the highest number of displaced individuals at 8,420. Maru LGA came in a close second with an estimate of 5,447 displaced individuals, Bukkuyuk with an estimate of 4,215 IDPs, Anka with 3,869 and 16,162 in other LGAs.

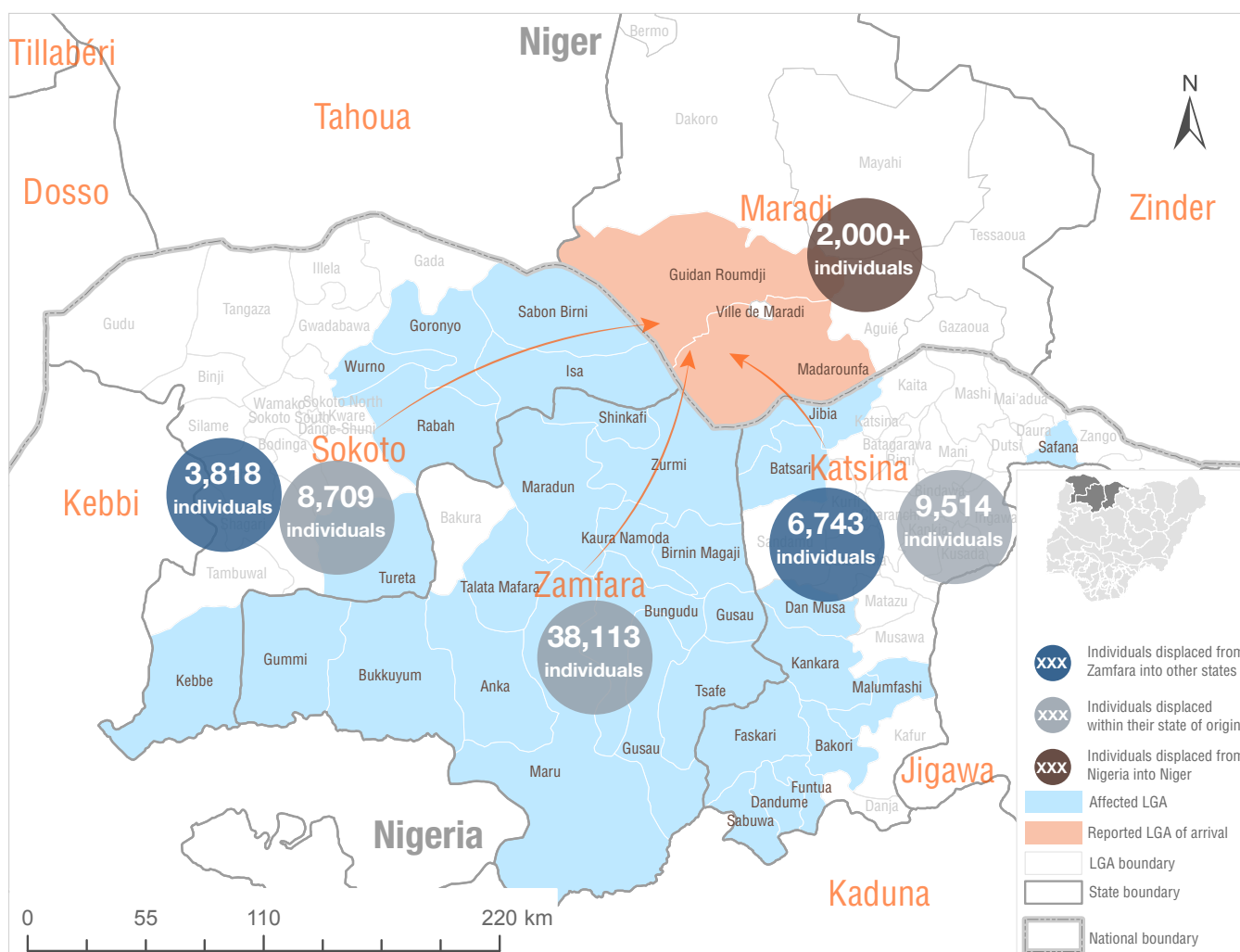
The State of Katsina has the next highest number of IDPs at 16,257. Batsari was the most affected LGA

with 3,375 affected individuals, followed by Kankara with 2,375 and Dan Musa with 2,003 affected persons.

The assessment carried out in Sokoto state recorded over 12,527 individuals as displaced within the state because of the recent hostilities perpetuated by the armed group ravaging the region. All the LGAs in Sokoto state bordering Zamfara state, namely: Dange Shuni, Goronyo, Rabah, Sabon Birni, Kebbe, Isa, Tangaza and Tureta LGAs were reported to have been affected by this security challenge.

As per the assessment, Sabon Birni LGA in Sokoto has the highest number of affected persons at 10,000, followed by Rabah with 2,300 individuals.

According to reports by IOM Niger, as many as 20,000 Nigerians have fled to Niger from the affected states. Most have made their way to border localities of Madarounfa, Guidan Roudji, Guidan Sory as well as to Gabi and N'Gnelwa townships in the Maradi region. Most of the IDPs that arrived in Niger reported to have taken irregular routes to enter the country.



Map 1: Katsina, Sokoto and Zamfara displacement dynamics

The maps in this report are for illustration purposes only. The depiction and use of boundaries, geographic names, and related data shown on maps and included in this report are not warranted to be error free nor do they imply judgement on the legal status of any territory, or any endorsement or acceptance of such boundaries by IOM.

Situation of IDPs

The situation of IDPs is dire and they are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. As per the Rapid Assessment, 50 per cent of the IDPs residing in camps and with host communities are women and children. Among the children, there are more girls than boys among the displaced. There are very few formal camps available for the IDPs so many are residing with host communities. The couple of formal camps available include Mada camp with 3,351 individuals, located few kilometres from Gusau town, the other camp is Anka camp with 2,353 individuals, located in new the palace of the Emir (traditional leader) in Anka LGA.

Most of the IDPs (70%) are living within solid walls while less than 25 per cent are living in makeshift shelters. All the camps have little or no water available.

Food is a major challenge for all displaced. Camps don't have enough food for the IDPs and there are no provisions made by the government so far for IDPs living with host communities. Non-Food Items, shelter and clothes for children and the elderly are among the

other immediate needs. Psychosocial support is also needed for the displaced persons, most especially for those living in camps.

There is need for family reunifications as families have been reportedly separated on account of movement following the attacks. There are no humanitarian agencies on the ground to assist the displaced persons so far. Many of the affected individuals interviewed said they do not plan to return to their place of origin because of fear of more attacks.

The displacements are a result of the recent hostilities by armed bandits in some LGAs in Katsina, namely: Batsari, Bakori, Dandume, Fastari, Funtua, Jibia, Kankara, Malumfashi and Safana. The bandits would raid these communities, rustle their cattle and other animals, steal their properties, sometimes kidnap, kill the victims and set their homes ablaze. The displacements started around December 2018 and escalated following a full-fledged attack on Shekewa, Dangeza, Yargamji, Kasai, Dantudun Wagini and Kinfaun communities all in Batsari LGA in April and May 2019.

