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Ngala LCG Meeting Minutes
Ngala
15 November 2019

Participants
UNHCR, UNDSS, WFP, NCA, INTERSOS, CARE INTL, IOM, MERCY COPRS, DRC, SOLIDARITE, FHI360, UNICEF, OCHA, MSF-CH, WHO, Ngala LGA

Key developments in the humanitarian situation

1. **OCHA OAD Deputy Director Mission:** OCHA Operations and Advocacy Directorate deputy director, David Carden visited Ngala on the 14 November 2019 to take stock of the humanitarian situation and response in Ngala and to identify opportunities to revitalize humanitarian operations to reach the teeming number of people in urgent need and overcome the challenges of working in an increasingly complex operating environment. The mission included meetings with humanitarian partners, local government officials and engaging with affected people, including recently displaced people from Rann.

2. **Increasing Influx from Rann:** Humanitarian situation in Rann some 40km from Ngala is deteriorating triggering secondary displacement to Ngala. It is estimated that more than 40,000 displaced people in Rann - men, women and children – have little or no access to food or other humanitarian services due to insecurity and access constraints caused by heavy flooding of the River Kaalia in neighbouring Cameroon since 7 November. Focus group discussions gathered from the new arrivals in Ngala indicated that:
   1. The new arrivals have the fear that military cannot provide adequate security for them against NSAG.
   2. They also believe that humanitarian assistance especially food will attract NSAG attack to Rann. For the past 9 months that NGOs did not provide assistance to Rann, no attacks took place because no logistics (food, drugs etc) in Rann for NSAG to cart away. This is coupled with the difficulties of movement due to the terrain. It is thought that with the rains over and the Lake Chad basin swamps dry up, NSAG access to Rann becomes easier.
• **Reception Center Management**: The deplorable congested situation at the reception center remains concerning with 1017 HH (over 6000 individuals) occupying a space built for a maximum of 100 HH (600 individuals). With the current influx from Rann, over 300 HH sleep in the open, amidst the harsh biting cold of the harmattan. The un-dignifying standard of living at the reception center makes mockery of reception management standards despite response efforts by partners. Mercy Corps and IOM and scaling up efforts at constructing more shelters within the limited space in Arabic camp to decongest the Reception center.

• **Physical Road Access Constraints**: The operating environment in Ngala remains fluid with the arrival of an acting battalion commander. Military patrols has been scaled up to deter the recurrent infiltration of NSAGs. Hostile living conditions in Rann and northern Cameroon has continued to trigger displacement to Ngala.

• **L2 Extension Camp Relocation**: Over 800 fully completed unoccupied shelters built by Mercy Corps and UNHCR lie in various degrees of dilapidation despite the congestion in the IDP camps due to the inability of the security forces to assure the safety of the area for various reasons ranging from the overstretched capacity of the military to perceptions that local IDPs act as cover for NSAGs who infiltrate the camps. To addressing these security constraints and facilitate the relocation to the unoccupied shelters the new military commander has asked for the construction of watch towers for the L2 extension camp.

• **Staff Security and Safety**: The lack of a comprehensive inter agency evacuation plan for the over 200 humanitarian personnel in Ngala is concerning. Partners have advocated that INSO coordinates with the United Nations Department of Safety & Security (UNDSS) in order to facilitate effective humanitarian partners evacuation plan under the Saving Lives Together framework.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Needs</th>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Gaps</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CCCM</strong></td>
<td>1. 5,000 emergency shelter kits urgently needed for ISS camp 2. Relocation of IDPs to over 800 completed shelters built by Mercy Corps and UNHCR</td>
<td>Over 800 completed shelter available but with restricted access due to security concerns Ongoing engagement with the military to facilitate relocation to the unoccupied shelters.</td>
<td>About 6,000 additional shelters required in Ngala to meet the needs of unsheltered IDPs</td>
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<td><strong>WASH</strong></td>
<td>1. Dislodgment of filled up latrines 2. Hybridisation of water supply power sources</td>
<td>Water supply at ISS camp has improved with the hybridization of the major bore hole by MSF</td>
<td>Water quality remains a challenge as IDPs prefer the spring water (free flow) to bore hole water.</td>
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and the repair of faulty hand pumps by Solidarite international.

**Health**

1. Bad road condition delaying supplies transportation by local transporters.
2. No adequate common warehousing for medical supplies, this is not allowing prepositioning of stocks.
3. Insecurity limiting the duration of clinical activities and restricting it to just daytime activities.
4. Anti-malarial drugs shortage
5. No LLNIs to prevent malaria transmission during this peak of transmission period
6. Lack of secondary health care facilities for referral

**Protection**

1. Congestion in the camps exposes the IDPs to multiple protection challenges including; sexual abuse and exploitation (reportedly related to increased military presence in camps); Substance abuse is on the increase with its attendant mental health risks.
2. Perceived exploitative tendencies of food voucher vendors is hampering the full value derivable by IDPs from the WFP cash transfer programme.

**Action points (cumulative)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action point</th>
<th>Lead</th>
<th>Supported by</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Re-assessment of the Security Risk in Ngala.</td>
<td>DHC</td>
<td>UNDSS/INSO</td>
<td>ASAP</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
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</table>
2. DHC to advocate with the Theater Command on the relocation of IDPs to unoccupied shelters | DHC | OCHA CMCoord | ASAP | ongoing

3. WASH sector to enforce the hybridization of water supply power sources | WASH Sector | ISWG | Ongoing | Ongoing

**Additional information/notes**