

During this period, there were no toilets in the camp.¹²⁸ Some IDPs interviewed also said that they had no shelter – they slept on the ground, and would seek cover when it rained.¹²⁹

Ahmed (not his real name), a 62-year-old man Amnesty International interviewed in June 2016, days after he had transferred from Bama Hospital to Maiduguri for medical treatment, said:

“The condition of [Bama Hospital] camp is terrible. The food is once daily... just boiled rice or boiled maize flour. The quantity is very small... There is a problem of water, once a week or two there is a whole day with absolutely no water. Even if you go out and they allow you to get water, it is not enough. There is not any shelter. We have no roof. We live are under a tree. When the rain comes, we cover our heads with our plastic mats. Later on we will sleep on that ground. There is stool everywhere. That is why everybody is sick.”¹³⁰

Several women reported to Amnesty International that women who gave birth in Bama Hospital camp had no access to medical assistance. **30-year-old Aisha** (not her real name) said that in early 2016:

“My sister gave birth to a baby under a tree. They [members of Civilian JTF] were in rooms opposite us, but nobody talked to us or helped us, we couldn’t even wash the baby [for lack of water].”¹³¹

A government health team, supported by UNICEF, were present in the camp from May 2016¹³² but their number and reach was limited and they were not able to significantly reduce the high mortality and morbidity rates in the camp that persisted during this period.¹³³

HUNDREDS OF DEATHS IN BAMA HOSPITAL CAMP

Hundreds of displaced people – mostly women, children and the elderly – died in these conditions. IDPs consistently reported up to 15-30 deaths daily which continued unabated from late 2015 to June 2016.¹³⁴

Eighteen-year-old Kaltun (not her real name) who arrived at Bama Hospital camp from Gala Kura village, explained how people died on a daily basis because of lack of food and water before she and her family were medically evacuated in June 2016:

“So many of us died. We were in Bama Hospital camp [from late 2015 to June 2016]. We were a group of 50 women from our village – there were more children. Of our group, 28 women and 18 children died in Bama hospital camp... It was hell. My younger sister died, she was four years old, my cousin’s wife died, his mother died, four of his children died. My mother-in-law became sick...”¹³⁵

Twenty-four-year-old Falta (not her real name), who arrived in November 2015 and spent around nine months in Bama Hospital camp before being medically evacuated, said:

“When we were there, two people in our family died - my baby boy and my aunt. Daily people died, sometimes ten, twenty or even thirty, every day... When somebody dies, the neighbours will help and make the burial. Daily you will see them do it. Even the burial ground in the hospital became full.”¹³⁶

Others gave similar accounts. Most of the women Amnesty International interviewed said at least one of their family members had died in the Bama Hospital camp from hunger or sickness. One elderly man said that he **had been to over 150 funerals of people in the camp in the four months he lived there until June 2016.**¹³⁷

Accounts of the tremendous sadness and pain of being unable to feed their children ran through the testimonies of many women interviewed. Half of the women Amnesty International interviewed who had lived in Bama Hospital camp during this time said that at least one of their children had died.¹³⁸

¹²⁸ Amnesty International interviews, June 2016-April 2018, and see also Protection Assessment in the LGAs, July 2016, and ESNFI, Bama Hospital Camp response plan, July 2016.

¹²⁹ Amnesty International interviews, June 2016-April 2018. Amnesty International has not been able to estimate a proportion of IDPs who were living without any shelter, but an assessment conducted in July 2016 by the UNHCR-led protection sector also confirmed that “some IDPs” were sleeping out in the open. See Protection Sector, Protection Assessment in the Liberated LGAs, July 2016.

¹³⁰ Amnesty International interview, June 2016.

¹³¹ Amnesty International interview, January 2017.

¹³² UNICEF press statement, “Update on UNICEF response to humanitarian situation of displaced persons in Bama, Borno State, Nigeria”, 23 June 2016 available at: www.unicef.org/nigeria/media_10408.html.

¹³³ Amnesty International interview with journalist who visited the camp in early June, December 2017. Amnesty International interviews with a NGO official who visited Bama Hospital camp in July 2016.

¹³⁴ Amnesty International interviews, June 2016-April 2018, consistently reported.

¹³⁵ Amnesty International interview, February 2017.

¹³⁶ Amnesty International interview, July 2016.

¹³⁷ Amnesty International interview, August 2016.

¹³⁸ Amnesty International interviews, June 2016-April 2018. This excludes interviewees with Shuwa Arab women, who were generally in Bama Hospital camp for much less time than Kanuri women as they were able to transfer to be with other Shuwa Arabs in Konduga.



↑ Satellite images of the cemetery inside Bama Hospital camp, showing how it expanded from October 2015 to July 2016 © DigitalGlobe

Four said they had lost more than one child. One woman from Buduwa village, who recounted that her baby son and aunt had died in the camp, also told Amnesty International that:

“Most of the women have lost children, somebody lost three, another woman lost four, in our group there are 15 women from one village. We lost 20 children [between us].”¹³⁹

Because the women were so malnourished, they had no milk to breastfeed their babies. **Hauwa** (not her real name), who lost her one-year-old son, told Amnesty International:

“My baby boy died. There was no food for me, so there was no breastmilk anymore. Because of the hunger he died. The babies in Bama died daily... everybody will tell you, up to 30 to 40 babies died daily. Because we are mothers, we know, our babies died, our neighbours’ babies died. It is so horrible.”¹⁴⁰

In March 2018, a group of women who had been in Bama Hospital Camp produced a list of 800 names of men, women and children who had died in the camp (mostly in the period between October 2015 and June 2016), based on information gathered from 1,200 other women who had lived in the camp.¹⁴¹ The women told Amnesty International that this list is not comprehensive.

IDPs interviewed also reported to Amnesty International a total of three cases in which women died during or just after giving birth – either during the screening operation or while in the camp.¹⁴²

Satellite images confirm the testimonies of the women that there were many deaths in Bama Hospital camp in late 2015 and early 2016. In December 2015, a cemetery outside Bama Hospital camp was approximately 565 metres in size, in February 2016 it was approximately 1,000 square metres. Between February and May 2016, the cemetery doubled in size again. On 21 June 2016, when MSF visited the camp, staff counted 1,233 graves near the camp which had been dug during the previous year.¹⁴³ As witnesses told researchers that several people were often buried in each grave, especially when children were buried, there may have been more deaths than the number of graves counted.

DEATHS AFTER BEATINGS

Almost all of the women that Amnesty International researchers interviewed said that members of the Civilian JTF beat them gratuitously in Bama Hospital camp, calling them “Boko Haram wives”. Such beatings took place especially near the water boreholes or while queuing for food distributions. One woman showed crisscrossed scars on her legs and said “All these marks are from where they beat me when I was trying to get water. If you want to get water, you will get beaten. That is the price for water.”¹⁴⁴ Another said she was beaten unconscious by a member of Civilian JTF with a bicycle tyre when she went to a food distribution point.¹⁴⁵ Amnesty International received reports of the deaths of at least four women, three children and one man as a result of unlawful use of force, including severe and unprovoked beatings by members of the Civilian JTF.¹⁴⁶ The women were already suffering from lack of food and water, and had very limited or in some cases no access to medical care.

OTHER SATELLITE CAMPS – THE SAME STORY

The situation in Bama Hospital was not unique, and thousands of IDPs may have died across the satellite camps during the period between late 2015 and late 2016 due to movement restrictions and failures to provide adequate assistance.

IDPs consistently reported the lack of provision of even basic levels of food across the satellite camps during this time. IDPs in Rann reported spending several months in mid- and also late 2016 without food distributions. They said some IDPs were given land nearby to farm. One 35-year-old woman from Makandri village told Amnesty International that:

¹³⁹ Amnesty International interview, August 2017.

¹⁴⁰ Amnesty International interview, January 2017.

¹⁴¹ List is on file with Amnesty International. The list was developed as part of an appeal that they wrote to President to address the injustice they have faced. They had already written to the National Assembly in April 2017. The authorities have not commented on this list, but as of September 2017, the National Human Rights Commission was meeting with the women to discuss the petition.

¹⁴² Amnesty International interviews June 2016–April 2018.

¹⁴³ MSF, 24,000 Displaced People Face Dire Health Situation in Bama, 22 June 2016 at: www.msf.org/en/article/nigeria-least-24000-displaced-people-dire-health-situation-bama.

¹⁴⁴ Amnesty International interview, September 2017.

¹⁴⁵ Amnesty International interview, February 2017.

¹⁴⁶ Amnesty International interviews, June 2016–April 2018, based on eight interviews. Amnesty International was not able to verify these reports.