

# 188 starved to death at Borno IDP camp – MSF

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Internally displaced persons in Bama Local Government Area of Borno State yesterday (NAN)

At least 188 people have starved to death in the last one month at a camp for internally displaced persons in Bama, Borno State, the Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has said.

A statement by the medical charity, known as Doctors Without Borders in English, said “a catastrophic humanitarian emergency is currently unfolding,” at the camp where 24,000 people, including 15,000 children (among them 4,500 under five years of age) are sheltered.

“Since 23 May, at least 188 people have died in the camp – almost six people per day – mainly from diarrhoea and malnutrition,” the statement said.

“This is the first time MSF has been able to access Bama, but we already know the needs of the people there are beyond critical,” said Ghada Hatim, MSF head of mission in Nigeria. “We are treating malnourished children in medical facilities in Maiduguri and see the trauma on the faces of our patients who have witnessed and survived many horrors.”

During its assessment, the MSF team counted 1,233 cemetery graves located near the camp which had been dug in the past year. Of those graves, 480 were for children.

“Bama is largely closed off,” said Hatim. “We have been told that people there, including children, have starved to death. According to the accounts given to MSF by displaced people in Bama, new graves are appearing on a daily basis. We were told on certain days more than 30 people were dying due to hunger and illness.”