

succour to families of the 23 deceased victims of the Soba Explosion in Abule-Ado, on Thursday. Photo: NAN

Bandits kill 9, displace 3,600 persons in Niger

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THE increase in the wave of banditry attacks in Shiroro Local Government Area of Niger State has resulted in the killings of no fewer than nine persons, and has forced over 3,600 villagers, mostly women and children, into Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camps in Kuta, Bosso and Zumba communities in the last two weeks, just as many more are still trooping into the camps on a daily basis.

A visit to the camps by the *Nigerian Tribune*, on Thursday revealed that the Kuta camp, with a population of 1,211 IDPs, received additional 300 persons, while the Bosso camp, on the same day, received 326 women and children fleeing the bandits' attacks in their villages, swelling up the camp to 2,266 IDPs, while there are 165 persons at the Zumba camp.

At the Kuta camp, there are only two toilets, while children defecate openly

behind the classrooms.

It was also gathered that over 80 women and children share each classroom, making it difficult to observe the social distancing directive to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the camp.

However, speaking with the *Nigerian Tribune*, the desk officer of Kuta IDPs camp, Yusuf Bala Kuta, explained that those in the camp had been sensitised on COVID-19 and how to prevent it.

Kuta said the Shiroro Local Government, under the leadership of the chairman, Honourable Suleima Chukkuba, had provided hand-washing materials and sunk bore holes at the camps to provide access to clean water.

The desk officer in charge of disaster management at the Bosso camp, Malam Usman Jagaba, said the IDPs were from Madalla, Manta, Jikoro, Gungi Shani, Gurmana villages, among others.

Lebanese who advertised Nigerian woman for sale on Facebook arrested