

and Inghimasiyun fighters (see below). The use of these techniques may well spread to other regions – in 2019, the use of IEDs flourished earlier in the Kukawa/Monguno area than other parts of the region.

### Community feeling - atmospherics

KIs observed little improvement to the situation, though noting it was worse 4-5 months ago. A few KIs commented on Chad's withdrawal of troops, saying it made people worry. As in Gubio, others in turn commended the government's deployment of "joint patrol rapid response" groups<sup>1</sup>.

*The Chadian soldiers left unannounced and this is making us feel unsafe in the community [...] Their absence makes people feel insecure, because they [the Chadians] don't run away from the battlefield like their Nigerian counterpart. (Kumalia)*

*The government of Borno state has come up with a new set of joint patrol rapid response, adding to the present securities in the community [...] People [now] feel a little bit safe because the security personnel have improved. (Damakuli)*

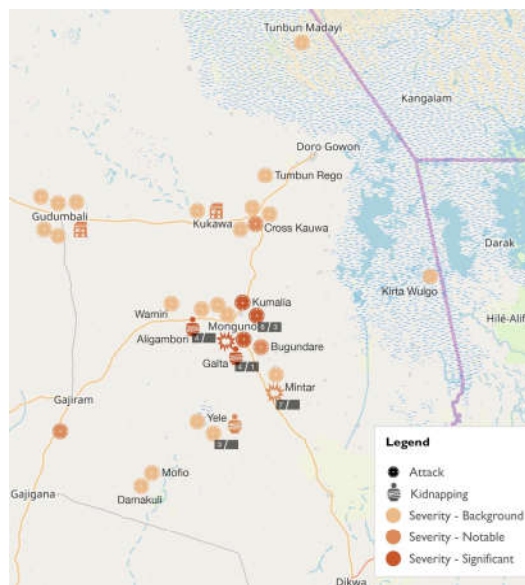
Field staff, however, observe that with a few exceptions, most notably Yele, everyday activities take place with more ease. Field staff attribute this to increased security presence and to more support from NGOs.

### Incidents

After a steady decline in attacks towards the end of 2019, the Monguno hub saw a higher number of attacks this reporting period. The increase was not least fuelled by a resurgence of attacks in the Monguno LGA. New or unusual techniques were used.

One larger attack targeted Monguno, killing IDPs and anywhere between 3 and 25 soldiers less than 48 hours after Chadian troops had left. **Notably, this attack began with the explosion of an SVBIED, which is unusual for the Lake Chad region and suggests training and/or instruction from outside.**

Insurgents attacked soldiers on at least 3 other occasions in Monguno LGA. In one case, ISWAP claimed to have used a 120mm mortar, which is more often seen further north around Mallam Fatori. In another attack, **ISWAP claimed to have deployed 3 "Inghimasiyun" – that is, a specific form of fighters who deploy to inflict as much damage as possible, with an expectation of dying.** This too is unusual. The 3 supposedly blew themselves up. Other attacks in Monguno LGA included at least 5 instances of insurgents setting up checkpoints to kidnap victims, especially women and Christians, highlighting this as a substantial issue in the area.



<sup>1</sup> It is unclear whether this refers to soldiers from Super Camps, to MOPOL groups, or to the vigilante groups recently employed by the governor.