

North-East Situation Update

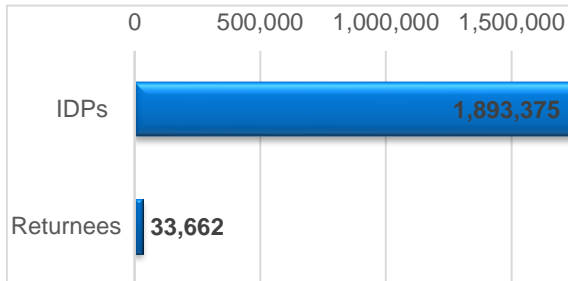
August 2020

5,950 Persons with Specific Needs identified for targeted assistance.

UNHCR **Protection, Human Rights and Border Monitoring** site visits reached **55,396** IDPs, IDP returnees and refugee returnees.

UNHCR supported the issuance of **4,846 civil documentation** for IDPs, returnees and host community members to prevent Statelessness.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

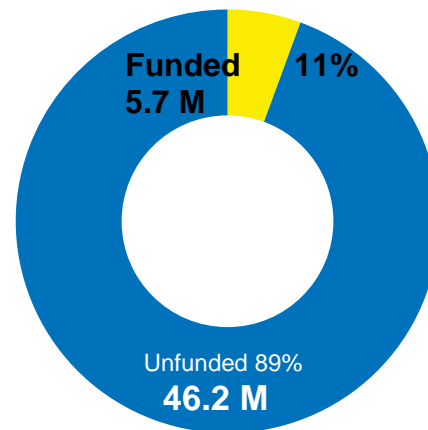


* IDPs in the States of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe provided by IOM DTM report Round 32.

FUNDING (AS OF 31 AUGUST)

USD 51.9 M

requested for the North-East Nigeria situation



UNHCR Presence in the North-East

Staff:

43 National Staff

24 International Staff

Offices:

01 Country Office in Abuja

01 Sub Office in Maiduguri

01 Field Office in Yola

05 Field Units in Gwoza, Bama, Monguno,

Ngala, Banki



Distribution of Fuel-Efficient Stove in Monguno, Borno State. © UNHCR

operational Highlights

- The volatile security environment in North-East Nigeria continues to hinder the provision of Protection and Multisectoral assistance to the affected population in the States of Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe (BAY States). In August, Non-State Armed Groups (NSAG) officially declared humanitarian actors a legitimate target, increasing the risk in the humanitarian delivery programme. In **Borno State**, indiscriminate attacks against civilian and military targets continued with NSAG mounting illegal vehicle checkpoints to rob, abduct and kill; other incidents have been recorded such as abduction of civilians during daily activities in their farmlands or while fetching firewood in areas outside the safe perimeters in the deep-field locations in Bama, Gwoza, Gubio, Dikwa, and Mungono. In addition, there has been raids on health facilities in Magumeri. In **Adamawa and Yobe States** several incidents of armed robbery, kidnapping, abduction for ransom, and killing were reported. NSAG attacks and threats of imminent attacks on the communities in North-East is causing widespread fears amongst the civilian population.
- Insecurity (fear of NSAG attacks), poor living conditions, and family reunification were reasons listed by 920 households comprising 3,048 individuals that have crossed the Nigerian borders coming from Cameroon, Niger and Chad. Same reasons were also cited by 926 households of 3,891 internally displaced persons new arrivals in Bama, Dikwa, Ngala, Gwoza, MMC and Jere camps from the surrounded communities and other Local Government Areas.
- The Borno State Government unveiled its plan to return/resettle nearly 300,000¹ Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees from Maiduguri Metropolitan Council (MMC) to 18 communities in Borno State. These communities include Damasak, Banki, Kauwuri, Ajiri, New Marte, Baga, Ngoshe, Kirawa, Kukawa, Mairari and Mallam Fatori on the shores of Lake Chad. Others are Wulgo, Koine, Gajibo, Warabe, Logmani, Sandiya, Dalwa and Malari.
- Seasonal flood continues to cause widespread damages, loss of livelihoods, shelters, and causes other protection-related concerns such as overcrowding of shelters, reception centers and health risks associated with stagnant water.
- Community Transmission of COVID-19 cases recorded nationwide has led to the continuation of nationwide preventive measures such as the closure of schools and imposed curfew from 22:00 to 04:00 hours local time.
- UNHCR and Partners distributed 3,123 NFI kits to vulnerable households in Monguno (2,123 kits) and Damasak (1000 kits) in response to the IDPs and returnees needs. Also 300 Refugee Housing Units (RHU) were provided to the Borno State Government; of which 48 RHUs will be used as self-isolation units for populations crossing the border into Nigeria, and the remaining will be used as shelters for IDPs, returnees and other Persons of Concern (PoCs) in Damasak, border city with Niger.

Update On Achievements

Amidst the COVID 19 pandemic and floods caused by heavy rainfalls, UNHCR Protection actors have maintained presence to deliver **life-saving humanitarian assistance** and **protection services** to reduce risk and address needs.



PROTECTION

Protection Sector Coordination :

- **Advocacy:** Following the assessment conducted on the challenges and protection concerns arising out of the lack of firewood or inadequate access to firewood among the affected populations, advocacy have been conducted with the CMCoord for the military to allow movement of affected populations out of the camps and to provide IDPs with security while fetching firewood in bushes.
- **Assessments** conducted on the impact of rains and windstorms and the protection challenges arising in the camps and communities in selected LGAs reveal that 80 WASH facilities and 3,891

¹ DTM Round 32

shelters have been damaged. This situation affects over 2,500 households and around 10,000 individuals. Protection concerns arising are related to loss of food and non-food items; congestion in certain areas of the camps due to damaged shelters, people sleeping in the open resulting in an increased risk of Gender-Based Violence and child protection concerns. Waterlogging also is a cause of inaccessibility particularly for Persons with Specific Needs.

- **Meeting:** The sector also partook in the lake Chad Basin (Cross-border) monthly meetings and shared developments from the Nigerian side. The cross-border meetings involved protection teams from the four countries of Chad, Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria.
- **Monitoring:** PSNE is monitoring the situation in Jere LGA where hundreds of IDPs have been relocated following NSAG attacks in their places of origin.
- As of 30 July, the Protection Sector North-East had reached about 868,000 PoCs of targeted beneficiaries representing 35% of the targeted population. The Humanitarian Need Overview /HRP process for 2021 has been initiated and PSNE is actively engaged in this process.
- **CERF Underfunding:** The Protection Sector led the CERF application process to set the priorities of the sector in an inclusive approach with all related organizations and partners.

General Protection

- UNHCR works with ten (10) national and international partners to provide protection and multisectoral assistance to Persons of Concern (PoC) through legal assistance and court representation, advocacy, capacity building, awareness and sensitization, sexual and gender-based violence related services, psychosocial counselling, material assistance and protection safety nets.
- Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, flood caused by heavy rains, UNHCR and partners maintained a presence and expanded its protection and multisectoral assistance to deliver on its mandate in line with its Business Continuity Plan (BCP). In August, UNHCR covered **29 locations** in **24 LGAs** including 11 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Borno State (Bama, Damboa, Dikwa, Gamboru-Ngala, Gwoza, Jere, Kala-Balge, Konduga, MMC, Mobbar, and Mungono); 08 LGAs in Adamawa State (Fufore, Madagali, Maiha, Michika, Mubi North, Mubi South, Yola North, and Yola South); and 05 LGAs in Yobe State (Damaturu, Bade, Machina, Geidam, and Gujba).
- In August, 55,396 (Men: 20,704; Women: 28,295; Boys: 2,340; Girls: 4,057) IDPs, IDP returnees and refugee returnees were reached during the 821 Protection, Human Rights and Border monitoring site visits in BAY States. Of the total reached, 5,723 households of 30,072 displaced individuals were screened for vulnerabilities and **5,950 were categorized as vulnerable persons with specific needs:** 61.7 percent (%) Women with specific needs (Female Headed Household, Lactating and pregnancy), 21.4% Men with specific needs, 15.8% Elderly with specific needs (Elderly-Headed Household, vulnerable unable to care and single vulnerable) 1.1% child with specific needs (child marriage, child-headed household, adolescent parent, unaccompanied/separate child), and. These PSN are documented and prioritized during UNHCR targeted assistance.
- A total of **69 major incidents** were recorded this month. Out of the 27 categories, the highest incidents included abduction (25%), attacks by NSAG (22%), destruction of Property (13%) and SGBV incidents (19%). Other incidents were physical assault (6%), flood (9%), looting (3%) forced labour, arbitrary arrest, ethnic clash and recruitment of children (1% each). The **LGAs mostly affected** were Bama (22), Damboa (15), Dikwa (14), Gwoza (5) and Jere (6). The incidents comprise of **Persons with Specific Needs** 63% of the individual cases reported, **Child Protection** (437) 21%, **SGBV** 12% and **others** 4%. The identified incidents were referred for services while some of the cases undergoing follow up or services are not available.
- Hardship caused by dwindling economy, hike in food prices, and household commodities increased propensity of men to violence at the slightest provocation. This conclusion resulted from the Focus Group Discussions conducted at El-Miskin camp, Jere LGA on the remote cause of domestic violence in the families.
- **Access to Justice:** UNHCR and partner NBA represented 21 IDPs and returnees in court **Borno** (16) and **Adamawa** (5) States on criminal rights violations, civil and matrimonial matters such as domestic violence and marital dissolution. Ten (10) **legal counselling** and awareness sessions reached **277 IDP and returnee women** in Ngala, Borno State (102) and Mubi North and South, in Adamawa State (170). The theme included Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), probate matters, matrimonial, inheritance, documentation, registration and human right violation. On **Letters of administration and Probate Matters**, 73 probate matters were received in Borno (7) and 66 in Adamawa State. Also 39

Letters of Administration were distributed to PoCs in return communities in Adamawa State whose Parents/relatives died without a will to enable them legally to inherit from their deceased parents. The beneficiaries were from Yola North (12), Yola south (22), and one (1) each from Mubi North and South, Madagali and Michika.

- **Documentation:** Legal documentation such as Birth Certificates, National Identity Cards, Certificate of Indigenes and Voter Registration are the key civil documentation to prove state of origin and nationality. They are also necessary to access services such as education. In August, UNHCR and partners supported the issuance of **Indigenes Certificates** to **4,846** IDPs and Refugee returnees in Dikwa and Gwoza LGAs, Borno State. The certificates will facilitate freedom of movement, reduce cases of arbitrary detention and prevent statelessness. **A radio discussion session** on the importance of birth registration/certificate featuring the NPC Head of Department and Vital Registration Unit was held on FOMBINA Radio Station in Yola. Radio Jingles on the subject matter are ongoing in the BAY States.
- **Awareness sessions and sensitization:** A total of **11,538 PoCs** participated to **284 awareness sessions and sensitizations** in the BAY States (Men – 3,579; Women – 5976; Boys - 906; Girls – 1,077). The theme covered were community prevention, mitigation and response to SGBV, Children’s Rights, COVID-19 prevention and hygiene behaviour such as handwashing, social distance and use of face mask. Other topics included risk mitigation measures to be taken during rainy season, awareness-raising on water safety and drowning prevention to parents and children. Door-to-door sensitization on safety and security to mitigate risks of killing and abductions during firewood collection, as well as referral pathway and peaceful co-existence.
- **Advocacy interventions:** In Borno State, 306 IDPs, returnees, community members and leaders participated in **52 advocacy sessions** organized by UNHCR and partners to address protection concerns. These advocacy sessions held with camp managers and opinion leaders sought to resolve food, sanitation and health concerns identified in the communities in line with Accountability to Affected Population. In **Adamawa State**, the partner NBA paid advocacy visit to Ministry of Justice, Federation of Women Lawyers, NBA Yola Branch, Probate Registry, Office of the Chief Registrar and the National Population Commission (NPC) Adamawa state to solicit support in the implementation of Access to Justice project in the State. In **Yobe State**, two advocacy sessions were held with the NIS officers at the border units of Bade and Geidam to foster a stronger relationship and collaboration in terms of refugee return and population movement monitoring. Five other sessions were held with the community leaders in Damaturu, Kasaisa, Bade, Lawanti and Fulatari communities to empower community-based protection.

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

- UNHCR and its SGBV Partners BOWDI and FHI 360 conducted activities towards Prevention, Risk Mitigation and Response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in the BAY States. These activities included awareness, sensitization and Case Management.
- **Awareness and Sensitization on SGBV, PSEA, and COVID-19:** UNHCR and partners conducted community awareness with the support of community-based structures - Peer to peer groups, volunteers, Zero Tolerance Village Alliance members, and male engagement groups. The campaign topics included COVID-19 preventive measures, SGBV prevention and risk mitigation, Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). A total of 6,041 POCs (Female 3,399, Male: 2,642) attended the awareness sessions. Following allegations of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, 196 community leaders and 156 security actors including the Nigerian Police, the Army, and members of the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) and humanitarian actors participated in advocacy sessions provided by UNHCR and partners.
- **Provision of psychosocial support and counseling:** UNHCR and partners conducted individual and group 34 counselling sessions in all operational locations. This helped SGBV survivors’ recovery and psychosocial needs. A total of 6,103 women and girls participated in recreational (playing, dancing and storytelling), educational (hygiene and COVID-19 preventive mechanisms) and skills acquisition training (knitting, making of hats, caps, masks, and liquid soap making) activities in the Women and Girls Safe Spaces. The skills training help beneficiaries to find a means of livelihood to support themselves and their households.
- **SGBV risk mitigation:** To help women and girls maintain their dignity during humanitarian crises including covid-19 pandemic and to reduce SGBV risks associated with the lack of hygiene and sanitary materials UNHCR and partner distributed **800 dignity kits** to vulnerable women and girls in Ngala, Mubi

and Yola. Also, **2,000 IDPs** (Boys:166; Girls: 493; Men: 303; Women: 1,038) benefitted from Fuel Efficient Stoves in Mungono LGA; this will help mitigate the risks of abduction and SGBV faced by the women during firewood collection and promote environmental sustainability by reducing stress on the trees. It brings to 10,000 the number of FES distributed in 2020.

Durable Solution

- **Return/resettlement:** In Borno State, UNHCR is advocating with the government for returns to be undertaken in accordance with the Borno State Return Strategy, international frameworks, and international best practices.
- In **Adamawa State**, NCFRMI in collaboration with ADSEMA distributed 6 months food ration to 130 refugee returnees in Mubi, Yola, Madagali and Michika LGAs. This distribution was part of the repatriation package provided to refugee returnees expected since January 2020.
- **Focus Group Discussions** were held on the feasibility of the Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) - construction of schools; furnishing and supply of learning materials; construction and renovation of hospitals; skill acquisition centers, and drilling of boreholes to support the reintegration of returnees in their communities in Madagali and Michika LGAs.

Challenges:

- UNHCR protection and multisectoral assistance continue to be affected by the reduction of targets to meet WHO requirement of social distancing in effort to prevent and curb the spread of COVID-19.
- Inaccessibility or Limited access to certain areas of operation due to insecurity;
- Challenges in maintaining the civilian character of the IDP camps (NSAGs infiltration, military presence);
- Ineffective/inexistent civil registration and ID management systems in areas hosting IDPs and returnees;
- Limited access to services /no available service for referral (CP, food, livelihoods, shelter) in IDP camps and areas of return compelling IDPs to resort to negative coping mechanisms for their survival;
- Absence of judicial structures and personnel hindering IDPs, returnees and host communities' access to Justice in most LGAs.



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM), SHELTER AND NFIS

- **CCCM, Shelter and NFIs Sector:** Most camps in North-East Nigeria have been affected by heavy rains and flooding. The Sector provided support to affected populations in various locations by adopting and implementing mitigating measures to reduce the impact of the rains including digging drainages, sandbag areas against the flood, relocating families from flooding prone areas, and repairing shelters.
- with over 40% of camps overcrowded in North-East, **Camp Congestion** remain a major challenge. However, the Sector has made progress in operationalizing the Decongestion Plans which was presented to the OHCT and endorsed by the Maiduguri Heads of Office Sub Committee.
- CERF underfunded emergencies (UFE) grant and the NHF funds have been allocated for decongestion of the camps; the Sector plans to start the process in Dikwa and Gwoza-Pulka LGAs.

UNHCR CCCM, Shelter and Non-Food Items:

- Response on **Shelter and NFI** has been scaled up in the four project locations: Banki, Monguno, Damasak and Ngala LGAs. UNHCR has provided Shelter and NFI materials to respond to protection and assistance gaps following damages and needs arising from negative effects of rains and floods on the vulnerable communities. Demand for Shelter/NFI and WASH are still key priority needs for the increasing population. Early planning for flood mitigation has yielded better results in UNHCR/INTEROS areas of operation in comparison to the past year.
- **Restriction of movement in Damasak and Banki** affects mostly returnee refugees from Niger and Cameroon. Although UNHCR continues to advocate with authorities on freedom of movement and access to territory, the restrictions continue to be a frequent recurrence/occurrence.

- **IDPs relocation process in Banki:** The Security and infrastructure were the main inhibiting factor to relocate IDPs to the newly constructed shelters in the IDP camp in Banki. To remedy the situation, SEMA established three watchtowers, and with UNHCR support, fenced off the location to prevent any infiltration into the new area. Partners are tirelessly working to set up basic facilities: DRC is erecting WASH facilities and INTERSOS have cleared and fumigated the area demarcated for the first relocation. UNHCR is working in collaboration with SEMA, CJTF, service providers and the community to ensure that IDPs relocation takes place as soon as possible.
- Discussion is ongoing to expand the CCCM activities in Adamawa under the Out-of-Camp (Area-based approach). This will be part of the overall \$2.6 million CERF allocation to UNHCR.

Shelters and NFIs: To mitigate the effect of COVID-19, impact of flood and protection material assistance, UNHCR provided NFIs to **3,123** households in Monguno (2,123) and Pulka (1,000). Beneficiaries in Mungono included the 123 households (Men: 39; Female: 84) that were victims of fire disaster at Water Board Camp; they benefitted from NFIs donated by **the Fountain of Life Church**.



LIVELIHOOD AND PROTECTION SAFETY NETS

Protection Safety Nets and livelihood: To reduce the risk of poverty among the affected population, UNHCR targeted vulnerable PoCs with entrepreneurial skills, vocational Skills, livestock production and sustainable agriculture. This month, UNHCR and partner CARITAS supported various vocational skills training for 1,306 (Men:432; Women:874) PoCs in North-East Nigeria, including 236 in Borno State (Men:60; Women:176) and 1,070 in Adamawa State (Men: 372; Women: 698). IDPs, returnees and other PoCs that have completed their training were assisted with start-up kits to function independently.

FUNDING

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Gates Foundation | Jaiz Foundation | The Fountain of Life Church | UNILEVER

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