

06 - 19 August 2019



Protection desks under construction in Bama (left) and Dalori I (right). @UNHCR/August 2019

Security Situation

The general security situation in the Northeast of Nigeria remains largely volatile. During this reporting period, while Borno State was at the epicenter of continuing hostilities, sporadic incidents were reported in the States of Yobe and Adamawa. This period was marked by two simultaneous Non-State Arm Groups (NSAG) attacks in Banki; one on the UN Humanitarian Hub armed guards, and the other on IDP camp. These incidents may indicate modification of the modus operandi of NSAG. They are targeting UN structures and assets. While the intentions behind the attacks remain unknown, based on previous experiences, they could be aimed at collecting supplies, and/or abducting humanitarian personnel for ransom. A joint assessment mission was conducted, and an ad hoc Area Security Management Team held to review existing prevention and mitigation measures.

Overall, the military exercise control over the territories, major towns, and strategic routes. Risks associated with ambushes, collateral damage, abductions of staff and persons of concern is likely to continue in the short and medium-term. Military operations and NSAG activities in Northern Borno tend to impact humanitarian activities. Adherence to effective security risk management measures and constant monitoring of the situation remains a crucial part of program implementation.

Protection Environment

Protection by presence: UNHCR and its partners have maintained their presence in camps and LGAs in BAY states for the purpose of monitoring the protection environment, identifying human right violations and other protection risks and incidents for referrals and appropriate response. Community-based protection structures including Protection Action Groups have been meaningful involved in all protection activities. However, protection activities are more likely to be affected in Banki (Bama LGA) due to the temporary relocation of the affected humanitarian staff, including protection monitors after the attack of the Humanitarian hub on 18th August 2019.

In Borno State following the comprehensive protection assessment mission undertaken to Dikwa LGA and the security assessment in Pulka (Gwoza LGA), UNHCR has taken steps to resume its protection-related activities in the two LGAs. This will contribute to strengthening its protection leadership in those 2 LGAs. The completion of the construction of protection desk in Gubio camp will also provide PoCs in the camp with a suitable and confidential environment where they can access protection services, such as reporting protection incidents, counselling and feedback on previous reports.

Main protection concerns identified and reported during the period under review include:

Continuous population movements from hard to reach areas to camps as a result of NSAG attacks or counter-insurgency operations. New arrivals in camps already congested are putting pressure on the capacity of all actors to respond, which increases the protection risks. This was the case in Bama LGA where new IDPs from Banki and hard to reach areas continue to arrive. The camp population went from 33, 958 individuals in June to 34,976 in August; an increase of 1,009 individuals. Other key needs are shelters, non-food items and lack of legal documentation.

The absence of civil authorities in the LGAs: Courts and other civil authorities have not returned to Bama. Persons of concern and service providers rely on Maiduguri for access to justice. This situation is a challenge to the rule of law, and a fertile ground for impunity. UNHCR continuously advocates in various fora for the return of civilian authorities to LGA.

The violation of the civilian and humanitarian character of the camp and associated human rights violations at MMC camps- Gubio road camp. To respond, and prevent further violations, UNHCR, NHRC, GISCOR, BOWDI, OCHA, CCCM, and UNFPA held a meeting with the Military Camp Commandant. He promised to take all necessary measures to hold security actors accountable for any acts of human rights abuse against Persons of Concern in the camp.

Needs for adequate shelters and effective drainage system: In MMC camps, post-shelter distribution monitoring conducted on 364 shelters by the UNHCR team during ongoing rainy season revealed needs for adequate shelters. Heavy rainfalls are destroying shelters, forcing them to move and live in transitional shelters or with other families. It created congestion and promiscuity in non-affected areas, exposing them to diseases and further protection risks, including SGBV. Temporary drainage systems, relocation of families within the camp, provision of shelters have been implemented to immediately respond. The CCCM-Shelter sector in coordination with all actors in the camps is working to find sustainable solutions to the situation. In **Teacher Village camp**, it was reported that the drainage system constructed at the camp needs fencing to prevent accidents. A watchman has been permanently posted to prevent children from accessing the location.

UNHCR and partner conducted activities aiming at building the protection environment such as training, advocacy, and awareness-raising sessions:

Capacity building and training: On 15 August in Maiduguri, the Senior ProCap Advisor, together with WFP, provided a full-day training to the Logistics Sector on “Mainstreaming Gender and Protection in Logistics”. Thirty logisticians operating in the Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states, from UN, INGOs, and Civil Society Organizations, participated in the training. Topics included: vulnerability analysis, mainstreaming gender, humanitarian principles, the Centrality of Protection in humanitarian action, protection risk analysis, and protection mainstreaming. This training, along with others earlier held with the Food Security and WASH sectors, furthers operationalization of the HCT’s Centrality of Protection Strategy, for which mainstreaming protection across all sectors of humanitarian response is a key strategic objective.

Advocacy: UNHCR took advantage of the visit of the DHC a.i to Banki, Bama LGA, to share main protection issues reported in the LGA and prepare key advocacy messages. These include the restriction of freedom of movement; the violation of the civilian and humanitarian character of camps by the military and camp congestion and its implications on the protection of persons of concern. Advocacy for the respect of the rights of PoCs and humanitarian principles by security actors was also conducted during weekly civil-military coordination meetings.

Awareness-raising sessions were conducted in Kasaisa and Kukareta host communities and informal sites in Damaturu Yobe State. The awareness session centered on the importance of education; peaceful coexistence between IDPs; In Borno State, following the release of the Nigerian Police statement according to which that starting August 2019, persons involved in street begging will be arrested and arraigned in state court, CCCM, SEMA, UNHCR/GISCOR, and other agencies embarked on a sensitization and awareness session on 05 August 2019 to provide this information to the PoCs and invite them to abide by the rules. The news was received with mixed feelings. Begging has been constantly reported in BAY states as part of the negative coping mechanisms developed by PoCs in reaction to the limitations of humanitarian aid.

In addition in Bama, Dalori, Bakassi, Gubio camps, Damassak, Pulka, Ngala and Banki topics raised with PoCs include physical violence, general SGBV issues, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse; use of Existing Complaints Mechanism such as Complaints boxes & Toll-free number; SGBV & the importance of women’s economic empowerment; child/forced marriage and positive parenting. In Adamawa, awareness-raising campaign focussed on to the importance of Child Education.

Multi-Functional Team (MFT) Monitoring and Evaluation: In continuation of the MFT activities for the mid-year review/monitoring, the SGBV and other designates of the MFT conducted mid-year monitoring of BOWDI activities in MMC as per mid-year reports. The exercise will be continued to other locations in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states where UNHCR SGBV partners are operational.

Coordination activities included the commemoration of the 2019 World Day against Trafficking in persons with the theme: “Call your Government to action”. The event was organized by the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) and the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

(MoWASD) in collaboration and with the support of the Borno State Anti-Trafficking in Persons Task Force (ATiPTF) co-lead by UNHCR, IOM and Heartland Alliance International. Traditional Leaders and Government dignitaries attended the session which seeks to raise visibility and prevent the trafficking in persons.

Sexual Gender Based Violence

In addition to the daily prevention, identification and response provided to the survivors, UNHCR and partner carried out the following activities:

Borno State: Stadium Camp, Material support to POCS: 154 dignity kits were distributed to women and girls not present during the previous distribution exercise in June 2019.

Implementation of ZTVA Project in Maiduguri and Bama LGAs: In stadium camp, UNHCR and partner BOWDI organized interactive community dialogue sessions with different groups of IDPs consisting of community leaders, women, men, boys, and girls. As agreed by the community, the discussion covered three topics; rape, child/forced marriage, and physical violence. After the discussion, each group came up with Action points to be implemented and follow up in the next meetings. Each of the groups also discussed each point they want to achieve at the end of ZTVA project. UNHCR and partner, conducted two meetings to build the capacity of stakeholder's forum, activists and community monitors on their role and responsibilities on the implementation of the ZTVA. In GSSS Camp in Bama LGA, UNHCR and partner conducted mobilization and sensitization in the targeted zones of GSSS camps to prepare them on the requirement and aspiration of the ZTVA project.

DURABLE SOLUTIONS: VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION

Preparation is ongoing for the Voluntary Repatriation of Nigerian refugees to Adamawa State. The operation will start on 22 August 2019. To ensure the sustainability of returns, the Government, UNHCR, humanitarian agencies, and partners are continuously working to restore essential public services, especially health, education, water, and sanitation infrastructure as well as, facilitate peaceful coexistence between the returnees and the host communities

CCCM, Shelter and NFIs

Borno State - Reduction of overcrowding and a long stay in the reception center in Bama GSSS Camp. 427 families of 1,360 individuals were allocated newly constructed shelters. It had significantly reduced the number of IDPs without family shelter. Still, 1,167 families in the reception center remain without shelter.

Yobe State: Shelter monitoring was carried out in informal and IDPs and returnee sites and host communities of Damaturu and Gujba LGA. In Buni Yadi Ward, Gujba LGA, 99 families had non-food items (NFIs) out of the 160 families of 287 returnee and IDPs individuals; In Kukareta community, Damaturu LGA, of 232 IDPs families of 367 individuals assessed, 100 families lack NFIs; in Kasanciya, 59 families lack NFIs out of the 179 families of 384 returnee families in the community. In Kasaisa community, Gujba LGA, 80 families lack NFIs out of the 175 IDPs families of 361 individuals IDPs profiled.

UNHCR CCCM conducted assessment and registration of new arrivals in Ngala, repairs shelters and/or distributed tarpaulin to reinforced shelters damaged by the rain falls in Ngala, Mobbar, Banki and Monguno. In sum, 1,118 need shelter in Ngala.

UNHCR CCCM monitors and partner FHI 360 observed world hepatitis day during which they conducted prevention, awareness, testing, and vaccination to beneficiaries.

Monguno- To strengthen the capacity of the site committees to participate in site management and accountability, CCCM trained newly elected site committees on the community-based Complaint and feedback mechanism.

UNHCR CCCM distributed site maintenance & community drainage toolkits to dozens. Items comprise of wheelbarrows, shovels, Pickaxe, square, PVC bucket Nails, etc.

Banki - IOM, FHI360, and UNHCR dug 16 pits to reduce throwing of the waste produced within the camp.

Livelihood

Adamawa State: Caritas Nigeria and JDPC trained 949 (694 females, 255 male) on Income Generating Activities. Of 1000 supposed to be trained, 51 slots were allotted to respond to the needs of the SGBV survivors across the communities. "Start Your Business", a curriculum developed by the International Labour Organization (ILO) used for the training. Basic savings, profit calculations, marketing, and bookkeeping were the focus of the training.

Yobe State: The Partner AUN carried out the following activities in Damaturu and Gujba LGAs among many;

Preparatory activities started for the third group of trainees and PoCs identified for vocational training and small businesses training; training is ongoing to PoCs on financial literacy & Business development training, Savings collection training, and Empowerment. The weekly savings collection from about 50 PoCs empowered with start-up kits earlier in the year has grown N125,900.

COORDINATION:

Borno State: **Bama Local PSWG meeting** held with 16 Members in attendance. Key outcomes of the meeting the key concerns raised concerning teenage pregnancy in the camp and the need for the GBV actors to analyze this reasons for this trend.

Civil-Military Coordination Meeting held with the Bama Special Brigade of the Special Task Force. Key issues discussed include the concerns over the resurgence of attacks on military targets in Bama by NSAG and the implication on the humanitarian actors in Bama. Other issues discussed include the issue of land previously allocated for the camp extension and the recent change of plans to discontinue due to the imminent relocation of the Army Brigade to a new location close to the proposed expansion site.

In preparation for the scaling up of IRC's nutrition response in Bama, On 14 August, UNHCR provided support to the IRC team in stakeholder mapping and basic Camp profile necessary for the smooth take-up of the project.

Yobe State: The Field Unit team of monitors attended the Gender-Based Violence Sub Sector meeting on the. The objective of the meeting was to strengthen GBV coordination and to enhance the principle of partnership. The meeting discussed the dissemination of referral pathways in Yobe of which UNFPA will take the lead. Partners were encouraged to conduct GBV awareness-raising sessions in their area of coverage as well as report all activities carried out on the 5W reporting.

ADAMAWA State: Sequel to the request by the Adamawa State Governor to interact with humanitarian and Development Agencies in the State, a meeting was held to harmonize inputs from the Agencies invited before meeting the Governor. However, the Agencies, led by OCHA only meet with the Secretary to the State Government (SSG) on the 15th of August 2019. Discussions were tailored towards; 1) **Coordination:** Adamawa State should enhance coordination and support the cholera outbreak in the State through sensitization, and adequate waste management. On repatriation, the Government was tasked to take ownership of the exercise and ensure synergy amongst actors.

2) **Cholera in the State:** Cholera cases have been recorded in four LGAs of Adamawa state (Yola North, Yola South, Girei and Song). So far, 317 cases have been documented with 4 deaths (2 in Yola North, 1 in Girei, and 1 in Yola South LGAs).

Contacts:

Alexander Kishara, Head of Sub-Office Maiduguri, North-East Nigeria
Email: kishara@unhcr.org; Mobile: +234 9087447516

Danielle Dieguen, Reporting Officer, Sub-Office Maiduguri, North-East Nigeria
Email: dieguend@unhcr.org; Mobile: +234 9087396086