

North-East Situation Update

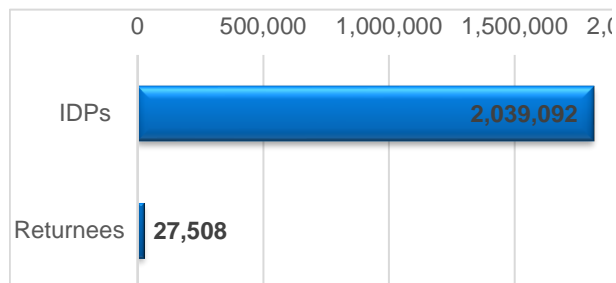
April 2020

Protection Monitoring activities reached **21,889** persons of concern.

UNHCR supported the issuance of **2,000 legal documentation** for IDPs and returnees in the State of Borno to prevent statelessness.

Legal Counseling provided to **628** IDPs and returnees including sensitizations and legal representation in Court.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

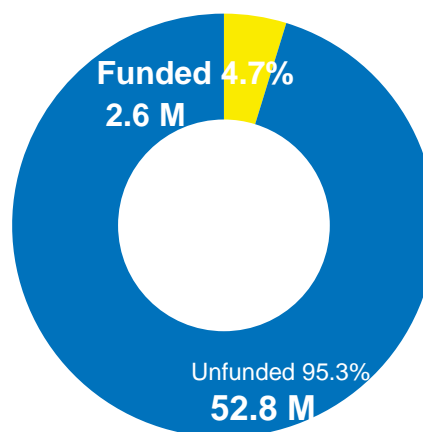


* IDPs referred to the number of IDPs in the States of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe provided by IOM through DTM report Round 30.

FUNDING (AS OF 30 APRIL)

USD 55.4 M

requested for the North-East Nigeria situation



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

39 National Staff
21 International Staff

Offices:

01 Country Office in Abuja
01 Sub Office in Maiduguri
01 Field Office in Yola
05 Field Units in Gwoza, Bama, Ngala, Monguno, Banki



Agricultural inputs beneficiary in Borno State, April 2020

Security and operational environment

The security situation in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe (BAY) States remains volatile due to Non-State Armed Groups (NSAG) persistent attacks and attempts to infiltrate IDP camps and host communities coupled with security operations by Nigerian security forces. The situation has been exacerbated by several outbreaks of fire in the camps, the advent and spread of the COVID 19 pandemic in Borno State, and the preventive and response measures to curb the outbreak which includes movement restrictions, closure of borders and a lockdown in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States.

The States of Borno and Yobe recorded NSAG attacks on security forces and civilian population in Gwoza, Ngala, Dikwa, Bama, and Damboa. Attacks included ambushes, illegal check points on humanitarian and main supply routes between Maiduguri -Damaturu, Maiduguri-Monguno, Dikwa-Marté; attempts to detonate PBIEDs in camps and host communities in Dikwa, Ngala, Banki, Gwoza. . IDPs have either been killed or injured in some of these attacks including an 8-year-old male child who was injured by a stray bullet along with a woman in Bama IDP camp. In Adamawa State, NSAG attacked civilian populations in Krinshinga and Gulak ward of Madagali Local Government Area (LGA) carting away farm produce and burning several houses and shops.

Also, of concern during the reporting period were the incidents of fire outbreaks in Monguno, Ngala and Dikwa camps which resulted in damage to shelters, food and NFIs and loss of lives. These fire outbreaks have left over one thousand households without shelters and Non-Food Items (NFIs) thereby exposing them to risks. Stakeholders including community gatekeepers and the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) have conducted joint assessments to ascertain the direct and indirect causes of fire incidents with the aim to put measures in place through community ownership to mitigate their recurrence.

After the first case of COVID-19 was recorded on 20 April in Pulka, Borno State and on 22 April in Adamawa State, both states imposed a State-wide lockdown. As of 30 April, the three state of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe account for 159 cases of COVID 19. Federal Government measures to prevent the rapid spread of COVID 19 pandemic such as limiting interstate travel of persons, social distancing, restriction of movement, border closures and ban on external visitors from the IDPs camps continue to impact the provision of humanitarian assistance to the affected population in North-East Nigeria.

On a positive note, Adamawa State Government granted amnesty to 171 individuals on grounds of Good Character in 16 correctional centers across the State to stem the spread of COVID-19.



PROTECTION

Protection Issues and responses

- Upon the declaration of a total lockdown in Borno State, UNHCR activated its business continuity plan (BCP) to continue to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to the persons of concern (IDPs, returnees and host community members) in strict compliance with the guidelines and measures put in place by the authorities.
- In addition, 22 protection desks in UNHCR project locations were equipped with information, education and communication (IEC) materials on protection services available including information on COVID-19 in English, Hausa and Kanuri. UNHCR reinforced its presence at border entry points in Borno State - Damasak, Banki, Ngala, and Pulka through the deployment of 8 protection monitors (02 per location); 02 nurses in Damasak, Banki and Ngala. In addition to protection monitoring, human rights monitoring and vulnerability screening were conducted in these locations to inform response and advocacy for stakeholders including working closely with humanitarian actors and stakeholders on camp decongestion.
- Population movements have been observed in and across the Nigerian borders. Search for livelihood opportunities, family reunification, insecurity and consequent search for safer locations acted as push and pull factors influencing IDPs and returnee's movement in the BAY states as witnessed in Monguno, Bama, Banki, Gwoza, Ngala and camps in Jere and Maiduguri Metropolitan Center (MMC) in Borno; in Adamawa the movements were seen in Madina Dazalla Yelwa ward, Mubi North LGA. 41 families comprising 140 individuals were forced to flee from Kukawa LGA to Monguno; another 22 families with 35 individuals arrived at Bama due to military operations in the surrounding villages. 13 refugee families with 34 individuals from Dar Salam, Chad Republic returned to Monguno in Nigeria while another 82 families with 298 individuals spontaneously returned from Cameroon to Banki. It is evident that the restrictions on

movement imposed by the government to curb the spread of COVID-19 has not deterred cross border movement of affected populations.

Protection Responses

COORDINATION: Protection meetings continued to take place, both at State and LGA levels. At the LGA level, Protection Sector Working Group meetings were held in Banki, Bama, Gwoza, Ngala and Monguno, and mostly chaired by UNHCR and/or its partners. At these meetings, protection issues were discussed, solution-oriented actions recommended for implementation in addition to sharing minutes of these meeting with Protection Sector North-East (PSNE) at the State level. At State level due to the COVID 19 related restrictions the meeting was held via teleconference.

Protection Sector

The Protection Sector commenced its capacity building and training sessions as per its training calendar for 2020. Due to the ongoing restrictions pertaining to the Covid-19 situation the trainings were conducted online. Three virtual learning sessions have been organized; the first two on Protection Principles and protection mainstreaming tallied 75 participants; the third virtual session on Psychological First Aid was facilitated by the Mental Health & Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS) Working Group.

The Protection Sector participated in the Covid-19 Addendum to the HRP 2020 initiated by OCHA and in the Programme Criticality exercises at Inter-Sector Working Group (ISWG) level in the Covid-19 context. A note developed highlights protection risks and heightened protection concerns arising out of the COVID 19 pandemic as well as restrictive measures imposed by the state authorities and makes recommendations.

The Sector activities focused on coordinating and collating impact of the restrictions and advisories issued by authorities on protection services. The Sector is working on updating the referral pathways using an online interactive tool which will inform all protection actors with protection services available per location.

The protection sector is regularly engaged in cross border meetings with protection partners and also meeting with global protection cluster on response in the context of Covid-19. The sector also conducted its monthly meeting during which concerns, and challenges of the current situation were raised and, discussed and it was also decided to formulate a guidance note on isolation centres. The sector continued its advocacy with security forces during the monthly CMCoord meeting in last week of April.

UNHCR supports the Government of Nigeria and works with ten (10) national and international partners to provide legal assistance and representation, advocacy, capacity building, awareness and sensitization, sexual and gender-based violence related services, psychosocial counselling, material assistance and protection safety nets to persons of concern.

This month, UNHCR **Protection Monitors reached 21,889** individuals in 18 LGAs of the BAY States. A total of 2,401 key informant interviews were conducted and 2,009 major protection incidents reported, of which 1,440 cases associated with persons with specific needs (PSN) such as elderly and chronically sick, persons with physical and mental disabilities, female and child-headed households, unaccompanied or separated children, adolescent boys, pregnant and/or lactating women, sexual abuse against women and adolescent girls and people returning from captivity with history of violence.

Referrals: Of the 2,009 protection cases identified 1,440 (72 %) cases involved IDPs and spontaneous returnees with specific needs (PSN) who were then referred for required services. These included 75.02% cases with serious medical condition, 9.19% cases related to SGBV, 6.78% of cases involving pregnant/lactating mothers, 3.53% related to child protection, 2.32% cases identified with mental/physical disability, 2.32% cases requiring legal and physical protection and 0.84 % of the cases involving older persons unable to care for themselves.

Access to legal documentation is a challenge in BAY States, lack of documentation hampers freedom of movement and exposes IDPs and returnees to human rights violation and also denial of rights and services. Also, limited access to birth certificate put children at risk of statelessness. This month UNHCR supported the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) Borno State in the issuance of 2,000 Certificates of Indigene to IDPs (Male 1,170 and 830 Female) in Banki, Bama LGA. This certificate will facilitate freedom of movement, reduce cases of arbitrary detention and statelessness. Despite the ongoing assistance on this front the gap in provision of legal and civil.

Documentation for the affected populations remains high. In Nigeria, Certificates of Indigene, in addition to Birth Certificates and voter ID is a key document to prove nationality.

Legal Assistance: UNHCR partner NBA conducted group legal counselling in Bama, reaching 600 IDPs while 17 individuals were provided with individual counselling on cases involving matrimonial matters, breach of trust and criminality. Eleven (11) court summons were presented to individuals for appearance in courts in Maiduguri for various cases on behalf of 10 individuals; the summons primarily concern cases involving domestic violence,

inheritance and matrimonial matters. NBA is also managing 13 cases of new IDPs and returnees referred for access to justice.

Training and capacity building: Community-based structures including 225 Protection Action Group (PAG) members were trained on COVID-19 Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCCE) with emphasis on hygiene promotion, social/ physical distancing and social mobilization for the prevention and control of COVID-19 in Gwoza, Bama, Banki, Monguno, Ngala. In turn, they will disseminate this information to the affected populations in the camps and host communities.

Awareness sessions and sensitization: UNHCR and partners including community-based Protection Action Groups (PAGs), conducted **474 awareness sessions and sensitizations** reaching **12,274 IDPs, returnees and host community members** in the BAY States (Male 3,628; Women 5,395; Boys 1,585; Girls 1,666). The team also engaged with other stakeholders on joint awareness raising on COVID-19 Risk Communication and Community Engagement. Additional topics covered were informed by issues identified during protection monitoring, focus group discussions, observations and community engagement. Subjects of discussion ranged from SGBV to referral pathways, peaceful co-existence, access to Justice, documentation and available service providers as well as fire safety and precautionary measures and dangers of fetching firewood beyond the security perimeter.

Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) activities: Survivors of SGBV, mostly women and girls, are in need of GBV integrated response. There is coordinated humanitarian protection response across agencies and organizations to mitigate these protection concerns through prevention, response and protection of survivors. In addition, UNHCR and partners BOWDI and FHI 360 with the support of community based structures such as the Zero Tolerance Village Alliance (ZTVA) groups, the peer to peer and the advisory committees on SGBV, continue to conduct community **awareness and sensitization**, mainstreaming COVID-19 Risk Communication and Community Engagement measures such as social distancing, regular hand washing with soap into awareness on SGBV and the negative cultural norms and religious beliefs that perpetuate SGBV. The sensitizations also include awareness regarding reporting of incidents, available services and referral pathways, including legal counselling. This month, 396 individuals were reached (Male 76; Female 322; Boys 13) in Ngala, Damasak, Pulka, MMC (Stadium, Bakasi camps) Konduga (Gubio road and Dalori 1 camps) in Borno State.

Psychosocial Support Services (PSS) and skill acquisition were provided to 702 individuals (253 adolescent girls and 449 women) in the safe spaces in Borno and Adamawa. 82 cases requiring PSS were reported which were managed by BOWDI which made relevant referrals for legal assistance. FHI360 conducted mentoring and coaching of 13 (Female 9 and Male 4) community volunteers in Ngala safe space focusing on community mobilization strategies.



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

According to the CCCM/Shelter/NFI bi-weekly Site Tracker, CCCM partners reached out to **a total of 184,777 households with 824,625 individuals in 158 camps** and camp-like settings with site facilitation in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states in North-east Nigeria. The sector was engaged in regular weekly virtual coordination meetings which mainly focused on COVID-19 prevention and response mechanisms and the effect of state government travel restrictions on humanitarian service delivery.

Disruption of Humanitarian Services: In the aftermath of the consistent and sporadic fire outbreaks witnessed in the past month the IDP community in Ngala International Secondary School (ISS) Camp has developed an attitude of resentment against the humanitarian community. Subsequently there is a temporary suspension of humanitarian aid at the camp, which has also affected the planned construction of some 800 shelters by UNHCR at the location. A High-Level Delegation commissioned by the Federal Government comprising representatives from State Government, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) and North-East Development Commission (NEDC) with support of the humanitarian community is scheduled for a mission to Ngala to engage with the community in order to bring back calm and to enable resumption of humanitarian services.

HRP COVID-19 addendum; The sector continues to engage with partners on the review of the HRP COVID-19 addendum to ensure their submissions are in line with the IASC and sector guidelines; and aligned to the sector strategy. The review also included realignment of the initial sector budget. A total of 15 partners forwarded submissions totaling \$17,098,291, with 8 partners engaging in CCCM and 7 in Shelter/NFI service provision

COVID-19 Community Engagement; The main activities of UNHCR and partners have been awareness raising and sensitization on prevention against COVID-19 in collaboration with Health and WASH sectors under COVID-19 Risk Communication and Community Engagement pillar. The activities are implemented directly by partners as well as through remote management. Stigmatization, scapegoating and discrimination against new arrivals,

including returnee-refugees continue to be reported particularly in camps and host communities neighbouring the border areas.

Relocation; Other activities included relocation of IDPs from the congested reception center in Monguno to the UNHCR constructed shelters in Water board camp in order to ease congestion. Camp decongestion is a priority activity for both the government and the humanitarian community as a means to promote physical distancing. In Banki, the 500 UNHCR emergency shelters as well as 2 blocks of quarantine/holding areas each containing 20 units are complete. Relocation of IDPs from the congested camp is planned for undertaking as soon as WASH facilities and other necessary infrastructure are put in place. The sector has shared the decongestion strategy with the government and other sectors for their inputs, and to tag sectoral budgets necessary for fundraising.



LIVELIHOOD AND PROTECTION SAFETY NETS

Despite the application of government measures to stem the rising number of COVID 19 cases, protection safety nets and livelihood activities are ongoing albeit with slight modification in the programme approach. UNHCR and partners; CARITAS, AUN, and FHI 360 for SGBV survivors, are providing opportunity through provision of vocational training, business and life skills training to the displaced population in effort to reduce their vulnerability and improve self-reliance. As of 30 April, 4,940 beneficiaries for livelihood and protection safety nets have been selected in 13 LGAs of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States.

Best Agricultural Practices: In Borno State, 220 beneficiaries (43 males and 37 females) benefitted from the Best Agricultural Practices (BAP) project; a training during which persons of concern are taught how to improve the quality of the soil through organic and inorganic fertilizers. In addition, 560 PoCs (216 males and 344 females) were supported with comprehensive **farming inputs** including: 1 liter of NPK liquid fertilizer, 1 knapsack sprayer, 1 liter of herbicide and pesticides, 10 maize, cowpeas and groundnuts seedling each, rain boots, hand gloves and nose mask and to encourage home gardening, PoCs in Madagali received an extra vegetable seeds, water cans and shovel for raising beds.

Livestock management training: 1,200 (417 males and 783 females) Adamawa State, and 100 beneficiaries (27 male and 113 female) in Gwoza, Borno State were trained. This training is provided to empower the community resilience and reduce dependence of persons of concern on humanitarian assistance.

Microbusiness empowerment: 70 IDPs received start-up kits to support their microbusiness such as fruit selling, commodity grinding, food and groundnuts.

Livelihood support for vulnerable women reached 40 vulnerable women in Adamawa State (20 in Mubi and 20 in Yola). The women and girls are engaged in production of floor mats, sewing laptop bags and key holders making.

FUNDING

UNHCR remains grateful to all donors supporting its interventions to meet the needs of affected population in North-East Nigeria.

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