

SGBV MONTHLY UPDATE



Displaced mothers with their tired and hungry children in makeshift shelters in Dikwa © UNHCR/P. Katuura

KEY DEVELOPMENTS



Radicalization of girls and use by BH as suicide bombers

The insurgency continues in NE Nigeria with a change in tactics that are seeing an increase in the BH using young girls as suicide bombers. It is reported that **145** girls have been used as suicide bombers in a period of 7 months with the recent months recording the higher numbers. Security and Protection monitoring indicates that BH is also attacking Camps and in some cases abducting people including women and children.

42



Individuals trained on SGBV protection principles and PSEA

Some women and girls who walk outside of protected security zones, including IDP camps, in search of firewood have been known to be targeted by BH insurgents, with some of them either being killed, abducted or reported missing with their families having not heard from them. This trend is not being helped by the fact that it is a rainy season making the need for firewood greater than usual and the availability of firewood much less. In a bid to address this problem, UNHCR responded to the most vulnerable families targeting the returnee areas and provided charcoal and energy saving stoves. In addition to this relief response, UNHCR in collaboration with FAO, plans to conduct a joint Energy and Environment Assessment which aims to identify sustainable energy solutions for IDPs that may include the introduction of clean energy options such as biogas, briquettes and solar energy.

450



SGBV survivors and persons at risk of SGBV assisted with skills for improving their livelihood.

Capacity building: A half day training was conducted for **27** SAHEI staff (Protection Monitors). The training focused on principles of SGBV, community based prevention and response, case management and the main areas of response. The main concerns raised were the deeply rooted cultural and religious norms and beliefs that make reporting on some forms of SGBV (i.e. early marriage) almost impossible. These kinds of sessions will be conducted for other groups of Protection Monitors.

515

Vulnerable women and girls benefited from sanitary materials distribution and solar lanterns

The SGBV Core Task force team (UNFPA, UNHCR and IOM) organised and conducted a learning session for humanitarian senior managers in Maiduguri about the commitment to PSEA (Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse) as per the Secretary General's Bulletin (ST/SG/2003/13). 15 Senior Managers (14 UN and 1 International NGO) turned up for the session and adapted the PSEA CBCM Action Plan that was presented to them by the PSEA technical team pending a few additions. This action plan will be adopted by all Humanitarian workers in NE Nigeria and will be implemented at agency level to ensure that the beneficiaries are better protected from SEA.

2,730 

Vulnerable families received charcoal and energy saving stoves to mitigate the risk of leaving Banki camp to search for firewood and being attacked

Livelihood: 450 women and girls most at risk of SGBV (mainly single female heads of households, SGBV survivors and teenage mothers) - were supported through life skills training in embroidery, tailoring, beadwork, knitting, crafts, soap making and catering. The beneficiaries are encouraged and supported in different forms to start small-scale businesses, which are envisaged to empower them to provide for their families and improve their living conditions. Some of those that graduated in earlier classes are being offered a chance to stitch clothes at a fee for the children that will be distributed to the most vulnerable children in the returnee areas of Banki, Ngala, Pulka and Gwoza. Currently the women and girls that have received basic skills are approximately 750.

Material assistance: As a prevention and response activity towards SGBV 2,730 most vulnerable families in Banki received a bag of charcoal and an energy saving stove each. This is meant to assist the families during the rainy season and also the need to go outside the camp in search of firewood. In the same period 515 families in Banki received sanitary kits (sanitary pads, soap and knickers) to maintain personal hygiene and dignity. The same 515 households in Banki also received portable solar powered lamps to improve lighting inside their homes and provide safety for the women when they need to go to the latrines at night.

Coordination: The first SAFE Working Group meeting was held on 30 August 2017 and was attended by 3 agencies. The main items discussed included activities so far being undertaken by various activities under SAFE (5Ws), information management and sharing, resource mobilization and next steps that include plans for the rapid assessment of land utilization to be led by FAO, WFP and UNHCR.

The monthly SGBV Sector meeting was convened by the Director Women Affairs and Social Development (Borno State) on 31 August 2017 and held at UNHCR. It was attended by 30 members from all the humanitarian agencies and government bodies that support SGBV prevention and assistance to survivors. The main issues discussed included the updating of the 5Ws and the GBV Sector information management database being set up at sector level. It was agreed that the IM Officer should organise a follow up training with the focal persons so as to improve the quality and type of information being collected in order to improve the information sharing and ensure accountability to both the donors and the Nigerian government. During the same meeting, the FIDA representative presented the draft Justice/Legal referral pathway for SGBV. FIDA also communicated that out of the 30 rape cases they have so far handled since 2015, 90% of the survivors are under 18 years of age.

KEY NEEDS AND CHALLENGES

Women and girls are vulnerable to stigma and re-victimization by community members upon escape from abduction. So far 2 girls have reportedly returned to join the BH ranks after they were rescued from captivity.

The existing culture of impunity coupled with weak justice system hampers prevention of and response to violations against women and children. Most survivors do not report SGBV incidents for fear of reprisals by perpetrators and stigmatization by their own communities, as well as having no confidence that the authorities will hold perpetrators accountable.

Although early marriage was commonly practiced among different communities in North East Nigeria before the conflict, the number of forced/early marriages among the IDPs is reported to have noticeably increased because of the socio-economic difficulties families are going through in the camps. A focus group discussion held with 11 women in Damasak revealed that all of them had married when they were below 16 years of age. The youngest was a 13-year-old who had been married for 3 months. The women said they were much safer when they were married since BH was not likely to abduct them because BH insurgents are interested in young girls who are still virgins. Further discussions are needed with IDP leaders to understand viable alternatives so that IDPs don't feel compelled to marry off young girls as a form of security within camps.

During the DSG's mission to Nigeria, several adolescent girls from the IDP camps shared with her their experiences of having to resort to survival sex for food and other needs. It's unclear whether the recent reports indicate an increase in the incidents or whether reporting is improving. In response to the DSG's visit, an ad hoc meeting convened to further brainstorm on what can be done collectively to address the issues around survival sex. There is a need to identify hotspots where survival sex is reported, undertake an assessment and have a better understanding into the underlying causes, in order to develop a more informed prevention and response strategy.

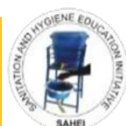
STRATEGIC PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS

UNHCR Nigeria will focus upon strengthening existing specialized services for SGBV survivors such as psycho-social support, skills building and livelihood assistance and access to justice, as well as ensure appropriate medical, safety and security response. In Borno state, UNHCR will expand existing SGBV prevention and response services while gradually establishing SGBV prevention and response services in newly liberated areas.



Newly arrived IDP mothers await registration and food in makeshift shelters in Dikwa © UNHCR/P. Katuura

UNHCR PARTNERS



Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (MoWASD), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Sanitation and Hygiene Education Initiative (SAHEI), Family Health International, USA (FHI 360), Nigeria Bar Association (NBA) and American University of Nigeria (AUN)