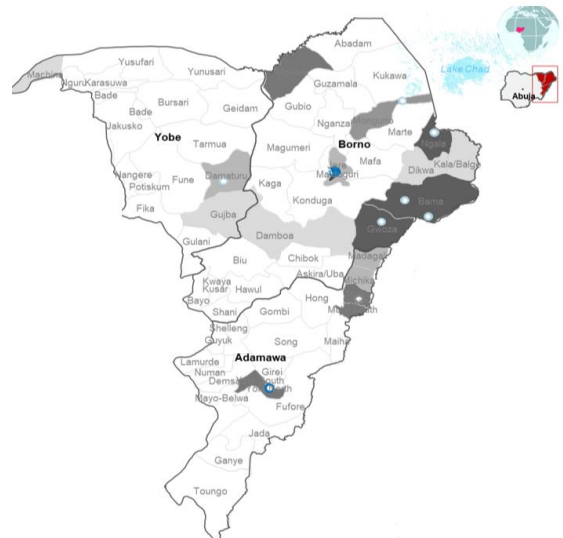


01 November 2019



UNHCR Head of Field Unit (right) Damaturu exchanges with fishermen in UNHCR Livelihood Center in Damasak. ©UNHCR/Idoko



UNHCR areas of operation in North-East Nigeria

Operational Environment

The operational environment in North-East Nigeria continued to be challenging with volatile and unpredictable security situation. In Borno and Yobe States, the situation is characterized with attacks by Non-State Armed Group (NSAG) members on military and civilian targets. In Borno State, there were reports on ambushes and attacks on military escorted civilian convoy on the Bama – Banki Road with fatalities. In addition, IDPs and returnees witnessed attacks and abductions while in their farmlands located across the security perimeters in locations such as Bama, Pulka, Gwoza and Damboa.

In Yobe State, the NSAG intensified their activities, including ambush on main supply routes and indiscriminate attacks and abduction on the Maiduguri-Damaturu road which connects Maiduguri to other parts of the country. Such attacks are negatively impacting freedom of movement, humanitarian access and the progress and positive development recorded before the current situation. The Damaturu-Maiduguri Road presently requires security escort or the use of airplanes.

The security situation in Adamawa State, unlike in Borno and Yobe States, has been marked by conflict between farmers and herdsmen in Sabon Pegi, Saminaka, Yolde Pate, Malkohi Village, Kwanan Waya and Rumde Kila of Yola South. These resulted in the loss of livelihood and heightened tension within the communities. Moreover, cases of kidnapping and armed banditry have been recorded in communities in the LGAs of Mubi South, North, Fuforo, and Madagali in Adamawa.

Protection environment continued to be challenging IDPs and returnees face limited access to food and livelihood opportunities, lack of individual documentation and restriction of freedom of movement, and resort to negative coping mechanisms to survive, as a result.

Population movements: No influx has been registered during this reporting period. However, 214 families of 972 individuals IDPs and returnees were recorded in Bama, Banki, Ngala, Rann, Damboa, and Pulka; some to reunite with their families and other due to lack of security. In Adamawa State, UNHCR and partners recorded the arrival of 15 families of 70 individuals in Madagali LGA due to NSAG attacks in their community of origin.

Protection Response and Delivery

Protection by presence

In October, UNHCR and its partners sustained presence in the three states – Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States through regular **protection monitoring visits**. **86 Protection Monitoring missions** have been conducted to deep field locations - to camps, areas of returns and host communities- by both UNHCR staff and its partners such as GISCOR, INTERSOS, CCEPI, NHRC, BOWDI and FHI360. Additional staff have been deployed to strengthen the protection activities in Field Unit of Gwoza, Ngala and Bama in the LGAs.

UNHCR Field Units in Gwoza, Ngala, Banki and Bama were fully operational, and staff maintained a permanent presence to coordinate and perform protection oversight activities and monitoring the implementation of UNHCR Programmes, working in collaboration with local authorities and other stakeholders.

Protection partner's presence has been expanded to Gwoza in October, with the deployment of GISCOR and the recruitment of five Protection Monitors to implement general protection activities.

UNHCR has also completed the **construction of protection desk in Dalori camp, Gubio camp, Stadium camp in maiduguri, and Pulka transit center**. This protection desks will provide PoCs in the camp with a suitable and confidential environment to access protection services, such as reporting protection incidents, counseling, and feedback on previous reports.

Community-based protection outreach: Protection Action Groups (PAG) continued to be a key community-based outreach actor and involved in protection monitoring activities. During the reporting period, the PAG members increased from 381 to 416 in three States; UNHCR partner GISCOR selected and trained 15 new members to strengthen community-based protection monitoring in Gwoza, and the partner NHRC recruited 10 members to support the human rights monitoring activities in Bama.

In the absence of functional courts in LGAs outside Maiduguri, UNHCR supports the National Bar Association (NBA) in providing protection and access to justice through **mobile court** activities to prevent impunity.

Protection Monitoring:

The roll-out of the new protection monitoring tools which started in late September continued during the reporting period. Thus far, it is completed in seven LGAs in Borno State namely Maiduguri, Konduga, Dikwa, Monguno, Bama, Kala Balge, Gubio. Initial will soon be analyzed and shared.

Findings confirmed that the POCs major concerns during this period were **food security** is insufficient with access below the standards of 2,100 kcal/person/day,

Continuous NSAG attacks and counterinsurgency operations with highest rate of incidents recorded in Bama and Gwoza,

Restriction of freedom of movement: IDPs are confined in overcrowded camps with where their movement outside the camp/site to the surroundings are restricted due to insecurity, lack of documentation and family/cultural/religious reasons.

Lack of individual documentation: the main identified barriers to accessing legal documentation were difficulties to access civil registrar's office; lack of awareness on the procedures to obtain documentation and the distance between the camps/sites and the civil registrar's office based in Maiduguri.

Limited access to education: access to education was insufficient. This came up strongly as a second priority need in Borno State, on an equal footing with livelihoods.

Limited access to livelihood and protection safety-nets and Housing Land and property (HLP).

Protection response and Impact

UNHCR continues to deliver Protection Monitoring and Response and support activities related to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and Psychosocial Counselling. The Agency provides material assistance such as shelter, food and non-food items (NFIs), as well as, protection safety nets and peacebuilding, Camp Management Camp Coordination (CCCM) support, capacity building and awareness-raising, documentation, vulnerability screening and Access to justice to PoCs in North-East Nigeria.

Referrals continued to be challenging due to the lack of responding capacities in LGAs. In Borno State, there was an increase of cases identified compared to the previous reporting periods attributed to improvements of incidents reporting as a result of an enhanced protection by presence in new locations such as Dikwa, Gwoza and Damboa.

State	Cases identified	Cases referred (% out of total)	Cases managed (% out of total)	Types	Compare to previous reporting period
Borno	1,529	874 (57%)	655 (42%)	Medical, PSS, legal, PSN, access to food, shelter, CP, SGBV	1,216 in Aug 1,089 in Sept

Adamawa	353	199 (56%)	154 (44%)	Physical/ mental disabilities, UASC, denial of resources, forced marriage, rape, medical conditions, child headed household, child labor, children out of school
Yobe	43	23 (53%)	20 (47%)	CP, SGBV, medical conditions, access to justice

Legal representation and legal assistance: UNHCR partner National Bar Association (NBA) represented 25 PoCs in Court for Criminal/Civil cases. Among the cases 20 were registered at Bakassi/Gubio **mobile courts** in MMC. These included SGBV survivors (21) and HPL matters (2) and others (2).

Legal documentation: In Kala Balge LGA, UNHCR in partnership with NBA supported the issuance by the LGA Chairman of 1,193 indigene certificates to IDPs and Returnees (Male: 1,193 and Female: 652). Thus far this year UNHCR have supported the issuance of over 72,000 birth certificates and certificates of indigenes; the major civil documentation to show the State of Origin in Nigeria.

Sexual Gender-Based Violence and response: UNHCR and its partners continued to address issues of gender inequality and power dynamics through effective engagement of the community in SGBV prevention, risk mitigation and response. Several approaches were used to reduce SGBV cases in PoCs community: community volunteers, peer to peer groups, advisory groups, male engagement, stakeholder engagement and the Zero-Tolerance Village Alliance. Focus group discussions were used to communicate and get the view and feedback from the community.

Response activities- Borno State: 3,400 vulnerable women and girls received hygienic kits in Bakassi camp. In Ngala, Banki, Bama, Pulka, and MMC, 828 women and adolescent girls visited the integrated safe space and participated in informal literacy classes, an information session on SGBV focusing on the denial of resources, domestic violence, and child marriage. Adolescent girls' session was conducted to 19 girls on the topic: Our reality. During the session, participants reflected on their lives and a future in an improved community where conditions for women, men, boys, and girls were equally protected, with access to economic opportunities and resources. Peer group sessions were conducted with men and women on gender norms and social expectations.

In Adamawa State, 49 vulnerable women and girls of productive age received dignity kits each composed of the veil, plastic bucket, a blanket, a rubber slipper, comb, bathing soap, solar lantern, two T-shirts, toothbrush and paste, sanitary pads and packaging bag, detergent, women underwear. 2,060 women and adolescent girls participated in psychosocial and recreational activities such as storytelling, singing, dancing, literacy classes and educative sessions on personal hygiene as well as reproductive health (life cycle and body change) in the safe space.

Celebrating the International Day of the Girl Child (IDGC) Campaign: On 11 and 17 October, UNHCR and the partners celebrated, in solidarity with the UN's events towards reducing gender inequality, the annual celebration of the International Day of the Girl Child (IDGC) campaign. The theme for this year was "A Girl Force: Unscripted and Unstoppable". In Adamawa State around 3400 persons, including 1,600 students participated in the event during which the sensitization drive was conducted to create awareness on the importance of the girl child in society by both students, teachers and school authorities. In Borno State, the celebration took place on 17 October 2019 in Stadium IDPs camp Women & girls integrated Safe Space. Five (5) girls from peer to peer groups from each of the four (4) IDP camps in MMC (Dalori 1, Gubio, Bakassi & stadium) converged to celebrate the event. Humanitarian partner organizations participated in the celebration. Presentations were made in the form of drama, poems, songs on different topics such as the effects of SGBV, child/forced marriage, and bad parenting.

Advocacy

During the reporting period, UNHCR conducted **03 advocacy meetings** with *Bulamas* (traditional leaders) in **Gwoza, Michika, and SEMA Borno State**. The main issues discussed with *Bulamas* were on the menace of SGBV, child/forced marriage & education. With SEMA, the issue of extortion of IDPs for lack of identity documentation by security personnel on the roads between Maiduguri to Monguno and Maiduguri to Damaturu was discussed. In Gwoza, the protection sector engaged with the transport union on the practice of requesting IDP travelers to possess national identification cards as a prerequisite to access commercial vehicles out of Gwoza to Maiduguri and Adamawa State, hindering their freedom of movement.

Strengthening Law and Policy: Promoting the domestication of the Kampala Convention on IDPs: UNHCR Sub-Office in Maiduguri attended and actively participated in the National day in commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of

Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention), organized by both NCFRMI and PSI on 30 October in Abuja. During the event, the Maiduguri team contributed by making a presentation on the domestication of the Convention in Nigeria. Contributions were also made during the Panel discussion on the “**Role of Humanitarians and other frontline actors in the search for durable solutions for IDPs**”. In **Adamawa State**, engagement with the House of Assembly and other relevant stakeholders has continued to put the domestication of the Kampala Convention on top of the Agenda. Both UNHCR Yola and ADSHoA agreed to convene a Roundtable discussion on the Kampala Convention in early December 2019.

Community mobilization and participation, sensitization, and awareness-raising campaigns: During this reporting period, **12,867 individuals were reached through 128 awareness and sensitization** activities conducted by the UNHCR protection team, protection partners such as GISCOR, BOWDI, NHRC, INTERSOS, and Protection Action Group (PAG) in the BAY states. The impact observed include i) self-report of human rights violations and other protection incidents to protection monitors and case management actors by IDPs; ii) Effective community mobilization and support towards planned activities.

Durable Solution

09 October 2019, A meeting was held in Yola with the representatives of the Refugee-returnees, National Commission for Refugees Migrants and ID (NCFRMI), State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) and UNHCR to discuss challenges faced by the returnees which included i) delayed implementation of the NCFRMI commitment to monetize the remaining five months food-ration due to returnees; ii) the absence of Livelihood support to make reintegration more seamless; iii) the need to support the returnee adults willing to further their education; iv) the lack of information on the status of the essential drugs donated by NCFRMI, and handed over to the respective return LGAs to support the returnees and the communities. Responding, NCFRMI promised to forward the challenges to management for action, while SEMA would follow up to know the status of the drugs handed over to LGAs. The same challenges were also reiterated during the DHC mission to Adamawa State on 16 -17 October 2019. In his interaction with returnees, the DHC pledged to support and advised the returnees to collate their challenges and forward them to UNHCR for consideration.

The Global Compact for Refugees (GCR) consultation meeting was also held during the month under review. Adamawa State Ministries, Departments and Agencies in attendance pledged to Support the achievement of the Compact's objectives. The Pledges are awaiting the endorsement of the State Executive Governor before sharing with Sub-office Maiduguri and Abuja appropriately. The same is scheduled to take place in Borno State on 14 November.

CCCM, Shelter and NFIs

Borno State: In GSSSS Bama IDPs Camp, the newly constructed shelters were assigned to 190 vulnerable families of 627 individuals. UNHCR also completed the construction of 300 emergency shelters in Monguno camp extension; 125 plastic tarpaulin to victims of dilapidated shelters in Damare camp and Sangere Dutse targeting 494 individuals. Adamawa State: UNHCR with the support of the Nigeria Human Rights Commission monitors, distributed NFIs kits to 106 households in Sabon Pegi, Wuro Yanka, in Yola South LGA. The beneficiaries were lactating mothers, neglected and abandoned women. 400 NFI kits were distributed to vulnerable PoCs and victims of flood in Girei, Yola South and Madagali to cover the needs of 1, 572 individuals.

Livelihoods opportunities/Protection safety nets

Borno State, UNHCR/AUN empowered 20 graduates on vocational training, 10 graduated in tailoring and 10 in cosmetology in Bama. In Maiduguri, 70 IDPs from different camps - Bakassi, NYSC and TVC – completed their two months training in 6 crafts; 10 graduated in Fishery & Gardening, 10 in Tailoring, 9 in carpentry, 21 in Computer Training, 10 in Shoe & Bag making and 10 in Pillow & Bed Sheet making. The 70 beneficiaries, including 43 females were formed into 7 cooperatives of 10 members each and provided with Start-up kits for their respective trade. In Yola, Caritas Nigeria trained beneficiaries on Best Agronomic Practice (BAP), follow up on its implementation on the farm. In Yobe, Adamawa State, vocational skills training, financial literacy and business development are ongoing for 20 PoCs at BEST Centre Damaturu.

30 October, the private donor for the new protection safety net activities (livelihood), **JAIZ Foundation** carried out a mission to Damasak to assist in the implementation of the protection-based livelihood project benefitting 120 families. The beneficiaries were trained in five skill areas including Groundnut oil extraction, Local Spaghetti making, Soup condiments trading, Tea brewing (Mai Shayi), Fries – bean cakes. Subsequently, after their graduation the beneficiaries-mostly vulnerable women- receive a start-up package to carry out their self-reliance activities.

On 23 October, UNHCR/AUN distributed soap to 120 Persons of Concern. Each PoC received eight bars of soap fabricated at the UNHCR livelihood Polo center in Maiduguri.

Access to other basic services: UNHCR through its partner GISCOR distributed early recovery items to 147 PoCs (36 Male and 111 Female) in GSSSS Bama IDP Camp. The items included 32 wheel barrow, 50 jerry can, 30 Digger, 35 watering Can. The distributed items intend to promote early recovery activities through increased farming activities as a mean of livelihood.

Sector Coordination

UNHCR continues to lead the Protection Sector and co-lead the CCCM-NFI-Shelter Sector in North-East Nigeria. Additional staffing supported by the Department of Emergency, Security and Supply (DESS) present to strengthen the Sector coordination. During the reporting period, the Sector completed the Humanitarian Need Overview (HNO) 2020 process and attended the HNO-Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) Validation Workshop in Abuja.

In Yobe State: on 8 October, UNHCR attended the **Humanitarian Coordination Forum** during which humanitarian staff were informed of the influx of new arrivals on the Geidam axis and **REACH Multi Sectorial needs Assessment** (MSNA) meeting on the accountability to affected population feedback organized by the NGO REACH and supported by UNOCHA. The objective of this last meeting was to identify gaps in the humanitarian response in Yobe State and to develop a solution that will improve service delivery to the affected population.

CCCM, Shelter and NFIs SECTOR

On 30 October, in Abuja, the sector organized a workshop on sector information management attended by donors and implementing partners. In Borno State, fifteen participants attended the Shelter Technical Working Group Sector meeting organized to develop and validate the transitional shelter solutions guidelines. During the meeting, the sector also advocated for shelter partners to conduct post distribution and post-construction monitoring exercise to measure the appropriateness of the NFI items and shelters constructed.

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