

# Assessment of Trafficking Risks in Internally Displaced Persons Camps in North-East Nigeria

for the  
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees



## Acknowledgement

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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

**CJTF:** Civilian Joint Task Force

**JTF:** Joint Task Force

**NAPTIP:** National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons

**UNHCR:** United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

**IIs:** Individual Interviews

**KIIs:** Key Informant Interviews

**VOTs:** Victims of Trafficking

**LGA:** Local Government Area

**FGDs:** Focus Group Discussions

**CAPRECON:** Caprecon Development and Peace Initiative

**DSS:** Department of State Security

**NSCDC:** Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corp

**NGO:** Non-Governmental Organization

## Executive Summary

In the recent years, there has been a number of reports in the media on human trafficking in IDP camps in North-East Nigeria, but there is limited up-to-date information on the current situation. To fill this gap, UNHCR engaged the services of CAPRECON to conduct an assessment in IDP camps in the region. The objectives are geared towards achieving the following:

- A better understanding of the scale and dynamics of trafficking from North-East Nigeria among IDPs.
- A better understanding of population groups at risk, including contributing factors and specific vulnerabilities contributing to heighten the risk of trafficking.
- A better understanding of main areas/IDP camps where trafficking risks are greater, and reasons.
- An assessment of main protection gaps contributing to the risk of trafficking and protection measures to be considered.

In order to achieve these objectives, the research team comprised of; a project consultant, a project coordinator and four research assistants. Two of the research assistants acted as local language interpreters. The assessment mission was carried out in Borno State in North East Nigeria, from April 29 – May 12, 2019. A total of 28 volunteers, comprising eight journalists and 20 local community members, assisted in the assessment.

The assessment team visited eight IDP camps in Maiduguri, the capital of Borno state namely: Bakassi, NYSC, Dalori 1, Dalori 2, Teachers Village, Mogcolis, Gubio, and Doro camps. The team also visited six IDP camps located in Jere LGA of Borno state namely: Muna, Farm Centre, Custom House, Goni Kachallari, El Miskin, and Madinatu. In addition, field visits were conducted to NAPTIP zonal office and the head office of SEMA both in Maiduguri. The team worked closely with a focal person nominated by the UNHCR.

The team adopted a qualitative research methodology focused on making direct contact with IDP women, girls, men and boys, and key stakeholders involved in protection and humanitarian response including government agencies and NGOs. The assessment team employed multiple research methods, including site observations, individual interviews (IIs) with women, girls and men; group interviews with families and young males; and focus group discussions (FGDs) with women and girls. In total, 350 IDPs were interviewed in 280 individual interviews (average of 20 individual interviews in each of the 14 camps), 56 focus group discussions (four group discussions in each camp). The team interviewed 60 other key informants.

The team developed questionnaires to guide the interviews with all stakeholders. The questionnaires addressed protection risks specific to women and girls in the camps. The team paid close attention to the testimonies of VOTs, to gain a more nuanced understanding of the varying circumstances they face.

The assessment team made detailed observations and documented not only human trafficking risks but also labour exploitation and sexual exploitation risks. Before the commencement of interviews and the focus group discussions, individuals and families were offered the opportunity to refuse participation or not to answer any question deemed too sensitive. Except for a few individuals, all those who were approached, agreed to participate in the assessment.

## Key Findings

### Sexual Exploitation

- Assessment findings in individual camps revealed significant rates of sexual exploitation akin to sex trafficking, with respondents in NYSC camp (62%), Teachers Village camp (50%), Doro camp (41%), Gubio camp (39%), Mogcolis camp (37%), Dalori 1 camp (61%), Dalori 2 camp (56%), Bakassi camp (77%), Farm Centre camp (61%), Muna (2%), Goni Kachallari (2%), Custom House (2%), Madinatu (59%), and El Miskin camp (58%) saying they were aware of such incidents. Respondents in all 14 camps reported significant challenges – including difficulty in getting firewood, irregular food and water supply, and poor shelters – as major factors fuelling sexual exploitation in the camps. Female IDP, mostly single women under 20 years of age, are often sexually exploited when on their way to collect

firewood or water; when begging for money on the streets; and when spending nights on the streets as a result of poor shelters in camp. A significant number of respondents reported meeting persons who demanded sex from them when they begged for money on the streets (12%); when on their way to collect firewood some kilometres away from their camps (14%); and when they spent nights on the streets due to poor shelters in their camps (5 per cent).

- Moderate to high levels of labour exploitation, some of which constitute labour trafficking, was reported by 51 per cent of respondents in 14 camps surveyed. The assessment shows that large numbers of IDPs, including women and children in all 14 camps, move to cities like Gombe (about 424 km south-west of Maiduguri) and Kano (about 590 kilometres west of Maiduguri), and to neighbouring countries like Niger to find work, which is, in some cases, promised by agents. Respondents generally attributed their search for jobs to the fact that food supply by NEMA, which is usually done once in a month, was inadequate and that they needed to earn more money to meet the demands of their families. Although most IDPs who go out of their camps in search of jobs often fall victims to labour exploitation, it is difficult to tell whether or not these movements constitute human trafficking. Therefore, it is important to look at the vulnerabilities to trafficking. Up to 6 per cent of respondents in Muna, Dalori 1, Dalori 2, Goni Kachallari, Custom House, Madinatu, and El Miskin camps reported being approached by persons who offered them jobs when they went to collect water some metres away from their camp. Lack of energy/fuel to constantly power the boreholes available in the camps was reported by key witnesses as the reason for water shortages in the camps.
- Critical levels of out of school children were reported, with 72% of respondents pointing to moderate to high numbers of primary school age children not accessing education, which means that the majority of children in IDP camps do not receive the information sessions about human trafficking dangers that a few NGOs give in many schools, especially in Maiduguri. Respondents attributed the low number of children attending school to the fact that parents generally cannot cope with paying some of the levies that are required for children in public schools while many others have withdrawn their kids from school because of the far distances their children walk to achieve education.
- In Farm Centre and Madinatu camps, 39% of respondents reported moderate to high levels of trafficking to the Gulf region and North Africa. It was not possible to ascertain why trafficking of IDPs to the Gulf region and North Africa was peculiar to Farm Centre and Madinatu camps. However, serious security gaps were noted in the two camps. Security officials in Farm Centre often did not do adequate checks on persons who visited the camp, only sometimes recording names and addresses of visitors without finding out the purpose of their visits and without keeping records of movement of IDPs in and out the camp. The situation was worse in Madinatu, where there was no presence of either state or civil security officials and where there were no records of IDPs in the camp and visitors assessing the camp.
- Moderate to high levels of poor camp security was reported by 70% of respondents in camps in Jere LGA (Goni Kachallari, 48%, Muna, 70 per cent, Madinatu, 88 per cent, El Miskin, 93 per cent) and in Doro camp, 49 per cent, in Maiduguri. Generally, camps in Jere LGA did not have tight security measures in place (except for Custom House where state and civil security officials are present), as IDPs go out of camp freely without seeking permission from camp leaders unlike in camps in Maiduguri (except for Doro) where individual IDPs have to request a pass before stepping out of their camps.
- Security personnel in Farm Centre, Madinatu, and El Miskin camps in Jere LGA and in NYSC, Teachers Village, Dalori 1, Dalori 2, and Bakassi camps in Maiduguri, as well as their colleagues who regularly visited these camps, were reportedly involved in acts of sexual exploitation against female IDPs, some of which constitute sex trafficking. Victims are often forced, intimidated or promised better living conditions by security officials to get into sexual acts. The team found that exploitation occurs more with single girls below 18 years of age and with divorcees or women whose husbands were killed in their communities during the conflict in the north-east region. Respondents in Bakassi reported that state security officials, who exploit women and girls in the camp, travel with their victims to places as far as Kano and Gombe in what constitutes sex trafficking. Key witnesses in Madinatu and El Miskin attributed acts of sexual exploitation in the camp to the fact that security personnel are

not permanently stationed in the camp which gives room for unassigned officials to walk into the camps freely and carry out their businesses. In NYSC, Teachers Village, Dalori 1, Dalori 2, and Bakassi, respondents hinged sexual exploitation and trafficking by officials in these camps on the fact that security personnel are often involved in the distribution of food items made available to IDPs by NEMA which gives them the impetus to demand sex from displaced persons in exchange for food.

## Background

### Introduction

#### Global Overview

Given the clandestine and underreported nature of human trafficking, there are limited data regarding its global prevalence. In 2014, **17,752** victims of human trafficking were detected in 85 countries.<sup>1</sup> In 2017, the International Labour Organization (ILO) estimated there were 24.9 million victims worldwide.<sup>2</sup> Human trafficking is a big business as it earns profits of approximately USD 150 billion a year for traffickers.<sup>3</sup> According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*, sexual exploitation is by far the most commonly identified form of human trafficking (**79%**), followed by forced labour (**18 %**). Worldwide, it is estimated that almost **20%** of all trafficking victims are children. However, in some parts of Africa and the Mekong Region of Southeast Asia, children comprise the majority. Although women and children still make up the majority of trafficking victims, the number of men being trafficked has increased. In 2014, four in 10 detected victims were used for forced labour and **63%** of this group were men.<sup>4</sup> While sexual exploitation and forced labour are the most prominent forms of trafficking, victims can also be exploited in many other ways such as being used as beggars, child soldiers, for forced marriages, benefit fraud, production of pornography or for organ removal.

#### Human Trafficking Situation in Nigeria

Nigeria has been identified as a source, transit and destination country for VOTs subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking. IOM has documented that internal trafficking occurs within Nigeria mainly for purposes of domestic labour and sexual exploitation, while international or cross-border trafficking occurs for purposes of forced labour, domestic servitude and sexual exploitation.<sup>5</sup>

Furthermore, Nigerians are increasingly migrating to the Middle East including Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in search of employment, often through legal or illegal employment agencies, and they are sometimes exploited in domestic servitude, massage parlors, brothels or forced manual labour.<sup>6</sup>

In North-East Nigeria, the influx of IDPs at camps in Borno state has increased vulnerability to trafficking, smuggling and other forms of exploitation.

Generally, IDP camps in North-East Nigeria have been known as hotspot areas for human trafficking as well as for irregular migration. However, there is little data available and there is a lack of programming targeting trafficking in these regions. It is against this background that this assessment has been conducted.

This report presents the risk of human trafficking in IDP camps in North-Eastern Nigeria based on the assessment conducted by Caprecon from April 29, to May 12, 2018. The assessment focused on the Bakassi, NYSC, Dalori 1, Dalori 2, Teachers Village, Mogcolis Gubio, and Doro IDP camps in Maiduguri and the Muna,

<sup>1</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2016* (Vienna, 2016).

<sup>2</sup> The report refers to modern slavery, forced labour and early marriage. International Labour Organization, *Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage* (Geneva, 2017).

<sup>3</sup> International Labour Organization, *Profits and Poverty: The Economics of Forced Labour* (Geneva, 2014).

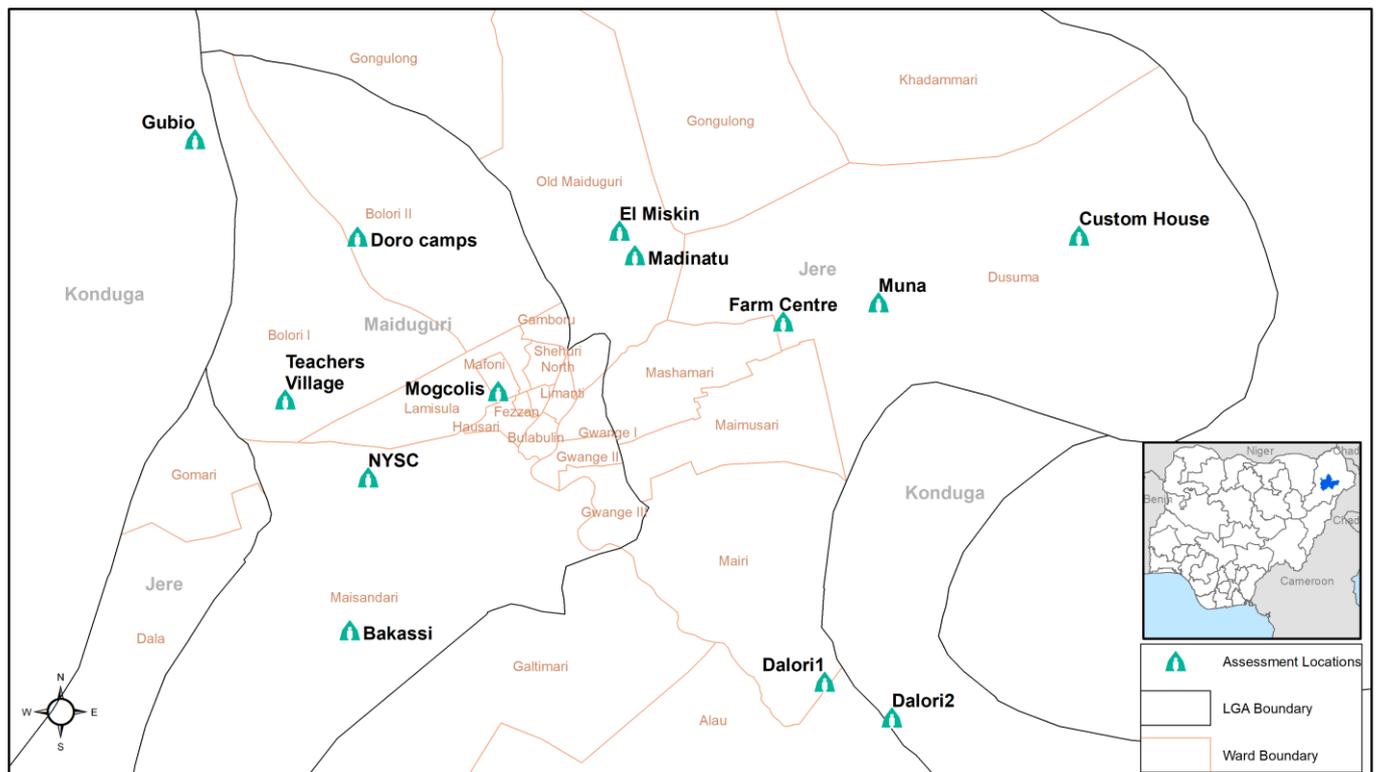
<sup>4</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2016* (Vienna, 2016).

<sup>5</sup> IOM, *Migration in Nigeria – A Country Profile 2015* (Geneva, 2014).

<sup>6</sup> United States Department of State, *Trafficking in Person Report 2017* (Washington, D.C., 2017).

Farm Centre, Custom House, Goni Kachallari, El Miskin, and Madinatu IDP camps in Jere LGA due to the increased cases of trafficking reported by a number of media platforms. IDPs have become key targets of human traffickers because of their vulnerability and desperation to achieve better livelihoods. The struggle to get adequate food, water and firewood, and the desire to improve their living standards often push IDPs into the hands of persons who pretend to offer them assistance but end up exploiting them. Lack of presence of security personnel in a few IDP camps has made it easy for human traffickers to establish themselves in these camps.

CAPRECON conducted the assessment in close collaboration with the UNHCR.



Map showing camp locations where assessment was conducted

## Objectives

Information collected through respondents is presented in this report with the objective of:

- Getting a better understanding of the scale and dynamics of trafficking from North-East Nigeria among IDPs.
- Getting a better understanding of population groups at risk, including contributing factors and specific vulnerabilities contributing to heighten the risk of trafficking.
- Getting a better understanding of main areas/IDP camps where trafficking risks are greater, and reasons.
- Understanding the main protection gaps contributing to the risk of trafficking and protection measures to be considered.

## Methodology

### Data Collection

The assessment began with a literature review examining newsletters and reports from NAPTIP on human trafficking in North-Eastern Nigeria to gain better understanding of the scope of the issue. It explored information available on the magnitude of the trafficking problem in the region, particularly trafficking out of IDP camps.

Following the literature review, the assessment team met with officials of SEMA in the agency's headquarters and those stationed in IDP camps in Maiduguri and Jere LGA. These officials acted as key informants in the assessment. Overall, 60 key informants from SEMA, the Nigeria police, DSS, CJTF, and NGOs providing aid in a number of IDP camps participated in the assessment. These key informants were also identified as stakeholders in the protection of IDPs from human trafficking.

A total of **350** IDPs, including camp leaders (men chosen from among displaced person to act as representatives for each community whose indigenes are present in the camp) were interviewed in 280 individual interviews (average of **20** individual interviews in each of the **14** camps), and 56 focus group discussions (four group discussions in each camp).

The data was captured using a structured questionnaire form designed by the assessment team to capture information. The interviews for this assessment were conducted in a period of **14** days (April 29, to May 12, 2019) in all **14** IDP camps in Maiduguri and Jere LGA.

### Selection of Interviewees

As already stated, **350** IDPs and 60 key informants were interviewed during the assessment. Of the IDPs interviewed, 60 per cent were female and 40 per cent were male, while **70%** of the key informants interviewed were male and **30%** female. Female IDPs interviewed comprised of girls under **18** who were unmarried (**20%**), single women including divorcees and widows (**18%**), and women married with children (**22%**). Male IDPs interviewed comprised boys under 18 (**8%**), single men below 30 (**20%**), and men married with children (**16%**). The key informants were officials from SEMA, the police, CJTF, NSCDC, and the DSS stationed in the camps.

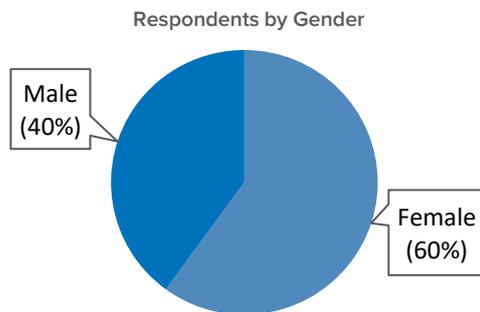
### Limitations of the Assessment

Due to limited resources and time frame, the assessment could not be extended to states like Adamawa and Yobe where a significant number of persons have been displaced as a result of the conflict in the North-East region. Nevertheless, the finding from Borno state gives a clue of what may be obtainable in IDP camps elsewhere in the region with similar challenges as those in Maiduguri and Jere LGA. Furthermore, very few VOTs were willing to participate in the assessment due the fear of stigmatization, as their family members were concerned that if their daughters publicly admitted being trafficked, their chances of being married to any man will become slim. It is also important to note that there are no pictures accompanying the report, as SEMA warned the assessment team against taking photographs in IDP camps and kept monitoring to ensure compliance. Finally, response biases cannot be ruled out, wherein respondents answer questions in the way that they perceive to be correct or desirable, particularly in group discussion settings and when dealing with sensitive issues such as trafficking. However, the assessment team worked to ensure the reliability and validity of responses and information.

### Demographic Details of Respondents

Among the **350** IDPs, **210 (60%)** were female and **140 (40%)** were male. The breakdown shows that 25 IDPs (15 females and 10 males) took part in the assessment in each of the **14** camps surveyed. The assessment team intentionally picked more female IDPs than male, as media reports, government newsletters and reports

from NAPTIP explored during the literature review showed that female IDPs were often the target of human traffickers. There were at least four key informants in each camp but, in general, **60** key informants participated in the assessment, **60%** male and **40%** female. The high percentage of male key informant respondents is as a result of a low number of female officials in the agencies/task force/organizations that took part in the assessment.



## Assessment Findings

### Labour exploitation & Labour Trafficking

**51%** of respondents in all **14** camps reported moderate to high levels of labour exploitation.

Note: The findings revealed multiple cases of labour exploitation in all 14 camps, where respondents reported that IDPs are made to work as bricklayers, builders, or farm workers for low wages in places far away from their camps. However, because some workers were reportedly held in inhumane conditions with very little pay and a number of IDPs were connected to job givers by agents who took the lion share of the pay, the assessment team was able to establish that victims of labour exploitation were susceptible to labour trafficking.

Labour exploitation was described as "excessive" in all 14 camps surveyed. Respondents reported that a number of IDPs, including children, move to neighbouring communities/states, and as far as Niger which borders Nigeria, to find work. IDPs generally attributed their search for jobs to the fact that food supply by NEMA, which is usually done once in a month, was inadequate and that they needed to earn more money to meet the demands of their families. Those who find work either as bricklayers, builders, or farm workers often become victims of labour exploitation and, in some cases, labour trafficking. IDPs are often paid so little to do very large work. Displaced persons in Muna, Dalori 1, Dalori 2, Goni Kachallari, Custom House, Madinatu, and El Miskin camps were often approached by persons who offered them jobs when they went to collect water some metres away from their camp. Lack of energy/fuel to constantly power the boreholes in these camps often force IDPs to walk long distances in search of water.

- The assessment found that agents often visited **Teachers Village, Mogcolis, Dalori 2, Farm Centre**, and **Madinatu** camps to recruit IDPs, mostly between the ages of 10 and 25, for menial jobs. In most cases, these agents receive pay from job givers on behalf of the IDPs but give very little, in some cases less than **30%** of the of the actual amount paid, to the workers. Most IDPs in these camps are young people which do explain why the camps were easily targeted by persons seeking to exploit vulnerable IDPs.
- In **Teachers Village camp**, key witnesses reported that numerous individuals visited the camp regularly to take children between the ages of 10 - 17 years for menial jobs and returned them to the camp at end of the day. Camp leaders admitted that there were no checks in place to monitor such

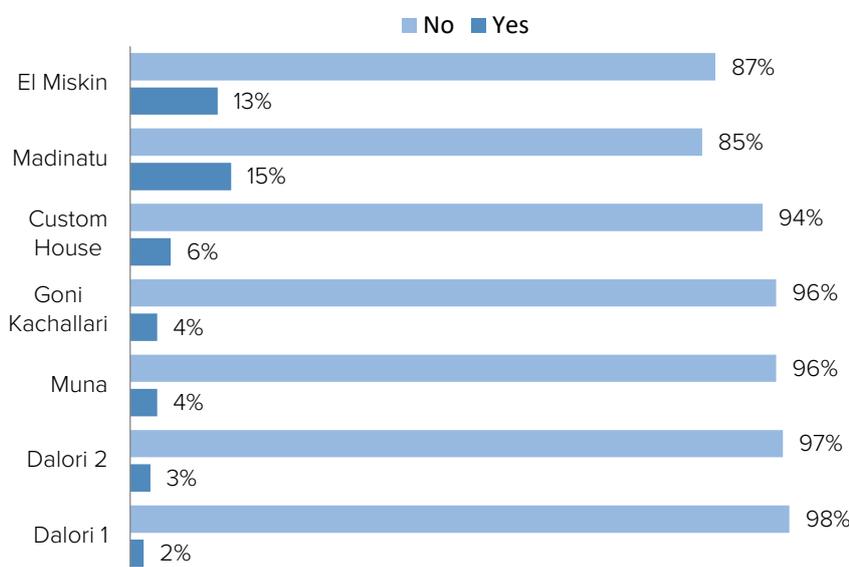
movements and that the very large number of IDPs in the camp made it easy for children to leave camp with so-called job givers without anybody taking note. Adult IDPs also accompany visitors out of the camp to do menial jobs for them. These IDPs are reportedly paid less than 500 naira a day for massive work mostly in farmlands.

- In **Mogcolis camp**, where reports of labour exploitation and labour trafficking were highest (64%), most respondents said they have on one occasion or the other stepped out of the camp into the city to find work, with about half of them confirming that they were offered jobs in farmlands outside Maiduguri for payments less than 5,000 naira a month. Camp leaders informed the assessment team that visitors often came to the camp requesting for IDPs they can recruit to work in farmlands outside of Maiduguri and in neighbouring Niger. In most cases, these visitors departed with a number of IDPs. The fact that the Mogcolis camp is the only IDP camp in Maiduguri situated in the heart of the city probably explains why IDPs often came in contact with persons who offered them. Between January to May 2019, more than 60 IDPs, some as young as 10, departed the Mogcolis camp to work in rice farms in the north-western city of Kano, where they were paid less than 10,000 naira every month. Six returnees from Kano (all below 25 years of age) who participated in the assessment said they decided to abandon their jobs and return to the camp because they were often forced to do the jobs they were not initially told they would do and that they were paid so little compared to the amount of work they did. Key witnesses reported that persons claiming to work for NGOs often visited the Mogcolis camp, without official authorization from the concerned government agency, requesting for children “to train and give jobs” outside of Maiduguri. Such persons, they said, visited five times in 2018 but were not allowed to take any child away from the camp.
- In **Dalori 2**, camp leaders reported that persons who claim to be relatives of IDPs often visited the camp and talked to displaced persons about jobs outside of Maiduguri. The camp manager explained that between January 2017 and May 2019, more than 50 persons, some as young as 13, have left the camp to work in different places, doing jobs like bricklaying and farming. While just a few of these IDPs keep in touch with friends and families back in the camp, others have left without a trace. There were more IDPs in Dalori who claimed to have relatives or know someone familiar in urban towns than in any other camp.
- In **Farm Centre**, camp leaders reported that agents often visited the camp to recruit IDPs to work in tomato and onion farms in Maiduguri. The agents receive pay, usually 500 naira a day, from job givers on behalf of the IDPs often but give less than half of what they receive to the workers. The assessment team observed that security personnel at the entrance did not do adequate checks on persons who visited the camp, only recording names and addresses of visitors without finding out the purpose of their visits. Key witnesses reported that agents who visited the camp often gave fake names and addresses to officials who are often not interested in finding out more about these visitors.
- In **Madinatu** and **El Miskin camps**, children between the ages of 11 and 16 who worked in farmlands very close to Maiduguri reported that they were made to work for more than 10 hours a day without food, and paid an average of 200 naira a day by agents who found them the job. A 12-year-old boy in Madinatu, who worked in farm near Maiduguri, explained: “You have to be on your feet working from 8am to 6pm. If the owner of the farm sees you resting or if he thinks you have not completed your job for the day, he will order the agent not to pay you.” The two camps were the only IDP camps,

of all 14 surveyed, without the presence of state or civil security personnel, and movement of IDPs and visitors in and out of the two camps are neither checked nor controlled.

- About 6% of all respondents in Muna, Dalori 1, Dalori 2, Goni Kachallari, Custom House, Madinatu, and El Miskin camps reported being approached by persons who offered them jobs when they went to collect water some metres away from their camp. Key witnesses attributed the limited water supply in the camps to the lack of energy/fuel to constantly power the boreholes available.

Response to the question, “have you ever been approached and offered a job by someone who saw you when you went out to collect water?” Feedback from 270 respondents in Dalori 1, Dalori 2, Muna, Goni Kachallari, Custom House, in Madinatu, and El Miskin.



## Sexual exploitation & Sex Trafficking of Female IDPs

36% of respondents in all 14 camps surveyed reported moderate to high levels of sexual exploitation.

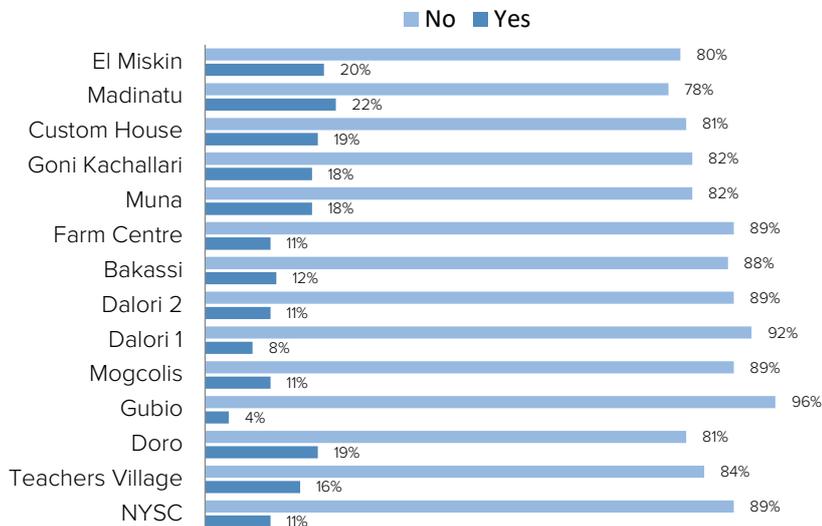
**Note:** The findings revealed multiple cases of sexual exploitation in all 14 camps where respondents reported incidents of children and youth being sexually abused through the exchange of sex or sexual acts for food, firewood, shelter, and money. But because many victims were reportedly transported by their exploiters to other communities and introduced to new persons who also exploited them (in some cases victims were forced or coerced into performing sexual acts), the assessment team was able to establish that victims of sexual exploitation are susceptible to sex trafficking.

Respondents across the 14 IDP camps surveyed described single girls and women between the ages of 14 and 30 as being extremely vulnerable to sexual exploitation and sex trafficking. The majority of the victims were exploited while searching for firewood or water or resorting to survival sex. The perpetrators are mostly security officials in the camp. Given the rate of stigma and culture of silence around the subject, it can be

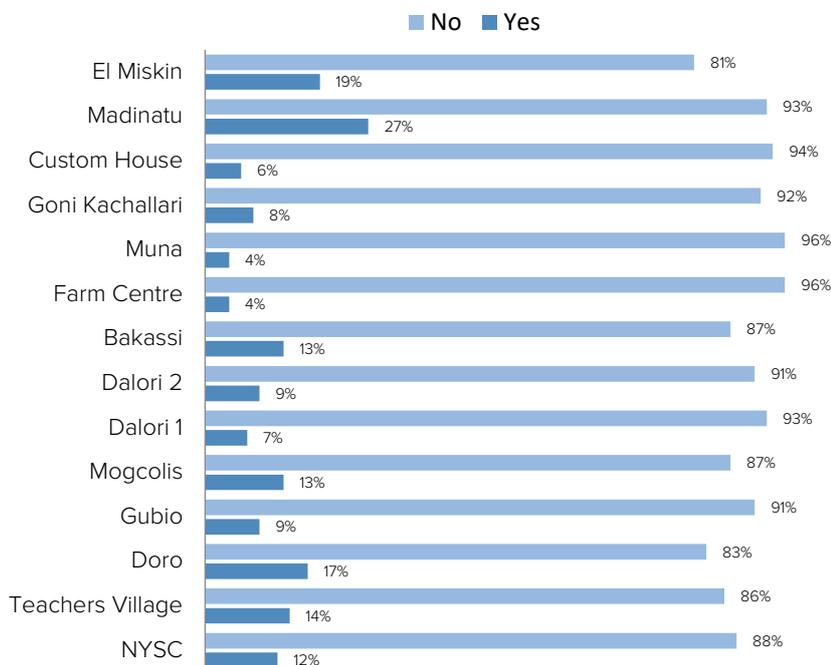
presumed that cases of sexual exploitation are most likely severely underreported. Severe livelihood challenges – such as difficulty in getting firewood, irregular food and water supply, and poor shelters – was reported by respondents as main factors behind sexual exploitation in the camps. Female IDP, mostly single women under 20 years of age, are often sexually exploited when on their way to collect firewood or water; when begging for money on the streets; and when spending nights on the streets as a result of poor shelters in camp. A significant number of female respondents reported meeting persons who demanded sex from them when they begged for money on the streets (12%); when on their way to collect firewood some kilometres away from their camps (14%); and when they spent nights on the streets due to poor shelters in their camps (5%).

- Reports of sexual exploitation were highest in Bakassi (77%) which is the only IDP camp situated very close to a hotel. Respondents attributed the high rate of sexual exploitation in the camp to the fact that perpetrators could easily take their victims to the and nearby Maiduguri Sheraton Hotel, about 100 meters away, which is “relatively cheap.” Key witnesses reported that state security officials, who exploit women and girls in the camp, travel with their victims to places as far as Kano and Gombe in what constitutes sex trafficking. The assessment team observed as about a dozen female IDPs, likely between 15 and 25 years of age, separately walked through the gate of the nearby Maiduguri Sheraton Hotel during the night on a Tuesday. Some were accompanied by state security officials. Many respondents reported that female IDPs spend between one to two months at the Maiduguri Sheraton Hotel with the state security officials that take them there and that at least 10 female IDPs have been away from the camp for more than three months with their whereabouts unknown. Some were last seen leaving the camp with officials.
- In NYSC, Dalori 1, and Farm Centre camps, respondents said they have, on at least one occasion, seen state security officials step out of the camps either on foot or in tricycles with female IDPs who are single and appear to be under 25 years of age. In most cases, the women did not return to the camp on the same day. Many respondents in the camps attributed the high cases of sexual exploitation to the difficulty in reporting incidents of abuse perpetrated by state security officials, as officials in these camps (and also in Bakassi), unlike those in the other camps surveyed, usually do not display their names or number tags on their uniforms.
- In Madinatu and El Miskin camps, respondents reported that security officials who visit the camp to distribute food on behalf of donors often demanded sex from female IDPs in exchange for food. Key witnesses attributed the frequent exploitation of women and girls between the ages of 13 and 25 in the two camps by visiting security personnel to the fact that IDPs rarely received food assistance from anywhere, making it easy for officials to take advantage of their desperation for food to demand sex before giving anything to them.
- In Doro camp, key informants reported that a significant number of female IDPs who are single were involved in prostitution as a means of making money, with some of women and girls travelling with their clients to places outside Maiduguri. Female IDPs are often sexually exploited by persons they approach for assistance, or those who promise them help, outside their camps. Respondents blamed the high rate of prostitution by female IDPs on limited livelihood opportunities. Doro was the only IDP camp in Maiduguri without the presence of state security officials and without the usual monthly food supply from NEMA.

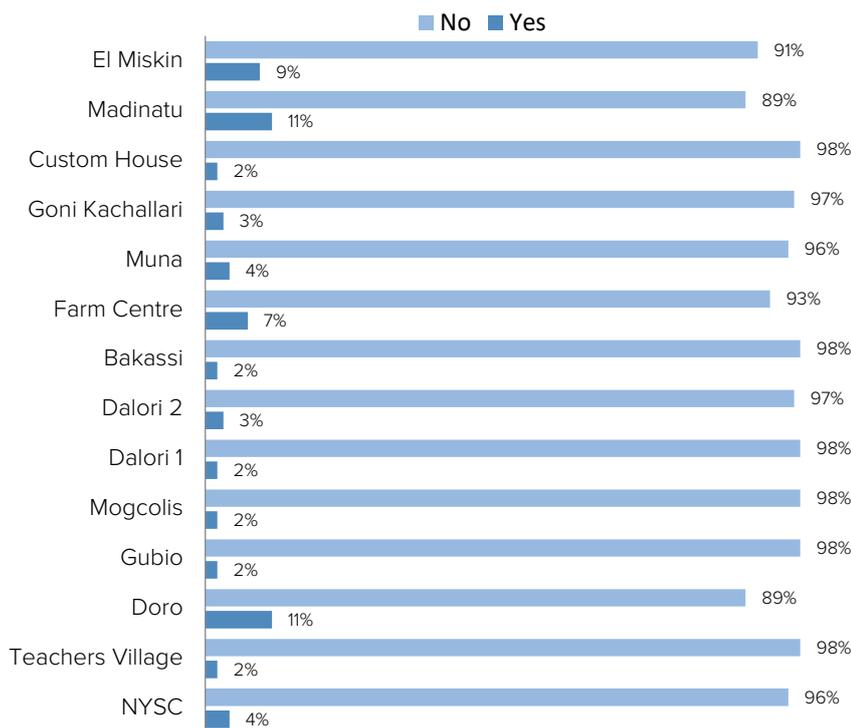
Response to the question, “have you ever met someone who demanded sex from you when on your way to collect firewood?” Feedback from **280** individual interviews, **56 FGDs**, and 60 KIIs in all **14** camps surveyed.



Response to the question, “have you ever met someone who demanded sex from you when you begged for money on the streets?” Feedback from **280** individual interviews, **56 FGDs**, and **60 KIIs** in all **14** camps surveyed.



Response to the question, “have you ever been approached by someone who demanded sex or offered you a job during the period you slept on the streets due to inadequate shelter?” Feedback from **280** individual interviews, **56 FGDs**, and **60 KIIs** in all **14** camps surveyed.



## Trafficking of IDPs in Farm Centre and Madinatu by cartels to the Gulf region and North Africa

**39%** of IIs/FGDs/KIIs in Farm Centre and Madinatu camps reported moderate to high levels of trafficking to the Gulf region and North Africa.

Although it was generally difficult to ascertain if most movements out of IDP camps amounted to human trafficking, the assessment team was still able to establish clear cases of human trafficking in the Farm Centre and Madinatu camps where young women were trafficked to the Gulf region and North Africa. Both camps had serious security gaps which traffickers utilized. Although there is significant presence of security personnel in Farm Centre camp, these officials often did not do adequate checks on persons who visited the camp, only sometimes recording names and addresses of visitors without finding out the purpose of their visits and without keeping records of movement of IDPs in and out the camp. The situation was worse in Madinatu, where there is no presence of either state or civil security officials and where there are no records of IDPs in the camp and visitors assessing the camp. Key witnesses reported a couple of cases of trafficking to the Gulf region and North Africa which are noted below:

- In Farm Centre, key witnesses reported that a 25-year-old, who was last seen in the camp in early April 2019, called a close friend of hers later in the month to inform her that she was now in Saudi Arabia working somewhere as a housemaid. She explained that she was taken to the country by a woman who lived a few kilometres away from the camp. The victim, who complained of being “maltreated” by her host, regretted making the trip and told her friend, “I desperately want to return home.”

- In Madinatu camp, key witnesses reported cases of trafficking of female IDPs between the ages of 15 and 21. Between January 2017 and November 2018, 9 female IDPs have been trafficked out of the camp. Mothers of five different girls aged between 17 and 19 reported that their daughters had called to inform them that they were currently living in Saudi Arabia as commercial sex workers. A group of persons first took two of the ladies (both aged 17) out of the camp in July 2018 and then returned in November 2018 to take the other three aged 17, 18, and 19. These persons gave monies to the mothers of the victims before taking their daughters away. Similarly, a 21-year-old single lady reported that, in November 2018, she stepped out of the camp with a man who promised to take her to Europe to study in college. She made the journey to Libya but had suffered massive abuse along the way. She described being beaten and spat on by armed bandits who attacked the vehicle carrying her and other migrants on the day they arrived in Libya and explained that her experience in the country was "worse than hell." The young lady returned to Madinatu in early 2019 after being deported by Libyan authorities. Narrating how she met her trafficker, she said: "He walked up to me one morning, told me he came to the camp to help young people complete their education, and asked if I was interested in studying abroad. When I said 'yes', he arranged for me to travel to Italy."

## Factors that make IDPs vulnerable to trafficking

The following are the key vulnerabilities that expose IDPs to being trafficked.

### Lack of livelihood opportunities

*12% of respondents reported meeting persons who demanded sex or offered them jobs when they begged for money on the street.*

Begging on the streets for purpose of achieving better livelihoods was reported by most respondents to be "highly prevalent" in all 14 camps surveyed, and an act that puts IDPs at risk of being exploited or trafficked. Although NEMA regularly distributes food items to each household, in the camps in Maiduguri, key informants in Bakassi, NYSC, Dalori 1, Dalori 2, Teachers Village, Mogcolis, Gubio, and Doro camps reported that these food items often arrive after 50 days, long after most families have exhausted their supply. Camp leaders in the IDP camps in Jere reported not getting regular food assistance from NEMA or NGOs. The poor food situation in all 14 camps surveyed was responsible for thousands of IDPs, mostly women and children, taking to the streets, begging for food and money.

- Almost 22% of respondents in all 14 camps admitted being involved in street begging, an act they said they got involved in to be able to raise money to buy food, firewood, and other personal needs.
- Respondents in all 14 camps reported that they were, on at least one occasion, offered menial jobs by someone they had approached for money.

## Search for firewood

**14% of respondents in all 14 camps surveyed reported being approached by persons who demanded sex or offered them jobs when on their way to collect firewood.**

Discussions with the population across the 14 locations revealed that the search for firewood puts female IDPs at greater risk of being exploited than any other situation. Although each household, regardless of the number of individuals involved, is given foodstuff every month by NEMA, IDPs have to walk long distances, in some cases up to 20 km, away from the camp to buy firewood or charcoal which they use to cook. The situation puts IDPs at risk of not only coming in contact with sex and labour traffickers when they go out of their camps in search of firewood, but also in danger of being kidnapped by persons who are suspected of being human traffickers. In Muna, Goni Kachallari, Custom House, Madinatu, and El Miskin camps, key witnesses reported incidents of kidnapping, and possible trafficking, of IDPs who left their camps in search of firewood. IDPs in these camps were more vulnerable to kidnappings because there more likely to find firewood in faraway bushes, where armed personnel are known to operate. The assessment team took note of incidents of kidnapping which are listed below:

- At the start of May 2019, 4 IDPs in Muna camp (3 males and 1 female), all in their twenties, who went out in search of firewood were believed to have been kidnapped as they had not returned at the time the assessment team visited the camp on May 11, 2019. Since the middle of 2018, as many as 20 IDPs who stepped out of the camp in search of firewood have not returned. It is believed that they have been kidnapped and trafficked.
- In Goni Kachallari, camp leaders informed the assessment team that between January 2017 and April 2019, about 30 IDPs who went out of camp in search of firewood have not returned. They are believed to have been kidnapped and, possibly, trafficked.
- Key witnesses in Custom House reported a case of kidnapping in August 2018 involving a 35-year-old man who was abducted by armed men as he went into the bush in search of firewood.
- In Madinatu, key witnesses informed the assessment team that between January 2017 and April 2019, about 50 IDPs, including children, who stepped out of the camp either in search of firewood or water, never returned. They are believed to be kidnapped and sold by armed men engaged in the business of human trafficking.
- In El Miskin, camp leaders also reported that between January 2017 and April 2019, about 20 IDPs, including children, who stepped out of the camp in search of water or firewood never returned. Just like in Madinatu, these persons are suspected to have been kidnapped and trafficked by armed gangs.

## Limited access to clean water

**6% of respondents in Dalori 1, Dalori 2, Muna, Goni Kachallari, Custom House, Madinatu, and El Miskin camps reported being approached by persons who demanded sex or offered them jobs while they attempted to collect water outside their camps.**

Respondents in Muna, Dalori 1, Dalori 2, Goni Kachallari, Custom House, Madinatu, and El Miskin described the struggle to get clean water as “disturbing.” Although there are boreholes situated in these camps, some of them are either in bad shape or do not have the energy needed to power them, forcing IDPs to trek up to 3km to fetch water in private or public boreholes. IDPs in these camps face the possibility of being trafficked when they go out of their camps in search of water.

- IDPs in Madinatu face the highest risk, as up to **15%** of respondents reported being approached by persons who offered to give them jobs outside their camps while on their way to fetch water.

## Poor Shelters

***5% of respondents in all 14 camps surveyed reported being approached by persons who demanded sex and offered them jobs after poor shelters forced them to leave their camps.***

IDPs living in poor, dilapidated tents in all 14 camps surveyed blamed the “very terrible” living condition in their camps as the main reasons why they spend most nights in nearby market stores, uncompleted buildings, and in fuel stations especially during the rainy seasons. They also reported that spending nights in those places puts them at risk of being abused by strangers. Focus groups comprising of single women, reported being pestered by persons who sought to sexually exploit them during the period they slept on the streets.

### Poor camp security in Goni Kachallari, Muna, Madinatu, El Miskin, and Doro camps

***70% of respondents in Doro, Muna, Goni Kachallari, Madinatu, and El Miskin camps reported moderate to high levels of poor camp security.***

Key informants in Doro, Muna, Goni Kachallari, Madinatu, and El Miskin reported cases of missing IDPs, who were last seen in the camp a night before. Some, they suspect, may have been kidnapped and, possibly, trafficked. Unlike in the other nine camps surveyed, none of these five had state security personnel stationed in the camps which explains why numerous cases of kidnapping were not reported in those places. It was not clear why there were no security officials posted to the camps.

- From January 2018 to April 2019, 3 IDPs have been missing without any clue in Doro, 2 in Muna, 4 in Goni Kachallari, 17 in Madinatu, and 12 in El Miskin. Camp leaders explained that “no one saw them leave the camp and no one knows how they got out of the camp.”
- In Madinatu, insecurity was described as “alarming” by key informants who reported numerous cases of kidnappings inside the camp, the latest being in October 2018 when persons armed with daggers and short knives walked into the camp in the middle of the night and abducted three girls, all below 18. The parents of the girls informed the assessment team that their daughters were taken to a community in neighbouring Yobe state where they spent three weeks in captivity before escaping from their captors, who intended to take them to Niger.

## Limited access to Education

***72% of respondents in all 14 camps surveyed reported moderate to high numbers of primary school age children not accessing education.***

Respondents in virtually all the camps surveyed reported severe education challenges. Most of them attributed this to poverty, as children have to work to support their families. Parents generally cannot cope with paying some of the levies that are required for children in public schools. Many others have withdrawn their children from school because of the far distances their children walk to achieve education. The implication of not attending school is that children do not get to receive updates about human trafficking dangers that a few NGOs give in many schools, especially in Maiduguri. Many young IDPs who are able to attend school face numerous challenges, ranging from safety to quality of learning. Children who trek long distances to school face the risk of being trafficked, especially due to their young ages and because they go through the same routes in which suspected traffickers often meet and approach IDPs who are on their way to collect firewood and water. Missing out on quality education translates to missing out on important information about human trafficking that children can get in schools.

- In Gubio, for example, key witnesses reported that children under 13 years of age, who attend primary school 4 km away from the camp, are fond of flagging down moving vehicles and asking for lifts while trekking to school. These witnesses fear that more than 300 schoolchildren who leave for school every morning, escorted by an octogenarian leader of one of the communities in the camp, are at risk of being kidnapped and possibly trafficked. The octogenarian community leader, who escorts these children to school, informed the assessment team that in one particular incident in December 2018, the vehicle some of the children flagged down while they were on their way to school, lifted a few kids and drove them past their school, heading towards the metropolis. The children fortunately ran out of the car when it was forced to stop at a traffic point.
- In Bakassi and Custom house, where there are schools situated within the IDP camps, there are often no adequate teachers and materials for teaching.
- In general, most children below 18 reported that they have never received education about human trafficking or heard anything about human trafficking in their lives.

## Recommendations

Based on the assessment conducted, the following recommendations are formulated:

1. Humanitarian and development actors should scale up efforts to ensure the availability of livelihood activities. Economic empowerment support to IDPs through provision of income-generating activities and business start-up and vocational trainings would address some of the root causes of exploitation and reduce vulnerability to human trafficking.
2. Humanitarian actors and government entities could liaise with the Presidential Committee on the North-East Initiative (PCNI) to explore funding opportunities to address key protection issues.
3. Alternative cooking energy solutions such as solar cookers and community cooking should be explored to prevent IDPs trekking long distances in search of firewood and facing the risk of coming in contact with human traffickers.
4. Additional boreholes should be provided in IDP camps in order to solve the water challenges and prevent IDPs from the risk of coming in contact with human traffickers while attempting to collect water outside their camps.
5. UNHCR should intensify advocacy for the NAPTIP and the National Orientation Agency (NOA) to increase mass sensitization and raise greater awareness about human trafficking and impact on IDPs.
6. UNHCR should liaise with the department responsible for child rights in Borno State to bring attention to the issue of child labour and should conduct area specific workshops for camp leaders as well as state and civil security personnel to sensitize and educate them on the dangers of human trafficking.
7. Additional shelters should be built in IDP camps will prevent IDPs from seeking refuge on the streets which exposes them to human traffickers.
8. UNHCR should step up advocacy with the State Ministry of Education to seek solutions for challenges in education.
9. Support mechanisms geared towards individuals who have survived human trafficking should be established to allow them to reintegrate economically and socially and live in decent conditions.