

# North-East Situation Update

November 2020

UNHCR and Ministry built nearly 900 emergency shelters to protect internally displaced people (IDPs) in November.

UNHCR's Protection, Human Rights and Border Monitoring site visits reached nearly 80,000 IDPs, IDP and refugee returnees in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states.

UNHCR supported issuing over 4,400 pieces of civil documentation for IDPs, returnees and locals to prevent statelessness.



A girl quenches her thirst from a UNHCR jerry can at a water point in Bakassi Camp, Maiduguri, Borno State. © UNHCR/Danielle Dieguen

# Operational Highlights

- The security environment in North-East Nigeria remained volatile as a result of violence and **insecurity** caused by Non-State Armed Groups (NSAG) and counter-insurgency operation by the security forces. In Borno State, security incidents affecting areas where UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency operates, included NSAG gruesome slaughtering of dozens of civilians including IDPs in Jere Local Government Area (LGA) on 29 November, which was condemned by the Humanitarian Coordinator. NSAG also attempted to infiltrate the IDP camps in Dikwa, Banki, Monguno, Damboa, Gwoza, Pulka, Bama, Ngala, Damasak among other locations. Illegal vehicle checkpoints on main supply roads of Maiduguri-Monguno axes and Dikwa-Gamboru/Ngala axes continued to serve for robbery and loot passengers of their money, personal effects and food. On 25 November 2020, in Bindundul village along Gubio-Damasak road NSAG seized petroleum products and carted away with two trailers of food items to Damasak for an international NGO. Abductions, too, continued to pose a threat to civilians, including humanitarians.
- Humanitarian access to Damasak, Mobbar LGA, was further compounded when the UN Humanitarian Air Services suspended their flight on 11 November 2020 following Small Arms Fire between security forces and NSAG.
- An unexploded ordnance was discovered in Wege Extension IDP camp in Pulka, Gwoza LGA during protection monitoring.
- Fires broke out in Monguno, Pulka, Gwoza, Dikwa, Ngala, Rann camps and destroyed the humble belongings of IDPs, increasing their need for shelter, food and non-food items (NFIs).
- Adamawa State continued to see a surge in criminal activities, especially kidnappings and in Yola North and Yola South, while in Yobe State, NSAG attacked and destroyed properties in Buni Gari, Gujba LGA. Although the security forces repelled the attacks, it generated panic and tension among the residents. Herdsmen attacks on farmers were recorded in Goniri and Ngirbuwa return communities in Gujba LGA.
- **Cross-border movements:** In November, 1,888 individuals (662 families) crossed the Niger, Cameroon and Chad borders into Nigeria, of which 82% (1,548) were Nigerians while 18% (340) were Cameroonians. These cross-border movements were triggered by insecurity in the country of asylum as a result NSAG attacks, fear of attacks or military operation. The Nigeria Immigration Services (NIS) in partnership with UNHCR also recorded 390 refugee returnees from 155 households that spontaneously returned to Nigeria: 169 individuals from Cameroon, 209 from Niger and 12 from Chad. Damasak saw the largest number of entries, by Banki and Ngala.
- **Other movements:** These same factors along with the need for family reunification and socio-economic difficulties triggered the displacement of 66 men from Konduga and Baga LGAs in Borno State into the IDP camp in Kukareta, Yobe State. Over 1,700 people in Rann, Kala Balge LGA, mainly women, moved to Cameroon to search for menial jobs to sustain their families.
- The Borno State Government continued to facilitate the return of IDPs to their areas of origin as planned. In November, 500 households were returned to Marte LGA. IDP returnees have fled insecurity in 2014 into the camps of Farm Center, Muna El-Badawee, Madinatu and Bakassi. A few of the IDPs that the government has returned into Ngoshe and Kukawa, Baga LGA, have gone back to Monguno, Teacher Village Camp and Pulka indicating limited access to livelihoods, NFIs and absence of local integration programmes at the places of return as their reasons for this movement.



## PROTECTION

### Protection Sector Coordination:

Protection meetings continued to take place at the LGAs and the State levels. At the LGA level, the Protection Sector Working Group held meetings in Gwoza, Monguno, Bama, Jere, MMC, Banki, Pulka among other locations. UNHCR and/or protection partners on ground chaired the meeting to strengthen communication, coordination and collaboration among actors on protection related issues. In the meetings, gaps were also discussed, and solution-oriented actions recommended for implementation. At State level, due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the meeting was held through teleconference.

### Protection Monitoring

- UNHCR worked with ten national and international partners to provide protection and multisectoral assistance through **legal assistance** and court representation, advocacy, capacity building, awareness

and sensitization, sexual and gender-based violence related services, psychosocial counselling, material assistance and protection safety nets.

- UNHCR, partners and humanitarian actors continued to engage stakeholders, IDPs and returnees on **COVID-19 Risk Communication** and Community Engagement (RCCE) including during border monitoring, temperature screening and other preventive measures at the entry points; Damasak, Gamboru Ngala, Pulka (Gwoza) and Banki (Bama) in Borno State and Mubi in Adamawa State. The objective is to curb the spread of COVID-19 amidst scepticism by IDPs, returnees and host community members about the existence of the pandemic. In November, UNHCR covered 29 locations in 24 LGAs including in Borno State (Bama, Damboa, Dikwa, Gamboru-Ngala, Gwoza, Jere, Kala-Balge, Konduga, MMC, Mobbar, and Mungono); in Adamawa State (Fufore, Madagali, Maiha, Michika, Mubi North, Mubi South, Yola North, and Yola South); and in Yobe State (Damaturu, Bade, Machina, Geidam, and Gujba).
- In November, UNHCR and partners conducted over 1000 **protection monitoring** mission and site visits including Protection, Human Rights and Border monitoring. They reached **79,913 IDPs, IDP returnees and refugee returnees** (27, 089 men; 33,714 women; 8,347 boys; 10,763 girls) in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe States.
- In November, 4,615 households of 26,960 displaced individuals were screened for vulnerabilities in 11 LGAs of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States, of which 4,983 categorized as vulnerable individuals with **specific needs**: 3,565 women (female-headed households, lactating and pregnant women), 1,145 elderly, and 273 children with specific needs (child marriage, child-headed households, adolescent parents, unaccompanied/separate minors).
- UNHCR also conducted 2,152 key informant interviews (KII) using the **community protection monitoring** tool. The data analysed helped to provide direct strategic approach, advocacy and real-time response to protection issues in the Adamawa, Bay and Yobe states. In November, the 81 major incidents reported by KII were recorded and analysed with protection monitoring tools. They included Gender-Based Violence (GBV, 48%), NSAG attacks (12.8%) abduction of civilians (10.4%), physical assault (9.6%), destruction of properties (3.2%), robbery (2.4%), family separation, fire outbreak, forced eviction, return of persons formerly associated with NSAG, and witchcraft (1.6%), and land dispute, looting, presence of improvised explosive devices/explosive remnants of war and presence of NSAG. The LGAs most affected were Bama, Dikwa, Mobbar, Kala-Balge and Jere. The identified incidents were referred for appropriated services, while some of the cases are undergoing follow-up.

### Protection Response

- **Awareness-raising sessions and sensitization:** A total of 49,401 IDPs, returnees, and host community members participated in 1,098 awareness-raising sessions organized in the Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States (Men: 12,993 Male; Women: 17,298 Women; Boys: 8347 Boys and Girls: 10,763). The theme covered issues identified during protection monitoring, Focus Group Discussions and community engagement meetings and included security and safety, referral pathway, and peaceful coexistence, and GBV prevention and response and risk mitigation, as well as COVID-19 risk communication, and community engagement. All activities were conducted in compliance with COVID-19 preventive measures.
- **Training and capacity building:** UNHCR and partner conducted a one-day training for 35 members of the security forces and paramilitaries in Gwoza and Ngala on internal displacement, International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) at the Government lodge Gwoza and protection desk in Ngala respectively. As a result of the training a gender desk officer/focal person in the Military and para-Military formations will be set up for easy communication and coordination on GBV and protection issues. A total of 87 individuals, including from UNHCR partners such as the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), attended virtual UNHCR-facilitated, training sessions on child protection in emergencies and stateless people, organized on 27 November.
- **Advocacy interventions:** 41 advocacy and community meeting sessions in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States reached 323 individuals. Besides, in Borno, UNHCR led advocacy to the security forces on the humanitarian and civilian character of camps in Gwoza. The security forces responded promptly and committed to follow-up on the issues. In Yobe State, UNHCR partners conducted advocacy to community leaders for assistance to refugee returnees in Bulamari community-Maisandari ward and Filin Tanda-Lawan Fantanmi Ward in Damaturu and Bade LGAs.
- **Access to Justice:** In November 2020, 17 cases from Bama, Ngala and Dikwa were brought to attend court sessions in Maiduguri on Civil and GBV cases including cases of inheritance, maintenance and assault. In November, UNHCR and partners Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) supported the issuance of **4,400 certificates of indigene** to 2,200 returnees in Borno State, and 2,200 returnees in Adamawa State. Beside Nigerian Bar Association together with the International Federation of Female Lawyers

held four sessions on legal counselling/enlightenment on SGBV and fundamental rights at Malkohi IDP camp in Yola North LGA. A total of 120 IDPs, mainly women, attended the sessions.

- **Referrals:** In November, 1,764 cases identified through protection monitoring and self-reporting were referred to access various protection services. Of the total cases referred, 59% represented serious medical conditions, 11% required shelter support, 6% food, 5% livelihood, 3% GBV and legal services respectively.

### Challenges

- Inaccessibility or limited access to certain areas of operation due to insecurity;
- UNHCR protection and multisectoral assistance continue to be affected by the reduction of targets to meet WHO requirement of physical distancing to prevent and curb the spread of COVID-19.
- Challenges in maintaining the civilian character of the IDP camps (NSAGs infiltration, military presence);
- Ineffective/inexistent civil registration and ID management systems in areas hosting IDPs and returnees;
- Limited access to services /no available service for referral (Child Protection, food, livelihoods, shelter) in IDP camps and areas of return compelling IDPs to resort to negative coping mechanisms for their survival;
- Absence of judicial structures and personnel hindering IDPs, returnees and host communities' access to justice in most LGAs.



### CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT, SHELTER AND NFIS

UNHCR and partner continues to provide Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) to 8 camps.

- **Shelter and Non-Food Items:** In Borno State, UNHCR and partners distributed 2,877 NFIs such as blankets and jerry cans to new arrivals in Bama, Damasak, Bakasi, Mongonu, Banki, Ngala camps to mitigate protection risks faced due to lack of assistance upon arrival in these locations.
- **UNHCR built 695 emergency shelters** in Water board and Gana Ali camps in Monguno together with the Ministry for Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, and Resettlement and **200 emergency shelters** in Stadium IDP camp Maiduguri. UNHCR has also commenced the construction of 500 emergency shelter in Ngoshe, Gwoza LGA for IDPs returned by the government.



### LIVELIHOOD AND PROTECTION SAFETY NETS

- 841 households in return communities (Yolde Pate, Rumde Baru , Kofare PW, Nassarawo) in Adamawa State received start-up kits after two months of skills acquisition training on five different skills which included tailoring, soap making, beads and bag, shoe making and carpentry. The objective is to strengthen these households economically for their self-reliance
- 542 people engaged in agriculture (Bama, Ngala, Damasak, Damaturu & Gujba) received one litre of pesticide each while 81 individuals engaged in livestock farming received ten bags of animal feeds each. In Maiduguri, ten cooperatives engaged in fish farming were each provided additional inputs - one fish tank, five bags of feeds and 300 catfish.
- In Damasak, Mobbar LGA, UNHCR, through its implementing partner Borno Women Development Initiative, distributed 1,000 fuel-efficient cooking stoves to recently arrived refugee returnees to mitigate risks associated with access to cooking fuel.

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