

North-East Nigeria

December 2020

Over **10,000 displaced people** were **screened for vulnerabilities** across **Borno, Adamawa** and **Yobe** states.

UNHCR reached over 68,000 IDPs, IDP and refugee returnees in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states **through project monitoring and site visits**.

3,800 beneficiaries were attended at **Protection Desks** where they received **multilingual information on COVID-19 prevention**.

Operational Highlights

- In December, North-East Nigeria continued to witness intense **attacks by non-state armed groups** (NSAG). Following an attack in Toumour (Republic of Niger) on 12 December 2020, several families crossed into Nigeria. As at 31 December 2020, 150 Nigerian refugees had arrived in Damasak from Niger. In addition, 10 Nigerien asylum-seekers were recorded.
- In Borno State, an NSAG attacked farmers on their farmlands on 3 December to rob, among other things, food during harvest. On 28 November, about 40 farmers were killed by NSAGs in Zabarmari village in the outskirts of Maiduguri, the State capital.
- Illegal checkpoints on roads have become a daily practice for NSAG especially in Northern Borno. In the first week of December alone, 17 such **illegal vehicle checkpoints** have been mounted in 4 LGAs (Local Government Areas) allowing NSAG actors to rob valuables and vehicles as well as abduct or injure some passengers. An estimated nine individuals were **abducted** including drivers and humanitarians. Furthermore, an INGO vehicle was robbed in Damasak, and the hired driver abducted.
- In Adamawa State, NSAG increased activities with a surge in armed conflict and **criminal activities** especially in Gombi LGA where they attacked Garkida town, burned properties, abducted some people and killed others.
- In Yobe state, the ongoing campaign of terror by NSAG mostly around Gujba, Geidam and Gulani axis continued to cause **displacement**, tensions between herders and farmers and increasingly threatened the fragile social coexistence in the return communities of Goniri, Gotala Gotumba and Kukareta.
- Despite the official entry points remaining closed due to COVID-19 preventive measures, **cross border movements** were recorded in the four **entry points monitored by UNHCR** and partners in Banki, Damasak, Ngala and Pulka. 2,851 individuals, the majority women and girls, moved in and out of Nigeria with 49% of the population recorded in Banki, 40% in Damasak, 8% in Ngala and 3% in Pulka. Nigerians accounted for 80% of the recorded movements, the rest were Cameroonians. The major triggers for movement in the period included family visits (37%), spontaneous return from countries of asylum (17%), job opportunities (16%) and forced displacement due to insurgency and counter insurgency (11%). Other triggers were access to services in camps in Nigeria, seasonal migration and COVID-19 fears.
- Multiple internal displacements continued to be recorded in the BAY (Borno, Adamawa and Yobe) states, notably in camps and host communities in Borno and Adamawa. In December, **7,249 new arrivals** were recorded. The movements were triggered by family reunification reasons, socio-economic difficulties, fear of attacks.
- **Spontaneous returns of refugees** continued in December. 202 individuals were **registered** by the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) in partnership with UNHCR: 120 from Cameroon, 82 from the Republic of Niger (through Damasak).

**PROTECTION**

UNHCR protection partners continued to maintain presence in the BAY states amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and provide life-saving humanitarian assistance and protection services to mitigate risks and address needs of forcibly displaced people.

- In December, UNHCR and humanitarian actors conducted over **2,370 interviews with key informants**, Focus Group Discussions and observations which were used for **in-depth analysis of protection**, human rights violations and associated risks. This helped to provide the much-needed advocacy and real-time response to protection issues in the BAY states.
- **UNHCR and partners reached 48,088 forcibly displaced people** through project monitoring missions and site visits (protection, Human Rights and border monitoring) in BAY states. 790 of the protection monitoring mission/sites visits (some 45%) covered Borno State (reaching 27,720 individuals, mainly women and children).
- In Adamawa and Yobe states, UNHCR and partners conducted about 350 and 650 project monitoring missions and site visits respectively. They **reached** more than **20,000 IDPs, IDP returnees, and refugee returnees**.
- In December, 1,950 households comprising of some **10,200 displaced individuals were screened** in ten LGAs in Borno State, four LGAs in Adamawa and two in Yobe state **for vulnerabilities**. 2,056 people were identified as most vulnerable individuals.
- 3,796 IDPs, returnees and members of the host communities accessed the 21 protection desks in ten locations for services and information: Maiduguri, Jere, Damboa, Gamboru Ngala, Dikwa, Monguno, Bama, Konduga, Gwoza and Mobbar LGAs. Education and communication materials on protection services included **preventive information on COVID-19 in English, Hausa and Kanuri**.
- **56 visits to detention facilities** were undertaken in Borno (44) and Adamawa (12) states. Cases of arbitrary detentions (prolonged detention beyond the legal limit) were identified and some advocacy conducted to end these situations.

Protection Sector Coordination

- In December, protection meetings continued to take place at the LGA and State levels. At the LGA level, Protection Sector Working Group meetings were held in Damasak, Bama, Banki, Gwoza, Pulka, Ngala, Monguno and Maiduguri. All meetings were chaired by UNHCR and/or its protection partners. At these meetings, protection issues were discussed, and solution-oriented actions recommended for implementation. At State level, Protection Sector Northeast meetings were held virtually due to the COVID-19.

Challenges

- Absence of health actors, especially in Monguno.
- Increased cases of theft and shelter vandalization. Lack of effective security measures at night to track down criminals through night patrols.
- Volatile and unpredictable security situation impeding access in deep-field locations and thereby affecting operational delivery of assistance to vulnerable IDPs and returnees.

**CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT, SHELTER AND NFIS**

- UNHCR and partner continued to provide Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) to **eight IDP camps**.

**LIVELIHOOD AND PROTECTION SAFETY NETS**

- UNHCR's livelihoods partners continued to provide technical support, mentoring and monitoring to beneficiaries of related interventions following the provision of start-up kits to support their businesses across 13 LGAs in the BAY states.

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