

North-East Nigeria Operational Update

June 2022

UNHCR conducted vulnerability screening for more than 10,000 individuals (over 1,000 households) in 16 LGAs in the Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe (BAY) States, and about 2,000 individuals, including elderly people and children, were found to be vulnerable.

UNHCR and its partners reached over 126,000 individuals during protection, human rights, and border monitoring missions and site visits in the BAY States, with Borno recording the highest number of beneficiaries.

With the help of the Borno State Government, more than 2,000 Nigerian refugee households returned to Gwoza LGA from the Cameroonian border community of Kérawa, Kolofata Sub-Division of Far North Region, having been displaced for six months.



During World Refugee Day 2022 commemoration, held at Shehu Sanda Kyarimi Primary School, IDP children with UNHCR, humanitarian and government partners, teachers, and students, planted a tree in symbolic unity to recognise the courage, strength, resilience, and humanity of displaced people worldwide in rebuilding their lives @UNHCR/Francis Garriba.

Operational Highlights

- In June 2022, there was a persistent armed conflict between government forces and Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) in the BAY States affecting over 200 IDPs, host community members, Internally Displaced Person (IDP) returnees, and refugee returnees. This further hindered UNHCR and other humanitarian organisations from providing protection and assistance to the displaced populations.
- During the reporting month, UNHCR, displaced people, and partners joined people around the world in commemorating World Refugee Day. The theme of this year is, “Whoever, Wherever, Whenever, Everyone Has the Right to Seek Safety,”. **The event was an occasion to build empathy and understanding for the plight of millions of Refugees, IDPs, and host community members forced to flee from violence, persecution, war, and other forms of crisis worldwide**, including in the North-East and Nigeria, and to recognise the courage, strength, resilience, and humanity in rebuilding their lives. The commemoration featured various activities such as presentations, drama, debate, football matches, and tree planting.

POPULATION MOVEMENTS

- More than **14,000 new internal displacements were recorded in 22 LGAs across Adamawa and Borno States**. The factors responsible for these movements include - military operations, poor living conditions in camps and camp-like settings, the quest for family reunion, insufficient humanitarian assistance, fear of attack, and communal clashes.
- UNHCR and its partner, Nigeria Immigration Services (NIS), **registered more than 400 Nigerian Refugees (180 households) who returned spontaneously** from Cameroon, Chad, and Niger, **in the BAY States**. Over 90 percent of the spontaneous refugee returnees were not registered in their respective countries of asylum.
- On 28 June 2022, UNHCR, INTERSOS, Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), Displacement Tracking Matrix team, and Nigeria Red Cross Society conducted a joint rapid assessment to verify **over 1,000 Cameroonian refugees who arrived in Madagali, Michika and Mubi LGAs in Adamawa State following unrest in the Far North Region of Cameroon**. The assessment found that 1,576 Cameroonian asylum seekers, mostly women, children, and the elderly, had indeed arrived in Adamawa State and are in need of food, non-food items (NFIs), shelter, and healthcare.
- On 11 June 2022, with the help of the Borno State Government, **more than 2,000 Nigerian refugee households returned to Gwoza LGA from the Cameroonian border community of Kirewa**. The population had deserted the community for over six years and fled to Kolofata Sub-Division of Cameroon due to the ongoing NSAG activities. Before their arrival, the Borno Government had constructed and rehabilitated primary healthcare facilities, a general hospital, and boreholes for the returnee households, besides providing unspecified material assistance.
- With the government-led returns in the BAY States, the affected population are likely to be exposed to various protection risks, as these **movements often end up in secondary displacements and provoke secondary house occupation as the returnees are unable to proceed to their ancestral homes** for fear of attack by NSAG members. Another challenge faced by the displaced persons is the inability to move beyond the military perimeters to fetch firewood or do farming. Women and children who had tried to do so in high-risk LGAs in Borno State has reportedly been killed or abducted. UNHCR continues its advocacy for the improvement of the living conditions in overcrowded camps and reception centres to prevent and mitigate this risk.

**PROTECTION****PROTECTION SECTOR COORDINATION**

In June, Protection Sector Working Group and CCCM held coordination meetings at LGA and State levels to enhance greater synergy among UN agencies, national and international non-governmental organisations to respond to protection issues concerning affected populations. The meetings sought to strengthen communication, coordination, and collaboration among such actors to address protection gaps, especially in the field. UNHCR plays the lead role in coordinating Protection and CCCM / Shelter / NFI Sectors in the BAY States.

PROTECTION BY PRESENCE, PROTECTION MONITORING

- In June, UNHCR and its partners **reached over 126,000 individuals during protection, human rights, and border monitoring missions and site visits** in the BAY States, with Borno State recording the highest number of beneficiaries due to the wide geographical coverage and severity of needs.
- UNHCR **screened more than 10,000 individuals (over 1,800 households) in 16 LGAs in the BAY States**. Of this figure, about 2,000 vulnerable individuals, including elderly people and children, were identified. Through such vulnerability screening and registration, UNHCR identifies people at heightened risks and undertakes effective humanitarian planning for targeted assistance. UNHCR provided NFIs to about 800 of the identified vulnerable households.
- A total of **2,391 IDPs, IDP returnees, refugee returnees, and host community members accessed UNHCR's 30 protection desks in 10 LGAs in Borno State**. Complaints related to health and medical conditions, specific needs, and inadequate access to basic services, access to justice, denial of resources or opportunities, limited access to food, shelter, livelihoods, and NFIs as well as forced marriage were reported. The complaints were either referred through partners or through the existing community mechanisms for dispute resolution called Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). Feedback was provided to the concerned people through the UNHCR's Community Help Desks in Borno and Adamawa States.
- UNHCR and its partner's Human Rights Monitors from the National Human Rights Commission **visited more than 80 corrective and penitentiary facilities in the BAY States** and referred cases of misdemeanour, matrimonial squabbles, and rape, to the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA) for follow-up. UNHCR also advocated for the return of the courts to hard-to-reach LGAs in Borno State to ensure the prompt administration of justice.
- More than 53 **safety and security incidents** such as NSAG attacks, abductions, killings, and rape were reported in the BAY States. UNHCR continues to advocate with State and local authorities for improvements in the security context, especially in deep field locations.

PROTECTION RESPONSE

- UNHCR, and its partners **sensitised over 44,000 IDPs, IDP returnees, refugee returnees, and host community members across the BAY States** on peaceful co-existence, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA), referral pathways, child protection, and Gender-Based Violence (GBV), maintenance of infrastructural facilities in camps and out-of-camp settings. The sensitisation helped to empower concerned populations in making informed decisions regarding their displacement situation.
- UNHCR and its partner, Caritas Nigeria, continued to strengthen Child Protection systems and structures through identification, training, coaching and mentoring of community-based Child Protection committees and parents/caregivers on foster management and positive parenting skills. In the Bama, Banki, Maiduguri Municipal Council, and Monguno locations in Borno State, the child protection team **sensitised more than 3,000 IDPs, IDP returnees,**

and host community members on child protection, and children's rights, while also implementing activities at the child-friendly spaces.

- In some LGAs in Adamawa and Borno States, UNHCR and its partners **trained more than 100 protection stakeholders** on project management and analysis, relocation strategies, community-based approach, and prevention and response to GBV and PSEA.
- UNHCR **distributed 800 improved NFI kits to vulnerable IDPs and refugee returnees** in different LGAs in Borno State which helped mitigate the NFI gaps. UNHCR and its shelter partner, the Ministry of Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, and Resettlement (MRRR), constructed 600 new emergency shelters and repaired 400 emergency shelters to improve the state of the reception centre in Dikwa to contain influxes of new arrivals.
- During the month, UNHCR and its partners **conducted visits and advocated for intervention and response to the protection of people of concern in camps and host communities**. In Borno State, advocacy efforts were made to acquire a piece of land within the Government Secondary School (GSS) camp in Gwoza for the construction of shelters to decongest the reception centre. The shelters will be used by IDPs, IDP returnees and refugee returnees. Meanwhile, in Adamawa State, UNHCR and its partner, NBA, visited the Zone III Headquarters of the Nigeria Police Force, and community leaders to brainstorm on the heightening rate of criminality in IDP communities in the State, with the goal to find a lasting solution to these security challenges. More than 700 IDPs, IDP returnees, refugee returnees, and host community members were involved in the community meetings and consultations as part of feedback and accountability to the affected population.
- In 10 LGAs across Borno and Yobe States, UNHCR and its partner, NBA **issued indigene certificates to over 18,000 IDPs, IDP returnees, refugee returnees, and host community members (10,000 males and 8,000 females), as well as birth certificates to more than 38,000 IDP, IDP returnees, refugee returnees, and host community children (17,000 boys 20,000 girls)**. In Nigeria, indigene and birth certificates serve as proof of ancestry and help displaced people access services such as national identification cards, the opening of bank accounts, and school enrolment for adolescents and help prevent statelessness. UNHCR and NBA also obtained letters of administration for IDP and returnee children in the BAY States who lost right of inheritance to the properties left by their deceased parents due to absence of will. They also provided legal counselling to over 200 IDPs and returnees on human rights and referral pathways to access justice in case of abuse or violation of rights.
- UNHCR's partner, NBA, **represented more than 100 IDPs, IDP returnees, and refugee returnees in the court across the BAY States while referring others to access appropriate services**. The concerned persons were involved in cases such as infringement of fundamental human rights, rape, Housing, Land and Property issues, matrimonial disputes, assault, criminal trespassing and bribery. Meanwhile, NBA secured an order to discharge and acquit an IDP who had been in detention at the correctional facility in Gombe Division for four years for an offence that the complainants could not prove. Some of the cases were resolved through the existing ADR in the communities.
- UNHCR and its partners **engaged with more than 5,000 stakeholders, IDPs, IDP returnees, refugee returnees, and host community members** in the BAY States on issues of Risk Communication and Community Engagement pertaining to COVID-19.



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT, SHELTER AND NFI

- During a monitoring visit to the 500 Estate which is allocated to IDPs and IDP returnees in Banki, UNHCR and INTERSOS CCCM team **discovered that the beneficiaries were facing an acute lack of water** in the area. To address this challenge, UNHCR and partners have advocated for the construction of water hand pumps at the housing estate that would reduce the security risks faced by returnees who otherwise have to walk long distances to fetch water.

- In June, UNHCR and INTERSOS CCCM team **sensitised more than 90 individuals on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)** in some communities in Banki, Borno State. The sensitisation sought to encourage community members to report SEA cases either verbally through focal points and call centres or in writing through SMS and suggestion box.



LIVELIHOOD AND PROTECTION SAFETY NETS

- UNHCR and partner, Caritas Nigeria, provided agricultural inputs to **700 IDP returnees and refugee returnees (171 men, 529 women) to support rainy season farming as well as training on best agronomic practices. 160 individuals received livestock** to support their livelihoods. To ensure durable solutions, UNHCR continues to seek innovative ways to ensure that affected populations in North-East Nigeria can access livelihood opportunities to improve their well-being and dignity. This approach aims to ensure that the affected population can gradually meet their basic needs, restore their dignity, and make returns durable.
- In Borno and Yobe States, UNHCR and the American University of Nigeria (AUN) **distributed start-up kits and agricultural inputs to over 1,000 individuals, trained in crop farming, fish farming, livestock production, vocational skills, micro-businesses, and cap making.** UNHCR and AUN are exploring avenues to link the beneficiaries as groups to other funding sources and structures that can support their business ventures as part of UNHCR's broader objective to facilitate financial inclusion.

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UNHCR is grateful for the following support:

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Softly earmarked contributions: Germany 37 million | United States of America 33 million | Private donors Australia 8.7 million | Canada 5.6 million | Private donors Germany 2.6 million.

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