

North-East Nigeria Operational Update

August 2022

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Over **600 refugees (270 households)** spontaneously returned from neighbouring countries and were registered by the Nigeria Immigration Services (NIS) in different locations in the BAY States.

Close to **14,000 IDPs, IDP returnees, refugee returnees, and host community members** accessed UNHCR's **30 protection desks** in Borno State, with complaints such as lack of access to basic services.



A kids club of the UNHCR Child Protection Project, supported by Muslim World League (MWL) in Borno State, North-East Nigeria, debating on the importance of girl-child education during a visit by MWL to Borno State. Because of the ongoing humanitarian crisis in the North-East, thousands of children are out of school, and girls are more affected. @UNHCR/Francis Garriba.

Operational Highlights

- In August, Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) **attacked, abducted, and killed IDPs and IDP returnees**, mostly female farmers, in Gwoza, Bama, Banki, and other host communities in Borno and Yobe States. Meanwhile, government security forces arrested some NSAG members who attempted to infiltrate some liberated communities in the BAY States.
- In Borno State, NSAGs mounted illegal vehicle checkpoints (IVCP) on the Maiduguri-Nganzai and Maiduguri-Monguno main supply routes, **robbing commuters of cash, phones, fuel, and food items**.
- In Adamawa State, **the military apprehended an NSAG leader after raiding some crime-ridden communities**. Meanwhile, as the raid continued, more fighters surrendered to government forces, indicating an apparent cessation of violence.
- During the reporting period, 126 safety and security incidents occurred in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe (BAY) States, such as armed attacks, IEDs, abductions, IVCPs, and crime, directly **affecting more than 100 civilians**. Meanwhile, in the same States, severe floods killed many people amidst rising inflation and costs of food items and fuel.
- The Governors of Borno and Yobe States met with their counterparts of the Far North Region of Cameroon (chairman of the Lake Chad Basin Governors Forum) in Maiduguri, North-East Nigeria. They resolved **to reopen schools and markets in their respective areas of administration**, following what they described as improved security conditions in the Lake Chad region.

POPULATION MOVEMENTS

- In August, **over 7,700 individuals were displaced and recorded as new arrivals in different LGAs of Borno and Adamawa States**. They were compelled to move because of military activities, poor living conditions, lack of humanitarian assistance in their locations, family reunification, fear of attack by NSAG members, and communal clashes.
- More than **600 refugees (over 270 households) spontaneously returned from neighbouring countries and were registered** by the Nigeria Immigration Services (NIS) in different locations in the BAY States. Out of this number, over 360 individuals returned from Niger, more than 260 from Cameroon, and seven from Chad. Meanwhile, more than 90 percent of the refugees who returned through Damasak in Borno State and Sahuda and Machina in Adamawa State were reportedly not registered as refugees in their countries of asylum.
- In August, Borno State Government **closed Dalori 1 IDP camp, affecting more than 19,000 IDPs (over 3,900 households), and Dalori 2 camp, hosting over 11,500 IDPs (more than 2,700 households)**. Some affected IDPs moved to host communities in Bama, Gwoza, Kukawa, and Konduga LGAs. In contrast, many others chose to integrate locally into Jere LGA and Maiduguri Metropolitan Council, as they decided not to return to their ancestral homes or villages because of fear and threats of attack by Non-State Armed Groups. Unlike during the previous camp closures, the government gave humanitarian actors time to screen the IDPs before Dalori 1 and 2 camps were closed.
- Camps and other facilities in liberated LGAs and towns such as Gwoza, Damboa, Bama, Banki, Pulka, and Dikwa of Borno State **remained overstretched by IDPs who continuously arrived from inaccessible areas**. As a result, the new arrivals face the same risks as the camp population, which include serious risks such as sexual exploitation and abuse, given the scarcity of resources. In addition, finding foster partners to support

unaccompanied and separated children have become challenging because of the shortage of resources and overall lack of assistance to address the population's needs.



PROTECTION

PROTECTION SECTOR COORDINATION

In August 2022, the Protection Sector Working Group (PSWG) and CCCM held camp-based coordination meetings in different locations in Borno and Adamawa States to strengthen communication, coordination, and collaboration among actors on protection and assistance-related issues. Participants discussed gaps and recommended solution-oriented actions for implementation. Meanwhile, during the same period, the Protection Sector North-East also conducted an onsite mission to Yobe State to strengthen protection coordination.

PROTECTION BY PRESENCE, PROTECTION MONITORING

- Amidst the continued security challenges in North-East Nigeria, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and all its partners **remained present to deliver life-saving humanitarian assistance and protection services** to reduce risk and address the needs of vulnerable IDPs, IDP returnees, refugee returnees, and host community members. UNHCR also continuously led in coordinating the Protection and CCCM / Shelter / NFI sectors in the BAY States.
- In August, UNHCR and its partners **reached more than 1,000 individuals with Key Informants Interviews during protection monitoring**. They also carried out Focus Group Discussions and observations for an in-depth analysis of protection challenges, human rights violations, and associated risks. These were necessary for **determining assistance delivery, evidence-based advocacy, and real-time response to protection concerns** in the BAY States.
- During the month, UNHCR and its partners **screened nearly 14,000 IDPs, IDP returnees, refugee returnees, and host community members** (almost 3,000 households), including over 6,000 males and 8,000 females, in 16 LGAs across the BAY States, to determine their vulnerability and enable effective humanitarian planning and targeted assistance. Approximately 2,800 individuals were identified as vulnerable to specific needs and heightened risks.
- UNHCR and partners **reached more than 76,000 IDPs, IDP returnees, refugee returnees, and host community members**, including nearly 21,000 men, 33,000 women, 10,000 boys, and 13,000 girls through protection monitoring and site visits in the BAY States. Borno State recorded the highest percentage of people reached because of its wide geographic coverage, the presence of multiple partners, and the severity of needs.
- During the reporting period, close to **14,000 IDPs, IDP returnees, refugee returnees, and host community members accessed UNHCR's 30 protection desks** located in 10 LGAs across Borno State. Their primary complaints included lack of access to basic services, poor health, and medical conditions, and lack of access to legal remedies. Most complaints were referred to relevant service providers and partners for appropriate intervention. Meanwhile, other complaints like disputes between neighbours and communities were handled by the existing Community Mechanism for Dispute Resolution and Alternative Dispute Resolution bodies.
- Through its Community Complaint Help Desks, UNHCR and its CCCM partner INTERSOS **sought solutions for over 280 complaints tabled by affected people** in Borno and Adamawa States. Most complaints, which focused on food assistance, shelter, NFIs, and

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, were referred to specialized agencies for the appropriate response.

- More than **5,500 individuals were affected by protection incidents in the BAY States**, including attacks by NSAG members, abductions, floods, communal clashes, the arrest of some NSAG agents, and a cholera outbreak. These incidents, particularly attacks by NSAGs, heightened fears, restricted movements, and disrupted daily activities by the civilian populations in LGAs like Gwoza, Bama, Monguno, and Damboa. Meanwhile, the severe floods resulted in the loss of lives and damaged food and non-food items in affected areas like Madagali and Michika LGAs of Adamawa State and Gujba in Yobe State. Whereas there women continued to be the higher majority of targeted and affected victims of GBV in their communities, perpetrated by fighters and other unknown individuals, the humanitarian community faced continued to have constrained funding opportunities to ramp up support to survivors, especially children forced to marry while in NSAG captivity and later rescued by the military. This constraints continue to undermine the core focus of a survivor centred GBV intervention.
- UNHCR and its partner National Human Rights Commission **visited more than 100 corrective and detention facilities in the BAY States**. The monitoring exercise was a mitigation measure against rights violations such as arbitrary arrest, abuse of power, and intervening on behalf of offenders. During the visits, UNHCR found **172** IDPs, IDP returnees, and refugee returnees, including 162 men, six women, and two boys, who were detained for various offenses like misdemeanour and crime. **UNHCR also helped secure bail for some of the detained minor offenders** while referring others to Nigeria Bar Association for follow-up.

PROTECTION RESPONSE

- In August, UNHCR and partners **sensitized nearly 35,000 IDPs, IDP returnees, refugee returnees, and host community members** across the BAY States, including 8,000 men, 13,000 women, 6,000 boys, and 8,000 girls. Among other things, the individuals were sensitized on the prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, GBV, child protection, human rights, and referral pathways for various services. Meanwhile, because of frequent ERW and IED incident reports, UNHCR and the mine sub-sector actors organized a month-long risk reduction session for affected communities in Bama, Damboa, Ngala, Banki, and Dikwa to reduce risks further.
- Under UNHCR's child protection response programme, **more than 2,000 children and 10 parents participated in different recreational and educational activities** at the child-friendly spaces in Bama, Banki, and Monguno. The activities also featured the enrolment of 203 children for case management of vulnerable family tracing and reunification, medical conditions, and alternative care arrangements. **More than 2,000 caregivers and their children also received NFIs, dignity kits, livelihood training and empowerment, and referrals for specialized services**. The child protection project not only continued to demonstrate improvement in the children's psychosocial well-being but also helped strengthen and nurture their cognitive, emotional, educational, and social development.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR and partners **trained over 90 community members and security forces** on community dialogue and self-reliance in the BAY States. As part of UNHCR's protection environment building, they also planned subsequent training for other government officials, partners, and protection actors in various areas.
- UNHCR and AUN commenced **the second batch of training of over 400 IDPs, IDP returnees, refugee returnees, and host community members** in four different locations across Borno and Yobe States. Meanwhile, more than 500 others, who benefited from the first batch of vocational and farming training, also received financial literacy training. In Adamawa State, UNHCR and Caritas Nigeria commenced **vocational training for over 600**

IDPs, IDP returnees, refugee returnees, and host community members across six LGAs in the State. UNHCR provided two ruminant animals (one male and one female) per household to 200 other displaced, vulnerable individuals in Michika, Madagali, and Mubi South, Adamawa State, to improve their livelihood, uplift their standard of living, and make them self-reliant. Under the cash-based intervention, over 300 IDPs, IDP returnees, refugee returnees, and host community members, drawn from six LGAs in Adamawa, **received NGN 30,000 (US\$75) each to expand their income-generating activities.**

- During the month, UNHCR **distributed 600 improved NFI kits and 200 tarpaulins to 800 IDPs at the Muna IDP camp in Borno State and host communities** in Yobe State. Meanwhile, UNHCR and its partners referred nearly 400 protection-related cases to access various protection services.
- UNHCR and partners **reached over 1,400 individuals**, including stakeholders and sectors, with advocacy activities to respond to protection concerns in camps and host communities in the BAY States. In Borno State, the protection concerns included child protection gaps, a shortage of judges, and inadequate water for sanitation facilities. In Yobe State, UNHCR and partners advocated with stakeholders on increased access to services by affected communities and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. Similarly, the organization also held **consultative meetings. It focused on group discussions with more than 160 people such as opinion leaders, stakeholders, IDPs, IDP returnees, refugee returnees, and host community members** on community mobilization, prevention, and response to protection and GBV-related issues, as a way of providing feedback to affected populations.
- In the BAY States, **UNHCR and NBA facilitated the issuance of nearly 90 letters of administration** for IDPs, IDP returnees, refugee returnees, and host community members who do not have any wills to claim the inheritance of property left behind by their deceased parents or relatives. Meanwhile, in Damasak and Mobbar LGAs of Borno State, UNHCR and NBA **issued birth certificates to almost 4,000 vulnerable children** between 0 and 17 years old.
- During the reporting period, NBA **represented approximately 80 IDPs, IDP returnees, refugee returnees, and host community members** in court cases across the BAY States. The cases revolved around issues of rape, assault, as well as housing, land, property, and matrimonial disputes. NBA secured 15 court judgments in favour of the affected individuals, including physical assault, marital disputes, and child custody or upkeep issues. Meanwhile, some cases were settled out of court and five others through court judgments, including in mobile courts.
- UNHCR and its partners **sensitized over 4,000 IDPs, IDP returnees, refugee returnees, and host community members** on preventive measures and vaccination against the COVID-19 pandemic in the BAY States.



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT, SHELTER, AND NFI

- UNHCR distributed **400 plastic tarpaulins and 200 NFI kits to vulnerable IDPs and host community members** affected by floods in Damaturu LGA of Yobe State. The organization also distributed **another 200 NFI kits to IDP households** affected by a fire at Muna El-Badawee camp in Jere LGA of Borno State.
- Through Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) advocacy, Solidarites International provided **more than 400 shelter repair kits and 400 NFI kits to IDPs** whose shelters were damaged by floods in Ngala LGA of Borno State. CCCM also started the **repairs of 200 damaged shelters** in the same locality.

- After scrupulous identification, selection, verification, and mobilization, CCCM **supported 700 most vulnerable households** in Fulatari IDP camp, Monguno LGA, who were affected by floods, with **shelter repair kits and over 300 hygiene kits**.
- UNHCR and its CCCM partner INTERSOS **allocated shelters to almost 300 most vulnerable households** with large family sizes who had no shelters or were living in damaged shelters at the GSS IDP camp in Damasak LGA.



LIVELIHOOD AND PROTECTION SAFETY NETS

- During the reporting period, **UNHCR rolled out its Urban IDP Outreach Programme** to continue supporting vulnerable individuals affected by the Government's camp closures in Borno State. Using the UNHCR proGres v4 registration tool, the organization and its partners **enrolled 2,184 individuals (357 households), including 1,256 females and 928 males**, from vulnerable families. The enrolled individuals will receive subsistence cash-based assistance to support their basic needs while they undergo capacity enhancement and training in different livelihood skills and activities. After the training, the participants **will be provided business start-up kits and assets** that will enable them to participate actively in economic opportunities and markets in the localities where they are locally integrating as a pathway to solutions.

External/Donors Relations

UNHCR is grateful for the flexible financial support provided by donors globally and those who have contributed directly to the Nigeria Operation. The operation's comprehensive budgetary needs for 2022 stand at 98.2 million. At the end of the reporting period, it was only 36 percent funded.

Direct contributions to UNHCR in Nigeria: United States of America | Country-Based Pooled Funds (UN) | Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum Global Initiatives | European Union | Germany | Spain | Muslim World League | France | Profuturo | Foundation Probitas | Nigeria | Private donors Nigeria | Other private donors

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