

North-East Nigeria Operational Update

May 2023

By 27 May 2023, **2,530 Cameroonian asylum-seekers** who were displaced to Mubi South and Mubi North LGAs in Adamawa State due to attacks by Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) in Cameroon had been registered, with individual biometrics taken.

In May, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) **finalised the construction of 452 shelters, a communal centre, market stalls, classrooms and renovated a health post** at the Labondo Durable Solutions Project in Adamawa State.

In collaboration with its partners, UNHCR **reached over 21,260 Internally Displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, and host community members** in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe (BAY) States following visits to **563 active protection monitoring sites**



Individual biometric registration of cameroonian asylum-seekers in Adamawa State of North-East Nigeria. @UNHCR/Francis Garriba.

Operational Highlights

- On 29 May, Nigeria transitioned into a new government at the federal and state level following the conclusion of elections that took place in February and March this year. In the BAY States, the incumbent governors took the oath of office to continue their second tenure, having successfully been re-elected.
- During the month, the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement for the UN Secretary-General visited Nigeria's Borno and Adamawa States. He witnessed several durable solution initiatives being implemented in the country's north east by the United Nations under the leadership of the Government. As part of his visit, he travelled to Girei Local Government Area to see the **UNHCR-supported Labondo Local Integration Pilot Project. He also engaged with communities in Banki, the site of voluntary return for over 4,000 former Nigerian refugees** since March 2021, facilitated by a Tripartite agreement between UNHCR and the governments of Nigeria and Cameroon.
- In May 2023, **security forces launched “Operation Desert Sanity II” to counter attacks by Non-State Armed Groups**, especially in the BAY States. Besides weakening the capacity of the NSAGs to launch large-scale attacks on civilian targets successfully, many people associated with the fighters continued to surrender to government forces. However, NSAGs still launched predatory attacks on villages located on the fringes of Sambisa Forest, Mandara mountains, Lake Chad, and other enclaves.
- In May, **over 510 civilians, including forcibly displaced persons, were affected by 61 different safety and security incidents in the BAY States**. The incidents included armed attacks, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), abductions, illegal vehicle checkpoints, crime, civil unrest, and hazards. Also, windstorms damaged many UNHCR shelters, affecting more than 480 people, with Borno State recording the highest number of incidents and Yobe the least.
- UNHCR and its partners **joined other humanitarian and development actors in celebrating International Children’s Day**. During the event in Maiduguri, school funfairs and educational activities were organised for IDPs, refugee returnees, and host community members.

POPULATION MOVEMENT

- In March, IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) data indicated that **more than 6,260 people were displaced in the BAY States**. In Borno State, Gwoza, Pulka, Monguno, Ngala, Dikwa, Rann, Bama, Kala Balge, Askira/Uba, and Damboa Local Government Areas (LGAs) received new arrivals. Adamawa also recorded new arrivals in Gombi, Uba, Maiha, Lamorde, Girei, Michika, Song, Yola South, Mubi South, Hong, Numan, and Fufore LGAs, while in Yobe, they were registered in the State capital Damaturu.
- UNHCR and Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) **recorded more than 2,770 refugee returnees and asylum seekers (599 households)**. Spontaneously arriving from Bosso and Diffa in Niger and from the Far North Region of Cameroon, the refugee returnees and asylum seekers entered through Banki, Damasak, Ngala, and Pulka in Borno State and Wuro Alhaji in Adamawa State. More than 90 per cent of the refugee returnees reported that they were not registered in their country of asylum. Whereas most of the refugee returnees, who included persons with specific needs such as female-headed households, pregnant or lactating mothers, and people with serious medical conditions, moved to access better services in Nigeria, reunite with their families, and access livelihood, or like the asylum seekers were fleeing from harassment in their country of asylum.
- As of 27 May 2023, UNHCR and its government partners National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and IDPs (NCFRMI) and Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency (ADSEMA), **recorded 2,530 individuals (895 families) in the Level 2 registration in Mubi**

South and Mubi North Local Government Areas (LGAs), said to host some 6,189 individuals (733 families). Most of the asylum seekers were women and children, including nearly 700 people with specific needs.



PROTECTION

PROTECTION SECTOR COORDINATION

In May, UNHCR and its Protection Monitoring partner, Grassroots Initiative for Strengthening Community Resilience (GISCOR), continued to lead field-level Protection Sector Working Group (PSWG) coordination meetings in Bama, Banki, Damasak, Gwoza, Jere, Maiduguri Metropolitan Council (MMC), Monguno, Ngala, Pulka, and Rann of Borno State. They also held similar coordination meetings in Adamawa and Yobe States, where UNHCR co-chairs the PSWG with the Adamawa State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development and the Yobe State Emergency Management Agency, respectively. Participants discussed protection gaps and recommended solution-oriented actions for implementation. Meanwhile, UNHCR also actively participated in coordination meetings of the Protection Sector North-East (PSNE) held at the State level.

- From 10 – 12 May 2023, **the Protection Sector, in collaboration with protection partners and other stakeholders, conducted an inter-agency refugee protection assessment in Madagali, Michika, Mubi North, and Mubi South LGAs.** Using a balanced approach of quantitative and qualitative methodologies and a sample size of 401, the assessment aimed to understand the broad protection risks and specifically related to Child Protection, gender-based violence (GBV), Housing Land and Property (HLP), and Mine Action (MA), affecting the Cameroonian refugees, host communities, IDP, and IDP returnee populations in the state.
- On 16 May 2023, the Protection Sector and protection partners met with a delegation of the UN Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement. The **discussion revolved around the context in North-East Nigeria and necessary protection safeguards for any solution in the BAY states.** It proposed priority considerations for Solutions to Internal Displacement, focusing on general protection, child protection, GBV, HLP, and MA.

PROTECTION BY PRESENCE, PROTECTION MONITORING

- Despite the security and access-related challenges in the BAY States, UNHCR and all its partners continued to **deliver life-saving humanitarian assistance and protection services** to IDPs, IDP returnees, refugees, refugee returnees, asylum seekers, and host community members to seek solutions to their needs and allay any form of risks confronting them.
- During a household-level protection monitoring, vulnerability screening, and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), UNHCR and its partners **interviewed some 8,400 individuals (1,400 households) using the Protection Sector North-East (PSNE) Harmonized Household Assessment tool.** The tool was launched in April 2023 to replace the site-level protection monitoring and vulnerability screening tools. The vulnerability screening was useful for an in-depth understanding of the protection, human rights violations, and associated risks in the BAY States.
- In May, UNHCR and partners **reached over 21,260 IDPs, returnees, and members of the host community in the BAY States** after visiting some 563 protection monitoring sites where UNHCR operates. The persons reached included 5,271 men, 7,520 women, 3,960 boys, and 4,509 girls.
- UNHCR and National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) **visited 106 corrective and detention facilities** in the BAY States, where they encountered 267 individuals, including 224 men, 36 women, and six boys. The visits were intended to monitor the conditions of the facilities

and detainees to ensure that they were held in tandem with national and international norms. UNHCR is working with the NHRC to support the police with basic hygiene materials to improve police detention facilities.

- During the month, **more than 1,260 IDPs, returnees, and host community members (273 households) visited UNHCR's 30 protection desks** located in 10 LGAs in the BAY States. Most of their complaints concerned persons with specific needs, lack of access to basic services, and health concerns, which were referred for a multi-sectoral specialised response. Meanwhile, 108 complaints were registered through UNHCR's toll-free line, including through voice calls and short messaging services (SMS).

PROTECTION RESPONSE

- In May, UNHCR **completed the construction of shelters at the Labondo Durable Solutions Project in Girei LGA of Adamawa State**. They also completed the construction of a communal centre and market stalls while rehabilitating a health post and two blocks of classrooms. The shelters include durable houses for 452 households, with latrines for individual households. The over 15 hectares of land for the settlement was given to UNHCR by the Girei District Council, with the support of the ADSEMA. A phased relocation of households into the settlement will begin in June 2023.
- UNHCR, partners, and Community-Based Protection Action Groups **reached 16,800 IDPs, returnees, and host community members in the BAY States, including 3,718 men, 6,323 women, 3,098 boys, and 3,661 girls** through awareness raising on safety and security, peaceful co-existence, human rights, and referral pathways in May.
- At the Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) in Bama, Banki, and Monguno, as well as urban locations in MMC, **UNHCR and Caritas organised kids club activities in schools for 58 new in-school children (40 boys and 18 girls) while enrolling 68 children, including 35 boys and 33 girls, for case management** to address their various vulnerabilities such as family tracing and reunification, and medical conditions, while exploring alternative care arrangements for unaccompanied and separated children. Some 591 children also participated in recreational and educational activities at the three CFS, where they creatively interacted with peers to mitigate protection risks within the community.
- In Bama, Banki, Monguno, and MMC, UNHCR and Caritas **enrolled 69 children, including 38 boys and 31 girls, for case management** to address their different vulnerabilities, such as family tracing, reunification, and medical conditions, while exploring alternative care arrangements.
- For the first time, **1,367 children, including 714 boys and 653 girls, participated in recreational and educational activities** at the three CFS in Bama, Banki and Monguno, which provide opportunities for children to interact with their peers and creatively engage them in diverse activities to stay away from risks.
- In May, UNHCR and partners **referred more than 1,660 protection concerns identified during protection monitoring** for multi-sectoral specialised services provided by other response organisations. While cases involving medical conditions were able to access various specialised services, other needs, such as none food items (NFIs) and livelihood requirements, could not be immediately addressed due to limited available response organisations and a lack of resources to cater to these needs.
- Within the sphere of its advocacy interventions and community engagement activities, UNHCR **reached nearly 1,050 IDPs, returnees, and host community members in the BAY States**, comprising 533 men, 328 women, 95 boys, and 92 girls, to address pressing service gaps such as Water, food, NFI and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) needs.

- In its access to justice and legal documentation programme, UNHCR and its partner Nigeria Bar Association (NBA) **facilitated and obtained 48 letters of administration on behalf of IDPs and host community members**, including 35 in Borno and 23 in Adamawa. The letters were administered to people whose parents or relatives died without leaving behind a will to enable them to claim the inheritance or properties left behind by the deceased. Both organisations also provided legal counselling to 119 IDPs and host community members in the BAY States.
- Regarding civil documentation, UNHCR and NBA **issued 12,186 birth certificates to IDP, host community, and refugee returnee children** between the ages of zero and 17. The beneficiaries, who received the documents in Rann, Damasak, Banki, and Damboa, included 3,856 boys and 8,327 girls.
- In May, UNHCR and NBA **registered 68 cases in court on behalf of IDPs, returnees, and host community members**, while representing 13 of them in different courts across the BAY States, including cases like marital issues, breach of trust, and inheritance matters amongst the IDPs. Meanwhile, through the Shariah and Magistrate Courts in Borno State, UNHCR and NBA organised 29 mobile court sittings to entertain cases while securing eight court judgements on cases instituted on behalf of the affected population in the BAY States.
- Regarding its psychosocial counselling and life skills empowerment programs for GBV survivors, UNHCR and Borno Women Development Initiative (BOWDI) **engaged some 47 GBV survivors enrolled for case management and psychosocial support recreational activities and basic counselling**. Also, 38 women and 13 adolescent girls were enrolled for life skills training such as sewing, liquid soap making, cap knitting, crochet/knitting, pasta making and mat/hand fan making at the six Women and Girls Safe Spaces in Borno and Adamawa.
- In collaboration with male and female networks, community volunteers, and school kids clubs, UNHCR and BOWDI **reached 469 individuals with awareness-raising and sensitisation on the importance of community-based complaint and feedback mechanisms (CBCMs) in IDP camps and host communities**. The awareness emphasised the need to use the available CBCMs as channels for providing feedback on services, reporting allegations of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and GBV against self or others, as well as protection against retaliation.
- UNHCR and BOWDI **engaged the services of religious leaders, IDP leaders, host community leaders, youth leaders and others in different communities as go-betweens in the protection of women and girls**. The key stakeholder groups, which included female leadership groups, male engagement groups, and support networks, were to serve as agents of change and provide local context strategic information to UNHCR, BOWDI, and host communities to ensure up-to-date programming on GBV prevention, mitigation, and response. This helped to facilitate community participation and ownership of GBV programming while building the capacity of the local community to identify, mitigate and respond to protection needs and concerns.
- In May, **1,650 vulnerable persons were assisted with standard NFI kits in the BAY States**. In Borno State, the beneficiaries came from three LGAs, including 200 in Bama, 500 in Ngala and 500 in Monguno. In Adamawa, there were 200 from Fufore and 200 from Demsa, while in Yobe, we had 250 from Geidam.
- Meanwhile, **some 850 vulnerable households in the BAY States were equally assisted with emergency shelter repair kits**, including 200 in Bama LGA of Borno State, 250 in Geidam LGA of Yobe, 200 in Demsa, and 200 in Fufore LGAs of Adamawa State.



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM), SHELTER AND NFI

- On 3 and 4 May 2023, Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), UNHCR, and INTERSOS **held a technical workshop to develop guidelines for CCCM Refugee Implementation and a CCCM Reintegration Implementation**.

- In May, CCCM **reached 4,458 individuals living in camps and out-of-camp settings in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe (BAY) States** with community mobilisation and sensitisation on hygiene promotion, fire prevention and response, and GBV sensitisation.
- During the month, there was an impressive increase in the **participation of female forcibly displaced individuals in Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) activities across the Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe (BAY) states, exceeding 50%**. This marks a significant milestone in the advancement of women's empowerment and their active involvement in CCCM operations in the region, reinforcing our commitment to inclusive and gender-balanced interventions.
- In May 2023, **2,410 persons accessed the Information, Communication and Coordination (ICC) centres** for complaints and feedback. These centres continue to play a pivotal role in the Complaint and Feedback Mechanism (CFM) across the Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe (BAY) states, fostering transparency and enabling continuous improvement in service delivery.
- UNHCR continues to actively contribute to improving displaced individuals' lives across the Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe (BAY) States by providing NFIs and emergency shelter kits. These items, which range from basic necessities to construction materials, offer crucial support to displaced families as they rebuild their lives. In locations such as Bama, Fufore, Demsa, and Geidam, as well as Ngala, Monguno, and Banki, these resources are aiding in the repair of homes impacted by heavy rains and windstorms. **A total of 1850 improved NFI kits and 1,120 emergency shelter kits were distributed.**
- UNHCR also **constructed 115 new emergency shelters in Gwoza to decongest existing camps and improve the living conditions** of the displaced populations. A total of 100 emergency shelter repairs were carried out in Dikwa for the affected population whose shelters have been dilapidated.



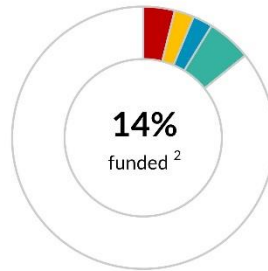
LIVELIHOOD AND PROTECTION SAFETY NETS

- In a bid to foster self-sufficiency and resilience, UNHCR and the American University of Nigeria (AUN) have executed a series of livelihood and protection training programs in the Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe (BAY) States. **A total of 900 beneficiaries, composed of internally displaced persons, refugee returnees, and members of host communities, were empowered through this initiative.** The beneficiaries were trained in various domains, including crop farming for 750 participants, fisheries for 20, livestock production for 45, micro business operations for 65, and vocational skills for 20 individuals. This initiative aims to provide the participants with valuable skills to facilitate their self-reliance and economic stability.

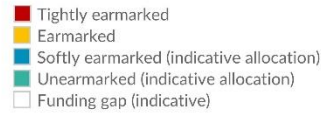
Funding Situation

UNHCR extends its sincere gratitude for the unwavering financial support from global donors and those directly contributing to the Nigeria Operation. **The comprehensive budget for the operation in 2023 is set at \$98.2 million.** However, by the end of the reporting period, we have only reached 14% of this target, underscoring the urgent need for increased support to meet our commitment to those in need.


FUNDING UPDATE | 2023
\$98.2 million

 UNHCR's financial requirements 2023 ¹

NIGERIA

as of 23 May 2023


CONTRIBUTIONS ³ | USD

	■ Unearmarked	■ Softly earmarked	■ Earmarked	■ Tightly earmarked	Total
United States of America	-	-	2,500,000	-	2,500,000
Germany	-	1,624,434	-	-	1,624,434
European Union	-	-	-	612,877	612,877
Spain	-	-	-	496,858	496,858
Profuturo	-	-	-	199,324	199,324
Denmark	-	64,399	-	-	64,399
Other private donors	-	-	21,803	69,703	91,507
Sub-total	-	1,688,833	2,521,803	1,378,761	5,589,398
Indicative allocation of funds and adjustments	5,371,820	710,750	(151,886)	2,430,039	8,360,724
Total	5,371,820	2,399,583	2,369,918	3,808,801	13,950,122

Methodology: Unearmarked funding is allocated and reallocated multiple times during the year to allow UNHCR to fund prioritised activities. This funding update includes an indicative allocation of funds so as to accurately represent the resources available for the country. The contributions earmarked for Nigeria shown above are combined with an indicative allocation of the softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions listed below. This allocation respects different levels of earmarking. Adjustments relate to programme support costs and carry-over.

■ OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS ⁴ | USD

United States of America 7.2 million | Canada 3.9 million | Finland 3.1 million | Private donors Australia 3 million

France | Isle of Man | Luxembourg | Private donors

■ UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS ⁵ | USD

Sweden 69 million | Norway 63.1 million | Denmark 35.6 million | Netherlands 34.1 million | France 26.7 million | Private donors Spain 24.1 million | Germany 23.1 million | Switzerland 18.9 million | Private donors Japan 13.3 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 12.5 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Ireland 11.9 million

Algeria | Australia | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Thailand | Türkiye | Uruguay | Private donors

Notes:

- The financial requirements for Nigeria include requirements for the operation's regular programme and the Western and Central Mediterranean.
- The percentage funded (14%) and total funding amount (\$13,950,122) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of \$84,289,253 representing 86% of the financial requirements.
- Contributions to Nigeria are shown by the earmarking modality as defined in the Grand Bargain.
- Due to their earmarking at the region or sub-region, or to a related situation or theme, the other softly earmarked contributions listed are those which can potentially be used for Nigeria. Where a donor has contributed \$2 million or more, the total amount of the contributions is shown.
- Contributed without restrictions on its use, unearmarked funding allows UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees and other populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Where a donor has contributed \$10 million or more, the total amount of the contribution is shown.

More Information

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