

Vulnerability Screening Round II

Following successful completion of Round I of the vulnerability screening exercise conducted by UNHCR, in collaboration with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMAs) and Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS), in December 2015 for all North East States, Round II of the vulnerability screening data collection commenced in March 2016 in all six North East States with the view to expand the coverage of host communities and areas beyond the over 17,000 households reached in Round I. The objective of the vulnerability screening exercise is to profile the most vulnerable internally displaced at the household and individual level in order to direct assistance to the most vulnerable IDPs by UNHCR and partner agencies, as well as inform the planning of targeted protection interventions. As of the end of April, all data collection for Round II of the exercise was completed and data entry is currently ongoing.



Protection Assessments and Site Visits

In mid-April, UNHCR participated in a multi-sector assessment mission of newly accessible areas to humanitarian in Borno State. The assessment identified serious protection risks in the satellite camps in the recaptured areas, including exposure to sexual and gender-based violence, child protection issues, killings, destruction of property, looting of food and livestock and forced displacement. The population assessed reported fear and severe distress due to extremely high level of trauma and repeated waves of displacement. Limited access to services and livelihoods has rendered people more vulnerable due to restricted freedom of movement in most areas recently captured. The civilian character of IDP camps and settlements has been compromised as there are no civilian actors present.

To follow up on such initial identification of severe protection issues in newly accessible areas, UNHCR is preparing to lead a comprehensive Borno Protection Sector Working Group (PSWG) assessment in Dikwa, Bama, Monguno, Ngamboru Ngala and Damboa Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Borno State from the week of 9 May 2016. Similar preparations are ongoing for a protection assessment of Geidam LGA in Yobe State, pending final clearance for humanitarian access.

According to the analysis done by UNHCR, from January through April 26, 2016, 372 civilians died and 284 were injured. Further, UNHCR identified a total of 6,239 civilians that were released or rescued from areas controlled by Boko Haram in 2016.



Bama, Borno © UNHCR

Operations Responding to the Return of Nigerian Refugees

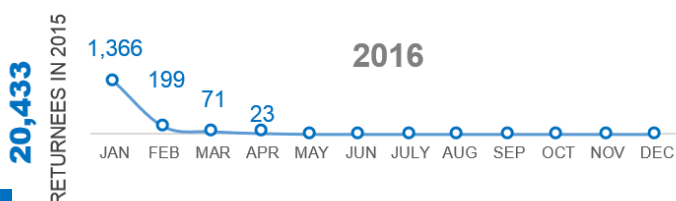
The Cameroonian government has identified over 67,000 Nigerians who returned from Northern Cameroon mainly at the Fotokol border to Gamboru Ngala, Borno from January through April 2016. As of 26 April 2016, UNHCR has registered 22,092 Nigerians who have returned from Cameroon to Adamawa, many under conditions falling short of international legal obligations. In Borno, UNHCR is preparing to put in place registration systems to respond to the return of Nigerian refugees from Cameroon.

UNHCR met with the Acting Federal Commissioner for National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) to discuss the need for to scale up NCFRMI's presence in the Northeast especially in the wake of the rising number of Nigerian returnees from Cameroon. In view to quickly setting up a registration system for returning

Nigerians in Borno, it was recommended that NCFRMI reopen its office in Borno State. UNHCR and NCFRMI are finalizing an arrangement whereby 10 NCFRMI staff members from the protection, registration and community service will be deployed on a joint registration mission with UNHCR in Borno State for a one month period in order to establish a timely registration system at critical border areas with Cameroon.

The Government of Cameroon has shared a draft tripartite agreement with the Government of Nigeria. A Regional Protection Dialogue, supported by UNHCR, is planned for 6-10 June 2016, to take place in Abuja, which will bring together officials from the four Lake Chad Basin countries to discuss critical protection issues including regional durable solutions. The Regional Protection Dialogue will inform discussions over tripartite agreements with Lake Chad Basin States as a mechanism for advocacy on issues such as safe, voluntary and dignified return and international standards relating to forced return and determination of conditions conducive to voluntary repatriation.

MONTHLY RETURNEE FROM CAMEROON



2

Peace Building Interventions

UNHCR and the Institute of Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR) began implementation of the Community Peacebuilding and Coping Strategies Project for Adamawa State. Training programs were jointly carried out for stakeholder from 14 of the most affected Adamawa LGAs on the 26 and 28 April, including traditional rulers, women leaders and youth group leaders, as well as members of faith and civil based organizations. Stakeholders participated actively in the training and pledged their readiness to ensure the project is sustained in their respective LGAs. The project was described by stakeholders as timely and essential to promote peaceful co-existence within the state.

UNHCR, in collaboration with Benue Non-Governmental Organization Network (BENGONET), is planning a joint peace-building project covering the 3 LGAs of Agatu, Logo and Buruku, which are most acutely affected by enduring inter-communal conflict.

Capacity Building

In furtherance of UNHCR-led PSWG advocacy to police on the need for female police officers in IDP camps to search women and handle sensitive sexual and gender-based violence issues, it was agreed that there would be two rounds of PSWG training to female police officers in Maiduguri, Borno. The first round of training for 60 female Police Officers took place from 25-29 April 2016. The five-day training was led by UNHCR, in collaboration with International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), and covered comprehensive protection topics including SGBV, child protection, international humanitarian and human rights standards, humanitarian principles and access to justice. The Deputy Police Commissioner in Borno as well as the Commissioner of Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development opened the training, and the Nigerian Legal Bar Association aided in the facilitation of the portion on legal standards. Training for the second batch of police officers will take place from 2-6 May 2016.

UNHCR is planning a registration training for Immigration Officers in Yobe State for key stakeholders involved in the registration process including State focal points from the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), SEMA and NRCAS. The training is expected to commence the second week of May.



Dikwa, Borno © UNHCR

Protection Coordination

In light of the recent assessment in newly accessible areas of Borno highlighting severe protection risks and incidents, as well as the arrival of 67,000 Nigerian refugees from Cameroon to Borno, UNHCR is finalizing a draft of protection and shelter proposals for Central Emergency Respond Fund (CERF) grants. UNHCR is further finalizing a draft implementation strategy for returnees in Borno state as well as a project for provision of legal services in Borno.

Advocacy

UNHCR, as co-lead of the Protection Sector Working Group (PSWG), conducted targeted advocacy to the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) at the April 27th meeting, recommending that the HCT Task Team on Humanitarian Access group clarify and operationalize the notion of access, lays out the minimum conditions of access and develop a framework for deciding whether the use of armed escort is needed. In establishing a common humanitarian position on armed escorts and issuing humanitarian operational guidance the following considerations were recommended to be taken into account: the option of escort by the police, who will be properly trained on humanitarian principles and standards; resorting too quickly or frequently to armed escorts can undermine efforts to increase respect for international humanitarian law and independent humanitarian action. The HCT, through the newly established HCT Task Team on Humanitarian Access was recommended to facilitate a risk assessment exercise to provide further guidance to agencies.

Material Protection-based Assistance

Subject to necessary confidentiality and data sharing agreements, UNHCR has shared Round I vulnerability screening data with SEMA and PINE and the representatives of the Presidential Initiative for North-East (PINE) to facilitate the targeting of material protection-based assistance in Taraba State.

In order to strengthen protection assistance delivery to IDPs, UNHCR has assigned a Community Service Assistant to work with the World Food Programme (WFP) in targeted IDPs identified as having heightened vulnerabilities for cash based assistance in Maiduguri, Borno State.

Shelter Interventions

UNHCR have been tasked by the Emergency Shelter/Non-Food Item (ES/NFI) Working Group to lead a shelter technical group to assess available space for shelter construction in IDP camps in Maiduguri. The site visits are planned for 3-5 May 2016 and the findings will be presented on 6 May 2016.

The ES/NFI Working Group meeting adopted the new UNHCR shelter model with a verandah as a model to be used by all actors. Following the endorsement of the UNHCR Bakassi site shelter plan, the Presidential Initiative to the Northeast (PINE) was reported to be constructing 200 shelters and afterwards shelters in Maiduguri host communities using the UNHCR Bakassi shelter model.

Government actors including NEMA and SEMA have urged agencies to consider shelter interventions in newly liberated areas of both Borno and Yobe. SEMA Yobe has further recently reported that around 50% of IDPs have returned to their areas of origin in Gujba and Buni-Yadi LGAs. Against such background, UNHCR conducted focus group discussion with IDPs coming from these areas who are still in Kusaisa, Abari and Bukar Aba IDP camps. The IDPs indicated that they are willing to return to their areas of origin but expressed concerns on destroyed shelter, lack of basic infrastructure and lack of assistance and coordinated return plans by the government and humanitarian actors. Some IDPs are mentioned the presence of landmines in farming areas, with unconfirmed reports that 7 people were killed by landmines while clearing their farms. A return intention survey is planned to be conducted in Yobe with the participation of the University of Damaturu.

Following assessment of shelter needs by UNHCR in Bui and allocation of construction site by the government, UNHCR has initiated plans to construct 100 emergency shelter units in Bui through direct implementation.