

# North-East Nigeria Operational Update

July 2022

UNHCR and its partners sensitised more than 46,000 IDPs, IDP returnees, refugee returnees, and host community members across the Borno, Adamawa and Yobe (BAY) states on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, GBV, child protection, human rights, and other protection issues.

UNHCR and American University of Nigeria (AUN) trained over 400 IDPs, IDP returnees, and refugee returnees on livelihoods activities in Bama and Ngala Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Borno State and from Damaturu and Gujba LGAs in Yobe State.

More than 3,000 IDPs, IDP returnees, refugee returnees, and host community members (700 households) accessed UNHCR's 30 protection desks in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council (MMC), Jere, Damboa, Gamboru Ngala, Dikwa, Monguno, Bama, Konduga, Gwoza, and Mobbar LGAs of Borno State.



*A stranded family in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council (MMC) following the closure of official camps by the Borno State Government. Many affected families are stranded in the host communities, who have chosen to remain in MMC owing to the insecurities prevailing in the communities they are supposed to return. @UNHCR/Francis Garriba.*

# Operational Highlights

- In July, **Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) killed IDPs and host community members, while looting and destroying property** in IDP camps in Pulka, Damboa, and Dikwa in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe (BAY) States.
- In Borno State, NSAG members attacked soft targets and mounted illegal vehicle check points, especially on the Maiduguri main supply routes, while in Adamawa State, organized criminal groups continued to raid communities and abduct civilians for ransom. Meanwhile, **host community members, IDPs, IDP returnees, and refugee returnees were constantly attacked and abducted while on their farms or accessing cooking fuel (firewood) from the nearby bushes**. The incidents were reported across the BAY States where UNHCR has presence.
- Security related incidents such as armed attacks, IEDs, abductions, illegal vehicle checkpoints, and crime, among others, affected more than 80 civilians in the BAY States. The situation was compounded by **torrential rains and storms, which led to devastating floods that destroyed thousands of shelters and property** in IDP camps in different parts of Borno and Yobe States. In Yobe State alone, the floods led to the death of several displaced people and damaged 9,402 shelters (some fully and others partially) and NFIs provided by UNHCR, as well as food items provided by the State Emergency Management Agency and WFP.
- In July, **UNHCR, and other anti-trafficking agencies commemorated World Day Against Trafficking in Persons**. During the commemoration, task force members advocated stakeholders and State Ministries of Justice in Borno and Yobe to continuously support and assist survivors of human trafficking, strengthen referral pathways, and improve access to prompt legal services. Traditional rulers, community leaders, woman leaders, youth leaders, IDPs, and refugee returnees were also sensitized on prevention of trafficking in persons.

## POPULATION MOVEMENTS

- Over 17,000 people were displaced in July, among them new arrivals in seven LGAs in Borno State and 14 in Adamawa State. They moved mainly due to improved security, fear of attacks by NSAGs, military actions, poor living conditions in their places of displacement, family reunification, lack of humanitarian assistance, and communal clashes. In Borno State, **most of the newly displaced people went into camps and camp-like settlements as their places of origin remained unsafe** for their return due to NSAG activities.
- In July, **more than 300 Nigerian refugees (137 males and 217 females) spontaneously returned to the country from Cameroon, Chad, and Niger**, and got registered by the Nigeria Immigration Service in Adamawa and Yobe States. It was reported that more than 90 per cent of these returnees were not registered in their countries of asylum.
- During the reporting period, the **Borno State Government returned over 700 households to Soye village in Bama LGA from Dalori 2 IDP camp** in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council (MMC), Borno State. The Borno Government provided household NFIs and cash packages to the returnees.
- The new arrivals in camps **Bama, Pulka, Gwoza, and Banki caused overcrowding in reception centres and shelters, forcing many to sleep in classrooms and in the open air**. Displaced populations were also challenged with persistent lack of alternative sources of energy, which put them at risk as they access unsafe areas such as bushes to obtain cooking fuel. IDPs, returnees, and host community members were also exposed to explosive remnants of war (ERW) as they try to access their farmlands or other sources of livelihoods outside the approved military perimeter in the camps. In a similar incident, seven children

from Bama camp, who went in search of scrap metals, were killed after triggering an ERW that exploded.



## PROTECTION

### PROTECTION SECTOR COORDINATION

During the reporting period, Protection Sector Working Group and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) held camp-based coordination meetings to strengthen communication, coordination, and collaboration among actors on protection and assistance-related issues in the field. Participants also discussed gaps and recommended solution-oriented actions for implementation.

### PROTECTION BY PRESENCE, PROTECTION MONITORING

- UNHCR and its partners **continued to deliver life-saving humanitarian assistance and protection services to IDPs, IDP returnees, refugee returnees, and host community members** to reduce risk and address their needs. The organisation also continued to lead the coordination of the Protection and CCCM / Shelter / NFI Sectors in the BAY States.
- In July, UNHCR **reached over 14,000 people (2,000 households)** through 1,123 Key Informant Interviews and more than 2,600 vulnerability screenings in 16 LGAs in the BAY States. More than 2,000 women, men, the elderly, children, and people with specific needs were identified as vulnerable and at heightened risks. They were, therefore, targeted for assistance such as referral to appropriate services and support. Other activities like Focused Group Discussions helped to provide an in-depth analysis of protection, human rights violation, and associated risks, as well as to inform appropriate assistance, delivery, advocacy, and real-time response to protection of concerns in the BAY States.
- During the month, UNHCR and its partners **reached over 72,000 IDPs, IDP returnees, refugee returnees, and host community members** pertaining to protection, human rights, and border monitoring issues in the BAY States, with Borno having the highest number of monitoring missions due to its multiple partners, severity of needs, and the wide geographic coverage.
- More than 3,000 IDPs, IDP returnees, refugee returnees, and host community members (700 households) **accessed UNHCR's 30 protection desks in 11 LGAs including MMC and Jere, in Borno State**. Their complaints were mainly focused on health and medical conditions, lack of access to basic services and food, legal issues/access to justice, forced marriage, unaccompanied child, GBV cases, and family reunion. Complaints were referred to respective service providers and partners for necessary follow up. Disputes among neighbours were managed through the existing community mechanism for Dispute Resolution or Alternative Dispute Resolution.
- **UNHCR completed construction of seven new protection desks**, including three in Borno State and four in Yobe State. UNHCR and its CCCM partner, INTERSOS, received 400 complaints mostly based on shelter and limited access to food, livelihoods, and NFIs, and continued to provide feedback through the seven Community Help Desks located across Borno and Adamawa States.
- UNHCR and its partner, National Human Rights Commission, carried out over 80 human rights monitoring sessions in the BAY States. The exercise involved the monitoring of State and divisional police corrective and detention facilities as **a mitigation measure against rights violations and abuse**. Meanwhile, cases of misdemeanour and arbitrary arrest were referred to Nigerian Bar Association for intervention and follow-up.

- UNHCR and partner Urban Protection Outreach teams continued to monitor the protection situation of IDPs in targeted communities in MMC and Jere LGA, **while advocating and sensitising the affected populations on mitigating measures and protection concerns**. The presence of the team in the urban community and its general protection activities showed positive impacts, even as UNHCR and AUN began enrolling the IDPs and IDP returnees for livelihoods skills acquisition training.

## PROTECTION RESPONSE

- In July, UNHCR and its partners **sensitized more than 46,000 IDPs, IDP returnees, refugee returnees, and host community members** across the BAY states on sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), GBV, child protection, human rights, and referral pathways for relevant services.
- UNHCR and Caritas carried out different recreational and educational activities at child friendly spaces (CFS) as part of **the organisation's Child Protection response programme supported by Muslim World League in four locations in Borno State**. The activities, which were both indoors and outdoors, targeted over 1,000 vulnerable boys and girls. These activities have greatly improved the psychosocial well-being of the children, while strengthening and nurturing their cognitive, emotional, educational, and social development. Meanwhile, UNHCR and Caritas also trained more than 100 male and female parents and caregivers on foster care management, positive parenting skills/care, and stress management.
- From 25 – 29 July 2022, UNHCR in collaboration with National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), **trained more than 100 individuals** on protection of civilians **from government institutions including ministries, I/NGOs, paramilitary, judiciary, civil society, the House of Assembly, and the military** in Adamawa State. The training included topics such as mandates of UNHCR and NHRC and understanding Human Rights under the Regional, National, and International Instruments. Similarly, 59 Protection Action Group members (35 males and 24 females) were trained on community mobilization, identification of protection risks, gender-based violence, and photography in six LGAs in Adamawa State.
- UNHCR distributed improved NFI kits to more than 2,000 households in the BAY States.
- In July, UNHCR and its partners carried out more than 30 advocacy programmes with stakeholders and sectors to respond to protection concerns in camps and host communities in Borno and Yobe States. The advocacy was on sustained support and assistance to survivors of trafficking in persons, strengthening of referral pathways, WASH, health, and education. The organisation also **held several meetings and consultations with 300 community leaders and other stakeholders** like Protection Action Groups, IDPs, IDP returnees, refugee returnees, and host community members on community mobilization, prevention, and response to protection and GBV-related issues.
- UNHCR, through its partner, Nigerian Bar Association, **facilitated to obtain 50 letters of administration for IDP and refugee returnees** in Borno and Adamawa States who lost right of inheritance to the properties left by their deceased parents due to absence of will. The Agency also held counselling and legal sessions in Banki, Borno State, with IDPs and refugee returnees to educate them on GBV prevention, response, and referral pathways.
- In line with its Access to Justice and Access to Courts programme, UNHCR's partner NBA received over 40 cases from IDPs, IDP returnees, and refugee returnees in BAY States, and **referred to appropriate quarters for intervention or represented the complainants in court sessions**. The cases included rape, housing, land, and property issues, matrimonial disputes, and assault.

- In July, UNHCR and its partners **reached more than 4,000 IDPs, IDP returnees, refugee returnees, and host community members** with COVID-19 sensitisation in the BAY States.
- In July, UNHCR and its partner INTERSOS **registered more than 700 new Cameroon asylum seekers (100 households)** in communities in Michika, Adamawa State.



### CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT, SHELTER AND NFI

- During the reporting period, UNHCR **constructed 300 emergency shelters in Pulka in Borno State and provided NFI kits to 300 affected households** following the destruction of mud brick shelters by torrential rains and storms.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR and CCCM **received over 90 refugee returnees (20 households) in Damasak**, who spontaneously returned from Niger. Meanwhile, the organisation recorded five successful births in Government Secondary School Damasak camp after sensitising the expectant mothers on the need to attend pre-natal clinics and to deliver in recognised hospitals instead of in homes of quack doctors. UNHCR also advocated with competent services in Damasak like Yelwa Health Clinic, FHI360 Clinic, General Hospital, and Mother and Child Health Clinic to provide dignity kits to the pregnant women.
- Following a strict verification exercise, UNHCR and CCCM **allocated shelters to over 200 households in GSS Damasak** and sensitised new arrivals on COVID-19 and precautionary hygiene measures.



### LIVELIHOOD AND PROTECTION SAFETY NETS

- In July, UNHCR and Caritas screened and **commenced vocational skills training for the second batch of over 700 individuals** in six LGAs in Adamawa State. Participants are being trained on tailoring, beads making, shoe making, carpentry, and soap making.
- UNHCR and Caritas **supported 100 vulnerable refugee returnee households with goats** in Mubi North and Mubi South LGAs in Adamawa State and trained them on small cattle farming to improve livelihoods potential. Meanwhile, UNHCR **commenced vocational skill training for 700 vulnerable refugee returnees in six locations in Adamawa State**, while AUN enrolled over 200 vulnerable IDPs and refugee returnees for its second batch livelihoods training in Bama and Ngala LGAs of Borno State.
- Following a capacity building assessment and selection of participants in Borno and Yobe States, UNHCR and AUN **trained over 400 IDPs, IDP returnees, and refugee returnees on various livelihoods activities**.

## External/Donors Relations

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