

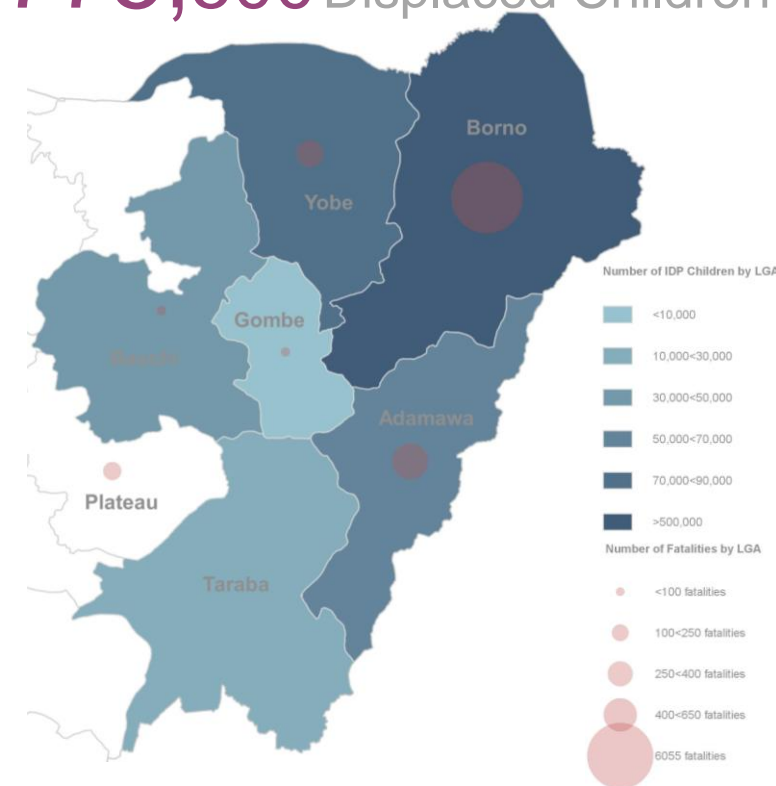
## Nigeria - Child Protection Sub Working Group (CP SWG) What do We Know About Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) – July 2015

### Information on UASC from CP SWG Secondary Data Review<sup>1</sup>

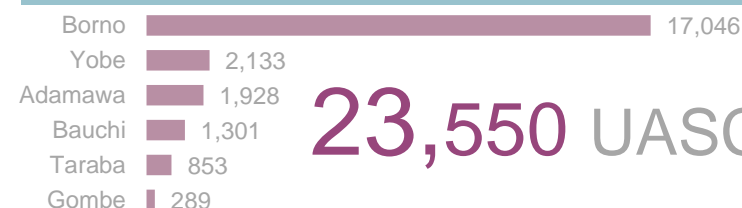
- It is likely that many UASC are living in host communities, and are not easily accessible. (OCHA, June 2015)
- Many adults have taken on the ad-hoc care of children. With the fluidity of IDP movements in the North-East, people are moving several times, which risks UASC being left behind. (OCHA, June 2015)
- There is a need to scale up efforts to identify and document the numbers of UASC, so that an appropriate response can be put in place for them. This will include alternative care and a tracing service. (PSWG, March 2015)
- In 24 communities out of 27, informal foster care with relatives or other community members was reported as the primary care mechanism for UASC, both in the camps and outside of the camps. In 25 communities, key informants reported that they would care for UAC. Based on information gathered during the assessment, parents who are missing children, reportedly check camps first for UAC. In the official camps, government agencies are responsible for placing UAC with foster families inside of the camp. (IRC, March 2015)
- Of the 27 communities assessed, 23 reported separated children in their community due to displacement from Boko Haram attacks in the northeast. (IRC, March 2015)
- According to 19 communities out of the 27 assessed, most separated children were between 5-14. For children under the age of two, of 24 communities who reported on separation of infants, 11 communities said infants were separated from their usual caregivers, the responses were largely anecdotal. (IRC, March 2015)
- In 14 of 27 communities sampled, respondents reported that there are more girls who were separated from their usual caregivers than boys. (IRC, March 2015)
- Many children were unaccompanied before the crisis, headed for or attending Koranic schools, and many more have lost or become separated from their families as a result of the conflict. (OCHA, June 2015)
- The most frequently reported range of unaccompanied children (UAC) per community was approximately 6-10. All 27 communities sampled reported that children had been separated during displacement. Communities reported that there are more girls who were separated from their usual caregivers than boys. Most children separated from their usual caregivers were between 5-14 according to 19 communities out of the 27 communities assessed. (IRC, March 2015)
- It should be noted that the number of UASC provided by respondents is believed to be underestimated. This is demonstrated by the approximately 39% under estimating of UAC in camps sample where the actual number (51 registered UAC) is recorded and can be compared to the estimated number by respondents typically 11-20. (IRC, March 2015)
- Boko Haram conducts surprise attacks on unsuspecting villages. Family members are often in different places, working in the fields or at school. They have to drop what they are doing and flee for their lives. This has dispersed families and left many children separated from their parents or caregivers. (IDMC, April 2015)
- Children have not only become separated from their families in the three States of Emergency: UASC have ended up in many States across Nigeria, including as far away as Edo State, increasing challenges for tracking, tracing and reunification. (OCHA, June 2015)

### Number of Displaced Children<sup>2</sup> and Fatalities Attributed to Boko Haram<sup>3</sup>

**775,500** Displaced Children



### Estimation of Unaccompanied and Separated Children<sup>4</sup>



**23,550** UASC<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> CP SWG Secondary Data Review compiles data related to Child Protection in Emergencies from several sources - <sup>2</sup> A percentage of 56% was applied to displaced population figures in each LGA (Source: IOM DTM Round IV and OCHA) - <sup>3</sup> Fatalities attributed to Boko Haram from January 2014 to June 2015 (Source: ACLED) - <sup>4</sup> A percentage of 1.7% was applied to the displaced population (Source: IOM DTM Round IV) - This is an estimation and it should not be taken as a baseline figure for planning.