

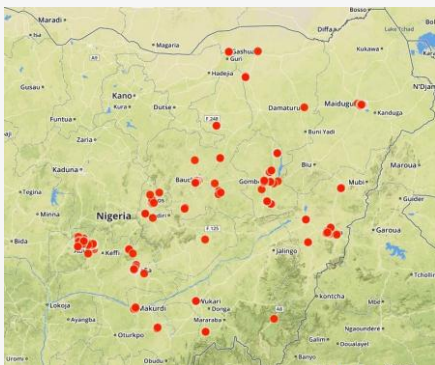
NIGERIA: PROTECTION MONITORING SUMMARY

AS OF AUGUST 2015



314 monitors deployed for protection

to North East and North
Central States of
Adamawa, Bauchi,
Benue, Borno, FCT,
Gombe, Nasarawa,
Plateau, Taraba and
Yobe



Map showing presence of
protection monitors

VISION

Protection monitoring collects and analyses information on protection trends and incidents in the most affected States to ensure appropriate response by protection actors. The summary findings are also shared with the -sector Working Group (ISWG) and Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) as well as other stakeholders in Nigeria. It will be used as a basis for evidence-based advocacy, ensuring sectoral protection mainstreaming, as well as for the referral of cases of protection violations.

WHERE MONITORS ARE

Since April 2015, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) have deployed 314 protection monitors to ten States of the North East and North Central region (Adamawa, Bauchi, Benue, Borno, FCT, Gombe, Nasarawa, Plateau, Taraba and Yobe) to carry out both individual and community-level protection monitoring. Thirty monitors and one State Supervisor were deployed to each of the States, as well as four additional staff members at NHRC in Abuja to supervise protection monitoring. Consultations currently underway to improve the system, among others, by deploying more monitors in areas which host larger number of civilians affected by armed conflicts.

WHAT PROTECTION MONITORS DO

Protection monitors carry out regular individual and community monitoring. Working with communities, monitors use enabled mobile phones to report on violations and protection risks based on questionnaires. For individual monitoring, monitors collect sensitive information from victims, survivors and witnesses of violations and protection risks, to enable responses by protection stakeholders. Information for community monitoring is gathered from key informant interviews and focus group discussions in affected communities on the vulnerabilities and protection issues impacting them. The information collected from the individual and community monitoring questionnaires is then coded to ensure confidentiality and sent to a secure database, which compiles and stores all data. A State Supervisor has been appointed for each State who supervises and coordinates activities by monitors.

SUMMARY FINDINGS AND PROTECTION TRENDS

- *Reported protection incidents* include forced displacement, killings, security incidents, destruction of property, arbitrary detention.
- *Vulnerable groups* include elderly heads of households, single elderly, child heads of household, pregnant/nursing mothers and female heads of household.
- *Pressing needs* of the most vulnerable IDPs involve food, health, education, livelihood and financial assistance, as well as psychosocial support.
- *Top protection issues facing IDPs* include denial of access to assistance and separation of family members, with issues including discrimination, injuries due to armed violence, restricted freedom of movement and harassment/sexual violence thereafter.

KEY PROTECTION ISSUES AT STATE-LEVEL

Taraba

- There were reported calls by the State Government to traditional rulers to ensure that all IDPs return to their places of original residence and that all confiscated land belonging to the IDPs be returned to the returnees. A number of IDPs thereafter returned and attacks have been reported. Returnees in Dan Anacha Village in Gassol Local Government Area (LGA) and in Kortse Village were attacked resulting in the killing of 4 and 3 civilians respectively. There were also reports of killings of returnees who were engaged in clearing their farmlands and houses in Bali LGA. Following these incidents the government has reportedly alerted the police, military and SEMA to ensure that this directive is implemented. Four community leaders were said to have been suspended by the Governor because they were accused of fuelling communal crisis in their areas.
- In Bali LGA, returnees whose farmlands and properties were taken are facing challenges in reclaiming their property.
- In Ibi LGA, about 4 wards remain inaccessible due to insecurity as well as challenges crossing the River Benue. For IDP communities from Maiwuya, Chanchanji, Sarkin Noma, Guiwan Kugi, Bardodo, Dampar 1, Dampar 2, Gungun Abdullai, Jibu and Badodo 2, Tudun Wada, Jigawa mai iyaiya guma and Angwan, security is a major concern.
- Returnees in Wukari LGA reported finding burnt houses and properties upon their return. In addition to immediate distribution of food items, seedlings and fertilizers and medical assistance, IDP communities have requested for adequate security.
- IDPs in Ukum, Kastina Ala, Vandeikya and Gboko LGAs report of discrimination, stigma and isolation.
- IDP children report being out of school because their parents could not afford to put them into schools.

Plateau

- Daily attacks continue in parts of Riyom, Barkin Ladi, Wase, Langtan South and Shedam LGAs of the state resulting in killings and maiming of civilians.
- 25 villages in Riyom and Barkin Ladi have been destroyed due to communal clashes between herdsmen and local farmers. IDPs, though desirous of returning to their farms are unable to for fear of attacks and because their farms and properties have been occupied.
- Schools are occupied by IDPs, creating major challenges to the resumption of school in some localities
- Situation of civilians who are scattered in various settlements in Wase remains grim and the area is largely inaccessible due to insecurity.
- Communal clashes reported in Langtang LGA.

Adamawa

- The number of Nigerians returning from Cameroon through Adamawa has increased through the month of August; an instance of family separation was reported where a group of 38 Fulani cattle herders were rounded up by Cameroonian soldiers in Dabanga area in Kousseri on 19 August and returned to Nigeria. This group reported that they left family members including children and over 2000 cattle in Cameroon. Further information on the location and address of the family members were not provided by the returnees as they chose to leave for Borno state the next day.
- Following on-going security screening of returnees to Nigeria, there were interception of suspected Boko Haram members by Nigerian security actors in Fufore and Mubi, which is also increasing fears among IDPs.
- Communal tension arising in IDP camps on the basis of religion, areas of origin and suspicion of affiliation to Boko Haram has grown.
- Risk of cholera outbreak reported in Yola South due to poor sanitation.

Borno

- Attacks, killings and lootings by Boko Haram elements continue in remote villages. These attacks have left most of the communities inaccessible.
- A new trend of returnees from Cameroon hiring buses from the Sahuda border in Adamawa directly to Borno has raised some security concerns as these groups circumvent the security screening process.
- IDPs in Galtimari informal camp (with a total of 415 IDPs) complained that they don't receive the same level of assistance as is available to IDPs in formal camps.

Yobe

- Boko Haram attacks in isolated villages in Mafa, Konduga and Damboa LGAs in Borno State also affected adjacent villages in Gujba LGA in Yobe State.
- A number of "Boko Haram suspects" in IDP camps in Damaturu were arrested. Authorities have proposed issuing IDP identify cards.
- Communities report arrests and unlawful detentions of youth in Nayi-wara ward in Damaturu town. Some of the youth have remained in detention without access to their family members/legal counsel for a long period.