Note on Protection
Inter-Sector Working Group | 6 April 2016

Protection Situation Analysis

- **Return of Nigerian Refugees:** As of 27 March 2016, 22,069 Nigerians have returned back from Cameroon, many under conditions falling short of international legal obligations. There are anxieties and expectations on imminent return of large number of Nigerians from Cameroon and other neighboring states. It is anticipated that as many as 75,000 Nigerians may be returning back to Nigeria in 2016 and 2017. A regional protection dialogue is being planned, as well as ongoing 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.

- **Return/Relocation of IDPs:** An estimated 300,000 IDPs have returned to their habitual LGAs in Adamawa and relocation of IDPs from six camps to Bakassi and Dalori proceeds in Borno. While acknowledging strong engagement by authorities in Borno with humanitarians on the relocation of IDPs, they are encouraged to ensure respect of protection standards. While return may generally look premature, it is important to underscore the fact that Adamawa and Borno are at different stages, with the latter still not conducive to return due to continued active conflict as well as lack of access to basic services and lack of presence of humanitarian actors. In situations where return is realistic and feasible, authorities and humanitarians must promote safe, dignified and voluntary return of IDPs.

- **Rescue of Captives:** By end of February, a total of 565 civilians were reportedly rescued in Borno. On 22 March 2016, it is reported that 829 abductees were freed by the Army in villages of Kala balge LGA. On 31 March 2016, 21 captives were further rescued in Wulwuta village of Bama LGA. Protection actors are verifying this information and undertaking efforts to gain humanitarian access to these civilians as well as advocate for the reintegration of rescued women and girls.
Insecurity/Targeting of IDP sites: Insecurity is ongoing particularly in the most affected areas in Borno, with 49 security incidents took place in January and February, of which 39 incidents are due to Boko Haram insurgency with 125 civilians killed and injured 109 civilians. The attempted attack on Dalori on 30 January and the February attack on Dikwa Camp (and subsequent foiled attack) marks an alarming trend in the targeting of IDP sites. PSWG is updating the Recommendations on Enhancing Security & Protection around IDP Sites to reflect the changing security considerations.

Achievements in January and February 2016: 146,521 reached by Protection Sector (5% of targeted)

- **PSWG**: 43,709 reached with protection activities (5% of targeted) including 13,471 vulnerable persons provided with targeted material assistance, 10,557 persons reached through awareness raising and community-based initiatives, 14,107 individuals referred to appropriate specialized services, 3,090 vulnerable persons screened/profiled, 1,113 of persons trained, 888 provided with psychosocial support and 451 reached with specific protection services.

- **CP-SWG**: 74,878 individuals reached with child protection activities (9% of targeted) including 72,476 boys and girls reached with psychosocial support through child friendly spaces/child clubs, 570 unaccompanied and separated children identified, 1,341 children at risk and survivors supported through inter-agency case management system and 116 unaccompanied and separated children placed in alternative card arrangements who benefited from follow up.

- **SGBV-SWG**: 28,305 individuals reached with SGBV activities (5% of targeted) including 15,104 persons reached through community sensitization on SGBV and SEA, 12,682 affected individuals reached with timely and appropriate psychosocial support, 141 survivors and vulnerable women and girls provided with dignity kits, 158 vulnerable women and girls accessing livelihood support and 220 number/types of IEC materials using verbal or visual messages produced and distributed.

Expectations from ISWG and members:

- ISWG should ensure dedicated discussion on returns and the contingency plan.
- ISWG should prioritize holding its next meeting in Borno as agreed and discuss relocation challenges, such as congestion in Bakassi, as well as remaining shelter and WASH concerns.