

NIGERIA: PROTECTION MONITORING SUMMARY

AS OF JULY 2015



314 conducting protection monitoring

in 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 seeks to collect and analyse information on protection trends in the most affected States to ensure appropriate response by the Protection Sector Working Group (PSWG), Inter-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.

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

- **Top protection issues:** Key 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.
- **Vulnerable groups:** The most prevalent categories of persons with specific needs reported are elderly heads of households, single elderly, child heads of household, pregnant/nursing mothers and female heads of household.
- **Pressing needs:** Vulnerable IDPs reported urgent assistance needs in food, health, education, livelihood and financial assistance, as well as psychosocial support.
- **Safety & Security:** Among those who reported not to feel safe in their communities, the main reasons cited are armed encounters, killing of civilians and destruction of property.
- **Documentation:** The most commonly reported reasons for not having a national ID/certificate are lack of knowledge on how to get an ID and having difficulty with accessing the civil register. The most reported impact of lack of access to documentation includes inability to access assistance, restriction on travel and difficulty in participating in voting.
- **Housing, Land and Property:** Destruction of housing/property, destruction of crops, forced evictions and land-related conflicts are reported as main protection concerns.

Protection Monitoring in FCT: Key Protection Findings

- **Lack of Documentation:** Majority of IDPs lack documentation, which impacts upon finding jobs, attending school and gives rise to risk of statelessness.

- **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV):** Some women and girls report to have been raped and/or abducted before arriving in FCT, though cultural of stigmatism surrounding such issues encourages silence among female IDPs. Inherent risk factors for exploitation of women/girls observed to be present.

- **Psychosocial Support Services:** Many IDPs have undergone severe psychological distress in escaping violence as well as during displacement. Psychosocial support services are urgently needed to help families deal with such distress.

- **Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) and Missing/Abducted Persons:** Systematic practices are needed to link IDPs with family members who have been abducted or whose whereabouts aren't known; family tracing is further needed for UASC.

- **Security issues/discrimination stemming from lack of systematic assistance being rendered to IDPs:**

- Support to IDPs in FCT is being provided solely by informal individual donations. No systematic humanitarian response has been instituted on the part of international or national humanitarian agencies/actors, leading to lack of basic items/services and impacting most profoundly on vulnerable IDPs in need of targeted assistance.

- In some IDP locations, an uncoordinated structure of distribution results in isolated IDPs in settlements not gaining access to relief materials, leading to a risk of vulnerable IDPs being denied access to assistance.

- There are reports of a preferential system of distribution to IDPs from Borno, Adamawa and Yobe (to the detriment of IDPs from other North East or North Central States). This is causing serious tensions in locations in which IDPs from multiple States of origin live and fighting between the IDPs over distributions. IDPs in such locations are divided along ethnic lines and report to feel insecure due to the hostile environment between IDPs.

- **Other security issues:** State Security agents have been stationed in a number of IDP sites. Some IDPs state that such presence has increased their security, while others report harassment by operatives. IDPs also report suspicion that criminals infiltrated the IDP settlements in order to gain access to relief materials.

- **Detention:** There are accounts of arrests of IDPs (on allegations of connection to Boko Haram or criminal acts) with no one hearing from the arrested persons thereafter.

- **Vulnerable IDPs:** IDPs with particular vulnerabilities are identified throughout FCT locations, including elderly or female heads of households, SGBV survivors, pregnant/lactating/teenage mothers and unaccompanied/separated children.

- **Return Intentions:** Most IDPs express desire to return back to their areas of habitual origin only when peace and safety returns.

UNHCR and NHRC, in collaboration with FEMA and 30 Protection Monitors, conducted a joint visit on July 15-16 to IDP locations in the FCT to identify the needs of IDPs, including critical protection issues



IDP children in New Kuchingoro Camp. 16 July 2015 Susan Goldis Goren @UHNCR

KEY PROTECTION ISSUES PROVIDED BY STATE SUPERVISORS IN BORNO, ADAMAWA, BAUCHI AND TARARBA

State Supervisors provided the following information on protection issues in Borno, Adamawa, Bauchi and Taraba States through July 2015. Such information was gathered through pertinent reports received by State Supervisors in communications with protection monitors.

Borno:

- *Non-camp IDP locations:* Protection monitors have identified sites around Maiduguri, including government structures, being occupied by IDPs who have no access to humanitarian assistance. Such sites include Farm Centre, Galtimari primary school, a primary school behind Central Bank quarters, Damboa road and a house on Lagos Street.

Adamawa:

- *IDPs in Camps:*
 - IDPs in informal settlements reportedly sought to enter camps but were rejected entrance.
 - Reports of family separation in IDP sites as females and males are separated in camps.
- *IDPs in Host Communities and Informal Settlements:* Lack of sufficient humanitarian assistance in host communities, including psychosocial support services.

Bauchi:

- Elderly, widowed women, as well as unaccompanied and separated children are particularly vulnerable and susceptible to discrimination in access to assistance within host communities. Early marriage reported for a couple of the unaccompanied/separated children in Inkil LGA, Bauchi.
- IDPs in rented houses face risks of eviction due to inability to pay rent. There are reports of lack of access to assistance, including to education, health and WASH.

Taraba:

- *Donga and Bali LGAs:* IDPs using some government facilities as makeshift camps reported being made to pay monthly dues. Cases of extortion further described among IDPs. There are reports of presence of orphaned and unaccompanied children.
- *Wukari LGA:* Most IDPs have begun to return to their areas of habitual residence due to a Taraba State Government directive. Security concerns reported for both IDPs and returnees.
- *Takum LGA:* Cases of rape during attacks are reported, with victims killed or badly wounded. Presence of unaccompanied children in Chachangi ward.
- *Gashaka LGA:* IDPs are mainly elderly and children and are exposed to violence from herdsmen when attempting to farm around their settlements.
- *Gassol LGA:* Reports of attacks and killings in Dan-Anacha of IDPs who had returned to their homes.