

UPDATES FROM STATE-LEVEL PSWGS: Adamawa, Borno, Yobe and Gombe

AS OF AUGUST 2015



State-level PSWG	Overview
Adamawa PSWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established in March; held 9 meetings, including 3 in August Co-led by UNHCR and Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development Child Protection and SGBV Sub-Working Groups established
Borno PSWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established in July; held its 2nd meeting on 12th August 2015 Co-led by UNHCR and Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development Child Protection Sub-Working Group established
Yobe PSWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established in May; held its 3rd meeting in July Co-led by UNHCR and State Emergency Management Agency
Gombe PSWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established in May; held 2 meetings in May & June, next meeting to be held August 31st Co-led by UNHCR and State Emergency Management Agency

Overall Situation, Trends & Common Protection Concerns across States

Boko Haram insurgency in North Eastern Nigeria has caused wanton destruction to lives and properties in villages and towns. The attack also impacted the social infrastructure including agricultural lands which is one of the main sources of livelihood for families. The worsening security situation has inflated the figure of displacement rising to 1,385,298 million, as identified by the NEMA/IOM DTM of June 2015. The majority of IDPs are in Borno followed by Adamawa and Yobe. To date, the insurgents have been conducting activities against some areas around Borno, Yobe and Gombe States (including suicide

bombings and armed attacks on civilians). The worsening security situations in some locations have hampered humanitarian access and protection monitoring. The overall displacement situation and the traumatic experiences have left a negative impact on the psycho-social status and well-being of IDPs. Women and children have been targeted and susceptible to attacks, kidnapping and human rights violations.

While a number of formal and informal/self-established camps/camp-like settlements have been established, the majority of IDPs are in host communities. And in the absence of established structures that facilitate the monitoring and response, identifying, understanding and addressing protection issues particularly in host communities will remain a challenge. In such a context, the possibility of displaced families resorting to negative coping mechanisms for survival, especially women and children, is potentially high. This necessitates the need to strengthen community-based approaches to identify/map IDPs in different locations, identify and analyse protection issues and address such issues. Moreover, additional gaps in the assistance and protection response exist across the States (in both camps and hosting communities) including overcrowded camps and inadequate interventions (food supplies, NFI, health, primary education, child protection, prevention and response to SGBV, shelter, WASH, livelihood and psycho social support). Targeted assistance has also been hampered in the absence of specific need-oriented profiling/screening of vulnerable groups/individuals across the different States in both camps and host communities.

The number of returning Nigerians from neighbouring countries (Niger, Chad and Cameroon) has been an increasing trend. In August alone, over 10,000 Nigerian returnees have arrived from Cameroon, which requires immediate humanitarian interventions.

Yobe State

1. Protection trends/concerns

- Recent Boko Haram attacks in the informal camp in Huri, Damaturu LGA displaced 104 IDP households. Security threats to other informal settlements is a key protection issue.
- Increased number of persons with specific needs (including unaccompanied children, elderly and single female head of households).
- Concerns surrounding child detention and lack of humanitarian access to monitor the situation.
- Limited capacity of different actors/stakeholders in the area of protection.
- Inadequate response to individual protection concerns and other needs.
- Though representation is ensured in the PSWG, there is a functional gap in linkage between the child protection network in Damaturu and the PSWG.
- Lack of SGBV referral system and psycho-social support to SGBV survivors.

2. Response/achievements

- Timely response to new displacement situations (in terms of assistance to address immediate needs).
- Drafting of TOR and mapping of stakeholders being carried out.
- PSWG formal visit to key government offices/officials in order to improve the group's visibility and maintain key government offices' support and collaboration.

3. Challenges

- PSWG activities are currently limited to Damaturu.
- Limited accessibility of key areas where IDPs are being hosted due to security concerns.
- Inadequate response including to individual cases.

Adamawa State

1. Protection trends/concerns

- Over 10,000 Nigerian returnees have arrived in August from Cameroon to the border town of Sahuda. Returnees are being registered in Sahuda and transported thereafter to Mubi for screening. They then are going either to Malkohi, NYSC or Fufore camps in Yola, to Borno State or are going to host communities. Key protection issues include family separation, as many Nigerian returnees report being arrested and sent back to Nigeria with their families remaining in Cameroon, as well as many returnees reporting lack of documentation.
- Increasing trends in spontaneous IDP returns in Adamawa and gaps in services and assistance in the return areas (including concerns such as children not attending school and insecurity).

2. Response/achievements

- Adoption of its TOR and work plan in August.
- Training on protection strategy and coordination by Senior Protection Coordinator Simon Russell from the Global Protection Cluster, Geneva, held on August 10th.
- Protection Mainstreaming Workshop held on August 21st.
- Child Protection Sub-Working Group held its inaugural meeting on August 26th.
- Discussions held surrounding development of a contingency plan on returns.
- 3 trainings on mainstreaming human rights in counter-insurgency operations held for over 120 Nigerian security personnel comprised of police, DSS, army and airforce.
- 3 sensitizations conducted in Malkohi, Fufore and NYSC camps on peaceful coexistence amongst returnees and identification of vulnerable IDPs to be targeted for NFI assistance.

3. Challenges

- Lack of consistency on the frequency of regular PSWG meetings.
- Duplication of activities.
- There are instances where confidentiality is not respected in the context of response to SGBV, particularly in the camp setting.

Borno State

1. Protection trends/concerns

- High number of single female and child headed households, elderly and persons with disabilities residing in camps and host communities.
- Need for the installation of a Women and Child Protection unit within the Police force to handle investigation of violence against women and children in both camps and communities.
- The risk of accessibility to families stranded in high risk areas by humanitarian actors in need of assistance as a result of the recent offensive against Boko Haram by joint security forces.
- Concern over break in family unity in formal camps as well as overcrowding.
- A surge in the number of “informal” camps/camp-like settings in the municipality hosting women and children which are not recognized by the state.
- Premature return of IDPs to communities of origin/habitual residence with no basic facilities instituted in Gwoza LGA.
- IDPs continue to stay in schools, thus disrupting education in the municipality for both displaced and host community children.
- Concern over low scale of intervention in host communities.

2. Response/ achievements

- Establishment of the PSWG and adoption of the ToR concluded.
- Distribution of basic NFI package to identified vulnerable IDP families in camps.
- Establishment of the Child Protection Sub-Working Group in July.
- Commencement of camp registration of vulnerable families.
- Case Management Committee established and functional.
- Training of another round of Camp Supervisors and Partners including IDPs on CCCM (30).
- Provision of family tents to camps.

3. Challenges

- Coordination of activities of the Protection Monitors and receiving real time reports for immediate intervention.
- Dissolution of the SEMA Board of Directors
- Inadequate supply of NFI for vulnerable families in camps and communities.

- Delay in establishment of the SGBV Task Force.
- Meeting minimum standards in camp administration.

Gombe State

1. Protection trends /concerns

- Around 1,500 IDPs displaced due to the flood in Fika, Gadaka and Ngalda in dire need of NFIs.
- Need for psycho-social support for persons who underwent traumatic experiences.

2. Response/achievements

- Drafting of TOR underway.
- Prison visit by National Human Right Commission as part of PSWG efforts.
- Child Protection Task Force in existence and links created with PSWG. Child Protection Task Force has mobilized and coordinated support for different types of cases (including SGBV).
- Training on psycho-social support.

3. Challenges

- Lack of proper channel of communication between the state office and the 11 local government area officers of NHRC.