

# Monthly Note on Protection

Humanitarian Country Team | August 2016

## Conflict trends, security development and access

Security situation in many areas in Borno remain volatile, with Boko Haram insurgents presenting potent security threats to civilians and humanitarians. The relative success in the military campaign against Boko Haram by the Nigerian military and CTJF led insurgents to shift tactics towards soft targets. Several security incidents have been reported during July/August including attacks against humanitarian actors and government partners, including the attack against humanitarians on 28 July, which reveals the risks humanitarians face to deliver services to the most vulnerable.

UN, INGOs and partners since then introduced additional legitimate security protocols which result in significant consequences to how, when and to whom needed protection and humanitarian services are delivered. The military continues to exercise full control in the management of IDP camps in the newly accessible areas and there are no immediate transition plans.

Abu Musab al-Barnawi, who is approximately 25 years old and the second son of Mohammed Yusuf, the founder of Boko Haram in 2002, was introduced on 2 August 2016 as the new leader of the Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) sect in an interview in the ISIS' magazine al-Naba. In the interview, Al Barnawi said he would end attacks on mosques and markets targeting ordinary Muslims, favoring attacks on the Nigerian military and threatening to kill Christians and bomb churches. There is a heightened risk alert following this announcement.

## Protection risks and needs of civilians

**Protection needs in the North East, particularly in newly accessible areas in Borno state,** remain severe. Civilians face grave violations of human rights and humanitarian law, including death, injuries, sexual violence and exploitation, detention, disappearances, forced displacement, attacks on civilian sites and forced recruitment, exacerbated by the lack of sufficient services and limited prevention measures. UNHCR Vulnerability Screening Round II (June 2016) has identified 133,294 IDPs with severe levels of vulnerabilities in the North East, including 51,474 in Borno.

Tens of thousands of civilians have been rescued in 2016 alone as well as over 1,200 abducted children rescued in 2016. Out of a total of 55 incidents from January to March 2016, 10 children (7 girls and 3 boys between the ages of 9 and 16) were used in attacks by Boko Haram. Further, unexploded ordinances and improvised explosive devices are posing a significant danger to returning IDPs and children.

**6,535 women and girls have been identified to have survived sexual and gender-based violence**, including early/forced marriage, survival sex and sexual assault (UNHCR Vulnerability Screening Round II). Women and girls released from captivity under Boko Haram face a real risk not only of rejection and stigmatization but also violence in some communities.

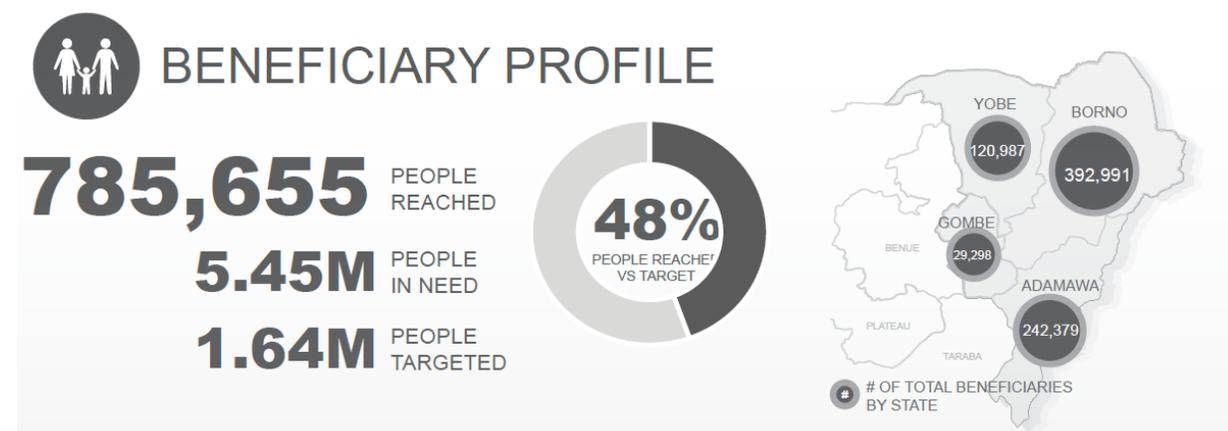
**An estimated 67,000 Nigerian returnees who have arrived from Cameroon to Ngala, Borno**, are finding themselves in dire displacement situations upon return to Nigeria and many are staying in camps consisting of abandoned public buildings largely destroyed by Boko Haram.

**Children have witnessed and experienced violence and displacement.** 77% of children at risk report to have had one or both of their parents killed in the conflict (UNHCR Vulnerability Screening Round II). These experiences, coupled with continuing uncertainty and risks of violence, has had an acute impact on the psychological well-being of children. It is estimated that there are 20,000 unaccompanied and separated children across the most affected North East States.

## From scale-up plans to scaled-up response

**Protection actors and humanitarian agencies have conducted a series of assessments which revealed massive gaps in humanitarian response.** While the scale-up plans under consideration are welcome, urgent operational response and implementation of projects is required. Despite severe protection needs, the Sector remains only 12% funded. Urgent support is needed by the donor community to fund the scaling up of protection operations, especially in Borno's newly accessible areas. Protection actors support the activation of clusters and humanitarian response with highest emergency preparedness and response capacity.

**Protection partners are targeting 488,126 vulnerable civilians** in the newly accessible areas. Protection actors have already begun to deliver interventions in satellite sites including in **Bama, Damboa, Dikwa, Ngala and Monguno** LGAs. Priority interventions include profiling and identification of vulnerable groups requiring urgent intervention; providing psychosocial services and referral support for civilians who experienced trauma; reunification of unaccompanied and separated children; community sensitizations on GBV/PSEA targeting survivors of violence, relief workers and security operatives; building community-based protection mechanisms; and provision of dignity kits and targeted material assistance.



## **Compliance of relocation plans with international standards**

Civilian camp leadership structures and community-based protection mechanisms are lacking. With only the presence of military and vigilantes due to the state of insecurity in these areas, camp coordination camp management and humanitarian assistance in the satellite camps are delivered solely by security forces, leading to an inevitable reduction of protection space. In addition, relocation plans involving moving IDPs within the newly accessible areas are being carried out by military actors in areas such as Dikwa and Monguno. PSWG actors have in the past advocated for development of a relocation plan that is accompanied by a robust humanitarian response plan and measures to ensure safety and dignity.

**Operational Standards for Relocation of IDPs in Newly Accessible Areas in Borno State** has been developed, which aims to provide guidance for humanitarians and authorities to address pertinent issues concerning planned and ongoing relocation of IDPs in newly accessible LGAs by the Nigerian military. The Operational Standards has taken into account international standards particularly in the areas of international humanitarian and human rights law, the AU Kampala Convention, guidance developed by the Global Protection Cluster and best practices from other humanitarian settings. In the coming weeks the Operational Standards will be widely shared and consulted upon at the field-level.

## **High-level visit by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons**

The Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally displaced Persons, Dr. Chaloka Beyani, is expected to conduct an official mission from 23 to 26 August 2016. During his mission, Dr. Beryani is expected to meet senior government officials, members of the HCT, officials in Borno State and humanitarian partners. Protection actors encourage HCT members to solicit support from the Special Rapporteur regarding protection issues identified in the 'Key Messages' section below.

## **Imminent flooding likely to present significant humanitarian consequences**

A national alert on a major flooding within a scale of the 2012 flooding is imminent in a number of states including those in the North East. Nigeria Meteorological Agency (NIMET) and NEMA have predicted flooding in up to 34 states, likely affecting 10,000 and potentially 500,000 people. Many are likely to be affected by resulting displacement, relocation and other consequences. Some areas are already experiencing the effects of the flooding, where casualties and damage to property is reported.

While some states are already working on contingency plans, there is real concern that the preparedness and response capacity is considerably limited, especially in the states most affected by the insurgency. Protection assessments conducted in newly liberated areas had shown that IDPs in many of the civilian satellite sites are exposed to imminent flooding. There is not yet a clear assessment and realistic contingency plan detailing how international humanitarian actors will respond.

## Key Messages

- HCT members should immediately officially activate all clusters, giving the necessary guidance on geographical coverage and the level of emergency declaration.
- Authorities should ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of ‘satellite’ camps particularly in newly accessible areas.
- Authorities and humanitarian counterparts to urgently coordinate to developing relocation plans where necessary that is accompanied by a robust humanitarian response plan and measures to ensure safety and dignity.
- Authorities and humanitarian actors should significantly scale-up their response to meet life-saving needs particularly in newly accessible areas.
- Nigerian military actors and Multi-National Joint Task Force should develop protocols on a system of screening of civilians from newly accessible areas with the view to promote humanitarian access, family unity, access to basic services and dignified treatment.
- HCT members should advocate that relocation measures in the context of the flooding takes place in a manner that ensures the safety and dignity of individuals and well-being of the most vulnerable, including individuals living with disabilities, the elderly and those with serious medical conditions.

## Protection Sector, Nigeria



UNHCR Nigeria,  
PSWG Secretariat,  
61 Jose Marti, Asokoro, Abuja