



protectionsector  
WORKING GROUP  
NIGERIA

# Monthly Protection Note

Inter-Sector Working Group | July 2016

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## Protection Situation Analysis

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.](#)

[In newly accessible areas](#), IDPs experienced human rights violations including abductions, sexual abuse, forced marriage, forced religious conversions and witnessing grave violence to family members, as well as repeated waves of displacement (65% of vulnerable displaced households in Borno have reported multiple displacement) and enduring insecurity. Civilian camp leadership structures and community-based protection mechanisms are lacking.

[Children have witnessed or 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 of 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.

Children were also used by Civilian Joint Task Force and vigilante groups. Failure to effectively reintegrate boys who were associated with armed groups and provide them opportunities for education and livelihoods, will lead to their disenfranchisement, exacerbate their levels of poverty and risk criminality and future radicalization.

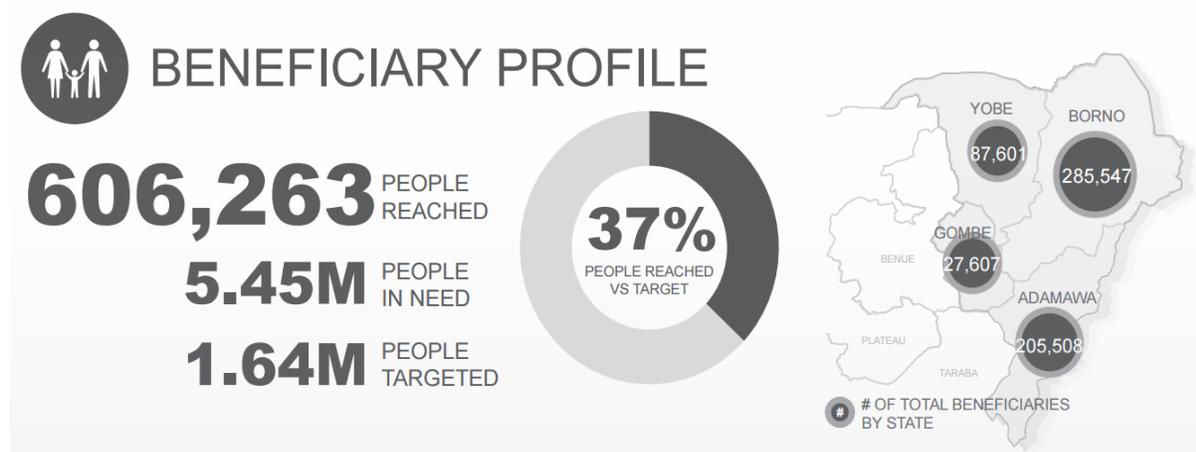
[3% of vulnerable IDPs across the North East report incidents of arbitrary arrest or detention](#) (UNHCR Vulnerability Screening Round II), though this is likely underreported due to risks of reprisals or stigmatization for suspected involvement in armed groups. While positive progress has been made in accessing IDPs, especially children, in military detention, there continues to be a challenge in verifying all the locations and the exact numbers of all under-18 detainees being held, as well as gaining access to monitor their well-being, assess their needs, and prepare for release and reintegration. The challenges for reintegration facing boys who were recruited and used by Boko Haram are acute, as they are viewed with deep suspicion and distrust and there is little appetite for reconciliation.

[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. The stigma is also based on the fear that these girls and women may have been radicalized, even if they have been screened by the military. As some communities hold

the belief that the blood of the father will always run in the blood of the child, children born out of sexual violence are at particular risk of abandonment and violence, as it is thought that they will eventually turn on the community.

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.

## Protection Sector Response



As of June, the **Protection Sector, including the CP and SGBV Sub-Sectors, have collectively reached 606,263 beneficiaries.**

**Protection interventions have reached 260,734** as of June in the most affected North East states, including 138,504 vulnerable individuals profiled, 50,661 vulnerable individuals provided with targeted protection-based material assistance, including solar lanterns for vulnerable women and girls; 59,369 reached with awareness raising and community-based initiatives including on core protection and humanitarian principles, protection mainstreaming, sexual abuse and exploitation and self-protection mechanisms; 6,650 vulnerable cases referred to appropriate specialized services; capacity of 2,494 individuals built through protection trainings; 2,059 individuals reached through specialized protection services (including housing land and property assistance, legal aid and detention visits); and 878 reached with psychosocial support to promote their wellbeing.

In the first half of 2016, **the Child Protection Sub-Sector reached 158,533** children (52 % boys and 48% girls). 140,813 girls and boys were reached with psycho-social support (PSS) through Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS)/children's clubs through a network of 252 CFS and 11 after-school PSS clubs. 3,438 Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) were identified and registered, which includes 384 unaccompanied children. 1,787 UASC were supported in interim alternative care, supervised by trained social workers and case workers. 3,350 children at risk supported through inter-agency case management system. A unified and harmonized UASC and child protection case management and information management system is operational, which was developed with the government and INGOs, based on the globally agreed model. 103 unaccompanied children have been reunified and 521 conflict affected children referred to specialist support services. 9,349 girls and boys benefitted from mine risk education by UNICEF in partnership with Danish Refugee Council. 480 women and girls who have been victims of Boko Haram related sexual violence were provided with reintegration support and their communities were engaged to address stigma, discrimination and resistance to reintegration, as well as to mitigate threat of violence. This

is currently being scaled up to reach 800 women and girls.

As of June 2016, the SGBV Sub-Sector has reached 186,976 in the most affected North East states, including 117,256 of vulnerable persons provided with psychosocial counselling support; 58,115 individuals reached through sensitization on GBV and SEA, 1,132 vulnerable women and girls gained skills for livelihoods; and 9,683 women and girls received dignity kits. Further, efforts have been in the areas of capacity building in GBV and prevention response, clinical management of rape, establishment of guidelines for PSS for quality control; establishment of safe spaces for women and girls; mobilization of communities to prevent abuses and access GBV services through communication and education, establishment and operationalization of GBVIMS in Nigeria, and strengthening the coordination of GBV services through the establishment of GBV working groups and case management groups at federal, state and community levels.

With the support of CERF funding, protection actors are now targeting 488,126 vulnerable civilians in the newly accessible areas. Protection actors have already begun to deliver interventions in Bama, Damboa, Dikwa and Monguno LGAs, including reaching over 18,000 most vulnerable displaced with protection-based material assistance and conducting 3 CCCM trainings for military managing camps in the newly accessible areas. Priority interventions in the newly accessible areas include:

- Profiling and identification of vulnerable groups requiring urgent intervention.
- Providing psychosocial services and referral support for civilians who experienced trauma.
- Reunification of unaccompanied children.
- Community sensitization on GBV/PSEA targeting survivors of violence, relief workers and security operatives.
- Building community-based protection mechanisms.
- Provision of dignity kits and targeted material assistance.

## Key Challenges

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.

Child-Protection Sub Sector has struggled to recruit a qualified Child Protection Coordinator, following the departure of the ProCap CPIE Coordinator in March 2016. This may be in part due to the unavailability of funding, leading to the role being advertised as a consultancy rather than a post, which means that qualified candidates are not attracted to apply. Due to the urgency and scale of emergency, there is a need for a CPIE Coordinator at the Federal level and a CPIE Coordinator to work at the state level.

Child Protection in Emergencies (CPIE) response capacity is acutely constrained in terms of funding, human resources and technical capacity. Moreover, very few UN agencies, international NGOs and national/local NGOs are working on child protection in the North-East Nigeria and the geographical coverage remains limited.

Critical gaps for the sector include the absence of a GBV coordinator and a MIS staff to strengthen coordination and enable evidence for greater resource allocation; lack of mainstreaming intent in sectors' work plans for more integrated GBV programming; high funding gap due to low prioritization for GBV; high rate of under reporting of GBV due to cultural factors, poor mobilization against GBV with a focus on adolescent girls and boys; inadequate utilization of the referral established pathways; lack of comprehensive data on GBV; lack of facilities and caregivers to provide specialized care in most of the areas and security challenges accessing areas where affected persons are inhabit.

## Expectations from ISWG members individually and collectively:

- Advocate for the civilian and humanitarian character of 'satellite' camps particularly in newly accessible areas.
- Authorities and humanitarian counterparts to urgently coordinate at the field level with the view to developing a relocation plan that is accompanied by a robust humanitarian response plan and measures to ensure safety and dignity.
- Advocate for and support the development of 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.
- Expedite the deployment of civilian authorities and law enforcement entities in the newly accessible areas.

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