

Monthly Note on Protection

Humanitarian Country Team | April 2016

Rescue of Civilians and Civilian Casualties

- Strong and continued counter-insurgency offensive by the military has continued throughout April particularly in Borno, with higher incidents of rescued civilians.
- According to the analysis done by UNHCR, from January through April 26, 2016, 372 civilians died and 284 were injured.
- A total of 5,239 civilians have been reported to be released or rescued in 2016. On April 18th, the Borno Protection Sector members conducted a rapid assessment in ATC camp in Borno of 526 rescued civilians and on March 17th and March 30th UNHCR rapidly assessed 453 rescued civilians in NYSC camp in Adamawa. These civilians reported to have experienced abduction, violence, sexual abuse, witnessed killing of family members or community members and family separation. Specific cases with protection needs were identified for services including young girls forcefully “married” to Boko Haram members, female-headed households who were widowed by the conflict, unaccompanied and separated children, cases of mental disabilities and elderly with disabilities. Protection actors advocate for increased provision of targeted assistance to individuals rescued by the military.
 - HCT members should encourage military to promote access to services during captivity; family contact and union; and collaboration with protection and humanitarian actors.
 - Protection Sector members are available to support the development of applicable Standard Operating Procedures

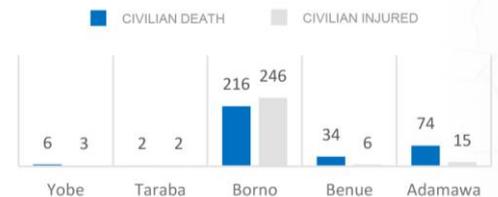
 **5,239** TOTAL CIVILIAN RESCUED / RELEASED

 **656** TOTAL CIVILIAN HARMED

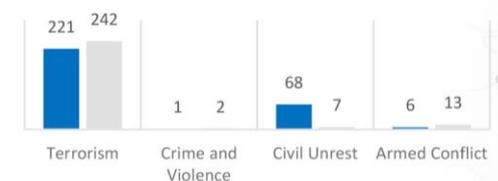
 **372** TOTAL CIVILIAN DEATH

 **284** TOTAL CIVILIAN INJURED

CIVILIAN HARMED PER STATE



CIVILIAN HARMED PER INCIDENT



Humanitarian access and civilian character of IDP sites and settlements

Protection Sector salutes the HCT’s decision to clarify modalities for improving humanitarian access. The HCT Task Team on humanitarian access, in which key protection actors are actively participating, is expected to provide the much needed guidance. Protection Sector supports that the group clarify and operationalize the notion of access, lays out the minimum conditions of access and develop a framework for deciding whether the use of armed escort is needed.

- In determining whether to use military escort, the HCT must abide by the humanitarian principles and consider protection risks associated with the conduct of providers of escort, as well as humanitarian accountability.
- **Recommend that the HCT have a wide consultation within the humanitarian community before making a determination on the use of armed escorts.**
- **The HCT is recommended to establish a common humanitarian position on armed escorts and issue humanitarian operational guidance on the use of armed escorts for humanitarian convoys. The following considerations should be taken into account:**
 - The option of escort by the police, who will be properly trained on humanitarian principles and standards, should be properly explored.
 - Resorting too quickly or too frequently to armed escorts can undermine efforts to increase respect for international humanitarian law and independent humanitarian action. The HCT, through the newly established HCT Task Team on humanitarian access, is recommended to facilitate a risk assessment exercise.

Protection and newly accessible areas

- Protection actors were involved in the Joint UN Multi-Sector Assessment in April in Borno. The assessment identified serious protection risks in newly reopened areas. In the satellite camps in the recaptured areas, the majority of IDPs are women, children and older persons, who have special protection concerns, including: exposure to sexual and gender-based violence, child protection issues, killings, destruction of property, looting of food and livestock and forced displacement. The population assessed reported fear and severe distress due to extremely high level of trauma and repeated waves of displacement. Limited access to services and livelihoods renders people more vulnerable due to restricted freedom of movement in most areas recently captured. The civilian character of IDP camps and settlements are compromised as there are no civilian actors present. As a part of a broader inter-agency response, protection actors support:
 - Setting up a strong inter-agency, multisector response which has strong protection as a lifesaving intervention as the center of the response.
 - Establishing remote protection monitoring systems in Maduguiri and inaccessible areas to undertake vulnerability screening and referrals with other humanitarian agencies across sectors;
 - Undertaking of an urgent initiative to support all government counterparts, humanitarian agencies and sector working groups on protection mainstreaming;
 - Providing psychosocial services, in particular to victims of violence, including dignity kits for women and girls;
 - Establishing and strengthening registration systems for refugees returning from neighbouring countries with relevant government counterparts.

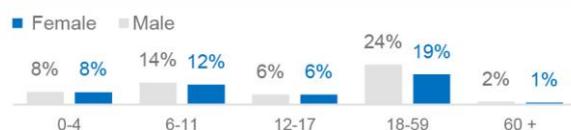
Return of Nigerian Refugees

An estimated 50,000 Nigerians have been reported to have arrived to Gamboru Ngala, Borno from northern Cameroon. As of 26 April 2016, UNHCR has registered 22,092 Nigerians who have returned back from Cameroon, many under conditions falling short of international legal obligations. Protection actors engaged in targeted advocacy concerning the conditions of returns, including with the high-level visit of the UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner on Protection to Cameroon and Nigeria in February.

- There are anxieties and expectations on an imminent return of a 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. In situations where return is realistic and feasible, authorities and humanitarians must promote safe, dignified and voluntary return of IDPs.
- The HCT has already developed a framework and practical checklist to support safe and dignified return of IDPs and refugees. **These documents are already translated into Hausa and effort is ongoing to widely disseminate this tool through a robust advocacy strategy.**
- No tripartite agreement has been concluded as of now. A Regional Protection Dialogue is planned for 6-10 June 2016, to take place in Abuja, which will bring together officials from the four Lake Chad Basin countries to discuss critical protection issues including regional durable solutions. The Regional Protection Dialogue will inform 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.
- A contingency plan for returnees has been developed in Adamawa and is being revised to reflect updated planning figures and taking into account returns including through Borno and Yobe.



RETURNÉES BY AGE AND GENDER



MONTHLY RETURNÉE FROM CAMEROON



YEARS STAYED IN CAMEROON





National Protection Mainstreaming Workshop

As a component of the rollout of the Global Protection Cluster training package, NEMA, UNHCR and OCHA organized the first national workshop on protection mainstreaming during 19-21 April 2016. The workshop targeted sector leads, government counterparts and representatives of NGOs.

- In a high level meeting involving a director from NEMA, the DHC and the Representative of UNHCR, participants held a more strategic-level discussion on the role of the HCT and engagement with the government. They encouraged protection actors to be better in telling the stories of the suffering of the people and provide HCT members with options for decision making that support mainstreaming of protection. It was also underscored that while all sectors have contributions to make, the central role of the protection actors must be acknowledged and promoted.
- During the workshop, various themes were covered: Identification of vulnerability; Key elements of the notion of protection mainstreaming (safety and dignity, access, participation and empowerment and accountability); community-based engagement and accountability; roles and responsibility of various working groups and actors including government and development counterparts; and assessments, monitoring and evaluations and safe communication of protection incidents. Participants were also introduced to the components of the GPC training package on protection mainstreaming.
- As protection actors work towards rolling out protection mainstreaming at the field level, HCT members are encouraged to:
 - Continue to ensure that protection is regularly in the agenda of the Inter-Sector Working Group and the HCT meetings
 - Ensure that protection is incorporated in CERF and all relevant funding mechanisms
 - Mainstream protection through all sector programs and ensure that protection mainstreaming is included in the training of other sectors

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