

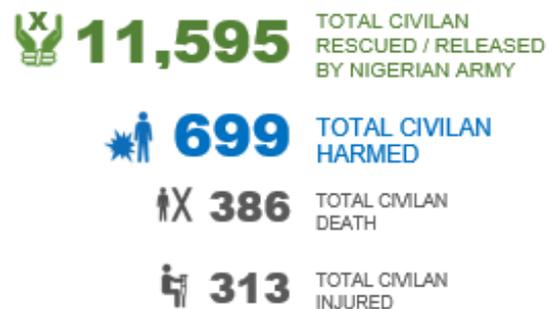
Monthly Note on Protection

Humanitarian Country Team | May 2016

Newly rescued civilians

Continued counter-insurgency offensive by the military observed throughout April/May particularly in Borno, with higher incidents of rescued civilians. According to a recent rapid assessment conducted by UNHCR and partners the majority of IDP sites in Maiduguri reported to have civilians present who had been released from Boko Haram abduction. High numbers of rescued civilians were reported in NYSC, Shehu Sanda Karyimi, Gubio, Farm Centre, ATC, Bakassi and Gonikachallari camps, as well as Kushari host community.

In Adamawa, members of the Protection Sector Working Group also identified an IDP rescued from Sambisa in Sangere Futi, with 8 months pregnancy in need of support and she is reported to be anaemic. Humanitarian actors have provided support and assistance.



- **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.**

Protection related outcome of Abuja Security Summit

As a follow-up to the Paris Summit of 17 May 2014, the 2nd Regional Security Summit was held on 14 May 2016 in Abuja. The high-level conference was preceded by a meeting of experts which, among others, deliberated on security, challenges of displacement and developments around the Lake Chad Basin area. The Summit acknowledged the heavy toll Boko-Haram related violence brought on countries and communities involved. It calls on all parties involved in the Multi-National Joint Task Force to ensure that security operations are carried out in compliance with international standards. It also stressed the importance of supporting GBV survivors, unaccompanied and separated children and orphans and renewed commitment to take immediate action to address the humanitarian crisis. Appreciating the burden Lake Chad Basin countries are facing in hosting refugees, the Summit concluded with a commitment to work together to generate conditions of security and public service to promote dignified and safe return of refugees and IDPs.

- **HCT members work closely with their counterparts at the regional level to advocate for broader compliance mechanism for human rights and international humanitarian law by MNJFT.**
- **HCT members utilize the Abuja Summit communique and commitments incorporated as tools to advance protection outcomes by Nigerian authorities on issues such as GBV response, protection of unaccompanied children and safe and dignified return of IDPs and refugees.**

Rapid Protection assessment in Maiduguri

A rapid protection assessment was conducted by PSWG Borno, led by UNHCR, from May 10-14, 2016 in Maiduguri Metropolis (Maiduguri, Jere and Konduga LGAs) with the view to identify protection issues at the community-level in all camps and host communities in Maiduguri. A total 26 sites which involved formal camps, host communities and host communities.

The methodology included key informant interviews (KIIs) and focus group discussion (FGDs). Key informants were selected based on their insight into the needs of the affected community IDPs. Focus group discussions were conducted with women, men and adolescent boys and girls. A structured questionnaire was used that enquired about the immediate needs and identified key vulnerabilities. The interviewers also toured the camps/host communities to record their observations.



Summary of key protection findings include:

- Lack of participation of IDPs in distribution and decisions affecting them;
- Survival sex by women/girls in nearly all camps, including in exchange for food assistance and to gain freedom of movement in/out of camps.
- Absence of proper CCCM structures
- Increasing tensions between host communities and host on one part and amongst IDP groups;
- Humanitarian assistance and attention has only targeted specific IDP camps (such as Bakassi, Dalori and NYSC) and that other camps and host communities in general were being largely overlooked by humanitarians.
- Incidents of arrest such cases, family members largely report to have not heard from the detainee since their arrest.

Rapid Protection assessment in newly liberated areas (Dikwa and Damboa)

In **Dikwa**, the number of IDP is estimated to be **56,000**. No proper registration or profiling exercise has yet taken place. Majority of the camp residents are elderly men, women and children

- The military plans to relocate IDPs in the camp to Dikwa town in the coming few weeks. IDPs assessed expressed willingness to be relocated, largely influenced by the dire conditions in the camp.
- There is presence and threat of mines and IEDs along the road towards Gomboru Ngala. But security is provided by the military supported by CJTF and vigilantes.
- IDPs lack access to basic food, water and shelter.
- All IDPs are living in crowded makeshift shelters, mainly shacks made of rusty zinc, torn clothes and plastics, which are extremely vulnerable to damage by flooding.
- The camp is bereft of any proper WASH facilities. There are very few toilets and are all filled up and inadequate. Most IDPs carry out open defecation around the bush in the perimeter of the compound.
- There were a considerable number of pregnant and lactating mothers, some of them young girls under 18 years. Reproductive health services to pregnant/lactating mothers are inadequate.



Damboa has an estimated population of **9,000** individuals.

- IDP camps are managed by the military through an IDP representative structure supported by CJTF and Vigilantes.
- The toilets (two in each camp used by both male and female without segregation) are all filled up and inadequate. Open defecation is the norm. Women reported that lack of hygiene makes it dangerous to use the toilets.
- Shelter is grossly inadequate. Most IDPs sleep out in the open under the trees. When it rains both men and women find space to stand in the congested rooms to make space for children and pregnant women.
- IDPs reported that they are safe in the camps, which is patrolled by the military and CJTF. They claimed to have good relationship with the military and CJTF. New arrivals to the camps are searched by CJTF. The curfew is from 18 to 6 hrs.
- There are physically challenged persons including disabled people and people with mental illness. All disabled people we interviewed had relatives to take care of them, who expressed particular difficulties and additional burden in ensuring their welfare given the situation in the camps. There were a considerable number of pregnant and lactating mothers, some of them young girls under 18 years.
- There are separated children and unaccompanied children, who are mostly heads of families.

The HCT members should support including through a new CERF funding an inter-agency response incorporating the following:

- **Humanitarians including HCT members to urgently coordinate at the field level to support local authorities to develop a relocation plan that is accompanied by a robust humanitarian response and measures to ensure safety and security;**
- **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 and ensure the establishment of civilian camp coordination mechanism; and**
- **Providing psychosocial services, in particular to victims of violence, including dignity kits for women and girls.**

Returning Nigerians

The Cameroonian government has identified over **67,000** Nigerians who returned from Northern Cameroon mainly at the Fotokol border to Gamboru Ngala, Borno from January through April 2016. Efforts is being carried out by UNHCR and PSWG partners with Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) to commence the registration of returnees in Gamboru Ngala. On May 18th, a training for **71** immigration officers who will be shortly deployed to Gamboru Ngala to conduct registration. The training covered concepts including key principles of the registration exercise, use of the registration tool, protection sensitivities during registration as well as identification of specific needs of returnees.

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.

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