

Centrality of Protection Strategy

HUMANITARIAN COUNTRY TEAM NIGERIA

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Introduction

Reflecting its responsibility and commitment to ensure that protection is central to all aspects of the humanitarian response in northeast Nigeria, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) has developed this Centrality of Protection Strategy to provide vision, guidance and a basis for an operational approach. While acknowledging that the primary responsibility to protect civilian populations lies with the Government of Nigeria, the HCT commits to demonstrating the necessary leadership to fulfill the shared responsibility to protect civilian populations and their fundamental rights.

Having this strategy recognizes the significance and overarching imperative to have a comprehensive approach to providing affected populations the means to live their lives in safety and dignity, especially in times of crisis or conflict. It also emphasizes the HCT's accountability to affected populations when addressing identified protection risks or violations of International Human Rights Law (IHRL) and International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

Addressing the key protection concerns in northeast Nigeria is the joint responsibility of all partners and requires coherent and complementary approaches. The HCT in Nigeria, consisting of INGO, UN and donor representatives, aims to ensure a system-wide achievement of protection priorities in recognition of this. As this is the case, the HCT Centrality of Protection Strategy was developed through a consultative process with HCT and Operational HCT (OHCT) members, the Protection Sector and its AORs.

Through this shared vision, the HCT commits to three overall objectives in the Centrality of Protection Strategy: 1) To create and sustain a protective environment; 2) To enhance protection through freedom of movement and enhanced access; and 3) To ensure protection mainstreaming into the humanitarian response and decision-making.

Analysis of the Protection Crisis in North-East Nigeria

The humanitarian crisis in North-East Nigeria was precipitated by an interminable, acute and violent conflict between non-state armed groups (Jamat al jihad wa a sunah (JAS), ISWA, BHI) and Nigeria state security forces that resulted in widespread abuse and violation of human rights and humanitarian law. This has included reports and documentation of extra-judicial killings; use of torture and cruel treatment; forced disappearances; rape and other forms of sexual violence/abuse; arbitrary arrests and detention; the use of civilians, predominately women and children, as PBIEDs¹; and the destruction of critical infrastructure and assets. The nature, scale and type of the ongoing violence present a protection challenge, which overwhelmingly makes the civilian population face a crisis in which rights and entitlements of civilians are constantly being abused.

The consequence of violence and deprivation has been high levels of displacement with northeast Nigeria experiencing one of the largest displacement patterns as compared to other global humanitarian situations. Over 1.8 million people have been displaced by the conflict since 2015 and 62 percent are children, with 40% of the IDP population living in

¹ Personal Borne Incendiary Explosive Device (PBIED). 57% of suicide attacks perpetrated between January and July 2017 recorded as using children.

Centrality of Protection in Humanitarian Action

"[P]rotection of all persons affected and at risk must inform humanitarian decision-making and response, including engagement with States and non-State parties to conflict. It must be central to our preparedness efforts, as part of immediate and life-saving activities, and throughout the duration of humanitarian response and beyond."

Principles of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), December 2013, available at

<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/topics/tran-sformativeagenda/document/centrality-protection-humanitarian-action-statementinter>

often overcrowded camps or camp-like sites, where protection and security measures are inadequate to ensure safety and the protection of the dignity of the affected population. To compound matters, new population influxes from areas inaccessible to humanitarian actors and within the vicinity of Local Government Area (LGA) capitals, cycles of secondary and tertiary displacements, as well as forced and spontaneous movements of refugees from Cameroon have placed new burdens on existing overstretched services and capacities and created dependency on aid and maladaptive mechanisms to self-protect. Extreme movements of this sort have created a challenge for humanitarian actors in reaching the most vulnerable and affected populations to safely reach adequate levels of basic assistance.

Key Threat and Risk Trends

Freedom of movement

More than 1.8 million people are currently estimated to be internally displaced; 96% of them displaced due to conflict. **60%** of the displaced populations are living within the host communities.

Large numbers of populations remain encamped in informal settlements/shelters and formal camps in highly militarised contexts of the Local Government Areas (LGAs). Populations in satellite villages have either fled to towns, been forced to move across borders at high risk, or remained under constrained conditions. Fear of detention, extra-judicial killing, harassment, family separation and gender based violence have severely hampered the ability of affected populations to access critical services, livelihoods and safety. As new population influxes occur the pressure on existing services and resources means women and girls in particular are having to employ increasingly high-risk strategies to guarantee access to firewood and other supplies—particularly women who are without male family members who can collect firewood on their behalf. Affected populations are also limited by security threats by state affiliated and non-state armed groups in civilian areas and at risk of attack especially for the limited areas where people have access to livelihoods and are en-route to farms, fishing areas and markets. Destruction of service infrastructure invariably forces populations to take greater risks in fulfilling their own needs. In other cases, the fear of violence as well as the military's approach to contain the conflict, including heavy restrictions on movement and livelihoods, has caused people to become solely dependent on external humanitarian assistance. Restrictive military policies including lack of free movement also has a deleterious impact on markets, trade, networking and social interactions critical to capacities for self-reliance.

Secondary and multiple displacement and movement dynamics including the physical protection of settlements

As of June 2017, **361,145 Nigerian refugee returnees** have been registered in Nigeria. (213,795 from Cameroon, 146,950 from Niger and 400 from Chad) since 2015 – more than 200,000 in 2017. This has put a strain on the existing facilities and infrastructure within displacement camps.

The search for solutions to displacement in Northeast Nigeria is taking place in an environment that presents both opportunities and risks. Surveys carried out with IDPs in northeast Nigeria and refugees in Cameroon show that many would be willing to return to their place of origin; security and access to services universally cited as the key issues to be addressed to initiate returns, neither of which are in place in majority of areas. Most refugee returnees have returned to Borno State, which generally is not yet considered safe for return, and have ended up in secondary displacement. Interactions with returnees show that some movements have been prompted by poor humanitarian conditions in some sites while others have been coerced, and as such were not voluntary. Some refugees returning from Cameroon were forced. Mistrust of IDPs and returning refugees; prominent level of stigmatization of babies born of abducted survivors of rape by members of Armed Opposition Groups (AOGs), children formerly associated with the armed group or coming from areas recently taken by the Government inevitably affects the feasibility of their integration into the community, and poses a potential challenge to peace and security if not addressed in a timely manner.

On March 2nd, 2017, a Tripartite Agreement was signed between the Governments of Cameroon, and Nigeria and UNHCR to provide a framework for the safe, dignified and voluntary returns of Nigerian refugees from Cameroon to Nigeria. This was followed by a Tripartite Commission and Technical Working Group meetings which held in Abuja from 10 -12 August, where SOPs and Work Plan for implementation were drafted and adopted.

The Tripartite Commission recognized the current security challenges in Nigeria and that returns cannot be facilitated to areas that are not considered safe. It was noted in the conclusions that sustainable reintegration requires a holistic and community-based approach to improve absorption capacity and enhance access to basic services and self-reliance for returnees. A technical team was established to develop action plan that will lead to the implementation of the Tripartite agreement.

A deterioration of the security situation in the IDP hosting areas has been observed. While the strength of JAS in general seem to be waning, there is now a more active targeting of “easier” targets, such as IDP camps and other civilian facilities with PBIEDs.

While humanitarian actors recognize the need for measures by authorities to improve security of civilians and camps, authorities must be aware of protection risks and ensure that such measures do not infringe on the human rights of the IDPs. The presence of military actors in IDP camps undermines humanitarian principles and the civilian character of IDP sites.

Attacks on IDP camps are attacks on civilian targets. IDP camps are places of refuge where people have gone as a last resort to flee an already hazardous environment. By coercing civilians into making them targets of attacks through PBIED, the civilian nature and the sanctuary of these camps are put into jeopardy. The recurrence of attacks of camps hosting IDPs and returning refugees by the Non-State Armed Groups bring on the table the importance of the physical protection of crisis-affected populations and the criticality of the promotion of the civilian character of communal settlements in the NE.

Sexual and gender-based violence

Among the everyday struggles faced by adolescents and young women, reports indicate that they are often forced into prostitution and are engaging in survival sex in exchange for food, movement and to meet their basic needs, as a measure to cope with the strain they are living under - where resources are shrinking, and their resilience is tested to the extreme. Indeed, harassment, gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse of women and girls has been reported in IDP camps and host communities. GBV partners have reported incidents where young women are targeted for prostitution and/or encouraged by their families into forced marriage unions or ‘marriages of convenience’ where there’s agreement with the groom to continue providing financial support to the young bride’s family. Transactional sex by girls and young women was mentioned throughout a recent assessment as a coping mechanism for lack of income at the household level and represents a change in girls’ behaviors since the crisis began.

Women and adolescent girls are at constant risk of violence due to gendered roles they perform. They are attacked while engaging in everyday activities such as fetching water, going to the farm, fetching firewood and going to the latrines. This situation is further limited by a lack of free movement which prohibits women especially female headed households from going out to look for means of livelihood. In some locations, only men can collect firewood, thereby further entrenching women’s vulnerabilities – particularly for female HH. Safety and security challenges are higher for women and girls living in areas where the security parameter is limited to the LGA towns. Repeated attacks by non-state armed groups on IDP camps using so called ‘suicide bombers’ raises serious physical security threats especially to women and children living in those camps. 72% of so called ‘suicide bombers’ used by non-state armed groups are female, 57% of suicide attacks perpetrated between January and July used children as Person-Borne Improvised Explosive Devices (PBIED). Girls and women have also been increasingly coerced into these actions.

Women and girls who were abducted by non-state armed groups, were raped and forcibly married during their captivity often face stigmatization and rejection from their communities upon their return. These girls, women and their children who were born because of rape are often feared by communities and ostracized from society because they are suspected to be sympathizers of non-state armed actors. Some survivors' accounts indicate that after rescue from captivity, security personnel often subject them to further sexual abuse during the process of screening. Some women and girls including their children have also been arbitrarily detained for prolonged periods, while they or their caregivers are investigated for suspected ties to non-state armed groups.

HCT and OHCT - leadership of the response have incorporated gender, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and GBV as a core element of the humanitarian response. However, a lot more needs to be done to ensure humanitarian action continues with efforts to mainstream and integrate gender and GBV guidelines into humanitarian response. IOM August 2017 DTM report on conditions in camps/camp-like settings shows that 50% of IDPs have lighting in camp, but feel it's inadequate; 44% say there is no lighting in camp; 39% IDPs report humanitarian assistance is insufficient; 69% bathing areas not separated by sex; 53% toilets do not lock from the inside and 71% toilets not separated by sex. The GBV sub sector partners working together with key partners such as food security and CCCM have developed plans and are working towards addressing some of these concerns. In addition, multiple stakeholders have come together under the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies to develop a two-year Road Map to strengthen GBV prevention and response efforts in the Northeast. The HCT can play a significant role in complementing these efforts.

Violence against children

Up to 62 percent of the displaced and emergency-affected population in the northeast are children. It is estimated that there are over 1.7 million children in Borno state alone who have been impacted by the conflict and need assistance, including displaced, returnee children and children in host communities. The protection needs of these boys and girls are critical. Most of these children have been exposed to violence, loss of friends and family members, accumulated stress, deterioration in living conditions, increased military presence, divisions in societies, and lack of access to services such as schools. An estimated 20,000 children have been separated from their families and are either unaccompanied or separated while at least 34,000 have lost one or both parents because of the conflict. **19,037 vulnerable children** have been registered by CP Actors as cases of special concern since beginning of 2016 ². It is estimated that at least another ten thousand children need urgent case management and/or family tracing and reunification services. These conflict related experiences have a significant impact on the psychosocial wellbeing and development of children and adolescents and have both immediate and long-term consequences for children, adolescents, families and communities.

In addition to the general needs of children and adolescents impacted by the conflict, thousands of girls and boys have been subjected to grave violations of their rights: many have been used and affected by attacks conducted by non-state armed groups. Between January 2014 to October 2017, 162 children (42 boys and 120 girls) were used as PBIEDs by Jamaat al jihad wa a sunah (JAS). In 2017, the number of children involved in suicide attacks was equal to three-fold the number for the last three years combined. Children have also been recruited, abducted or held by non-state armed groups, during which time they have experienced sexual violence and have sometimes participated in physical violence. **4,838 children formerly associated with non-state armed groups** have been identified and registered in Maiduguri alone, while about 8,000 children are believed to be associated and used by non-state armed groups and about 5,000 by the Civilian Joint Task Force. These children are exposed to enormous protection risks and their release is paramount. The findings of an assessment on children associated with armed groups conducted in 2016, highlight that children associated with non-state armed groups will face significant obstacles in reintegrating, regardless of the method of recruitment, with most communities expressing extreme negative perceptions and an unwillingness to accept the

²Out of the overall caseload, 14,090 were unaccompanied and separated children and 4,947 were children at risk. A total of 5,207 children were provided with case management services (data source: CP Information Management System database).

return of these children and adolescents. While thousands of children have been demobilized and will continue to receive assistance, many others are yet to be released.

Children being held under administrative detention remains another serious child protection concern in 2017. Girls are also held for alleged association with non-state armed groups. It is important to note that children have been arbitrarily detained for prolonged periods of time, while they or their caregivers are investigated for suspected ties to non-state armed groups. At least 968 children (501 boys and 467 girls) were deprived of their liberty by the security forces as of October 2017. Of this number, 526 children (278 boys and 248 girls) were released on 4 October from Giwa military barracks in Maiduguri to Borno State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development and will require long term multi-sectoral support, including continued follow up and child protection integrated services, once back in their communities. 442 children (219 boys and 223 girls) are still held in the administrative custody by the security forces in Maiduguri, while an unknown, and likely higher, number of boys and girls are believed to be held in other locations, such as Gwoza, Bama, Mafa and Damboa. The HCT must continue to advocate for the treatment of such children primarily as victims.

Protection data collection, dissemination and resulting advocacy

Recognizing multiple existing tools for detailed protection analysis, including vulnerability screening, MRM, CPIMS, GBVIMS and protection monitoring, agencies will be encouraged to build upon existing capacities to expand the collection and dissemination of information on protection trends, while increasingly collaborating towards linking and consolidating case management tools. Further, it is necessary to ensure that key protection data, as well as data from tools analyzing movement and population trends, are validated at HCT level to promote coordinated use of vetted data by the humanitarian community.

Analysis of protection trends on risks and needs will be shared with the HCT regularly to support decision-making and for follow up advocacy at the strategic-level. The HCT will have a clear engagement strategy on advocacy issues to effectively speak on behalf of the humanitarian community on sensitive and critical protection matters.

The HCT Centrality of Protection Strategy: Vision, Objectives and Underlying Principles

This section presents the core of the HCT Centrality of Protection Strategy for northeast Nigeria. It describes the Strategy's Vision and Objectives, as well as the Underlying Principles that will guide its implementation.

Vision and Objectives

The overall protection vision for Northeast Nigeria is to ensure that civilians, including displaced persons and returnees, in the country are protected, and are able to enjoy their rights, including the right to move freely in safety and dignity, and to enable re-establish their lives.

To create and sustain a protective environment

A protective environment is one in which all individuals enjoy full respect for their rights in accordance with international law, including international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law, regardless of their age, gender or social, ethnic, national, religious or other background. Thus, the protective environment shall continue to prosper for those internally displaced who shall enjoy in full equality the same rights and freedoms under international and domestic law as do other persons in their country.³ The HCT commits to ensuring strategic approaches are in place to strengthen the protective

³ Principle 1 of Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, U.N. Doc. E/CN.4/1998/53/Add2(1998).

environment in northeast Nigeria, including by identifying and responding to at-risk and excluded groups with appropriate programming, supporting community-based protection mechanisms, and delivering services to provide immediate life-saving assistance as well as support for longer term durable solutions. The HCT commits to increase advocacy efforts with all parties to the conflict and actor of influence and to facilitate increased protection analysis and monitoring that will better inform response planning and advocacy.

To enhance protection through freedom of movement and enhanced access

Gaining access to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and affected communities is essential to identifying and ultimately responding to their protection and assistance needs. Humanitarian access should be understood both from the perspective of the affected population having access to protection and assistance, as well as the humanitarian actors having access to those requiring assistance and protection. It is also a precondition for the enjoyment of other rights and entitlements in a situation of armed conflict. The freedom of movement, including the right to move freely in safety and dignity, of the affected population in the northeast is thus essential to ensure adequate access to humanitarian assistance and basic services as well as allowing for livelihoods, trade and markets that are critical to achieving self-reliance and moving towards durable solutions.

The HCT commits to engage in humanitarian negotiations to gain access to IDPs and other affected populations in the inaccessible areas and to ensure sound conditions for an effective protection presence and for sustainable assistance and protection activities. These negotiations will include securing access to civilians, women, men, girls and boys and children, who are being held for screening and/or rehabilitation in detention facilities, with the goal of ensuring for rights-holders/beneficiaries the full realization of their right of freedom of movement and ultimately, the preservation of the humanitarian and civilian character of the protection response. Furthermore, the HCT will maintain freedom of movement as central to advocacy engagements at a national, regional and international level and urging the respect for international human rights, humanitarian law and responsibility to protect civilians. In doing so, the HCT will advocate for the right for internally displaced persons to liberty and security of person, emphasizing that IDPs shall not be interned in or confined to a camp unless exceptional circumstances make such interment or confinement necessary; in which case, it shall not last longer than required by the circumstances.⁴ To give effect to this right, the HCT will emphasize that Nigeria has signed and ratified the Kampala convention and the Abuja declaration, which also committed to “Take concrete steps, including continuous monitoring, to ensure that security measures such as restrictions on freedom of movement in the context of state of emergency and evacuations comply with international standards, and are temporary and exceptional in nature.”

To ensure protection mainstreaming into the humanitarian response and decision-making

The HCT recognizes protection mainstreaming as a priority protection objective that identifies and addresses protection risks through a comprehensive approach that is central to all phases of the humanitarian response in northeast Nigeria. Protection Mainstreaming should be included at all stages of humanitarian programming cycle, including planning, implementation and monitoring as required by SPHERE standards. All humanitarian actors have a responsibility to mainstream protection into humanitarian response programming.

Underlying Principles

Many principles will underpin and guide the actions taken to achieve the protection objectives identified above. Overall, the principles will ensure that the humanitarian response in northeast Nigeria places protection at the center of its

⁴ Principle 12 of Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, *ibid.*

activities, respects and reflects the respective roles of the diverse community of humanitarian actors in northeast Nigeria, and is driven by the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, independence and impartiality.

The HCT commits to the following principles:

Avoid causing harm – identify the physical or psychological threats that populations can face in accessing services and act to prevent, minimise or mitigate their negative effects.

Especially challenging within the context of a country that remains in civil conflict, humanitarian actors must respect the principle of “do no harm”, ensure that assistance is provided in a manner that prevents or minimizes risk and threats to persons seeking assistance, and focus on the most vulnerable civilians, especially women and children. Humanitarian actors must not inadvertently do harm, draw civilians towards conflict areas, damage the protective environment, or provoke tensions within communities or between communities that are already in conflict. Humanitarian programming should not entrench pre-existing inequalities and should aim for participation and empowerment with accountability to affected persons in their response.

Humanitarian space and meaningful access – ensure access to assistance and services is in proportion to need and without any barriers (e.g. discrimination). Pay special attention to those who are particularly vulnerable or have difficulty accessing assistance or services.

Further, it is the government’s responsibility to facilitate humanitarian action and access to affected populations, and to protect humanitarian organizations. Humanitarian organizations have the right to deliver aid, to ensure the affected population’s right to receive assistance, and to deliver assistance in accordance with international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles.

The HCT will allow for meaningful access to those in need, in particular ensuring that the provision of assistance is: on the basis of need without discrimination; physically and financially accessible, within safe and easy reach of those in need; known by people potentially accessing services; available in sufficient quantity and quality; and culturally relevant and socially acceptable.

Participation and empowerment – support the development of self-protection and capacities. Assist people, especially women and girls, to claim their rights, including the rights to shelter, food, water, sanitation, health, education and promote the engagement, representation, participation and leadership of women throughout the response.

Accountability to affected populations – set up appropriate, inclusive mechanisms through which affected populations, can measure the adequacy of interventions and address concerns or complaints

Within their respective mandates, humanitarian actors are accountable to affected communities and base their action on participatory approaches that can allow people to have an active role in the decision-making processes that affect them. This includes ensuring the participation of women, older persons, adolescents and children as well as other persons with specific protection needs. Humanitarian actors must also communicate in a transparent manner about their activities and consult with communities and their leaders on decisions that affect them, while also respecting the confidentiality of personal information.

Equality and non-discrimination in the context of neutral humanitarian action – The sole purpose of humanitarian assistance is to save lives and to protect and assist conflict-affected civilians, whoever they are and wherever they may be, without discrimination. Humanitarian action must not be determined by which party to the conflict controls a given location, and must not discriminate, reinforce or create inequalities among affected civilians.

IV: Monitoring and Evaluation

Regular monitoring of the centrality of protection strategy will be carried out throughout the year by various stakeholders and humanitarian actors to ensure that assessment, project design, resource allocation and implementation are done in line with the centrality of protection and the HRP strategies, including alignment with a gender strategy which is being developed. Reports will be generated and compiled to reflect the actual situation and challenges where necessary for collective action. Similarly, a yearly evaluation of the process will be carried by both internal and external actors, the global protection sector and its AORs (GBV sub-sector and the Child Protection sub-sector). The progress reports that stakeholders submit under the Call to Action initiative will also provide helpful information on the quality and the reach of GBV prevention and response efforts.

The monitoring and evaluation reports will ensure that the centrality of protection action plan have been implemented effectively. It will assist the HC, DHC, HCT/OHCT, NPSWG, OPSWG and donors acquire the information and understanding they need to make informed decisions about programme operations, conflict dynamics, humanitarian interventions and its impacts on the lives of the IDP and returnees in the North East.

Annex 1: The Foundation Elements of the Protection Response in Northeast Nigeria

The HCT Protection Strategy builds on many key decisions and strategies that offer a foundation for a protection-centered response in northeast Nigeria:

Northeast Nigeria Protection Sector Strategy 2016-2017

The Protection Sector in northeast Nigeria has developed a Sector Strategy to define its objectives and activities for 2016-17. Work is ongoing to develop a Protection Sector Strategy for 2018, as well as a review of activities in 2017. For 2016/17, the Protection Sector Strategy outlined the provision of targeted protection services; enhancing protection of people through livelihood and social cohesion initiatives; and mainstreaming protection across all sectors, as main objectives for the year.

Northeast Nigeria Humanitarian Response Plan 2018

In 2018-2020, humanitarian partners will continue to deliver life-saving assistance and protection in the North East of Nigeria as guided by the 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan and the needs identified in the Humanitarian Needs Overview. As stated in the second Strategic Objective, all assistance will promote the protection, safety and dignity of affected people, and be provided equitably to men, women, boys and girls. The protection of affected persons will inform humanitarian decision-making and response. In line with HCT commitments, humanitarian partners will create and sustain a protective environment, ensure protection mainstreaming across all sectors and activities, and enhance the freedom of movement in conflict-affected areas. Particular attention will be given to increasing humanitarian access to conflict-affected populations, including hundreds of thousands of people in totally inaccessible areas who are currently not receiving any assistance.

Strategy on Protection, Return and Recovery for Northeast Nigeria

The Strategy on Protection, Return and Recovery for northeast Nigeria was developed in February 2017, followed by an action plan on Solutions for Return and Recovery for Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees in northeast Nigeria in July 2017. The overarching objective of the Strategy is to support durable solutions of voluntary return, local integration or resettlement of displaced populations, and in doing so, contribute to the resilience of communities affected by the conflict in the states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe, with overall expected effects on recovery and peacebuilding. The Strategy aims to implement the following 5 components over an 18-month period:

1. Support improvement of security;
2. Promote protection;
3. Deliver basic services;
4. Promote economic recovery and livelihoods;
5. Support peace building, reconciliation and social cohesion.

Peer-2-Peer Mission Report for Nigeria

The Peer-2-Peer mission to support the humanitarian leadership in Nigeria took place between the 6th and 17th June 2017. The team adopted a bottom-up approach to its work and consulted with approximately 150 individuals during the mission, including people affected by the crisis, national and local civilian authorities, military authorities, UN agencies, donors, and international and national NGOs in Abuja and Maiduguri. The mission culminated in a report and action

plan, for completion by March 2018. Among the recommendations are requirements for strengthened leadership on protection, collective efforts on accountability to affected people, and collective efforts on PSEA and GBV.

Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies: Initiative for Northeast Nigeria

The Call to Action is a global initiative of governments and donors, international organizations and non-governmental organizations. The goal of the Call to Action is to ensure that every humanitarian effort mitigates the risks of GBV and provides safe and comprehensive services for those affected by GBV from the earliest phases of a crisis. Call to Action partners and other stakeholders working in the Northeast have developed a two-year pilot Road Map with priority outcomes, action areas and activities to help strengthen GBV prevention and response in the region. Stakeholders will report annually on their progress in implementing the Road Map. The work under the Call to Action will be undertaken in collaboration with existing humanitarian processes and structures

Protection and Conflict Trends 2017 report

The Protection Sector's Protection and Conflict Trends report outlines specific recommendations to ensure the mainstreaming of protection throughout the humanitarian response. Some of these include ensuring gender, protection and vulnerability concerns are part of planning phases; guaranteeing non-discrimination, prioritization, etc. The report also outlines key protection mainstreaming considerations for each sector.

Annex 2: Protection Threat, Risk and Vulnerability Mapping

The table below shows the most prevalent threat, risk and vulnerability dynamics being faced by affected population in north-east Nigeria and the three states of Borno, Yobe, Adamawa with the highest concentration in the former. The north-east Nigeria context is first and foremost a protection crisis that is defined by high levels of deliberate personal violence, coercion and cycles of deprivation that continue to erode positive capacities to cope and adapt in a self-protective manner.

Protection Issue	Threats/Risks (Violence, Coercion and Deprivation Factors)	High Risk Population Groups	High Risk Areas
<p>Restrictions to safe, dignified freedom of movement of affected populations to humanitarian assistance, basic lifesaving services, productive assets for livelihoods security, and to secure self-protection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Direct and indirect attacks against civilians as they move outside of security cordons, and LGA militarised trenches to access firewood and other resources ➔ Destruction of property, farm land, markets, and services (hospitals, schools, places of worship) ➔ Fear of violence creating negative self-limiting strategies ➔ Manipulation and abuse by security forces coercing women and girls to engage in “survival sex” to secure movement ➔ Association with non-state armed actors and discrimination and harassment ➔ Extortion and violence at screening centres and at checkpoints of affected populations ➔ Risk of collective punishment as populations move between different areas of control ➔ High levels of restrictions of movement for IDPs within camps leading to exploitation, negative coping strategies, sexual exploitation and abuse and aid dependency ➔ Loss/theft of civil documentation ➔ Association with armed groups 	<p>Boys/Men: 12-35 years men and adolescents considered of fighting age risk of detention, extrajudicial killings, harassment and recruitment</p> <p>Girls/Women: 12-45 years: women of child bearing age and young girls, including females heading households, exposed to sexual abuse/ violence, stigmatisation, coercive practices, used as in PBIED attacks and face violence in communal/domestic spaces.</p> <p>Elderly: 60 years and above exposed to high risk of being taking hostage, violence, maltreatment and detention.</p>	<p>Most affected LGAs in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States</p>

Protection Issue	Threats/Risks (Violence, Coercion and Deprivation Factors)	High Risk Population Groups	High Risk Areas
Affected populations living under compromising living standards (below SPHERE) and conditions of affected populations due to overcrowding in IDP settlements exposure to internal protection threats, resource depletion forcing maladaptation's, and lack of services and support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Overcrowding in camps/informal settlements with lack of security provision and protection ➔ Risk of exploitation and abuse to secure movement and access to resources outside of camps and stigmatisation ➔ Deliberate personal violence due to prolonged encampment ➔ Arbitrary detention and screening at sites ➔ Lack of civil documentation and access to camp services and support ➔ Changes to social demographics with IDPs in camps, informal settlements mostly women and children 	Boys/Men Girls/Women Elderly	Most affected LGAs in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States
Cycles of additional displacement (secondary) due to deteriorating security conditions, coercion, and lack of access to basic resources/ services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Separation of families at screening sites ➔ Arbitrary detention ➔ Loss of access to land and primary livelihoods and attacks deliberate violence during access to farms and markets ➔ Extortion at screening centres and at checkpoints of affected populations ➔ Lack of information about onward displacement and conditions in camps and host communities ➔ Stigmatisation ➔ Aid dependency ➔ Lack of livelihoods ➔ Lack of safety during movement ➔ Dignity undermined 	Boys/Men Girls/Women Elderly	Most affected LGAs in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States
Humanitarian actors constrained in providing principled assistance to most vulnerable and in need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Direct and indirect interference and prevention of aid movement ➔ Diversion of aid assets by armed actors in form of taxation / extortion ➔ Attacks against aid personnel and assets ➔ Restriction on movement of aid personnel and cargo and inability of humanitarian actors to access populations outside of LGAs ➔ Lack of needs-based response (due to government restrictions on where aid can be delivered) ➔ Compromise of independence and neutrality of the response given the response is delivering only in areas controlled by the government and therefore only in areas of control of one party to the conflict; 	Boys/Men Girls/Women Elderly	Most affected LGAs in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States

Protection Issue	Threats/Risks (Violence, Coercion and Deprivation Factors)	High Risk Population Groups	High Risk Areas
Prevalence of gender-based violence as a tactic of control and resulting from deprivation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Fear of violence creating negative self-limiting strategies ➔ Manipulation, exploitation and abuse by security and aligned forces coercing women and girls to engage in “survival sex” to secure movement ➔ Violence against women and girls in IDP settlements and outside particularly for females heading households ➔ Rape and other forms of sexual violence perpetrated by non-state and state armed actors, as well as community members ➔ Violence, harassment and sexual violence during detention 	Boys/Men Girls/Women Elderly	Most affected LGAs in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States
High levels of child recruitment, attacks against schools, mobilisation and utilisation as “human bombs” and in PBIED tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Killing and maiming of children ➔ Arbitrary detention and screening and limited access to alternative measures to justice ➔ Violation of right to fair trial/due process ➔ Attacks against schools and occupation of schools ➔ Unlawful detention and screening ➔ Separation of families ➔ Displacement ➔ Direct and indirect violence resulting from displacement, lack of security in IDP camps ➔ Severe distress and violence against women and children ➔ Forced recruitment of children ➔ Children joining NSAGs due to stigma of association, lack of reintegration opportunities, denial of assistance ➔ Children being ‘enticed’ due to lack of food, assistance 	Boys/Men Girls/Women Elderly	Most affected LGAs in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States

Annex 3: HCT Centrality of Protection Strategy Action Plan

This Action Plan lists the core activities that will be undertaken by the HCT and relevant humanitarian actors to fulfill the protection vision and achieve the objectives that are presented in the Protection Strategy, under the supervision of the HC. The HC will ensure the monitoring of progress under the Action Plan. The HCT will review this document on a quarterly basis, or as required.

Protection Vision: The overall protection vision for northeast Nigeria is to address protection risks through a multi-sectoral approach that is central to all phases of the response in Nigeria; to ensure that displaced persons, returnees and other civilians in the country are protected, are able to enjoy their fundamental rights, including the right to move freely in safety and dignity, and can re-establish their lives.

Protection Objectives:

- 1.** To contribute to a protective environment, by minimizing risks to persons of concern
- 2.** To enhance protection through freedom of movement
- 3.** To ensure protection mainstreaming into the humanitarian response and decision-making

Objective 1: To contribute to a protective environment, by minimizing risks to persons of concern

Key Activities	Progress Indicator	Lead	In Coordination / Collaboration with	Timeframe
1. Engage and advocate with government organs in addressing the protection needs of internally displaced persons and other affected civilians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ # of times Government organs, including civil authorities, law enforcement and security agencies are held accountable for the protection of civilians ➡ # of times Government ensures protection concerns are prioritized in planning, programming and political processes ➡ # of times protection issues are raised by the HC in key events 	HC	HCT members, including donors & PSWG	2018
2. Advocate on the protection of civilians, respect for international human rights law and international humanitarian law (IHL) strengthened with relevant actors, including security forces; Advocate on domestication & implementation of instruments including the Kampala Convention and the Abuja Statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ # of specific advocacy interventions generated by protection analysis ➡ # of advocacy interventions taken up by the HCT; ➡ # of monthly review meetings held with all relevant military and MRM CTF focal points to review progress ➡ # of action plan activities successfully implemented 	HC	Protection Sector, HCT, OCHA, UNHCR, MRM Country Task Force, INGO Forum	2018
3. Provide regular protection analysis within reports and document of protection & human rights violations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ # of specific documents generated on protection analysis ➡ # of times protection analysis is discussed at OISWG, OHCT and HCT ➡ # of response plans that reference protection analysis 	Protection Sector, Sub-Sectors	UNHCR, OHCHR, OISWG, OHCT, HCT, INGO Forum	2018
4. Ensure implementation of recommendations from the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) Country Task Force of children's rights in situations of armed conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ Comprehensive response given to children to address violations; ➡ # of children receiving specialized services responses improved; ➡ Reports of grave violations and against children and adolescents reduced ➡ # of UN agencies and NGOs actively contributing to the MRM ➡ # of SRSG Annual Report recommendations implemented by the MRM CTF 	UNICEF/CP SWG	Protection Sector and the GBV Sub-Sector	2018

Key Activities	Progress Indicator	Lead	In Coordination / Collaboration with	Timeframe
5. Engage, support and invest in humanitarian organizations working directly with affected populations and providing protection services, including NGOs, national human rights institutions and civil society groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ % increase in funding to strengthen the institutional capacity of national NGOs working directly with affected populations and providing protection services; ➡ Mobilization of funds under Country Based Pooled Funds and CERF; ➡ Training, mentoring, coaching of staff 	HCT; OCHA; PSWG	Donors	Ongoing
6. Communicate with and be accountable to affected populations using relevant and accessible mechanisms to ensure feedback from the affected populations;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ Accountability to Affected Population Framework (AAP) is operationalized ➡ Humanitarian proposals and reports include a community accountability component ➡ Organizations to provide resources for communications with affected populations ➡ # of information-sharing sessions on accessibility to services ➡ # of sessions held with affected populations on feedback mechanisms ➡ # of consultations by the HCT with affected populations through field visits (target: quarterly) 	OCHA; AAP WG; HCT	Every Sector; PSWG and its Sub-Sectors	Ongoing
7. Advocate to security actors as duty bearers for the protection of civilians at national, state and LGA levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ # of sensitization campaigns & trainings for security forces ➡ # of CivMil Coordination Working Group meetings held (target: weekly) 	OCHA, UNHCR, Civil Military Coordination WG, Protection Sector and Sub-Sectors		Ongoing
8. Renew efforts in the protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ Increased support and resource allocation on protection from Gender Based Violence (GBV) ➡ Monitoring of Road Map on PSEA ➡ Referral and response mechanisms functioning ➡ # of meetings of PSEA Task Force ➡ # of strategies, action plans and thematic guidelines on action related to PSEA, GBV and CRSV ➡ # of HCT meetings with GBV/PSEA as an agenda item 	HCT Lead, Responsibility of all agencies and organizations	HC, PSWG and its Sub-Sectors	Ongoing

Objective 2: To enhance protection through freedom of movement and enhanced access

Key Activities	Progress Indicator	Lead	In Coordination / Collaboration with	Timeframe
1. Enhance access to essential services & promote freedom of movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ # of interventions made to promote freedom of movement ➡ # of people/communities who benefited from enhanced access to essential services 	PSWG & its Sub-Sectors; CIMCOORD WG	HC, all humanitarian actors in the NE	August 2018 for the first report, then on a quarterly basis
2. Advocate to relevant authorities at national and state level on their obligation to ensure freedom of movement of civilians and foster access to assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ # key messages and advocacy notes to government (state and federal) ➡ # of actions taken by government, state and federal following advocacy ➡ # of provisions of the Kampala Convention addressing the needs of the IDPs that have been integrated into national and state laws 	HC, DHC, HCT, OHCT	PSWG & sub-sectors	2018
3. Collect and analyze data on restrictions to movement affecting access to essential services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ # of reports tracking, assessing and monitoring obstacles to freedom of movement ➡ # of access incidents reported 	PSWG, CIMCOORD WG	Protection actors and relevant humanitarian agencies	Quarterly reports; first one in July
4. Provide information to affected communities on the availability of essential services and their right to access those services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ # of sensitization sessions done in which specific services and rights are promoted ➡ # of effective feedback mechanisms established 	PSWG & its Sub-Sectors; AAP WG	Relevant humanitarian agencies	2018
5. Facilitate safe movement for affected communities by removing IEDs and providing mine risk education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ # of areas cleared and declared safe ➡ # of mine risk awareness and education sessions carried out ➡ # of mine/ERW incidents reported ➡ # of sectors in which mine risk education is integrated in sector response plans 	UNMAS	PSWG & its Sub-Sectors	TBC as deployment date needs to be confirmed

Objective 3: To ensure protection mainstreaming into the humanitarian response and decision-making

Key Activities	Progress Indicator	Lead	In Coordination / Collaboration with	Timeframe
1. Sector coordinators take responsibility for protection mainstreaming in their respective sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ # of protection risk analyses done within other sectors ➡ Integration of key humanitarian principles (“Do No Harm”; enabling meaningful access; participation and empowerment; and accountability to affected populations) into activities and planning ➡ # of trainings on protection mainstreaming conducted ➡ # of indicators informing on protection mainstreaming activities in every sector ➡ # of referrals of protection cases received by protection actors from other sectors 	PSWG & its Sub-Sectors, All Sectors		2018
2. Set a minimum budget of for protection mainstreaming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ Allocation, by each sector, of a minimum of 5% of its total budget towards protection mainstreaming activities 	Every sector	PSWG & its Sub-Sectors	2018
3. Mainstream gender by enhancing the protection of girls and women through gender analysis and lens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ # of Sector-specific analyses available to all partners ➡ # women and girls consulted and allowed to participate at all levels of humanitarian planning, needs assessments, monitoring and evaluation 	Sector Leads	Every sector	2018