



14-26 April 2019

GENERAL SECURITY SITUATION

The reporting period witnessed a significant decrease in the number of Non-State Armed Group (NSAG) related incidents in North-East Nigeria. While there is no official reason for this development, analysts say the reinforced presence of troops of the Multi-National Joint Task Force (MNJTF) in potential trouble areas is inhibiting the capacity of NSAGs to undertake indiscriminate attacks on civilian and military infrastructure. That said, on 16 April NSAGs attacked positions of the military in Cross Kauwa, Kukawa LGA in Borno State. The MNJTF said two of its soldiers along with 52 members of NSAGs were killed and several others injured in the attack which took place approximately 135 kilometres (84 miles) northeast of Borno State capital Maiduguri. Meanwhile, UN helicopters remain the only means of transport for humanitarian workers to reach affected population outside Maiduguri. This continues to make access to affected communities in various LGAs increasingly unpredictable due to the high demand by humanitarian agencies.

On 14 and 16 April, the military arrested nineteen suspected NSAG members and seized arms and ammunition in Mubi North LGA and in Shuwa, Madagali LGA in Adamawa State. It can be recalled that NSAGs attacked several communities in March, killing dozens of people, injuring others and destroying property.

REFUGEE RETURNEE UPDATE

Returns from Cameroon

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency is holding discussions with relevant government agencies for the voluntary repatriation of about 4,000 Nigerian refugees from Cameroon to Adamawa State. This followed the allocation of Naira 1.5 billion (approximately \$4.2 million) by the Federal Government. The discussions are aimed at ensuring that movements are in line with the provisions of the Tripartite Agreement signed by the Governments of Nigeria/Cameroon and UNHCR in March 2017 for the voluntary repatriation of Nigerian refugees in Cameroon. UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies in Adamawa State undertook a joint mission to refugee return areas to assess the conditions and sensitize receiving communities. The findings will be shared with Cameroon to help refugees make informed decisions about voluntary repatriation.

UNHCR stands ready to support returns to safe areas in line with the Tripartite Agreement - provided that refugees make informed decisions based on the principle of voluntariness, safety and dignity.

Returns from Niger

On 25 April, a UN team led by the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) in Nigeria visited Damasak, northern Borno State on the border with Niger. The visit provided the HC and delegation the opportunity to assess the conditions of the Nigerians who returned spontaneously from Niger and discuss with them to better inform humanitarian response efforts. During the visit, UNHCR briefed the HC about what the agency and others were doing to support the return process in the face of challenges including insecurity and the lack of basic services. Meanwhile, the UNHCR Shelter Team undertook a mission to Damasak on 22 April to assess the shelter needs in order to provide support to the returnees.

In another development, UNHCR Representative in Nigeria met the Governor-Elect of Borno State in Maiduguri and updated him on UNHCR support to populations affected by the ongoing crisis. The Representative also briefed him on efforts by UNHCR to ensure that returns from Cameroon and Niger are voluntary and take place in safety and dignity. The meeting was also attended by the Commissioner of Ministry of Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (MRRR) and Executive Chair of Emergency Management Agency (SEMA). The two agencies are UNHCR's government partners in the state.

Since the beginning of 2019, the UNHCR partner - Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) has biometrically registered more than 12,000 refugee returnees from Cameroon, Niger and Chad to areas such as Damasak, Ngala, Banki, Pulka and Maiduguri in Borno State.

IDP RESPONSE EFFORTS

Humanitarian Coordinator Visits IDP Camps

On 24 April, the Humanitarian Coordinator and UNHCR Representative visited the Teachers Village and the New Stadium IDP camps in Maiduguri to see first-hand efforts by humanitarian actors who are supporting

affected communities in the two camps. The delegation held focus group discussions with IDPs in the New Stadium Camp to understand their situation.

Meanwhile, as part of efforts to further expand the capacity of the New Stadium Camp in Maiduguri for new IDP arrivals, UNHCR provided 150 additional emergency shelters, bringing to 660 emergency shelters plus 10 communal shelters for a total of around 3,800 individuals. The contribution is part of the consolidated interagency collaboration to assist new arrivals in Maiduguri following renewed crisis in the northern part of Borno State.

UNHCR Response to fire Incident

In response to the recent fire incident in April in Gajiganna, Monguno Local Government Area (LGA), which left hundreds of families homeless, UNHCR dispatched a consignment of 500 non-food item (NFI) kits for distribution to affected IDPs. The standard kit is comprised of mattresses, blankets, mats, jerry-cans, slippers, sanitary napkins, laundry soap, solar lanterns, cooking sets, plastic buckets, detergents and mosquito nets.

SGBV Interventions

From 15-18 April, UNHCR in collaboration with its partners - Borno Women Development Initiative (BOWDI) and Grassroots Initiative for Community Resilience (GISCOR) launched the pilot phase of the Zero Tolerance Village Alliance (ZTVA) baseline assessment in GSSS Camp in Bama LGA. The ZTVA model is used to moderate negative gender attitudes and beliefs related to SGBV and positively changes perceptions of community and their norms and increasing awareness of SGBV interventions. A community mapping exercise was carried out with members of the community to identify potential SGBV risk areas in GSSS Camp. Meanwhile in the Maiduguri camps, UNHCR and partner GISCOR, with the help of community leaders identified 30 men and boys to be trained as part of efforts to support SGBV prevention.

Firewood collection remains one of the causes for increased protection risks among IDP and refugee returnee women and girls - sometimes leading to incidents of sexual gender based violence (SGBV). During the reporting period, nearly 95,000 kilograms of charcoal were sent to Pulka, Banki and Bama in Borno State for use by vulnerable women and girls to enable them access safe domestic energy for cooking.

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