

This report is produced by OCHA Nigeria in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from September to December 2019. The next report will be issued in March 2020.

Overview

The state continues to experience high humanitarian needs driven by conflict, flooding and inter-communal tensions. A total of 200,011 people are currently displaced¹. This number is expected to increase significantly when IOM releases the 29th round of data tracking matrix early 2020. During the reporting period, two key dynamics were recorded: The flash floods on the 27 October and the fatal herdsmen attack in Hong LGA on 23 November 2019.

Flooding affected over 173,049 people with an estimated 19 000 displaced from over 149 communities along the banks of River Benue. This is considered the worst flooding incident since 2014.

The herdsmen attack in Hong local government area left ten deaths, over 4,392 individuals (623 households) displaced, 19 wounded cases and over 25 women and children missing.

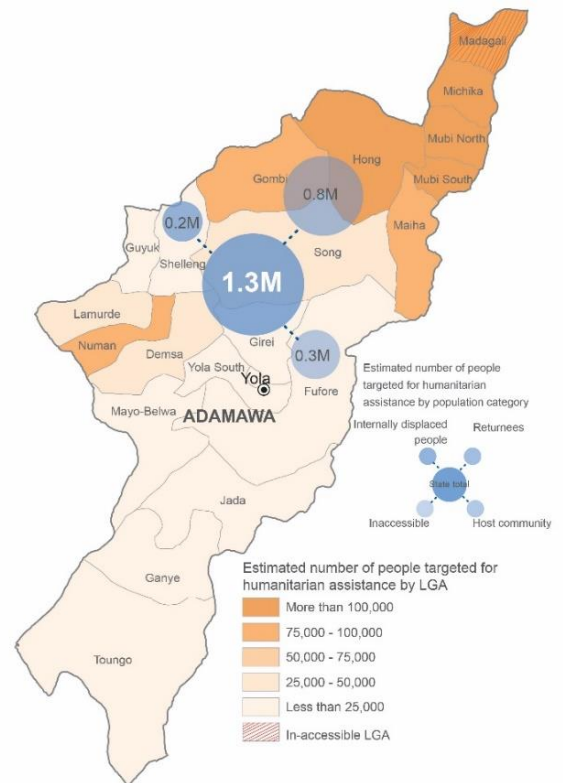
State and Federal level support was mobilized to respond to the immediate needs of the affected population. Humanitarian partners have so far provided lifesaving WASH, NFI/shelter assistance to over 10,000 individuals affected by the floods and the herders' attacks in Hong. However, without a dedicated food sector partner to provide food assistance, the affected population, inclusive of internally displaced, will be exposed to higher risks of hunger and disease.

The Cholera outbreak emergency declared on 27 June recorded over 800 cases and four deaths. Health and WASH partner prevention and response efforts have helped to contain the epidemic.

Security and Humanitarian Access

During the period under review, the state has witnessed increased levels of insecurity ranging from NSAGs attacks in Madagali LGA, petty crimes in Yola and big LGA towns and Kidnappings by criminal gangs. Over 30 kidnap-for-ransom incidents have been reported for the past three months. Key incidents include the kidnap of the Divisional Police Office (DPO) heading the Mubi North LGA Police Division by unknown gunmen; killing of 11 hunters by suspected NSAGs in Song LGA. Song LGA is largely considered safe and secure. This attack raises serious concerns about the ability of the NSAGs to infiltrate into peaceful communities. On 23 November 2019, herdsmen attacked residents of Kala'a, Shuwa-Kala'a, Zigayerima, Mambula, Kokuwa, Milna and Dilwachira communities in the Bangshika ward of Hong LGA. Killing ten people and leading to the displacement of over 4,392 individuals (623

Targeted People for Humanitarian Aid in 2019



Source: State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), Humanitarian Response Strategy 2019 -2021, ¹ IOM Data Tracking Matrix, Round 28

households), with 25 women and children still missing. The security situation in Madagali continues to deteriorate with over 30 attacks by unknown armed groups reported over the reporting period. NSAGs are believed to still control a large part of the suburbs in Madagali LGA, which borders southern Borno state.

Access to remote areas in northern Adamawa, bordering southern Borno state remain a challenge. This due to occasional infiltration and attacks by suspected NSAGs, mainly against military targets. Humanitarian access is also affected by the temporary restrictions put in place by the military on civilian movements in some areas, including the movement of agricultural inputs such as fertilizers. Also, there have been reports by some humanitarian partners based in Mubi of intimidation of their field staff members by the military.

Internal Displacement/Population Movement

There is an increase in displacements due to displacement from the herder's attacks. According to IOM assessment report released in November, some 4,392 individuals (623 households) were displaced from Kala'a, Shuwa-Kala'a, Zigayerima, Mambula, Kokuwa, Milna and Dilwachira in the Bangshika ward of Hong Local Government Area (. The IDPs were temporarily hosted in Daksiri, Garaha, Hong communities at the Hildi wards of Hong LGA while some fled to Sorau "A" and Konkol wards of Maiha LGA. The demography of the displaced population is as follows: Children (1,909 or 43%) and women (1,489 or 34%). Two per cent (78 individuals) are elderly, with men accounting for the rest (916 or 21%). Most of the displaced have returned after the intervention by the state security quelled the skirmishes in the LGA. It should be noted that this LGA is not a typical flashpoint between farmer and herder. The recent development signifies a shift in the pattern by the herders.

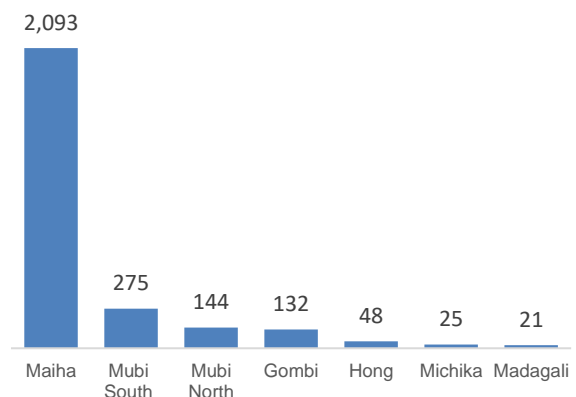
The increase in displacement is exacerbating the vulnerability of the IDPs, especially those in informal settlements, due to low response capacity both from the Government and humanitarian partners. The majority of people in informal sites have no access to proper shelter and some are forced to sleep in overcrowded shelters or out in the open. As a result, children and lactating mothers in some informal settlements are showing signs of severe acute malnutrition. Harmful coping mechanisms are on the increase, with young women and girls resorting to transactional sex. As the state enters the dry season, seasonal farmer/herder clashes and reprisal attacks between the indigenous population and settlers are likely to escalate due to lack of concrete measures from the Government/weak or inconsistent implementation of land policies. No facilitated voluntary repatriation from Cameroon and Niger during the reporting period and will likely to remain so due to the absence of services and insecurity in some areas refugees would like to return to.

Refugee Repatriation

Following the repatriation of the first batch of 134 Nigerian refugees from Cameroon into Adamawa state, consultations with the returnees indicated they are having re-integration challenges. They have raised concerns of lack of food, WASH services and livelihood. While UNHCR and partners are working on durable solutions to address the concerns raised by the returnees, some are already considering return to Cameroon

According to the UNHCR, plans are on course to continue with the repatriation of the remaining Nigerians originating from Adamawa State. However, no definite date has been set yet for subsequent returns.

Number of individuals agreed for voluntary return to Adamawa state



Source: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Sectoral Analysis



Protection

The protection sector continues to ensure a protective environment for the affected population through advocacy efforts and other services. The sector supported a series of activities to advocate for the domestication of the Kampala Convention, and the Child Rights Act. An outcome statement from the Roundtable discussion with Attorney Generals from all the North Eastern states of Borno, Adamawa, Yobe, Bauchi, Gombe and Taraba commits them to formulate new legal instruments, to help address existing and prevent new internal displacement. The sector also organized activities to commemorate 16 Days of Activism, led by the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development. Protection monitoring is on-going, in line with the centrality of Protection strategy. Information is collected through site/community protection monitoring using key informant interviews, to support evidence-based approach for the improvement of the protection environment. However, the sector continues to suffer from coordination challenge and limited resources as well as the impact of the current movement restriction by security forces in the northern part of the State.



WASH

The WASH sector partners have been supporting the flood response in communities that were ravaged by the rains in October 2019. Since November, WASH partners have been supporting persons in need of WASH services in communities affected by the floods. IOM, UNICEF, IRC, and Save the Storm Initiative organization have actively supported the flood response. Also, NRC has already mobilized resources to commence the response any moment. Following the response, more than 2,700 HHs (16,200 people) in Girei, Demsa, Numan and Lamurde LGAs have been reached with WASH interventions, through the distribution of WaSH NFIs (Soap, Detergents, Plastic Buckets, Aquatabs and WaSH Dignity Kits) by these WASH partners. However, the sector is challenged with inadequate funding to reach more vulnerable persons in need of WASH services. They also need enhanced capacity to be able to better respond to the various crises faced in the state.



Education

Based on assessment by UNICEF in collaboration with Adamawa State government in November 2019, 31% of school-going children are out of school. Many of the children do not have access to basic scholastic materials, limiting access to education. In addition, there are no opportunities for vocational skills to support adult-learning and provide alternative livelihoods. To this end, the sector is supporting the State government efforts to strengthen access to basic and quality education. The sector support systems strengthening to enhance evidence-based policy, planning, monitoring and evaluation.

Humanitarian/Development Nexus

Improved access and security in most parts of the State continues to present unique opportunities to pilot humanitarian and development nexus programming. However, the lack of a clear recovery/development coordination module and few implementing partners remained a huge challenge in the implementation of recovery and development programmers in the state.

In the absence of dedicated recovery and development coordination system, individual organizations continue to deliver programs directly contributing to rebuilding resilience in communities. For instance, CARITAS trained 949 Individuals on entrepreneurial development using the ILO modules of “Start Your Business”. Additionally, 637 (257 males, 380 Women) completed the six weeks’ vocational skills training in Mubi and Michika. Each beneficiary is expected to train one person in skills such as shoemaking, beads weaving, carpentry and joinery after they are empowered with start-up kits by UNHCR. While DRC FFP funding reached 6068 households monthly with N 107 678 550 in Michika and Madagali LGAs. These include 2325 Very Poor Households, 2827 Poor Households, and 916 cash for Work Beneficiaries. Cash for work has rehabilitated roads linking markets, rehabilitated market shades, abattoirs, reconstructed classrooms. 400 SMEs were supported with startup grants and start up materials in the said LGAs. The organization has also established thriving businesses in sewing, broiler chicken rearing, eggs chicken rearing, gardening and have trained 900 Mothers in Nutrition management including cooking clinics and establishing home gardens.

Coordination

In an attempt to enhance coordination between Humanitarian and Development actors, the new state government has established the “Ministry of Construction, Rehabilitation, Intervention and Humanitarian Services”. This is an attempt to streamline coordination between the state MDAs and humanitarian/development partners.

Current Gaps

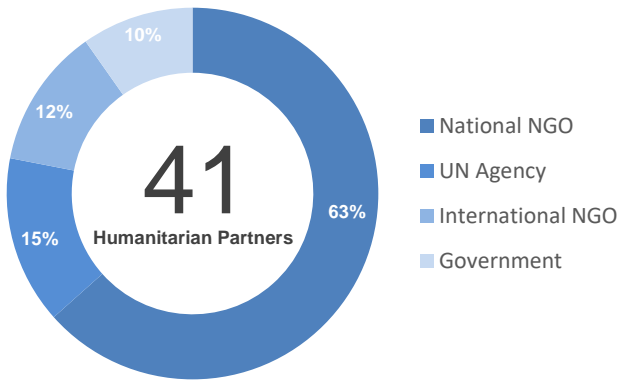
- Inadequate response capacity, especially in the informal settlements. Critical needs include lack of access to food assistance and livelihoods, shelter/CCCM service, WASH and Health.
- All the state sectors continue to face inadequate funding, weak coordination and Collaboration within the sectors to respond to numerous protection issues -Shrinking protection environment due to limited access to some locations.
- There is no functional recovery and development coordination structure in the state. This poses critical challenges in linking the delivery of life-saving assistance to early recovery and development actions.
- Since the start of 2019, the CCCM/NFI/ES sector is not operating at full capacity, due to staffing challenges. This has affected the sector capacity to ensure timely flow of information and efficient response to needs of IDPs in the camps.
- No dedicated food distribution partners to provide direct food delivery to IDPs in the formal and informal camps and host communities.
- Deficiencies in referral systems to handle serious health challenges faced by IDPs.
- Fewer early recovery/development actors in the state.
- Returnees from Cameroon are facing the following challenges: Inadequate livelihood support, insufficient latrines, limited access to land to farm and lack of scholastic materials for the children in the return areas.

Recommendations

- **Response to immediate humanitarian needs**, including; consistent food assistance to 12,000 IDPs in informal camps; provision of psycho-social support to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence and also to strengthen existing laws and access to justice to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence; targeted support for children with special needs.
- **Advocacy for scaled-up development and early recovery efforts**, taking advantage of the relative stability to enhance the humanitarian-development nexus pilot programming. Efforts should be geared towards supporting the restoration of infrastructure and basic services (health, WASH, education, governance systems at LGA level, etc.); establishment of vocational facilities to support adult-learning and provide alternative livelihoods and rehabilitation services for the youth engaged in criminal activities and substance abuse; general livelihood assistance to IDPs, preferably in the form of cash transfers, as most of the IDPs in informal settlements have access to land in the host communities; and, strengthening of access to justice.
- Advocacy with State authorities to support the restoration of civilian authority in the LGAs.
- **Strengthen community mobilization efforts** to create awareness on waste management and better town planning; awareness on basic rights and access services (health, education).
- **Strengthening** early-warning systems for farmer- herder clashes, reprisal attacks between indigenous populations and settlers as well as floods to enable communities better cope with the shocks.
- Strengthened coordination between sectors in Adamawa and the ISWG in Maiduguri to support enhanced local capacity and better resource mobilization.
- **Support a more coordinated beneficiary feedback mechanism** to better inform the response. This includes systematic consolidation and sharing of the analysis of beneficiaries’ feedback and tracking implementation by partners.
- **Strengthened preparedness and response efforts**, including prepositioning of commodities and emergency supplies.

Humanitarian Presence/3Ws

Partners by type



Partners by sector

