

PROTECTION MONITORING REPORT

UNHCR MAIDUGURI SUB-OFFICE



July-August 2022

I. OPERATIONAL CONTEXT




 IDPs	 Refugee Returnees	 Asylum Seekers
2,171,652 Individuals (861,113 in camps)¹	14,315 Individuals (4,731 Households)²	1,324 Individuals (241 Households)³

Table 1: Displacement affected populations in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states as of 31 August 2022

249
GBV incidents reported

149,012
Reached through protection by presence

2,020
Key Informant Interviews (KII) conducted

213
Protection & Safety Incidents reported in 24 LGAs

20%
Of 28,077 screened population are vulnerable

The security situation remained highly volatile in the period under review. Hostilities between the government forces and the Boko Haram/ISWAP in many locations of the Northeast were recorded mostly in Borno and Yobe states. Attempted infiltration into IDP camps and host communities resulting in death, looting, destruction of property was recorded in Gwoza, Pulka, Damboa, Monguno, Bama, and Dikwa in **Borno** State, and Gujba and Geidam in **Yobe** state. Host community members, IDPs, refugee and IDP returnees were exposed to risk of attacks and abductions in their farms or when accessing cooking fuel (firewood) in the nearby bushes in the affected areas. Furthermore, NSAG continued attacking soft targets and the mounting of illegal vehicle check points on Maiduguri-Nganzai-Damasak, Maiduguri-Monguno and Gwoza-Bama-Banki main supply routes in Borno state, thereby making it difficult for humanitarian cargo movements. Members of the NSAG continue to surrender to the government forces, a situation that indicates a gradual shift to cessation of violence.

In **Adamawa state**, organized criminal groups continue to attack communities and abduct civilians for ransom. In the months under review, 219⁴ safety and security incidents affecting the civilians were recorded in the BAY states. They comprised of armed attacks (81), IED (8), abductions (27), Illegal Vehicle Checkpoints (35), crime (31), NSAG presence (23) and hazards (14). Some 197 civilians including members of the displaced population were affected by the incidents. Also, windstorm and **floods** killed many people in **Borno, Yobe** and **Adamawa** states impacting negatively on the lives of the affected population. Increased inflation and the rise in the cost of daily commodities in the market were also reported during the months under review. The cost of food items and fuel were amongst the most impacted commodities.

The month of July witnessed the commemoration of **World Day against Trafficking in Persons**. UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency together with other members of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Task Force (ATiPTF) carried out advocacies in Borno and Yobe states to the relevant stakeholders and the States Ministries of Justice (MoJ) for continued support and assistance to survivors of human trafficking and to strengthen referral pathways. While in August, the Governor of the Far North Region of Cameroon whom is also the Chairman of the Lake Chad Basin Governors' forum was on a working visit to visit his counterparts in Yobe and Borno states where key outcomes of the visit was to reopen **schools and markets** as a result of improved security conditions in the region.

II. POPULATION MOVEMENT

The following three categories of movements confirm the internal and cross border nature of displacements and mixed movements in the BAY states, including the Borno State Government-led returns:

Internal Displacements: Some **24,903⁵** individuals were displaced in July-August 2022. In Borno state, the movements were recorded in Askira/Uba, Bama, Damboa, Dikwa, Gwoza, Kala Balge, Monguno and Gaboru Ngala Local Government Areas (LGAs). In Adamawa state, the displacements were recorded in, Fufore, Girei, Gombi, Hong, Lamurde, Maiha, Michika, Mubi North, and Song LGAs. Movement triggers include improved security, military operations, poor living conditions, family reunification, seasonal farming, and access to humanitarian assistance as well as fear of attack and communal clashes.

1. DTM round 40.
 2. UNHCR's Spontaneous refugee returnees Registration (Jan-Aug 2022).
 3. NCRFMI Asylum seekers registration Record.
 4. UNDSS NEA DSR (July and August 2022).
 5. Emergency Tracking Tool (ETT) consolidated data as of Aug28th 2022.

As reported in the previous months, the newly displaced persons in Borno state ended-up in camps and camp-like settlements as their places of origin remained unsafe for returns due to NSAG presence.

Refugee returnees: In the reporting months, a total of 516 spontaneous refugee returnee households comprising of 985 individuals were recorded by UNHCR’s partner - Nigerian Immigration Services (NIS); of this total, 630 are from Niger (64%), 325 from Cameroon (33%) and 30 from Chad (3%). A total of 93.4% of the returnees were not registered as refugees in countries of asylum. In addition, no incident of denial of access to territory was reported. The Machina-Yobe entry point recorded the highest number of spontaneous returns with 25% (249), followed by Sahuda-Adamawa 20% (195), Damasak-Borno 18% (181), Geidam-Yobe 18% (181), Gashua-Yobe 6% (59), Gwoza/Pulka-Borno 2% (23) and Mubi 1% (8). The main reason for return was the relative improvement of security in LGA headquarters in Nigeria. Access to villages in rural areas of the LGAs largely remain inaccessible due to the presence of NSAG and the absence of Government Forces (GF).

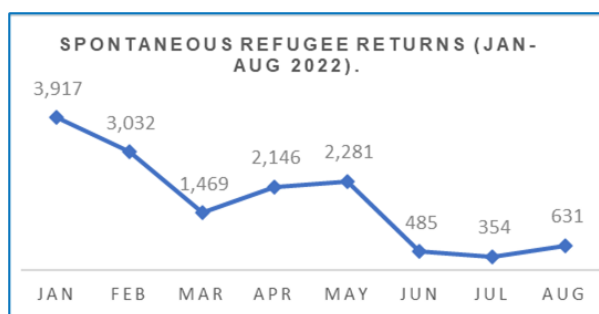


Figure 1: Spontaneous refugee returnees Jan-Aug 2022

The Borno State Government (BSG) return plan: In July, BSG organized return of 731 households to Soye village in Bama LGA from **Dalori II camp** in Maiduguri Metropolitan council (MMC). Dalori 1 Camp was closed by BSG on 4th and 7th August 2022 which affected over 7,400 IDPs of almost 1,500 households. According to the IOM tracking data, 387 HHs of 1,950 individuals decided to stay in MMC, while the remaining IDPs moved to host communities in various LGAs: Bama (329HHs/1, 615 ind.), Gwoza (51HHs/237 ind.), Jere (263 HHs/1, 315 ind.), Konduga (466 HHs/2,361 ind.). The BSG maintained its earlier practice of closing both the camps without engaging the humanitarian actors in the process and a short notice was given to the camp population, which made it challenging for UNHCR and other humanitarian actors to effectively track persons with specific needs for possible assistance. Each household received some return packages from the Borno State Government

Consequences of population movement: In July and August, the influx of IDPs from inaccessible areas into camps continued leading to crowded reception centres and shelters while some of the new arrivals were forced to sleep in the classrooms and in the open. This movement continued to put strains on the existing overstretched facilities in Bama, Pulka, Gwoza and Banki among other locations. Furthermore, spontaneous IDP and refugee returnees continued to return to garrison towns amidst shelter and livelihood challenges exposing them to a variety of protection related risks, including but not limited to sexual abuse, child exploitation and other GBV related issues. Furthermore, IDPs, returnees and host community members including children continue to be exposed to explosive remnants of war (ERW) including IEDs. In Bama, some children from the GSSS Bama camp searching for scrap metals picked an unexploded remnant of war, and **seven children lost their lives** when the IED exploded. Feeling of fear and anxiety amongst the affected population is increasing as a result of these incidents and there is an identified need for MHPSS services that are mostly unavailable. On Explosive Ordinance Risk Education (EORE), UNHCR in coordination with UNMAS and its partners continued to provide EORE to at-risk populations including returnees, internally displaced persons, residents living in conflict-affected areas that have recorded the highest number of UXO/ERW incidents (Bama, Banki, Damboa, Ngala, Dikwa and Monguno). Importantly, sensitizations are carried out by trained community volunteers and peer educators.

The closure of Dalori I and Dalori II camp followed the earlier pattern of the camp closures and caused serious challenges for the protection actors to track persons with specific needs who were earlier benefitting from the GBV and child protection services in the camps.

III. PROTECTION BY PRESENCE, PROTECTION MONITORING

Sessions	Men	WOMEN	Boys	Girls	Total
2,788	42,297	63,134	19,882	23,699	149,012

Presence: UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency and its partners (GISCOR, NHRC, BOWDI, NBA, Caritas, AUN and INTERSOS) maintained continued presence in BAY states to deliver **life-saving humanitarian assistance** and **protection services** to IDPs, IDP and refugee returnees, and the host community members amidst security challenges. A total of 149,012 affected population as shown in table 2 received protection services and products in July and August 2022. There is a notable increase in affected population reached as compared to 139,833 assisted in May-June

IV. INCIDENTS REPORTING

A total of **2,020 Key Informants Interviews (KII)** were conducted to assess the protection environment using the protection monitoring tool. The collected data were analyzed and triangulated alongside the vulnerability screening, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), and observations across the BAY states to inform protection response and advocacy to state actors, sectors, and agencies/organizations for an effective and efficient coordinated approach on the protection response.

During the reporting months, **213 safety and protection incidents were** reported and analysed by types of incidents, presumed perpetrators, and incidents per LGA as shown below in figure 2, 3, and 4 affecting an unspecified number of civilians including IDPs, IDP and refugee returnees, and community members.

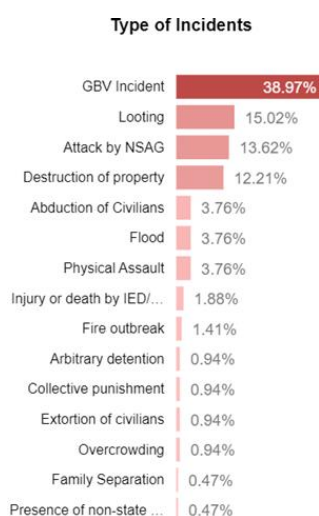


Figure 2: Type of Incidents

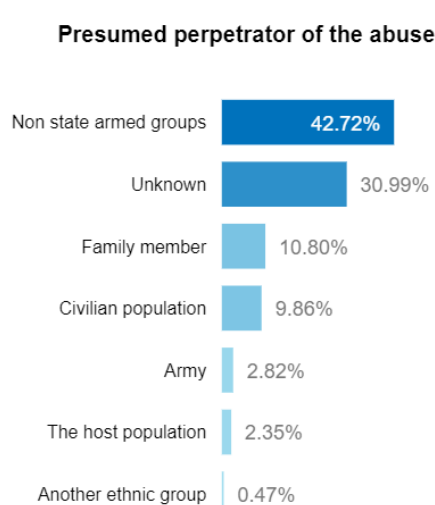


Figure3: Presumed perpetrator of the abuse

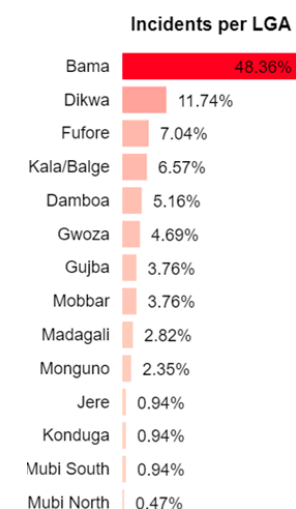


Figure 4: Incidents per LGA

Impact of incidents on the civilian population: Women continue to experience Gender-Based Violence perpetrated by the members of the community including family members. While the situation persists, the humanitarian community continue to face limited funding opportunities to provide the required support to survivors including young girls / children, who were forced to marry while in Boko Haram captivity and later rescued by the military in the ongoing Operation Desert Sanity (ODS).

Insecurity continues to expose the affected population to the risk of abduction and killing. Attack on farmers during farming activities has caused fears and thus reduced farming activities in Gwoza, Bama, Monguno and Damboa⁶. In addition, herdsmen continue to attack and destroy crops that are almost ready for harvesting by grazing their livestock in the farmlands in Adamawa and Yobe States. A total of 7 incidents were recorded in Namtari ward of Yola South LGA of Adamawa state. Out of 11 individuals affected, 9 were IDPs, a host community member and an alleged cattle rustler. Five women were allegedly physically and sexually assaulted by herdsmen while working on the farm. Due to these series of attacks, youth of Sangare Bode community of Yola South LGA mobbed a cattle rustler and killed him. These types of incidents can easily disrupt peaceful coexistence at the community level.

Torrential rainfalls and **flooding** has caused serious damage to shelter, food and non-food items in the BAY states. In some instances, human lives were lost, and main supply routes were damaged or shut down thereby limiting access to the affected population in Madagali and Michika LGAs of Adamawa State, and Gujba in Yobe State.

V. PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND SOCIAL COHESION

The peaceful relationship between IDPs/returnees and host community continued as stated to be overall very good. The data captured in the months under review reaffirmed what was reported in May-June 2022 of an excellent relationship between and among IDPs/returnees and communities/villages. Despite the reported peaceful co-existence, conflict/disputes were reported in some camps and host communities at water points as shown in figure 5. The dispute at water points was due to limited access to portable drinking water as a result of the low levels of sun light to run the solar powered boreholes. In addition, boreholes that are not working/in need of repair lead to congestion of the few functional boreholes in camps and in return areas. Although such conflicts were mostly resolved by community based structures, there is high need to address the water related issues including the prompt repairs of non-functional boreholes by WASH sector and its government counter-part. Also, the strengthening of community-based structures will help to resolve disputes, organize reconciliation programs and family support system for the maintenance of peace within camps and the host community.

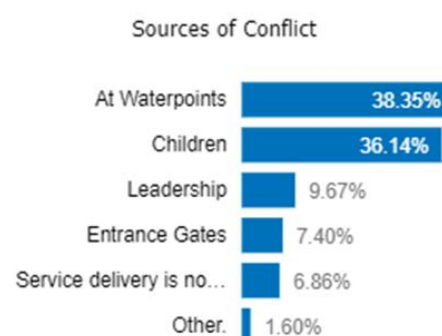


Figure 2: Sources of Conflict

⁶ Farmers were attacked in Bama on 20th and 30th, and in Gwoza on 16th August 2022.

VI. FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

Limited freedom of movement continues to be observed across the BAY states. This is primarily due to fear of attack by NSAG, kidnapping and abduction on major roads and/or while accessing farmland and/or fetching cooking fuel (firewood) around Gwoza, Bama, Damboa, among other locations in Borno state and Gujba and Geidam in Yobe state and some part of Adamawa state (Madagali and Michika). Other reasons impacting freedom of movement are the presence of UXOs and landmines near civilian residences and on the main supply routes, curfew imposed by government security force (SF), and the absence of documentation. In general, freedom of movement within the camps/settlement remains less challenging than outside the camps as presented in the below visuals.

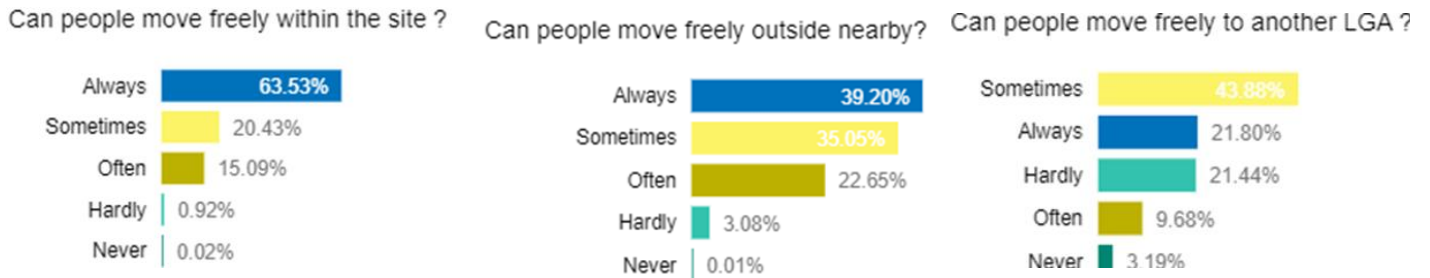


Figure 6: Can people move freely within the site? Figure 7: Can people move freely outside Figure 8: Can people move freely to another LGA?

VII. LEGAL AND CIVIL DOCUMENTATION

There are many IDPs, IDP and refugee returnees, without documentation. They either lost it during the insurgency or natural disaster or never acquired the documents. Lack of documentation exposes the affected population to human right violations and hinders their socio-economic inclusion. Additionally, limited access to birth certificates put children at risk of statelessness. To this end, there is concerted effort by the humanitarian community including UNHCR and partners to provide documentation (i.e. indigene certificates and birth certificates) across the BAY states. This is done in close coordination with the National Identify Management Commission (NIMC) and National Population Commission (NPC). Also, continuous sensitization is part of the efforts to inform the affected population on the importance of this vital document. The various barriers in obtaining documents is outlined in figure 9.

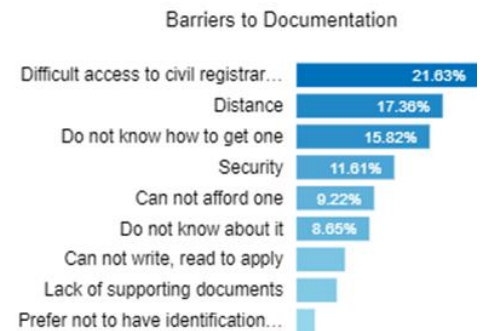


Figure 9: Barriers to Documentation

VIII. COMPLAINT AND FEEDBACK MECHANISMS

As part of **accountability to the affected population** (AAP), the Protection Desks and community-based structures serve as platforms for providing feedback and lodging complaints by IDPs, IDP and refugee returnees. Figure 10 outlines where people go if they have a protection concern. The Protection Desks and community structures also serve as feedback structure for IDPs, IDP and refugee returnees on issues that concern them including service delivery. While some of these complaints were responded to on-the-spot, others were managed through coordination with other sectors/agencies. Additionally, the **30 Protection Desks** across LGAs are also used for meetings and as a vulnerability screening points for UNHCR and partners. The Protection Desks also provide a space for distribution of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials on flood, safety, COVID-19, etc. In the months under review, **1,963 HHs/18,959** individuals (3,545 male and 15,414 female) IDPs, IDP and refugee returnees were recorded accessing the services at the Protection Desks. The most common services and issues reported via the Protection Desk includes: vulnerability screening processes (27%), lack of access to basic services (21%), health related issues (18%), specific needs (15%), legal issues/access to justice (6%) inclusive of forced marriages complaints. The remaining issues reported include: limited access to food, shelter and family unification.

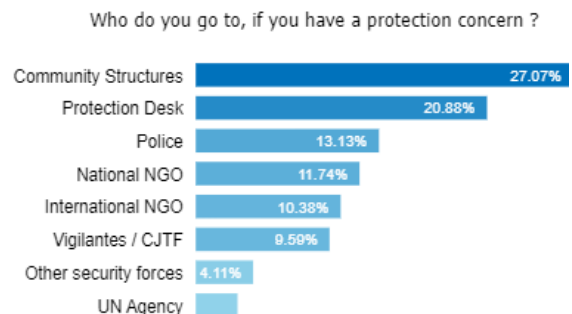


Figure 10: Most common places to report a protection concern

IX. CHILD PROTECTION

Children with specific needs form 10% (569) of the total population screened (5,740) as vulnerable in the BAY states. Of the 569 vulnerable children, 47% were orphan children, followed by child marriage with 26%, child-headed household 14%, unaccompanied/separated children 11% and adolescent parents 2%. Most of the orphan children lost their parents (killed) due to the insurgency. Cases of child and forced marriages continued largely due to the presence of the NSAG and partly owing to culture and limited access to livelihood forcing parents to marry out their adolescent girls as a way of coping mechanism.

Children with Specific Needs

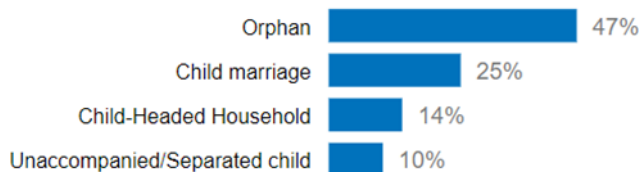


Figure 11: Children with Specific Needs

The closure Dalori 1 and II camps by the Borno State Government in August has ceased the support to children who were benefiting from CP services offered by CP actors inside the camps and led to adopt negative coping mechanisms including begging. Similar affects are observed on the foster children of new arrivals in various locations as the food assistance procedures for children without a foster parent are quite cumbersome. For the same reason, foster parents continue to decline receiving unaccompanied and separated new arrival children. UNHCR through its partner Caritas along with other child protection actors continue to respond to child protection cases through child friendly safe space (CFS), recreational and educational activities and case management to address various vulnerabilities including family tracing, reunification and alternative care arrangements. Caregivers and their children accessed various supports including NFIs and Dignity kits. Others were linked for livelihood support and referrals for specialized services in Bama, Banki and Monguno. However, absence or limited presence of child protection actors and specialized government agencies, especially in Pulka, Dikwa, Rann, Gwoza among other locations continue to expose children to protection risk thus the need to continue to advocate for child protection actors in these locations for mitigating child protection concern and addressing unmet needs.

X. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

249 GBV incidents were reported to UNHCR through partner in July-August 2022.



96% of reported incidents were perpetrated against **women and girls**



34% of reported incidents were perpetrated against **children**

UNHCR partner's July and August narrative and statistical Gender-Based Violence (GBV) reports for Borno and Adamawa states reveals that women and children under 18 continued to be disproportionately impacted by the crisis in the Northeast. The insurgency has resulted in high rates of fatality among the male population, resulting in many widows and single/child headed households. Women bear the huge responsibility of feeding their families with little to no resources.

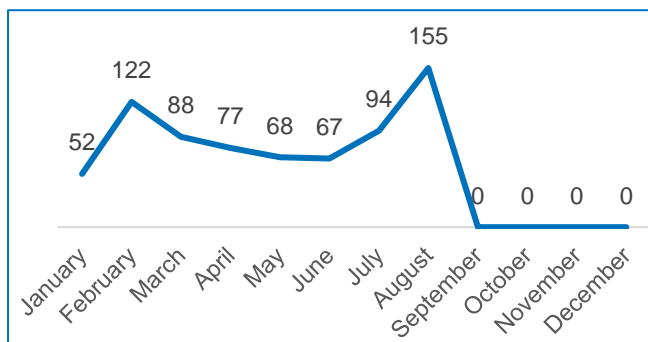


Figure 12: UNHCR GBV monthly trend

As compared to May-June, the current reporting period indicates a significant spike in the number of recorded GBV incidents (249 versus 135 incidents with Pulka 34%, followed by Ngala 15%, Bama 11%, Mubi 10% and Banki 8%. Incidents include rape, sexual assault, physical assault, child/forced marriage, denial of resources and psychological and emotional abuse, sexual exploitation and undesired pregnancies across Borno and Adamawa states.

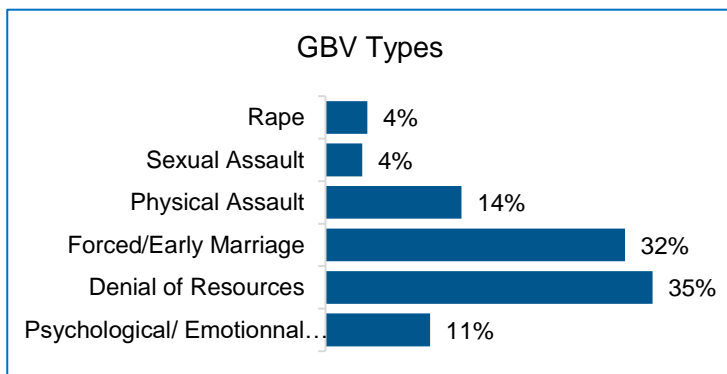


Figure 13: GBV Types

UNHCR and its GBV partner have adopted a three-pronged approach of identification, response, and prevention to mitigate GBV risk and improve the quality-of-service delivery. Interventions implemented during the reporting period include raising community awareness, capacity-building through regular mentorship and coaching of the existing community structures (Community-Based Protection volunteers, Peer-to-Peer, Male Engagement Groups, and protection monitoring) on GBV prevention and response, including Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

As part of GBV risk mitigation, UNHCR provided 2,000 dignity kits to vulnerable women and girls in Borno and Adamawa states. Of these, 1,500 kits were delivered to Bama, Banki, Ngala, Pulka and MMC in Borno state, while 500 dignity kits were distributed in Yola, Fufore and Mubi in Adamawa state. This material assistance, designed to cover a six-month period, restores dignity and hope to recipients, as consistently revealed through beneficiary feedback. UNHCR GBV and its partners in Borno and Adamawa states sensitised community members on issues concerning GBV, including on core GBV concepts and sexual exploitation and abuse, how communities and individuals can protect themselves, and where help and assistance can be sought at the local community level. Through this awareness, some 15,082 people were reached during the reporting period.

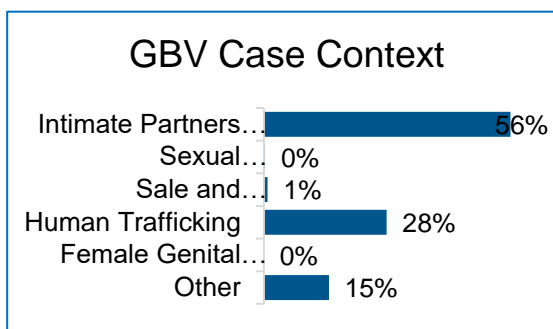
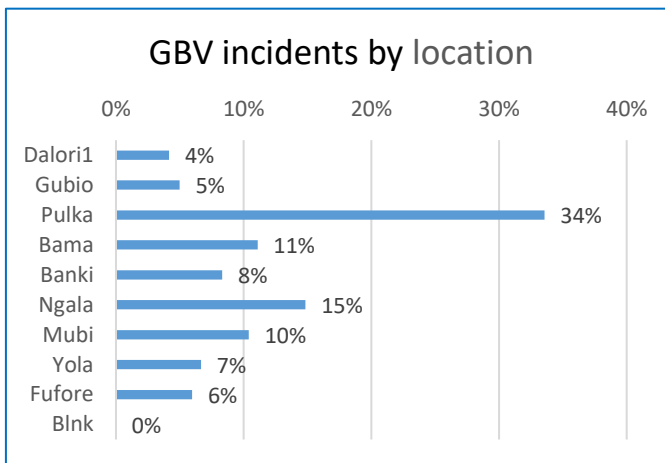


Figure 15: GBV case context

To strengthen referrals of GBV survivors for specialised services and other relevant assistance, UNHCR through partner conducted Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) with women, men, boys, and girls in various locations aimed at understanding the extent to which the lack of/or inadequacy of basic assistance such as food and non-food items and other protection services influenced or promoted the prevalence of GBV in the IDP camps and communities. While inaccessibility (due to insecurity and environmental factors) and widespread reductions in humanitarian funding hinder solid data on the prevalent of GBV across the BAY states, engagement and dialogue with affected communities enables real time information sharing on assistance available, and programmatic adaptation to address emerging priorities.

XI. PERSONS WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS

In July and August, 5,038 displaced households comprising of 28,077 individuals (12,796 male and 15,281 female) were screened for vulnerabilities where 5,740 individuals were identified as vulnerable individuals; adult women (66%-3803), adult men (8%-482), elderly (16%-886) and children (10%-569). The findings of the vulnerability screening cover 18 LGAs (10 in Borno, 6 in Adamawa and 2 in Yobe states). The data allowed the early identification of the persons with specific needs and their referrals to the appropriate service providers for the required support.

Women with Specific Needs



Figure 16: Women with Specific Needs

Elderly with Specific Needs

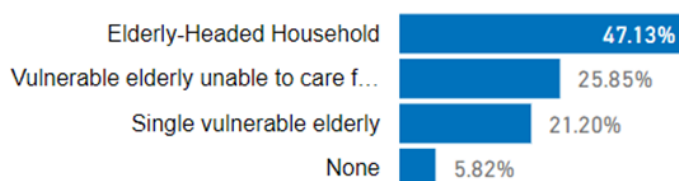


Figure 17: Elderly with Specific Needs

XII. HOUSING LAND AND PROPERTY (HLP), CAMP CONGESTION AND ASSOCIATED PROTECTION RISKS

During the reporting period, spontaneous refugee returns and the government led-return movements continued leading to HLP issues in return areas. This situation is compounded by the influx of IDPs from inaccessible / hard-to-reach areas. The destruction of houses due to the insurgency is one among other factors affecting returnees. Others are secondary occupation of lands and/or houses of the returnees by IDPs in areas of return as a result of crowded and congested reception centres in Mongonu, Damboa, Bama, Gwoza, Banki among other locations. The HLP issues are further compounded by flood and windstorm resulting in destruction of houses/shelters, properties. The existing HLP problems as shown in figure 18 are critical and the humanitarian community continue to coordinate in addressing the HLP related issues in the return areas

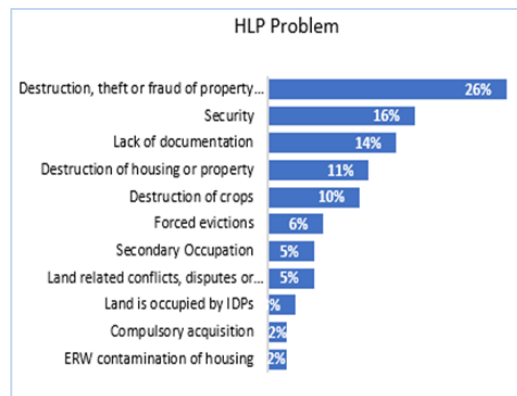


Figure 18: HLP Problems

XIII. PERSISTENT GAPS AND PRIORITY NEEDS

The continued heavy rainfall, flooding and windstorm has led to the destruction of shelters, WASH facilities, properties, non-food items (NFIs) and food items in camps and host communities leading to further hardship, exposing household to protection risk. The food situation is compounded by inflation and constant attack and abduction of farmers by NSAG members compelling returnees, IDPs and host community members to abandon their farming activities. The limited access to food and high cost of food items continue to seriously affect the population especially those not included in the ongoing food assistance programmes (IDP returnees). The Key Informants Interviews have revealed food, livelihood, NFIs, shelter and financial support as priority needs as shown in Figure 19.

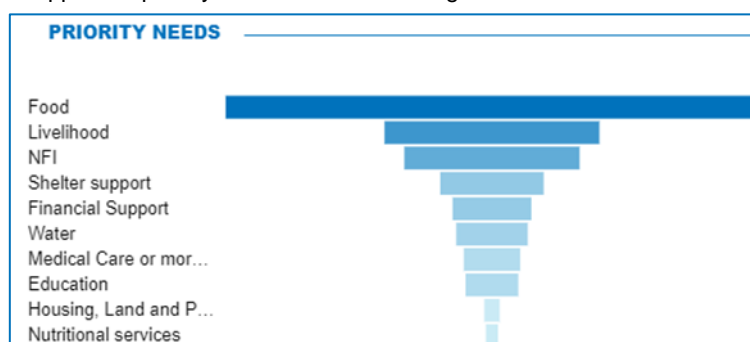


Figure 19: Priority needs

XIV. COVID- 19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

In the months under review, UNHCR and its partners held **474** COVID-19 awareness **sessions** with **8,816** (2,517 men, 3,568 women, 1,187 boys, and 1,434 girls) IDPs, IDP returnees, refugee returnees and host community members in the BAY states. The sessions focused on preventive measures and vaccination as one of the preventive measures.

XV. COORDINATION

In months under review, Protection Sector Working Group (PSWG) and CCCM coordination meetings continued at Local Government Areas (LGAs) and the state levels. **Camp-based Coordination meetings** aimed to strengthen communication, coordination, and collaboration among actors on protection and assistance related issues at the field (Banki, Monguno, Ngala and Damasak in Borno State, and Yola and Michika in Adamawa state). These forums also helped to identify gaps, seek solution-oriented actions besides sharing minutes of the meetings with Protection Sector Northeast at the State level. At the state level, PSNE conducted an on-site mission to **Yobe State** to strengthen protection coordination in the location.

XVI. CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Table 3. The table below outlines specific challenges faced by affected populations and recommendations for action.

#	Challenges	Recommendations	Affected areas	Responsible stakeholders	Urgency
1	Shelters and WASH facilities affected by flood and heavy rainstorms need to be repair.	Re-enforcement and rehabilitations of shelters and WASH facilities; construction of drainages to avoid these concerns.	Pulka, Gwoza, Monguno, Damboa, Damasak, Banki, Dikwa	Government (MRRR), CCCM/Shelter /NFIs Sector	Critical
2	Overcrowded reception centres	Construction is needed of shelters to accommodate the new arrivals and to decongest reception centres	Gwoza, Bama, Banki, Monguno and Pulka	CCCM / Shelter Sector, Government	Critical
3	Risk of Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) and Explosive Remnant of War (ERW)	Engagement with Mine Action for EORE to raise awareness among the affected communities	All locations including Bama, Gwoza, Pulka, Ngala, Dikwa, Damboa,	PSNE / Mine Action AoR	High
4	Absence of psychosocial support service for IDPs and returnees	MHPSS services	Dikwa, Damboa, Rann	PSNE and Health Sector	High
5	Limited livelihood opportunities	Make available livelihood opportunities targeting the affected population	Damboa, Bama, Banki, Mongonu, Dikwa.	FSL Sector	High

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