

# PROTECTION MONITORING REPORT

## UNHCR MAIDUGURI SUB-OFFICE



*Crowded reception centre with recent arrivals from hard-to-reach areas in GSS camp Gwoza, Borno State @Alhaji -GISCOR/UNHCR*

November - December 2022

I. OPERATIONAL CONTEXT




IDPs 	Refugee Returnees 	Asylum Seekers 
<b>2,197,894 Individuals</b>	<b>20,879 Individuals</b>	<b>15,601 Individuals</b>
<b>(869,916 in Camps)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>(8,157 Households)<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>(2,046 Households)<sup>3</sup></b>

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

**147,721**  
Reached through protection by presence

**6,547**  
Key Informant Interviews (KII) conducted

**196**  
Protection & Safety Incidents reported in 24 LGAs

**20%**  
Of 19,576 screened population are vulnerable

The **Lake Chad Region**, continued to witness a combination of hostilities between the government forces and non-state armed group (NSAG) and floods which hindered UNHCR’s physical access to the Makary, Fotokol, Blangoua, Dark, and Hilé-Alifa localities of the Logone-et-Char division of Cameroon where the displaced population in the location are in need of humanitarian assistance. In **Nigeria**, incidents of attacks, abductions, killings, attempted infiltrations of towns and villages, and roadblocks on main supply routes were perpetrated by NSAGs in the Borno, Adamawa and Yobe (BAY) states, similar to previous months. Apart from exposing the IDPs, returnees and host community members to life-threatening risks, the incidents limited the access of the affected population to humanitarian assistance and services. More so, in **Borno state**, NSAGs demanded that fishermen from the return area of Kukawa town pay them 10% of their catch if they wish to continue fishing in the area, including demanding a written note from the fishermen for approval and payment of taxes in Franc CFA instead of Naira<sup>4</sup>. In **Yobe state**, herders-farmers clash continued in return communities of Jiri community, Buniyadi town and Guarah in Gujba and Damaturu Local Government Areas (LGAs) instilling fear among returnees and host community members while in **Adamawa state**, abductions for ransom and political thuggery were the major incidents recorded. In months under review, a total of 146 safety and security incidents<sup>5</sup> affecting civilians were recorded in BAY states. The incidents comprised armed attacks (33), IED (5), Abductions (11), illegal vehicle checkpoints (17), crime (13), NSAG presence (36), civil unrest (2) hazard (16), kidnap (2) and others – killings, looting, theft, and extortion (11) affecting some 138 civilians including members of the affected population. It is noteworthy that 81% of the incidents were reported in Borno state followed by Adamawa (11%) and Yobe States (8%).

The months of November and December observed the commemoration of the **16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence across the BAY states with the theme “Orange the World: End Violence against Women Now!”** UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency in Nigeria, and partners joined the rest of the world in commemorating 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV). The annual international campaign kicked off on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, running through to 10th December, while International Human Rights Day launch ceremonies took place in BAY states, headed by the Ministries for Women Affairs and Social Development (MOWSD), and the GBV Sub-Dector (UNFPA), with participation from UNHCR and other implementation and operational partners

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 6,982 <sup>6</sup> individuals were displaced in November-December 2022. In **Borno** state, the movements were recorded in Bama, Damboa, Askira/Uba, Dikwa, Gwoza, Kala Balge, Monguno and Gamboru 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. As reported in 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’s presence.

1. DTM round 41.  
 2 UNHCR’s Spontaneous refugee returnees Registration (Jan-Dec 2022).  
 3. Asylum seekers L1 registration Record-adamawa State  
 4 #20221128 UNDSS NEA DSR  
 5 UNDSS NEA DSR (Nov. and Dec. 2022)  
 6 Emergency Tracking Tool (ETT) consolidated data as of dec 28th 2022

**Refugee returnees:** In the reporting months, a total of 1,119 spontaneous refugee returnee households comprising of 3,101 individuals (1,209 male and 1,892 female) were recorded by UNHCR’s partner - Nigerian Immigration Services (NIS); of the total number, approximately 59% (1,832) are from Niger, 39% (1,224) from Cameroon and 1% (45) from Chad. Approximately 81% of the returnees were not registered as refugees in countries of asylum. In addition, no incident of denial of access to territory was reported. At 54%, the Damasak-Borno entry point<sup>7</sup> recorded the highest number of spontaneous returns (1,660), followed by Banki-Borno 14% (422), Gurin-Adamawa 13% (413), Sahuda-Adamawa 7% (204), Gwoza/Pulka-Borno 4% (134), Machina-Yobe 3% (101), Gamboru-Ngala-Borno 2% (67), Geidam-Yobe 2% (62) and Gashua-Yobe 1% (38). The main reason for the return was the relative improvement of security in the LGA headquarters in Nigeria. Access to villages in rural areas of the LGAs largely remains inaccessible due to the presence of NSAGs and the absence of Government Forces.

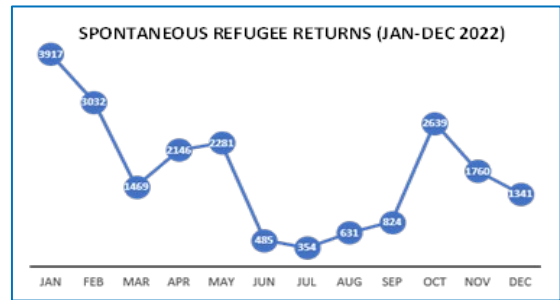


Figure 1: Spontaneous Refugee Returns

**Borno State Government Return Plan (BSGRP):** The Borno State Government closed Gubio IDP camp in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council (MMC), organizing and facilitating IDP returns between 1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022 to their places of origin. Gubio camp had a population of 6,340 IDP households (HHs) comprised of 30,462 individuals inclusive of IDPs and refugee returnees. These affected populations were assisted with food and non-food items including cash by the Borno State Government with the option to resettle in any part of the state or return to their places of origin. Also, these populations who originally were from Gamboru-Ngala, Bama, Kala-Balge, Marte, Kukawa, Gubio, Gwoza and Bama have either moved into the headquarters of their LGAs or resettled elsewhere in Maiduguri due to their inability to access their homes because of fear of attacks, abduction (including for purposes of forced marriage) or forced recruitment by NSAGs.

**Consequences of population movement:** in the period under review, population movements were inclusive of IDPs impacted by the camp closure in Maiduguri who moved to their local government headquarters where availability of shelters remain a challenge. The [camp closure](#) by the Borno State Government has compelled IDPs to return to crowded shelters and reception centres while others were forced to sleep in the open in Gwoza, Pulka, Bama, Banki, among other locations. Furthermore, these returnees and newly displaced households are unable to meet their basic needs owing to limited humanitarian assistance and limited reintegration programmes in these return areas. While access to farmland and cooking fuel (firewood) by IDPs, returnees and host community members continued to be threatened due to constant attacks and abduction of farmers including stealing of their farm products in return areas. Children are faced with heightened risks of exploitation, trafficking, and child marriages linked to limited/absences of stable income or livelihood to cater for these children, in addition to limited school capacity to accommodate the school-aged children of returnees and IDPs from inaccessible areas. Compelled or forced to beg or hawk, the potential risk of exploitation of women and girls of reproductive ages is a significant protection risk. The returns of the IDPs and the spontaneous refugee to locations with limited shelter are leading to increased Housing, Land and Property (HLP) issues.

**In Adamawa State,** new displacements, including related to flooding, has compounded the situation in the border areas such as Maiha, Fufore and Madagali, where thousands of asylum seekers from Cameroon have taken refuge. The increased spontaneous and government-led returns call to accelerate the ongoing reintegration efforts in return areas to enable families to rebuild their lives. NSAG attacks in the border communities in Cameroon continued unabated with the resultant increase in the number of Cameroonians seeking asylum in Nigeria. As of mid-December, according to assessment undertaken jointly by Adamawa state government, UNHCR and parts, an estimated 10,272 (3,137 in Madagali, 3,433 in Michika and 3,702 in Mubi) Cameroonians fled their villages to seek refuge in Madagali, Michika, Maiha and Mubi LGAs. This population is residing in dilapidated structures, government structures and market stalls with limited access to food and WASH facilities. UNHCR began preparations for level one (household level) registration of the asylum seekers and commenced distribution of core relief items as part of the humanitarian response. There remains a significant gap in addressing the humanitarian needs, including food, health, education, shelter, core relief items, WASH, and protection services.

**III. PROTECTION BY PRESENCE, PROTECTION MONITORING**

Sessions	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Total
2,976	40,494	55,653	22,342	23, 699	147, 721

**Presence:** UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and its partners (GISCOR, NHRC, BOWDI, NBA, Caritas, AUN and INTERSOS) and other protection actors continued to deliver **life-saving humanitarian assistance** and **protection services** in the BAY states to the affected population and host community members amidst security challenges. A total of 147,721 affected populations as shown in table 2 received protection services including sensitizations, psychosocial counselling, life acquisition, etc. and material assistance, such as NFIs, dignity kits, shelter kits. Other services include the issuance of indigene/ birth certificates, access to courts for IDPs and returnees, and letters of administration from High Court of Justice on behalf of those IDP and returnees whose parents/relatives died without wills to enable them to claim the inheritance of the

<sup>7</sup> UNHCR in partnership with the Nigerian Immigration Services recorded spontaneous Refugee Returnees in 10 entry points in Borno (Banki, Ngala, Pulka and Damasak), Adamawa (Mubi, Sahuda and Fufore) and Yobe (Machina, Geidam and Gashua)

properties left behind by their deceased relatives) in November and December 2022. This is important to note that the various sensitization sessions have helped to empower the targeted population to take well-informed decisions on their day-to-day situations and referral pathway on protection-related concerns/issues.

#### IV. INCIDENTS REPORTING

Some 6,547 Key Informants Interviews (KII) were conducted at the field level through the protection monitoring tool and were analysed and triangulated alongside the vulnerability screening, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and on-the-spot observations to inform the direct strategic approach for advocacy and real-time response on protection issues in the BAY states. While 196 safety and protection incidents were reported and analyzed by types of incidents, presumed perpetrators, and incidents per LGA as shown below in figures 2, 3, and 4, affecting 1,008 civilians including IDPs, IDP and refugee returnees, and community members.

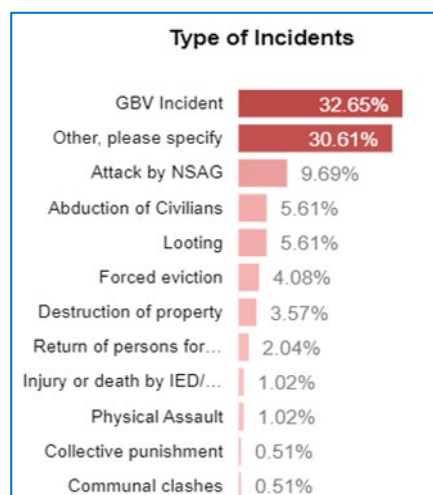


Figure 2: Type of Incidents

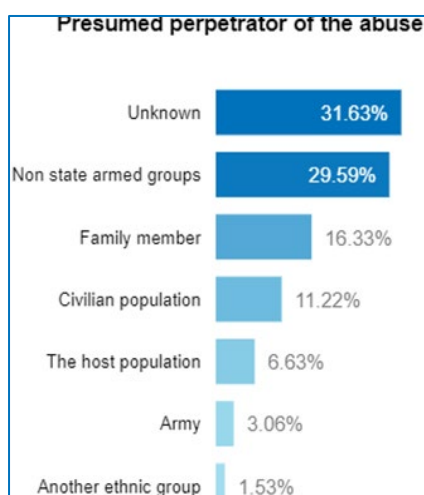


Figure 3: Presumed perpetrator of abuse

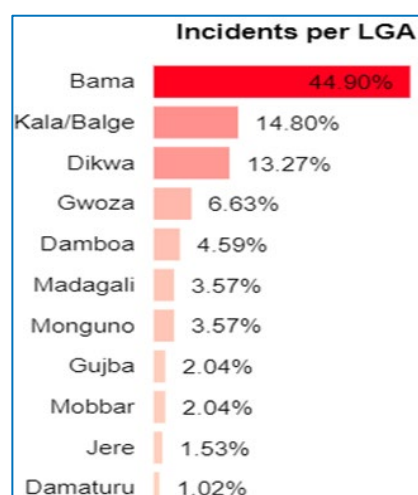


Figure 4: Incidents per LGA

**Impact of incidents on the civilian population:** Women and girls of reproductive age continue to experience Gender-Based Violence (GBV), also, cases of sexual assault were recorded including the perpetrators being minors, the absence of rule of law in return areas continues to embolden these perpetrators of abuse. Furthermore, host community members, IDPs, refugees and IDP returnees in Borno State continued to be exposed to the risk of attacks and abductions in their farms or when collecting firewood (for cooking fuel) outside government protected locations. This risk factor continues to instil fear among affected populations and hinders possibilities for durable solution. In Adamawa and Yobe States, abductions for ransom and political tuggery were the major reported incidents. In many instances, road planted IEDs and ambushes by NSAGs have resulted in affected population movement restrictions.

#### V. PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND SOCIAL COHESION

In the period under review, from the 6,547 key informants interviewed asked to opine on the nature of relations between displaced and host communities, 86% of respondents reported “good” while 13% reported “excellent”. This finding is consistent with the September and October report. However, intermittent tensions/fighting at water points continues and presents a risk to peaceful co-existence between and among various groups if not properly managed as shown in Figure 5. UNHCR and protection actors continue to prioritize risk reduction awareness raising activities to mitigate these observed risks.

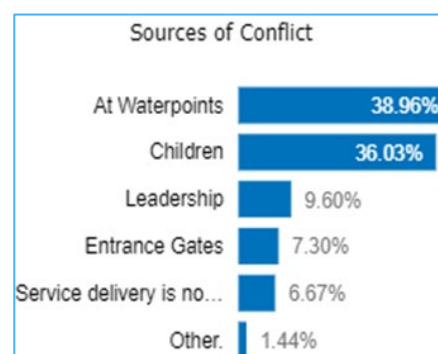


Figure 5: Sources of conflict

#### VI. FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

Freedom of movement within the camps/settlement remains the norm, but significantly limited outside the camps due to insecurity such as attacks at the farm, ambushes and illegal vehicle checkpoints.

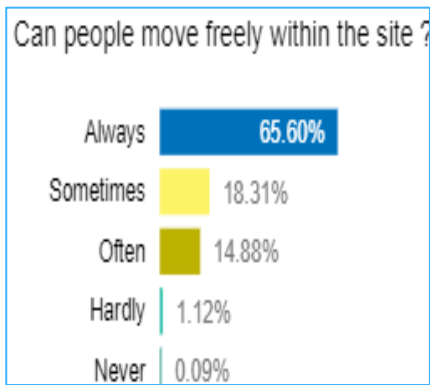


Figure 6: Can people move freely within the site

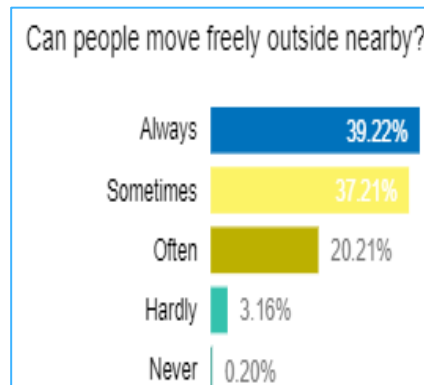


Figure 7: Can people move freely outside nearby

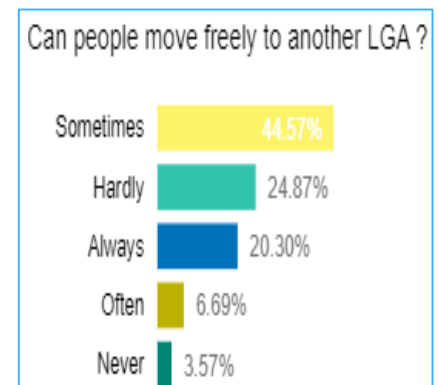


Figure 8: Can people move freely to another LGA

## VII. LEGAL AND CIVIL DOCUMENTATION

Identity documents are crucial to the prevention of statelessness and other human rights violations and protection risks. Documents are a vital protection tool by enabling individuals to access services, realize their rights, and enhance socio-economic inclusiveness. Limited access to, and loss of legal / identity documents such as national identity, birth and indigene certificates due to insecurity, conflict or natural disaster exposes the affected population to risk of arbitrary arrest and children at the risk of child protection violations and statelessness. Humanitarian actors including UNHCR and its partners continue to collaborate and coordinate with relevant state agencies to provide legal documentation to the affected population in the BAY states. Despite this assistance, the needs for legal and civil documents remain high among affected populations thus the need for continued advocacy and sensitization of stakeholders and affected population on the importance of Identity documents and the processes of obtaining these vital documents.

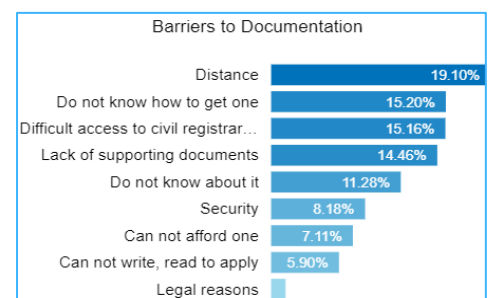


Figure 9: Barriers to Documentation

## VIII. COMPLAINT AND FEEDBACK MECHANISMS

Some 1,645 households comprised of 7,638 (1,695 male and 5,943 female) IDPs, Returnees and Host Community members accessed the 30 protection desks in 10 locations. Major complaints received at the protection desks included health/medical conditions 29%, specific needs 25%, lack of access to basic services 8%, access to shelters 4%, forced marriage 3%, legal issues/access to justice 3% and need for NFIs 3%, among others. While some of these complaints were responded to at the protection desks, others were referred to service providers and partners for further assessment, intervention, and management including facilitating through Community Mechanisms for Dispute Resolution (CMDR).

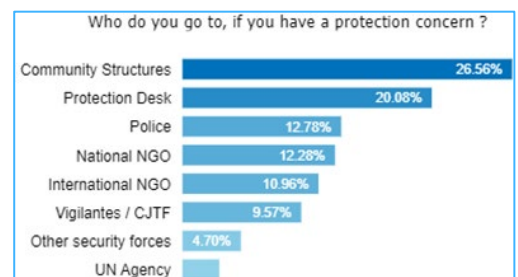


Figure 10: who do you go to, if you have a protection concern

**Toll-free line:** Some 144 (84 men and 60 women) individuals, called the UNHCR toll-free line from the camps (66%) and communities (34%). The complaints were for access to food, early recovery, GBV, WASH, requests for NFIs, Shelter and to report child protection concerns. Most of the cases (76%) was responded to through referrals while the remaining cases (24%) require no further actions. Furthermore, UNHCR and its CCCM partner (INTERSOS) continued to receive and provide feedback to the affected population and community members through **Complaint and Feedback Mechanisms (CFM)**. In the months under review, 952 complaints were received in Borno (Damasak, Monguno, Banki and Ngala) and Adamawa State (Yola, Mubi North and south and Michika). Some of the complaints were resolved, while NFI, shelter, and food complaints remain open as there are no partners with the capacity to address the complaints.

**IX. CHILD PROTECTION**

**Children with specific needs:** Of the **3,853** screened as vulnerable from the total **19,567** individuals screened in 16 locations<sup>8</sup> in the BAY states, 10% (395) were children with 49% as orphaned as shown in *figure 14*. In addition to the security situation that has led to the increase in child protection concerns, cases of child and forced marriage continued to be recorded due to culture and limited access to essential needs and livelihood forcing children into early marriage. Furthermore, the limited presence of child protection actors and specialized government agencies in most of the locations remains a significant concern. However, general protection actors continued to engage community stakeholders including awareness sessions to minimize child protection risks.

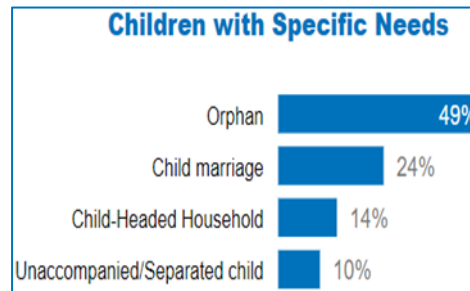


Figure 11: Children with specific needs

**X. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE**



**97%** of reported incidents were perpetrated against **Female**



**3%** of reported incidents were perpetrated against **Males**



**18%** of reported incidents were perpetrated against **Children**

UNHCR and partners sustained efforts to prevent, mitigate and respond to Gender Based Violence (GBV). During the reporting period, UNHCR and partners commemorated the 16 Days of Activism against GBV in all field locations, with this year's theme calling for activism against GBV, promoting the leadership of women and girls, and improving collective efforts in ending femicide. Sensitization and awareness raising during this international commemorative period – carried out through mass and door to door sensitization, radio jingles and other means – serve to increase gender positive and human rights messaging across the BAY states. In parallel, during the reporting period, a significant improvement (nearly 30%) on the number of reported incidents was observed as compared to the previous reporting period. LGAs with the highest reported incidents are Pulka (Gwoza LGA) 32%, Ngala 14%, Mubi and Bama 12% each, and Banki 9%, Yola 8%, Gubio and Fufore 5% each, and Dalori1 remained 3% due to closure of the camp in August 2022.

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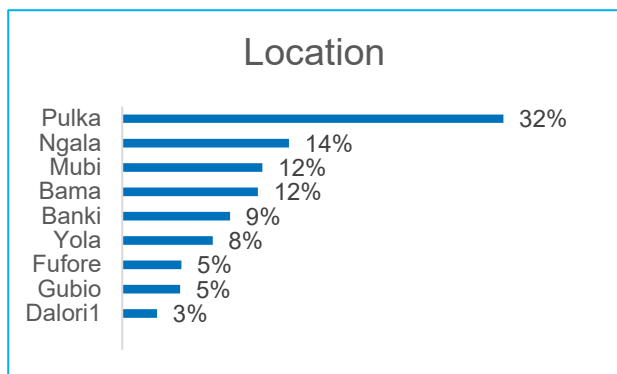


Figure 12: Locations

During the reporting period, UNHCR through protection monitoring partners, conducted protection monitoring activities targeting IDPs and returnees in Northeast Nigeria. Protection monitoring identified various forms of GBV, primarily perpetrated against females, in Borno Adamawa and Yobe states.

Child marriage accounted for the highest incidents recorded within the reporting period, standing at 35%, followed by denial of resources, opportunities, and services (32%), physical assault (14%), psychological/emotional abuse (11%), rape (6%) and sexual assault (3%) being the least reported through protection monitoring. Women and girls account for most of the survivors of the GBV incidents (97%). The main perpetrators remain mostly family/community members, security, and Non-State Armed Groups (NSAG).

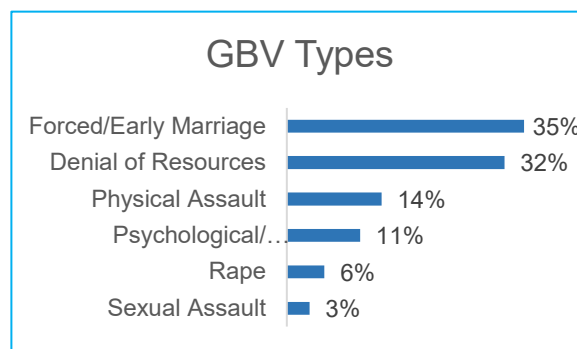


Figure 13: GBV Types

<sup>8</sup> 16 LGAs (10 Borno, 4 Adamawa and 2 Yobe state)

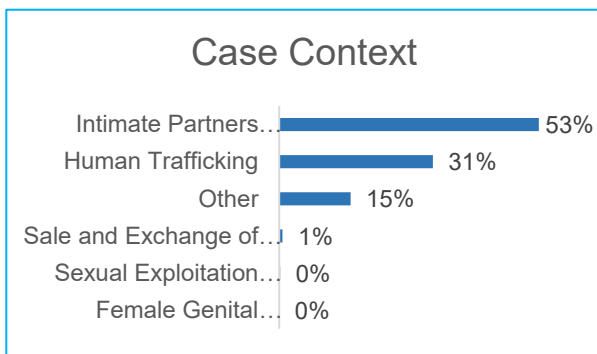


Figure 14: Case Context

Regarding case context, Women and Girls increasingly reported concerns over intimate partner violence at 53%, trafficking by way of abductions 31% and other forms of gender-based violence 15%, respectively. All identified GBV incidents during the month of November-December were referred for specialised services which include case management, Clinical Management of Rape (CMR), medicals and administration of Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP kit) and Psycho-Social Support (PSS). The denial of resources, opportunities and services and neglect remains some of the most reported incidents, underscoring the continued programmatic prioritization of the life skills acquisition programs. Other multiple approaches including livelihood support and the use of community mechanisms for dispute resolution are adopted. Access to justice for criminal GBV incidents such as rape, sexual assault and forced marriage are challenged by the absence of civil authorities in the deep field locations in Borno State.

**XI. PERSONS WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS**

In the months under review, **vulnerability screening** of persons with specific needs (PSNs) was conducted in 16 LGA<sup>9</sup> across the BAY states revealed that among the 3,426 displaced households comprised of 19,576 (4,652 male and 5,586 female) individuals, some 3,853 were identified as vulnerable individuals (adult females (61%), adult males (12%), elderly (17%) and children (10%).

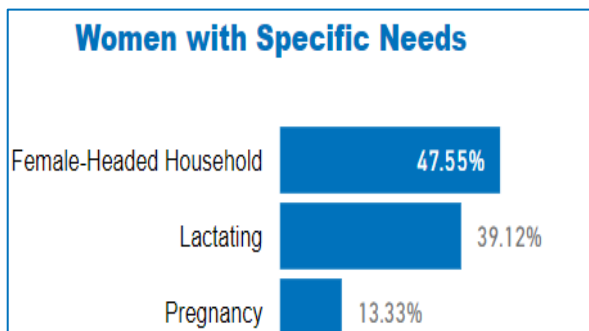


Figure 15: Women with specific needs

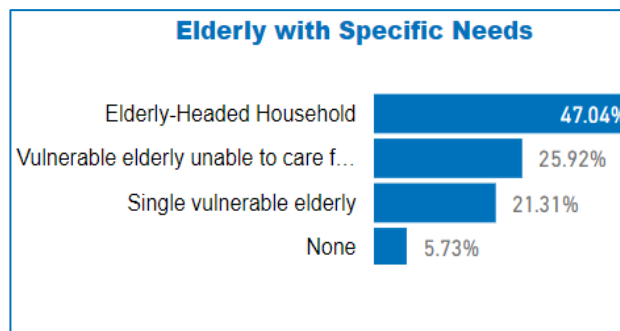


Figure 16: Elderly with specific needs

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

The returns of the IDPs and the spontaneous refugees to locations with limited shelters such as Gwoza, Pulka, Banki, Damasak and Bama among other locations in Borno State has led to an increase in Housing, Land and Property (HLP) issues. The destruction of returnees' houses by NSAGs in return areas including the secondary occupation of lands and/or houses of the returnees by IDPs from hard-to-reach areas in LGA headquarters has led to eviction thus impacting peaceful coexistence in these return areas. Due to HLP issues, some of the affected individuals returned to crowded shelters and reception centres while others were compelled to sleep in the open in Gwoza, Pulka, Bama and Banki. The affected families are further exposed to protection and health risk including GBV. Additionally, the closure of camps in MMC and the relocation of the affected IDPs to Dikwa and Banki has heightened incidents of forced eviction of IDPs by the original homeowners. Though effort is being made to mitigate HLP gaps by humanitarian actors and the Government, the efforts have not yielded the desired results, creating the need for continued advocacy to stakeholders (including within the humanitarian community) for shelter support kits assistance to returnees in return areas including Government for the reconstruction of destroyed houses.

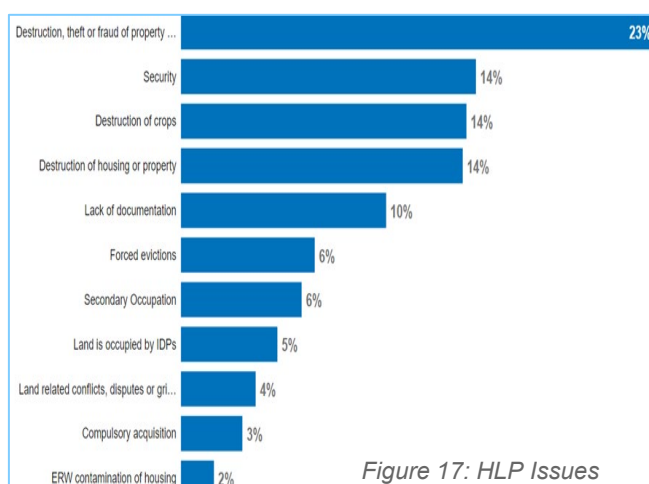


Figure 17: HLP Issues

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

### XIII. PERSISTENT GAPS AND PRIORITY NEEDS

Despite continuous efforts by humanitarian actors, stakeholders and Government to ameliorate challenges faced by affected population, limited access to food, livelihood and NFIs remain the most prevalent gaps, as shown in figure 18. This situation is further exacerbated by the limited resources to support more affected and vulnerable families. Insecurity outside government protection areas in the vicinity of camps/settlements and the available farmlands continue to expose farmers to risk of attacks, abduction and killing when accessing their farm. Farming is the traditional occupation of returnees and host community members in return areas underscoring the need to continue to strengthen security in the BAY states.

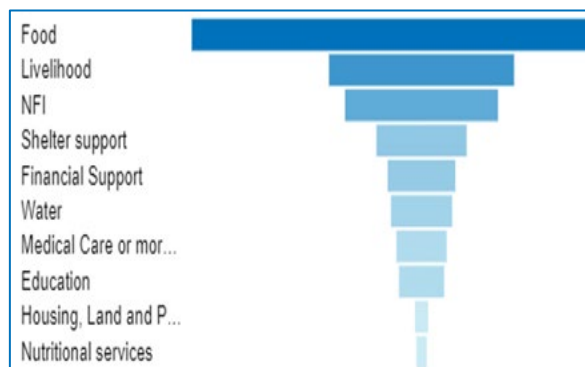


Figure 18: Priority needs

### XIV. CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#	Challenges	Recommendations	Affected areas	Responsible stakeholders	Urgency
1	Limited access to land and shelter in return areas	Land to be distributed to allow construction of shelter in return areas that are significantly over crowded.	Gwoza, Pulka, Banki, Damasak, Gujba	Shelter/NFI & CCCM Sector	High
2	Delays in prosecution due to the absence of courts in the LGAs	Advocate for the full restoration of rule of law in the LGAs to increase access to justice.	Bama, Ngala, Dikwa, Rann, Pulka	Protection Sector	High
3	Limited basic services - Shelter, WASH, Education and Food for the urban IDPs in MMC.	Advocate for Sectors to increase presence and response in urban communities hosting resettled IDPs	MMC, Jere	Protection Sector, Inter-Sectoral WG	High
4	Risk of forced eviction of IDPs on private properties	Advocacy to the government to identify solutions for the affected persons	Damaturu, Banki, Dikwa.	HLP Sub Sector	Moderate
5	Harmful traditional practices such as accusation of witchcraft and FGM	Increase awareness to counter belief in witchcraft and the practice of FGM	Bama, Gwoza, Banki, Damboa and Pulka	Protection Sector, GBV Sub-Sector	Moderate



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