

PROTECTION MONITORING REPORT

UNHCR MAIDUGURI SUB-OFFICE



Protection Monitor conducting a household assessment with an IDP in Mubi, Adamawa State. Credit: Caritas/Ademola Olarinde

July-August 2023

I. OPERATIONAL CONTEXT




 IDPs	 Refugee Returnees	 Asylum Seekers
2,072,749 Individuals (915,977 in Camps) ¹	20,818 Individuals (4,344 Households) ²	4,199 Individuals (1,526 Households) ³

Table 1: Displacement-affected populations in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states as of 31st August 2023.

24,455
Individuals reached through Protection Monitoring

The government forces are gaining grounds against the non-state armed groups (NSAG) in the ongoing conflict in northeast Nigeria. Reports of internal conflicts among the NSAG factions in the BAY States (Borno, Adamawa, Yobe) are diminishing their ability to launch large-scale attacks. This situation is evidenced by increasing surrenders of persons associated with the NSAG to the government forces. Despite these gains, NSAGs continue to conduct predatory attacks on the fringes of the Sambisa Forest, Mandara Mountains, and Lake Chad.

During the months of July and August 2023, various locations across the LGAs within the BAY States witnessed an upsurge of NSAG predatory attacks and threats on innocent civilians. These incidents included the establishment of illegal vehicular checkpoints and abductions. In **Borno** State, NSAG imposed a ban on civilian farming, fishing, and animal husbandry activities in the areas they have significant influence such as in Marte LGA. This oppressive measure forced farmers to relocate from Marte to Dikwa, seeking safety from the imminent threat posed by NSAG. Furthermore, NSAG attempted an attack a residence in Jimeta, Adamawa State and targeted villages in Yunusari LGA of Yobe State.

4,048
Household Assessments conducted

In July and August 2023, a total of 201 safety and security incidents affecting civilians were documented in the BAY States. These incidents encompassed armed attacks (68), abductions (43), illegal vehicle checkpoints (9), crime (42), NSAG presence (21), and hazards (18). These incidents had a direct impact on 284 civilians, including members of the affected population. Borno State, being the epicentre of the ongoing conflict in the northeast, recorded the highest number of security incidents (87.3%), followed by Adamawa (3.2%) and Yobe States (9.5%).

In collaboration with IOM, other humanitarian agencies, and its partners, UNHCR extended support to the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States to mark the annual World Day against Trafficking in Persons, celebrated on July 31st. This year's theme is "Reach every victim of trafficking, leave no one behind". The events organized to observe this day encompassed town hall meetings and sensitizations aimed at raising awareness about the critical issue of human trafficking, underscoring the collective commitment to combat this grave violation of human rights.

136
Protection Incidents reported in 24 LGAs

II. POPULATION MOVEMENT

The following three categories of movements confirm the internal and cross-border nature of displacements in the BAY states:

Internal Displacements: Due to the ongoing military action and NSAG activities, internal displacement continues to be recorded in Borno and Adamawa States. Data available from IOM DTM indicates that 18,612 individuals were displaced in July and August 2023⁴. Those displaced were recorded as new arrivals in Borno State from Gwoza, Pulka, Monguno, Ngala, Dikwa, Rann, Bama, Kala Balge, Askira/Uba, and Damboa LGAs.

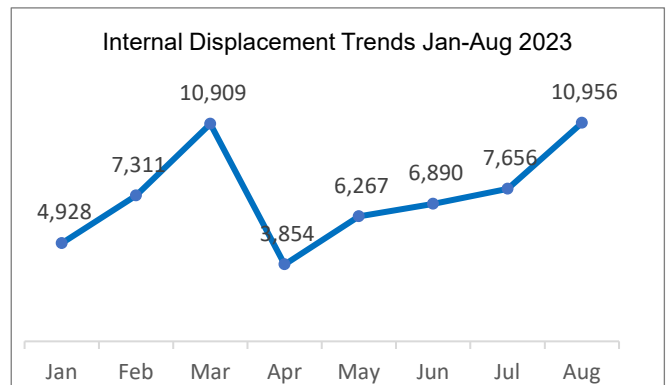


Figure 1. Internal displacement trends

¹ DTM round 45.

² UNHCR's Spontaneous refugee returnees Registration (Jan-April 2023) and New Border Monitoring Dashboard (April – August 2023)

³ UNHCR's UNHCR L2 biometric registration of Cameroonian Asylum Seekers in Adamawa State as of 14th June 2023)

⁴ IOM Emergency Tracking Tool (ETT - July August 2023).

In Adamawa State from Gombi, Uba, Maiha, Lamorde, Girei, Michika, Song, Yola South, Mubi South, Hong, Numan and Fufore LGAs. Triggers for the movements include poor living conditions, family reunification, military operations, the pursuit of improved security, access to humanitarian assistance, insurgent attacks, and fear of attacks.

Cross-Border movements: Some **7,298** individuals representing 1,422 families were recorded during border monitoring in July and August 2023. This population comprises spontaneous refugee returnees and asylum seekers. They were recorded at four entry points in Borno (Banki, 4.15%; Damasak, 79.51%; Ngala, 6.13%; Pulka, 2.82%) and Yobe (Geidam 3.66%, Bade 2.04%, Machina 1.69%). The spontaneous refugee returnees (99.44%) and asylum seekers (0.49%) arrived from Niger (Diffa) and Chad (0.07%). Notably, 84% of the refugee returnees reported that they were not registered in the country of asylum. Movement triggers include family reunification, search for better access to services in Nigeria, access to livelihood and harassment in the country of asylum.

Persons with specific needs in the population include female-headed households, pregnant and lactating mothers, persons with serious medical conditions, and persons with disabilities. An overwhelming percentage of the population, 89%, reported having no legal documentation.

Adamawa Refugee influx: Following the successful completion of Level 2 registration in June for Cameroonian asylum seekers residing in Mubi (North and South), and Michika Local Government Areas (LGAs), plans are now in progress to register the asylum seekers in Madagali. To this end, **1,526 households** of **4,199 asylum seekers** have been registered in Mubi and Michika. The military counterattack against NSAG prevails in Cameroonian communities bordering Nigeria and continues to cause influxes to Mubi, Madagali and Michika.

Consequences of population movement: The displacement of the affected population is a result of ongoing insecurity, natural hazards and communal clashes. The decision of the affected population to return is primarily driven by the challenging living conditions exacerbated by the prolonged displacement. This trend further aggravates the existing need for humanitarian assistance in the BAY States. Notably, in places such as Bama, Monguno, Banki, Gwoza, and Pulka, which are already contending with overcrowded camps, are continuously receiving new arrivals (refugees and refugee returnees) from different locations. These newcomers are compelled to reside in congested reception centres, thereby exposing them to associated protection risks. Additionally, pendular cross-border movements persist, primarily driven by insufficient access to humanitarian aid in the countries of asylum and in the BAY States. These movements potent an inherent risk of encountering NSAG attacks and abduction on the roads. Commuters, including members of the affected population in the northern and southern LGAs of Borno State and in Gujba LGA of Yobe State, are prone to abduction, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and ambushes that further pose significant threats to the displaced population. The months of July and August witnessed the establishment of irregular vehicular checkpoints and abductions, occurring on the main supply routes of Ngazai, Mobbar (Borno), and Yunusari (Yobe).

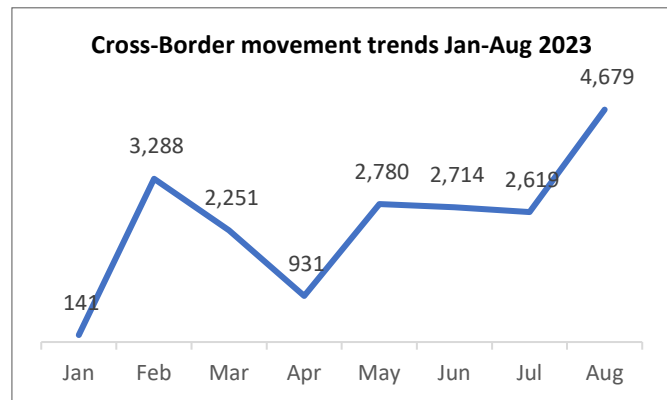


Figure 2: Cross-Border-Movement trends

III. PROTECTION BY PRESENCE, PROTECTION MONITORING

Presence: UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and its protection monitoring partners (GISCOR and Caritas) continued protection monitoring in the BAY states where 4,046 Household assessments were conducted, reaching 24,201 individuals.

IV. PROTECTION INCIDENTS REPORTING

136 protection incidents were documented using the Protection Incident Reporting (PIR) form of the Household Assessment Tool in the BAY States. The incidents, which are in line with the Global Protection Cluster (GPC) classification of protection risks, include forced family and child separation, unlawful impediments, or restrictions to freedom of movement, siege and forced displacement, torture or inhuman, cruel, degrading treatment, discrimination and stigmatization, denial of resources, opportunities, services and/or humanitarian access, psychological/emotional abuse or inflicted distress and Child, early or forced marriage. Other protection incidents were theft, extortion, eviction or destruction of personal property. Also, during the reporting period, community tension, arrest of NSAG collaborators, Flood, Population movement, abduction, kidnapping, forced disappearance, arbitrary or unlawful arrest and/or detention, Sexual and gender-based violence and attacks on civilians and other unlawful killings and attacks on civilian infrastructures were reported.

The **presumed perpetrators** of the incidents include Criminal groups, traffickers/smugglers, host Community members, military/government forces, forces associated with the military (CJTF, etc.), IDP community members, family members Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) and unknown perpetrators.

The **locations** where the protection incidents were recorded in Adamawa State, include Madagali, Mubi North and Mubi South. In Borno State, the locations were Konduga, Kala/Balge, Damboa, Ngala, Maiduguri, Damboa, Mobbar Dikwa Monguno, Gwoza and Bama. In Yobe state, the protection incidents were reported in Geidam.

The incidents **affected 337 civilians**, including IDPs, IDP and refugee returnees, and community members. Figures 3-5 below further present the extent of the protection incidents.

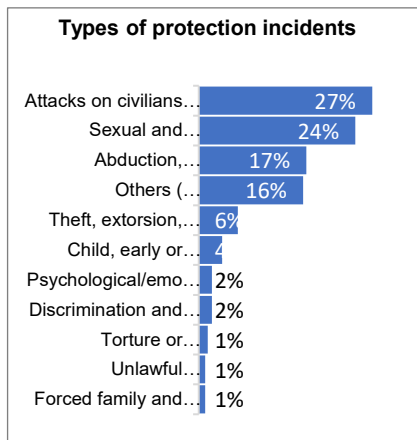


Figure 3 Type of Incidents

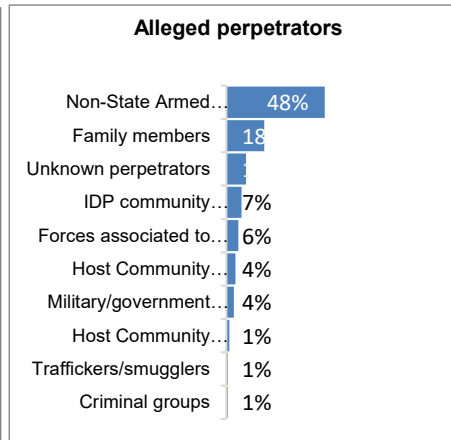


Figure 4: alleged perpetrators

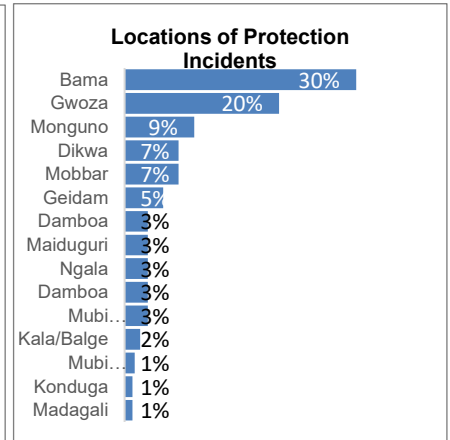


Figure 5: Incidents per LGA

Impact of incidents on the civilian population: Despite the ongoing military efforts to regain control of areas previously held by NSAG, the NSAG's ability to carry out predatory attacks has not been totally diminished. During the months of July and August, NSAG members abducted numerous civilians in Mobbar, Dikwa, Bama, Gwoza, Damboa (Borno), and Geidam (Yobe). Additionally, the NSAG imposed farming restrictions in Konduga, Ngala and Gwoza LGAs, leading to the killing of farmers on their farmlands. Regarding abduction, many forcibly displaced persons and members of the host community were abducted in Bama, Mobbar and Gwoza and ransom was demanded from their family members. The presence of NSAG near civilian populations and their attacks continue to force civilians into overcrowded IDP camps in Bama, Dikwa and Gwoza LGAs in Borno State, hindering durable solutions. Overcrowded camps, prolonged displacement, and limited humanitarian assistance have led to negative coping behaviours such as theft and begging among the affected population. Women and girls of reproductive age remain at heightened risk of GBV, including forced marriages and denial of resources. The continued breakdown of community social structures has contributed to family members becoming significant perpetrators of GBV. It is imperative for the Nigerian government to enhance the security situation and pave the way for principled durable solutions to address issues associated with the displacement. Humanitarian organizations are committed to supporting the government in addressing these challenges and assisting the affected populations in building their resilience.

V. PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND SOCIAL COHESION

In July and August, 4, 048 households were assessed, out of which 64% reported good relationships between different communities.

This was further confirmed by 30% of the population, who reported that the relationships were very good. Although the situation of peaceful coexistence in the various communities is commendable, it is important to take seriously the views of the 1% of the population who reported that coexistence is somewhat bad. As the situation in the northeast moves towards durable solutions, it is pertinent to address the causes of conflict, such as discrimination, leadership tussles, and inequality in the communities.

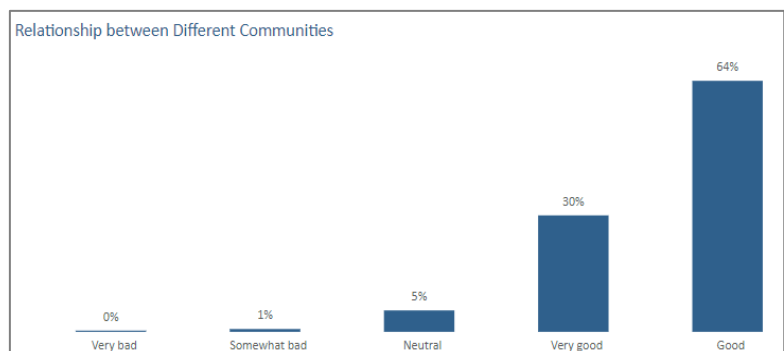


Figure 6. Relationship between various communities.

VI. FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

The forcibly displaced population and the members of the host communities continue to face challenges of free movement within the camps/sites and to locations outside of their settlements. While most households reported that they can move freely outside the camps/sites, the situation is not the same for men, women, girls, and boys. While the men (58%) reported that they face limited challenges to movement restrictions outside their current locations, the situation was not the same for the women, who reported facing more movement constraints than their male counterparts, as shown in the table below.

The NSAG presence and activities (29%), have been attributed as the leading cause of movement restrictions followed by ongoing military actions against the Non-State Armed Groups (16%), the presence of landmines ERW/UXOs (14%) and curfews in place, as shown in figure 7 below.

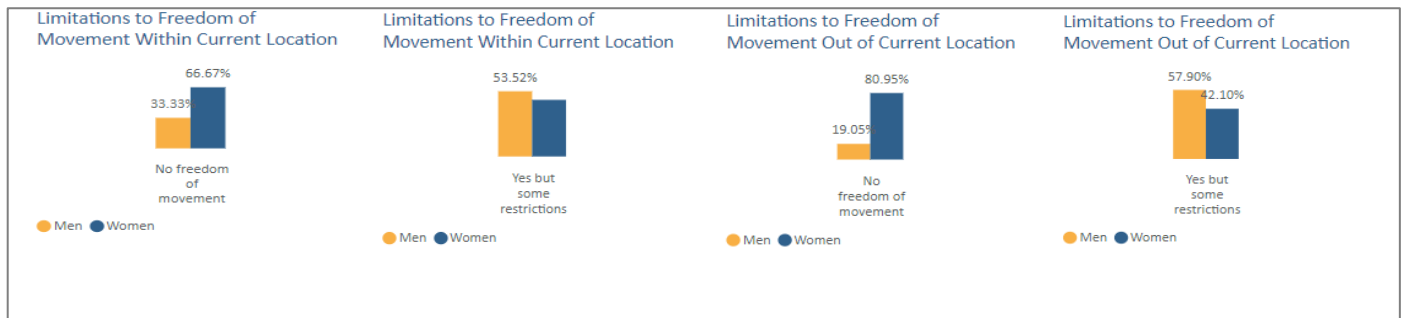


Figure 7. The situation of freedom of movement

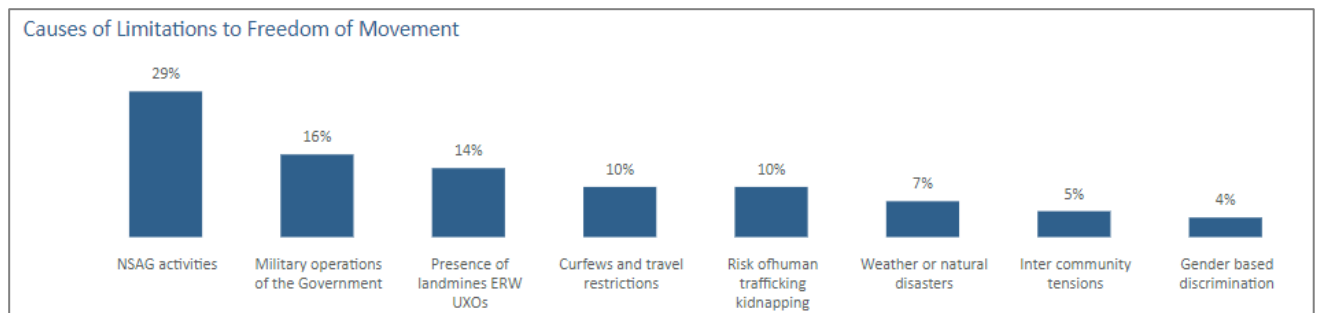


Figure 8. Causes of movement restrictions

VII. LEGAL AND CIVIL DOCUMENTATION

Access to legal documents remains a significant challenge for the affected population, according to 27% of 4,048 households assessed in July and August who reported that they do not have any form of individual legal documents. However, the situation was not the same for all the households, and 42% reported that at least one member of the household has at least one form of legal document. The situation was even better in 30% of the households that reported having all forms of individual legal documentation. Access to individual legal documentation for women was better, according to 54% of the women who reported having at least one form of legal documentation.

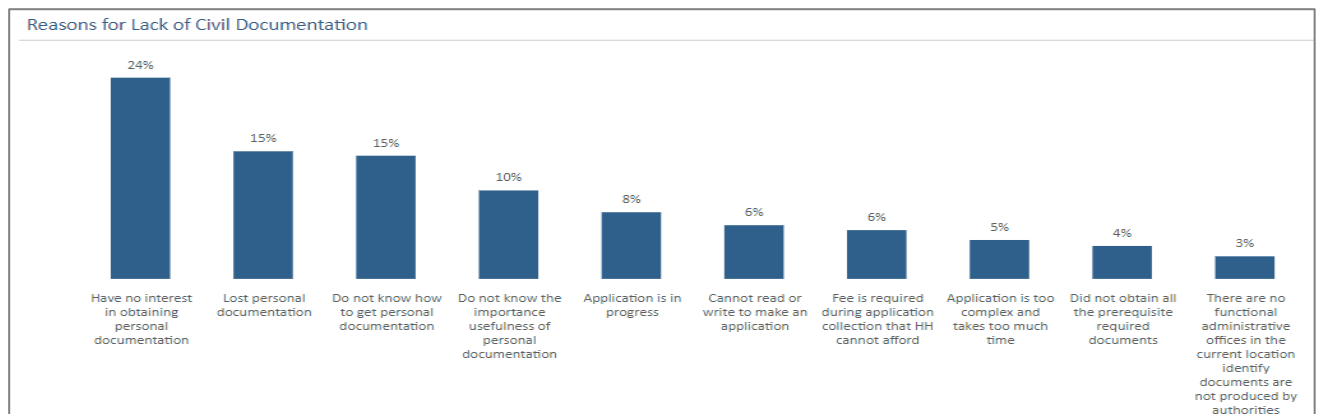


Figure 9. Barriers to accessing legal documentations.

The most common barriers to accessing legal documents include the lack of interest by the affected population to obtain the documents, lack of information about how to access the documents, and inability to access the registrar's office due to insecurity, as shown in the charts below. Humanitarian actors, including UNHCR and its partners, continue collaborating and coordinating with relevant state agencies to provide legal documentation to the affected population in the BAY States. Despite this assistance, the need for legal and civil documents remains among the affected populations, thus the need for continued advocacy and sensitisation of stakeholders on the importance of Identity documents and the processes of obtaining these vital documents.

VIII. COMPLAINT AND FEEDBACK MECHANISMS

The information needs of the 4,048 households assessed in July and August include the need to know about the availability of services (46%), eligibility to access services (38%) and where to access services (10%), and where to get documents that enable them to access services and cost of services.

Some 56% of the households reported that they were somewhat aware of the complaint and feedback mechanism, and 33% reported that they were well aware of the existing complaint and feedback mechanism. Only 13% reported that they are not aware of the existence of a complaint and feedback mechanism.

Furthermore, 68% reported that they use the existing complaint and feedback mechanism, while 32% reported that they do not use the complaint and feedback mechanism. Additionally, the households demonstrated considerable knowledge of the complaint and feedback, such as the IDP community leaders, service desks, toll-free numbers and host community leaders; they also demonstrated awareness of how they can report if they experience SEA.

UNHCR has deployed protection desks in various locations in the BAY States where the affected population continually use to lodge their complaints. In addition, there is a dedicated toll-free line where the affected population living in places that have phone network coverage can quickly call to make complaints. Also, regular community meetings are organised to get feedbacks from the communities.

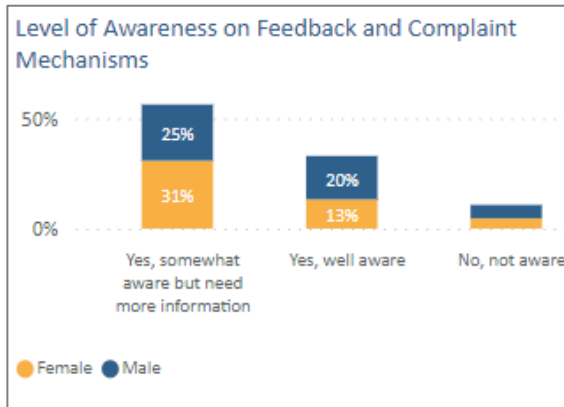


Figure 10. Level of awareness on CFM

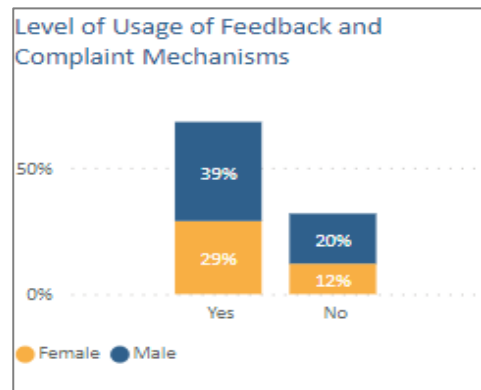


Figure 11. Level of usage of CFM

IX. CHILD PROTECTION

Children with specific needs: There has been a notable increase in cases involving children with specific needs during the months of July and August. Among the 4, 048 households assessed during this period, approximately 52% included individuals with specific needs. Notably, children with specific needs constituted the largest portion of this group (see the section on Persons with Specific Needs). The vulnerabilities identified included Child Labor (11%), out-of-school children (20%), Child Marriage (2%), and Children Associated with Armed Groups (CAAG) (1%). Within the category of children at risk, 5% of the households reported the presence of separated children while 1% reported unaccompanied children. Furthermore, 56% of households with at-risk children reported that these children were not attending school. The reasons for this non-attendance included the inability to pay for school fees (33%), children working to support their families (10%), issues with the quality of education (14%), and a lack of teachers in schools (8%).

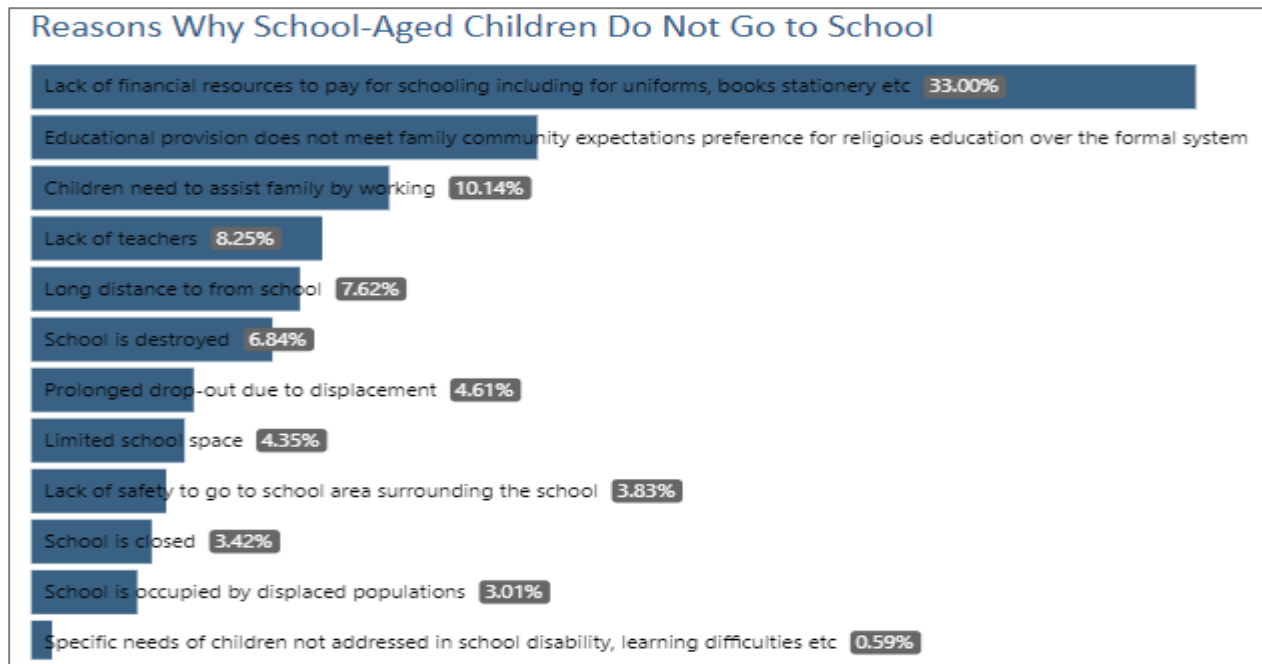


Figure 12. Reasons children are not going to school

In the ongoing attacks by NSAG, girls have been forcibly married, and boys have been forcibly conscripted into NSAG activities. Additionally, the continuous displacement of communities has led to family separations, exposing children to significant risks. Given this situation and the limited government presence in the LGAs to address these concerns, there is a clear justification for humanitarian actors to continue assisting children in overcoming trauma and meeting their diverse needs while ensuring their safety and protection from harm.

X. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE



79% of incidents of GBV were referred through protection monitors and other actors



98% of reported incidents were perpetrated against **Female**



21% of reported incidents were perpetrated against **Children**

The prevalence of GBV, mainly perpetrated against women and girls, calls for sustained prevention, mitigation, and response efforts. Women and girls accounted for most of the survivors of the GBV incidents with some 2% cases perpetrated against men and boys. More than twenty per cent (21%) of reported cases were against children and youth under the age of 18.

UNHCR’s partners, including GBV partner BOWDI, engage in widespread GBV prevention efforts to raise community awareness levels on GBV types, the available services for survivors who wish to seek support, and how to report incidents. Through these efforts, there was a 36% spike in GBV incidents reported to the GBV partner as compared to the previous reporting period. This rise in reported cases where survivors were able to access vital life savings support is due to UNHCR’s expanded reach to three additional locations in Adamawa state (Mubi South, Michika and Madagali) during the reporting period. The second highest type of GBV was physical assault (28%), recorded as mainly perpetrated within the intimate partner context or at the behest of non-state armed groups (NSAG). This was followed by forced/early marriage (18%), psychological/emotional abuse (12%), rape (6%) and sexual assault (2%).

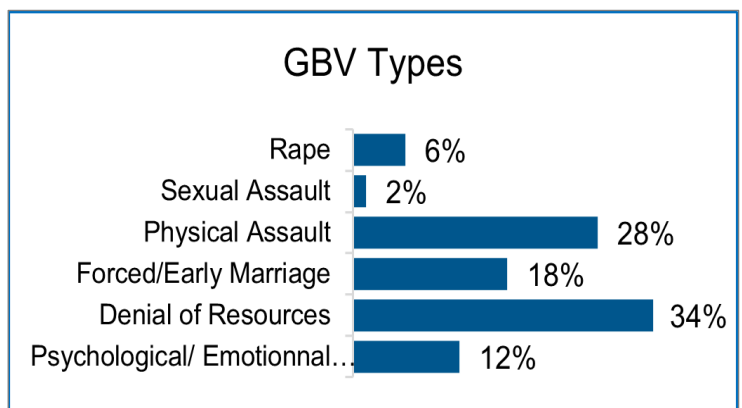
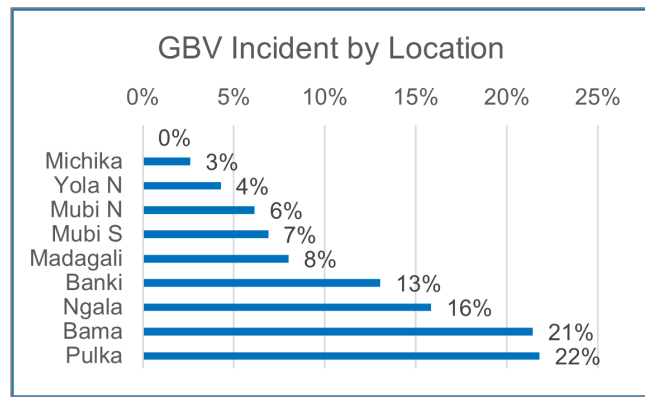


Figure 13. GBV Types

The LGAs with the highest reported incidents during the reporting period were closely tied between Pulka in Gwoza LGA (22% of incidents) and Bama (21% of incidents), in Borno state. At 76%, most of the reported GBV cases occurred in the intimate partner context. No incidents of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting or Sale and Exchange of sex were reported in the period under review. UNHCR’s GBV prevention, mitigation and response services target all displaced populations, including refugees, IDPs and vulnerable hosting communities.



XI. PERSONS WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS

Of the 4,048 households assessed, 52% had vulnerable persons with specific needs, such as children supporting their households by working as child labourers (24%) with the highest number of vulnerable individuals. Women at risk, including pregnant and lactating women with challenges to staying healthy, single women with dependent children, and women at risk of gender-based violence, are some of the vulnerabilities women face. Older persons, including single older persons who cannot care for themselves or older persons caring for children, were some of the vulnerabilities that affected older persons. It is evident that the affected population continue to face multiple risks that exacerbate family vulnerabilities. The shrinking humanitarian resources and the inability of the government to sufficiently address the multiple vulnerabilities that the affected population faces. The challenges continue to be exacerbated by prolonged displacement.

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

Of the 4,048 households assessed in July and August, 83% reported that they do not have HLP documents such as sales agreements, documents from traditional authority, customary certificates of occupancy and certificates of statutory certificates of occupancy. Of the houses that reported ownership of HLP documents, women (13%) compared to their male counterparts (31%) owned sales agreements. In comparison, 12% of women reported owning documents from traditional authorities compared to their male counterparts (15%). Overall, a negligible number of households owned statutory HLP documents, which confirms the absence of civilian authorities in the LGAs to issue such needed documents. Furthermore, IDP households (27%) had sales agreements compared to their counterparts in the host community (10%).

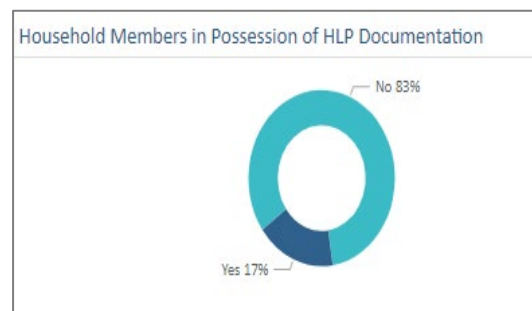


Figure 15: HLP Issues

XIII. PERSISTENT GAPS AND PRIORITY NEEDS

Food remains the priority need of the households assessed. This is closely followed by the need for livelihood and vocational skills. As the ongoing conflict lingers, the displaced people in the Northeast lack access to sufficient food and other basic needs due to limited funds. Vulnerable groups such as children and pregnant women with nutritional needs continue to lack this basic service. Insecurity in peripheral areas also puts farmers at risk thereby limiting the communities’ ability to produce the crop they need to feed their families. Urgent measures are needed to address these issues and allow for a return to livelihood activities.



XIV. CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#	Challenges	Recommendations	Affected areas	Responsible stakeholders	Urgency
1	Over congested camps	Allocation of additional land to decongest the overly populated camps	Banki, Bama, Gwoza and Pulka	CCCM Sector, Borno State Government	Critical
2	Insufficient food	Address the insufficient food assistance targeting the most vulnerable groups	All locations	FSL Sector	Critical
3	Limited access to civil documentation	Increase resources to address the civil documentation gaps	Borno State	PSNE	High
4	The limited presence of civilian authorities in the LGAs	Advocate for the full restoration of civilian authorities in the LGAs	Borno State	ISCG, PSNE	High
5	Limited access to livelihood	Allocation of more resources to address the livelihood needs of the affected population	Borno, Adamawa and Yobe state	Early recovery and FSL sectors	High

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