

# North East Nigeria Operational Update

December 2023

In December, UNHCR and the National Human Rights Commission reached **10,800 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), returnees, and members of the host community** in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe (BAY) States with awareness raising on human rights.

UNHCR, Grassroot Initiative for Strengthening Community Resilience (GISCOR), and Caritas reached more than **13,774 IDPs, IDP returnees, refugee returnees, and host community members** through more than **2,430 protection monitoring activities** while recording 62 protection incidents.

A Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) team reached **14,202 individuals through different engagements** such as awareness raising, sensitisation, reception of complaints/feedback, social mobilisation, focus group discussions, advocacies, and field visits.



*Through UNHCR and its partners, children in North East Nigeria are being supported to heal from trauma, following years of humanitarian crisis. @UNHCR/Francis Garriba.*

# Operational Highlights

- In December, a total of 70 safety and security incidents were recorded in the BAY States, including armed attacks, killings, abductions for ransom, illegal vehicle checkpoints, the use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), petty crimes, and civil unrest. **At least 71 civilians and forcibly displaced people were affected by these incidents, negatively impacting the delivery of lifesaving services to the affected populations** in various locations.
- Non-State Armed Groups (NSAG) also **vandalised critical infrastructures, including pylons conveying 33KVA electricity from the national grid to Maiduguri**, thereby causing a drastic rationing of electricity and exacerbating the already poor energy conditions in Maiduguri metropolis.
- On 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023, UNHCR participated in a strategic meeting that brought together UN-HABITAT, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Governor of Yobe State, and other key stakeholders. Discussions focused on the development of a Joint Programme for Sustainable Urban Integration of Displaced Populations in Northern Nigeria.

## POPULATION MOVEMENT

- In December, IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) indicated that **4,121 individuals were displaced across the BAY States, down from 5,183 individuals in November**. The displaced populations included 2,315 new arrivals recorded in Borno State and 1,806 in Adamawa State. The displacements were triggered essentially by poor living conditions, efforts to reunite with families, military operations, quest for an enhanced secured environment, NSAG attacks, search for access to humanitarian assistance, generalised violence, economic hardships, and lack of basic services. Because of these movements, new arrivals were further exposed to protection risks.
- During border monitoring in December 2023, UNHCR and Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) **recorded 1,864 new spontaneous refugee returnees (488 families) across the BAY States**, including in Damasak, Ngala, and Pulka locations of Borno State; Geidam and Machina LGAs in Yobe; and Wuro-Alhaji LGA in Adamawa State. **They arrived from Niger, Cameroon, Chad, and other countries and have contributed to over-stretching the limited resources in the BAY States, underscoring the need for enhanced support**. Most of them were female heads of households, pregnant and lactating mothers, and people with disabilities and other severe medical conditions, having no legal documentation. They fled mainly to escape from attacks, kidnapping, and abduction by NSAGs. Others were motivated by the hope of reuniting with family and accessing improved services and livelihood opportunities.
- As of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023, UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and IDPs (NCFRMI) **registered 12,963 Cameroonian asylum seekers (4,405 families) in Mubi, Michika and Madagali LGAs of Adamawa State**. Notably, over 72 per cent of these individuals are identified as having specific vulnerabilities, such as children, women, the elderly at risk, and persons with disabilities.
- During the month, Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency (ADSEMA), National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and IDPs (NCFRMI), and other partners in Adamawa State also **identified other displaced populations from Sudan and Niger**. However, these new arrivals were yet to be registered.



## PROTECTION

### PROTECTION SECTOR COORDINATION

In December, UNHCR and its Protection Monitoring partner Grassroots Initiative for Strengthening Community Resilience (GISCOR) led Protection Sector Working Group (PSWG) coordination meetings in Bama, Banki, Damasak, Gwoza, Jere, MMC, Monguno, Ngala, Pulka, and Rann locations in Borno State. In Adamawa and Yobe, UNHCR co-chaired PSWG coordination meetings with relevant State authorities. During the meetings, participants identified and discussed gaps and challenges while recommending solution-oriented actions for implementation.

### PROTECTION BY PRESENCE, PROTECTION MONITORING

- Despite persistent insecurity in most parts of the North East in December, UNHCR and its partners continued to **deliver life-saving humanitarian assistance and protection services to reduce risks and address the needs of IDPs, IDP returnees, refugees, refugee returnees, asylum seekers, and host community members in the BAY States**. The assistance targeted mostly vulnerable populations with noticeable and urgent needs.
- UNHCR, GISCOR, and Caritas **reached more than 13,774 IDPs, IDP returnees, refugee returnees, and host community members through 2,430 protection monitoring activities**. They also recorded 62 protection incidents, compounded by the scaling down of food beneficiaries. Protection monitoring enables UNHCR and partners to plan for better response to the protection needs of forcibly displaced populations and their hosts, including providing physical safety and security, food, health care, cash, specialised protection services, education, and suitable housing.
- In December, UNHCR and the National Human Rights Commission **engaged with 10,800 IDPs, returnees, and members of the host community in the BAY States, conducting awareness campaigns on human rights**. Through several targeted visits, the organisations aimed to gain a deep understanding of the human rights conditions experienced by these populations, to tailor their interventions to meet specific needs and improve the provision of services.
- UNHCR and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) **visited 103 detention and correctional facilities in the BAY States, where the Nigerian Correctional Service held 22 IDPs and 81 other persons for different offences, such as theft and physical assaults**. NHRC succeeded in acquiring bail for the IDPs and other detainees who committed minor crimes. The aim was to protect their legal rights, prevent undue hardship, and uphold international human rights standards, ensuring fair treatment.
- During the month, **1,551 IDPs, returnees, and host community members (301 households) visited UNHCR's protection desks** in 10 LGAs of the BAY States. Their concerns, especially those with specific needs requiring support or services, include health challenges and lack of access to food and basic services. Over 82 per cent of the visitors, who were IDPs, were aware of UNHCR's toll-free number as an alternative to tabling their complaints or giving confidential feedback despite electing to visit the protection desk in person. The UNHCR's protection desk office referred the complaints, including those received via the toll-free number, to the appropriate agencies for assistance.

## PROTECTION RESPONSE

- In December, UNHCR and its protection partners GISCOR, NHRC, Nigerian Bar Association, and Caritas, as well as community-based protection action groups, **reached 12,844 IDPs, returnees, and vulnerable host community members in the BAY States** with awareness-raising on safety and security, peaceful co-existence, human rights, and referral pathways. The people reached are expected to implement the skills gathered from the awareness campaign in their communities.
- During the month, **UNHCR and Caritas reached 2,136 IDPs and vulnerable host community members** with issues of child protection, children's rights, and other child-related issues in Borno and Adamawa States. These included 2,089 IDPs and vulnerable host community members in different LGAs of Borno and 1,056 asylum seekers in Madagali, Michika, and Mubi South LGAs.
- UNHCR and Caritas **reached 21 IDP children with case management services across the four Bama, Banki, Monguno, and MMC project locations**. Whereas four IDP children underwent best interest assessment, 16 others received individual case management services, including 13 asylum seekers and three female host community children in Madagali, Michika, and Mubi. Meanwhile, 33 caregivers in Adamawa and Borno States received NFIs.
- UNHCR and Caritas **reached 1,171 people with individual and group Psychosocial Support (PSS) sessions in different locations of Borno State and 190 persons in Michika and Mubi South LGAs of Adamawa State**. While individual sessions addressed the needs of at-risk children, group sessions focused on risks facing displaced children and caregivers in their communities.
- In Borno State, **more than 950 urban IDP children, including 138 asylum seekers and 16 host community children, participated in recreational and educational activities** at the three Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) in Bama, Banki, and Monguno. It was the first time for children in Borno and Adamawa States to participate in activities at the CFS, thereby helping them to cope with trauma while restoring their normalcy through organised play, learning, and socialisation.
- In December, UNHCR and Caritas **reached 385 children (247 IDPs and 138 host community members) through different kids' clubs' recreational and educational activities under the Safe School Initiative in three urban schools across MMC**. Participants were mainly IDPs and some vulnerable host community members. The kids club activities strengthen the children's resilience while enabling them to learn and play together.
- UNHCR and its partners engaged with **1,037 stakeholders, communities, and sectors through community outreach and advocacy** in the BAY States, addressing WASH, food, and NFI needs.
- UNHCR, in collaboration with the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA), **filed 30 cases in courts across the BAY states** involving IDPs, refugees, returnees, and host community members. Additionally, the NBA has provided **legal counselling to 52 IDPs and host community members** in the BAY states. The Shariah and Magistrate Mobile Courts in Borno have organised 11 sittings to respond to cases filed by IDPs and vulnerable host community members. Furthermore, NBA has **received eight court judgments on cases it instituted on behalf of the affected community population**.
- Regarding its civil documentation programme for individuals, **UNHCR and NBA facilitated and obtained 12 letters of administration on behalf of IDPs and host community members in**

**Adamawa and Yobe States** whose parents or relatives died, leaving no will. These essential documents facilitate inheritance by the affected populations of properties bequeathed to them by their deceased relatives.

- Some **1,860 IDPs, refugees, and vulnerable host community members accessed the UNHCR Women and Girls Safe Spaces in Borno and Adamawa States**, where they received such services as case management, psychosocial support, counselling, skills acquisition and empowerment, awareness raising, and recreational activities. The beneficiaries included 986 IDPs, 486 refugees, and 388 host communities.
- In December, UNHCR and its partner, Borno Women Development Initiative (BOWDI), **reached 304 IDPs, asylum seekers, and vulnerable host community members with an awareness campaign on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Borno and Adamawa States**. During the sessions, participants were sensitised on GBV issues such as sexual exploitation and abuse, community-based complaint mechanisms, and referral pathways.
- Under UNHCR's skills acquisition and empowerment for females at risk programme in Bama, Borno State, **some seven IDP women and girls participated in a skills acquisition programme to reduce their vulnerability to GBV**. They were taught skills such as sewing, liquid soap making, cap knitting, crocheting, pasta making, and mat and hand fan making, using materials mainly recycled from waste, as part of the programme's environmental sustainability efforts.
- In line with the multi-sectoral response to GBV, **some 36 GBV incidents were newly recorded from IDP, and refugee responses received case management and psychosocial counselling services** at the Women and Girls Safe Spaces in Borno and Adamawa States.



## CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM), SHELTER, AND NFI

- In December, a Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) team **reached 14,202 individuals through different engagements** such as awareness raising, sensitisation, reception of complaints/feedback, social mobilisation, focus group discussions, advocacies, field visits, and other community-based Complaint and Feedback Mechanisms.
- Some **3,863 individuals visited the UNHCR CCCM Information Coordination and Communications (ICC) centres in Borno and Adamawa States** with different needs, complaints, feedback, and referrals. Meanwhile, the UNHCR CCCM structure continued to strengthen the usage of the ICC centres.
- CCCM **organised six camp coordination meetings in the BAY States to enhance collaboration and promote effective humanitarian service delivery** in camp and out-of-camp settings. Meanwhile, 522 individuals with disabilities also actively participated in CCCM activities across the BAY States, demonstrating an increased engagement in decision-making processes.
- In December, the CCCM **distributed non-food items (NFIs) to 21 IDP households affected by fire incidents, who are now living in makeshift shelters at the Muna El-Badawi Camp Maiduguri**. The items are expected to mitigate the suffering and pain of the affected populations who lost their shelters during the fire outbreaks. UNHCR, INTERSOS, IOM, GISCOR, and SEMA used the opportunity offered by the distribution to advocate for more NFI support, risk education, and awareness for camp residents to prevent or reduce further fire outbreaks.

- UNHCR and its partner DRC **completed the construction of Fifty durable shelters in Banki and 208 mud brick shelters in Pulka** for forcibly displaced persons to improve their living conditions. The shelters in Pulka have since been allocated to the affected population.



## LIVELIHOOD AND PROTECTION SAFETY NETS

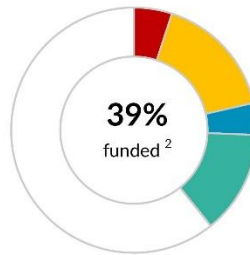
- In December, UNHCR, in collaboration with its livelihood implementing partner American University of Nigeria (AUN), **distributed cash grants worth NGN2,500,000 to 50 urban IDPs under the Cash-Based Initiative (CBI) microbusiness programme** in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council (MMC), Borno State. Each beneficiary received the sum of NGN50,000 (USD52.57).
- In the reporting month, UNHCR, supported by its Regional Bureau, conducted a Programming Review in Borno and Adamawa States. This initiative aimed to collect essential data and insights to inform **the revision and finalisation of the 2024–2028 Livelihood and Economic Inclusion (LEI) strategy, emphasising its role as a crucial protection safety net in forced displacement settings.**
- AUN has successfully **completed data collection for the Cash-Based Interventions within the Urban Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) program** in Maiduguri. This data will inform a detailed impact study assessing the efficacy of CBIs as part of UNHCR's Livelihood Programme, focusing on urban IDPs in Borno. Given the closure of IDP camps, this study gains importance as it seeks to **evaluate how CBIs contribute to providing a protection safety net, fostering livelihood and economic inclusion for urban IDPs.**

## FUNDING SITUATION

UNHCR extends its sincere gratitude for the unwavering financial support from global donors and those directly contributing to the Nigeria Operation, underlining the vital role of international solidarity in humanitarian efforts. Despite **setting a comprehensive budget for the operation in 2023 at \$98.2 million, only 39 per cent of the target was reached by the end of the year.** In some instances, this significant shortfall in funding curtailed the agency's ability to provide forcibly displaced individuals and those at risk of statelessness in Nigeria with the comprehensive protection and solutions assistance they required, thereby affecting the scope and efficacy of our support and interventions.


**FUNDING UPDATE | 2023**

**\$98.2 million**  
 UNHCR's financial requirements 2023 <sup>1</sup>



**NIGERIA**  
 as of 15 December 2023


**CONTRIBUTIONS <sup>3</sup> | USD**

	Unearmarked	Softly earmarked	Earmarked	Tightly earmarked	Total
United States of America	-	-	16,500,000	-	16,500,000
Germany	-	2,092,115	-	-	2,092,115
European Union	-	-	-	1,048,609	1,048,609
Spain	-	-	-	718,587	718,587
España con ACNUR	-	-	-	302,678	302,678
Private donors in Nigeria	-	-	43,139	159,858	202,997
Private donors in the United Arab Emirates	-	-	-	150,690	150,690
Denmark	-	64,399	-	-	64,399
Nigeria	-	-	-	33,019	33,019
Other private donors	-	-	-	828	828
<b>Sub-total</b>	-	<b>2,156,514</b>	<b>16,543,139</b>	<b>2,483,929</b>	<b>21,183,582</b>
Indicative allocation of funds and adjustments	13,376,532	1,966,390	(425,387)	2,448,533	17,366,068
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,376,532</b>	<b>4,122,904</b>	<b>16,117,752</b>	<b>4,932,462</b>	<b>38,549,650</b>

Methodology: Unearmarked funding is allocated and reallocated multiple times during the year to allow UNHCR to fund prioritised activities. This funding update includes an indicative allocation of funds so as to accurately represent the resources available for the country. The contributions earmarked for Nigeria shown above are combined with an indicative allocation of the softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions listed below. This allocation respects different levels of earmarking. Adjustments relate to programme support costs and carry-over.

**OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS <sup>4</sup> | USD**

Australia for UNHCR 9.7 million | United States of America 9.3 million | USA for UNHCR 3.2 million | UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe 3.2 million | UK for UNHCR 2.3 million | Italy 2.2 million | Private donors in China 2.1 million

Argentina for UNHCR | Canada | España con ACNUR | France | Germany | Japan | Japan for UNHCR | Sweden for UNHCR | Switzerland for UNHCR | Private donors

**UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS <sup>5</sup> | USD**

Sweden 69 million | España con ACNUR 68.1 million | Norway 63.1 million | Japan for UNHCR 44.3 million | United Kingdom 41 million | Netherlands 36.3 million | Denmark 35.6 million | France 27.4 million | Private donors in the Republic of Korea 24.7 million | Germany 23.3 million | Switzerland 18.9 million | Japan 16.3 million | Private donors in Italy 15.4 million | Sweden for UNHCR 12.9 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Ireland 11.9 million | USA for UNHCR 10.8 million

Algeria | Angola | Australia | Austria | Bulgaria | Canada | Estonia | Finland | Grand Duchy of Luxembourg | Iceland | Kingdom of Saudi Arabia | Malta | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Principality of Monaco | Republic of Costa Rica | Republic of Indonesia | Republic of Korea | Republic of Montenegro | Republic of Singapore | Russian Federation | Serbia | State of Kuwait | Switzerland for UNHCR | Thailand | Türkiye | UK for UNHCR | Uruguay | Private donors

**Notes:**

- The financial requirements for Nigeria include requirements for the operation's regular programme and the Western and Central Mediterranean.
- The percentage funded (39%) and total funding amount (\$38,549,650) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of \$59,689,726 representing 61% of the financial requirements.
- Contributions to Nigeria are shown by the earmarking modality as defined in the Grand Bargain.
- Due to their earmarking at the region or sub-region, or to a related situation or theme, the other softly earmarked contributions listed are those which can potentially be used for Nigeria. Where a donor has contributed \$2 million or more, the total amount of the contributions is shown.
- Contributed without restrictions on its use, unearmarked funding allows UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees and other populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Where a donor has contributed \$10 million or more, the total amount of the contribution is shown.

**More Information**

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