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PROTECTION SECTOR NORTH-EAST NIGERIA ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Awareness raising and sensitization for adolescents in Sulumri Camp. Source HHHi



Protection



Child
Protection



Gender Based
Violence



House Land
& Property



Mine Action

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Key Abbreviations

AoR	Area of Responsibility
BAY States	Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe States
BSG	Borno State Government
CAAG	Children Associated with Armed Groups
CBPN	Community-Based Protection Networks
CP	Child Protection
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DDRR	Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GPC	Global Protection Cluster
HLP	Housing, Land & Property
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
ISCG	Inter-Sector Coordination Group
KII	Key Informant Interview
LGA	Local Government Area
MoWASD	Ministry of Women's Affairs and Social Development
NFI	Non-Food Item
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NINGO	National Non-Governmental Organization
NSAGs	Non-State Armed Groups
NHF	Nigeria Humanitarian Fund
PMS	Protection Monitoring System
PM-TWG	Protection Monitoring Technical Working Group
PSEA	Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
PSNE	Protection Sector North-East Nigeria
SAG	Strategic Advisory Group
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
UXO	Unexploded Ordnances
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Operational Context and Protection Environment

The crisis and humanitarian situation in North-East Nigeria remained severe in its 14th year. The ongoing conflict between the Government of Nigeria (GoN) and Non-State Armed Groups (NSAG), as well as among NSAGs, intensified in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe ('BAY States').

2023 was another year that Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), IDP and refugee returnees, refugees, and host communities in the BAY states continued experiencing persistent NSAG attacks and threats, including abductions, mass killings, and civil unrest, continuous displacement, increased Explosive Ordnance incidents and risks, camp closure and relocations, limited access to basic services, flooding, and fire outbreaks. Significant conflict activity has also continued to challenge the delivery of humanitarian assistance and protection throughout the year, witnessing a persistently narrow humanitarian space.

In 2023, the inadequate basic services for new arrivals coming from extremely hard-to-reach and NSAG-controlled areas, existing IDPs, and IDP and refugee returnees remain exposing them to various protection risks, adopting harmful coping mechanisms and residing in abandoned buildings, open spaces, over-congested and crowded camps, and transit centres across Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe States. Limited livelihood support and access to the available livelihood activity locations coupled with scale down of food beneficiaries by food partners and inflation of food items exposed the population to numerous protection risks and resort to harmful coping mechanisms such as survival sex, child labour, and begging activities, and to be at risk of NSAG attacks and UXOs/ERW incidents. During the year, the search for livelihood opportunities and access to farmlands, especially within Borno state, becomes difficult and endangers the lives of the affected population at the cost of attacks and fatalities primarily perpetrated by Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs), Fulani herders, and occasionally by forces associated with the military and government forces. Between May and November 2023, a total of 234 Protection incidents related to attacks on farmers were reported in Bama, Damboa, Dikwa, Gwoza, Ngala, and Monguno LGAs, comprising 62% attacks and killings, 23% abduction, kidnapping, and forced disappearance, and 15% theft, extortion, eviction, or destruction of personal property.

Amidst the ongoing crisis, the Borno state Government's return agenda has entered the next stage during the reporting period as the Governor closed the first informal camp in Maiduguri and announced the closure of the Government Senior Science Secondary School (GSSS) camp on his visit to Monguno in November 2023. This camp hosts 5,862 households consisting of 30,368 individuals. The camp closures remain non-compliant with international standards, posing significant protection risks to the affected population, and continue to take place without consultation with the humanitarian community. The closure of informal camps further puts into question the architecture of the humanitarian response in the future, with people in need further dispersed across locations in which they would not be able to easily access the assistance and protection they require. Some of the return locations identified by the BSG as areas where the IDPs will be relocated are areas designated as hard or extremely hard to reach for humanitarian partners due to insecurity. The closure of camps and relocation of the population to towns-areas with insecure nearby surroundings- and government-designated sites has often exacerbated IDPs' exposure to protection risks, among them to continue to adopt harmful coping strategies to sustain themselves in the face of unmet basic needs, increased cases of attacks on civilians by NSAG, limited freedom of movement to engage in any meaningful livelihood, lack of access to humanitarian assistance, unsolved Housing, Land and Property (HLP) issues, as well as injuries and fatalities resulted from mine contamination.

The Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration (DDRR) process continued in 2023, given how the process unfolded. There were several protection risks that were produced as a result of the DDRR process. Ultimately, the safety and well-being of affected communities and humanitarian staff were negatively impacted by the DDRR process in various locations in Borno.

NSAG attacks in Cameroon's Far North Region have continued to forcibly displaced people into Adamawa State in Nigeria. 2,650 households of 20,903 Cameroonians have sought refuge in Madagali, Michika and Mubi in Adamawa State. Protection and multi-sectoral needs, including basic assistance

such as food, shelter, NFIs, and livelihood, remain unmet and led the affected refugee population to adopt harmful coping mechanisms during the reporting period, including begging, engaging in undignified labour, and transactional sex.

The coup d'état in Niger occurred on 26 July 2023, forced 2,511 Nigerien of 435 households to flee their country to Nigeria, Borno State (463 individuals), Yobe State (670 individuals), and Adamawa (1,378 individuals) and 15,284 (2,697 households) Nigerian refugees to cross the border and return to Damasak, Mobbar LGA of Borno state (UNHCR Border Monitoring Report, December 2023). The continuous influx of refugee returnees and asylum seekers exacerbates the existing humanitarian needs of food, shelter, NFIs, WASH, and livelihood in the arrival/return locations, thereby exposing new arrivals to several protection risks and harmful coping mechanisms while sleeping in over-congested areas and open spaces.

During the first quarter of 2023, the Naira currency redesign policy of the Federal Government of Nigeria resulted in the unavailability of cash. It impeded the population's access to basic goods and services, thereby significantly exacerbating vulnerabilities and exposure to various protection risks, including exploitation, tensions within households and, an increase in intimate partner violence, and the adoption of harmful coping mechanisms. The cash scarcity has also impacted protection partners' cash assistance programming and the delivery of goods and services to the affected population.

Bureaucratic and administrative impediments by state governments have posed additional barriers for humanitarian partners to assist those in need, further aggravating protection risks for the affected population and increasing their overall vulnerability. During the election period in March 2023, the Adamawa State Government suspended the activities of international and national NGOs, excluding affected populations from receiving assistance and protection. In June 2023, the Borno State Government suspended food distribution in the Askira/Uba LGA, citing that the Southern areas of Borno were not in need of food assistance, while Askira/Uba is at crisis level of acute food and nutrition insecurity (IPC3), and no dependency on humanitarian aid should be created. The Borno State Government also claimed that the distribution of the assistance had not been coordinated with the state authorities, arrested three humanitarian aid workers involved in the food distribution, and cordoned off two food warehouses.

Climate-related protection risks have also shaped the reporting year, with ongoing fire outbreaks, especially across Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp settings, which led to injuries and death and resulted in the destruction of shelters, properties, and commodities (including food) of the affected population mostly recorded in Borno State followed by Adamawa and Yobe states. Flooding has also resulted in the collapse of a bridge in Madagali LGA in Adamawa in June 2023, which has caused both challenges for the affected population in accessing services and assistance, and humanitarian partners.



Major Achievements, Protection Risks, and Challenges

Protection Sector North-East Nigeria (PSNE)

Advocacy on the ongoing Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration (DDRR)

The PSNE produced an internal briefing note in February 2023 highlighting the protection concerns resulting from the DDRR process and its impact on humanitarian operations in Borno State. The note provided recommendations to the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), donors, the DDRR consortium agencies, and the humanitarian community aimed at facilitating a shared understanding of key stakeholders on the challenges around the DDRR process with the aim of ensuring a sustainable approach that supports the protection of the affected population and that no harm is done when people get released from transition centres into receiving camps and host communities. Several consultative advocacy meetings were held with humanitarian actors, including INGOs and UN Agencies, the UN Offer Agencies, the Residence and Humanitarian Coordinator, counterparts from the Nigerian military and a UN Human Rights Mechanism to discuss possible solutions to the protection concerns raised.

Advocacy Note on the Participation of IDPs in Electoral Processes in North-East Nigeria

In the context of federal and state-level elections in Nigeria in February and March 2023, the PSNE produced an advocacy note in March 2023 on the participation of IDPs in electoral processes in North-East Nigeria, drawing on quantitative and qualitative protection monitoring data. The note referenced international standards and human rights law provisions related to IDP voting rights. It highlighted the risk of exclusion of IDPs from exercising their civil and political right to vote, especially due to challenges associated with securing needed documentation, which is exacerbated by their displacement and government-enforced camp closures and relocations. It concluded that IDPs' ability to participate in elections is both a fundamental right and a critical dimension of realising longer-term durable solutions to displacement. The note closes with recommendations to authorities across the BAY states and officials of the

Independent National Election Commission (INEC) to ensure and respect the rights of IDPs to vote. The PSNE has engaged the EU Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) on its findings on IDP participation in elections, as a result of which critical points of analysis were integrated into the EU EOM's first and second preliminary statements.

Donor Engagement Meeting

The Protection Sector North-East Nigeria (PSNE) and its Areas of Responsibility (AoRs) of Child Protection (CP), Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Housing, Land, and Property (HLP), and Mine Action (MA) conducted a meeting with key donors and the Sector's lead agencies on 26 January 2023 and 27 July 2023 in Abuja. The PSNE Coordination team and AoRs provided an overview of the protection environment in the North-East with main protection concerns. They highlighted the key achievements of the PSNE and its AoRs, along with challenges and gaps in the protection response and related opportunities for improving the protection response and the overall protection environment across the BAY states in 2023.

Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring (CCPM) Workshop

The PSNE, in collaboration with the Global Protection Cluster (GPC), facilitated a CCPM workshop for 19 SAG members and key protection partners on 28 March 2023. The PSNE presented the purpose of the cluster approach, the structure of the PSNE, and the purpose and steps of CCPM, along with the outcomes of the 2022 PSNE CCPM report on the basis of partners' submitted evaluations. The members discussed the outcomes of the CCPM, key achievements of the sector, and proposed action points on the identified areas that need further improvement.

Advocacy Note and Consultations on Solutions to Internal Displacement

In May 2023, the PSNE, in consultation with its AoRs and partners, drafted Key Messages on Solutions to

Internal Displacement, which were discussed on 12 May 2023 during an engagement with the Office of the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement during a visit to Nigeria as one of the 16 pilot countries. Given the Special Advisor's focus on government leadership and development interventions, the PSNE and partners advocated for the need to understand solutions as a gradual process in North-East Nigeria since conflict activities are ongoing and insecurity remains high with limited access. The PSNE also called for in-built protection safeguards and a focus on creating an enabling and favourable environment for conditions to eventually become conducive, underpinned by humanitarian programming that supports longer-term prospects and reduces displacement-specific vulnerabilities. In a consecutive meeting on 16 May 2023, the PSNE held a workshop with partners to establish a nuanced contextual overview for solutions in North-East Nigeria and to identify priority solutions to internal displacement for the different population categories in the BAY states with an overview of the key options for solutions, opportunities, and accompanying risks. Following the engagement with the Office of the Special Adviser, on 13 and 14 July, the PSNE took part in a follow-up workshop organised by the Resident Coordinator's Office to reflect on UN-Government-INGO solutions pilots in North-East Nigeria, in which the PSNE also presented on its key messages to ensure protection-sensitive and people-centred solutions.

Protection Analysis Update (PAU)

The PSNE published a Protection Analysis Update (PAU) in October 2023 on the need for Protection-sensitive solutions to displacement in North-East Nigeria. The Protection analysis update focuses on some of the key protection risks that are undermining the safety of the crisis-affected population and prospects for durable solutions, such as the presence of mines and other explosive ordnance; theft, extortion, eviction or destruction of personal property; attacks on civilians; and denial of resources, opportunities, and assistance. The analysis points out the progress made by Protection actors to create a more conducive environment for solutions to end displacement in North-East Nigeria and critical gaps in funding and population reached. Furthermore, the analysis update also emphasised recommendations and urgent actions needed by government stakeholders as the primary duty

bearers, along with complementary efforts by donors, organisations involved in the DDDR process, and other development and humanitarian partners to prevent and mitigate the protection risks and reduce the harms being experienced by crisis-affected communities, which are driven by ongoing conflict and insecurity as well as efforts to relocate displaced people without regard for the conditions and principles needed to ensure sustainable solutions to their displacement.

Advocacy Note on Protection Concerns Related to the Closure of Camps

In response to the intensified Borno state Government's return agenda, closure of all official Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps in Maiduguri in early 2023 and announced plans of the government to continue closing camps in the Local Government Areas (LGAs) and the informal camps, the PSNE with inputs from key protection partners developed an advocacy note on Protection concerns related to the closure of camps in LGAs in Borno State, North-East Nigeria in December 2023, the advocacy note outlined key facts. It highlighted protection concerns related to the closure of the camps in the LGAs, as identified by a range of protection actors working with affected populations and evidenced impacts of the previous camp closures of the Borno State government. The note also highlights protection concerns that are relevant to ensure sustainable solutions to internal displacement and provides recommendations for key stakeholders regarding the actions needed to ensure the rights of the affected population are upheld throughout the camp closures and relocation processes, in line with national, regional, and international standards and in support of durable solutions.

Protection Monitoring System (PMS)

The PSNE's Protection Monitoring Technical Working Group (PM-TWG) created a harmonised Protection Monitoring System (PMS) with a quantitative Protection Monitoring Household Assessment (PM HHA) and a Protection Incident Reporting (PIR) tool as the system's main sources of data collection. Following the pilot phase, the PSNE conducted a three-day Training of Trainers (ToT) in March 2023 for 13 PMS partners and a refresher training in August 2023 for 32 protection monitors,

including on practical didactical approaches and a technical familiarisation with the tools. The training equipped participants from PMS partner organisations with the knowledge and skills to conduct Step-Down PMS training for their protection staff across field locations.

Under the leadership of the PSNE, 14 partners of the North-East Nigeria Protection Monitoring System (NEN-PMS) collected household-level data through 24,929 household assessments in a total of 35 LGAs, 15 LGAs in Borno, 11 LGAs in Adamawa, and 9 LGAs in Yobe state.



The PM-TWG produced an interactive protection monitoring dashboard and monthly static protection monitoring dashboards for May to December 2023 and published quarterly LGA level Protection monitoring snapshots that provided an area-based analysis of household-level data collected by protection partners under the North-East Nigeria Protection Monitoring System (NEN-PMS).

Adamawa Joint Protection Assessment

The PSNE, in collaboration with its AoRs and protection partners, conducted an inter-agency Protection assessment in the four LGAs of Madagali, Michika, Mubi North and Mubi South between 10 and 12 May 2023. A mix of quantitative and qualitative data collection methodologies were used to gain an overall understanding of the general protection risks and an in-depth understanding of CP, GBV, HLP, and MA related specific risks the Cameroonian asylum seekers population and their surrounding host community/ IDP/ and IDP returnee

populations are facing. Following the finalisation of the analysis, the Protection Sector and stakeholders launched the joint Adamawa Protection assessment report on 21st September 2023 in the Adamawa State capital, Yola, with the presence of the State government representatives and Protection partners. The assessment report improved the government and humanitarian actors' understanding of protection risks and priority protection needs of the Cameroonian asylum seekers. Also, it contributed to developing evidence-based response strategies to meet the needs of the asylum seekers in Adamawa State.

Response Monitoring System

The PSNE developed an automated Response Monitoring System and Dashboard designed to track the General Protection, CP, GBV, Mine action and HLP AoRs protection activities' coverage and the overall progress of the protection response towards the targets and strategic objectives of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). As part of the sector functions, to support protection partners' response planning, monitoring, and reporting, the PSNE developed the framework along with a 5W Reporting Guidance Note and Indicator Manual and trained partners on the framework and reporting tools. The interactive Response Monitoring Dashboard and the Operational Presence Map enabled AoRs, partners, government stakeholders, donors, and the humanitarian community to track the Protection activities response against the target and navigate the presence of partners to effectively coordinate responses, improve programming, and reinforce referral services, among others.

PSNE 2023 Annual Retreat

The Protection Sector North-East Nigeria (PSNE) conducted the 2023 annual retreat in Port Harcourt city from 22 – 24 November 2023 with 41 participants drawn from the sector Areas of Responsibilities (AoR), Strategic Advisory Group (SAG), Government leads from Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe (BAY) States, Protection Sector Working Group (PSWG) focal points, and key partners (NNGOs & INGOs). During the retreat, through comprehensive presentations and interactive discussions, participants assessed the progress



and achievements of AoRs and general protection annual implementation in contrast with targets and indicators; jointly identified the major challenges, best practices, and key recommendations; as well as revised the existing strategy and developed the Sector strategy and implementation plan for 2024 –

2025 in alignment with the sector and AoRs priorities and agreed way forward. The retreat enhanced coordination and improved collaborations among the Protection sector AoRs, SAG members, working groups, and protection partners.

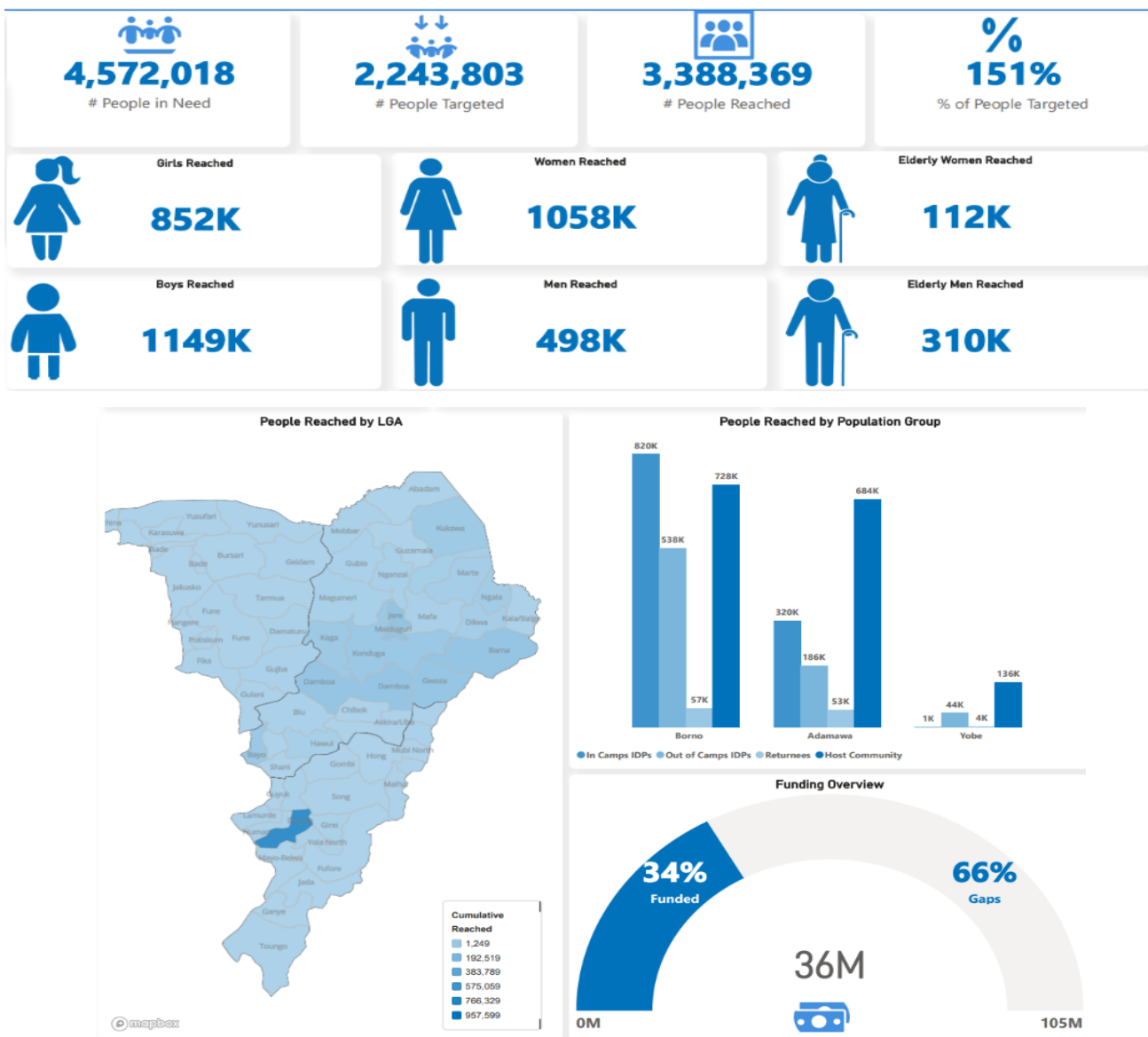
2023 Response Monitoring Dashboard

In 2023, the PSNE targeted **2.2 million** IDPs, IDP returnees, refugee returnees, and host community members across the BAY states with a projected requirement of **\$105 million** for life-saving protecting interventions encompassing activities across General Protection, CP, GBV, HLP, and MA.

During the year, the PSNE and its AoRs received **\$36 million**, which equals **34%** of the annual funding requirement, and reached **3,388,369 people**, i.e., **151%** against the yearly target of 2023. The overachievement of the PSNE's target was due to the fact that interventions recorded under

prevention, for instance for protection information sharing and awareness raising, advocacy and safe livelihood and skills acquisition, surpassed targets significantly as a wider group of people can be more easily reached with these activities. In contrast, the total number of people reached with response activities is below target, i.e. the provision of specialised protection services to vulnerable persons and those facing protection risks, as well as targeted capacity-building training for protection, humanitarian and government actors and Community-Based Protection Networks (CBPN). This is because these response activities require a higher level of partner capacity and are more budget-intensive.

Protection Sector North-East Nigeria 2023 Response Monitoring Dashboard



General Protection (GP)

Protection Information Sharing and Awareness Raising

During the reporting year, a total of **478,182 (312,904 female and 165,278 male)** women, girls, boys, and men were reached with protection information through awareness-raising sessions organised by partners on various protection topics including human rights, explosive ordnance, safety and security, peaceful coexistence, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) prevention messages, and information on available services and referral pathways.



Protection Monitoring

General Protection partners reached a total of **122,745 (68,975 female and 53,770 male)** IDPs, IDP and refugee returnees and members of the host

community through Protection Monitoring Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs). They successfully referred **27,226 (17,049 female and 10,177 male)** who have faced protection risks and suffered human rights violations for services across other sectors. The Protection monitoring allowed for a better understanding of the protection environment, protection risks, and priority needs of the affected population to inform evidence-based advocacy and appropriate response to protection concerns of the affected population in the BAY states.

Capacity building (protection actors, humanitarian actors, government actors)

In 2023, General protection partners trained **3,854 (1,665 female and 2,189 male)** humanitarian partners on protection mainstreaming; provided targeted training for **6,995 (3,983 female and 3,012 male)** local leaders and government actors as primary duty bearers for protection system strengthening and enhanced compliance with international standards; and facilitated training on Protection Risk Analysis and technical protection issues for **5,642 (2,999 female and 2,643 male)** protection actors.

Community-based Protection Networks (CBPNs)

Protection partners established **120 CBPNs** across the BAY states during the year, trained 173 Community-Based Protection Network members, and conducted 644 sessions of meetings with CBPN members to discuss prevalent protection risks and solutions (referral, liaison with other actors to provide assistance, etc.). As a result of the regular engagement, the CBPNs identified **6,620 (4,754 female and 1,866 male)** individuals who exhibited extreme levels of vulnerability, were exposed to protection risks, and suffered human rights violations, among them they successfully referred **1,815** vulnerable individuals to access protection and multi-sectoral services.

Conflict Resolution/ Mediation

48,829 (28,083 female and 20,746 male) persons were reached by General Protection partners' community dialogues, mediation sessions, and peacebuilding and reconciliation activities, which resulted in the reduction of tensions, prevention of violence and promotion of peaceful resolution of conflicts within communities, overall strengthening social cohesion across the BAY states.

Identification and Referral of vulnerable persons

During the year in review, general protection partners identified and referred **30,335 (19,917 and 10,418 female)** individuals who have suffered human rights violations to various protection and other multi-sectoral service providers, identified through regular field visits.

Protection Advocacy

Across the BAY states, general protection partners conducted **4,431 sessions** of community engagement and advocacy initiatives with stakeholders, other sectors at the field level, and community leaders, aiming to advocate for the reduction of protection risks faced by the affected population, including addressing service provision gaps and community-level issues in camps and host communities.

Provision of Specialized Protection Services

Protection partners provided specialised protection services for **114,520 (67,710 female and 46,810 male)** vulnerable IDPs, IDP returnees, refugee returnees, and host community members facing protection risks and human rights violations. The specialised services addressed the needs and vulnerabilities. They contributed to the improvement of the protection conditions of the affected population, including through general case management services for **1,728** individuals, Individual Protection Assistance (in-kind and cash) for **11,796** individuals, issuance of civil documentation for **63,155 individuals**, legal counselling, and representation for **2,687**

individuals, and psycho-social support activities for **35,140** individuals.

Safe livelihood, skills acquisition, and empowerment interventions

In 2023, General protection partners reached **12,470 (9,597 female and 2,873 male)** vulnerable individuals through Safe livelihood, skills acquisition, and empowerment interventions, including training on entrepreneurship, agriculture, business management; handwork/skill acquisition, and financial skills/ finance management training, as well as provision of startup and provided Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) provided for **1,465 (1,159 female and 306 male)** vulnerable IDP and returnee households. The interventions improved safe livelihood skills and opportunities for vulnerable households. They thereby reduced their exposure to NSAG attacks and unexploded ordnances/explosive remnants of war on their way or while engaging in farming, firewood, and scrap metal collection, reducing their resorting to harmful coping mechanisms.

Response Gaps and Challenges

- **Government-led Initiatives:** The lack of adherence to protection standards and principles related to camp closures, returns, and relocations, as well as the DDDR process, has increased the protection risks faced by the affected population. Relocated people face barriers in accessing public services and humanitarian assistance and protection, both due to insecurity in their areas of relocation and given bureaucratic and administrative impediments, worsening the overall scarce availability of services. The DDDR program has had some effect on the protection environment, thereby affecting the population, humanitarian agencies, and, to some extent, the ex-fighters.
- **NSAG Attacks and insecurity:** Continued NSAG attacks, insecurity, Roadside Improvised Explosive Devices (RSIED), and blockage of roads impacted the delivery of humanitarian assistance and protection partner interventions.



Situation Of New Arrivals at GSS Camp Damasak, Source UNHCR.

- **Influx of Asylum Seekers and Returnees:** The continuous influx of refugee returnees and asylum seekers exacerbates the existing humanitarian needs of food, shelter, NFIs, WASH, and livelihood and exposes new arrivals and returnees to several protection risks and harmful coping mechanisms due to the unmet basic needs and while sleeping in over-congested areas and open spaces.
- **Limited livelihood support, Scale down of Food beneficiaries, and Inflation:** Limited livelihood support and access to the available livelihood activity

locations coupled with scale down of food beneficiaries by food partners and inflation of food items exposed the population to numerous protection risks and resort to harmful coping mechanisms such as survival sex, child labour, and begging activities, and to be at risk of NSAG attacks and UXOs/ERW incidents.

- **Fire Outbreaks and floods:** Incidents of fire outbreaks in Monguno, Dikwa, Ngala, Damasak, Banki, Bama, and Jere increased the protection risks and destructed shelters, properties, and food of the affected population.

Child Protection (CP)

Key Protection Risks

As a result of increased NSAG attacks on communities across the BAY states and in bordering areas in Cameroon, population displacement has continued, including an influx of Cameroonian refugees into Adamawa, with increased numbers of separated and unaccompanied children being exposed to trafficking, recruitment by NSAGs, sexual exploitation, and child marriage. The impact of the crisis deepens, causing secondary displacement of individuals, mostly children of about 59.5%.

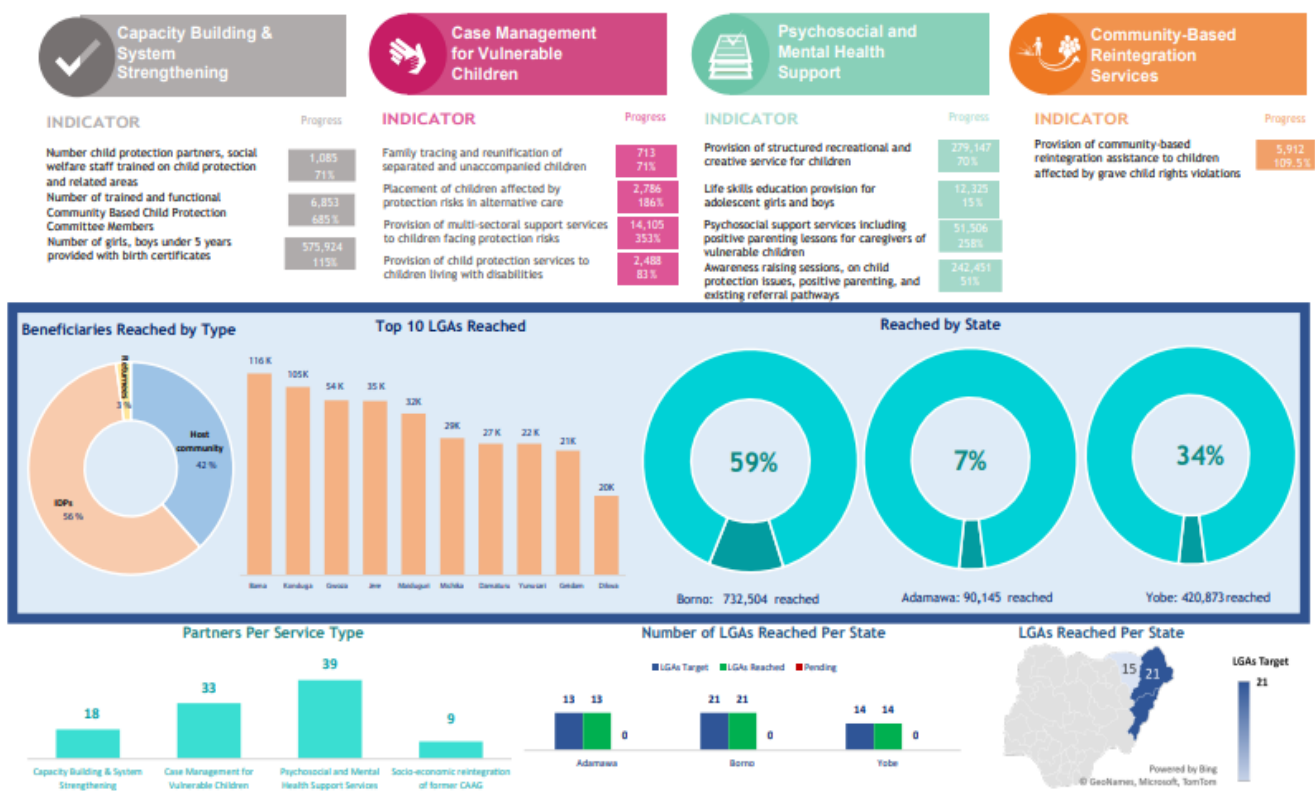
During the year in review, Children were subjected to harmful practices such as street begging, child marriage, child labour, and denial of education, which has exposed them to sexual abuse, violence/neglect, trafficking, and recruitment by NSAGs. Explosive ordnances in return and relocation areas increased the number of injured, disabled, and killed children.

Reports underscore a surge in child protection issues, including child labour and neglect, exacerbated by the onset of the rainy and farming seasons. This has left children vulnerable to sexual exploitation and other forms of abuse, as caregivers leave children at home to go to the farm without adequate supervision.

The self-integration of children exiting NSAGs into communities leads to risks of harm to them by unprepared communities rejecting them and resulting in their re-recruitment by NSAGs. Additionally, the increasing food insecurity coupled with the current inflation and military restriction to farmlands across some LGA like Konduga, Bama, Pulka, Madagali, Yunusari, Geidam, Gujuba and Monguno LGA leads caregivers to continue relying on negative coping strategies, which affect the wellbeing of children and further exacerbating protection risks for children including high rate of school drop-out, child marriage, harmful child labour, sexual exploitation etc.

Achievements

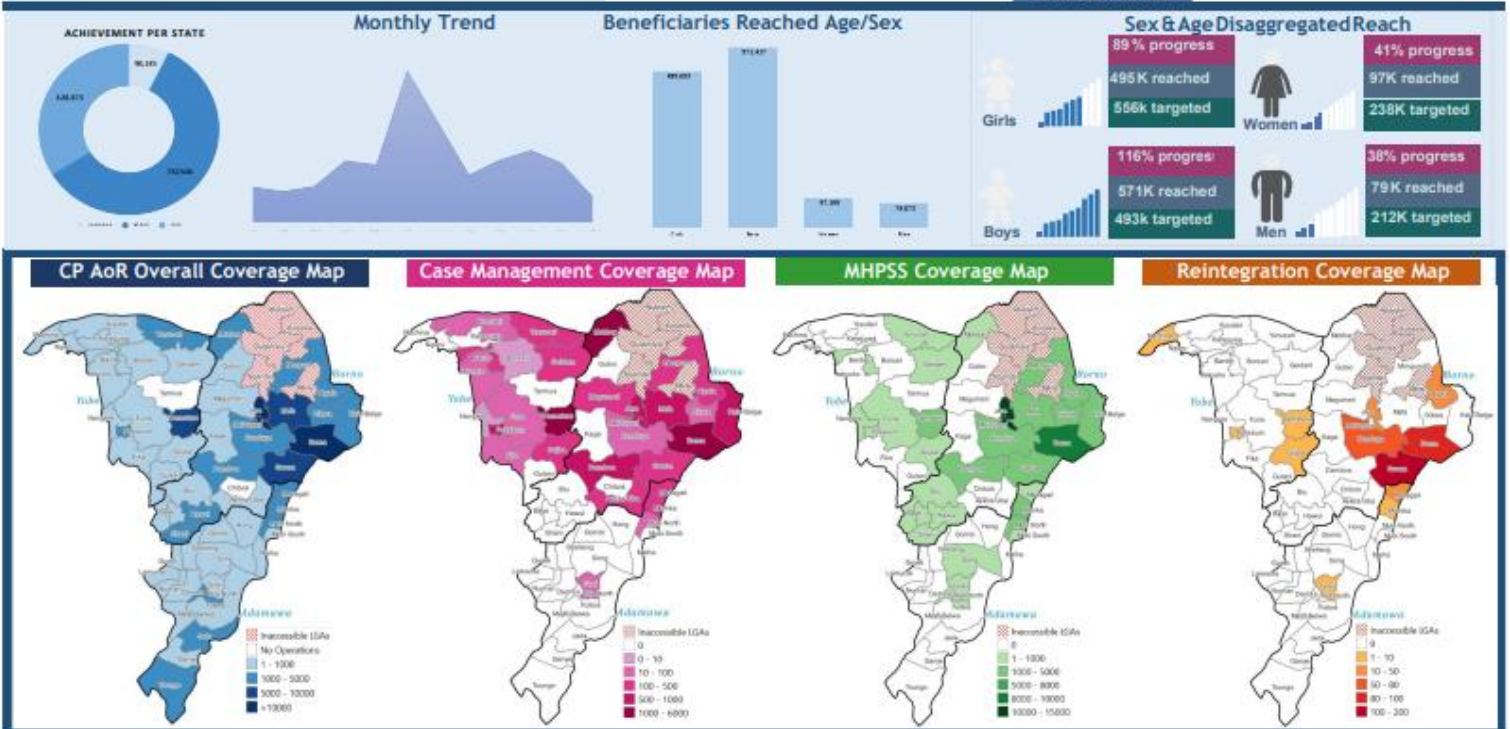
The CP AoR targeted **1.5 million** children and caregivers to be reached with critical Child Protection Humanitarian support together with the government and partners in 2023. During the program year, the CP AoR, through its partners, reached **1,243,522 people (83%)** of the targeted Children and caregivers across BAY states.



Nigeria Child Protection Area of Responsibility Response Monitoring Dashboard Jan - Dec 2023

Child Protection (CP) actors in the Northeast Nigeria reached 1,243,522 beneficiaries (girls: 495,033 boys: 571,417) with CP services during the period of Jan to Dec 2023. This includes 575,924 under 5 children who received birth registration services, 5,912 children were provided with community-based reintegration services, 2,786 children affected by protection risks were placed in alternative care, while 242,451 children/adolescents/men & women were sensitised on child protection issues. Furthermore, 2,140 children living with disabilities were provided with protection services.

1,500,000
people targeted for
child protection in
2023
1,243,522
reached



Child Protection Law Implementation Committee

The CP AoR, in collaboration with the Borno State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (MoWASD) and CP partners, including UNICEF, SC, Street Child, FRAD, POWIB, CATAI, GSF, Plan International, established the **Child Protection Law Implementation Committee** at State level in March 2023, the committee which envisioned to oversee the implementation of the child protection law. The child protection implementation committees were trained on their roles and responsibilities; a costed work plan was also developed to support the dissemination and implementation of the child protection law.

Localisation - Fostering Partnerships for Results for Children

During the year in review, the CP AoR developed a two-year **Localization Strategy for 2023-2025** as a tool to guide donors, the CP AoR, partners, and the government to ensure that local actors have a prominent and equal role to play in the humanitarian response and child protection programming in North-East Nigeria. To advance the strategy implementation, a **State-based dissemination workshop** was conducted across the BAY state; during the workshop, the implementation roadmap of the localisation strategy, including timelines, resource allocation, and milestones, was developed for effective implementation and actualisation of the localisation agenda in Northeast Nigeria.



Child Protection Law Implementation Committee, Source UNICEF.

The AoR continued to expand and foster the localisation agenda across the Northeast Nigeria response through strategic partnerships between the local NGOs with UN agencies and international NGOs alongside the line government ministries; this has yielded positive results and impact for children due to improved access, reduced operating costs and knowledge of the local context. To reinforce the localisation effort, GPoN, a national partner implementing a localisation project with NHF funding, provided **institutional capacity-building support and mentorship to 20 NGOs** under CP AoR in North-East Nigeria.

Coordination

During the reporting year, the CP AoR prioritised strengthening the local government areas (LGAs) coordination activities at the LGA level to ensure effective coordination of activities and delivery of humanitarian assistance at LGA levels. To that effect, **34 (23 men and 11 women) LGA coordinators** were trained across the BAY states on the roles of LGA coordinators, Humanitarian coordination architecture, LGA coordination activities and Child Protection Minimum standards.



State-based localization inception workshop, Source UNICEF.



CPIMS+V2.0 Rollout

The CP AoR successfully rolled out the **CPMIS+V2.0** training to partners in Yobe and Adamawa, reaching **34 NGOs and INGOs** (14 partners in Yobe and 20 partners in Adamawa). The training contributed to enhanced data protection and security and provided a robust means of tracking cases of victims of violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation and provided reliable data for planning, prioritisation, and advocacy.

National Children's Day and International Day of the Girl Child

The CP AoR, in collaboration with partners across the BAY states, celebrated **National Children's Day on 27th May 2023 and International Day of the Girl Child on 11th of October 2023** with the theme of **"Proper Parenting for Value Reorientation and National Consciousness."** and **"Invest in our Girl's Rights; Our Leadership, Our Well-being"** respectively. During the celebration, particular attention was given to children with disabilities to ensure their inclusion in all child protection programming and commitment was made by duty

bearers to support the issues around disability and justice for children as well as advocacy made on behalf of children faced with issues that affects the wellbeing of children and emphasising the urgent need and collective efforts in ensuring positive parenting for children and protection of girl's wellbeing in the society.

Reintegration and social economic support for Children Associated with Armed Groups (CAAG)

The CP AoR, in collaboration with MoWASD, Borno State Ministry for Local Government and Emirates Affairs (MLGEA), implementing partners, the military, community, and religious leaders, supported and advocated for the release of **5,912 CAAGs (53% Girls, 47% Boys)** from administrative custody and returned them to their communities/families without retribution. A comprehensive response was provided from their reception in terms of counselling services, interim education engagements, recreational activities, life skills training, NFIs, and eventual social-economic reintegration support and follow-up visits. Through this intervention, the communities have accepted the children back, and peacebuilding and reconciliation engagements have continued at community and household levels.

Case Management for Victims of Abuse, Neglect, Exploitation and Violence

17,639 (43% boys and 57% girls) unaccompanied/separated children, repatriated and relocated children, victims of neglect, violence, child labour early/forced marriage, and abuse, including children with disabilities, were reached with comprehensive case management services and referrals for multisectoral support across sectors. As per each child's specific needs, the case management services provided by partners included family tracing and reunification for unaccompanied and separated children, NFIs, justice/ legal support, health, nutrition, livelihoods, education, etc. The service alleviated suffering and provided hope for normalcy, and a cheerful childhood was extended to the children across the BAY states.

Mental Health Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS)

The Child Protection interventions reached **289,252 children (50% girls, 50% boys)** with access to MHPSS services across Borno, Adamawa and Yobe, where they received tier one and two community-based psychosocial support services and referrals to specialised services to support them in regain normalcy, reduce the occurrence of post-traumatic stress disorder, and give them skills to adopt positive coping mechanism and through structured activities and specialised response to mental health. The children supported do demonstrate signs of resilience through regained self-esteem and interest in learning.

Community Engagements and Awareness on Child Protection

The preventive intervention approach was a cornerstone of the child protection response in 2023; partners and community structures engaged in awareness-raising programs on child rights, positive parenting, advocacy against harmful social norms such as early/child marriage, and referral pathways, among others. During these engagements, cross-sectoral issues such as round health, GBV, and Mine Action were also discussed. The intervention reached **320,103 people (64% female and 36% male)**, which helped gradually change perceptions and behaviours in favour of children.

Issuance of birth certificates to children under five years

Birth certification was a key indicator for Child Protection AoR in 2023. Partners have engaged with

the relevant authorities to provide children in the BAY state with means of identification, reaching a total of **575,924 children under five years old (58% Boys, 42% Girls)** with birth registration in LGA targeted for CP AoR Humanitarian services.

Mid-Year Review: As a moment of reflection to monitor the progress of the AoR implementation against the planned targets, the CP AoR conducted the mid-year review in Borno State with **50 participants (32 male and 18 female)** representing CP partners and line ministries across BAY states.

Response Gaps and Operational Challenges

- **Limited funding:** The CP AoR received only 34% of the 2023 requirement; the limited funding affected the CP AoR's implementation of critical CP-related interventions and created a huge gap across the CP implementing LGAs as many partners are scaling down their intervention.
- **CAAG Caseload:** High caseloads of CAAGs coupled with strict military procedures slow the reintegration process. The congestion in the transit centres hinders the reintegration of children with their families at the community level.
- **Prevalence of Harmful Practices and Social Norms:** The prevalence of harmful practices and social norms have continued to fuel cases of child marriage, child labour, violence, and neglect.
- **Inadequate Number of social welfare workforce at LGA level:** The inadequate number of social welfare workforce in some LGAs created gaps in managing the LGA coordination activities and hindered CP activities such as case management, family tracing, reunification, and alternative care placement of separated children.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

Key Protection Risks

The 2023 GBVIMS data showed a 3% increase in reported GBV incidents compared to 2022 and a 15% increase compared to 2021. Prevalent GBV risks, including intimate partner violence (57%), child sexual abuse (22%), early marriages (15%), harmful traditional practice (3), possible sexual slavery (2%), and sexual exploitation (1%) across the BAY states have been exacerbated during the reporting period by ongoing displacement, camp closures, and the refugee influx from Adamawa.

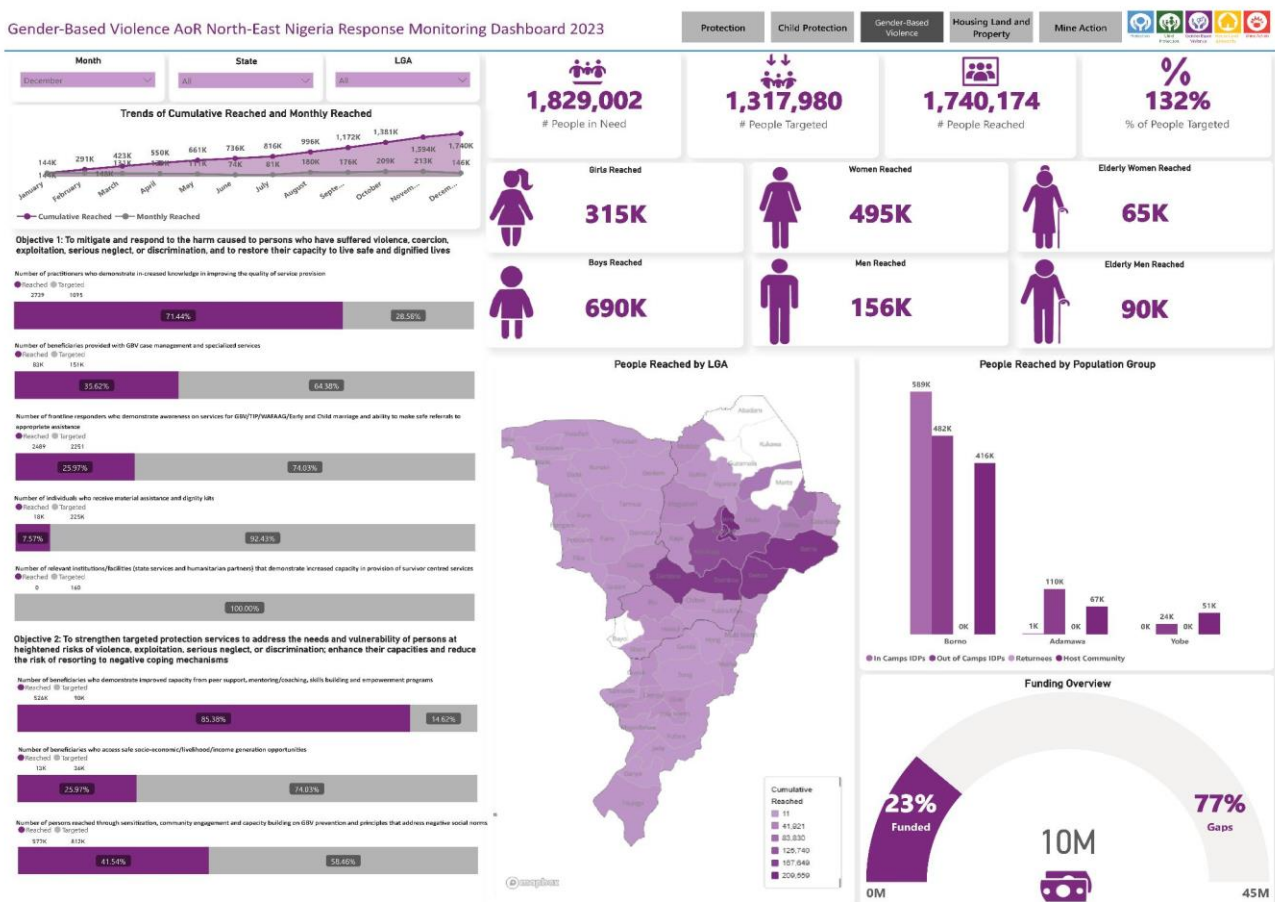
GBVIMS data indicated that 41% and 39% of the survivors who reported GBV incidents required safety and legal services, respectively, but are unavailable and limited across the BAY States. These led to the impunity of perpetrators and a lack of justice for survivors of GBV, thereby exposing other women and

girls to GBV incidents. Likewise, 56% of the survivors who reported GBV incidents required livelihood services, which are inadequate and, in turn, exposed them to further GBV risks, including incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse.

The presence of over 12,000 Cameroonian refugee women and girls in Mubi South, Mubi North, Michika, and Madagali has increased the need for a multi-sectoral GBV response in Adamawa state. Additionally, the fire outbreaks that occurred in Monguno, Ngala, and Muna affected women and girls in particular and exposed them to GBV risk due to the destruction of their shelters, properties, and commodities.

Achievements In 2023, the GBV AoR and its partners reached 1,740,174 women and girls across the BAY States through lifesaving GBV interventions exceeding 32% of the 1,317,980 targeted people for the year.

Gender-Based Violence AoR North-East Nigeria Response Monitoring Dashboard 2023



GBV Service Provision

The GBV AoR continued to ensure access and delivery of lifesaving GBV interventions such as GBV case management, psychological first aid, and psycho-social support. During the reporting period, the AoR, with its partners, provided lifesaving GBV services for a total of **984,652** women and girls, among them **849,933** in Borno, **79,732** in Adamawa and **54,987** in Yobe States.

Dignity Kit Distribution

Over **20,796 Dignity kits** were distributed to women and girls of reproductive age. To improve the standardisation and dissemination of Dignity Kits, the Dignity Kit Task Force (DKTF) has been revamped with a revision of its Terms of References (TORs) and the standardisation of dignity kits.

Response Monitoring Dashboard

The GBV AoR upgraded the **GBV 5Ws Response Dashboard** by automating and adding a user-friendly tool on the interactive 5Ws response and HRP indicators progress monitoring dashboard, which allows GBV AoR and its partners to efficiently track and emphasise the advancement of their initiatives conducted in the BAY States.

It has a systematic indicator tracking mechanism visually available for the UNFPA team, implementing partners, Government Agencies, donors, and other key Stakeholders. This has improved advocacy efforts for the GBV AoR, improved programming, implementing partner mapping, and overall service provision.

International Women's Day (IWD)

The GBV AoR participated in the **2023 International Women's Day (IWD)** with the theme "Digital Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality." The 2023 IWD highlighted the achievements of women, raised awareness about existing gender inequalities, and presented GBV prevention and response activities done by the GBV AoR and its partners in support of women and girls through workshops, outreach, advocacy visits, school interventions, radio jungles, and the distribution of IEC materials to create awareness across the BAY states.

Awareness Raising

The GBV AoR sustained efforts to increase community awareness on GBV and reached **1,196,880 people (137,066 in Adamawa, 1,006,537 in Borno, and 53,277 in Yobe)** through the mobile outreach teams with several key information related to GBV prevention and response.



Community Mapping and Safety Audits in Ngala.

Capacity Building

To enhance the capacity of GBV service providers and action groups' knowledge and skills, the GBV AoR provided capacity-building training for **a total of 349 individuals**, including 140 GBV front liners on GBV case management, 83 staff on implementing and utilising GBVIMS Tools in BAY States, 26 staff from a women-led organisation on PSEA policy development and implementation, 50 GBV front liners on GBV case management, 50 community-based action groups as a preparedness plan for the 2023 election, and the WFP complaint and feedback team on responding to disclosure of GBV and linking survivors to appropriate GBV services. In addition, the AoR conducted the Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE) capacity mapping and development 2023 - 2025 assessment to identify the existing technical capacities in GBViE skills and knowledge.

Safety Audit

The GBV AoR conducted **a safety audit** in Mubi South, Mubi North, Michika, and Madagali to identify the multi-sectoral needs of women and girls who fled from Cameroon to Nigeria due to NSAG attacks and increased insecurity in the southern part of Cameroon.

GBVIMS Upgrade

The GBV AoR has been undertaking the upgrade of the Nigerian GBVIMS+ from version **1.5 to version 2**. The upgrade brought significant improvements to the system, including an added function that contributes to assessing the psychosocial well-being of survivors and monitoring the stigma they experience after a GBV incident. The information analysed from the system is crucial for advocating for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) interventions and facilitating community engagement. GBVIMS+ Version 2 also ensures easy supervision with a monitoring feature on its dashboard and enables supervisors or administrators to oversee case management and incident documentation progress.

GBV Referral Pathway

A **Referral Pathway Dashboard** was developed and updated for BAY states during the reporting period. The referral dashboard serves as a tool and

guide for GBV actors participating in GBV response efforts by connecting survivors securely and promptly with service providers. It is made available to all humanitarian organisations. The referral pathway was integrated in line with the feedback of the validation workshops conducted in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe State, and an orientation session on the tool was facilitated for Protection partners and different sectors.

Revision of GBV Standard Operation Procedures (SoPs)

The GBV AoR revised **GBV Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs)** for Borno State and developed guidance notes and key messages to provide actions to be considered for ensuring GBV service provision continues to be effective in Northeast Nigeria, which included Establishing Women and Girls Safe Spaces Northeast Nigeria, [Working with Survivor of People with Disabilities Northeast Nigeria](#), [Guidance Note IPV](#), and [Key Messages on GBV during Floods Northeast Nigeria](#). In addition, the GBV AoR provided and published key messages in [Children in Crisis: Know the Signs](#), [No Shame in Bleeding During Menstruation](#), [Prevention and Response to GBV](#), and [Minimum Services for Preventing Maternal Morbidity & Mortality](#). The guidance note and key messages served as a key to spreading the clear message of zero tolerance of all forms of violence against women and girls and informing victims about their rights and the support services available to them.

Commemoration of 16 Days of Activism

The GBV AoR commemorated **16 Days of Activism** on 27 November 2023 with the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (MoWASD) and GBV AoR partners in the BAY states, with the theme UNiTE to prevent and respond to violence against women. The 2023 16 days of activism highlighted the achievements of partners, school-based GBV activities, the impact of climate change on GBV, GBV prevention, and raising awareness on the importance of preparedness and GBV risk mitigation.

Coordination

The GBV AoR, with the leadership of MoWASD and UNFPA, organised **monthly coordination meetings and quarterly GBV SAG meetings**. The meetings played a pivotal role in the effective coordination of

the GBV response and the development of the GBV AoR strategy, GBV Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), GBV key messages and IEC materials, capacity development plan, anticipatory actions, and contingency planning for floods, and areas affected by malnutrition and cholera. On the same note, the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMSTWG) and Case Management (GBVIMS/CM) technical working group has organised monthly meetings in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe. During these meetings, the GBV trends were analysed using the GBVIMS snapshot, which provided an in-depth understanding of GBV incidents occurring across the BAY state that helps to identify patterns and emerging issues related to gender-based violence and inform targeted interventions to respond to incidents of GBV and address the problem effectively.

Response Gaps and Operational Challenges

- **Ongoing Displacement:** The ongoing displacement of IDPs due to the conflict, camp closures, and influx of asylum seekers across the BAY states creates congestion on the existing GBV services and, exacerbates the protection risks of women and girls and exposes them to several GBV incidents and risks.
- **Limited GBV Services:** There are limited GBV services and facilities for Cameroonian refugee women and girls in Adamawa, which requires the establishment of more women and girls-friendly spaces and advocacy for the presence of specialised GBV services providers (GBV case management and psycho-social support). Likewise, there are insufficient livelihood and safe shelter opportunities for IDP and returnee GBV survivors. At the same time, access to justice remains limited with impunity of perpetrators due to tedious judicial processes, unavailability of service providers, stigma, and discrimination across the BAY states.
- **Fire Outbreak:** the fire outbreaks that occurred in LGAs in Borno affected women and girls, in particular, who are in need of more dignity and household kit support as well as multisectoral services.
- **Limited GBV Entry Points:** There are limited GBV entry points, including Women and Girls Safe Spaces, One Stop Centres, and Communication with Communities, which need to be established and strengthened in most LGAs.
- **Insufficient Funding:** The GBV AoR received 23% of the 44.8 million funding requirement for 2023. The funding gap has significantly impacted GBV partners' service provision for GBV response activities for the affected population.

Housing, Land & Property (HLP)

Key Protection Risks

In 2023, several fire incidents were reported in LGAs across Borno state, which led to the destruction and damage of HLP in several camps, informal settlements, and markets. The period under review also recorded a significant rise in theft and vandalism of HLP assets constructed for the affected population within informal sites and in host communities. Flooding that displaced the communities and caused the destruction of HLP assets reported in Adamawa and a series of attacks recorded by persons suspected to be herders destroyed HLP assets, which led to the forceful displacement of many.

Following the Government enforced returns and relocations, cases of HLP disputes were recorded in most of the areas of return and relocation between original HLP owners who are trying to reclaim their HLP after return and secondary occupants occupying the HLP. Boundary and ownership disputes have also been reported in return/relocated sites among returnees, mostly on farmland where the boundary was not marked or may have faded over time due to prolonged disuse. The enforced return/relocation resulted in cases of forced eviction among IDPs renting houses in host communities, mostly due to the inability to afford rising rent costs resulting from increased living expenses and inflation.

During the reporting period, the displaced population reported high extortion incidents and risk of eviction by mischievous landowners,

representatives, and agents. The extortion involves IDPs working free of charge, offering any humanitarian aid or assistance received, exposure to sexual exploitation, and, in some cases, engagement in forced marriage to stay and access HLP from landowners.

Land grabbing and unlawful occupation of lands were reported in communities like Pulka in Borno and Madagali in Adamawa by both formal and informal armed groups who are refusing original owners to use their farmlands as well as cases of confiscation of lands by the authorities, mainly targeting persons suspected to be fighters or associates of NSAG.

On the same note, harassment and detention of farmers living in some of the garrison towns on their way to their farmland due to lack of possession of any means of identification and increased attacks of farmers on their farms by NSAG were reported, which mostly resulted to death and injury of the farmers.

Achievements

The HLP AoR and its partners reached **113,326 individuals** with various HLP interventions across BAY states, exceeding the targeted 84,822 people in 2023 by 28K.

Awareness Raising, Sensitization and Counselling Some **27,260 individuals** across Borno and Adamawa States were reached through HLP information and awareness sessions. Approximately **2,300** individuals from those who received information and awareness were provided counselling services on various HLP concerns.



Community Mapping and Safety Audits in Ngala. Source

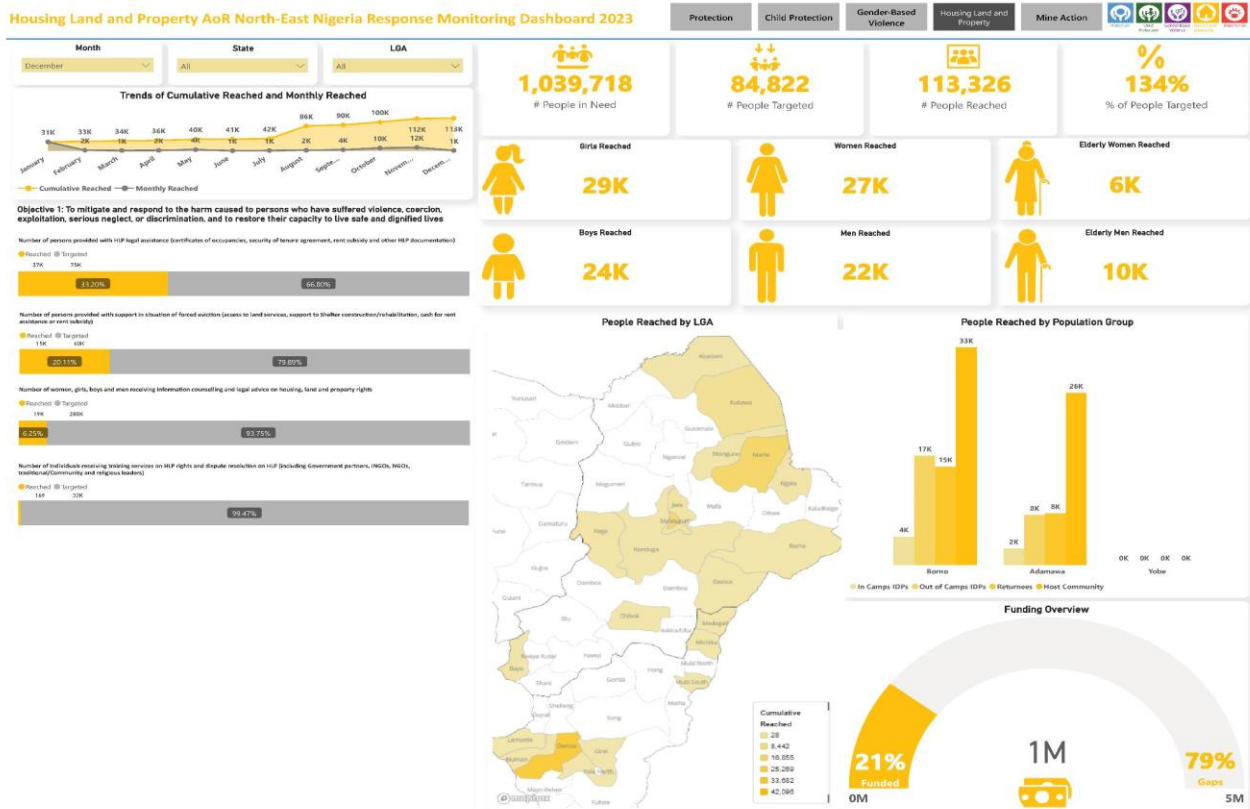


Capacity Building and Advocacy

The HLP AoR and its partners conducted HLP mainstreaming training for **549 participants** and supported office consumables to assist 20 Collaborative Dispute Resolution Structures service delivery to the affected population in the BAY State. They paid an

advocacy visit to the Executive Secretary of SEMA Yobe State, the director general of YOGIS, and the Emirate Council in Borno State to advocate the HLP-related risks and needs of the displaced population.

Housing Land and Property AoR North-East Nigeria Response Monitoring Dashboard 2023



HLP Legal Assistance

Over **92,851** individuals benefitted from the provision of HLP legal assistance through support in obtaining customary certificates of occupancy to secure their land titles and protect their HLP rights. This intervention is geared towards ensuring that the affected population's HLP rights are protected against adverse claims, as well as enabling them to utilise the document as collateral when seeking loans from financial institutions. The customary certificate of occupancy is a prerequisite document for accessing compensation in terms of acquisition by the Government and will also reduce future land ownership disputes. In addition, the AoR supported **418** households affected by evictions with pre- and post-eviction cash assistance.

Facilitating Access to Land

HLP AoR facilitated access to land for **15,351** individuals through engagement with the local government authorities in Bama, Ngala, and Jere LGA in Borno State for decongestion of camps and resettling the return/relocated population in those locations. The AoR also supported the CCCM sector with dispute resolution services and access

to land for resettlement, while **565** people benefited from referrals.

Assessment and Monitoring

The AoR Carried out a general **HLP assessment** in MMC, Jere, Monguno, Dikwa, and Banki to assess current HLP concerns following Government-enforced camp closure, return, and relocation in the areas.

Response Gaps and Operational Challenges

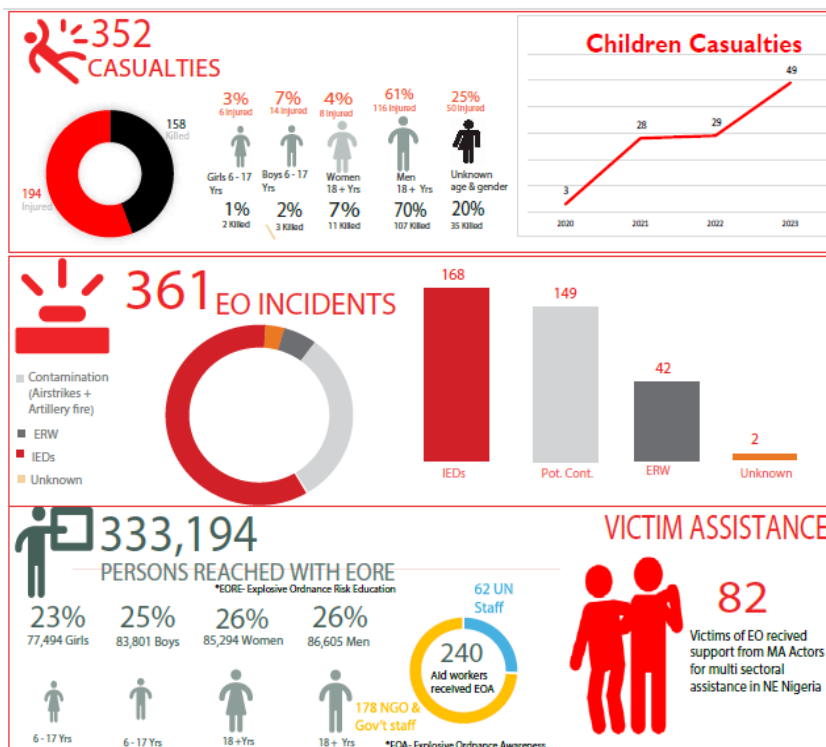
- **Limited Access to Land:** The AoR was faced with the serious challenge of accessing land for humanitarian assistance as most of the garrison towns where people are being settled within the LGAs have no sufficient land for settlement, not to even talk of farming/livelihood activities. Lands outside the garrison town remain difficult to access due to fear of attacks and contamination of the land by explosives.
- **General Economic Hardship:** The CBN Naira swap policy and cash shortage, followed by the removal of fuel subsidies and then the further devaluation of the

naira, created a lot of economic challenges for the general population that negatively impacted the displaced population. In particular, the steeply rising house rent cost exposed the population to the risk of eviction due to their inability to pay the rising rent.

- **Limited Funding and Partners Capacity:** The HLP AoR's only received 21% of the 5.3 million funding required for 2023. The underfunding impacted the provision of HLP services and limited the capacity of the AoR and partners to reach the annually set target, forcing them to downsize their project and shift towards human capital interventions while the number of people in need of HLP services is high, specifically due to government-led camp closures and returns/relocations.
- **Limited access to Legal Aid:** There is a lack of legal aid service providers despite the increased need and HLP violations particularly affecting women, which require the support of legal aid service providers for court representation and legal soliciting.
- **Lack of Pre-and Post-Eviction Monitoring Cash Support:** The HLP AoR received more than 3,208 eviction cases during the year. The lack of pre- and post-

eviction monitoring cash support made it difficult to provide support/assistance to those affected and suffering from the effects of evictions.

- **Legal Pluralism:** The existence of legal pluralism within Nigeria's land tenure and the lack of clarity resulting from this plurality complicates land access for individuals and communities. The creation of new land administrative bodies without addressing this pluralism has further increased these challenges as these new administrative bodies, instead of providing solutions, are after revenue generation and are, in one way or another, creating more hardship for the affected population by imposing stiffer land measures.
- **Lack of Adequate Housing:** Lack of adequate housing to settle the displaced affected population has significantly increased the number of displaced affected populations living in deplorable housing conditions, such as incomplete structures and destroyed and damaged shelters, exposing them to serious risk and lack of privacy.



Mine Action (MA)

Key Protection Risks

In 2023, MA AoR recorded 358 explosive ordnance incidents and 165 incidents involving Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) in the BAY States; among the reported explosive ordnance incidents, 343 incidents resulted in casualties, including 152 deaths and 191 injuries. In comparison to child casualties in 2022, there has been a 69% increase in children injured or killed by explosive ordnance over the same period in 2023. UNMAS IMSMA records for 2023 show that explosive ordnance incidents from IEDs account for 46%, followed by artillery fire and airstrikes at 42% and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) items at 12%. A significant number of these incidents were recorded in Borno state.

The presence of newly arrived asylum seekers from Cameroon in the four contaminated LGAs of Madagali, Michika, Mubi North, and Mubi South in Adamawa state is concerning. The MA AoR estimates that at least 16,600 of them would need to receive Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) to ensure safe, self-protection behaviours. Additionally, the presence of explosive ordnance in new locations has continued to be identified in local government areas (LGAs) in the areas of relocation and the locations where mine action operators have not previously operated, which exposed the community to a high risk of EO incidents and related casualties.

Achievements

The MA AoR reached **333,194 (83%)** of the 400,000 targeted population in need of mine action services outlined in the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).



Presentation of customary certificate of occupancy to a beneficiary in Mubi South, Source NRC.

EORE Awareness Sessions

MA AoR partners reached **306,370** beneficiaries (**85,294 women, 86,605 men, 77,494 girls, and 83,801 boys**) across 24 LGAs within the BAY states. Furthermore, 340 individuals (72 female and 168 male) from personnel from the UN, national, and international NGOs operating across BAY States benefited from Explosive Ordnance Awareness (EOA) sessions.



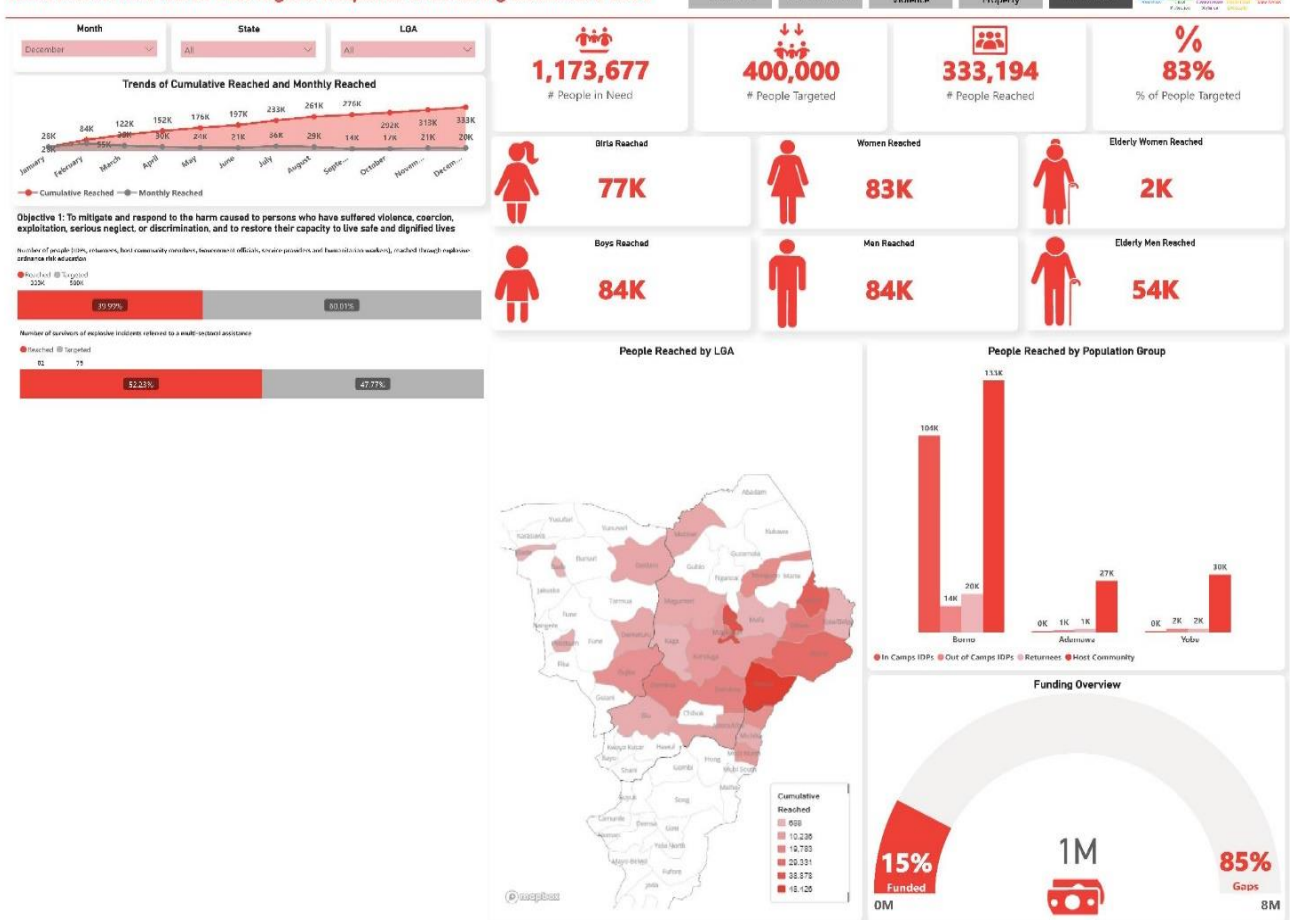
Training for EORE facilitators

A total of **596 community leaders and volunteers** (254 women and 342 men) were trained as **EORE facilitators** in the BAY states. The training provided community leaders and volunteers with the capacity to deliver EORE in their communities, thereby enhancing self-protection, especially in areas that remain difficult for humanitarians to reach.

Training for First Aid Providers

A total of **30 NGO staff (15 women and 15 men)** were trained as first aid service providers; the training enhanced the capacity of local NGOs to respond when explosive ordnance incidents or other accidents occur.

Mine Action AoR North-East Nigeria Response Monitoring Dashboard 2023



Victim Assistance (VA)

Through funding from the EU, MA AoR partners assisted **172 victims of explosive ordnance** incidents from various LGAs in the BAY through identification, assessment, and provision of specialised services such as emergency and ongoing medical care, rehabilitation, psychological and psychosocial support, as well as economic inclusion. The Physical Rehabilitation Center of the University of Maiduguri's Teaching Hospital, supported by ICRC, provided most of the specialised services to survivors of explosive ordnance incidents.

Non-technical Survey (NTS)

Twenty-seven surveys were conducted by MA AoR partners, resulting in the identification and mapping of 12 items of unexploded ordnance and one improvised explosive device.

Response Gaps and Operational Challenges

- **Limited Funding for Mine Action Activities:** During the year, the MA AoR only received 15% of the 8.1 million funding requirement for 2023. The

funding gap exacerbated the population exposure to the EO incidents, hindered the delivery of explosive ordnance risk education and coordination, and impacted partner implementation capacity.

- **Limited Capacity Building on EOD:** In the absence of humanitarian survey and clearance activities, additional elements of the Nigerian Police Force (NPF) need to be trained in explosive ordnance disposal and IED disposal, following international mine action standards to respond to emergency EOD tasks reported by community members.

- **Presence of IEDs and Increased EO Incidents:** Explosive ordnance has continued to be identified in local government areas (LGAs) in the areas of relocation, where asylum seekers are residing, and the locations where mine action operators have not previously operated. The presence of the EO exposed the community to a high risk of EO incidents that resulted in death and injuries.

- **Gap in Victim Assistance in Yobe and Adamawa States:** Adamawa and Yobe states do not have victim assistance activities, and hospitals are not equipped to provide the specialised services needed to assist victims of explosive ordnance.



EOA session for Logistic sector in Maiduguri. Source UNMAS.

2024 Plan and Way Forward

The Protection Sector's objectives align with the broader humanitarian strategy for Nigeria (2024-2025), which aims to save lives, provide protection, and ultimately reduce dependency on humanitarian aid. The following are the Sector's 2024-2025 objectives:

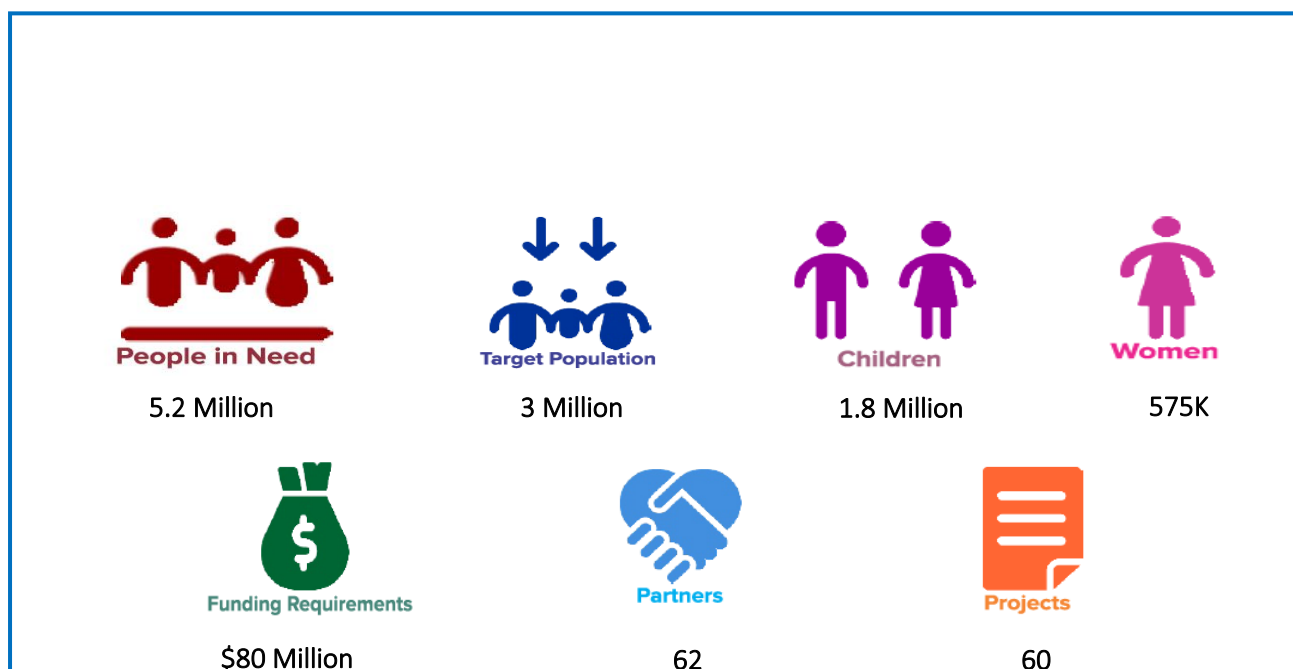
Objective 1: Improve protection information management to ensure timely protection response to

individuals who have experienced protection risk in realization of their basic human rights.

Objective 2: Enhance community-based protection mechanisms through empowering community-based structures and enhancing community driven solutions to protection issues.

Objective 3: Support the provision of lasting protection sensitive solutions for the affected population, by working along with national and developmental actors to ensure protection is mainstreamed and community participation is optimized.

Planned Sector Humanitarian Response Figures



ANNEX

Protection Sector 2023 Partners

S/n	Organisation	Organisation Type	AoR
1	Action Against Hunger	International NGO	General Protection
2	Action Health Incorporated	National NGO	Gender-Based Violence
3	ActionAid	International NGO	CP and GBV
4	Africa Initiative for Children with Disability	National NGO	Child Protection
5	African Humanitarian Aid International	National NGO	General Protection
6	African Youth for Peace Development and Empowerment Foundation	National NGO	Gender-Based Violence
7	Allamin Foundation for Peace and Development	National NGO	Gender-Based Violence
8	American University of Nigeria	National NGO	General Protection
9	BOAID Humanitarian Foundation	National NGO	Gender-Based Violence
10	Borno Women Development Initiative	National NGO	GBV and MA
11	Care Best Initiative	National NGO	CP and GBV
12	Care First Community Initiative	National NGO	Housing Land and Property
13	Caritas Nigeria	National NGO	CP and GP
14	Catholic Relief Services	International NGO	Housing Land and Property
15	Centre for Advocacy Transparency and Accountability Initiative	National NGO	General Protection
16	Centre for Child Care and Human Development	National NGO	CP and GBV
17	Center for Community Health Development	National NGO	Child Protection
18	Centre For Advocacy, Transparency and Accountability Initiative	National NGO	CP and GP
19	Centre for Social Cohesion Peace and Empowerment	National NGO	Mine Action
20	Chabash Development and Health Initiative	National NGO	Gender-Based Violence
21	Child Protection and Peer Learning Initiative	National NGO	CP and GBV
22	Child Protection and Women Empowerment Initiative	National NGO	Mine Action
23	Christian Rural and Urban Development Association of Nigeria	National NGO	Gender-Based Violence
24	Communal Conservation Friendly, Health and Social Development Support Initiative	National NGO	Child Protection
25	Concern for Women and Children Development Foundation	National NGO	GP and HLP
26	Consortium of Catholic Agencies for Overseas Development, Caritas Nigeria and Justice, Development and Peace Commission	Consortium	General Protection
27	Danish Refugee Council	International NGO	CP, GP and MA
28	Ekkliyyar Yan' uwa a Nigeria	National NGO	Gender-Based Violence
29	El-Kanemi Memorial Foundation	National NGO	Child Protection
30	Enrich Girl Child of their Right Initiative	National NGO	CP and GP
31	Fal-Mal Hope Initiative	National NGO	Housing Land and Property
32	Family Health International - FHI 360	International NGO	CP and GBV
33	First Step Action for Children Initiative	National NGO	GBV and MA
34	Five Teams Empowerment Initiative	National NGO	Gender-Based Violence
35	Future Resilience and Development Foundation	National NGO	CP and GBV
36	Gender Equality Peace and Development Center	National NGO	Child Protection
37	Goal Prime Organization of Nigeria	National NGO	CP, GBV and MA
38	Goggoji Zumunchi Development Initiative	National NGO	CP and GBV

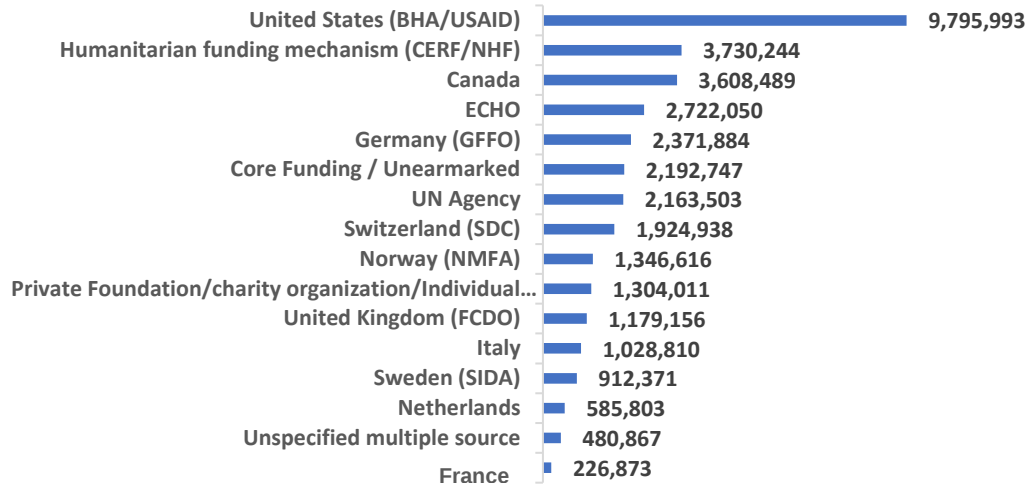
39	Grassroot Empowerment and Resilience Initiative	National NGO	Child Protection
40	Grassroot Initiative for Strengthening Community Resilience	National NGO	CP, GBV and GP
41	Grassroots Life-Saving Outreach	National NGO	Gender-Based Violence
42	Green Concern for Development	National NGO	Gender-Based Violence
43	Green Generation Initiative	National NGO	CP and GBV
44	Grow Strong Foundation	National NGO	CP, GBV, GP and MA
45	Hallmark Leadership Initiative	National NGO	General Protection
46	Health Care Development Focus Initiative	National NGO	Gender-Based Violence
47	Hearty Helping Hand Initiative	National NGO	GBV and HLP
48	Heed the Child Initiative	National NGO	CP and GBV
49	Hope for Street Children and Vulnerable People Foundation	National NGO	Child Protection
50	International Committee of the Red Cross	International NGO	Mine Action
51	International Medical Corps	International NGO	Gender-Based Violence
52	International Organization for Migration	UN Agency	CP, GBV, GP and HLP
53	International Rescue Committee	International NGO	CP, GBV, and GP
54	INTERSOS Humanitarian Aid Organization	International NGO	CP, GBV, and GP
55	Jami Al Hakeem Foundation	National NGO	Gender-Based Violence
56	Jen Initiative for Integrity and Development	National NGO	Child Protection
57	Jesuit Refugee Service	International NGO	CP and GBV
58	Learning Through Skills Acquisition Initiative	National NGO	CP and GBV
59	Life At Best Development Initiative	National NGO	CP, GBV and MA
60	Life Helpers Initiative	National NGO	Child Protection
61	Malteser International Order of Malta World Relief	International NGO	Gender-Based Violence
62	Médecins du Monde	International NGO	Gender Based Violence
63	Mercy Corps	International NGO	GBV and HLP
64	Mines Advisory Group	International NGO	Mine Action
65	New Foundation for Displaced Persons	National NGO	Child Protection
66	Ngulde Global Foundation	National NGO	Child Protection
67	Nigerian Bar Association	Government	GP and HLP
68	Nigerian Red Cross Society	National NGO	Mine Action
69	Nkafamiya Rescue Mission	National NGO	CP and GP
70	Norwegian Church Aid	International NGO	Gender-Based Violence
71	Norwegian Refugee Council	International NGO	GBV, GP and HLP
72	Novel Alliance for Development Aid	National NGO	Child Protection
73	Peace Restoration and Integral Global Development Initiative	National NGO	GP and HLP
74	Plan International	International NGO	CP and GBV
75	Première Urgence Internationale	International NGO	GBV and GP
76	Protection Without Borders	National NGO	Child Protection
77	Rapid Action Aid Initiative	National NGO	GBV and GP
78	Rehabilitation Empowerment and Better Health Initiative	National NGO	Gender-Based Violence
79	Restoration of Hope Initiative	National NGO	Child Protection
80	Rise to Inspire Africa Initiative	National NGO	Child Protection
81	Royal Heritage Health Foundation	National NGO	Gender-Based Violence
82	Salient Humanitarian Organization	National NGO	GP and HLP

83	Save the Children International	International NGO	CP and GBV
84	Search for Common Ground	International NGO	Child Protection
85	Sirri Care Foundation	National NGO	Child Protection
86	State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development	Government	CP and GBV
87	Street Child Organization	International NGO	CP and GBV
88	Supertouch Kindness Foundation	National NGO	Gender-Based Violence
89	Terre des Hommes	International NGO	Child Protection
90	The Big Smile Foundation	National NGO	GBV and MA
91	Transcultural Psychosocial Organization	National NGO	Child Protection
92	United Nations Children's Fund	UN Agency	CP and GBV
93	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	UN Agency	CP, GBV and GP
94	United Nations Mine Action Service	UN Agency	Mine Action
95	United Nations Population Fund	UN Agency	Gender-Based Violence
96	Women and Youth Empowerment for Advancement and Health Initiative	National NGO	Gender-Based Violence
97	Women In the New Nigeria and Youth Empowerment Initiative	National NGO	Gender-Based Violence
98	World Food Programme	UN Agency	Gender-Based Violence
99	World Health Organization	UN Agency	Gender-Based Violence
100	Yerwa Empowerment Foundation	National NGO	Child Protection
101	Yobe Peace and Community Development Initiative	National NGO	Child Protection
102	Yobe State Ministry of Youth, Sport and Social Development	Government	Child Protection
103	Youth Awaken Foundation	National NGO	Mine Action
104	Zenith of the Girl Child and Women Initiative Support	National NGO	Gender-Based Violence
105	Zireenza Support Foundation	National NGO	CP and GBV

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Protection Sector North-East (PSNE) Nigeria

Contacts

Ramsey Bryant, Senior Protection Sector Coordinator, bryant@unhcr.org

Email: nga.psne@humanitarianresponse.info **Links:**

<https://response.reliefweb.int/nigeria/protection>