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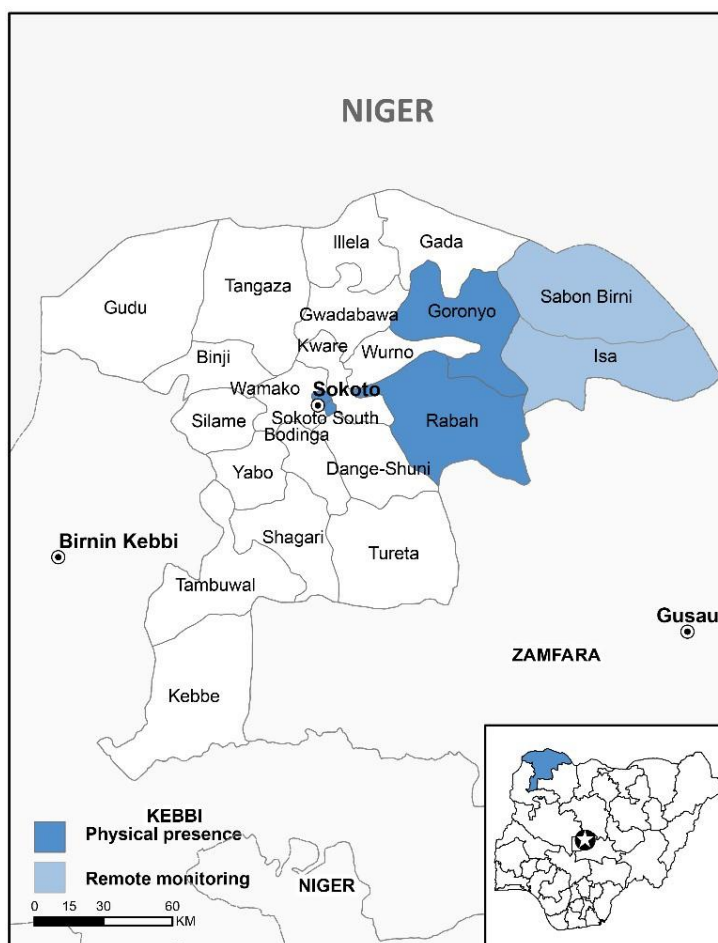
OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

The North-West States of Nigeria remains volatile due to violent conflicts between farmers and herders for control of natural resources, in addition to banditry and criminal activities of organized criminal groups (OCGs), and non-state armed groups (NSAGs), causing internal displacement of 71,289 (IOM DTM Round 8) across Sokoto State and forcing cross-border movement of more than 80,900 Nigerian refugees into the Niger Republic.

The Security Challenge Containment Order No.3, 2021 (September 2021)¹ and the curfews in place have not been reviewed in the reporting period.

Sokoto State is among the North-West States that are significantly affected by the humanitarian crisis. UNHCR through its partner (GISCOR) has established a physical presence in Sokoto Municipality, Rabah, and Goronyo LGAs in Sokoto State.

The security situation in Sokoto State continued to deteriorate and despite the ongoing military counteroperation, the Non-State Armed Group (NSAGs) operatives continued to launch attacks, inflicting untold hardship on civilian commuters along major roads and supply routes in the State. According to GISCOR Protection Monitors there was a daily average of two illegal vehicle checkpoint (IVCP) incidents on Gandi-Rabah road, Goronyo, and Sabon Birni – Gatawa roads. During the reporting period, GISCOR team has recorded 13 incidents that resulted in 67 fatalities in the State.



PROTECTION MONITORING

Safety and Security: In general, the security situation in Sokoto State continues to remain volatile with abductions/and kidnappings though no significant attempts or infiltrations by the NSAG/OCG Members were reported into Sokoto Municipality. In the first quarter of 2022, in March alone, more than 44 individuals have died, about 23 abducted, and ransoms of 14 million Naira were demanded in addition to looting of properties/valuables which were unquantifiable, in Rabah and Goronyo LGAs.

¹ [Sokoto State Governor Signs Security Challenges Containment Order - DNL Legal and Style](#)

NSAGs attacked Illela Dawagare village in Goronyo LGA setting the entire village ablaze and shooting the villagers. The attack was thwarted with the military operative. Around 150 individuals were displaced into 400 Housing IDPs camp which is 2km away from the village, while an unconfirmed number fled into Sabongari Dole village for safety. Other damages have not yet been ascertained.

Due to heightened insecurity in, many people are unable to carry their day-to-day lives such as fetching firewood which is a means of livelihood that results in worsening their vulnerability.

Freedom of Movement: The restriction of movement imposed by the state authorities in the areas affected by security challenges under The Security Challenge Containment Order, prohibiting the operation of commercial movement after during the curfew hours (10 pm to 6 am). In Sokoto Municipality, the safety and security challenges outside of the municipality, and the ongoing military operations were cited as primary causes for movement restriction. In addition to the 10pm curfew, the people in Sokoto Municipality, especially women and girls, do not leave their homes after 8pm. While in Rabah LGA, the civilian population in Gandi and neighbouring villages imposed traveling restrictions on themselves due to the activities of the NSAGs/OCGs/Bandits along the roads linking one village to another.

Access to GBV Services: Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention, response, and mitigation efforts are coordinated by the Ministry of Women Affairs in Sokoto State, through an established Sokoto GBV Technical Response Team that comprises relevant line Ministries, UN Agencies, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), I/NGOs, and Faith-Based Organizations. The team meets on a quarterly basis as a response platform that strengthens referral pathways, and early warning systems and manages GBV cases. As the cases are under-reported, exorbitant time consumed for hearing legal cases in courts, delaying the judgment owing to issues such as disappearance of evidence or interference by the families of survivors or perpetrators. During the reporting GISCOR identified eight cases and referred to Nana Khadija Centre for further action.

Access to Food: Food supply in the areas covered by UNHCR/GISCOR (Sokoto Municipality, Goronyo, and Rabah LGAs) remains a major concern, as there are no agency supporting the most required intervention. Due to direct barriers to livelihood activities due to the presence of NSAGs, many have resorted to negative coping mechanisms such as child begging, hawking, and survival sex (particularly in Sokoto Municipality).

Access to Legal Documentation: During the reporting period, birth certificates were issued to 45 children (25 boys and 20 girls) which are essential for school enrolment, at Gwiwa Low-Cost and Ramin Kura IDP camp within the Municipality by the National Population Commission (NPC) thanks to the advocacy visits paid by the team in December 2021 and the follow-up in March 2022. The commission also assigned a focal point for UNHCR/GISCOR cases.

Housing Land and Property (HLP): HLP issues are gradually on the rise affecting the population across the Northwest due to the increasing number of internal displacements as a result of the NSAG/OCG activities across the region. At Gwiwa Low-cost (Sokoto Municipality), the team identified five households with 43 individuals who have been living in an unfinished building and were sent out by the owner citing reasons to complete the construction work. The team, having consulted members of the host community and the local government council, arranged an alternate accommodation to put up a temporary structure to live in.

During a visit to the SEMA office in March, the agency confirmed to the team that the State Government and Sokoto South LGA are in discussion to establish a formal IDP camp within the municipality to address decongestion issues in the three self-settled camps within the Municipality due to a hike in the incoming IDPs to Sokoto. Further, in case any partner wants to support shelter or latrine construction, SEMA will do the needful to coordinate and negotiate with the property owners to facilitate such interventions.

Peaceful Coexistence: In the Gwiwa low-cost and Ramin Kura IDP camps, conflict between IDPs from Sabon Birni/Isa and others were reported due to misunderstanding. The situation in general remains in a good state, with minute conflict reported among few households reported especially during the NFI distribution. Such issues, however, were resolved following the engagement of community leaders on the ground for amicable settlements.

ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES AND LIVELIHOOD

Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH): In Sokoto Municipality, limited access to drinking water is one of the challenges in the Ramin Kura camp. The team noticed that the IDPs are consuming unhygienic water for cooking which exposes them to serious water-borne diseases notably, cholera, diarrhea, and typhoid.

In Goronyo, the team observed that the latrines constructed by MSF (Holland) were not separated by gender, and potentially at risk of exposure to SGBV issues. This requires immediate intervention to sensitize the community through MSF or its community volunteers, on why the facilities should be used, as open defecations were observed, which in turn could breed health-related risks, as the rainy season draws closer, and how separation of male/female units is necessary to mitigate the risk of SGBV.

Access to Shelter: In Ramin Kura IDP camp, Sokoto Municipality, the existent inadequate shelter condition has worsened, with the recent and newly arrived individuals in the camp. The team also observed a breached fence that exposed the risk of access by bandits resulting in robbery of valuables of the IDPs living in the camp. The breached fence should be repaired with immediate effect without which the protection concerns could possibly exacerbate.

Access to Health: During the reporting period, in Sokoto municipality, the team identified about five individuals (three women at Ramin Kura with suspected cholera cases due to contaminated food/water and two children with critical medical conditions) who were referred to NOMA Hospital (MSF) and Primary Health Care for proper case management.

In Goronyo, two children with dermatologic issues were identified and referred to the General hospital. A major challenge is the unavailability of secondary healthcare services that prompts patients to go to the General Hospital located very far in Goronyo town costing a high transport fee.

Child Protection: Issues of child protection are on the rise in Sokoto Municipality, especially in the Gwiwa Low-cost IDP camp, because of the economic insecurity and inadequate WASH facilities. During the reporting period, 11 child protection cases involving child begging and child hawking were identified by the team. Parents send their children to distant places away from the camp exposes them to protection risks, such as

SGBV, and accidents. The team pursues towards sensitizing on the effects of such actions among the community members.

PROTECTION RESPONSE & IMPACT

Awareness Raising and Sensitization: During January - March, the team reached 210 individuals in IDP camps with awareness-raising sessions covering the thematic areas of negative impact on child hawking/begging, survival sex, and child labour.

Advocacy: During the reporting period, UNHCR/GISCOR engaged in advocacy meetings with Hisbah Corps, SEMA, and the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP). On 29 March 2022, the team met with the State Director of National Population Commission (NPC) to discuss on the registration of birth certificates to a few IDP children who were identified without legal documentation/birth certificates.

Coordination Meetings: UNICEF-led Northwest Informal Coordination Forum was organized monthly throughout the quarter with the participation of humanitarian and donor agencies. The meetings were aimed at coordinating actors implementing numerous projects/activities across the northwestern zone. In January and March GISCOR held two community meetings with 13 camp stakeholders (08 men and 05 women) to address the issues of shelter and lack of comprehensive coverage in terms of interventions by well-to-do individuals which in turn hampers the peaceful coexistence amongst the PoCs.

