



Protection Sector Strategy North-East Nigeria 2024-2025



IDPs movement, Fulatari camp, Dikwa, Source UNHCR.

May 2024



Protection



Child Protection



Gender Based Violence



Housing, Land & Property



Mine Action

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Acronyms

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
DDRR	Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration
EO	Explosive ordnance
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
MA	Mine Action
NFI	Non-Food Item
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NNGO	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

1. Introduction

The protracted crisis in North-East Nigeria has persisted with heightened protection concerns and humanitarian needs for the last 14 years. As the conflict between the Government of Nigeria (GoN) and Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) continues in North-East Nigeria, the people in the states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe continue to face widespread insecurity and ongoing military operations, damaged infrastructure, tattered local economies, loss of livelihoods and gross violations of their human rights by all parties to the conflict.

The heightened protection context and limited government and humanitarian support, coupled with government enforced camp closures and relocation of IDPs, arrivals of people from extremely hard-to-reach and NSAG-controlled areas, and influx of refugee returnees and asylum seekers from Chad, Cameroon, and Niger continue to worsen the protection of the affected population in the Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe States, whereby exposing them to several Child Protection, Gender-Based Violence, Mines and Housing, Land, and Property risks, and resort to negative coping mechanisms.

The Protection Sector is a coordination forum through which its members can coordinate interventions, seek consensus on protection issues, build partnerships, and strategically prioritize available resources with an overall goal of enhancing the protection of conflict-affected civilians in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe (BAY) States. The Protection Sector comprises 105 partners providing General Protection, Child Protection (CP), Gender Based Violence (GBV), Housing Land and Property (HLP), and Mine Action (MA) assistance and services across the BAY states.

In line with its core functions, the Protection Sector Northeast Nigeria (PSNE) and its Areas of Responsibility (AoRs) have achieved remarkable progress and contributions towards supporting service delivery, informing strategic humanitarian decision-making, supporting advocacy, building capacity for preparedness and response, and ensure accountability to the affected population in North-East Nigeria.

The Protection Sector's 2024-2025 objectives are aligned with the broader humanitarian strategy for Nigeria 2024-2025, which aims to save lives, provide protection, and reduce dependency on humanitarian aid by transitioning into development oriented support that is sustainable. The Protection Sector's objectives intend to achieve humanitarian outcomes by mitigating protection risks, strengthening protective services, and enhancing the overall protection environment through addressing protection concerns and fostering a safe and dignified living environment. With the roll out of the State Action Solution Plans in May 2024, it is hoped that increased and more long term support to identified forcibly displaced populations can be realized.

In 2023, the PSNE and its AoRs received a funding of \$36 million, which equals 34% of the \$105M annual funding requirement. This was 8% lower than the 42% funding requirement received in 2022. To effectively respond to protection needs, especially against an overall reduction in funding, the Protection Sector Strategy gives consideration for evidence-based targeting of vulnerable persons and those facing protection risks and focusing on achieving protection outcomes in contribution towards resilience building for individuals, households, and communities, as well as working with local actors and strengthening local capacities.

This strategy document represents a collaborative effort of stakeholders from diverse backgrounds, including government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and UN agencies. It outlines the Protection Sector and AoR strategic objectives, comprehensive

approaches, and action plans to provide the basis for Protection partners and the humanitarian community in responding to the protracted crisis in North-East Nigeria.

1. Protection Context, Risks and Challenges

The ongoing conflict between the Government of Nigeria (GoN) and Non-State Armed Groups (NSAG), as well as among NSAGs, persists in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe (BAY) States.

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, killings, civil unrest, continuous displacement, Explosive Ordnance incidents and risks, camp closure and relocations, limited access to basic services, flooding, disease outbreaks and fire outbreaks. Conflict and insecurity continue to challenge the delivery of humanitarian assistance and protection services witnessing a persistently narrow humanitarian space.

The insufficient basic services for new arrivals coming from extremely hard-to-reach and NSAG-controlled areas, existing IDPs, and IDP and refugee returnees remain to expose them to various protection risks, adopting harmful coping mechanisms and residing in abandoned buildings, open spaces, over-congested and crowded camps, and transit centers across the BAY 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, exposes the population to numerous protection risks including a resort to harmful coping mechanisms such as the sale and exchange of sex, child labour, and begging, as well as putting them at risk of NSAG attacks and explosive ordnance incidents. Search for livelihood opportunities and access to farmlands, in some locations in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states, remains difficult and endangers the lives of the affected population at the cost of attacks and fatalities primarily perpetrated by NSAGs, herders, and occasionally by forces associated with the military and government forces.

Within the ongoing crisis, the Borno State Government (BSG) continued the closure of camps and relocation of IDPs in pursuit of its agenda to end forced displacement. 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 while they rebuild their lives. 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 or by the government restrictions. The closure of camps and relocation of the population to areas with insecure nearby surroundings and government-designated sites has often exacerbated IDPs' exposure to protection risks, among them the adoption of 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 HLP issues, as well as injuries and fatalities resulted from mine contamination.

In addition, the Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration (DDRR) process continued, with several protection risks arising as a result. 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. 5,234 households of 14,788 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 as a result, the affected refugee population continue to adopt harmful coping mechanisms, including begging, engaging in undignified labour, and transactional sex.

As the conditions in Niger continue to deteriorate after the coup d'état in Niger that occurred on 26 July 2023, 1,013 Nigeriens from 221 households fled their country to Nigeria, Borno State (940 individuals), Yobe State (73 individuals), and Adamawa (1,378 individuals). This is in addition to the 28,087 (5,381 households) Nigerian refugees that returned to Damasak, Mobbar LGA of Borno state (UNHCR Border Monitoring Report, December 2023).

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.

Climate-related protection including fire outbreaks, especially across IDP camp settings 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. Seasonal flooding has also caused challenges for the affected population in accessing services and assistance, and for humanitarian partners.

2. Protection Sector Objectives

The Protection Sector strategic objectives for 2024-2025 are aligned with the broader humanitarian strategy for Nigeria 2024-2025, which aims to save lives, provide protection, and ultimately reduce dependency on humanitarian aid. The Protection Sector aims to achieve humanitarian outcomes by mitigating protection risks, strengthening protective services, and enhancing the overall protection environment by addressing protection concerns and fostering a safe and dignified living environment. The Sector's 2024-2025 objectives are as follows:

Objective 1: 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.

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

Objective 3: Improve protection information management to ensure timely protection response to individuals who have experienced protection risks in realization of their basic human rights.

The Protection Sector and AoRs will contribute to these strategic objectives by addressing protection concerns and promoting the dignity and well-being of the affected populations in the BAY States by focusing on mitigating protection risks faced by the most vulnerable populations suffering from violence, coercion, exploitation, neglect, and discrimination due to conflict and natural disasters in line with humanitarian and human rights law.

The Protection Sector Strategy is complementary to existing AoR strategies and designed to influence the Sector's contribution to the 2024 - 2025 Humanitarian Response Plan for North-East Nigeria.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

- The Protection Sector in Borno State coordinates the Protection Sector Working Groups in Adamawa and Yobe States and liberated LGAs in Borno State and is accountable to the Humanitarian Coordinator.
- The PSNE provides the Humanitarian Country Team and the National Humanitarian Coordination Forum with strategic advice and ensures coordination of protection, including with the AoRs on Child Protection GBV, HLP and Mine Action.
- The Protection Sector and AoR leads will ensure the implementation of the Strategy in a collaborative manner and, where possible, in collaboration with other relevant sectors.
- The PSNE will seek guidance from, liaise and share relevant information with the Global Protection Cluster (GPC) as and when required. It will also coordinate with and support State-level PSWs.

4. Protection Response Priorities

4.1 General Protection

Protection Context and Priorities

Approximately 1 million people across the four LGAs of Abadam, Guzamala, Kukawa, and Marte remain under NSAG control and cannot be reached by protection partners. Additionally, populations in Gubio and Nganzai LGAs are hard-to-reach while high levels of protection needs are assessed among people coming out of inaccessible areas. Persons formerly associated with NSAGs face the risk of exclusion from assistance in reintegration areas.

NSAG violence against civilians was uncommonly high in 2023 in both inaccessible and accessible areas, including abductions and mass killings in Damboa, Dikwa, Gwoza, Pulka, Ngala, Bama, Banki Jere, Mafa, and Marte LGAs, also due to enhanced suspicion of civilians collaborating with Government Forces. The 2.2 million IDPs across the BAY states in particular experience high levels of vulnerability and face severe levels of protection incidents in Geidam, Gujba, and Gulani LGAs in Yobe state, extreme levels in Madagali, Maiha, Michika, and Mubi North LGAs in Adamawa state and catastrophic levels in Chibok, Dikwa, Mobbar, Monguno and Ngala LGAs in Borno state.

Some 150,000 IDPs have been affected by the closure of 8 IDP camps in Maiduguri and government enforced “returns”/relocations to Bama, Gwoza, Jere, Konduga, Kukawa, Mafa, Marte, Mobbar, and Monguno LGAs where they cannot provide for their basic needs with high levels of insecurity, limited freedom of movement and livelihood opportunities, and low levels of government and humanitarian services in over congested camps, causing secondary or multiple displacement given the unsustainability of their “return”/relocation areas and new humanitarian needs.

Refugees returned to Abadam, Bama, and Gwoza LGAs through government-led return initiatives. Concerns have been raised by the PSNE on the sustainability of the return due to lack of services and insecurity caused by NSAG attacks that have resulted in loss of life. Displaced and non-displaced populations in Bama, Gwoza, Jere, Konduga, Mafa, and Maiduguri LGAs have been most affected by NSAG attacks while going about livelihood activities, including farming, collecting firewood and scrap metal, and herding.

Host community members across the BAY states struggle to receive refugee returnees and relocated IDPs with depleting capacities in the absence of government and humanitarian actors’ support while they have themselves suffered catastrophic levels of protection incidents in Dikwa and Monguno LGAs in Borno and Hong and Madagali LGAs in Adamawa. Peaceful co-existence has been compromised in some communities, including in Bama and Monguno LGAs. Populations across the BAY states, due to the prolonged conflict and displacement situation, have also been at increased risk of trafficking in persons both internally and transnationally.

Objectives

The General Protection response targets people with protection needs with the highest severity ranking, as per Humanitarian Needs Overview, including IDPs, Returnees, and host community members.

The protection response will focus on the protection of civilians, especially those who are vulnerable and at risk due to conflict related displacement – in formal camps and informal settings and urban areas, as well as those receiving displaced populations – with interventions aimed at reducing and responding to protection risks, mitigating their effects, and enhancing population resilience and the protective environment. Seasonal occurrences such as floods and disease outbreaks will be a secondary focus with a view to mitigating protection risks resulting from them but also preventing them through anticipatory actions.

The response across the BAY states focuses on emergency needs of all status groups due to the ongoing conflict in all three states, as well as new displacement, enforced returns and relocations of IDPs and Refugees. Furthermore, the Protection Sector position supports the quest for lasting solutions to displacement in line with international standards. The general protection response will also focus on interventions to address emergency protection risks and high levels of vulnerabilities, while highlighting risks produced through pre-mature durable solutions, development, and stabilization programming in support of the do-no-harm approach.

Prioritized protection interventions include:

- Protection monitoring at household and community level (with referrals when needed),
- Protection information sharing and awareness raising,
- Capacity building of partners and duty bearers,
- Provision of specialized protection services (case management, psycho-social support,
- Individual protection assistance, distribution of dignity kits, etc.) and legal assistance,
- Establishment of community-based protection networks,
- Safe livelihood, skills acquisition, and empowerment activities,
- Reintegration support for people coming out of inaccessible areas and those formerly associated with NSAGs; and
- Protection advocacy.

4.2 Child Protection

Protection Context and Priorities

The protracted armed conflict in Northeast Nigeria has worsened the humanitarian situation of children and caregivers. The social environment remains highly volatile across the BAY States, with adverse impacts on children and their caregivers. An estimated 2 million people are in need of child protection specialized services in 2024.

The conflict and insecurity in North-East Nigeria have resulted in an increase in child protection concerns and limited child protection systems and community-based safety networks. The most vulnerable children include children in IDP camps, secondary displaced children from closed camps, returnee children, Children Associated with Armed Groups (CAAGs), unaccompanied/separated children, and children with disabilities below the age of 17. The well-being of children is threatened by multiple protection risks such as violence, abuse, neglect, trafficking in person, sexual violence, psycho-social distress, and recruitment by NSAGs, coupled with the deteriorating economic situation. This has further exposed children to risk, as caregivers do not have enough resources to provide the basic needs of the children leading to neglect and children engaged in the worst forms of labor. Girls, especially adolescent girls, are at risk of early child marriage and sexual violence which continues to significantly affect their physical, mental, emotional, and social well-being.

Cross-sectoral risks include limited access to food, quality education, and healthcare, as well as inadequate parental care, particularly for children with disabilities, which significantly affect the physical, mental, emotional, and social well-being of children and unavailable alternative care for street children and Almajiri. With the continued government forces offensive on NSAGs, the influx of people from inaccessible areas which will lead to increased number of children exiting NSAGs, Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) and will force families into negative coping strategies that harm children. The need for Mental Health and Psychosocial support, case management, family tracing and reunification, and socio-economic reintegration services are projected to increase, putting additional pressure on an already underfunded Area of Responsibility.

The CP AoR will concentrate on prevention and response services, utilizing a system strengthening approach that considers the interconnectedness between humanitarian and developmental efforts, considering the evolving situation in North-East Nigeria. Interventions will include comprehensive case management services, mental health and psychosocial support services, socio-economic reintegration of children formerly associated with armed groups and strengthening the capacity of communities to prevent and address abuse, exploitation, neglect, and violence against children.

Additionally, the CP AoR will support strengthening coordination system at LGA level, focusing on data collection and information management systems for evidence-based programming and advocacy, partners' technical and institutional capacity strengthening through trainings, workshops, mentorship and coaching as part of the localization efforts within the CP AoR.

Objectives

- Ensure timely access to preventive and comprehensive quality response service for children, including those with disabilities and street children or at risk of abuse, discrimination, exploitation and trafficking, neglect, and violence.
- Boys and girls affected by conflicts, including those who have experienced grave violations of child rights, receive meaningful support through community-based reintegration services.
- Enhance the well-being of conflict-affected children, adolescents, and caregivers by promoting constructive social norms and behaviours aimed at eliminating violence, abuse, and detrimental traditional practices by parents, caregivers, children, and communities.
- Enhance the capacity of partners and the social welfare workforce to provide high-quality prevention and response services by reinforcing the child protection system.

Roles and Responsibilities

- The ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (MWASD) has the primary responsibility for the prevention and response of child protection risks to children and caregivers in Nigeria. With the support of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the MWASD established the Child Protection Area of Responsibility to support with covering the humanitarian needs.
- The roles and responsibilities of the CP AoR are closely aligned with the 6+1 core functions of cluster coordination. These functions involve providing clusters with specific actions they can take to enhance the overall effectiveness of the cluster response.

4.3 Gender-Based Violence

Protection Context and Priorities

In North-East Nigeria, there is significant need for Gender Based Violence (GBV) prevention and response services, with an estimated 1,829,002 individuals requiring assistance. These individuals are distributed across distinct categories, including 32% IDPs, 25% returnees, and 43% from host communities. Borno state, the epicenter of the ongoing conflict, has the highest proportion of individuals in need, accounting for 48% of the total, followed by Adamawa at 34% and Yobe at 18%.

It is important to note that GBV, sexual violence, child sexual abuse and intimate partner violence (IPV), continues to be a prevalent issue across the BAY states. The 2023 GBVIMS data indicate a 3% increase in reported GBV incidents compared to 2022, and a 15% increase compared to 2021. An in-depth analysis of the 2023 GBVIMS report revealed that 99% of survivors who sought help for GBV were females. In terms of age groups, 81% of the GBV cases during this period in 2023 affected adult survivors, while 19% of the incidents were perpetrated against children below the age of 18, of which 21% were either unaccompanied or separated from their families. 4% of the reported incidents of GBV were perpetrated against survivors with a disability and GBVIMS Data indicate 94% of survivors with disability reported an incident of rape.

There are several significant challenges in service delivery, such as limited capacity and shortages of service providers, including GBV case managers and healthcare providers (such as female doctors, gynecologists, and midwives), leading to a limited capacity to provide lifesaving GBV services. Similarly, the uneven distribution of service providers across the region leads to disparities in access to health and GBV services. Additionally, there is an inadequate skills mix and health worker-to-population ratio, with only 5.8 healthcare workers (HCWs) per 10,000 people, which falls significantly below the World Health Organization (WHO) standards. The WHO recommends a ratio of 23 HCWs per 10,000 people.

This has tremendous effects, particularly in providing clinical management to rape (CMR) survivors and access to adequate and quality GBV case management services, including mental health and psychosocial support. The Sexual Assault and Referral Centers (SARC) are insufficient in the BAY states, notably only in the state capitals e.g., Maiduguri, Damaturu and Yola. The geographical constraints result in difficulties for individuals in other LGAs of the states to access essential health services after experiencing GBV incidents. It underscores the need for increased infrastructure, deployment of services providers, commodities and supplies and mobile outreach services to ensure that GBV survivors can access necessary care and assistance. Financial constraints are paramount which also hamper the ability to buy mensural hygiene and management (MHM) and dignity supplies. This leads to school going adolescent girls to skip school due to unavailability and inaccessibility of supplies in local markets.

The BAY states are also grappling with i access to justice to GBV survivors, due to absence of civil authorities, particularly court sessions, posing challenges in accessing justice and legal services for the survivors. Moreover, the shortage of female officers in policing division or gender desk officers, in the gender unit exacerbates the challenges in providing appropriate and timely legal support to survivors. The small number of GBV reporting reflects a combination of factors, including societal pressures, fear of retaliation and re-victimization, stigma, shame and discrimination, a lack of confidence in the police and law enforcement agencies and governance structures.

The insufficient efforts to mainstream GBV refers to the failure to address GBV issues systematically in various sectors. Failure to mainstream GBV resulted in missed opportunities for preventing GBV and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA). Women and girls often report being sexually abused and harassed while accessing WASH services, particularly at night, food supplies, unsafe shelters, in Pulka, Monguno, Michika, Madagali, Gwoza, and Konduga.

There are gaps in forensic evidence on GBV cases with only one forensic and DNA testing laboratory supported by UNFPA in Adamawa. There are knowledge gaps amongst prosecutors with lack of training on the dynamics of GBV, the role of forensic sciences in GBV prosecution, and on Active Case Management (ACM) of cases. The Judiciary lacks formal training on survivor management, and the role of forensic sciences in SGBV casework, coupled with absence of shelters to enhance victim protection and the absence of clear suspect management SOP with Nigeria Police Force (NPF) and Nigerian Security Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC).

Objectives

Following are the objectives of GBV AOR Strategy 2023-2025 which also complements the Humanitarian Response Plan 2024:

- Improve access to quality lifesaving and well-coordinated GBV response services for survivors and individuals at risk.
- Enhance well-being among survivors/vulnerable individuals through survivor-centered service provision and GBV risk mitigation efforts in humanitarian response efforts.
- Strengthen community resilience and systems/institutions that prevent and respond to gender-based violence including harmful practices.
- Strengthen the capacities of GBV actors and institutions to prevent GBV in emergencies through the GBViE course, men's, and boy's engagement, and in addressing harmful social and cultural norms.
- Enhance inter-agency coordination of gender-based violence AOR and trafficking of women and girls to galvanize collective action and accountability of partners in the call to action on protection from gender-based violence in emergencies.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (FMWASD) has the mandate for coordinating prevention and responses for GBV in Nigeria. With the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the FMWASD established the dedicated GBV Sub-Sector to cover the humanitarian needs of the Northeast.

In North-East Nigeria, UNFPA plays a convening role in providing life-saving and essential services for response and prevention to gender-based violence (GBV) in conflict affected areas of Northeast Nigeria. This is led by coordinating and collaborating with various stakeholders from government, international NGOs, civil society/women led organizations and UN agencies. UNFPA co-chair the GBV Sub Sector in NE Nigeria, with the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development being the Chair to identify issues jointly and proactively with SS members (65 in BAY states) and formulate recommendations for the protection of women and girls in the humanitarian context of NE Nigeria. Field level coordination structures exist for location specific operational coordination of GBV prevention and response services.

A GBV Strategic Advisory Group – comprising UN, INGO, Government and Civil Society representatives (Women Led Organizations) - provide overall guidance and strategic orientation to the sub sector. The Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) provides support and guidance for strategic direction and technical advisory on key issues related to GBV protection

and response to partners, sectors and the HCT. The SAG is responsible for leadership accountability for GBV commitments and monitors the implementation of the GBV SS strategic framework and annual response plan.

The operational coordination of the GBV AoR is from Maiduguri, Borno State with sub working groups in Adamawa and Yobe States. The GBV AoR partners in Borno meets monthly physically at the Eye Clinic, PHEOC, Maiduguri (support from the Health Sector to GBV AOR). The GBV AoR Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) meets on a quarterly basis, mostly online, with ad hoc meetings if need arises to address an issue of urgency. Field level GBV Coordination meetings are also held by the leading GBV partner organizations in Borno state: Bama (UNFPA/MOWDSA), Konduga, Mafa, Pulka (NCA), Monguno (IRC), and Gubio:

- The GBV AoR coordinates with the Protection Sector North-East Nigeria (PSNE) and is accountable to the Humanitarian Coordinator.
- The GBV AoR supports the HCT, ISCG, and other Humanitarian Coordination Forums, also at the field levels, with technical assistance and ensures coordination of GBV services, with other sectors including Child Protection, Health, MHPSS, and Shelter.
- The GBV AoR also coordinates with the Global GBV AOR for guidance and information sharing.
- The GBV AoR ensures GBV mainstreaming actions are being implemented by non-GBV actors so that their frontline workers can have the capacity to refer a survivor to GBV services (multi-sectoral).
- The GBV AoR in collaboration with other sectors will develop guidance to facilitate safe referrals for GBV survivors to access critical services from other sectors while upholding ethical GBV guiding principles of confidentiality, respect, non-discrimination, and consent.
- The GBV AoR will continue to strengthen the production capacity of already established dignity kits production centers in Maiduguri to ensure continuity and consistency to meet the needs of women and girls affected by the crisis.

4.4 Housing, Land & Property

Protection Context and Priorities

North-East Nigeria, particularly the states of Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa, grapples with a multifaceted array of challenges concerning the return, relocation, and resettlement of IDPs. Despite efforts to facilitate the return and resettlement of IDPs, numerous critical issues persist, impeding progress and exacerbating the vulnerabilities of affected populations.

One of the foremost obstacles confronting IDPs in areas of return, relocation, and resettlement is the difficulty in accessing land for settlement and livelihood purposes, particularly in agriculture. Even when access is granted, the security of tenure remains uncertain, leaving IDPs susceptible to secondary displacement.

The scarcity or absence of income sources compounds the challenges faced by IDPs, making it arduous for them to secure housing even when available. High unemployment rates, economic instability, and inflation, exacerbated by both human-caused and natural disasters, further constrain livelihood opportunities, perpetuating the cycle of vulnerability and displacement. This economic strain disproportionately affects women, particularly single

mothers, and widows, who struggle to assert their Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) rights due to cultural norms, illiteracy, and lack of awareness.

IDPs, especially women and children, encounter heightened protection risks, including gender-based violence, sexual abuse, and exploitation, particularly in informal settlements lacking adequate infrastructure and basic services. The loss of title documents for land and property, coupled with the phenomenon of secondary occupation and land grabbing, further exacerbates their vulnerability to forced eviction and displacement.

The lack of legal knowledge among stakeholders and the compromised capacity of local dispute resolution mechanisms poses significant challenges in addressing HLP disputes and ensuring justice for IDPs. Informal settlements in urban areas exacerbate these challenges, creating conditions reminiscent of slums and escalating the risk of disease outbreaks and forced evictions. There is a notable absence of information on essential services provision and HLP rights in return, relocation, and resettlement sites, hindering efforts to support IDPs and ensure their well-being. This dearth of information exacerbates their vulnerability and impedes the realization of durable solutions.

The proposed Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) Area of Responsibility (AoR) strategy for Northeast Nigeria is tailored to address the complex challenges faced by IDPs and conflict-affected populations in accessing secure housing, land, and property rights.

The priority of the HLP AoR strategy is to safeguard the housing, land, and property rights of conflict-affected populations in North-East Nigeria, ensuring their access and ability to exercise these rights in a safe, dignified, and sustainable manner. By addressing HLP challenges and promoting resilience, the strategy aims to contribute to the protection and well-being of affected communities, mitigate displacement risks, and support durable solutions. The key priorities include:

- **Strengthen Coordination and Collaboration:** Enhance coordination mechanisms among stakeholders, establish effective communication channels, and conduct joint assessments to identify and respond to emerging HLP-related challenges.
- **Capacity Building and Training:** Provide training and capacity-building sessions for local actors, community leaders, and humanitarian workers on HLP rights, legal frameworks, and dispute-resolution mechanisms.
- **Awareness Raising and Advocacy:** Conduct targeted awareness campaigns, advocate for the protection of HLP rights, and engage with government authorities and community leaders to promote policies and practices that uphold HLP rights.
- **Provision of Legal Assistance and Support:** Establish legal aid clinics, assist individuals in obtaining essential HLP documentation, and support mediation and alternative dispute resolution processes to resolve HLP disputes.
- **Rehabilitation and Infrastructure Development:** Support the rehabilitation and reconstruction of housing, land, and property, invest in infrastructure development initiatives, and promote sustainable land use planning and urban development strategies.
- **Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning:** Establish robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, conduct regular field assessments, and foster a culture of learning and knowledge sharing among stakeholders.
- **Cross-Sectoral Collaboration and Integration:** Foster collaboration with other humanitarian sectors, integrate HLP considerations into broader response planning and programming, and align interventions with resilience-building and community empowerment objectives.

- Engagement with Donors and Resource Mobilization: Engage with donors and secure funding for HLP interventions, advocacy campaigns, and capacity-building initiatives.

Objectives

- Objective one: To effectively address and alleviate the repercussions stemming from disputes related to housing, land, and property (HLP) and other infringements upon HLP rights, such as coercion, exploitation, severe neglect, or discriminatory practices, with the aim of reinstating individuals' ability to secure and dignified lives.
- Objective two: To advocate for and uphold the housing, land, and property rights of populations affected by conflict, while devising strategies to bolster tenure security, including proactive measures to mitigate the impact of climate change on HLP.
- Objective three: To bolster the capabilities and resilience of local stakeholders and partners in tackling challenges pertaining to housing, land, and property, particularly in the aftermath of government-led formal camp closures and relocations.

Roles and Responsibilities

- Government Agencies: Provide support for policy development, facilitate access to resources, and collaborate on HLP-related initiatives.
- Humanitarian Organizations: Implement HLP interventions, conduct capacity-building activities, and advocate for HLP rights.
- Local Authorities: Facilitate community engagement, support infrastructure development, and collaborate on HLP coordination efforts.
- Community Leaders: Raise awareness, facilitate dialogue, and support local dispute resolution mechanisms.
- Displaced Populations: Participate in training sessions, engage in advocacy efforts, and access support services for HLP issues.
- Legal Aid Clinics: Provide free or affordable legal assistance, support mediation processes, and assist with HLP documentation.
- Donors and International Organizations: Provide funding and resources for HLP interventions, support advocacy campaigns, and engage in policy dialogue.

4.5 Mine Action

Protection Context and Priorities

In North-East Nigeria, IDPs (living in camps or camp-like settings) are expected to be returned to their communities (returnees) or to other local government areas or LGAs (out-of-camp IDPs living in host communities) in a series of planned camp closures as part of the camp decongestion and rehabilitation of educational facilities by the Government. In Borno State, 10 sites for relocation and return have been identified. Analysis by UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) show that these potential sites are impacted by the presence of explosive ordnance. UNMAS raises this as a critical concern following an analysis in the number of known explosive ordnance incidents in areas of return in 2023 following camp closures and movement of IDPs, with one LGA showing an 883% increase when comparing the number of incidents before and after returns (Konduga LGA: before: 6; after: 59).

In 2023, UNMAS recorded 352 casualties from explosive ordnance incidents, of which 158 were killed and 194 injured, meaning that over the year, one person was killed or injured. Also records show the number of children casualties increased in 2023 and that there were more civilian casualties as compared to casualties from security forces (2023: civilians: 192; security

forces: 160). UNMAS recorded 361 explosive ordnance incidents, including 168 incidents involving improvised explosive devices (IEDs), the majority of which were recorded in Borno state. IED incidents have also been increasing since October 2023. UNMAS also recognizes that the number of incidents and accidents may be higher because of poor reporting.

The risk from explosive ordnance is currently mitigated through the delivery of explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) as mine action operators are not yet allowed by the Government to conduct survey and clearance activities in areas of return. In the absence of such survey and clearance activities, UNMAS is working to secure resources to train additional Nigerian Police Force explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) units in accordance with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). These trained units will respond to emergency explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) and IED disposal tasks, particularly in areas of return or relocation.

UNMAS and the mine action sector in 2024 still face huge gaps in funding especially in the first half of the year. The rapidly changing context, given the planned camp closures and the increased number of IED incidents, means that resources are quickly needed to ensure the safety of IDPs, returnees, and refugees.

The 2024 Humanitarian Needs Overview indicates that around 1.5 million IDPs, returnees and host community populations are impacted by the presence of explosive ordnance, resulting in death and injury, as well as impacting on returns and relocations, access to basic services and efforts to rebuild people's lives and livelihoods.

Objectives

- Coordinate the Mine Action AoR to ensure the delivery of mine action activities in priority areas and in accordance with international mine action standards.
- Ensure the delivery of explosive ordnance risk education, prioritizing known locations of camp decongestion and closure, including the broadcasting of radio messages as an anticipatory action under the planned phased camp decongestion and closures.
- Maintain the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database, ensuring that mine action information is verified before being recorded.
- Build capacity of implementing partners by ensuring that they are accredited in accordance with international mine action standards before they deliver mine action activities.
- Provide technical advice to the national mine action center and other governmental organizations, building their capacity to lead and manage the mine action programme.

Roles and Responsibilities

UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) as the UN global focal point for mine action, as the coordination of the mine action area of responsibility, the quality assurance and quality control of mine action activities in accordance with international mine action standards, and responsible for information management through IMSMA.

Implementing partners, both national and international, trained and accredited per international mine action standards, delivering explosive ordnance risk education as well as other mine action-related activities.

The government, through the National Mine Action Center, the Inter-Ministerial Committee for the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) under the Ministry of Defense as well as the National Humanitarian Mine Action Committee under the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, responsible for the mine action problem in the country.

5. Protection Mainstreaming, Coordination and Capacity Building

Protection mainstreaming ensures that the protective impact of humanitarian programming is maximized. Through the incorporation of protection principles into the delivery of humanitarian assistance, humanitarian actors can ensure that their activities target the most vulnerable, enhance safety, and dignity, and promote and protect the human rights of the affected population without contributing to or perpetuating discrimination, abuse, violence, neglect, and exploitation.

The Protection Sector and AoRs will work jointly with other sectors to ensure that activities within their respective sector are carried out with a “protection lens” and integrate protection principles in the delivery of their programs. The Sector will develop capacity building training for key actors on key international humanitarian standards, international protection, and human rights, as well as the civilian and humanitarian character of camps. The Sector will also sensitize humanitarian and military actors on civil-military coordination to protect and promote humanitarian principles in coordination with key actions such as the ICRC and OCHA Civil-Military Coordination Unit (CMCoord).

The Sector will prioritize the centrality of protection by ensuring the participation of affected persons in the planning and implementation of solutions, considering age, gender, and diversity, and paying particular attention to persons with specific needs. Considering localisation/ coordination towards accountability to affected populations using hotlines and harmonised approach towards awareness raising tools / SOPs for the sector and guiding further the different actors on having a checklist on the 4 protection mainstreaming principles.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Protection Sector and AoRs will undertake joint field visits to protection project delivery sites across LGAs in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states to monitor the quality of partners Protection responses and provide support to protection actors. The implementation of partners will be monitored through the ongoing collection of partners' activity data via activity-info, 5ws matrix, partners reports, and response monitoring tool, as well as monthly and quarterly dashboards, will be used to analyze the progress against all protection response indicators.

To measure the implementation of the Protection response against the Strategy action plan and make corrective measures and adapting strategies throughout the implementation of the response, the Protection sector and AoRs will conduct mid-year and annual reviews with Protection partners. The M&E will be done with the participation of selected IDPs, returnees and host community members.

As part of the evaluation process, the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) will meet on a bi-monthly basis to monitor progress, identify challenges/gaps, and make recommendations as deemed appropriate.

This strategy will be presented to all members of the Protection Sector and progress on the objectives will be shared and left open for discussion quarterly via the Protection Sector monthly meeting. The SAG shall evaluate the strategy before the end of 2025 and share the feedback, including recommendations, to the PSNE and AoRs.



Protection Sector 2024 – 2025 Action Plan

Strategic 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.

AoR	Protection Response/ Activity	Timeline (quarterly)
General Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Protection monitoring of the protective environment on the household or community level to understand protection risks and trends, and population vulnerabilities of women, men, girls, and boys for targeted protection response and evidence-based advocacy.The Protection Sector continues the roll-out of the harmonized protection monitoring tool and ensures data sharing agreements are in place to facilitate protection data collection and information sharing with the sector.Provision of specialized protection services to vulnerable persons and those facing protection risks or human rights violations. General Case Management, Individual Protection Assistance (In-kind), Individual Protection Assistance (IPA) with Protection Cash Assistance (PCA), Issuance of civil documentation, Legal counseling, and Legal representation and Psychosocial Support.Work with key protection partners to provide training to other sector members, on the prevention and response to key protection concerns documented by the Sector.Advocate with key actors on the different identified risks.Ensure effective service delivery through the development of a referral mechanism.Continue the assessment and monitoring in return areas, in coordination with the government, to ensure respect of international principles and standards as well as local strategies (i.e., return strategy) and policies (national IDP policy/domestication of the Kampala convention); in addition, ensure the dissemination of information on areas of return and the return processes to enable informed decisions.	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthen counter-trafficking engagements in northeast Nigeria by improving prevention, response, case management, and referral mechanisms. 	
<p>Child Protection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve CP AoR information Management product for evident based data for advocacy and prioritization. ▪ Update partners referral pathways/service mapping of partners and produce operational presence maps. ▪ Refresher training for existing partners on CM/CPIMS+ and training of partners on the 5Ws template for effective data quality. ▪ Capacity building of partners on trafficking in persons, data management and data analytics. ▪ Conduct Child Protection Needs assessment and gap analysis. 	
<p>GBV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provision of specialized GBV case management services for adults and children. ▪ Provision of Medical/health care services to GBV survivors and victims of trafficking. ▪ Provision of MHPSS services (PFA, individual and group counseling, community strengthening). ▪ Provision of justice and legal assistance and safety and security assistance. ▪ Establish Women and Girls Safe Spaces and Integrated Facilities for providing lifesaving GBV services. ▪ Provision of Dignity kits and other supplies in high risk LGAs as part of the response and Anticipatory Actions. ▪ Provide technical support to Data Gathering Organization to safely collect, store and analyze their data, and to enable the safe and ethical sharing of reported GBV incident data. ▪ Develop monthly dashboard snapshots and mid-year and annual reports on key trends and patterns on GBV in BAY states. Develop monthly snapshots from GBV SS dashboard and mid-year and annual reports on performance indicators of HRP 2024 (5Ws and Activity Info) for PSNE, ISWG, GBV SS and donors Revision of GBV SOPs for Adamawa and Yobe and sharing key findings and recommendations from needs assessment and GBV safety audits. 	

HLP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide Pre-eviction and Post-eviction Cash Assistance. ▪ Drafting of Tenancy Agreements, License Agreements, MoUs, and other Tenure Agreements. ▪ Negotiation on Land Access and Tenure Extension for Stay. 	
MA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mine action related information is verified and recorded, with collected information managed on the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA). ▪ Advocacy for mine action related information held by the Nigerian armed forces and Nigerian security forces to be shared and stored in IMSMA. 	
Strategic Objective 2: Enhance community-based protection mechanisms through empowering community-based structures and enhancing community driven solutions to protection issues.		
General Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information sharing and awareness raising among the affected population on protection risks and available services through community-based structures, ensuring inclusion of women, men, boys, and girls. ▪ Engagement with government, humanitarian, human rights, and other stakeholders to ensure that protection issues faced by the affected population are given due attention and action is taken to ensure do-no harm principles are adhered to during service delivery and compliance with international standards and frameworks is upheld. ▪ Creation and empowerment of community-based protection networks to identify protection risks faced by the affected population and facilitate referrals in response to protection needs, to enhance the protection environment. ▪ Protection advocacy for the reduction of protection risks. ▪ Establishment of CBPN, and CBPNs' identification of individuals who exhibit extreme levels of vulnerability or have been exposed to protection risks and/or suffered human rights violations. ▪ Safe livelihood, skills acquisition, and empowerment interventions: Hand work/Skill acquisition, Provision of start-up kits/grants, Entrepreneurship, agriculture and business training, financial skills/ finance management training. ▪ Multipurpose Cash Assistance. ▪ Identification and Referral of vulnerable persons or individuals who have suffered human rights violations during field visits. ▪ Conflict resolution/ mediation. ▪ The PSWG shall map out humanitarian service providers in the different LGAs. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PSNE will work with actors to carry out joint assessment, vulnerability screening to identify the most at risk and plan response accordingly. ▪ The PSNE shall work along with key actors to coordinate targeted assistance to the most vulnerable and those with serious protection concerns. ▪ The PSNE shall advocate with other actors, including governments, to galvanize support to people with protection concerns, including with other sectors where necessary. ▪ The PSNE will support the work of partners to ensure protection by presence, especially in deep field locations. 	
Child Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Capacity building of Community Based Structures for Child Protection actors across the BAY states. ▪ Train partners on the minimum MHPSS Package. ▪ Capacity building of CP AoR partners on trafficking of children, Community-based psychosocial support, Community-based Social and economic reintegration, contextualization of the CAAFAG tool kits and transitional Justice. ▪ Training of partners on Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) of Grave Violations against Children. ▪ Support training planned for L/NNGOs, CBOs & Community-based mechanisms by CP AoR & Partners based on assessed capacity needs/gaps. 	
GBV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provision of livelihood, skills acquisition, and empowerment interventions (WGGS, startup kits, dignity kits, trainings, and community sensitization). ▪ Organize community outreach and sensitization on GBV prevention and response and IEC materials development etc. ▪ Conduct needs assessments and GBV safety audits. 	
HLP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Training on Collaborative Dispute Resolution (CDR), Mediation and Negotiation, and HLP. ▪ Conduct HLP Community Forums and HLP Consultative Forums. ▪ HLP Exchange Visits. ▪ Support for Collaborative Dispute Resolution Structures. ▪ HLP Awareness and Information Sessions. ▪ Counseling Sessions on HLP. ▪ Legal Advice on HLP. 	

MA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mine action activities to be delivered by trained and accredited implementing partners, including the use of community volunteers and facilitators as well as enhancing reporting and referral mechanisms for victims of explosive ordnance. 	
Strategic 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.		
General Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Capacity building (protection actors, humanitarian actors, government actors): training of Protection actors on Protection Risk Analysis and other technical protection issues; targeted training of local leaders and government actors as primary duty bearers for protection system strengthening and enhanced compliance with international standards and targeted training and guidance for humanitarian partners on protection mainstreaming based on recognized sector standards to ensure safe and inclusive programming in line with the do-no-harm principle. ▪ Train Community based protection networks and meetings of protection partners with CBPN members and with local stakeholders to discuss prevalent protection risks and solutions (referral, liaison with other actors etc.). ▪ Prepare advocacy notes and other forms of advocacy to ensure durable solutions to internal displacement and Protection concerns throughout the Government led relocation and other solutions process. ▪ Ensure that protection issues related to the military are brought to the attention of the Theater Commander through the CMCoord team. ▪ Joint missions will be undertaken by the sector and sub-sector leads to the LGAs for support and capacity enhancement. ▪ The Protection Sector coordinates with the government to support the implementation of the National IDP policy. 	
Child Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to work on the Food Security/ Livelihood and CP Initiative for more integrated programming across the two sectors. ▪ GBV and CP integration Programming. ▪ Education and Child Protection integrated programing. ▪ Develop advocacy notes for the prevention of early child marriage jointly with GBV AoR and the Anti-trafficking in persons taskforces. ▪ Review of the capacity needs assessment for the CP AoR. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Capacity building of partners on community feedback mechanisms. 	
<p>GBV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct training and capacity-building initiatives on GBV /Gender mainstreaming, PSEA, etc. ▪ Strengthen linkages with PSEA TF with trainings of GBV SS partners on PSEAH, and development of joint communication strategy on PSEA/GBV with joint key messages and IEC material. ▪ Strengthen linkages with the Protection Sector, Child Protection, Education, WASH, Nutrition, Health, and Food Security on developing workplan 2024 and joint advocacy notes and key messages. ▪ Inclusion of GBV in Education Curriculum with Education Sector and Ministry of Education and MOSWD. ▪ Advocate the inclusion of budgets in development plans and frameworks with the Education Sector and MOSWD/MOE. 	
<p>HLP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support for Processing Customary Certificates of Occupancy. ▪ Support for Processing Ward Head Land Documents. ▪ Opening and Closure of HLP Cases. ▪ HLP Dialogues. 	
<p>MA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide mine action technical advice to the national mine action sector and other governmental organizations. ▪ Advocacy for mine action as a cross-cutting issue in durable solutions as well as in safe and dignified development activities. 	