INTRODUCTION

A Gender Based Violence Rapid assessment was conducted in Three camps in Borno state Nigeria, where several individuals and households have been displaced due to ongoing conflict between state actors and non-state armed groups.

The purpose of the study is to understand the major GBV risks and threats affecting women and girls, with the view to design adequate responses to meet urgent identified needs.

METHODOLOGY, LIMITATIONS AND CHALLENGES

The study employed a qualitative approach, implying that FGDs, observation and KII were the principal methods of data collection. In total, three locations were targeted for this study. Namely; Teachers Village IDP Camp, Maiduguri, Stadium IDP Camp and The Reception Center, Arabic Camp, Ngala LGA of Borno state.

For each of the locations visited, Focus Group Discussions were held with Women, Men, Adolescent Girls and Boys. Each group had between 10 to 12 participants.

A key Challenge experienced during the study was the lack of a private location to conduct interviews. In Ngala, women were hesitant to speak up due to the lack of privacy within the camp.

Furthermore, due to the poor living conditions of women at the reception center Ngala, many women interviewed were reluctant to discuss issues regarding GBV and were rather laying emphasis on the lack of food and shelter. However, in all the locations visited, the Assessment Team found that Adolescent girls and Men were generally more open to discussing these issues.

KEY FINDINGS
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Teachers Village IDP Camp
Set up by the state government in January 2014, Teachers Village was originally created as accommodation for state teachers. However, the site quickly became home to thousands of individuals fleeing the Violence in Borno State.

As at October 2018, the camp population was 8,605 individuals. The maximum capacity of the camp is 10,000 individuals. However, following several incidents of violence and mass displacement in late 2018, over 20,000 displaced persons have been absorbed into the camp bringing the total camp population to more than 31,000 individuals. Majority are women and children. As expected, there is urgent need of humanitarian assistance, especially food, shelter, WASH, and protection-related services. Despite the presence of many humanitarian actors in this location, the response remains inadequate to meet the growing needs. As at February 2019, the total number of new arrivals in Teachers Village were 22,414 people (OCHA 2019).

At the time of writing this report over 1800 HH had been relocated to stadium camp. While the camp has been decongested to some extent, there are still apeople in the camps with no access to shelters and other essential services.

MAJOR RISKS AFFECTING WOMEN AND GIRLS

Sexual violence

Sexual violence has been identified as a major threat for Women and Girls especially at night when making use of latrines and showers. Most cases of sexual harassment are perpetrated by men and boys within the camp. Majority of the respondents revealed that having men peep at them while using latrines and showers was a common practice. The situation is further compounded by the absence of lighting in the camp. Women and Girls generally said they would feel safer if they had torchlights.
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Sexual assault of Girls at water points is a major threat reported. The perpetrators are usually boys in the community. Furthermore, inadequate shelters in the camps compels many IDPs to sleep outside. This further exposes women and girls to the risk of sexual violence by other men within the camp. In some cases, women reported having their blankets seized from them at night by other male IDPs.

Married women are generally considered safer in the camps because they have some form of protection from their husbands.

**Domestic Violence**

Majority of the respondents reported physical abuse towards women to be happening a lot in the camp. No services for survivors. Women generally report cases of domestic violence to community leaders who mediate between the parties.

**RESPONSE AND SERVICES AVAILABLE**

- On perceptions of rape survivors, majority of the responders reported that a girl will be blamed if she experienced sexual violence. The communities were likely to see her as wayward or irresponsible. This could explain why cases of sexual violence remain underreported in this location.
- On where to report cases, FGDs revealed that the community leaders were the first point of contact when these issues occur. The legal system was regarded by participants as dysfunctional, hence perpetrators are likely to go free even if reported to the authorities.
- WASH facilities such as latrines and showers are in deplorable conditions. There is no clear gender demarcations, and many have spoilt or broken doors.
- While there is a safe space for women and girls located within the camp, respondents were generally ignorant of what services are available or how to access those services.

**Reception Center, Arabic Camp, Ngala**

Located in North East Nigeria, Ngala is a local Government Area of Borno state. It is home to several IDPs fleeing violence from Armed Groups. Following a deadly attack on Rann,
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a community in Kala Balge LGA of Borno state, several people were displaced, many of who are taking refuge in NGALA.

Between the months of January to March 2019, 651 newly arrived households have been received at the reception center in Ngala.

The increased presence of new arrivals is stretching thin the capacity of humanitarian organizations to respond to urgent needs. At the time of the assessment, many respondents reported not having shelters and having to sleep out in the open.

Furthermore, it was reported that Military operations are currently ongoing in surrounding communities and large numbers of new arrivals are expected, as more areas are liberated.

GBV risks For Women and Girls in Ngala

Rape and Sexual Assault

Similar to Teachers Village IDP camp, sexual violence appears to be the major GBV risk affecting women and especially girls. Many of the Adolescent girls interviewed raised concerns about feeling unsafe because men would follow and attempt to rape, or sexually assault them. This occurs both during the day and night, and mostly when they go out to fetch water or firewood. The Civilian Joint Task Force and Military personnel are mostly the perpetrators of this violence.

Girls who are abused are often stigmatized by the community and perceived as irresponsible.

Sexual exploitation

FGD reveals that Girls are vulnerable to sexual exploitation largely due to difficult economic conditions. Again, security forces are the main perpetrators of this violence. There is no where to report these cases and perpetrators go unpunished, given that security forces are the perpetrators.

Services and responses.
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- The Condition of WASH facilities in the camps are deplorable. There is no gender segregation as both men and women use the same latrines and showers, exposing women to the risk of Gender Based Violence.
- No lighting in the camp.
- The Market is considerably far from the community and IDPs must travel outside Ngala to Gamboru, often walking long distances, to purchase essential commodities, hence, exposing them to more risks of been assaulted, raped etc.
- Water points are inadequate to meet the growing needs in the camp. Women often travel long distance in search of water, further exposing them to the risk of Gender Based Violence. Incidents of sexual assault happen frequently at the water points.
- Women are generally ignorant of where to seek help for cases of gender-based violence.

KEY FINDINGS AT STADIUM IDP CAMP

Stadium camp is newly established and currently houses about 8,433 individuals. Women reported feeling generally safe within the camps during the day. However, at night there were fears of going out due to poor lighting and snakes within the camp. Some reported being afraid of accessing latrines at night because they were far from the shelters in some areas in the camp.

Sexual Violence
FGDs revealed that the key GBV risks facing women and girls is rape and sexual assault. This is mostly perpetrated by security Personnel especially the civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF). In addition, in some areas of the camp, Sexual violence frequently occurs at water points and Boys within the camp are the perpetrators of this violence.

Emotional Violence and denial of resources
The CJTF who are responsible for ensuring security within the camps have been identified as a major threat against women and girls. Women reported experiencing threats and intimidation from security personnel. They would often intimidate and restrict their movements within the camps. There is no where to report such cases, as when reported, the victim could be targeted and restricted from accessing essential services within the camp.
INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE.

Women reported intimate partner violence to be happening a lot in the camps. They further said that IPV has been on the increase following the insurgency. Difficult living conditions heighten tensions and conflicts in the home. They requested for a private space to discuss further as Domestic issues were not to be discussed openly.

Responses

- On Perceptions of survivors of violence is generally negative. She is likely to be perceived as wayward. Some Girls who have experienced Sexual violence are also physically assaulted. FGDs reported that when a girl is identified as a survivor of Sexual rape, Boys will push her and call her names. This often happens at the water points.

- When asked about where to report cases, women and Girls were generally ignorant. They would generally reach out to their parents or other women in the community for support. Adolescent girls and Divorcees were considered mostly at risk of being targeted.

Recommendations

1. Improve the safety of women and Girls through lighting, provision of torch lights (at least two per household to enable women have access to one, as men often always use the torch light in the home) and other safety mechanisms such as lock in the latrines and Showers. This can be achieved through advocacy with and support from WASH actors.

2. Better coordination among partners in these locations to ensure that referral pathways for services are developed and shared with the communities and ensuring also that thorough awareness raising on these services is done for all individuals.

3. Provision of Material support (dignity kits) to Women and Girls. This also includes menstrual hygiene management kits as most women separately disclosed lack of these materials.

4. Ongoing GBV case management is required, to ensure access specialised GBV services promptly.
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5. Establish safe spaces for women and girls separate from general space where almost every meeting is held with different individuals.

6. Engage and train security forces on SEA and work closely with security actors at different level to put mechanism in place to address this.