



Nigeria: Borno State

Weekly Situation Report No. 4

As of 5 July 2021

This report is compiled by OCHA Nigeria in collaboration with humanitarian partners.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Government and health partners rollout major polio vaccination in Monguno LGA with 191,000 doses
- Civilians commence wet season farming activities across locations defying risks of attacks as lean season gets underway
- Over 25,000 people received vital water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) kits in Gwoza LGA to mitigate risks of disease outbreaks during the rainy season
- More than 200 new arrivals from high-risk locations arrive at Bama camp
- High-level engagements are ongoing to resolve the suspension of a major INGO partner
- Nutrition partners reached over 4,000 women and children with vital supplies in Bama LGA
- Civilian safety concerns increase in Damboa LGA as armed groups maintain presence along critical access routes

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Government and health partners rollout a polio vaccination campaign in Monguno LGA with 191,000 doses

Borno State Ministry of Health (SMoH) and health partners rolled out a major polio vaccination campaign this week targeting all eligible children across camps and communities in Monguno local government area (LGA). An estimated 191,000 doses of oral poliomyelitis vaccines (OPVs) were released by the SMoH as partners ramped up awareness activities including house-to-house engagements to ensure those targeted for vaccination receive it. Although Nigeria was certified polio-free in August 2020, partners continue to support the Government with routine vaccination activities, especially in the conflict-affected north-east region, where access constraints continue to impede critical health services. These routine mop-up immunization campaigns are necessary in order to prevent a resurgence of polio in these areas.

Civilians commence wet season farming activities across locations defying risks of attacks as the lean season begins

Civilian populations across communities are gearing up to take advantage of the rainy season to engage in agricultural activities despite risks of attacks by non-state armed group (NSAG) operatives. Governor Babagana Zulum in recent days reopened several farming routes including in Molai, Dalwa, Konduga and Maiduguri-Damboia road near Maiduguri, the state capital, noting that food cultivation, despite ongoing insecurity, is critical to avert catastrophic food insecurity in the State. All farming routes in Monguno LGA closed for more than three

years due to insecurity were reopened this week. IDPs in Damboa LGA started moving out to farming areas, with some running into gunmen along the routes. Some 1.2 million people, mostly in Borno, are projected to face alarming levels of food insecurity during the lean season (June – August) in the conflict-affected north-east region. A high-level mission of ambassadors of leading donor countries visited the state on 23 June and emphasized the need for the urgent scale-up of food and nutrition assistance as the north-east region enters a critical phase. An in-country task force, jointly led by Government and partners has been formed in response to the threat of catastrophic food insecurity. The Taskforce has begun response efforts in vulnerable communities, ensuring a multi-sectoral approach to averting hunger in hard-to-reach and unreached communities in the north-east.

Over 29,000 people reached with vital nutrition supplies and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) kits in Gwoza and Bama LGAs

As part of measures to mitigate the risks of water-borne diseases, including cholera, during the rainy season, WASH partners during the week supported over 5,000 IDP and host community households in Gwoza LGA with vital supplies including soaps, chlorines, aqua tabs, knapsack sprayers among others. Flooding risk awareness programmes emphasizing treatment of water and waste management to avoid blockage of drainages are ongoing across camps and communities in the area. In neighbouring Bama LGA, nutrition partners reached some 4,000 women and children with vital supplies and services including blanket supplementary feeding programme (BSFP), also reaching pregnant and lactating women (PLW). Partners are following up with awareness sessions to ensure proper use of the nutrition supplies to prevent abuse or misuse.

Over 200 new arrivals from high-risk locations reach Bama LGA camp

Some 203 people, mostly women and children from high-risk locations in Dikwa and Kala-Balge LGAs, arrived in Bama LGA during the week and are undergoing military screening at the LGA reception center. Partners at the Government Secondary School (GSS) camp are on standby to register and provide the new arrivals with initial multi-sectoral assistance particularly food, shelter, NFIs, WASH, health and protection services. Similar arrivals were registered in previous weeks, most of them rescued during ongoing military counter-operations in high-risk areas. With the lean season now underway, there are growing concerns for over 1 million people still trapped in high-risk locations across the north-east, especially in Borno State, which may be the worst affected by the looming threat of extreme food insecurity.

Civilian safety concerns in Damboa LGA as armed groups maintain presence along key routes

Civilian safety concerns continue to mount in Damboa LGA where NSAG operatives have maintained illegal vehicle checkpoints (IVCP) at key supply routes including the Damboa-Biu and Damboa-Chibok roads almost on a daily basis for over three weeks. At least two civilians were killed and others wounded during recent clashes in the LGA, while commuters were routinely stopped at IVCPs and asked to show identity documents before being allowed to continue their journey. The heightened presence of NSAGs could potentially impact aid operations, including the movement of cargo along the supply routes. This will have dire implications for IDPs and other affected populations in the LGA who rely on critical services being provided by humanitarian partners, who use these routes to access these communities.

Ongoing high-level engagements to resolve suspension of major INGO partner

The humanitarian leadership is engaging with the State government leadership in order to resolve a misunderstanding surrounding a routine staff safety simulation exercise that resulted in the suspension of a major INGO on 26 June. The agency, which ranks among the largest international NGO partners providing critical assistance and services to affected populations including in high-risk locations across the region, issued a public statement to clarify and correct the initial account of the story disseminated over credible national media outlets and social media. The statement reiterated that security/safety simulations are standard practices in high-risk contexts, emphasizing that staff do not carry weapons at any point during the exercise or in conducting humanitarian activities. The suspension of the NGO activities has impacted essential services in IDP camps in

Monguno and Maiduguri, as well as the suspension of food distribution for up to 74,000 people in urgent need of food for the next two months.

Coordination

The OCHA-led Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) commenced preparations for the 2022 Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC) with a workshop for sector coordinators and information management officers during the week. The workshop reviewed the 2021 process, explored new changes in the enhanced tools for 2022 and provided an overview of the various components and timelines to build commitment and joint understanding amongst sector partners with the goal of moving towards a seamless rollout of the HNO and HRP.

Gaps

Worsening insecurity, marked by the upsurge of attacks, continues impact the operating environment, further shrinking the humanitarian footprint in the north-east. This is detrimentally impacting the humanitarian response, including the implementation of preparedness measures to mitigate impacts of flooding and risks of disease outbreaks, such as cholera, during the rainy season. More than 200 IDP households directly affected in recent flash flooding incidents in Dikwa LGA – where partners were forced to reduce their presence since mid-April due to multiple attacks – are still without assistance. Ongoing response to disease outbreaks, including measles, have also been impacted by access challenges as many affected areas are still hard to reach for vaccination teams. Although partners and the Government are deploying specialized hard-to-reach (HTR) and Rapid Response (RRT) teams to deliver critical health services in some of the high-risk areas, flooding along major routes could worsen the access challenges in the coming months with locations like Rann town, near the border with Cameroon, likely to be the worst affected.

Funding Overview

Out of \$1.0 billion required for the 2021 humanitarian response in north-east Nigeria, \$503 million is required for Borno State.



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