This report is produced by OCHA Nigeria in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period November to December 2019. The next report will be issued in March 2020.

Overview

Despite many security incidents recorded during the reporting period, there are no reports of significant displacement within Yobe State. New displaced people, however, continue to arrive from Borno state, particularly from riverine communities due to security concerns and difficult livelihood situation. Partners estimate that about 5,000 IDPs may have arrived to Geidam, Gashua and Nguru over the past two months from November to December 2019; most of whom arrived over the past two weeks in December. There are no community based structures to timely and reliably register and verify new arrivals for immediate support as all of the new arrivals settle in the host community. Partners are following up in coordination with SEMA to provide support.

The resumption of operations by Action Against Hunger (ACF) and Mercy corps (MC) has eased the pressure on the humanitarian community to respond to gaps created when the two organizations were banned by the military in October 2019.

While the capacity of organizations to respond to recovery/resilience needs has relatively improved, the fragile security environment in some of the return communities is limiting the full rollout of planned program.

Improved awareness and knowledge on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) is resulting in improved reporting of cases. Empowering and supporting community based organizations will further enhance reporting mechanism and response to reported cases. Increasing vulnerability, high unemployment among women and youth and limited access to basic social services is exacerbating the protection environment.

The new state government is refocusing its efforts to address gaps in key sectors such as education, agriculture and health. There is need for humanitarian and recovery partners to strengthen their sector and bilateral coordination efforts with the relevant line ministries for complementarity and avoid duplication.

Security, Access and CMCoord

On overall, humanitarian access has deteriorated in Yobe state in December 2019 compared to the situation in September/October 2019 due to the fragile security situation following sustained attacks and activities of NSAG.
targeting Damaturu town, Babanginda in Tarmua and Goneri in Gujba LGAs. There is fear that humanitarian workers are now targets by the non-state armed groups (NSAGs) and face risks of abduction and killings.

The security situation on the Damaturu to Maiduguri road and Damaturu to Gashua road has also deteriorated during this period. This is significantly affecting the delivery of programmes in the state as most organizations rely on technical support from Maiduguri-based technical teams. Most partners are now travelling via Kano to Abuja then to Maiduguri which takes up to two days to travel and has significantly increased travel cost. This is impacting on the timely delivery of some programmes.

**Coordination**

The state government continues to create a conducive working environment and provide support to facilitate humanitarian operation. A new Commissioner of Humanitarian Affairs has been appointed. A joint one-day humanitarian symposium was organized by the state government and humanitarian partners in December 2019 to review achievement, gaps and challenges faced by partners during the course of 2019. The state government issued letters of appreciation to all partners in recognition of their efforts in the provision of principled lifesaving support to vulnerable people in the state.

Gap in recovery and development coordination structure in the state remains a critical challenge. In 2020, there will be urgent need to streamline lifesaving efforts with resilience/ durable solutions efforts to strengthen complementarity.

**Population in Need**

People most in need of assistance continue to be the displaced population, especially the newly arrived persons from Borno state; the returnee population and vulnerable host community households. There is need for the sectors and partners to strengthen analysis on the challenges faced by IDP households access to basic social services at the host community level. There still remains challenges in targeting displaced persons at the community level, especially in relation to their access to community based services. There is also need to increase appropriate response to address the specific needs of persons with specific needs.

**Sectoral Situation Analysis**

**WASH**

There is no significant change in the WASH situation in the last three months. However, there is need for consolidated and reliable data that holistically highlights the status of WASH situation across the state. Lifesaving and recovery response efforts are not adequately being coordinated.
Nutrition

Yobe State nutrition status fares worse compared to that of Borno and Adamawa states. The State Ministry of Health hopes to increase community based efforts to rollout preventive measures by focusing on locally available knowledge and resources. This will be complemented by other services, including medical services. This needs to be coordinated with all related sectors.

Food Security and Livelihood

Food security situation still remains at critical level. Based on available data, the crop yield in 2019 is about the same as in 2018 despite the relative lower agricultural input support from humanitarian and recovery partners in 2019 compared to 2018\(^1\). In general, there is some slight increase in the annual yield of some rain-fed farm crops in Yobe state over the past 8 years from 2012-2019. This could be an indication of increasing capacity and participation of local farmers in farming activities. It is observed that women are relatively increasing their participation in farming, especially sesame and cowpeas cultivation during the rainy season. The number of farmers involved in seed production\(^2\) is also relatively increasing and performance was better this year compared to last year 2018 as per preliminary assessments. It is expected that the yield from dry season farming due in the first quarter of 2020 may be good as farmers benefit from residual moisture and silt from the flooded riverine areas. This will supplement the gaps from the rain season yield.

Key challenge to farming this year was flooding and insect infestation. About 2% of the total 1.09 million hectares of rain fed-farm land cultivated this year was affected by floods due to heavy rainfall. This impacted about 11,634 farmers across the state, particularly sesame and maize farmers.

The state government is working to revitalize the agricultural activities of Yobe. Immediate short term to medium term measures may include timely procurement and distribution of appropriate agricultural input; reactivation of seed multiplication activities across the state; reactivation of the fertilizer blending firms in Gujba; strengthening of market linkage across the state. timely livestock vaccination; revival of grazing reserving pasture management; water point reactivation; reactivation of vterinary clinics across the state; revival of apiculture (honey production); fisheries activities and desert control measures; The medium term measures include value addition measures such as rice meal; encouragement of agricultural machinery fabrication within the state; date farm plantation.

Camp Coordination Camp Management

There is no camp coordination mechanism in Yobe state as there are no formal camps; most IDPs are living in the host community and in informal settlements. Some returnee households in Gujba town in Gujba LGA are living in camp-like settlement because they could not access their original villages on the border area with Borno state due to security concerns.

Shelter/NFIs

Shelter needs of the newly arrived internally displaced persons (IDPs) as well as returnees remains a gap. There is currently limited capacity on ground to meet these needs. Most of the IDPs live among host communities, sharing accommodation, thus exerting pressure on the already limited shelter conditions of these vulnerable host community households.

\(^1\) According to ADP/Ministry of Agriculture data.
\(^2\) In collaboration with Food and Agricultural organization (FAO) and the International Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropic (ICRISAT), National Agricultural Seed Council of Nigeria and Yobe State Agricultural Development Program
**Education**

The state government is rolling out school feeding program. It has asked for support from partners to tap into the capacity and experience of the organizations. Partners are working with the State Ministry of Education to strengthen sector coordination which has remained weak.

**Protection**

Protection concerns that results from the direct impact of the conflict is gradually improving. Most of the prevailing concerns are mainly chronic in nature as well as those resulting from limited access to basic social services and support. There are already community-based protection structures in most critical areas across the state who are monitoring and taking preliminary action to address SGBV violations. Partners may need to continue to empower and support these groups and enhance reporting and response mechanism to address the needs of survivors. The state government may need to focus on environment building action in relation to reinstallation of protection infrastructure, especially in the return area areas; improved policies and laws to guarantee that rights of individuals are not violated.

**Health**

The State Ministry of Health focus is to improve primary health service delivery. The ministry, with the support from partners is in the process to rehabilitate and upgrade Primary Health Care Centers (PHCC) in the 178 wards. Some 99 PHCC out of the total 178 PHC centers across the state are now earmarked or already being rehabilitated and upgraded. According to the State Commissioner of Health, there are still gaps in resources required to rehabilitate and upgrade over 75 PHCC.

**Humanitarian/Development Nexus**

The absence of a recovery/development coordination structure in the state, is significantly limiting a consolidated understanding of the situation. A number of resilience/recovery and development programmes are not being rolled out by partners. There is need to map them to inform gaps analysis. Key recovery/development programs at the moment includes on-going state, Federal Government and World Bank-funded and partners implemented programmes. The European Union (EU) is funding a food security and resilience Programme implemented by a consortium comprising of Danish Refugee Council (DRC), COOPI and Mercy Corps (MC) which is being implemented in six LGAs, including Gujba, Gulani, Geidam, Yunusari, Damaturu need to be mapped and coordinated. While Mercy-Corps programme has been suspended by the security forces, the other members of the consortium i.e. COOPI and DRC continue to roll out their resilience programmes. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is about to implement a resilience Programme in Yunusari and Geidam LGAs.

**Key Recommendations**

- IOM, in coordination with SEMA to find mechanisms for continuous monitoring and verification of new displaced persons who arrive at the host community level to inform timely response.
- WASH sector to support the Ministry of Water resources to consolidate water resources data to inform gap analysis and response action.
- Urgent need to install a recovery/development coordination capacity in the state for appropriate linkage with the ongoing lifesaving programme.
- Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) to strengthen advocacy on the need for more donor resources to respond to recovery, resilience and development intervention in the state.