

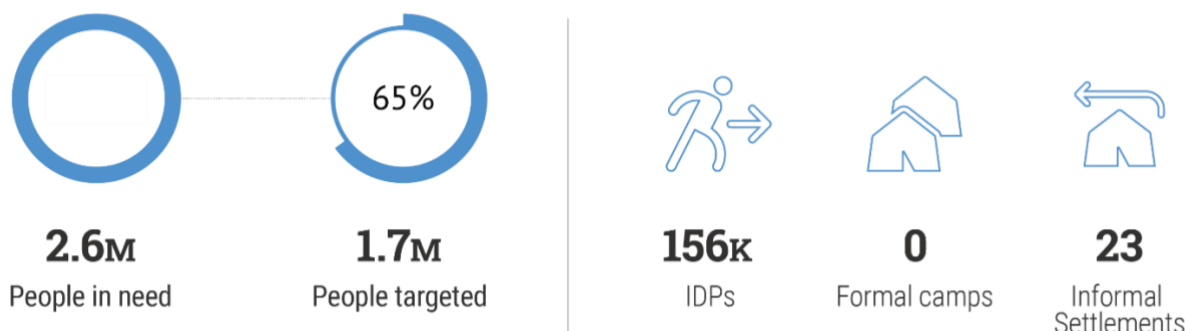


Nigeria: Yobe State

Weekly Situation Report No. 7

19 July 2021

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



Calculation of IDPs does not include recent displacements from Geidam and Yunusari Local Government Areas. Government estimates that about 54,000 IDPs from the two LGAs are still in the places of displacement across 11 LGAs in Yobe while an estimated 126,000 individuals have returned.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) commences regular flight operations linking Yobe state with Maiduguri, the north-east humanitarian response hub, ameliorating road access constraints.
- At least two civilians including a child were wounded in crossfire during an armed clash between non-state armed groups (NSAGs) and government forces in Gujba Local Government Area (LGA).
- Over 100 homes destroyed and a cemetery submerged by flooding from heavy downpour in Gashua town, Bade LGA, raising concerns of disease outbreak.
- Government and health partners conclude COVID-19 second dose vaccination across 17 LGAs; testing services stalled for five weeks due to unavailability of vital kits.
- Partners scale-up rainy season agricultural support, adopting inclusive approach to empower female-headed households.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

UNHAS commences regular flight operations linking Yobe State with Maiduguri

On 14 July UNHAS commenced regular flight operations linking Maiduguri, the Borno state capital and hub of the ongoing humanitarian response across the north-east region, to Damaturu, the Yobe state capital. The flights will ease movement of aid staff and light cargo between the two locations. The air access followed months of high-level engagements with government and military high command led by OCHA and partners. Heightened violence, including NSAG attacks and illegal vehicle checkpoints (IVCPs) targeting civilians and aid workers, prompted the suspension of UN and several INGO's staff movement along the 140-kilometer Maiduguri-Damaturu highway since late 2020. Between December 2020 and January 2021 alone, dozens of civilians, including two aid staff were abducted at IVCPs along the road. Alternative access routes from Maiduguri to Damaturu have increased operational costs and travel times for aid agencies. The mass displacement of some 180,000 people in Geidam and Yunusari LGAs of Yobe following NSAG attacks in April/May has triggered massive needs, making access critical for partners to sustain and scale-up multi-sectoral assistance.

Two civilians wounded in deadly armed clash between NSAG and government forces in Gujba LGA

At least two civilians, a woman and her child, were hit by stray bullets during a deadly armed clash between NSAG operatives and government forces in Katarko community in Gujba LGA on 9 July. The wounded civilians are receiving treatment at a local hospital. The incident came barely three weeks after an INGO-run nutrition stabilization center and women's empowerment facility were targeted and looted by NSAGs in the LGA, disrupting critical services including the treatment of over 30 severely malnourished children. Gujba is a major return area where partners have been scaling up assistance and critical services to help returnees stabilize and restart their lives. The recent upsurge of violence targeting and affecting civilians and aid assets raises serious concerns, especially for the potential impact on aid operations and access to farming areas for civilians during the ongoing lean season.

Over 100 homes destroyed by flooding in Gashua town, Bade LGA, raising concerns for public health

Flash flooding from heavy downpours destroyed over 110 homes in a low-cost housing estate community in Gashua town in Bade LGA between 12 and 13 July, affecting some 150 families. A major cemetery in the area was also submerged by floodwater, damaging graves and washing up some recently interred corpses. The incident triggered public health safety concerns across the entire town, which is already facing risks of acute watery diarrhea (AWD). At least four lives have been claimed by AWD in neighboring Bursari LGA. LGA authorities and the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) are collating additional information on the extent of damages and the needs of the affected population. OCHA is on standby to mobilize operational partners to respond if necessary.

Government and health partners conclude COVID-19 second dose vaccination across 17 LGAs

The Yobe State Primary Health Care Development Board (SPHCDB) with support from health partners completed the administration of the second dose of COVID-19 vaccinations across all 17 LGAs, reaching some 18,866 people. The coverage represents 64 per cent of the 29,528 people reached with the first dose some three months earlier. Partners continue to intensify awareness messaging including myth busters to correct misconceptions and propaganda as part of efforts to encourage populations to receive the vaccine. Federal health authorities will in the coming weeks confirm the dates for the next round of vaccinations for all states, including Yobe.

Partners scale up rainy season agricultural support, adopting inclusive approach to empower female-headed households

There is a scale-up of agricultural support to enable IDPs and other vulnerable populations across the state to take advantage of ongoing rainy season to cultivate crops. As part of this, livelihoods partners led by Mercy Corps are adapting measures to ensure inclusion and empowerment of women in agricultural programming. During the week, the agency conducted a training for 30 women on a “farmers’ field pool” across Damaturu and Potiskum LGAs. The training aims to encourage and equip women with modern agricultural skills and resources, including small tools and seeds, as part of empowerment for self-reliance.

Gaps

COVID-19 testing services have been stalled for five weeks due to the unavailability of reagents at the Yobe State molecular laboratory. Some 1,472 samples collected in the state in recent weeks were sent to the national reference laboratory in Abuja, the country’s capital, and are awaiting results. The situation has raised concerns about possible cases going undetected and spreading across communities, especially as national health authorities have issued alerts of an imminent third wave of COVID-19 in the country. Health and WASH partners are following up with the government to address the situation and ensure resumption of state-level testing services as soon as possible.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Early Recovery

Response:

- Some 50 community leaders and representatives from Damaturu and Potiskum LGAs were trained on conflict mediation and negotiation skills by Mercy Corps as part of a strategy to build community resilience and peaceful co-existence across return areas. The aim is to help the participants cope with the shocks and stress of the crisis and mitigate the risk of future conflicts.

Education

Needs:

- Following the destruction of critical education assets, including schools, by NSAGs during attacks in Geidam and Yunusari LGAs in April/May, education in emergency (EiE) activities and services are urgently needed in the affected communities. This is especially needed as displaced populations, including children, continue to return.

Response:

- International Rescue Committee (IRC) conducted a workshop for *Tsangaya* (Islamic education) clerics to collate views and ideas to guide response planning, including protection services, for out-of-school children.
- This week Save the Children International (SCI) launched a school enrollment drive with the theme “education for crisis-affected girls”. It targeted some 25,000 school-aged girls in Damaturu LGA, who will receive support with vital school supplies including learning materials and uniforms.

- The sector is intensifying engagement with relevant stakeholders at the state and LGA levels to scale up EiE response in the areas where ongoing violence has impacted learning facilities.

Food Security

Needs:

- SEMA reported that communities in northern Yobe are in urgent need of food intervention due to depleted food stocks and general deterioration of food security. The situation has been aggravated by the risks of NSAG attacks impeding livelihood activities, including access to farming areas.

Response:

- COOPI, through its WFP-funded projects, provided food assistance to some 37,000 beneficiaries in Damaturu LGA through a general food distribution (GFD) programme. Nutrition assistance including blanket supplementary feeding programme (BSFP) was also provided for some 7,802 under-2 children and 12,623 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) in the same LGA. In Jakuso LGA, 137,000 vulnerable people received food through similar GFD.
- Care International, a WFP implementing partner, is conducting market assessments in Bade and Yusufari LGAs in preparation for an e-voucher distribution exercise. Mobilization and sensitization of beneficiaries are also ongoing across target communities in Yusufari LGA, where similar cash voucher assistance will be implemented in the coming weeks.

Health

Needs:

- Flooding from heavy downpour exhumed some corpses from a community cemetery and has triggered public health concerns in Gashua town. A particular worry is that water points and sources across the community may have been contaminated by the incident. Gashua is classified among the cholera hotspots based on mapping by the state rapid response team (RRT), and cases of AWD have been reported in neighbouring Bursari LGA in recent weeks. The Yobe State Ministry of Health (SMoH) has deployed RRT teams to assess risks in the affected areas and health partners are mobilizing preparedness and response mechanisms for deployment to prevent an outbreak.

Response:

- Yobe SPHCMB, in collaboration with the WHO hard-to-reach (HTR) teams, UNICEF and other partners conducted mass community awareness and sensitization activities on COVID-19 risk and prevention, reaching some 14,649 people across LGAs this week.

Nutrition

Needs:

- Yobe SPHCMB highlighted the need to rehabilitate damaged primary health care facilities in Yunusari and Gujba LGAs to enable the resumption and scale-up of community-based management of acute malnutrition and out-patient therapeutic programme (OTP) services.

Response:

International Rescue Committee (IRC) facilitated the delivery of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) and drugs to 22 health facilities across Damaturu, Gujba and Gulani LGAs. Information and awareness materials including roll-up banners and handbills were distributed across the three LGAs to guide parents on positive nutrition practices including infant and young child feeding (IYCF).

Protection

Response:

- As part of a strategy to strengthen women's protection and empowerment services, IRC distributed dignity kits to 20 girls and household kits to 50 women in Nayinawa community of Damaturu LGA. Training was also facilitated for 16 beneficiaries on the "engaging men through accountable practices" programme in Gujba and Damaturu LGAs.

GBV Sub-Working Group (GBV)

Needs:

- The violence against persons prohibition (VAPP) Act is not yet domesticated in Yobe State. Due to the delay, most survivors of violent acts withdraw from ongoing investigations or do not explore legal redress options due to financial costs, which the VAAP seeks to address. Sector partners continue to follow up with government lead agencies and other stakeholders for timely domestication of the act to ensure legal protection for survivors.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- As the rainy season gathers momentum and flash flooding incidents on the rise, there is a need for the general scale-up of hygiene promotion/sensitization campaigns to mitigate the risks of cholera and AWD outbreaks across vulnerable locations including Bade, Nguru, Damaturu and Karasuwa LGAs.

Response:

- IRC distributed 10 waste management kits across Gabai, Dadingel, Meleri, and Nyakere towns in Geidam, Gujba and Damaturu LGAs this week as part of efforts to ensure proper waste management to mitigate risks of blockage of water channels, which could worsen flooding incidents during the rainy season.

Funding Overview

Out of the \$1.0 billion required for the 2021 humanitarian response in north-east Nigeria, \$272 million is required for Yobe State.



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