



PROTECTION MONITORING REPORT KATSINA, SOKOTO AND ZAMFARA

3 - 15 January 2021





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Executive Summary

Struggle for control of natural resources, including mines, water resources and pasture pitting between herders and farmers metamorphosed into communal clashes, conflict, banditry and criminality causing forced displacement into rural areas of Northwest (NW) of Nigeria mainly in Zamfara, Katsina and Sokoto states, has led to an estimated 8,000 fatalities¹, 70,000 Nigerian refugees² have crossed into Niger Republic, scattered in about 20 villages in Maradi region and there are 186,820 in the 3 affected states.

From 3 to 15 January 2021, UNHCR in collaboration with National Commission for Refugees, Migrant and Internally displaced persons (NCFRMI) and Grassroot Initiative to Strengthen Community Resilience (GISCOR) conducted a joint protection assessment mission in order to identify the protection concerns of the IDPs inside the camps, camp like settings and host community in Sokoto, Zamfara and Katsina States. The joint protection assessment targeted mainly the places of displacement because of banditry. This protection monitoring mission is a follow up to the last UNHCR-NCFRMI joint assessment missions undertaken in Sokoto, Zamfara and Katsina States in July-August 2019, and in December 2019.

Mission Objectives

The main objective of this mission was to undertake a follow-up protection monitoring assessment on the current situation of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) and their host communities to identify the current protection concerns, ongoing interventions of government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to eventually address the identified gaps, challenges, and make recommendations for the assessed humanitarian needs including opportunities for humanitarian-development-peace-nexus.

The joint protection assessment was conducted at following affected locations in:

Katsina – 10 local government areas (Batagarawa, Batsari, Danmusa, Dutsinma, Faskari, Jibia, Kankara, Katsina, Kurfi, and Safana Local Government Areas (LGAs))

Sokoto – 8 LGAs (Bodinga, Dange-Shuni, Goronyo, Isa, Rabah, Sabon Birni, Sokoto North and Tambuwal LGAs) and

Zamfara state – 11 LGAs (Anka, Bakura, Bukkuyum, Bungudu, Gusau, Kaura Namoda, Maradun, Maru, Shinkafi, Tsafe and Zurmi LGAs).

¹ Crisis Group Africa 18 May 2020

² UNHCR Niger, this includes 41,538 registered and 28,462 not yet registered refugees

Methodology

The joint protection assessment was conducted by using a combination of Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), focus group discussions (FGDs), and observations. The KIIs targeted 50 individuals per location covering displaced and host community members with different roles, head of households, traditional and religious leaders, local authorities, community volunteers, female and youth leaders, and humanitarian workers. The FGDs were administered to group of men and women, including persons with specific needs taking into consideration the age, gender, and the diversity approaches. The FGD questions were divided into different sections covering displacement and general protection, safety and security, child protection, sexual and gender-based violence, livelihoods, and access to basic services. The assessment was conducted in three states inside the camps and host communities.

Limitations

- The unstable and fragile security situation has limited the undertaking of the assessment in host communities to the Local Government Areas (LGA) capitals, which are accessed via major routes, and it also limited the time that could be spent at each location. This impacted the aim to achieve the target of 50 KIIs per location.
- In some host communities the teams were not able to meet up with the displaced male members as they were out in search of or engaged in livelihood activities, only the female members were available for the assessment. Furthermore, the assessment could not obtain the total number of displaced persons in the states as of January 2021. As the State authorities' records are not updated nor consolidated.

Security Overview

- The security situation remains fluid and unpredictable in parts of Zamfara, Katsina and Sokoto States, especially in the locations at the state borders, and also at locations near the forest reserves of Ruma and Kuyambana at the border between Nigeria and Niger Republic. ACLED³ recorded 360 incidents with 1,979 fatalities in the three states between January 2020 to January 2021, as result of banditry and counter-offensive activity by Nigerian Forces.
- Currently there is ongoing joint military operations (Operation Sahel Sanity) in the region to stop banditry, kidnapping and cattle rusting. The military established a super camp in Faskari LGA and are planning an Airforce operational base in Funtua LGA of Katsina State.
- Movement within the affected areas are of high risk and are limited to LGA capitals which are relatively safe with exception of a few and are generally accessed through

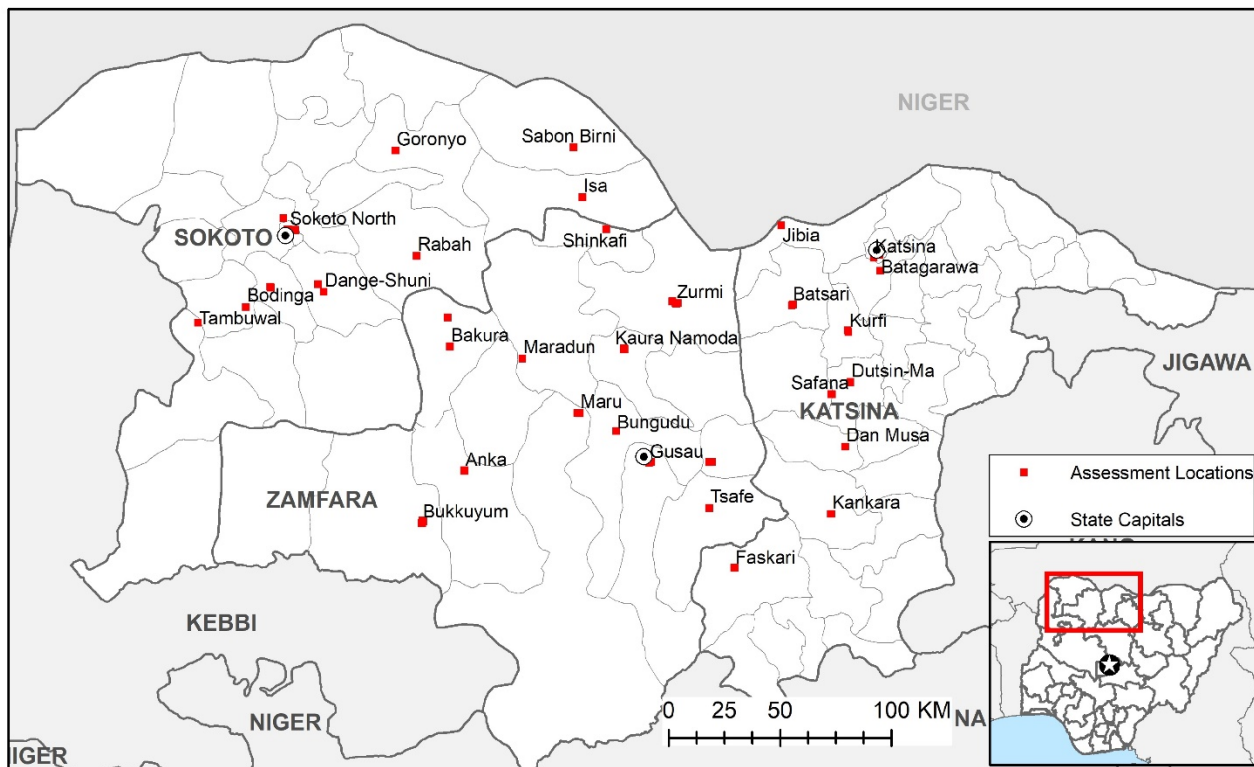
³ Armed Conflict Location and Events Data (ACLED) – Incidents Breaks; Katsina 205, Zamfara 132, Sokoto 23



paved roads safe at day time, however engagement with local authorities advised against accessing remote locations few kilometers away from the capital towns.

- In most locations visited it was evident that residents have formed vigilante groups to provide security, the vigilante groups **carry locally made guns and other forms of arms for self-defense.**
- In Zamfara State which is the epicenter of the crisis the Government is involved in dialogue with some factions of the NSAGs, as alternative approach to reach a cease-fire and end the insecurity. While this is yielding positive results in some parts of the state including in facilitating the release of kidnapped persons, other areas outside the jurisdiction of the repentant NSAGs and neighboring states of Katsina and Sokoto reported experiencing increased attacks. Similar peace agreement was attempted in Katsina State, but it later collapsed.
- The Federal Government policy towards creating grazing reserves to settle cattle herders, provide infrastructures like schools, health, markets as an alternative to migratory cattle rearing which leads to community clashes between herders-farmers is being promoted by Zamfara state government as a peace instrument. However, to address the urgent needs in the short term there is need for humanitarian actors to provide lifesaving assistance in the affected states. There is no indication of hostility against humanitarian actors as evidenced in the presence of MSF Spain and MSF Netherlands in Anka and Shinkafi LGAs respectively. The need to closely engage with the state authorities on planned intervention however is very key to align such interventions with the realities and the priorities on ground.

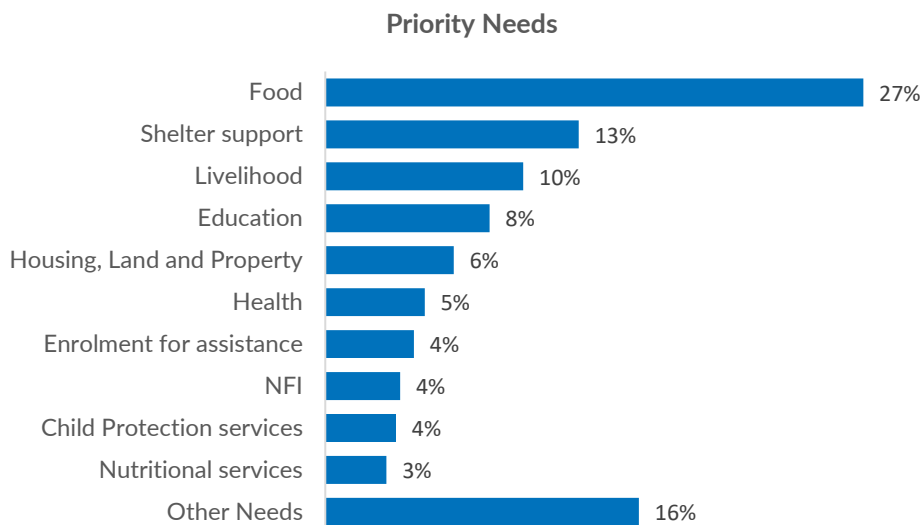




Sources of Data: UNHCR, OSGOF Creation Date: January 2021. Feedback: nigabim@unhcr.org
Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown, and the designation used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Overview of findings

- The overview below shows the priority needs as highlighted from the KII undertaken in the three states:



Click to see details of the specifics [Katsina](#), [Sokoto](#), [Zamfara](#).

- The lack of government presence in remote villages also leaves the affected population within reach of the NSAGs with reports of people being used as human shields.
- There are reported cases of human rights violations including killings, kidnappings, abductions, and torture resulting in trauma, displacement, and loss of livelihoods.
- Cases of SGBV are often under-reported due to social concerns most survivors and their family opt not to speak up for fear of being identified and stigmatized.
- Findings from the assessment indicates that the closure of camps led to secondary movement, IDPs moved to host communities as the security situation that triggered their displacement persists therefore making it impossible for them to return to their areas of origin.
- The insecurity continues to cause force displacement and results in daily movements to access safer locations to spend the night, majority of the displaced are in host communities that can barely sustain the increased needs.
- Shelter conditions in camps and out of camps are below standards, congested, majority of the displaced populations live in makeshift shelters without basic facilities.
- There is a lack of protection partners to provide key services including, protection data, psychosocial support, referrals, case management and follow-up services.
- Shortage of latrines in camps and host communities expose the affected populations to health and protection risks with majority using makeshift toilets and open defecation.
- Lack of livelihoods limiting access to basic services including health and education due to inability to pay for medications and school dues.
- The dialogue with the NSAGs can help bring the conflict to an end, the affected population stated the need for other conflict-resolution initiatives including disarmament as a condition for return, and their participation in ongoing discussion with the NSAGs
- The rugga settlement initiative (hybrid for cattle ranching, schools, medical facilities, markets) for herders can be used for conflict resolution by providing the NSAGs an alternative to crime and conflict.
- There is high expectations for assistance by the affected population and authorities considering the high needs and the number of times the assessment team has visited the locations, in addition there are other organizations conducting assessments in some of the locations thereby creating assessment fatigue among the affected population.

Key Protection Findings

1. Displacements

Majority of the displaced population are in host communities as the state governments discourage the encampment of IDPs. In Katsina State all camps were closed in November 2020, while in Zamfara State a couple of camps exists in Gusau LGA (Mada Ward) and Anka where new camp-like settings are being established due to new displacements. Camps also exists in Sokoto State.

Findings from the assessment indicates the closure of camps led to secondary movement, IDPs moved to host communities as the security situation that triggered their displacement persists therefore making it impossible for them to return to their areas of origin. Those who returned still embark on a pendular movement together with the non-displaced population to safer locations to spend the night only to return in the morning. During FGDs with a traditional leader while describing the situation back home he stated, *“Me and my entire council left, anyone that remained behind does not sleep there”*.

Majority of the IDPs had to walk, some for days, from their places of origin to their place of displacement with the vulnerable being the most affected especially the elderly, pregnant women, children, sick patients, and people with disabilities. During FGDs the IDPs mentioned incidents of miscarriages, cases of sexual harassment and exploitation by the NSAGs on the way to their places of displacement. Other concerns raised are family separations while fleeing. Attempts were made by some of the IDPs to return for farming activities during the rainy season, but the NSAGs seized their crops and chased them away.

The Displacement Tracking Matrix estimates the number of IDPs to be around 186,820⁴, Katsina (80,115), Zamfara (70,110) and Sokoto (36,595), between October 2020 to January 2021 more than 12,800⁵ additional people were displaced due to insecurity in the affected states. In addition to the IDPs an estimated 70,000 Refugees fled into the Niger Republic⁶.

⁴ DTM Round 4 for Northwest and Northcentral states published in October 2020, 90 per cent due to banditry

⁵ DTM Flash Reports 23 – 35 for Northwest and Northcentral States

⁶ UNHCR Niger

2. Human Rights Violations

During discussions with IDPs and different key informants including traditional leaders across the states they mentioned various forms of human rights violations committed by the NSAGs which include killings, injuries, kidnapping for ransom, abduction, torture, looting, forced labor, and rape. There were testimonies by men who were beaten, threatened with guns when they resisted attempts by the NSAGs to abduct their wives and daughters. A traditional leader lamented on how people are forced to cultivate their farmlands for the NSAGs or risk being tortured or even killed. The lack of government presence in remote villages also leaves the affected population within reach of the NSAGs and reports of people being used as human shields and being exploited. The assessment team also observed high cases of bullet wounds especially in parts of Katsina State in Faskari LGA, about 7 IDPs were treating bullets wounds and mentioned their family members are still being held pending the payment of ransom. In one ward in Zamfara State the registry of people affected by banditry in 2020 indicates 21 fatalities, 51 cases of kidnappings, 27 cases of gunshots, 154 victims of cattle rustling. Similar testimonies were given across the different locations that were accessed and assessed.



Victim of Kidnapping who suffered torture and inhumane treatment in the hands of the NSAGs, Faskari LGA, Katsina State. GISCOR/©Madu Inusa



Gunshots victims, Faskari LGA, Katsina State. UNHCR/©Umar Yusuf

3. Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

The risk of SGBV is high in all the areas where the assessment was conducted and in remote areas, during FGDs cases of SGBV were mentioned, in Isa LGA, the IDPs mentioned “how the NSAGs attacked their village, raped women and girls, killed their husbands in their presence while others were taken captive and only released after paying ransom of up to 2 million naira per person”. Women and girls cited daily chores and activities, including going to collect water, farm, firewood as sources of insecurity and factors contributing to rape and kidnapping incidents.



Shared Latrine, Faskari LGA, Katsina State. UNHCR/©Umar Yusuf

- In Goronyo it was reported that a woman was raped recently on her way coming from the farm by suspected NSAGs; in Shinkafi LGA of Zamfara where MSF Spain has presence, 247 cases of SGBV were treated in 2020 including children with some several times; cases are often under-reported due to social concerns most survivors

and their family rather not speak for fear of being identified and stigmatized, (as per 15% of KII responses in Zamfara, 14% in Katsina and 19% in Sokoto) which affects how the survivors and their families are treated within the society.

- In Zamfara 43% of the KII indicate not having any form of SGBV support services, the locations with the least access to services are in Maru and Zurmi LGAs. In Katsina State with 38% (Safana, Faskari and Jibia LGAs reporting the least access to services) and Sokoto 36% with Bodinga, Isa and Sabon Birni LGAs reporting the least access to services.
- Other concerns are lack of safe spaces for survivors as majority go back to where the violations occurred. The exception is Gandi IDP camp where UNFPA operates a safe space. In other locations case management ends with clinical management of rape, no follow-up and referral services are available to survivors.



KII identified harassment, abduction, kidnapping, forced marriage, domestic violence, and sexual abuse as the major significant problems facing women. Regarding increased SGBV incidents since the COVID-19 pandemic, 50% of KIIs in Zamfara and Sokoto responded yes, and 35% in Katsina. Female headed households whose men have either been killed, kidnapped, or are missing continue to face challenges of exploitation, harassment, rape, discrimination as well as livelihood challenges. This situation is made worse by the traditionally patriarchal nature of the communities where women struggle to engage in income generation and livelihood activities and provide for their children, most of whom are out of school.

Furthermore, most of the locations assessed in host communities did not have any latrines and expressed fear of going out in the night and where they exists they are not gender-segregated and in most cases are open without any doors, locks, lighting thereby increasing the risk of harassment and rape.

4. Child Protection

Majority of the children are out of school due to the inability of their parents to pay school fees in areas of displacement, and the high risk involved in walking to schools in remote areas made some of the children to dropout. Children are mostly engaged in hawking and begging to support their parents in meeting their basic needs. The assessment observed a number of orphans in different locations in Mada, Gusau LGA an estimated figure of about

100 orphans was mentioned with most engaging in hawking, similar accounts were given in Faskari in Katsina and Gandi in Sokoto, while in locations like Bungudu LGA, the community has setup an orphanage to provide support. The concerns raised during FGDs and with traditional leaders include fear of children growing with the intention to retaliate against what was done to them and to their parents and siblings. Young girls involved in fetching firewood are also exposed to different risks.

- Reports of children involved in banditry and carrying arms in Katsina State were also referenced in the FGDs. Parents complained about the stress their children go through as a result of daily movement to safer locations at night with some showing signs of behavioral change.
- There are also reports of unaccompanied minors in need of foster parents in Shinkafi LGA, and young breastfeeding mothers showing signs of malnutrition together with their children. The KIIs mentioned the major problems facing children as child labor, out of school children, unaccompanied and separated children, and early marriage.
- In Faskari LGA during FGDs they mentioned high rate of infant mortalities (estimated about 100 deaths) since their arrival 9 months ago however this needs to be further investigated.

5. Persons with Specific Needs (PSN)

The assessment identified different categories of PSN including elderly people and children that are chronically sick and unable to care for themselves, persons in need of family reunification, persons with disability including those sustained as a result of gunshots, and during FGDs some members of the community mentioned leaving people with mental disabilities behind with no one to cater for them, other categories mentioned include widows without means of livelihoods.

6. Freedom of Movement

Findings from the KIIs and FGDs indicate most people are able to move within their communities of displacement, the limitation is with external movement nearby with 43% of KIIs in Zamfara, 33% in Sokoto and 29% in Katsina mentioned not being able to move towards the outskirts of their communities due to fear of attack by the NSAGs. Other concerns raised through FGDs are informants within the communities that send information to the NSAGs on who to target as the reason why they only prioritize essential movements. Movement to other Wards and LGAs also have some constraints such as lack of public transportation in the remote areas due safety and security concerns, remote areas are highly volatile with some communities completely cut off due to damaged road bridges following the floods experienced in 2020, this limits access to services such as health that are only accessible in LGA capitals. There are reports of attacks and kidnappings while fetching firewood and accessing farmlands. In Isa, Sokoto State there is a 6:00 PM to 6:00 AM curfew and individuals caught moving face arrest by the Police.

7. Access to Justice

Concerns were raised during FGDs on the administration of justice including the manner in which cases involving suspected NSAGs and their informants cannot be tried within the jurisdiction of local courts where the NSAGs or the informants are arrested, as they are referred to states capital and after a while they are set free. Other concerns raised include threat by NSAGs when security forces visit a location, and the lack of permanent presence of security forces in remote areas leaves the administration of justice to the NSAGs, fear of reprisals when violations are reported to authorities and the NSAGs find out.

- While the affected population seemed to welcome the peace initiatives by the state governments, they complained they are not being consulted in the process and therefore are denied justice for atrocities committed against them. Amongst the displaced population, disputes are resolved through community leaders and head of households, and majority of the KILs mentioned preference for traditional systems as justice delivery mechanisms. Some FGDs reported that the influence of the traditional justice system is such that the legal court system is not considered an option. Male adults noted that there are times when they would prefer to go through the legal justice system to resolve issues however, they are discouraged by the fact that bypassing the traditional system or not “giving blessings” to its decisions, will give the impression that they are “revolting”.
- FGDs explained in cases of rape and other GBV incidents, survivors are usually reluctant to seek justice due to fear of stigmatization, alienation, and the sense that reporting will not lead to justice. When survivors decide to come forward, their case is usually examined by traditional leaders or religious figures. Traditional systems are male-dominated and in FGDs, women reported not feeling comfortable discussing rape before these structures. The handling of cases by traditional courts was described as lacking fairness and sensitivity. In other communities, women explained that “at best” traditional courts give a verbal reprimand to male perpetrators and “the matter dies”. Adding “our voices will not be heard”.

8. Housing Land and Property

Majority of the IDPs live in host communities, despite losing their means of livelihood and having limited or no resources. The IDPs still pay rent or purchase lands for their makeshift shelters ranging from Naira 10,000 to Naira 700,000 per annum in communities where the displaced come together to rent a piece of land collectively. In Faskari LGA the IDPs complained about the shortage of houses to rent for those that have the means. While squatting without permission is low the inability to renew rents is leading to evictions and congestion when many of the IDPs collectively rent a place.



A rented land by IDPs for makeshift shelters in Gwashe Host Community, Bukkuyum LGA, Zamfara GISCOR/@Ladi Philibus

Another concern raised is their houses back home were burnt and crops destroyed by the NSAGs when they were attacked and those that were not burnt are damaged due to lack of maintenance as they are built with clay and thatch, on the possibility of returning to their houses, land and property the KIIs answered low (Katsina 92%, Sokoto 80%, and Zamfara 78%) and mentioned informal structures (traditional institutions) as the source for dispute resolution related to housing, land and property.

9. Access to documentation

Majority of the displaced population mentioned having access to documentation including Birth Registration, and National Identity Card, the National Identity Card Centers were present in majority of the LGA Capitals although there was no activity going on during the period of the assessment. In Bungudu LGA, Zamfara the community leaders mentioned maintaining a register for births which they use to advocate for vaccination campaigns from authorities. The major barriers according to KIIs for accessing and obtaining documentations include distance and access constraints 33%, inability to secure supporting documents 14%, lack of knowledge about documentation 11% and associated cost for travel and processing fees 9%.

10. Physical, psychological security and safety

Majority of the female IDPs mentioned feeling safe in their present location, compared to their places of origin where they suffered different form of abuses, violence, killings and kidnapping which made it impossible to sleep especially at night for the fear of attacks. Their male counterparts in locations that still experience threats of attacks by the NSAGs' form vigilante groups and mention not sleeping at night to protect their communities that are not far from where the NSAGs operate. Furthermore for those that still visit their places of origin daily, mothers mentioned sign of stress among children due to the daily commute they embark on to safe locations where they spend the night due to fear of attacks while some

men spend the night on trees. During FGDs a particular ethnic group that is perceived to be the perpetrators mentioned cases of discrimination and stigmatization when they try to access services. It was also observed some of the IDPs locations in camp-like settings and rented apartments lacked any form of protection against intrusion (fence, gates, security). In response to safety and security, at Gandhi community they replied “they are scared of using their latrines at night because it is partially damaged and someone can come in when using it” while at Goroyo 400 housing IDP camp, there is no security and recently there was a reported case of NSAGs coming around, once it is six o'clock they don't move around. Lack of security, risk of attacks at night and lack of proper lighting systems are among the major hazards identified by KII in all the states.

Other Protection Findings

11. Insufficient Food

94% of the KIIs mentioned not having sufficient food in Katsina State, Sokoto 88%, and Zamfara 78% reasons for their response includes inability to access their farms due to banditry and for those who farmed not able to get the crops, in Sokoto North some of the displaced populations were killed in the process of accessing their farmlands. Widows not having anyone to fend for them are also among the neediest. They mentioned resulting to negative coping mechanisms for food including begging, hawking, reducing the number of meals per day from three (before displacement) to two or even one (currently), survival sex was also mentioned during FGDs in Anka LGA with young girls having a meeting point with men from the host community where they engage in sexual activities in exchange for money. While markets are accessible in LGA capitals the displaced populations mentioned lack of funds as a hindrance to purchasing food commodities. Food availability, access and improved utilization is the top priority need identified by the KIIs in the all the states.



A malnourished child in Goronyo LGA, Sokoto State. GISCOR/©Baba Shehu

12. Health and Nutrition

Access to healthcare services is limited, mainly due to lack of financial means to pay for medications. In many cases, IDPs reported resorting to traditional healers. In Zurmi LGA, it was reported that there was a serious disease that affected 20-30 people in the community and most of the victims are women. At Anka Camp, MSF Holland are providing health services and in Shinkafi MSF-Spain are providing health pediatrics and nutrition support, they mentioned high number of inflows from Issa LGA in Sokoto where needs are



Disease affecting women in Zurmi LGA, Zamfara State GISCOR/©Baba Shehu

high without any partners on ground to intervene. In terms of common diseases, the IDPs mentioned having malaria, cases of malnutrition especially in Zurmi LGA of Zamfara and in Gidan Maje IDPs camp in Goronyo LGA about 17 cases of malnutrition probably Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) were identified and the host community itself has not fewer than 30 malnutrition cases. Other observations include chronic diseases among children and the elderly that are in urgent need of medical support, including cases of hernia among children and urinary incontinence.

13. Inadequate Shelter

In all the visited locations KIIs mentioned insufficient shelter (Sokoto - 78%, Katsina 67%, Zamfara - 65%,) this was also observed by the assessment team as majority of the IDPs live in host communities either in makeshift shelters or congested rented accommodations with households occupying one bedroom (in some communities up to 20 individuals sharing a single room) in a shared apartment while others occupy uncompleted buildings. In Anka IDP camp the shelters are congested



with up to 5 occupants per shelter and in Gandi women and children are camped at Gandi Model Primary School with more than 20 women and girls living in single classroom, while the men live with friends and relatives in the host community thereby separating families, during FGDs they mentioned “they not being able to meet with their wives in the night as husband and wife due to congestion of shelters is a big concern and is affecting them psychologically and emotionally”. While in Goronyo, the IDPs live in low-cost housing built by the state government for victims of the 2011 flooding in the state. In Faskari LGA, Katsina State the IDPs mentioned sleeping in the markets due to lack of shelter following the closure of camps and inadequate houses for rent in the community. It was also mentioned in the evening people leave remote locations to spend the night in relatively safer locations with host communities and those without relatives or people to accommodate them spend the night in public places which also increases congestion and sleeping in the open when the rainy season starts this will compound the problem.

14. WASH

Availability of water varies, in some locations water is available either through communal boreholes, and wells, like in Bulunku in Gusau LGA, and Anka IDP camp while in other locations like Lambar Bakura water is not available and open dry wells can be seen littered around the community. In Faskari LGA, the only borehole serving the community is faulty and people access water in a military facility about 1-2km away. Lack of clean water sources was mentioned at Ramin Kura, Sokoto State as the leading cause of various ailments, including skin diseases and other outbreaks, in Gandi they depend on water from wells and boreholes which are insufficient as two facilities are not-functioning. While some communities depend on water vendors spending up to 200 Naira purchasing water per day which they mentioned could be used for food. There are efforts by the state governments, and international donors through rural water initiatives to provide water in most of the visited locations.



Latrine in Ramin Kura, Sokoto State. GISCOR/©Abba Kyari

Access to latrines and showers is generally poor in both camps and out of camps, leading to open defecation and exposing the people to safety and security risks, in locations where latrines exist, they are not gender segregated, congested, and unsecured. In Gandi village which has 12 latrines they are all filled up. In Emir palace IDP camp in Anka LGA the doors are damaged, no gender segregation and the latrines are close to shelters which can cause disease outbreak. Some locations like Gashi ward of Bukuyum LGA have no latrines and showers, resulting in bathing in the open and open defecation. In Batsari LGA of Katsina there is latrine shared by about 60 individuals which may likely lead to diseases. The assessment observed awareness billboards by the state governments, and international donor and non-governmental agencies sensitizing people against open defecation in Katsina State.

Sanitation in the locations is also a concern due to open defecation in Bukuyum, Lambar Bakura LGAs of Zamfara, Batsari and Jibia LGA of Katsina state. While open gutters emit foul smells that can pose health risks.

15. Access to Education

KII indicate 70% of the displaced population are in locations where schools are accessible, however due to lack of funds to pay certain dues and purchase learning materials most of the children are not enrolled and are engage in hawking and begging to support their families. In Zurmi FGDs mentioned “the community has given up on education” children who used to walk to schools in other towns have stopped doing so as a result of the high risk of kidnappings. The parents explained, “it’s not safe to go to school”. In some location’s children are enrolled in Quranic schools. Other factors mentioned during FGDs include lack of teachers in remote locations due to fear of attacks. It was also observed that some schools are occupied by Nigerian Forces for their operational base.



16. Limited access to livelihoods

Majority of the IDPs, are predominantly farmers and who were engaged in agriculture and livestock. They are not currently engaged in any major livelihood activities due to lack of access to farmlands for fear of attacks and rustled livestock. Some community members in Isa and Ramin Kura in Sokoto North pay token amount to the NSAGs before they can access their farms. In Shinkafi, Zamfara State some of the IDPs rent land to farm for a minimum of N10,000.00 depending on the size. Some IDPs are showing resilience by engaging in activities such as meat vending but complained about how long it takes before they can save enough money to acquire the meat to sell. In Gandi, Sokoto State, UNFPA runs a skills acquisition program for women and girls, and the Zamfara State government mentioned the use of skills centers as a way of promoting peace in the state. The lack of sustainable livelihood opportunities is leading to negative coping strategies such as begging and hawking and an increase in child labor.



17. Peaceful coexistence, community participation and access to information

Both IDPs and host communities mentioned having a good relationship however in Kurfi LGA, Katsina State there are concerns about IDPs being informants to NSAGs and there have been accusations, in Batagarawa LGA the IDPs complained about being accused of theft. In terms of participation in decision making, most of the locations indicated that the decisions are taken by men with minor involvement of women and girls and persons with disabilities. Majority of KIIs indicate having access to information using radio, word of mouth and phones for those

who have. The displaced population mentioned having information on COVID-19 and understanding of the precautionary measures but from observations compliance is very low.

Conclusion

The humanitarian needs in the region are much not only for protection but across all the sectors which the government stated is beyond their capacity to respond, most IDPs have indicated their intention to return to their places of origin however they are scared for their safety and security. The security situation is complicated as the NSAGs are forming a hierarchical structure and it is becoming difficult for affected populations to navigate around it, the proliferation of arms among the NSAGs and different communities for self-protection is a major concern. Government forces are currently conducting a military operation in the region, which could improve the security situation however the lack of permanent security presence in remote areas is a concern, the burning of remaining settlements that are not destroyed by the NSAGs to persuade them from occupying the locations is also another concern for IDPs that intend to return when the security situation improves. The ongoing peace initiative led by the Zamfara State Government is yielding result as a non-lethal approach to ending the crisis.

Recommendations

1. Advocacy to the Federal Government for the inclusion of the vulnerable IDPs in social safety nets programs. Advocacy to the State Government to provide land to IDPs living in makeshift shelters in host community with the provision of minimum basic services and promote integration of IDPs with intention to remain in the locations as the displacements are mostly within the same state.
2. Strengthen the role of traditional rulers in promoting peaceful coexistence and means of communication that reaches out to remote locations should be utilized in deescalating tensions among communities. Involvement of representatives of the affected population in ongoing dialogues with the NSAGs and integration of a disarmament program into ongoing peace initiatives.
3. There is need for urgent lifesaving assistance especially, **protection, food and nutrition, emergency shelter, housing, land and property, Health, and WASH**. There should be provision of non-food items especially blankets and alternative source of energy to reduce the risk involved in accessing firewood.
4. There is need for presence of protection actors to systematically identify, document, and refer human right abuses, gender-based violence and provide services and case management to victims; provide psychosocial counselling to the affected population including children; expand interventions for the provision of women friendly safe spaces



in host communities; rehabilitate and construct gender segregated latrines in camps and host communities; and provide family tracing and reunification services .

5. Capacity building should be provided to State Emergency Management Agencies, NCFRMI and State Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs on coordination for better identification of gaps to effectively manage the crisis; support systems to manage the process of linking unaccompanied minors to foster parents. Support the initiative of the traditional authorities on recording births into access to documentation.
6. Awareness raising and strengthening of health referral system including for treating gunshot victims through timely medical assistance.
7. Improve the enrollment rate for out of school children by waiving associated fees for displaced children and host community members.
8. Provision of livelihoods opportunities to the affected population and host communities and supporting government skills acquisition centers based on market assessments.
9. Avoid further assessments due to high level of expectations and assessment fatigue pending when assistance is provided.



Mapping of Actors

S/No	Partners	Sector	State	LGA	Activities Stage
1	UNFPA	Livelihood	Sokoto	Gandi (Rabah LGA)	Implementation
2.	Qatar Foundation	Shelter (Housing)	Sokoto	Gandi (Rabah LGA)	Completed
3.	SEMA (Sokoto)	Food	Sokoto	Sokoto North and South	Assessment
4.	ACTED	Shelter and Food	Sokoto		Assessment
5.	PUI	Health and Food and Nutrition	Sokoto		Assessment
6	UNICEF	Nutrition	Sokoto	Gandi (Rabah LGA)	Implementation.
7	Save the Children	Reproductive Health, Education	Katsina, Zamfara		Implementation
8	ACTED	Livelihoods (Agriculture)	Katsina	Batagarawa, Jibia, Batsari	Implementation
9	Helen Keller	Health	Katsina		Implementation
10	UNICEF, RUWASSA	WASH	Katsina		Implementation
11	Solidarites International		Zamfara	Gusau, Anka, Kaura Namoda, Bukuyyum, Shinkafi and Zurmi	Implementation
12	MSF Holland		Zamfara	Anka	Implementation
13	MSF Spain		Zamfara	Shinkafi	Implementation
14	NNGOs, CBOs		Zamfara, Katsina, Sokoto		