

Desk Review

EXISTING POLICIES AND PLANS IN PEACEBUILDING INITIATIVES WITHIN BORNO STATE

August

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Centre for Advocacy, Transparency and Accountability Initiative,
Desk review on existing policies and plans in peacebuilding initiatives,
within Borno State, 2023.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This desk review provides an analysis of existing policies, plans and initiatives in peacebuilding within Borno State, North East Nigeria. The review explores various state and non-state actors' efforts to address the conflict context and its impact on marginalized groups, particularly women and girls. It also examines selected peacebuilding policies, plans and initiatives implemented by the government, multilateral institutions, and UN agencies, national and international non-governmental organizations.

The desk review provides a guide to practitioners in Borno State and the North East Region of Nigeria in the design and implementation of initiatives in peacebuilding particularly those targeting women, girls and other marginalized groups. The potential impact of such use of the desk review is the delivery of impactful interventions which draws learning and where necessary adaptation from best practices and impactful responses of relevant stakeholders in Borno State and North East Nigeria.

The conflict context in North East Nigeria is characterized by complex drivers that have led to significant humanitarian and socio-economic consequences for vulnerable populations. Women, girls, and other marginalized groups have been particularly affected, facing various challenges.

The analysis of peacebuilding initiatives reveals a range of policies and plans implemented by state actors, such as the Declaration of State of Emergencies and establishment of development commissions and ministries. Non-state actors, including multilateral institutions and UN agencies have contributed to the peacebuilding efforts through crisis recovery projects, humanitarian response plans, coordination mechanisms and other impactful projects. Non-governmental organizations have also played a crucial role, implementing projects focused on resilience strengthening, early warning, and social cohesion.

Overall, this desk review sheds light on the extensive efforts in peacebuilding within Borno State, providing insights into the region's complex landscape. It underscores the importance of collaborative efforts between state and non-state actors to achieve sustainable peace and development. To enhance peacebuilding outcomes, recommendations include further alignment and coordination among various initiatives, gender-sensitive approaches, and continuous engagement with affected communities.

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Acronyms

BAY	Borno Adamawa and Yobe
BH	Boko Haram
CATAI	Center for Advocacy Transparency and Accountability Initiative
CCCM	Camp coordination and camp management
CENSCOPE	Centre for Social Cohesion, Peace and Empowerment
CJTF	Combined Joint Task Forces
COVID-19	Corona Virus Disease 2019
CSSF	Conflict Stability and Security Fund
CTC	Counter Terrorism Centre
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DDR:	Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration
DDRR	Disengagement, Disassociation, Reintegration and Reconciliation
EA-ES	Emergency Assessment and Economic Stabilization
ERR	Economic Redevelopment and Reconstruction Programme
EU	European Union
FCT	Federal Capital Territory
GCERF	Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund
GSSS	IDP Camp: Government Science Secondary School IDP Camp
HCM	Humanitarian Coordination Meeting
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HNO	Humanitarian Needs Overview
IA	International Alert
IDA	International Development Assistant
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
INGO	International Non-Government Organisation
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
ISCG	Inter Sector Coordination Groups
JAS	Jama'tu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal
JTF	Joint Task Force
ORO	Operation Rescue Order
LGA	Local Government Area
MCRP	Multi Sector Recovery Programme

MMC	Maiduguri Metropolitan Council
MNJTF	Multinational Joint Task Force
NEDC	North East Development Commission
NEMA	National Emergency Management Agency
NFI	Non-Food Items
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
ONSA	Office of the National Security Adviser
OPSC	Operation Safe Corridor
PCVE	Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism
PINE	Presidential Initiative for the North East
RPBA	Recovery Peacebuilding Assessment
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEMA	State Emergency Management Agency
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SHCF	State Humanitarian Coordination Forum
SOE	State of Emergency
SPA II	Strategic Partnership Assessment II
SSI	Safe Schools Initiative
STRESS	Strategic Resilience Assessment
UN OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHAS	United Nations Humanitarian Air Service
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women Economic Empowerment.
VEO	Violent Extremist Organisations
WASH	Water Hygiene and Sanitation
WB	World Bank
WFP	World Food Programme

Introduction and Rationale

The conflict in North East Nigeria has had devastating consequences on the lives of people in Borno State. This desk review aims to assess existing peacebuilding initiatives to better understand how various actors are working to promote peace and address the challenges faced by communities in the region. By examining policies, plans and initiatives implemented by state and non-state actors, we hope to identify gaps, make recommendations and contribute substantively to more effective peacebuilding efforts in the future.

The conflict in North East Nigeria has been ongoing for several years, leading to significant human suffering, displacement, and destruction of infrastructure. Borno State, as one of the most affected areas, has experienced immense hardship, especially for women, girls, and other marginalized groups. The region's history and socio-political dynamics play a crucial role in understanding the conflict's complexities and the importance of finding sustainable solutions.

This desk review will focus on analyzing selected policies, plans, and initiatives related to peacebuilding efforts in Borno State. We will examine the actions taken by both state authorities and non-state actors to address the conflict's consequences and build a foundation for lasting peace. The review will cover various peacebuilding projects and interventions in the region. The primary objectives of this desk review are to assess the effectiveness of existing peacebuilding policies and plans, identify gaps and challenges in their implementation, and analyze the impact of these initiatives on women, girls, and other marginalized groups. Through this assessment, we aim to provide recommendations that can enhance the coordination and collaboration among different actors involved in peacebuilding efforts.

Understanding the existing peacebuilding initiatives is vital for addressing the root causes of the conflict and fostering sustainable peace in Borno State. Effective peacebuilding efforts can contribute to community resilience, support the reintegration of displaced individuals, and promote gender equality and social cohesion. By learning from past experiences, we can build more robust strategies to address the challenges and complexities of peacebuilding in the region.

This report is structured to provide a comprehensive analysis of peacebuilding initiatives in Borno State. It begins with an overview of the conflict context in North East Nigeria and its impact on communities. Subsequently, it delves into the analysis of selected policies, plans, and initiatives by state and non-state actors.

Finally, the report concludes with a summary of key findings and recommendations for strengthening peacebuilding efforts in the region.

We express our gratitude to all individuals, organizations, and institutions that supported and provided valuable input during the desk review process. Their contributions have been instrumental in shaping this report and enhancing its relevance and accuracy.



Methodology

Desk review approach

The desk review approach adopted for this study is a robust and structured method designed to systematically gather, analyze, and synthesize information on peacebuilding initiatives in Borno State. The approach is chosen for its efficiency in accessing a diverse range of data from various secondary sources, enabling a comprehensive understanding of the region's peacebuilding landscape. This involves a thorough examination of various literature, project documents, reports, and other secondary sources to gain valuable insights into the peacebuilding efforts undertaken by different actors.

The desk review approach entails a comprehensive and systematic data collection process. It involves searching and reviewing a wide array of literature, including academic publications, research articles, policy papers, and reports from renowned organizations and institutions engaged in peacebuilding and conflict resolution in the region. By casting a wide net, the review aims to cover a vast spectrum of peacebuilding initiatives and gain insights from multiple perspectives.

One critical aspect of the desk review is the analysis of policies, plans and project documents related to peacebuilding interventions in Borno State. These project documents include project proposals, implementation plans, monitoring and evaluation reports, and impact assessments. By examining these documents, the review gains valuable insights into the goals, strategies, implementation progress, and outcomes of specific peacebuilding initiatives.

Following data collection, a rigorous process of data synthesis and analysis is undertaken. The information gathered from various sources was meticulously organized, categorized, and compared to identify patterns, trends, and gaps in peacebuilding efforts. This systematic approach ensured that all relevant data is considered in forming a comprehensive understanding of the peacebuilding landscape in Borno State.

Throughout the desk review, efforts were made to maintain objectivity and reliability in data interpretation. The use of multiple sources and cross-referencing helps validate the accuracy and credibility of the findings. This emphasis on objectivity enhances the credibility of the study's conclusions and recommendations.

Ethical considerations are of paramount importance in the desk review approach. Confidentiality and anonymity are maintained for all participants involved in interviews and consultations. The review complies with relevant ethical guidelines and ensures that the information used in the study respects the privacy and sensitivity of the subjects.

Information sources

To ensure the accuracy and depth of the desk review, multiple information sources were utilized. The review heavily relied on relevant literature from academic publications, research articles, policy papers, and reports from reputable organizations and institutions engaged in peacebuilding and conflict resolution. Project documents, such as proposals, evaluations, and progress reports, provided valuable information on the implementation and outcomes of specific peacebuilding initiatives in the region.

Structured information guides were also employed to gather information from key stakeholders involved in peacebuilding efforts. Interviews and consultations with representatives from state authorities, non-governmental organizations, United Nations agencies, community leaders, and beneficiaries were conducted to gain firsthand insights into the challenges, successes, and impact of peacebuilding interventions in Borno State.

Limitations

It is crucial to recognize the limitations of the desk review approach. While the desk review approach is valuable in accessing a wide range of information, it is essential to acknowledge some limitations. One limitation is the availability and accessibility of certain data and documentation. Some information might be classified, not publicly available, or subject to restrictions due to security concerns. Additionally, there were gaps in the data or variations in the quality and comprehensiveness of the information gathered from different sources.

Moreover, due to the vastness and complexity of the conflict in Borno State North East Nigeria, it is challenging to capture every aspect of peacebuilding initiatives in the region comprehensively. The review may not cover all initiatives in the peacebuilding landscape in Borno State. Despite these limitations, efforts were made to minimize bias and ensure the credibility of the findings. Cross-referencing information from multiple sources helped validate the data and provided a more comprehensive understanding of the peacebuilding efforts in Borno State.

Overview of the conflict context North East Nigeria

Background to the conflict

In Northern Nigeria, there has been a long history of protest movements and reformist jihads dating back to the early 19th century. Such movements have sought to challenge rulers perceived as unjust and corrupt and seek to purify society based on ideological beliefs. Boko Haram had similar origins, and came into wider public attention in 2003, when it began to challenge the Nigerian State. The movement was not violent at the onset and initially received some local support. Today, it is a multifaceted network with evolving strategies shaped by a diverse set of ideological, political, societal, and criminal aspirations.

The precursor to Boko Haram first arose in Borno State in the 1990s, under the leadership of Mohammed Yusuf. Yusuf built a considerable local followership preaching against what he held to be a corrupt and un-Islamic government, while advocating the establishment of a pure Islamic State based on Shari'a law. In July 2009, following deadly clashes between Mohammed Yusuf's followers and the police, Mohammed Yusuf was killed extra-judicially while in police custody. Conflict between the group and State security forces then dramatically escalated, and nearly 1,000 of Yusuf's followers were killed in confrontations. These marked the beginning of a spiraling campaign of violence by the group. Boko Haram violence broadened from revenge

As a result, fatalities have soared. Suicide bombings began in 2011, and since mid-2014 many young women and girls have been systematically used as suicide bombers. Boko Haram has also abducted people: between January 2014 and April 2015, the group abducted well over 2,000 women, girls and boys. Many girls have been abducted, forcibly 'married' to Boko Haram fighters, are being systematically raped, and forced to carry out caretaking duties. In April 2014, 200 schools girls from Chibok in Borno State were abducted and the majority remain in captivity. Large numbers of abducted women and girls have been taken to Boko Haram outposts and remote communities under Boko Haram control.¹

The protracted and multifaceted crisis in North East Nigeria has significantly affected the lives of millions of people, particularly in Borno State. According to the Global Centre for the responsibility to Protect, (Global R2P), more than 35,000 people have been killed in Northern Nigeria since 2009 when Boko Haram launched its insurgency with at least 1.8million Internally Displaced Persons in Adamawa, Yobe and Borno states". attacks on the Nigerian police and security forces, to attacks on public servants, politicians, moderate imams, and civilians, targeted through bombing and shooting attacks on schools, churches, mosques, markets, government installations and other public places.

¹ "World Bank Group. 2015. North-East Nigeria Recovery and Peace Building Assessment: Synthesis Report. © World Bank, Abuja, Nigeria. <http://hdl.handle.net/10986/25791> License: CC BY 3.0 IGO."

In addition, IOM's March 2022 Displacement Tracking Matrix reports that in March 2022, a total of 2,171,652 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) were identified in the six states in Nigeria's north-east geopolitical zone. Notably, the report reiterated Borno as the most displacement-affected state in north-east Nigeria. Over time, the group's activities escalated into violent attacks on civilians, security forces, and government institutions, leading to widespread insecurity and displacement. The insurgency has undergone various phases, with changing leadership and evolving strategies, making it challenging to find a lasting solution. The conflict's impact has been far-reaching, affecting social, economic, and political aspects of life in the region. Communities have endured immense hardship, including loss of lives, destruction of infrastructure, and forced displacement. The ongoing violence and insecurity have hindered development efforts and deepened the region's vulnerability to external influence and radicalization.

Drivers of the conflict in North East Nigeria

In uncovering the deep rooted factors that have fueled the ongoing Boko Haram crisis in Borno State and North East Nigeria, there is the need to examine several interconnected drivers. These include governance and political conditions, low levels of human security, limited economic development, culture and ideological factors as well as environmental challenges.

Governance and political conditions:

Weak governance and political conditions in North East Nigeria are driving conflict and severely impacting women and girls in the region. These governance challenges are exacerbating existing gender inequalities and limiting opportunities for women's empowerment in the following areas:

Educational barriers:

Weak governance has led to inadequate investment in education, disproportionately affecting girls. Cultural and economic obstacles already restrict girls' access to education, and weak governance worsens this situation. Many girls lack access to quality schooling, perpetuating gender disparities in literacy and education.

Gender based corruption:

Corruption is rampant, with families affected by the Boko Haram Conflict forced to pay bribes to enroll their children, including girls, in school or access healthcare. This practice not only hampers women and girls' access to essential services but also fosters corrupt practices, eroding trust in public institutions.

Leadership newspaper new publication on 35,000 persons killed and 1.8m persons displaced in North East by Boko Haram. Accessed online:

<https://leadership.ng/35000-killed-1-8m-persons-displaced-in-north-by-boko-haram->

IOM UN Migration; Displacement Tracking Matrix: Nigeria north-east zone displacement report. Round 40 (March 2022)

World Bank Group. 2015. North-East Nigeria Recovery and Peace Building Assessment: Synthesis Report. © World Bank, Abuja, Nigeria.

<http://hdl.handle.net/10986/25791> License: CC BY 3.0 IGO." - <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/igo>

Disparity in access to healthcare services:

Weak governance has resulted in inadequate healthcare services. Women and girls face challenges in accessing maternal healthcare, family planning, and reproductive health services. This places them at significant health risks.

Economic vulnerability:

Disruptions to economic activities caused by the conflict have left women economically vulnerable. Many women are the primary breadwinners for their families, and weak governance fails to provide them with economic support and opportunities, pushing them further into poverty.

Limited women representation:

Decision-making power is often centralized in the hands of male governors, with limited accountability and low local-level capacity. This restricted representation of women in governance perpetuates gender disparities and reduces their involvement in decision-making processes.

Politicization of Traditional Institutions:

Traditional institutions, crucial for conflict resolution and community cohesion, have suffered due to the conflict. Additionally, the politicization of traditional authority has undermined its legitimacy. Women's representation in these institutions remains low, diminishing their role in local conflict resolution efforts.

Cultural norms and cultural inequality:

The conflict has reinforced less inclusive cultural norms, particularly the low levels of women's representation in decision-making processes. Weak governance has not effectively challenged these norms, sustaining gender inequalities.

The weak governance and political conditions in North East Nigeria are not only driving conflict but also severely affecting women and girls. These governance issues are amplifying existing gender disparities, especially in education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. Addressing these governance challenges is critical not only for achieving peace and stability but also for advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women in the region.

Economic development: Economic development challenges in North East Nigeria have had significant and disproportionate effects on women and girls in the region. Below are highlights of how this driver has impacted on women and girls in North East Nigeria:

UNDP report on assessing the impact of the conflict in North East Nigeria. Accessed online:

<https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/migration/ng/Assessing-the-Impact-of-Conflict-on-Development-in-NE-Nigeria---The-Report.pdf>

Limited Economic Opportunities for Women and Girls:

The North-East region suffers from limited economic infrastructure and a collapsing industrial base, primarily located outside the region in cities like Kano and Kaduna. This situation has drastically reduced economic opportunities for women and girls. Traditional livelihoods in agriculture, pastoralism, and fisheries, which many women and girls rely on, have been severely affected. The lack of government support, poor resource management, and limited access to modern technology and inputs have eroded these livelihoods, leaving women and girls economically marginalized.

Educational barriers for girls:

Economic challenges have a direct impact on girls' access to education. With families struggling to make ends meet due to limited livelihood opportunities, education expenses become a burden. Consequently, girls often face barriers to enrolling and staying in school. This perpetuates gender disparities in literacy and education, limiting their future prospects and perpetuating cycles of poverty.

Vulnerability to exploitation:

Economic hardship has made women and girls more vulnerable to exploitation. Some may be forced into early marriages to alleviate financial burdens on their families, depriving them of their childhood and educational opportunities. Additionally, economic desperation can push girls and women into risky situations, including human trafficking and exploitative labor conditions.

Lack of Access to Healthcare:

Economic challenges also affect access to healthcare, particularly for women and girls. They may struggle to afford essential healthcare services, including maternal and reproductive health care. This puts their well-being at risk, leading to increased maternal mortality rates and limited family planning options.

Gender Based Violence:

Economic instability can contribute to increased gender-based violence against women and girls. Frustration and discontent resulting from limited economic opportunities may manifest as domestic violence, further endangering their physical and mental health.

The economic development challenges in North East Nigeria have had a profound impact on women and girls. These challenges have limited their economic opportunities, hindered access to education and healthcare, increased vulnerability to exploitation, and exposed them to higher risks of gender-based violence. Addressing these economic disparities is essential not only for overall development but also for advancing gender equality and improving the well-being of women and girls in the region.

Culture and Ideology:

For centuries, religion has played a pivotal role in shaping the identity of Northern Nigeria, with profound and often detrimental effects on women and girls in the region:

Reinforcement of gender disparities:

The historical centrality of religion in identity has often reinforced traditional gender roles and norms. Women and girls, in particular, have been subjected to these norms, limiting their opportunities and agency. The manipulation of religion for political purposes have further exacerbated these gender disparities:

Vulnerability to Extremist Recruitment:

Women and girls, especially those facing limited educational and economic opportunities, become prime targets for recruitment by extremist groups. The exploitation of religious and cultural values can draw them into extremist ideologies as a means of finding belonging in a society marked by conflict and insecurity.

Diversion of focus on education:

As the conflict deepens, the emphasis on religious and cultural identity can divert resources away from education, particularly for girls. Cultural norms and insecurity often compound the barriers girls face in accessing education, perpetuating gender disparities in literacy and educational attainment.

Gender Based Violence:

Cultural and religious norms can perpetuate gender-based violence, including forced marriages, domestic abuse, and restrictions on women's freedom. These forms of violence are exacerbated in conflict settings, and women and girls are at heightened risk, with limited legal recourse. Youth involvement in peace building:

Limited economic opportunities for women:

The erosion of social values, where economic standing takes precedence over education and honesty, leaves women and girls economically disempowered. Limited economic opportunities further restrict their ability to gain financial independence and escape situations of vulnerability and violence.

Disregard for the rule of law:

A general disdain for the rule of law, stemming from the manipulation of cultural and religious values, can result in a lack of legal protections for women and girls. In a society where the rule of law is undermined, gender-based discrimination and violence can persist with impunity.

The exploitation of culture and ideology, particularly religion, for political gain in North East Nigeria's conflict exacerbates gender disparities and leaves women and girls particularly vulnerable. Their access to education, economic prospects, safety, and agency are all affected. Addressing these complex dynamics necessitates not only security measures but also efforts to challenge harmful cultural norms, promote gender equality, and empower women and girls in the region's peace and development processes.

Environmental challenges:

The environmental challenges in North East Nigeria, particularly around the Lake Chad Basin, has had profound and unequal environmental related consequences for women and girls. This driver has impacted on women and girls in North East Nigeria in the following aspects:

Food insecurity and its impact on women:

Fragile environmental conditions, including water scarcity and reduced agricultural resources, contribute to food insecurity. Women, who are often responsible for household food production, bear the brunt of this burden. They must navigate the challenges of reduced crop yields and increased competition for resources, impacting their ability to provide nutritious meals for their families.

Displacement and vulnerability:

Environmental degradation, coupled with climate variability, forces communities to migrate in search of more hospitable areas. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by displacement. They face heightened risks, including gender-based violence and exploitation, as they seek refuge and attempt to rebuild their lives in unfamiliar environments.

Limited women economic empowerment:

Women in this region often engage in small-scale agriculture and fishing. Environmental stressors, such as water scarcity and reduced fish stocks, threaten their economic activities. The loss of income-generating opportunities perpetuates their economic dependence and limits their ability to invest in their families' well-being, including education and healthcare.

Lack of access to portable water and resultant health challenges:

The scarcity of surface water affects women and girls' access to clean water for drinking and sanitation. This can lead to waterborne diseases, which disproportionately impact women and girls who are responsible for collecting and managing water resources. The resulting health issues further strain households and communities.

Escalation of conflict over natural resources:

Environmental stressors, such as competition for water and grazing areas, can escalate conflicts. Women and girls often bear the indirect consequences of resource-driven conflicts, including displacement, loss of property, and increased vulnerability to violence.

Disruption in education:

Environmental challenges can disrupt educational opportunities for girls. Increased responsibilities related to resource management and household needs can lead to girls missing school, perpetuating gender gaps in education and limiting their future prospects.

The environmental challenges in North East Nigeria have a disproportionate impact on women and girls. They face heightened vulnerabilities related to food security, displacement and economic empowerment, access to clean water and healthcare, and education. Addressing these environmental issues must prioritize gender-sensitive approaches to ensure that women and girls are not left behind in efforts to build resilience and sustainable livelihoods in the region.

Impact of the conflict in North East Nigeria on women, girls and other marginalized groups

Since its emergence in 2002, Boko Haram has paid particular attention to women in rhetoric and actions, partly because of the intense debate surrounding their role in society in the North East. The conflict in North East Nigeria has dramatically changed the lives of women, girls and other vulnerable groups often casting them voluntarily or by force into new roles outside the domestic sphere. The conflict has had a disproportionate impact on vulnerable groups, particularly women, girls, and other marginalized populations causing gender specific suffering. To this end, it is important to highlight the impact of the conflict on women which in turn should inform policies, plans and programs to tackle the roots of the insurgency and strategies for curbing it, as well as facilitate women's contribution to lasting peace.

Forced displacement:

Forced displacement is one of the furthest-reaching effects that the Boko Haram conflict has impacted on affected populations in Borno State and North East Nigeria. According to the Journal of affective disorder reports, internally displaced persons (IDPs,) are group of persons, who have been forced to leave or have been evacuated from their places of habitual residence, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border. Nigeria is ranked third largest number with IDPs in the world. According to a report the Norwegian Refugee Council 2022 report, Nigeria ranked among the top lists of the world's most neglected displacement crisis as a result of the Boko Haram conflict in North East Nigeria where majority of families are thought to face crisis and forced displacement. According to the report, over 13 million people are currently in need of humanitarian assistance in Nigeria with Borno State in the North East having the highest number of displaced persons.

Further analysis of the impact of forced displacement on women and girls, contained in the UN Nigeria 2021 End of Year report (population) reports that out of about 2.2 million IDPs who were displaced as of December 2021 in North East Nigeria, 275 of the affected persons were women while 30% of those affected were girls. This shows that cumulatively, 57% of the affected populations were women and girls. Further analysis of the impact of forced displacement on marginalized groups reveals that 25% of those affected were boys. An estimated 99% of the displacement is attributed to ongoing conflict, with over 74% of displaced people in Borno State. 59% are estimated to be below 18 years, 35% between 18 and 59 years, and 6% above 60 years.

IDPs face challenges in accessing basic services and humanitarian assistance in most areas. Forced displacement creates a range of serious secondary effects, including physical and psychological trauma, and social and economic hardship, as well as the conditions for possible radicalisation and polarization. Displacement exacerbates the already existing conditions of poverty and deprivation and its effects are felt not only by the displaced themselves, but also in the communities in which they take refuge. Affected persons displaced by the armed conflict have been taken in by host communities who share space, resources, and services with them, all of which are generally already overstretched and increasingly under severe strain. The economic dislocation caused by the fighting adds further to hardship.

Crisis Group report on Nigeria women and the Boko Haram Insurgency. Accessed online : <https://www.crisisgroup.org/africa/west-africa/nigeria/nigeria-women-and-boko-haram-insurgency#:~:text=Boko%20Haram's%20rise%20and%20insurgency,others%20were%20abducted%20and%20enslaved.>

According to the UN Nigeria 2021 End of Year report (population) report recording a total of 2.2 million IDPs in North East Nigeria, Borno State remains the state with the highest number of IDPs while Adamawa has the second highest number of IDPs with 221,253 followed by Yobe with 151,874 persons.

Education disruptions:

The Boko Haram conflict, particularly from 2019 to date, has had a devastating impact on the education of women, girls, and boys in the affected regions, with the abduction of thousands of young girls and women being one of its major consequences. Boko Haram's ideology opposes Western education, and their violent actions have specifically targeted schools and students, disrupting education and instilling fear in communities.

The abduction of girls and young women, often from their schools, has had far-reaching consequences. Families and communities live in constant fear for the safety of their children when they attend school, making it difficult to prioritize education. Many families, out of concern for their children's safety, have withdrawn them from schools altogether, leading to a decline in school enrollment rates, particularly among girls. Boys and men have also been targeted for abduction by Boko Haram. Some have been forcibly conscripted into the ranks of the group as fighters, while others have been used as labor or support personnel. These abductions have disrupted the education of boys and young men, robbing them of their childhood and opportunities for a formal education.

One of the most tragic aspects of the conflict is that many of the abducted individuals never returned from captivity. The fate of some of these victims remains unknown, leaving families in anguish and uncertainty. The trauma experienced by families and communities is immeasurable as they grapple with the loss of their loved ones and the haunting question of their well-being. For those who managed to escape or were rescued from captivity, their suffering and abuse have left lasting scars. Survivors have reported physical and psychological abuse, including sexual violence, torture, and forced indoctrination. The impact of such experiences on their mental health and well-being is profound and requires extensive support and healing interventions.

The period from 2013 to 2015 was particularly notorious for Boko Haram's use of children and female suicide bombers.

Journal of Affective Disorders Reports. Volume 13, July 2023, 100590. Prevalence of Boko Haram crisis related depression and post-traumatic stress disorder symptomatology among internally displaced persons in Yobe state, North East, Nigeria. Accessed online: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2666915323001294>

Statista. Number of internally displaced persons (IDP) in Nigeria from 2013 to 2020. Accessed online.; <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1237374/number-of-internally-displaced-persons-in-nigeria/>

Dataphyte. October 31, 2022. Nigeria ranks top among countries with most neglected humanitarian crisis. Report. Accessed online UNHCR. Year 2021 Year-end report on population trends. Accessed online. <https://www.dataphyte.com/latest-reports/nigeria-ranks-top-among-countries-with-most-neglected-humanitarian-crises-report/>

World Bank Group. 2015. North-East Nigeria Recovery and Peace Building Assessment: Synthesis Report. © World Bank, Abuja, Nigeria. <http://hdl.handle.net/10986/25791> License: CC BY 3.0 IGO." - <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/igo>

Young girls were abducted and coerced into becoming suicide bombers, forced to carry out attacks against their own communities. These horrifying tactics have further contributed to the breakdown of trust within communities and fueled fear and suspicion.

The attacks on schools, the abduction of students, and the use of child soldiers and suicide bombers have collectively contributed to a severe educational crisis in the region. The loss of life and disruption of education have hindered the development and prospects of an entire generation of children and young people.

According to the 2022 UNDP report on education, about 18.5 million children, the majority of whom are girls, do not have access to education in Nigeria 60% of whom are girls. UNICEF in 2017 also reported that “over half of the schools in Borno State remain closed in the epic center of the Boko Haram crisis in Borno State. According to the report, “about 57 per cent of all schools are closed in Nigeria’s Borno state, worst hit by the Boko Haram insurgency and the subsequent humanitarian crisis, leaving an estimated 3 million children in need of emergency education support, even as the new school year begins, the United Nations child agency said today. It also adds that since 2009, over 2,295 teachers have been killed and 19,000 have been displaced across the northeast. Almost 1,400 schools have been destroyed with the majority unable to open because of extensive damage or because they are in areas that remain unsafe. Addressing the impact of the conflict on education requires a concerted effort from the Nigerian government, international organizations, and the global community. Steps must be taken to improve security around schools, support trauma-informed education programs, and provide psychosocial support to survivors. Additionally, efforts to address the root causes of the conflict, including socioeconomic inequalities and lack of opportunities, are vital for restoring a sense of hope and a brighter future for the affected communities.

Sexual and Gender based violence: With the intensification of conflict, the prevalence of SGBV has escalated dramatically in Borno State and the rest of the North-East region. Women and girls are vulnerable to rape, exploitation, and forced marriage due to the conflict and resulting displacement, adding to already high rates of domestic violence and early marriage. Women and girls abducted by Boko Haram are often raped, forced into marriage, labor, religious conversion, physically, sexually, emotionally abused and are highly vulnerable, exposed to sexually transmitted diseases, and often impregnated by their captors.

According to UNHCR OCHA’s 2019 Sexual and Gender Based Violence report for North East Nigeria, From January to December 2019, UNHCR and its partners received 1,666 reported incidents of SGBV from IDPs and returnees in the 3 BAY states through community-based protection monitoring. The analysis of data showed that women and children under 18 continued to bear the brunt of this crisis. Child and forced marriage, physical assault, rape, survival sex, sexual assault and denial of resources were the major incidents reported.

VOA news publication on UNICEF report on millions of Nigerian children who are out of school. Accessed online. :

<https://www.voanews.com/a/millions-nigerian-children-are-out-of-school-unicef-says/6569716.html>

The United Nations Sustainable Development blog. September 2017. Over half of schools remain closed in Boko Haram crisis in Nigeria. Accessed online:

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2017/09/over-half-of-schools-remain-closed-in-epicentre-of-boko-haram-crisis-in-nigeria-unicef/>

United Nations OCHA. 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview. Accessed online: [https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/Global Humanitarian Overview 2022.pdf](https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/Global%20Humanitarian%20Overview%202022.pdf)

United Nations OCHA. 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan. Accessed online: [https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/Global Humanitarian Overview 2022.pdf](https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/Global%20Humanitarian%20Overview%202022.pdf)

Women, especially heads of households and girls, are at particular risk within the current environment due to inadequate access to livelihood and socio-economic support as part of the multi-sectoral response. Thus, they are more prone to survival sex as a coping mechanism usually in exchange for food, money and other necessities. The population has been exposed to increasing incidences of sexually transmitted infections including HIV, unwanted pregnancies, and obstetric fistula caused by sexual violence. Overall, this has led to poor sexual and reproductive health outcomes. Sexual abuse and other violations against women and children are widespread inside and outside of IDP camps, and a culture of impunity for perpetrators contributes to the continued violations.

Economic hardships and disrupted livelihoods:

The Boko Haram conflict in Borno State and the broader North East region of Nigeria has had significant economic impacts, particularly on women, girls, and other vulnerable groups. According to the UNDP report on “Assessing the impact of conflict on development in North East Nigeria”, the conflict has led to the destruction of farmlands, markets, and businesses, disrupting traditional livelihoods of both men and women. For women, who are often engaged in subsistence farming and small-scale trading, the loss of livelihood opportunities has been particularly acute. The widespread displacement and insecurity caused by the conflict have limited economic opportunities for women and girls. Many may be unable to access formal employment due to safety concerns, lack of education, or societal restrictions, leaving them with few options to earn a living.

As a result, the combination of disrupted livelihoods and limited economic opportunities has led to an increase in poverty among women, girls, and vulnerable groups. Poverty rates have risen, exacerbating the challenges they face in meeting basic needs such as food, shelter, and healthcare.

The economic desperation resulting from the conflict has made women and girls more vulnerable to human trafficking and exploitation. Some may be forced into trafficking rings or coerced into exploitative labor conditions. The economic hardship has also driven families to marry off their daughters at an early age, as they may see it as a way to reduce the financial burden on the family. Additionally, some girls may be engaged in child labor to contribute to their family's income.

UNHCR OCHA's 2019 Sexual and Gender Based Violence report for North East Nigeria. March 2020

UNDP. Report on assessing the impact of conflict on development in North East Nigeria. Accessed online:

<https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/migration/ng/Assessing-the-Impact-of-Conflict-on-Development-in-NE-Nigeria---The-Report.pdf>

Mercy Corps Nigeria. 2019. Borno Strategic Resilience Assessment. Accessed online: <https://www.mercycorps.org/sites/default/->

[files/2019-11/PRG_BornoStrategicResilienceAssessmenet_R_lo_0319_WEB_v3.pdf](https://www.mercycorps.org/sites/default/-/files/2019-11/PRG_BornoStrategicResilienceAssessmenet_R_lo_0319_WEB_v3.pdf)

Furthermore the economic difficulties has led families to prioritize limited resources on educating male children rather than girls. As a result, girls' access to education may be further limited, reducing their future economic opportunities. In most of the conflict-affected areas, women and girls have become more dependent on humanitarian aid and assistance for their survival. This dependency has created the long-term challenge of regaining economic independence and self-sufficiency. The conflict has also led to the death or disappearance of many men, leaving behind female-headed households. These women often face additional challenges in providing for their families and lack the necessary support and resources.

Addressing the economic hardship impacts on women, girls, and vulnerable groups in Borno State and North East Nigeria requires a multi-faceted approach. This includes providing humanitarian assistance to meet immediate needs, promoting economic opportunities and vocational training for women and girls, supporting education and skills development, and implementing measures to prevent human trafficking and exploitation. Additionally, efforts to restore peace and security in the region are essential to enable economic recovery and development.

Mental Health and Psychological trauma:

The Boko Haram conflict in Borno State has had severe and long-lasting mental health and psychological trauma impacts on women and girls in Borno state and the broader North East region of Nigeria. As a result of being subjected to various forms of violence including abduction, rape, forced marriages and physical abuse, women, girls and other marginalized groups have suffered severe psychological stress, post-traumatic stress disorder and feelings of helplessness. In addition, many women and girls have lost family members, friends and community members due to the conflict leading to complicated grief reactions and feelings of emptiness and despair.

In addition, women and girls survivors of the conflict face stigmatization and rejection from their community upon reintegration. This leads to feelings of shame, isolation and lack of social support exacerbating their mental health challenges. It is also important to note that in the Boko Haram conflict affected areas in Borno State, mental health resources and services are scarce or not available. This has further exacerbated the lack of access of women and girls to required mental health and psychosocial support to help cope with the trauma effectively.

Addressing the mental health and psychological trauma impact on women and girls in Borno state and North East Nigeria requires a comprehensive approach. It involves providing access to

The United Nations New Publication on the enormous challenges facing Northern Nigeria and forging new hope. Accessed online: <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/recognize-%E2%80%98enormous-challenges%E2%80%99-facing-northern-nigeria-forge-new-hope-guterres-urges> African Journal of primary healthcare and family medicine. Volume 14 (1) 2022. The traumatic consequences of Boko Haram slavery among the ethnic minorities of southern Borno, Borno State, Nigeria. Accessed online. <https://phcfm.org/index.php/phcfm/article/view/3638/5911>

mental health services, ensuring safety and security in the region, empowering women economically and socially, and implementing measures to prevent violence and protect human rights. Additionally, promoting community acceptance and reducing stigma surrounding mental health can encourage survivors to seek help and support their healing process.

Fragmentation along religious, ethnic and other cultural fault lines:

The Boko Haram conflict in Borno State and the North East region of Nigeria has exacerbated existing fault lines along religious, ethnic, and cultural divides, leading to increased fragmentation and tensions within the affected communities. The conflict, which has its roots in grievances related to religious and social inequalities, has further polarized the region and deepened mistrust among various groups. Here are some of the key impacts of fragmentation along religious, ethnic, and cultural fault lines: As a result of this, most of the Boko Haram's attacks have targeted individuals and communities that they perceive as not adhering to their particular brand of Islam. This has created divisions between different Muslim groups, leading to suspicions and hostilities among them. However, Boko Haram's attacks have not only targeted Muslims but also Christians and other religious minorities. As a result, inter-religious tensions have increased, leading to incidents of violence and communal clashes between different religious groups.

The conflict has also exacerbated ethnic fault lines in the region. Different ethnic groups may perceive each other with suspicion and blame each other for the violence and its consequences. It has reinforced existing patterns of discrimination and marginalization faced by certain religious or ethnic groups. This can lead to feelings of alienation and resentment, potentially fueling further violence and radicalization.

Fragmentation along religious, ethnic, and cultural lines poses significant obstacles to reconciliation and peacebuilding efforts. Sustainable peace and recovery require bridging divides and fostering dialogue and understanding among diverse communities. Addressing the impacts of fragmentation along religious, ethnic, and cultural fault lines is crucial for achieving lasting peace and stability in Borno State and the North East region. Efforts should focus on promoting dialogue and reconciliation among different groups, addressing grievances and inequalities, and fostering a sense of shared identity and citizenship. It is essential to involve local religious and community leaders, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders in these efforts to build trust and promote social cohesion. Additionally, initiatives that address the root causes of the conflict, such as socioeconomic inequalities and lack of opportunities, can contribute to reducing divisions and promoting a more unified and resilient society.

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Patricio Asfura-Heim and Julia McQuaid. January 2015. *Diagnosing the Boko Haram Conflict: Grievances, Motivations, and Institutional Resilience in Northeast Nigeria*.

Accessed online: https://www.cna.org/archive/CNA_Files/pdf/dop-2014-u-009272-final.pdf

Social division: The Boko Haram conflict has deeply affected the social cohesion of affected communities in Borno State and the North-East. The conflict has resulted in wide geographical spread and high levels of conflict, combined with the limited effectiveness of formal and informal mechanisms to prevent and contain violence, have resulted in widespread levels of suspicion, mistrust, and stigmatization along ethnic, religious, political and geographical lines. The social fabric in the North-East has been deeply damaged, eroding social relations between citizens and government, ethnic clans, communities and even extended families. Economic, ethnic, religious, political and geographical divisions have hardened, affecting the way in which any recovery effort is perceived. Restoring social cohesion and trust is the most critical precondition to recovery and peace building, but also the most difficult, given the deep impact of the conflict.

According to the International Journal of Education and Social Science Research on post conflict reintegration and challenges of social cohesion in North Eastern Nigeria, the lingering Boko Haram conflict and resulting trauma has contributed to deep feeling of mistrust and uncertainty among IDPs and other affected persons. The study which centered on IDPs from the following four LGAs of Borno state comprising MMC, Bama, Dikwa and Damboa. The report found that Peace building actors have discovered building social cohesion in conflict prone areas as key conditions for the sustainability of peace reintegration, resettlement, and rehabilitation of the displaced persons, building state capacity and fostering socio-economic development. It also posits that, the patterns of social cohesion and strategies that groups/communities use to co-exist peacefully differ from one case to another particularly where there are high level of human insecurity and economic crisis and social polarization and state-led efforts towards constructing trust through new narratives of cohesion and integration. However, citizens of the area expressed willingness to relocate back home but are wary of anticipated challenges for resettlement such as housing, health care, and other basic infrastructures as well as capital to kick-start livelihoods and more importantly security. The research recommends among others that Provision of social services such as health centre, food, sanitation and shelters by the stakeholders for those living in IDP camps and in affected communities we go a long way in reintegrating the citizens.

World Bank Group. 2015. *North-East Nigeria Recovery and Peace Building Assessment: Synthesis Report*. © World Bank, Abuja, Nigeria.

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International Journal of Education and Social Science. Vol. 1, No. 05; 2018.

Research on post conflict reintegration and challenges of social cohesion in North Eastern Nigeria. Accessed online: https://ijessr.com/uploads/ijessr_01_78.pdf

■ Analysis of selected policies, plans and initiatives in peacebuilding within Borno State north East Nigeria

Analysis of selected policies, plans and initiatives in peacebuilding within Borno State In the wake of the devastating Boko Haram conflict that has plagued Borno State and the broader North East Nigeria, various policies, plans, and initiatives have been introduced by state actors to promote peacebuilding, foster stability, and facilitate the region's recovery. In this section, we will critically examine a range of selected strategies and efforts undertaken by governmental bodies to address the multifaceted challenges posed by the conflict. From the declaration of state of emergencies to the establishment of specialized commissions and initiatives, we delve into the measures aimed at mitigating the impact of the conflict, rehabilitating affected communities, and laying the groundwork for sustainable peace and development. Through an in-depth analysis of each policy and initiative, we seek to assess their effectiveness, successes, challenges, and implications for the peacebuilding process in Borno State. By understanding the strengths and limitations of these interventions, we can gain valuable insights into the path towards lasting reconciliation, stability, and prosperity in this conflict-affected region.

Selected policies, plans and initiatives in peacebuilding of the State actors

The government response to the crisis has primarily been a nationally and state based security and service delivery response, with limited attempts at negotiation, and some broader actions aimed at countering the conflict. Below are selected policies, plans and initiatives in peacebuilding implemented by the Government at the Federal and State levels:

Declaration of state of emergencies

The declaration of state of Emergencies on two occasions in December 2011 in parts of Yobe, Borno, as well as Plateau and Niger, and in May 2013, for the whole of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe represents a heavy hand approach of the Government to address the Boko Haram conflict.

The first declaration of state of emergency was announced by Good luck Jonathan the then president of Nigeria on 31st December 2011 after a series of deadly attacks notably following the Boko Haram's

responsibility claim for the 2011 Christmas day attacks on churches in Nigeria thereby raising fears of the sectarian strife. This declaration covered parts of Yobe, Borno, as well as Plateau and Niger states. In a nationally televised address, President Goodluck Johnathan also announced that he had ordered the closure of the country's border with neighboring countries. According to the address, "While the search for lasting solutions is ongoing, it has become imperative to take some decisive measures necessary to restore

normalcy in the country especially within the affected communities," the president said. The president had come under increasing pressure to act after a series of bomb attacks on churches on Christmas Day, which killed more than 40 people and injured dozens of others. Islamist sect Boko Haram claimed responsibility for the attacks. The state of emergency applied to parts of Niger State, Plateau, Borno and Yobe that are believed to have become infiltrated by Boko Haram. There are fears that the group is trying to spark sectarian strife between Nigeria's Muslim and Christian communities.

In a similar vein, the violent attacks led the Nigerian president to declare a state of emergency on May 15, 2013 in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe – three northern states where Boko Haram has been most active – in an attempt to restore order and reclaim control of the territories. The State of Emergency (SoE) was declared on 14 May 2013 and expired in May 2014, following an escalation of violence between Nigerian government forces and Boko Haram (BH) Islamist insurgents. In a pre-recorded address broadcast to the Nigerian public on May 14, 2013, President Jonathan said, 'What we are facing is not just militancy or criminality, but a rebellion and insurgency by terrorist groups which pose a very serious threat to national unity and territorial integrity'. The President further stated that 'it would appear that there is a systematic effort by insurgents and terrorists to destabilize the Nigerian state and test our collective resolve'. The speech threw the ongoing Islamic insurgency into stark relief, at one point describing how fighters had laid waste to state buildings and 'had taken women and children hostage'. He also noted that, 'the actions of the Boko Haram group amount to a declaration of war and a deliberate attempt to undermine the authority of the Nigerian state and threaten its territorial integrity. Against this backdrop, the Nigerian president vowed to 'take all necessary action to put an end to the impunity of insurgents and terrorists,' including the arrest and detention of suspects, assaults on Boko Haram hideouts, the lockdown of suspected Boko Haram enclaves, raids, and the arrests of anyone possessing illegal weapons'.

To this end, the Nigerian government established a special Joint Task Force (JTF), known as Operations Restore Order (JTORO). This involved the deployment of 8,000 soldiers to the region in a direct military offensive against Boko Haram members, the largest military deployment since Nigeria's Civil War.

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Relief Web International. 14th May 2013 – 25th April 2014. *Report on Nigeria Borno, Yobe and Adamawa emergency*. Accessed online.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/nigeria-borno-yobe-and-adamawa-state-emergency-14052013-25042014>

Daniel Egiegba Agbiboa. 10th October 2013. *International Journal of Security and Development. The Ongoing Campaign of Terror in Nigeria: Boko Haram versus the State*.

Accessed online: <https://stabilityjournal.org/articles/10.5334/sta.cl>

Impact of the declaration of state of emergencies:

It is important to note that this heavy-handed approach of the Government has always been the preferred option of the Government, involving the use of state security forces to 'mount aggressive pursuit and crackdown of Boko Haram members'. However, far too often, members of the JTF have been accused of killing innocent people in the name of counter-terrorism. In Borno State, for example, the JTF resorted to extralegal killings, dragnet arrests, and intimidation of the hopeless Borno residents. Popular opinion has noted that 'Far from conducting intelligence-driven operations, the JTF simply cordoned off areas and carried out house-to-house searches, at times shooting young men in these homes'.

In a series of interviews with residents in the city of Maiduguri, Human Rights Watch reported that, "during raids in communities, often in the aftermath of Boko Haram attacks, members of the security forces have executed men in front of their families; arbitrarily arrested or beaten members of the community; burned houses, shops, and cars; stolen money while searching homes; and, in at least one case, raped a woman. [In addition] Government security agencies routinely hold suspects incommunicado without charge or trial in secret detention facilities and have subjected detainees to torture or other physical abuse (HRW 2012: 58).

The military response of the Nigerian government has continued to encounter challenges. There have been challenges in coordination, coherence and clarity of roles and responsibilities among the many government agencies involved in responding to the crisis. The enormous humanitarian and protection needs of IDPs and affected communities are far from being fully met. From late February 2015, the MNJTF, under the auspices of the Lake Chad Basin Commission, launched a military offensive against Boko Haram, expelling the group from almost all of the 25 or more LGAs that had been occupied. According to official government reports, by April 2015, Boko Haram had lost most of its held territories in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe States, except for its stronghold in the Sambisa forest in Borno State. Although the Nigerian Government regained territory, as Boko Haram was pushed back, these actions caused further displacement and exposed additional humanitarian needs, without fully enabling humanitarian access.

To this end, the declaration of state of emergencies may not be the most effective approach to addressing the Boko Haram conflict following the infringement of human rights of the affected populations. It has also not yielded the desired result of restoring peace and stability to Borno State and the North East Region of Nigeria affected by the conflict.

The Policy Framework and National Action for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism by the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA)

In response to the challenges of Terrorism that Nigeria faces, the Terrorism Prevention Act 2011 as amended in 2013 was signed into law. The Act designates the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA) as the Coordinating Office for Nigeria's Counter terrorism efforts. The Act also gives ONSA the mandates to "ensure the formulation and implementation of a comprehensive Counter Terrorism Strategy and build capacity for the effective discharge of the functions of relevant security, intelligence, law enforcement and military services." In line with the foregoing, the Counter Terrorism Centre (CTC) was established in 2012, and is located in the Office of the National Security Adviser. The Counter Terrorism Centre (CTC) which is headed by a Coordinator, has pioneered key initiatives since 2012. These include, providing leadership, coordination and strategic guidance to security, law enforcement and intelligence agencies. The Centre's relationships with relevant partners transcend State Actors, to include donor agencies, Counter Terrorism platforms like the Global Counter Terrorism Forum, Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund, Hedayah (based in Abu Dhabi) and the United Nations.

More recently, the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA) developed a more integrated approach to counter-terrorism in the form of a Countering Conflict Programme. On 24 August 2017, President Muhammadu Buhari signed the Presidential Directive to the Policy Framework and National Action for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism which was then launched on the 28 November, 2017. Thereafter, the Nigerian Government through the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA) on Tuesday 13 February 2018, presented the Policy Framework and National Action Plan for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism to members of the public. According to the National Security Adviser during the launch, the Policy framework was in line with President Buhari's focus on transparency, accountability and the rule of law. He further added that the framework will ensure institutionalization and mainstreaming of preventing and countering violent extremism across Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government.

About the policy framework:

The Policy Framework and National Action Plan provides a coherent vision for preventing and countering violent extremism in Nigeria. It is based on research findings, global good practices, and knowledge of the root causes of violent extremism. It was developed on the premise that the Nigerian Government alone cannot address the full range of factors that bring about violent extremism, the Policy Framework articulates a plan that involves all stakeholders, building partnerships, capacity, knowledge and leadership that ensure safer, secure and resilient communities in the face of violent extremism. The timeline for the implementation of the Policy Framework spans over the period of three years i.e. 2018 to 2021.

Human Rights Watch. 2012. World Report Nigeria; Events of 2011. Accessed online: <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2012/country-chapters/nigeria>

The National Counter Terrorism Centre; Office of the National Security Adviser Website. Accessed online: <https://ctc.gov.ng/about-ctc/>

The National Counter Terrorism Center; Office of the National Security Adviser. Nigerian Government presents policy framework and national action plan for preventing and countering violent extremism to member of the public. Accessed online: <https://ctc.gov.ng/nigerian-government-presents-policy-framework-and-national-action-plan-for-preventing-and-countering-violent-extremism-to-members-of-the-public/>

The Policy Framework rests on four major objectives which are; Strengthening Institutions and Coordination in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism; Strengthening the Rule of Law, Access to Justice and Human Rights; Engaging Communities and Building Resilience; and Integrating Strategic Communication in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Programme.

Some best practices and impact of the Policy framework: Below are the some of the best practices and impacts of the policy framework:

Sensitization and awareness creation initiatives:

Following the public launch and presentation of the framework, ONSA has carried out several sensitization initiatives across the 36 states of Nigeria and the FCT aimed at socialising and increasing public awareness, acceptance and buy-in of the policy. This is considered as best practice because such framework requires the support of all of the society to succeed hence the need for public sensitization and awareness.

Development of the monitoring and evaluation framework for the policy framework:

In 2022, the Office of the National Security Adviser achieved a major milestone in the implementation of the framework through the public launch of the monitoring and evaluation framework for the Policy framework and action plan for preventing and countering violent extremism. According to the coordinator of the counter terrorism centre, the development of the monitoring and evaluation document through support from ActionAid Nigeria and the Global Community and Resilience Fund (GCERF) is an important landmark document in the national efforts undertaken by the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA) to operationalize the Policy Framework and National Action Plan for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PF NAP for PCVE). The document reflects the will of the Nigerian Government to utilize the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches against the threats and risks of violent extremism.

The M&E strategy therefore, establishes an important link between the activities designed in the Policy Framework and National Action Plan for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, how to monitor and evaluate these activities, while also providing strategic guidance on how to design future programmes within the PCVE context. The document contains M&E strategies to be used by both State and Non-State actors organised around key methodologies such as Design, Planning, Implementation, Reporting and Dissemination as outlined therein in developing a robust M&E strategy. It is expected that the M&E strategy will guide State and Non-State actors as they develop new or optimize existing activities in line with the Policy Framework to also monitor and effectively evaluate the impact of the strategies to Prevent and Counter Violent

Federal Government of Nigeria. August 2017. Policy framework and national action plan for preventing and countering violent extremism. Accessed online: C:\Users\Project Associate\Downloads\CATAI_JULY 2023\. <https://ctc.gov.ng/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/PCVE-NSA-BOOK-1.pdf>

The National Counter Terrorism Center; Office of the National Security Adviser. ONSA and ActionAid launch of the Monitoring and Evaluation strategy for Policy framework and national action plan on PCVE. Accessed online: <https://ctc.gov.ng/onsa-actionaid-launch-me-strategy-for-policy-framework-and-national-action-plan-on-pcve/>

Extremism in Nigeria. The strategy will also support Stakeholders to understand how critical their roles are in institutionalizing, mainstreaming and implementing activities to achieve the set objectives clearly stated in the Framework at both National and Sub-national levels. The M&E framework provides a set of measurable outcomes for the entire spectrum of the framework's target population under the civilian and security bracket using outlined set of indicators.

Funding of projects aligned with the Policy framework: Following the launch and public presentation of the policy framework, several donors have funded initiatives which are aligned with the framework hence supporting its implementation. Some of these donors include the European Union, USAID, US Department of States, US Department of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor. The UN Agencies such as UN Women, UNICEF, UNDP, UNODC and IOM have also received funding for implementation of the framework which has either directly or in partnership with National and International NGOs. Some of these projects include the following; The STRIVE Juvenile: Preventing and Responding to Violence against Children by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups Project implemented by UNODC with funding from the European Union; The PREPARED for PEACE Project implemented by Search for Common Ground with funding from the US Department of States; The Systems and Structure Strengthening Approach Against Radicalization to Violence Extremism Project implemented by ActionAid Nigeria with funding from the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF).

Introduction of the Presidential Initiative for the North East (PINE) Regional Initiative

In April 2015, Nigeria's former President, Muhammadu Buhari, declared that he would take a hard line on Boko Haram, while understanding and tackling the drivers of the crisis. One of his first moves upon taking office was to order the immediate relocation of the military command centre from Abuja to Maiduguri; he also committed to addressing the reports of misconduct by the Nigerian security and military forces. Following the relocation of the Military Command HQ to Maiduguri, the actions of government security forces in the region have been more successfully coordinated. At the developmental level, the government has formulated regional initiatives in the form of the Presidential Initiative for the North-East (PINE) initiative.

PINE is an intervention plan designed to mobilize targeted resources to jumpstart the economies of the North-Eastern States while strategically repositioning the region for long-term prosperity. PINE is the second prong of the soft approach to addressing the issues of insecurity in the Northeast. The unprecedented, humanitarian crisis in the region necessitates the need for the PINE initiative which aimed to provide a comprehensive response, as captured by the PINE Emergency Assistance and Economic Stabilization (EA-ES) Short Term Plan. The PINE strategy aimed to create a nexus between the short term and the long term plans for the region is to

leverage on the stabilization effect created by this immediate, comprehensive response as the foundation to all its plans for sustainable economic re-vitalization. With a vision of “a safe, secure and prosperous North-East region that is a major asset to Nigeria and a global model of economic turnaround and mission of “laying the foundation for socio-economic transformation through strategic intervention programs, with clear sustainable objectives aimed at restoring livelihoods, economic opportunities and long term peace to the region. The implementation of the PINE initiative was structured into short, medium and long term components. The short-term program, which is called the Emergency Assistance and Economic Stabilization program (EA-ES), was implemented within 24 months with accelerated components for implementation within one (1) month. The medium to long term program which is called the Economic Redevelopment and Reconstruction Program (ERR), spanned 6 to 60 months.

Good practices from implementation of the PINE initiative: Following the introduction of the PINE initiative, the Federal Government led by the office of the Vice President and the State Governments of Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe has deployed the North-East Nigeria Recovery and Peace Building Assessment (RPBA) to quantify the physical, social and economic impacts of the crisis in the North-East. This process has informed the process of stabilization, peace building and recovery in the region. The RPBA has also provided tools and served as a source of information to inform actions aimed at addressing the challenge in the region. This is a best practice which should be encouraged for all Government led initiatives such as the PINE initiative. The results of such action will help reduce suffering in affected communities, restore a sense of normalcy and regain the trust of people in the region. The assessment was supported by the European Union (EU), the United Nations (UN), and The World Bank (WB).

Responses of the National Emergency Agency in coordination with Borno State Emergency Agency

Nigeria’s National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), in coordination with State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMAs), has been monitoring IDP movements and providing a range of relief support to affected communities. Food, access to clean drinking water, and other emergency supplies have been provided to IDPs living in camps and many of those staying with host families in the North-East as a result of the Boko Haram conflict. NEMA has strategically stockpiled emergency supplies in warehouses in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe States to cater to the needs of the IDPs. NEMA has taken the lead in camp coordination and management and has deployed personnel to provide technical support to SEMAs and the Nigerian Red Cross, to manage the IDP camps in the North-East.

Humanitarian Response Information. July 2015. The full Presidential Initiative for the North East Plan. Accessed online.

<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarian->

[response.info/files/documents/files/pine_the_north_east_err_plan_-_full_-_pine_-_july_2015_2015_2020.pdf](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/pine_the_north_east_err_plan_-_full_-_pine_-_july_2015_2015_2020.pdf)

World Bank Group. 2015. North-East Nigeria Recovery and Peace Building Assessment: Synthesis Report. © World Bank, Abuja, Nigeria. <http://hdl.handle.net/10986/25791>

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Good practices and impact of responses of NEMA and SEMA: NEMA has consistently coordinated with SEMA in Borno State and the North East Region in providing responses to Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) and other persons affected by the Boko Haram conflict. In addition, NEMA and SEMA has coordinated responses of relevant stakeholders in the IDP camps. However, some IDPs have decried politicization of responses by NEMA and SEMA which may have created some negative impacts to affected persons.

Introduction of education and the safe schools initiative for displaced and reintegrated children and youths

Emergency education for displaced children became a major priority after unprecedented Boko Haram attacks on students, teachers, and school infrastructure. In May 2014, the Nigerian Government, the United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education Gordon Brown and a coalition of Nigerian business leaders jointly launched the Safe Schools Initiative. The Safe Schools Initiative (SSI) aimed to improve school safety and security and in some cases students are transferred (in agreement with parents) to other schools in states not affected by the Boko Haram conflict.

With the objective of providing school pupils, family members and teaching staff in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa with better protection and made safer, Children from affected areas in Borno State and the North East Region has been able attend school without interruption.

The approach of the safe schools initiative is to jointly rebuild school infrastructure in northeast Nigeria with safety issues in mind. It also introduces community-oriented safety strategies in schools. In the short term, the initiative provided young people from secondary schools in high-risk areas the opportunity to voluntarily transfer to boarding schools in safer parts of Nigeria. It also provided the beneficiaries access to psychological support to deal with the trauma they have experienced. The initiative paid the tuition of the children and youth beneficiaries and also increase in the number of lessons taught each day (one set in the morning and one in the afternoon) and providing additional teaching materials. It also ran recruitment drives and training schemes so that additional volunteer teachers were hired to work with young people, using temporary classrooms where pupils can be taught.

Good practices and impacts of the Safe Schools Initiative:

The safe school initiative has provided an effective model for preventing the disruption in the education of children and youths affected by the Boko Haram conflict in Borno state and the North East Region. Through the initiative, there is rekindled hope for affected families in terms of continuity of the education of their wards for a better future. In addition, through the initiative, by March 2015, 750 pupils had been moved to boarding schools in safe parts of the country, where they have been able to continue their school education.

GIZ. 2014 to 2018. Safe Schools Initiative. Accessed online: <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/31084.html>

Establishment of the North East Development Commission

In 2017, President Muhammadu Buhari signed into law the North East Development Commission (NEDC) Bill 2017, a significant statement to underscore national concern with the devastation suffered by the region due to the Boko Haram insurgency. The aim of the Commission is to restore peace and normalcy in the north-east and making the harrowing experience of the people as a result of insurgency a thing of the past. The Act gives the North-East Development Commission the mandate to receive and manage funds allocated by the Federal Government and international donor agencies for the resettlement, rehabilitation, integration and reconstruction of roads, houses and business premises of victims of insurgency.

The commission will among other things coordinate projects and programmes within the master plan for the rehabilitation, resettlement, reconciliation, reconstruction and sustainable development of the north-east zone in the fields of infrastructure, human and social services including health and nutrition, education and water supply, agriculture, wealth creation and employment opportunities, urban and rural development and poverty alleviation.”

Some challenges and potential impacts of the North East Development Commission:

The commission is not left out of Agencies which was in July 2020 investigated by the House of Representatives for alleged corrupt practices, high handedness, and inflation of contracts, awards of non-existent contracts, massive contract splitting and flagrant disregard for the procurement laws in the award of contracts. It is was reported that some of the funds disbursed to the commission by the federal government is said to have vanished under a year without any visible impact on the refugees nor any infrastructural development credited to the name of the commission in the whole of the Northeast.”

However, the commission presents an opportunity for improved coordination of projects and projects implemented by the government and non-government actors in line with the master plan for rehabilitation, resettlement, reconciliation, reconstruction and sustainable development of the north-east.

North East Development Commission Website. Accessed online: C:\Users\Project Associate\Downloads\CATAI_JULY 2023\, <https://nedc.gov.ng/welcome-north-east-development-commission>

Establishment of Borno State Ministry of Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Resettlement, closure of IDP camps and resettlement of IDPs

In 2015, Borno State Government established the ministry for the reconstruction, rehabilitation and resettlements of Boko Haram destroyed towns and villages. The establishment of the ministry was necessitated by the number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) recorded in Borno state and the need to initiate their return to their communities along with the re-opening of closed schools for resumptions. To this end, the new ministry was named as: “The Ministry of Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (MRRR)” with the mandate of rebuilding and resettling all the affected Boko Haram victims in Borno state. The ministry approach was the return of IDPs to their ancestral homes and resettled communities as well as the reconstruction of destroyed public buildings and other infrastructural facilities, including public schools, health centres and clinics to enable displaced persons return to their respective communities.

To this end, in October 2021, the Governor of Borno State announced the closure of all government-provided IDP camps in Maiduguri by December 31, 2021. In November 2021, the Borno government further announced that IDPs will not be forced to relocate to their ancestral homes, noting that only those who have shown interest will be returned. The governor also said the majority of the IDPs were willing to be relocated, adding that they will be supported with cash and means of livelihood. Thereafter, in December 2021, the Borno government banned all humanitarian organisations from sharing food and relief items with resettled communities in Bama where residents had not received any support from the government.

Challenges and impacts of the Ministry of RRR and resettlement initiative:

According to Human Rights Watch, the shutdown of government provided IDP camps in Maiduguri, the Borno capital, has worsened the living conditions of over 200,000 IDPs in the state. According to the report, the IDPs are now battling severe hunger, lack of shelter and insecurity. The report also allegedly reported that some of the relocated IDPs are reportedly facing difficulties meeting their basic needs, while most of them had to build zinc structures and thatch on lands secured from private landowners. The report said most of the resettled communities had no housing, water, healthcare services, schools and other infrastructure.

On the part of the Government, it was reported that “State authorities distributed money (between 50,000 and 100,000 naira, or US\$86.21 to US\$172.41) to some individuals recognized as heads of household and wives in male-headed households before the camp closures, reportedly intending these funds as livelihood support.”

Premium Times Nigeria News on Investigation of alleged mismanagement of NGN100 billion by North East Development Commission. Accessed online:

C:\Users\Project Associate\Downloads\CATAI_JULY 2023\. <https://www.premiumpages.com/regional/north-east/404705-reps-investigate-alleged-mismanagement-of-n100-billion-by-north-east-development-commission-nedc.html?tztc=1>

The Guardian News Publication on the creation of the Ministry of Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Resettlement in Borno State. Accessed online:

C:\Users\Project Associate\Downloads\CATAI_JULY 2023\. <https://guardian.ng/news/orno-creates-ministry-to-rebuild-rehabilitate-communities-destroyed-by-insurgents/>

The cable news on impact of the closure of IDP camps in Borno state on IDPs. Accessed online: https://www.thecable.ng/report-borno-idps-battling-severe-hunger-homelessness-after-closure-of-camps

thatch on lands secured from private landowners. The report said most of the resettled communities had no housing, water, healthcare services, schools and other infrastructure. On the part of the Government, it was reported that “State authorities distributed money (between 50,000 and 100,000 naira, or US\$86.21 to US\$172.41) to some individuals recognized as heads of household and wives in male-headed households before the camp closures, reportedly intending these funds as livelihood support.”

Selected plans and initiatives in peacebuilding of some non-state actors . The non-state actors will be presented by categorizing selected plans and initiatives implemented by multilateral agencies and the UN Agencies as well those implemented by International and National Non-Governmental organisations. Below are selected plans and initiatives implemented by the multilateral institutions, UN Agencies, International and National Non-Governmental Organisations:

Multilateral institutions and the United Nations Agencies

The World Bank funded Multi-sectoral crisis recovery project (MCRP)

In March 2020, the World Bank announced the \$200 million equivalent International Development Assistance to be implemented over a maturity period of 25 years and a grace period of 5 years. The project is aimed at supporting the Government of Nigeria towards rehabilitating and improving critical service delivery infrastructure, improve the livelihood opportunities of conflict and displacement-affected communities, and strengthen social cohesion in the North East Participating States of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa; and in the event of an Eligible Crisis or Emergency, provide immediate and effective response to said Eligible Crisis or Emergency.

The MCRP is aligned with the World Bank’s global twin goals of eliminating extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity. It also aligned with the World Bank’s Country Partnership Strategy for Nigeria (FY14-FY17) and is an integral part of the broader recovery strategic framework outlined in the RPBA toward the Government of Nigeria’s priority agenda of affecting sustainable and resilient crisis recovery in the NE region. The MCRP was designed in a complementary manner with the World Bank AF operations, becoming an integral part of the World Bank response to the NE. Furthermore, it was in a complementary manner with the World Bank AF operations, becoming an integral part of the World Bank response to the NE. The MCRP approach is also aligned with the analytical conclusions and guidelines provided by the study of forced displacement in the Lake Chad region conducted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)-World Bank.

The cable news on impact of the closure of IDP camps in Borno state on IDPs. Accessed online: <https://www.thecable.ng/report-borno-idps-battling-severe-hunger-homelessness-after-closure-of-camps>

The World Bank. 20th March 2017. Nigeria Multi-sectoral Crisis Recovery Project for North Eastern Nigeria. Accessed online:

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/loans-credits/2017/03/20/nigeria-multi-sectoral-crisis-recovery-project-for-north-eastern-nigeria>

The project targeted support provided to individual beneficiaries from the IDP, host, and other affected communities. It was designed to directly benefit conflict- and displacement-affected populations in the BAY states, the total number of direct beneficiaries will depend on the states' annual investment plans. It also planned to pay special attention to the needs of the most vulnerable groups, such as widows and orphans, to ensure that they benefit from the proposed interventions. In addition the project targeted a major proportion of the overall crisis-affected population of the BAY states who will benefit from efforts to strengthen the Government's capacity to respond to and manage the recovery process. The people of Nigeria in general will also indirectly benefit from stabilized security and improved development outcomes in the NE region.

The MCRP Project was designed to bridge the gap between humanitarian and development activities as well as take a gradual, phased, and two-pronged approach that includes: (a) a surge of high-impact, early recovery interventions in the period of stabilization for rebuilding lives and livelihoods while humanitarian operations continue in tandem; and (b) a gradual transition toward medium-term recovery and resilience building through investments in social cohesion, productive capital, and social infrastructure.

The key elements of the MCRP Project are the following:

- (a) Respond to the immediate needs of forcibly displaced populations and host communities to bridge the gap between humanitarian support and medium-term development in areas that remain largely underserved. While focusing primarily on medium-term multi-sector recovery and strengthening of social cohesion, the project will facilitate the transition from humanitarian operations to early recovery. In this regard, the project will help scale up the provision of basic necessity kits and livelihood assistance to vulnerable populations.
- (b) Facilitate the restoration of the social fabric and the social contract between the Government and its citizens, by bringing different groups together, and supporting initiatives that address some of the root causes of the conflict, as well as providing psychosocial support to those affected by the conflict.
- (c) Sustainably restore and improve service delivery and economic livelihood opportunities across sectors, through reconstruction, rehabilitation, and improvement of service delivery infrastructure in affected areas.

*The World Bank. Nigeria Multisectoral Crisis Recovery Project for North Eastern Nigeria; Additional financing. Accessed online.
<https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/693131590804140330/pdf/Nigeria-Multi-Sectoral-Crisis-Recovery-Project-for-North-Eastern-Nigeria-Additional-Financing.pdf>*

Some good practices and impacts of the MCRP Project: Below are some good practices and impacts of the MCRP Project:

- The MCRP implementation model has proven successful in putting the State Governments of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa firmly in the leadership and implementation role for recovery and peace building, thus helping restore state-citizen trust, the erosion of which was a key structural driver of crisis;
- The MCRP Project has supported to promote the strategic inclusion of Nigeria into the Lake Chad regional program, which will also entail bringing in new components on agricultural value chain, rural access and regional connectivity.
- The MCRP project has overtime brought a more strategic focus on agricultural livelihoods and value chains and economic recovery, a natural evolution for MCRP.
- The MCRP evolved into an integrated central platform for the channeling of broader World Bank assistance to Borno, Adamawa and Yobe, the three states most affected by the Boko Haram crisis. Five additional financing operations, which were part of the Bank's 2016-2017 \$775 million Boko Haram response package along with MCRP closed before the end of FY20. The restructuring allowed it to absorb activities, and potentially unspent IDA funding from these five operations, which cover health and education service delivery, agriculture and food security, social protection and community development. This approach is also in line with the need for spatial sector consolidation of Bank projects towards increased impact and implementation arrangements streamlining.

Development of the Humanitarian Response Plan

The Humanitarian Response Plan is a document produced by the UN OCHA through the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) following consultations with the Federal Government and Government of the three most affected states to address the critical needs of vulnerable persons affected by the conflict in North East Nigeria. It provides a pathway to addressing the people's most critical needs, such as access to food, water, and healthcare services. Importantly, it also addresses the protection needs of affected people - especially women and girls in line with the Humanitarian needs overview.

The Humanitarian Response Plan also serves as a tool for mobilizing resources to meet the live-saving needs of the in the three most affected states of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa by providing

The World Bank Additional Financing for MCRP (P173104). 22nd April 2020. Combined Project Information Documents / Integrated Safeguards Datasheet (PID/ISDS). Accessed online: <https://ewdata.rightsindevelopment.org/files/documents/04/WB-P173104.pdf>

World Bank Group. 2015. North-East Nigeria Recovery and Peace Building Assessment: Synthesis Report. © World Bank, Abuja, Nigeria. <http://hdl.handle.net/10986/25791> License: CC BY 3.0 IGO.

multi-sectoral assistance. It ensures the prioritization of the needs of vulnerable persons such as Women and children, particularly girls in line with identified needs in the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) as amongst those most in need in north-east Nigeria.

Through the Humanitarian Response Plan, the international humanitarian response in Nigeria's North-East has provided life-saving assistance to IDPs and host communities. This support provided aimed to ensure a dignified existence as they wait for durable solutions to resolve their current situation. The HRP usually covers a range of immediate life-saving needs including; health, food, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, shelter, non-food items, education and protection of civilians.

Some good practices from the use of the Humanitarian Response Plan:

Below are some good practices that can be drawn from the use of the Humanitarian Response Plan coordinated by UN OCHA:

- The HRP has deployed a conflict sensitive approach to responding to the needs of affected persons by engaging partners to identify risks to humanitarian action and perceptions of humanitarian action that may limit acceptance and impede access. It also provides strategies to mitigate or remove these risks and perceptions.
- The HRP has consistently communicated transparent messages, including to affected communities and persons of concern to UNHCR about the humanitarian nature of UNHCR's work and that of its partners.
- The HRP adheres to a community-based approach that is sensitive to differences in age, gender and diversity, engage and empower affected populations to participate in needs assessments as well as in the design and implementation of the humanitarian response.
- The HRP ensures that any support provided by UNHCR to non-UN security forces (including police and border officials) complies with UNHCR and inter-agency principles and standards.
- The HRP is developed in appreciation for humanitarian principles. Where appropriate, promote familiarity with the international normative legal framework as it relates to humanitarian action.

Introduction of bottom-up coordination mechanisms

UNHCR has continued to support the Government of Nigeria through its leadership and coordination of the emergency response to the crisis in Borno and other states affected by the Boko Haram conflict in North East Nigeria. To promote the inclusion of partner's response into a regional response plan, UNHCR pursues strong collaboration, complementarity and information sharing with all stakeholders such as UN Agencies, NGOs, donors and civil society.

*United Nations OCHA. 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan. Accessed online:
https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarian-response.info/files/documents/files/ocha_nga_humanitarian_response_plan_feb2022.pdf
The UN Refugee Agency Emergency handbook on the Humanitarian Principles. Accessed online:
<https://emergency.unhcr.org/protection/protection-principles/humanitarian-principles>*

regional response plan, UNHCR pursues strong collaboration, complementarity and information sharing with all stakeholders such as UN Agencies, NGOs, donors and civil society.

In Nigeria, the HCT provides strategic leadership, policy development and engagement with the Federal Government; and meets under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator on a monthly basis. The Inter Agency-Emergency Preparedness Response Working Group provides technical support and facilitates joint planning, implementation and monitoring of humanitarian action. The Inter-Sector and Sector Working Groups (ISWG) promote sectoral response and coordination.

UNHCR and partners are currently working with the national and State emergency agencies to support the establishment of sub-national coordination mechanisms aimed at facilitating partnership and cooperation between the Government and humanitarian actors for effective and timely humanitarian action.

Some good practices from deployment of bottom-up coordination mechanisms in Nigeria:

- OCHA convenes state level coordination meetings at Abuja and in the three most affected states comprising Borno, Adamawa and Yobe. The state level coordination meetings has contributed to strengthening capacities for humanitarian coordination, information management, supporting humanitarian planning processes and needs assessment missions in collaboration with National and International stakeholders
- OCHA coordinates monthly Humanitarian Coordination Meetings (HCM) in Borno and supports the Government lead State Humanitarian Coordination Forum (SHCF). Sector coordination takes place through Government lead/ UN/INGO co-lead working groups; Education, Food Security & Livelihoods, Health & Nutrition, Protection and WASH and CCCM/Shelter/NFI.
- Facilitation of the Inter-Sector Coordination Groups (ISCG) comprising; assessment and analysis, Accountability to Affected Persons, Cash, Gender Equality Programming, Information management, PSEA network and Rapid Response Mechanism.
- The above coordination mechanisms has improved the delivery of humanitarian response coordinated by OCHA in Nigeria and are best practices for supporting the most affected persons in Borno State and North East Nigeria.

The UN Refugee Agency. Emergency Response for the Nigeria Situation; Supplementary appeal. Accessed online.: <https://www.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/legacy-pdf/541980459.pdf>

*The Nigeria INGO Forum website. Humanitarian Architecture Coordination in Nigeria. Accessed online: <https://ingoforum.ng/humanitarian-coordination-architecture>
Relief Web International Assessment and Analysis of the Humanitarian Architecture working groups. Accessed online: <https://response.reliefweb.int/nigeria/assessment-and-analysis-working-group>*

Introduction of the United Nations Humanitarian Air Services for rapid and efficient access to affected areas

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) first established UNHAS (United Nations Humanitarian Air Service) in Nigeria in August 2015. Due to the unpredictable security situation and limited road infrastructure, relief workers operating throughout the north-east Nigeria continue to rely on UNHAS to provide access to beneficiaries and project implementation sites.

- Following an insurgent attack on a UN and NGO vehicle convoy in Northeast Nigeria in July 2016, road movement was further restricted and UNHAS helicopters remained the only method of access to the majority of locations within the region. The UNHAS helicopter operation has further increased the potential for organizations to reach satellite camps and areas that are inaccessible by other means and do not have fixed-wing compatible airfields. UNHAS locations served include: Damboa, Bama, Banki, Gwoza, Pulka, Baga, Dikwa, Ngala, Rann, Monguno and Damasak. UNHAS Nigeria is a donor-funded service with some cost recovery measures in place offering transportation of staff and cargo for the humanitarian community responding to the crisis.
- Some impacts of the UNHAS services in Borno State and North East Nigeria:
- It is important to note that UNHAS has been particularly helpful to as many humanitarian organizations as have restrictions on overnight stays in field locations.
- In addition, UNHAS has been crucial to facilitate same-day rapid assessment and monitoring missions.
- The rotary wing service has allowed partners to continue delivery and monitoring activities, conduct rapid assessment missions, support outbreak response and vaccination activities and assist with the distribution of vital food and medical aid.
- As the expansion of humanitarian activities in the Northeast by UN agencies, NGOs and the Government of Nigeria continues, the rapid increase of human resources on the ground require continuous air support from UNHAS to facilitate the transportation of passengers and light cargo to difficult-to-reach areas.

The operation also provides capacity for essential medical and security evacuations of humanitarian staff when required and also conducts special flights upon request.

The Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) strategy

The DDR of ex-combatants/fighters is a complex series of processes with interconnected political, military, security, humanitarian and socioeconomic aspects. DDR seeks to support ex-combatants/fighters in their transition to civilian status by disarming fighters and fighting units

WFP UNHAS Humanitarian Air Service. January 2018. UNHAS Nigeria. Accessed online: <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000064328/download/>



©UNHAS staff on the airport's tarmac. WFP/Amadou Baraze

disengaging individuals, helping them reintegrate socially and economically into society and when applicable, facilitating their active participation in peace processes. By building national capacity and involving communities, DDR lays the groundwork for establishing a secure environment so that other recovery and peacebuilding strategies can follow. Below are the definition of the components of DDR:

Disarmament is the collection, documentation, control and disposal of ammunition, small arms, explosives and light and heavy weapons of combatants, and may also include those of the civilian population. Disarmament also includes the development of responsible arms management programmes.

Demobilization is the formal and controlled discharge of active combatants from armed forces or other armed groups. The first stage of demobilization may extend from the processing of individual combatants/fighters in temporary centres, to the massing of troops in camps designated for this purpose, including encampments, cantonment sites, barracks or assembly areas. Reintegration is the process by which ex-combatants/fighters acquire civilian status and begin sustainable employment and income generation. Reintegration is essentially a social and economic process with an open timeframe, and primarily takes place at the local community level. It is a national responsibility and is part of a country's general development, often necessitating long-term external assistance.

Some good practices from the DDR strategy:

- DDR processes are owned and implemented by national authorities. However, external stakeholders play an important role in ensuring that these processes are reliable, accountable, effective and fair. In locations where peace operations are mandated, or where state institutions and administrative bodies may be too fragile to robustly lead or implement programmes without outside support, the role of external partners becomes even more central.
- In coordination with United Nations missions and agencies, local governments, international organizations and civil society organizations has designed and implemented DDR operations and large peacebuilding initiatives to support conflict-affected countries since the early 1990s.
- The DDR strategy has assisted tens of thousands of ex-combatants/fighters and their dependents in their transition to civilian life. In particular, the DDR strategy has facilitated the transfer, return and reintegration of ex-combatants/fighters into communities of return, as well as assisted with the repatriation of those who have crossed international borders.
- The DDR strategy has contributed to national and regional stabilization and reconciliation, as well as the prevention and resolution of conflict-induced displacement.

UNDP Practice note on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration of Ex-combatants. Accessed online:

https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/publications/UNDP_DDR_Practice_Note.pdf

International Organisation for Migration. 2010 to 2017. Disarmament, Demobilization And Reintegration compendium of projects.

Accessed online: https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/ddr_compendium.pdf

International Labour Office Geneva. Guideline on Socio-economic reintegration of ex-combatants. Accessed online:

https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/documents/instructionalmaterial/wcms_141276.pdf

Adoption of the International Organisation for Migration's Disengagement, Disassociation, Reintegration and Reconciliation strategy

Increasingly over the last decade, IOM has been called on to support States in conflict situations to confront challenges that arise when individuals “disengage” or exit from a violent extremist organization (VEO). In response, IOM developed a new approach for disengagement, disassociation, reintegration and reconciliation (DDRR). This approach addresses the particular circumstances and risks attached to violent extremist environments while drawing on institutional expertise from IOM's over 25 years' work in community stabilization and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR), and the Organization's emerging practice in preventing violent extremism.

DDRR recognizes that contexts with violent extremism often lack one or more of the preconditions that underpin DDR, such as: (a) the existence of a signed peace agreement or a cessation of hostilities that establishes a legal basis; (b) agreed eligibility criteria; (c) political will of the parties to the conflict; and (d) security guarantees, among others.

The DDRR strategy is also in line with the United Nations Security Council repeated call on Member States to develop and implement rehabilitation programmes in appropriate cases as an essential component of a larger strategy of prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration.

DDRR also recognizes that there is enormous variation among former associates, who range from high-level commanders to victims, in terms of their legal status and needs. As these differences are determinative of their future treatment, it is critical that the State screen former associates to establish individual profiles, ensuring due process and compliance with domestic and international laws. Only after a former associate is screened can the State make a sound and lawful decision as to whether an individual will be referred to the criminal justice system for prosecution or eligible for other pathways.

Unlike a traditional DDR scenario with a peace agreement, DDRR operates in situations of ongoing conflict, often involving the very group from which an associate disengaged. Against this background, national authorities have given heightened consideration to the need to deter future affiliation and protect communities, as well as the risks of continued allegiance to the group, recidivist violence and reprisals against former associates.

To this end, the Government of Nigeria has adopted the DDDR strategy initiated by IOM through the implementation of the Operation Safe Corridor (OPSC). Operation Safe Corridor is Nigeria's home-grown program for providing recruits with a voluntary exit route from Boko Haram. OPSC reflects Nigerian authorities' growing recognition that they cannot beat Boko Haram by military means alone. It serves the objective of facilitating the defection and reintegration of low risk former associates. The implementation of OPSC is led by the Office of the National Security Adviser through the Counter Terrorism Centre in collaboration with the respective state Governments in the North East Region.

Some challenges, best practices and impacts from implementation of the DDDR strategy

- DDDR programme implementation in Nigeria faces resistance among the political class and citizens alike.
- It suffers from serious problems of testing donor's confidence and likely deterring potential defectors.
- IOM has supported the development of a strategic communication plan on DDDR. The aim of the plan is to improve acceptance of the DDDR through strategic communication of its gains, activities and impacts.

UNDP's Recovery, Peacebuilding of the conflict affected communities in North East Nigeria project

From March 2022 to March 2023, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) implemented the Recovery and Peace Building of the Conflict-Affected Communities in the North-East Nigeria with funding by the Government of Japan. The project provided interventions aimed at supporting the early recovery and peace building of communities in Yobe, Adamawa and Borno states. The project adopted an integrated resilience-based strategy that aims to enable community recovery and peace building, through the provisioning of livelihood and economic opportunities,

International Organization for Migration (IOM), 2021. Disengagement, Disassociation, Reintegration and Reconciliation: Transitional Rehabilitation. IOM, Geneva. Accessed online: <https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/DDRR-Transitional-Rehabilitation.pdf>

UNDP Practice note on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration of Ex-combatants. Accessed online: <https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/publications/UNDP DDR Practice Note.pdf>

restoration of basic services, the establishment of effective and accountable local governance and the revitalization of social cohesion and community security.

The objective of the Project is to support social stabilization and security of conflict affected communities in the North East Region of Nigeria applying UNDP's community peace building and recovery approach. The project outputs include; Livelihood and economic opportunities of the target communities are improved; Basic services are restored with local governance strengthened in target state; Mechanism for enhancing social cohesion and community security is strengthened.

Some good practices and impacts of the UNDP's Recovery, Peacebuilding of the conflict affected communities in North East Nigeria project

- The Project contributes to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Specific goals include SDGs 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,10 and 16.
- The project deploys a multipronged community integrated approach thereby supporting affected persons in North East Nigeria in the thematic areas of agriculture, vocational skill empowerment, access to finance, access to basic services, sexual and gender based violence and community organising.
- The project has recorded successes evidenced from documented success stories on the impact of the project in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states. Hence it provides an opportunity for learning and replication in future engagements.

UN Women's interventions support for women and girls affected by the conflict, support to women-led organization's including through the women peace and humanitarian fund

UN Women is engaged in coordination and provide technical support across the sectoral responses, capacity building for humanitarian workers; and undertaking various assessments and related initiatives to allow for evidence-based, gender-responsive interventions to address the evolving crisis in the North-East.

With support from the Government of Japan, Government of Netherland, Government of Germany and the European Union, the Nigeria Country Office has continued to expand interventions across Borno and Yobe states over the years. It is currently implementing several interventions including, improving access to justice for women, and strengthening women's engagement with security sector institutions, empowering women and girls to respond to gender-based violence,

UNDP Website news on UNDP Nigeria launch of interventions aimed at supporting early recovery and peacebuilding efforts in affected communities.

Accessed online: https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/publications/UNDP_DDR_Practice_Note.pdf

UNDP Nigeria, Factsheet; The Recovery and Peace Building of the Conflict-Affected Communities in the North-East Nigeria. 2022.

strengthening their resilience to overcome the economic impact of COVID-19. Other intervention includes mobilization and technical and financial support to women-led organization's including through the Women Peace and Humanitarian Fund.

Some good practices and impacts of UN Women's interventions: Below are some notable impacts of the UN Women funded Projects in North East Nigeria:

- Training and establishment of 86 Women farmer cooperatives in Borno and Yobe states with support from the EU and the Government of Japan
- With funding support from the Government of Japan, established a Women Integrated Empowerment Hub in Maiduguri and provided Gender-based services including psycho-social support and legal education and representation to over 350 women during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Three rice mills with three KVA generators that are fully functional established in 3 target locations, Mafa and Jere in Borno state and Bade-Geshua in Yobe state.
- Over 1020 women rice farmers are utilizing newly acquired skills in post-rice processing to process rice with high market value, thereby increasing their household income and reducing their vulnerability to exploitation and abuse.

International and National Non-Governmental Organisations

The Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA II) Project implemented by ActionAid in partnership with Center for Advocacy, Transparency and Accountability Initiatives (CATAI)

The SPAII project is a four-year (2022 - 2025) project implemented by ActionAid with funding from the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA). The project aims to improve the realization of fundamental human and democratic rights and improved, sustainable livelihoods, resilience and protection for young people, especially young women living in marginalization, including in disaster and protracted crises contexts. To this end, CATAI in July 2022 signed a multi-year strategic partnership agreement with ActionAid Nigeria under the SPA II Project with ActionAid Denmark and Funded by the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA). Through the project, CATAI is implementing series of activities across the BAY states in Nigeria targeting youths and youths' groups, associations, government agencies, and critical stakeholders in a view to addressing vital underlying issues of governance in creating democratic spaces and climate change within the BAY state.

UN Women Website. North East Programmes. Accessed online:

https://africa.unwomen.org/en/where-we-are/west-and-central-africa/nigeria/north-east-programme_africa

UN Women Website. North East Programmes. Accessed online:

https://africa.unwomen.org/en/where-we-are/west-and-central-africa/nigeria/north-east-programme_africa

Specifically, CATAI is working with key stakeholders to improve the realization of basic human and democratic rights, and spaces and improve sustainable livelihoods, resilience, and protection for young people, especially young women living in affected areas.

Some good practices and impact of ActionAid/CATAI SPA II Project

- CATAI is supporting the organizing of young people from different backgrounds to identify challenges and needs faced, where the youth demand charter was developed and co-signed by relevant stakeholders to further action.
- CATAI engaged several women led organizations, youth led organizations, religious leaders, students and CSOs within the state, representative of people with disabilities and government stakeholder where it strengthened the capacity participating on conflict sensitivity management, conflict resolutions and mainstreaming conflict sensitivity into programming
- CATAI is promoting good governance and citizens' participation in governance processes through voter mobilization before and during the 2023 general election. The interventions has strengthened citizen's awareness on the need to participate in political decision making spaces to ensure responsive accountable and democratically elected government.
- CATAI is contributing to increasing awareness to youths on the importance of youth participation in the electoral cycle and budget cycle across the state. This is achieved through CATAI's partnership with Al-Ansar Radio under the SPA II project produced 3 episodes of radio and video programs using local languages of Hausa and Kanuri.

The Strategic Resilience Assessment conducted by Mercy Corps

The Strategic Resilience Assessment (STRESS) in Northeast Nigeria was undertaken by Mercy Corps Nigeria between June 2017 and July 2018. It illustrates how communities can build resilience to shocks and stresses within the context of ongoing conflict or humanitarian crisis and protect progress toward humanitarian and development goals.

Mercy Corps defines resilience as the capacity of communities in complex socio-ecological systems to learn, cope, adapt, and transform in the face of change. Resilience is not the end goal, but rather the way that well-being in humanitarian and development terms continues on a positive trajectory in spite of disruption.

CATAI Website. Strategic Partnership Agreement with ActionAid Denmark to implement SPA II Project in Borno State. Accessed online: https://www.cataing.org/catai-actionaid-strategic-partnership-agreement-spa-ii/?__cf_chl_rt_tk=ztyl7L7YdJzPEncF2PT3GfevDGoi.NPVCBFvOvUmOMc-1690956812-0-gaNycGzNC6U

The STRESS draws from both primary and secondary data, with a process that seeks to understand what factors support or undermine resilience in the complex crisis context of Borno, and then identify a set of capacities that can contribute to a shared vision for humanitarian and development stakeholders in Borno over the next 3-5 years i.e. from 2019 to 2023.

The STRESS process utilized five overarching questions which includes the following:

- Resilience to what end?
- Resilience of which systems?
- Resilience to which shocks and stresses?
- Resilience for which groups?
- Resilience through what capacities?
- Some good practices and findings from the STRESS assessment:
- The STRESS utilized a participatory assessment and analysis process, which goes beyond reporting assessment “findings” in the traditional sense to developing recommendations on how practitioners can meaningfully integrate risk reduction and resilience-building measures.
- It is designed to capture and analyze the risks communities are facing by combining local insights with an analysis of higher-level trends, systems dynamics, and the factors shaping vulnerability for different groups of people and what this means for their ability to cope and adapt over time.
- The STRESS in Borno also sought to understand how “the conflict” as an overarching stress impacts people’s livelihoods, social cohesion, and food security, and what it means to build resilience within protracted conflict. It determined that conflict is best understood as a system, with impacts that manifest as discrete shocks and stresses. These shocks and stresses interact and multiply, increasing vulnerability and in some cases driving new conflict risks. By breaking down shocks and stresses this way within the conflict system, resilience capacities can then be defined and strengthened to help address the interrelated drivers and impacts of the challenges communities in Borno are facing.
- The STRESS findings underscore the imperative for practitioners and policy-makers to deepen our understanding of what builds resilience in the face of conflict at both individual and systemic levels and orient responses toward a holistic approach for strengthening resilience capacities.
- A systems analysis of the conflict’s root causes and the current crisis dynamics were integrated into the STRESS methodology. These framed and informed the theory of change for building resilience capacities in Borno. This theory of change seeks to build resilience in support of: 1) inclusive economic opportunities and growth and the benefit those opportunities and growth offer to restore livelihoods; 2) improved social cohesion across communities, particularly recognizing the role of social cohesion as a safety net for coping with shocks and as a critical pathway towards peace and security; and 3) food security, primarily through the lens of food availability and access.

Promoting the reintegration of conflict affected women and girls and promoting community building in Northeast Nigeria Borno state implemented by Centre for Social Cohesion Peace and Empowerment (CENSCOPE) in partnership with International Alert.

CENSCOPE a National Non-Governmental Organisation that focuses on promoting the ideals of self-sustainability, equality and social justice to the members of the society. CENSCOPE implements its programmes by mainly focusing on promoting social cohesion, preventing and countering narratives of violent extremism, conflict management, mitigation of human right abuses and gender-based violence, promoting good governance and good policy formulation, empowerment and provision of humanitarian services, lifesaving and livelihood skills to victims of violent conflict.

In partnership with International Alert's Hadin Kan Mu Karfin Mu (Our Unity, Our Strength) Project , CENSCOPE implemented the Promoting the reintegration of conflict affected women and girls and promoting community building in Northeast Nigeria in Borno state with funding from the Conflict Stability and Security Fund (CSSF). The project targets women and children survivors of Boko Haram violence, community and religious leaders, and communities displaced by the ongoing conflict situation in Borno state. The project is currently under implementation in Gubio IDP camp, Teacher's Village IDP camp, Sulumri Host community, and Shehuri North host community in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council; Bulabulin Sallake and Kamchege IDP camps in Dikwa LGA; GSSS IDP camp and Host community in Bama LGA.

The project supported the implementation of activities comprising; training to community leaders on peacebuilding and conflict resolution; community dialogues; peace club activities; radio programmes, community theatre performances; learning and exchange visits. Some notable opportunities which impacted on CENSCOPE's ability to achieve the project's results include on the ground presence of existing community-based structures which were further strengthened, presence of young people who were enthusiastic about the peacebuilding response, ongoing work of other NGOs, and the deployment of an inclusive peacebuilding approach during implementation.

Peace by Africa Website publication on CENSCOPE. Accessed online: <https://peacebyafrica.com/censcope/>

International Alert Website Publication on Hadin Kan Mu Karfin Mu (Our Unity, Our Strength) project. Accessed online: <https://www.international-alert.org/category/publications/>

Relief Web International. November 2020. International Alert Mid Term Evaluation on Hadin Kan Mu Karfin Mu (Our Unity, Our Strength) project. Accessed online <https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/international-alert-mid-term-evaluation-report-november-2020>

Some good practices and impact of the project:

- The project contributed to a decrease in stigmatization of those formerly associated with JAS, and as a result, a decrease in conflict between survivors and other community members as a result of their participation in the project. This was evidenced from findings from the mid-term evaluation of the project with 92% of women and girl's survivors reported being less vulnerable to stigmatization and rejection in their community.
- The project has also contributed to social reintegration through the economic empowerment of provided to the survivors hence increasing their interaction with community members as a result of their business. To this end, the project increased their sense of value, hope and dignity.
- Also, the project contributed to an increase in social cohesion and peaceful coexistence by providing more opportunities for communities to gather and participate in peacebuilding activities. This was also achieved through facilitation of psychosocial support sessions which has improved their self-perception (forgiveness, decreased depression and isolation, peace of mind) among those who have participated.
- Lastly, the project has improved the way women and children survivors of Boko Haram violence, community and religious leaders, and communities displaced by the ongoing conflict situation in Borno state resolve their conflicts. Beneficiaries during the mid-term evaluation revealed that they are more willing to work on their negative conflict attitudes and behaviors as a result of their participation in the project.

Broad challenges from implementation of above peace-building plans, policies and initiatives

The desk review highlights several challenges related to how policies, plans, and initiatives in peacebuilding in Borno State and the North East Region of Nigeria have affected women and children. Some of these challenges include the following:

- **Gender Based Vulnerabilities:** Women and girls in conflict-affected areas face specific vulnerabilities such as sexual violence, forced marriages, and limited access to education and healthcare. The lack of gender-sensitive approaches in peacebuilding initiatives exacerbates these challenges.
- **Limited participation of women in peacebuilding processes:** Women's participation in peacebuilding processes is often limited, both by cultural norms and a lack of inclusion in decision-making. This hinders the effectiveness of peace initiatives and fails to tap into the potential contributions of women in conflict resolution and reconciliation.
- **Exclusion of young women in peacebuilding efforts:** The exclusion of young women from peacebuilding efforts is a missed opportunity, as they can be both perpetrators and victims of conflict. Engaging youth's especially young women in positive activities and providing them with opportunities for education and employment can help prevent them from being recruited into armed groups.
- **Limitation in availability of data:** The lack of comprehensive data and evidence-based decision-making hampers the design and evaluation of effective peacebuilding interventions. Without accurate data, it's challenging to address the specific needs of women, children, and youth in conflict-affected areas.
- **Limited implementation timeframe of most peacebuilding efforts:** Many peacebuilding efforts have a short-term focus, which may provide immediate relief but often lacks sustainability. Holistic resilience-building programs that address not only physical needs but also psychosocial support and livelihood restoration are crucial for long-term stability.
- **Lack of community driven approach to engagement:** Insufficient community engagement and participation hinder the relevance and acceptance of peacebuilding initiatives. Local communities should be actively involved in designing and implementing interventions that address their unique contexts and needs.
- **Limited availability of resources:** Resource constraints, both in terms of funding and capacity, can limit the scope and impact of peacebuilding initiatives. Advocacy campaigns are needed to raise awareness and garner support for targeted interventions.

- Limited donor investment in conflict prevention and Early Warning/Early Response systems: The review emphasizes the importance of investing in conflict prevention and early warning/Early Response systems to proactively address potential sources of conflict. Timely interventions can prevent further destabilization.

The above challenges has shown that while there have been extensive efforts in peacebuilding in Borno State and the North East Region of Nigeria, these challenges highlight the need for a more inclusive, sustainable, and gender-sensitive approach that actively involves women, children, and youth especially young women in conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts.

Conclusion

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In conclusion, this desk review has examined the diverse policies, plans and initiatives in peacebuilding within Borno State and North East Nigeria, focusing on the profound impact of the conflict on marginalized groups, especially women and girls. The conflict's intricate drivers have given rise to significant humanitarian and socio-economic repercussions for vulnerable populations. The analysis of peacebuilding endeavors has highlighted the multifaceted strategies employed by state and non-state actors, spanning governmental, multilateral, and non-governmental sectors, showcasing a concerted commitment to addressing the complex conflict context.

The multifarious peacebuilding policies and plans advanced by state actors, including the Declaration of State of Emergencies and the establishment of development commissions and ministries, underscore the recognition of peace as an essential pillar of sustainable development. Equally noteworthy are the contributions of non-state actors, including multilateral institutions and UN agencies, which have leveraged crisis recovery projects, humanitarian response plans, and coordination mechanisms to alleviate the crisis's impacts. Non-governmental organizations have played a pivotal role through projects aimed at bolstering resilience, early warning systems, and social cohesion, reinforcing the significance of community-driven interventions. ”

Recommendations

In light of the insights gleaned from this desk review, several key recommendations are put forth to guide future interventions targeting women affected by the conflict in Borno State and North East Nigeria. In line with below recommendations, future interventions targeting women affected by the conflict in Borno State and North East Nigeria can build upon the foundations established by existing peacebuilding initiatives. All actors must always realize that the path to sustainable peace and development demands a collaborative, inclusive, and contextually nuanced approach that embraces the unique needs and strengths of the affected communities.

Enhanced collaboration and Coordination among state and non-state actors:

There is the need to strengthen collaboration and coordination among various state and non-state actors engaged in peacebuilding efforts. In doing so, an alignment of initiatives and synergy in utilization of resources for optimal impact thereby reducing the tendency for duplication of efforts and fostering a more efficient and effective approach to peacebuilding will be achieved.

Mainstream gender sensitive approaches across all peacebuilding initiatives:

State and non-state actors are encouraged to continuously mainstream gender-sensitive approaches across all peacebuilding initiatives. In doing this, all actors recognize the distinct needs, experiences, and capacities of women, girls, and persons with disabilities. By mainstreaming gender sensitive approaches, active participation of women and girls in decision-making processes which addresses their gender and disability-based vulnerabilities will be achieved.

Diversity and Inclusion:

There is the need to embrace diversity and inclusion by actively involving persons with disabilities in peacebuilding projects. To achieve this, all actors must recognize and accommodate their unique needs, ensuring their voices are heard in the design, implementation, and evaluation of interventions.

Community engagement and participation:

Donors and relevant stakeholders are advised to prioritize continuous engagement with affected communities, involving them as active partners in the design, implementation, and evaluation of peacebuilding projects. By empowering local voices, including those of women, girls, youth, and persons with disabilities, collective engagement in proffering solutions that resonate with the unique contexts of women, girls and persons with disabilities will be achieved.

Holistic resilience building initiatives: Findings from this desk review encourages the promotion of holistic resilience-building programs that encompass not only physical recovery but also psychosocial support, livelihood restoration, and access to essential services. This comprehensive approach can contribute to the long-term well-being of marginalized populations such as women and girls, including persons with disabilities.

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Holistic resilience building initiatives:

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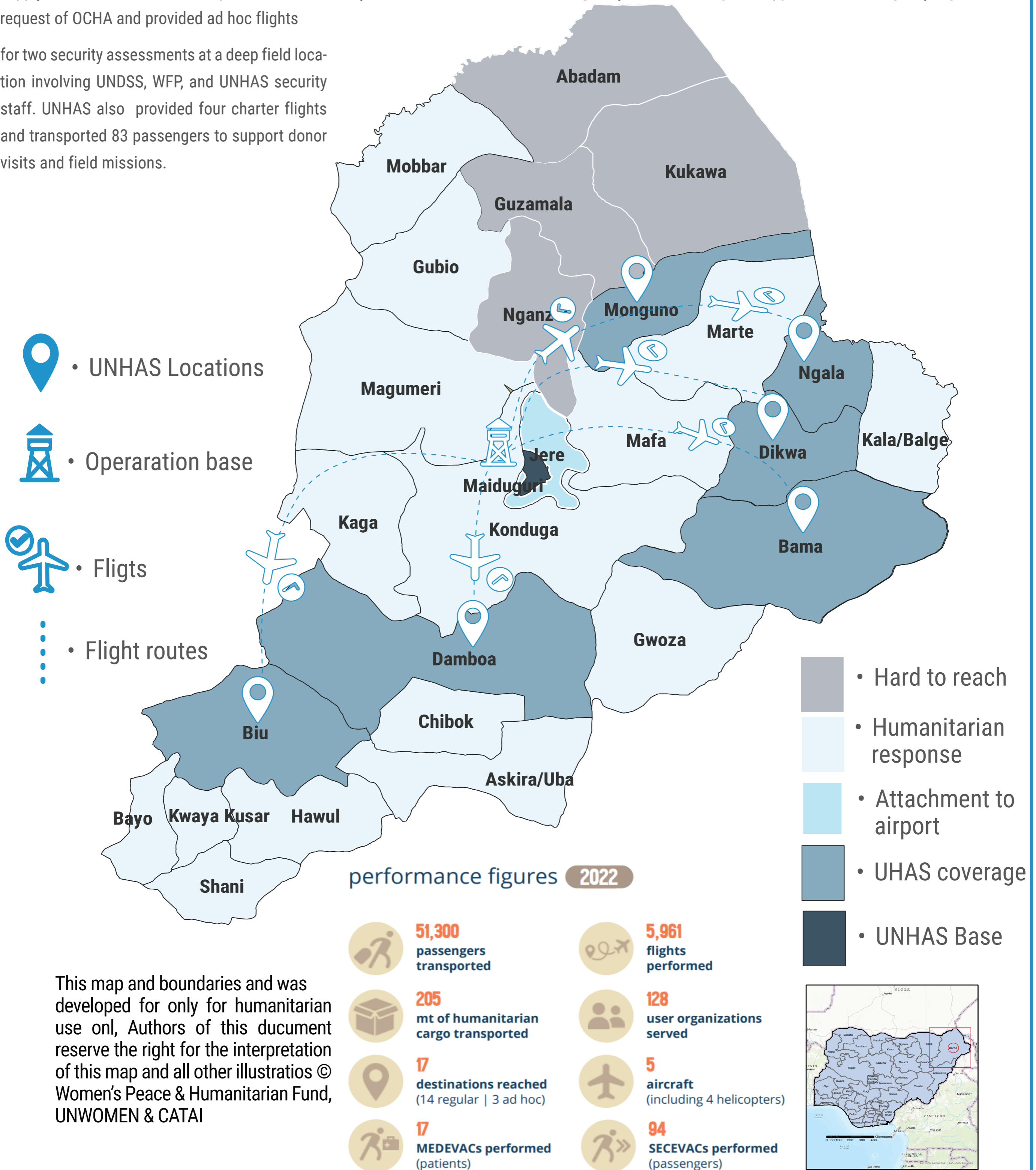
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BORNO STATE MAP AND UNHAS COVERAGE LOCATIONS

These services were supported by one fixedwing aircraft providing access to three states and four helicopters reaching 11 deep field locations in the Northeast. UNHAS continuously assesses the possibility of adding new locations to meet rising user demands and to provide reliable services to its users- During November and December 2022, UNHAS operated special flights from Maiduguri to Rann, in the Borno state, to enable the transportation of over 35 mt of specialized nutritious food (Super Cereals and ready-to-use supplementary food) that were essential for the population in need of assistance as the supply routes were blocked or impassable due to heavy rain and floods. Moreover, during the year, UNHAS Nigeria supported 10 inter-agency flights at the request of OCHA and provided ad hoc flights

for two security assessments at a deep field location involving UNDSS, WFP, and UNHAS security staff. UNHAS also provided four charter flights and transported 83 passengers to support donor visits and field missions.



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