



Child Protection Sub-Sector North East Nigeria.



Mid-Year Review Report

August 2021



Introduction

The well-being of children is threatened by multiple protection risks such as child marriage, family separation, physical and sexual violence, psychosocial distress, use and recruitment by non-state armed groups in north-east Nigeria; cross-sectoral risks compound these. Overall, limited access to food, quality education, healthcare, and lack of adequate parental care, particularly for children with disabilities and information¹, continues to significantly affect the physical, mental, emotional, and social well-being of children. This is significantly so for 1.7 million children (41 per cent girls, 59 per cent boys) living in locations with limited or no core child protection services and community-based prevention and response to protection risks. The COVID-19 pandemic has further weakened coping capacities for families to provide and care for children; poor households in north-east Nigeria face increased difficulty in accessing food as food prices and annual inflation increase, and food availability is expected to decrease². Protection risks are heightened for girls, mainly, adolescent girls who are most at risk of sexual violence and because of the pandemic, are also at a high risk dropping out on education opportunities amongst denial of realization of other rights.

Affected population:

Children under the age of 18 years comprise more than 61 per cent of the IDP, returnee and other populations affected by the humanitarian crisis in north-east Nigeria; one out of two affected children are girls (55 per cent). Displaced girls and boys living in camps and girls and boys living in host communities are most vulnerable to protection risks, representing 37 per cent and 36 per cent of the children in need respectively. The majority of the children in need are in 17 LGAs across BAY States. The majority of the children in need in Borno are those living in Damboa, Jere, Maiduguri, Magumeri and Ngala LGAs are highly impacted; Similarly, whereas in Adamawa, the majority are children residing in Madagali, Michika, Mubi South, Yola North and Yola South, while Yobe, the majority of children in need are those in Damaturu, Geidam, Gujba and Yunusari are at higher risk.

Adolescent girls, particularly those in camps and host communities, face the highest risk of sexual violence within the community, violence by armed groups including abduction, killing and rape deny the realization of their rights, particularly the right to education. Boys aged 13-17 years are significantly at risk of conflict-related violence including abduction, killing and recruitment and are also at risk of child labour as a coping mechanism to support household incomes. Vulnerable parents and caregivers constitute 7% of the total persons in need of protection services.

In terms of humanitarian needs, 1.7 million children in need have very limited or lack access to core child protection services (27 per cent in Adamawa, 55 per cent in Borno and 18 per cent in Yobe). According to the MSNA 2020, 19 per cent of households in the BAY states indicated that children in their household had experienced severe or critical signs of psychological distress (20 per cent in IDP, 43 per cent in the host community and 38 per cent in returnee households). An estimated 5 per cent of households interviewed indicated

¹ An estimated 3 million children with disabilities (representing about 90 per cent of children with disabilities) are out of school in Nigeria: Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities (JONAPWD) Annual Report, 2017, <http://www.jonapwd.org/2017REPORT.pdf>.

² Advocacy Note: Change of Transfer Values for Food Assistance – September 2020, Food Security Sector, north-east Nigeria, <https://fscluster.org/nigeria/document/advocacy-note-change-transfer-values>



that their children were missing or were not living in the household during the time of the assessment (33 per cent in IDP, 22 per cent in the host community and 55 per cent in returnee households).

The year 2021 has not been any simpler than the previous year, children, women and community members have continued to witness enormous challenges worsened by the COVID19 impact, seasonal flooding, diseases outbreaks such as cholera and insecurity with more frequent non state armed groups attacks on civilians and the humanitarian community.

The Child Protection Sub-Sector (CPSS) developed a Child protection response plan for 2021, as part of the Nigeria Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). Over one million individuals are targeted by the child protection sub sector with direct child protection services. The first half of the year was challenged with increased attacks by non-state armed groups on IDP population in the northeast contributing to increased insecurity, mass displacement into already congested IDP camps and targeted abduction of humanitarian aid workers. As COVID-19 pandemic continues, forcibly displaced children need more support than ever. The Government return exercise and camp closure of some IDP camps has posed a different approach to the already existing service provision. Despite all the various challenges, the child protection Sub-Sector actors ensures the continuity of delivery of lifesaving CPIE services, while retaining its target for the 2021 HRP. The CPSS recognized the implications of the increased attacks towards access to services and the need to adopt flexible modalities for child protection service delivery aligned to the following sector objectives outlined below:

Objective 1: Girls and boys facing protection risks, including adolescents and children with disabilities, have access to comprehensive case management services.

Objective 2: Conflict-affected children, including adolescents and children with disabilities, and caregivers' well-being is enhanced through provision of quality mental health and psychosocial support services and information on childcare and protection.

Objective 3: Conflict-affected boys, girls and young people benefit from strengthened community-based services and prevention actions including reintegration services.

To review and evaluate the progress made at mid-point, the CPSS, under the leadership of the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, convened a mid-year review meeting for child protection actors in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe (BAY states). The meeting was held physically/virtually on Thursday August 26, 2021.

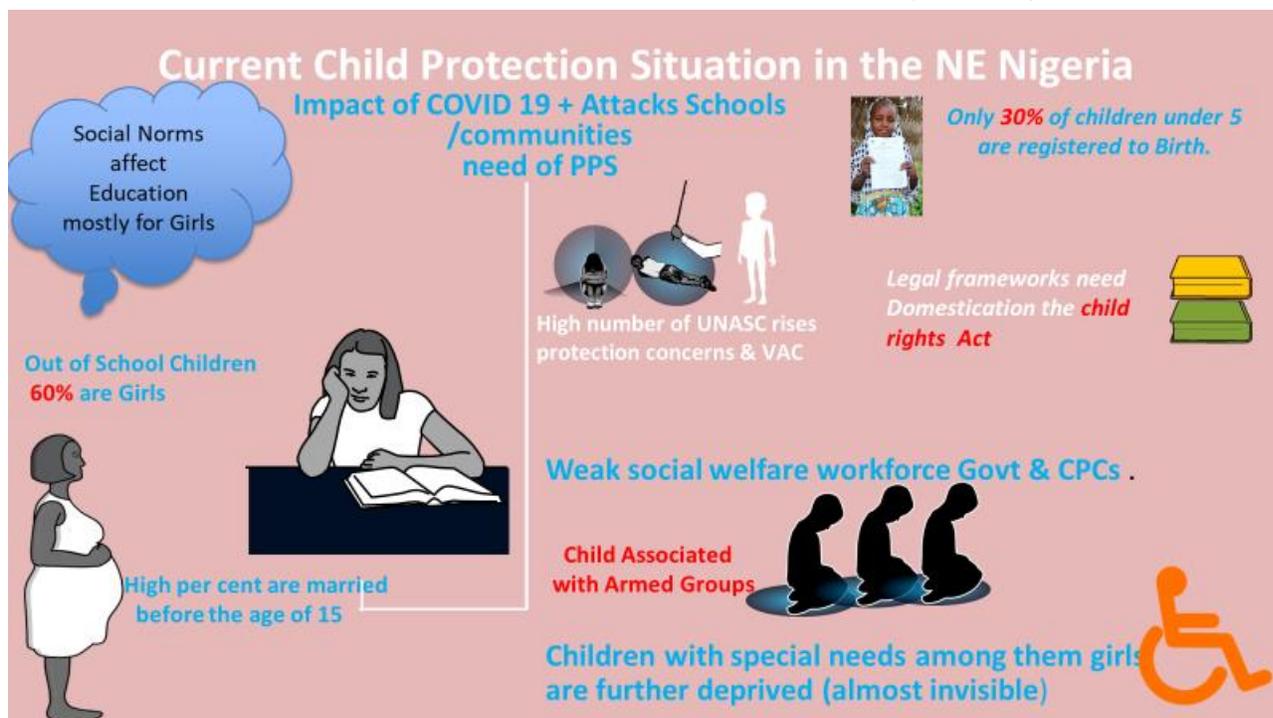
The mid-year review aimed to fulfill the following key objectives:

- A. Reflect on the child protection humanitarian response January – July 2021, looking at the implications of key developments on the well-being of children and child protection service delivery in the BAY States.
- B. Discuss the Milestones against key indicators as of July and agree on processes, strategies to accelerate services to children in next four months (Including the financial tracking system (FTS) Vs planned sector targets for 2021 in terms of resource mobilization.
- C. Interrogate the key challenges/mitigation measures adopted and propose key recommendations moving forward.
- D. Discuss ways to strengthen our resources mobilization planning and engagement with donors moving forward to 2021.

The meeting was officially opened by the Director of Child Development, Borno State represented Mr. Barrister Ali Mustapha who thanked all participants for attending the meeting. He noted that Government commits to

continue support and working closely with the sector. The sector is encouraged to align sector plans to the 25 years' government development plan for Borno State. He also encouraged partners to scale up response to return locations to provide support to the returnees because lack of services might lead them to resort to negative coping means. This was reaffirmed by his colleague the Director of Social Welfare Yobe State, Mr. Habu Langawa.

The Child Protection Sector Coordinator presented a graphic overview of the current situation of children and key child protection concerns in the North-east Nigeria. In summary social norms, violence against children, child marriage, teenage pregnancy, child labor, low birth registration uptake, forceful recruitment, sexual violence, neglect of children with disabilities, unaccompanied and separated children, low funding, weak social welfare workforce and nonfunctional child protection systems as some of the key challenges. See graphic below:



Sector Achievements against planned results as of July 2021

As stated above the 2021 has been the most challenging year impacted by political, social, economic, and hazards that have affected the service delivery to affected populations and children in the North East. As of July 2021, a total of 293,395 children were reached, representing 30% achievement against the projected target of 1,000,268 for the current year. Child Protection partners have reported high coverage in Borno state, achieving 67% of the state's target; however, significant gaps are recorded in Adamawa and Yobe states where partners have reported 1.6% and 1.5% reach against targets respectively.

1

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

Case Management for Vulnerable Children

9%

INDICATOR	Targets	Progress	Gap
Family tracing and reunification of separated and unaccompanied children	505	23% 115	77% 390
Placement of children affected by protection risks in alternative care	2,527	10% 255	90% 2,302
Provision of specialized support services to children facing protection risks	4,549	6% 277	94% 4,272
Provision of child protection services to children living with disabilities	8,015	9% 688	91% 7,327

2

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

Psychosocial and Mental Health Support

30%

INDICATOR	Target	Progress	Gap
Provision of structured recreational and creative service for children	456,952	41% 188,152	59% 268,800
Life skills education provision for adolescent girls and boys	168,640	2% 3,551	98% 165,089
Psychosocial support services including positive parenting lessons for caregivers of vulnerable children	51,141	26% 13,296	74% 37,845
Strengthen community-based structures for child protection	317,460	28% 89,695	72% 227,765

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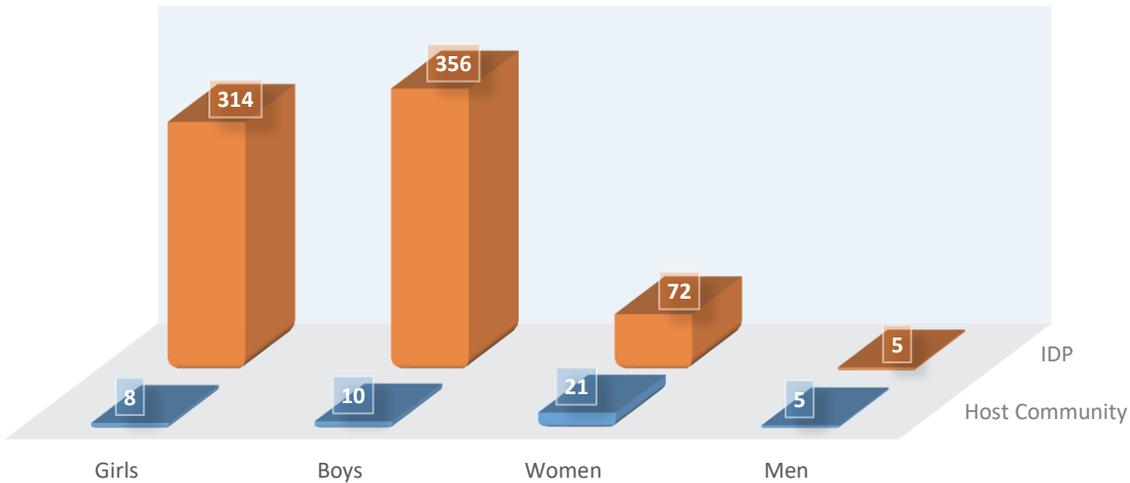
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

Community-Based Reintegration Services

49%

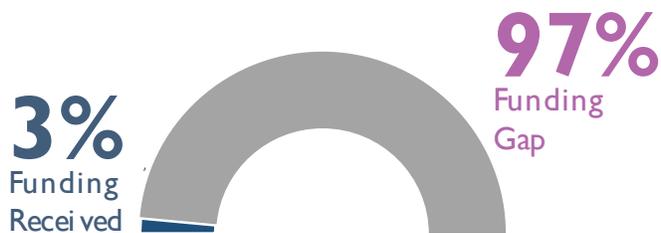
INDICATOR	Target	Progress	Gap
Provision of community-based reintegration assistance to children and youth affected by grave child rights violations	6,076	49% 2,984	51% 3,092

Child Protection Service Delivery for Children and Caregiver with Disabilities by Population Category (January to July 2021)



CPSS Funding Analysis as of July 2021

The CPSS Coordinator noted that the funding analysis was based on the reports of child protection actors and donors on the [OCHA Financial Tracking System](#) (FTS). As at the time of reporting, the funding reported on the FTS was only 3 per cent of what the CPSS had requested for to support child protection service delivery in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states in 2021.



HRP Funding Ask: **USD21,000,000**
 Funding Received: **USD 664,908***

Child Protection service delivery in January - July 2021 was made possible through the generous contribution of the following donors (as reported on the OCHA FTS)

Nigeria Humanitarian Fund
United States Agency for International Development
Swedish International Development Cooperation
United Nation Children's Fund

*Funding status of the Nigeria Child protection Sub-Sector. Source OCHA financial Tracking System (www.fts.unocha.org).



This funding only reflects what has been reported by donors and Child Protection Actors and does not necessarily reflect the actual status of funding for the CPSS in 2021, this is a major gap that the sector hopes to streamline in 2021/22 HPC process.

The Localization Strategy for the North East.

Representation

The coordinator updated on the progress made so far with the CPSS leading in the localization strategy in Governance and Decision making with an NGO Co-Lead and has two National NGOs as members of the CPSS Strategic Advisory Group and 1NNGO representative as the Global SAG representative, about 5 NNGOs are the LGA coordination focal points out of 13 LGAs. There is active participation of child protection partners in the sub sector coordination meetings with over 60% representation of local NGOs, information on key sector developments/funding opportunities is shared with all partners subscribed to the sector mailing list.

Coordination

The co-coordinator role currently hosted by the national NGOS will be rotational upon every two years opening up for all eligible sector members national and international to apply on condition that they are able to fund and host the position, this is based on the principle of fairness to ensure that all partners have the opportunity to host and build on their institution capacities. Deliberate effort will be made to support the government roles in the same capacity as the they are the lead responsible entity for all the response and support, this will be done through system strengthening initiatives through the HPC cycle.

Access to Funds

In 2021, 3 NNGOs accessed direct funding from the NHF first reserved allocation to implement in a consortium for Adamawa, Borno and Yobe State. Other NNGOs are accessing funds through partnerships, sub-contracting and private arrangements with Donors and UN agencies.

The challenges.

The challenges identified that affected the reach in terms of targets for child protection services were:

- Restrictions due to increased security incidents particularly in Borno (Dikwa, Banki, Monguno) and Yobe (Geidam, Gulani, Bade) has affected the ability of child protection agencies to access affected communities.
- Security constraints shrinking humanitarian space and adversely affecting beneficiary access to Child Protection services, most partners have pulled out of the hard to reach communities due to targeted attacks and limited security for communities and aid workers.
- Low and inaccurate reporting on beneficiaries with disabilities reached, this limit having accurate data for children with disabilities and also has a trickledown effect for their effective programing.
- Some partner activities are not aligned with the Sub-Sector priorities for HPC 2021, this limits the capture of such information into the sector dash boards and yet a lot of work is being done though they do not align with the sector objectives.
- Family tracing and reunification has proved more challenging since UNHAS is not able to meet the required flight schedules/round trips to facilitate the movement of children, this has affected the closure of such cases or fast tracking the entire process.



- Limited funding and limited presence of child protection partners in Adamawa and Yobe states (planned activities not implemented)
- Weak social welfare workforce for the child protection systems affects the service delivery.
- Very low compliance of partners to report projects and declare funding into the financial tracking systems.
- Limited innovation by child protection partners, this limits the opportunities to program differently in the wake of COVID 19, thus donors do not find it appealing to fund traditional practices of programming.
- Weak cross sectorial integration between child protection and other sectors has limited holistic service provision to children and reduced opportunities for child protection to attract funding from large integrated programs with Education, WASH and Health.

Recommendations and way forward for the next quarter of the year and 2022 HPC

The following are some of the recommendations that came up from the mid-year review of the sector that will inform the next HRP process.

Partnerships:

1. Given the reducing envelope to Child Protection Sector Globally and more in Nigeria, its deemed important for organizations and partners to form consortiums of their choice this could be International with local NGOs or of any preferred choice, success of securing funding is much easier through consortium as donors would like to leverage on limited resources, effective coordination and reduce duplication of interventions among partners.
2. Integrated programming was encouraged especially between Education and Child Protection to leverage on resources and serve children holistically, partners also pledged to work with other sectors such as WASH, Nutrition etc. to ensure that children benefit from a full range of services in a given community.
3. Partners will strengthen consultation/engagement with the Coordinators to avoid duplication and increase presence in areas that are underserved. One-page project briefs will be submitted for all new projects to inform the Sub sector on activities and Donors.
4. Key training opportunities were identified for all child protection partners that will inform the sector workplan in 2022 some of the recommended trainings were remote /digital programming for case management, CPMS+, training on child protection minimal standards, Gender mainstreaming, resource mobilization/ proposal writing, cash programming , INSPIRE Framework and alternative care, PSEA, this will be informed by training on needs assessment planned to be conducted in early Jan march 2022.
5. All partners must report to Financial Tracking Systems individually or through the lead consortium partner.

Localization:

1. Invest in building the capacity of Government line ministries and local NGOs supporting them to be at the fore front and eventually increasing on the pool of national co coordinators, this will be on rotational basis dependent on the organization ability to fund the position and may cut across even international organization present in the North East.
2. Funding opportunities will be balanced between Local and international organizations with sound capacity to implement child protection program
3. Information on sector progress, funding opportunities and key developments in the child protection sector at the global and regional level will be shared with all subscribed partners on the Child Protection Mailing list.



4. The localization agenda will look at possible synergies with similar initiatives across sectors
5. will be aligned to all other UNICEF lead clusters for uniformity and the localization strategy for north east will be shared with all.
6. Government will also be part and parcel of all these processes.

Resource Mobilization.

1. Scale up donor engagement once the strategy and costed plan is out, this will lead to the investment case and the financing options that the sub sector will lead on in 2022 to finalize.
2. Scale up on joint advocacy and visibility for the sector with all partners, there will be quarterly media human interest stories from the sub sector featuring the work of all sub sector partners, this will be done jointly in consultation with partners and all partners will have an opportunity locally and in international media and platforms.
3. Donor briefings will be organized annually or biannually and will be led by the sub sector.
4. Innovation is a must in all our implementation to show case learning and value for money.
5. More integrated proposals will be encouraged and in consortium to address the needs of children holistically.
6. Resource mobilization and fundraising strategy will be developed by the sub sector in 2022.
7. Explore the use of Cash & Voucher assistance as applicable as this has donor interest at the moment.
8. Venture into private sector partnerships to leverage on resources and expand on the donor base.

Critical areas to pay attention to in the next HRP Process.

1. Focus on children with **disabilities** who are not always factored in or not targeted with direct support and they exist, there should be deliberate effort to mention and ensure they are tracked and support.
2. Explore on Issues around **Birth Registration** for IDPS and host communities as it has legal implications with identity of children, access to basic social services on return and also along the justice for children front, child labor child marriage etc., focus will be **0-5 years** and can work cross-sectorial with health and other programs.
3. System strengthening should be part and parcel of the response, building the up the child protection system is key since this is protracted response. This will entail strengthening capacities of government, increasing funding from government and donors to the child protection area of responsibility, reviewing Laws and guidelines that support the rights of children, ensuring effective prevention and response services to all victims of abuse and violence ,strengthening justice for children programs, community structures to further protect children among other pillars.
4. Focus on **Prevention** and response interventions, there is a tendency to do a lot of response but in the next HPC we should balance between the latter.

Location/Geographic consideration.

It was observed that most of the support to the sub sector was concentrated in Borno state as opposed to Adamawa and Yobe, as much as this is needs based there is need to balance up proportionally using the 60-40-20% allocations. This to avoid duplication and maximize use of resources also in unserved areas..

List of entities/organizations that participated in mid-year review meeting (virtually the list below)

Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, Borno State,



Ministry of Youth, Sports, Social and Community Development, Yobe State
Centre for Community Health & Development
Elkenami Memorial Foundation
FHI360
Goal Prime Organization of Nigeria
Grow Strong Foundation
Herwa CDI (Strategic Advisory Group Member)
International Rescue Committee
Kishimi Shelter and Care Foundation
Life at Best Development initiative
Plan International
Restoration of Hope Initiative (Strategic Advisory Group Member)
Save the Children International
Search for Common Ground ((Strategic Advisory Group Member)
SOS Children's Village
Street Child of Nigeria
Sirri Care Foundation
Terre des Hommes
United Nations Children's Fund (Strategic Advisory Group Member)
United Nation Humanitarian Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)
SOS Children's Village
Youth Integrated for Positive Development Initiative

Child Protection Sub-Sector Nigeria Mid-Year Review Meeting (26August 2021)

Agenda

Time	Session	Responsible
10:00 – 10:20 a.m.	Formal Opening and Welcome Remarks	Director of Child Welfare, Borno Ministry of Social Development and Women Affairs Director of Child Welfare, AMWASD. Director of Child Welfare, MOYSSCD Yobe
10:20 – 10:25 a.m.	Agenda and Objectives of the Meeting	CPSS Coordinator
10: 25_ 10: 40 am	Highlights of programing environment for the CPSS Jan June 2021	CPSS Coordinator
10.40 – 11:10 a.m.	Presentation on achievements, challenges, and priorities for the CPSS (January_ December 2021	CPSS Co-Coordinator & IMO



11:10_11:30 a.m.	Reactions and feedback to the presentation above (all)	Chair Plan international
11:30 – 11:50 a.m.	Summary of key action points/ recommendations from the Review	CPSS Co- Coordinator
11:50_12:10 p.m.	Brainstorm on how to engage donors and strengthen resource mobilization for the sector	Chair GSF
12:10 – 12.30 p.m.	Closing Remarks.	CPSS SAG Member Director of Child Welfare, Borno Ministry of Social Development and Women Affairs

