

Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies

Northeast Nigeria Road Map 2018 - 2019

Overview

The Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies

A Road Map for Action in Northeast Nigeria

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a horrifying reality for those affected by conflict, particularly women and girls. It continues to plague communities in the Lake Chad basin including Northeast Nigeria. As outlined in the 2018 Nigerian Humanitarian Response Plan, an estimated 7.7 million people are in urgent need of protection and humanitarian assistance in the most affected states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe.¹ This includes some 1.9 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), of which 54% are women².

Gender-based violence in the region is widespread. A study conducted in 2016 found that six in ten women in the Northeast have experienced some form of GBV.³ Displacement, limited access to services and protection, and disruption of livelihoods greatly exacerbate the risks of GBV. Women, girls and boys report having to engage in survival sex for money, food and permission to move in and out of IDP sites.

Sexual abuse and other violations against women and children are widespread inside and outside IDP camps⁴ and a culture of impunity for perpetrators contributes to continued violence. Conditions in IDP sites often do not meet basic protection standards.⁵ Female headed households are at particularly high risk. The safety and well-being of adolescent girls is also threatened by early marriage and forced prostitution in addition to survival sex. Girls and women who have been abducted by armed groups endure rape and forced marriage during captivity, and then must deal with stigmatization and possible rejection from the community upon their release.

It is critical that participants at the 2018 high-level Conference on the Lake Chad Region give full attention to gender-based violence concerns, and commit to taking urgent actions required to strengthen GBV prevention and response.

This should include strong support and funding for implementation of the Northeast Nigeria Call to Action Road Map.

The Call to Action on Protection from GBV in Emergencies Northeast Nigeria Road Map: A framework for Solutions

The Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies (Call to Action, <https://www.calltoactiongbv.com/>) is a global initiative launched in 2013 with one simple goal: to ensure that every humanitarian response, from the very start, provides safe and comprehensive services for GBV survivors and mitigates the risks of GBV.

¹ 2018 Nigeria Humanitarian Response Plan, <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/nigeria/humanitarian-response-plan> p. 3.

² See Displacement Tracking Matrix, Round 23 Report, IOM, June, 2018

³ 2018 Nigeria Humanitarian Response Plan, p. 12.

⁴ 2018 Nigeria Humanitarian Response Plan, p. 26

⁵ See Displacement Tracking Matrix, IOM, September 2017 Report, <https://nigeria.iom.int/dtm-october-2017>

Members of the Call to Action are States and donors, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations. They have committed to take collective action to address GBV, to be mutually supportive in this lifesaving work, and to hold one another accountable for action.

Call to Action members working in Northeast Nigeria, the Nigerian Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development which chairs the Gender-Based Violence Sub-Working Group⁶, and other stakeholders have come together to pilot the development and implementation of a two-year Road Map for the most conflict affected states of Northeast Nigeria — Borno, Adamawa and Yobe. This groundbreaking initiative is informed by the global Call to Action Road Map, but tailored to address the GBV challenges and opportunities in this region. It was officially released on July 18, 2018 and currently has 32 committed stakeholders. The road map is positioned as a living document as others are expected to join as outreach expands to national and local partners in particular.

In her statement in the 2018 Nigerian Humanitarian Response Plan, the Honorable Minister of State, Ministry of Budget and Planning noted that the Government of Nigeria has identified Protection and Gender as one of its three key priorities in the 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan and pointed to implementation of the Call to Action as “a pivotal point and a critical foundation for stability and solutions in affected areas.”⁷

Priority Areas of the Northeast Nigeria Road Map

While the humanitarian response to GBV improved in 2017, there are still significant gaps that must be addressed in the quality and reach of the response, in access to medical, psychosocial, legal services and livelihoods for survivors, and in the delivery of essential protection and assistance. To help close the most pressing gaps in the humanitarian response in the Northeast, the stakeholders contributing to the Call to Action Road Map have chosen to focus their collective efforts in five priority areas in 2018-19:

- ***Strengthening Coordination*** to ensure a timely, accountable, holistic, inter-sectoral approach to preventing and responding to GBV.
- ***Improving Access to Quality Services for Survivors*** by ensuring that sufficient and timely access to these services is an essential component of the humanitarian response.
- ***Strengthening the Capacity and Expanding the Engagement of Local Partners*** to improve GBV prevention and response efforts.
- ***Securing Sufficient Funding*** for GBV programming through improved coordination and advocacy.
- ***Engaging Security Actors*** to improve GBV prevention and response.

The Northeast Nigeria Road Map with the actions stakeholders plan to undertake, funding permitting, can be found at: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/nigeria/call-action-road-map>

Ultimately, the measure of success for the Call to Action lies in the concrete improvements that are made in the lives of GBV survivors and those who face the risk of GBV every single day in this crisis.

⁶ The Gender-based Violence Sub-Working Group coordinates the response to GBV, facilitates service delivery, and works to increase access to comprehensive, specialized services for survivors.

⁷ 2018 Nigeria Humanitarian Response Plan, Statement of State Minister for Budget and Planning, <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/nigeria/humanitarian-response-plan> p. 4

CURRENT STAKEHOLDERS

States and Donors

Nigeria Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development
Adamawa State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development
Borno State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development
Canada
European Union (EU)
Germany
Switzerland
United Kingdom
United States
Norway

International Organizations

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
International Organization for Migration (IOM)
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
UN Women
World Food Programme (WFP)
World Health Organization (WHO)

Non-Governmental Organizations

ActionAid
CARE
Christian Aid
Clear View Integrity Foundation
Center for Community Health and Development International (CHAD)
International Medical Corps (IMC)
International Rescue Committee (IRC)
Médecins du Monde (MDM)
Network of Civil Society Organizations in Borno (NECSOB)
Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
Oxfam
Plan International
Save the Children