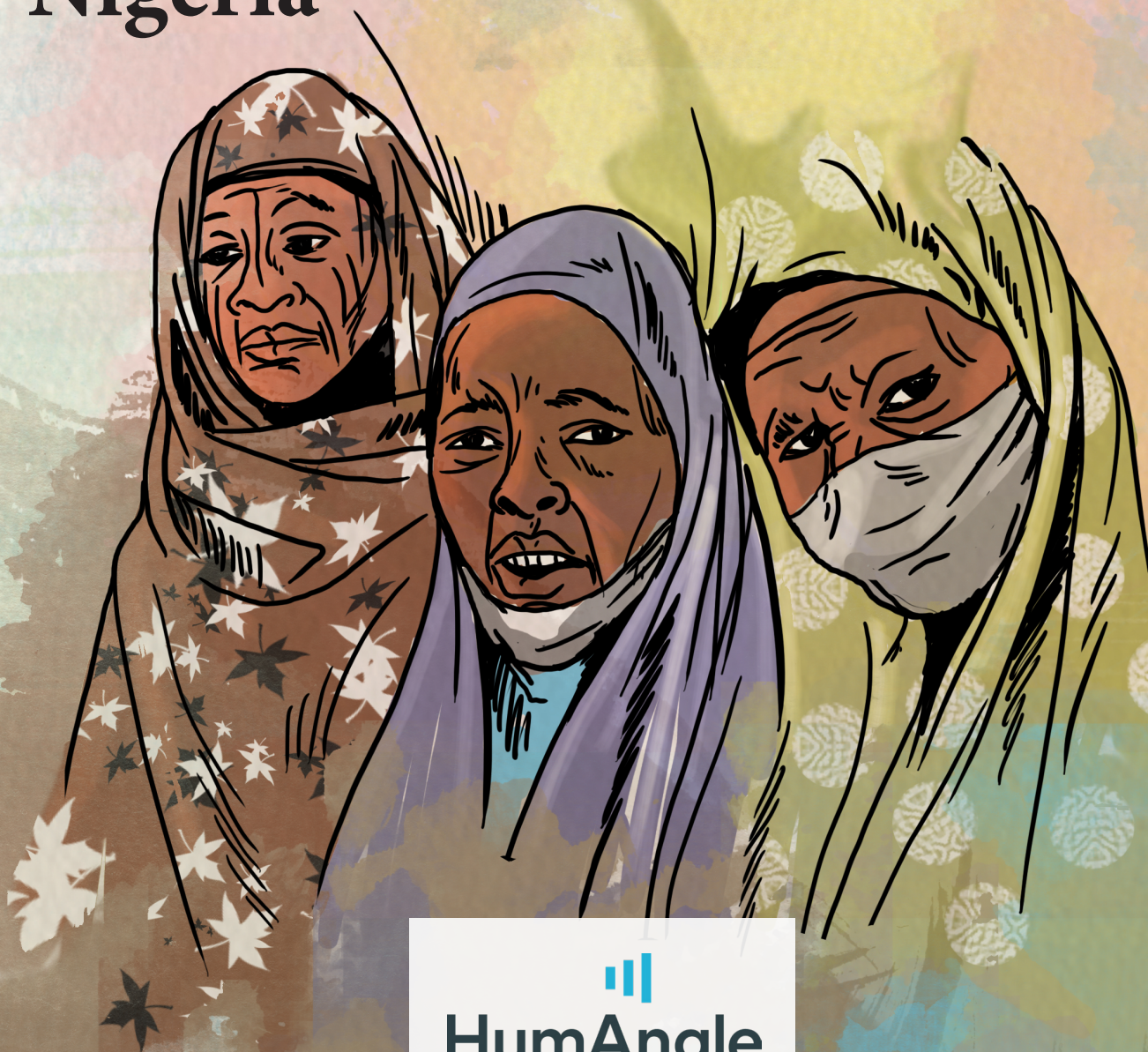




September 2020 Report

Hungry And Abused: The Burdens Of Displaced Women In North East Nigeria



HumAngle

Navigating Hunger And COVID-19: Pathetic Story of IDP Sole-Providers Battling Against Starvation

By Anita Eboigbe

Fanna Modu has 11 dependants and 10 among them are children. On good days, she hands out N10 notes to each so they can get food to eat.

These good days are bad days in normal survival terms but nothing about the conditions of Internally Displaced Persons in Northeast Nigeria is normal.

Modu, like many other women in camp, is a sole provider for her household which has been thrown into heavy dysfunction by bouts of conflicts and terror attacks.

The husbands are absent, not by choice. They are scattered in detention camps after being separated from their families on the suspicion that they are members of the Boko Haram insurgency group.

The separation of family members occurred after they escaped from territories held by Boko Haram insurgents.

The women were told that the government would protect their husbands from retaliatory Boko Haram attacks but no fresh information about them is known thereafter.

The women have children and relatives to fend for with almost nothing.

Fatima Bunkar with six children and her father to cater to is among them.

The women painfully narrated their ordeals and daily struggles

to feed their families with little support from donor agencies to HumAngle.

Women assuming new roles

Borno State like most northern Nigerian states, is inherently patriarchal and for ages, women have depended on their husbands and male family members for support and care.

With their husbands in detention, the women have been forced to parent alone and provide for their families albeit in really dire circumstances.

“The women were told that the government would protect their husbands from retaliatory Boko Haram attacks but no fresh information about them is known thereafter.”

For over 10 years, Nigeria has battled terrorism perpetrated by Boko Haram and its splinter groups which has left several dead and displaced millions, including Modu and Bunkar.

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Human Affairs (OCHA), 7.9 million people are in need in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states due to terrorism and associated acts of destabilisation.

About 22 per cent of the people displaced are women, most of whom have to care for 58 per cent that are children.

In 2014, there were 250, 000 displaced persons in the region (58 per cent were children). By 2015, the figure grew to 1.5 million with 51 per cent as children.

In 2016, the number rose to 1.6 million with 55 per cent as children but in 2017, the number of displaced persons dropped to 1.5 million and 25 per cent, children.

In 2017, the insurgency seemed to have abated and some displaced persons returned to their communities but other areas were attacked and the populations were displaced.

In 2018, the number of displaced persons grew to 1.8 million with children making up 51 per cent and in 2019, the numbers remained the same.

Karu Bulama was displaced five years ago when she was forced out of her community by Boko Haram insurgents to live in Bama.

“This is five years after I was displaced from our home with three children.

“Two of my in-laws’ children died in Bama. My co-wife died in Dalori; I was only a few months pregnant with my son.

“Since we left, it has just been suffering. We have had insufficient

food, sometimes even water to drink was unavailable,” Bulama said.

Her story and similar narratives echo through the camps where women have formed a solidarity borne out of shared suffering and despair over the fate of their unfed children.

“We have suffered so much. We cannot bear it anymore.

“We are tired and bored of staying in this camp, the government should free our husbands,” Falmata Jidda told HumAngle.

In the meantime, while the case for their husbands’ release is being made, the children must eat and the women have the burden to care for them alone.

Surviving on N17, 000 (\$44) monthly

For her household, Fatima Bukar receives N17, 000 from the government monthly as upkeep allowance, a value which every family gets regardless of its size. At the same time, the options for getting additional sources of income are limited and almost non-existent.

Bukar said, “I was separated from my father for about four years. We are all surviving on the monthly allocation I receive from the government.

“Every month we are allocated N17,000. From that allocation, we are expected to purchase foodstuffs, toiletries and clothing for ourselves and the children.

“If a child is sick, it is from that we will have to treat the child in the hospital; foodstuffs have become very expensive in the camp. We have really suffered for a long time.”

“I am from Soye. We set out at about

4 a.m. in search of safety. Myself, my father and my family members. In total, there are six children and three elderly ones. We have been away from our home for over five years,” she added.

Bukar pointed to an almost paper-thin mattress and said, “As you can see, this mattress was given to

“If a child is sick, it is from that we will have to treat the child in the hospital; foodstuffs have become very expensive in the camp. We have really suffered for a long time.”

us years ago. Every sick person in my household was treated on this bed.”

Coping with cap making and routine

To augment their allocations, some women and their children make hand-woven caps.

One cap takes between one and three months to make and often requires the women to weave under poor lighting at night.

Jalo Mohd has seven children,

“I was separated from my father for about four years. We are all surviving on the monthly allocation I receive from the government.”

two are in Banki but five stay with her. She sells caps made by the children for extra income. Despite the amount of time it takes to make a cap, one cap can only fetch N6, 000.

Compared to living costs, the selling price is almost like a tiny drop in the large ocean of the issues they have to confront for daily survival.

Mohd said, “We don’t have enough foodstuff, toiletries, bedding, blankets and so on. We have almost nothing.”

To keep their spirits up and help the children cope, the women maintain family routines. On most days, they wake up, make breakfast and then sit down to make caps.

“It is our only occupation. We have stayed here for a long time and it has gotten boring,” Balama said.

Surviving COVID-19

On COVID-19, Bulama and other women have tried to adhere to the social distancing and hand washing safety protocols as much as they can.

There are still shortcomings as their environments do not encourage proper hygiene.

The areas around their tents are mostly unkempt and with a large number of people living in close proximity, it is hard to maintain social distancing.

Bulama said, “We were told to always wash our hands and practise social distancing. We are just hearing about COVID-19 and coronavirus, we had never heard of such” before.

Bukar added, “We were only told about COVID-19 and that if contracted, it could kill.

“So we were told to take precaution by washing our hands regularly and to practise social distancing,” she said.

Falmata Mallam Bulama washes her hands when she has to collect her monthly allocation as there is a tank of water and soap at the collection point.

She said, “We have to use them before we are given the money. We have been taught to take precautionary measures in dealing with the disease with the provision of face masks and disinfectants.

“We have been shown to use soap and water to effectively wash our hands and those of our children. We observe social distancing as well,” she added.

The suffering is endemic

The 7.9 million people estimated to require humanitarian assistance in Northeast Nigeria in 2020 is an 11 per cent increase from 2019 figures.

According to OCHA, 20 per cent of the people in need are women and 58 per cent of children. Of the number, 38 per cent are in severe and extreme need.

The people in need across Borno, Adamawa and Yobe - 7.9 million – are among 13 million in the three states and showing that more than one in two persons, need humanitarian assistance.

The figure is 11 per cent increase from 7.1 million people in need of assistance in 2019, a situation which arose mainly from rising violence and insecurity.

Over 80 per cent of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are in Borno State, the epicentre of the conflict in the Northeast region. Also, one in four internally displaced persons are children under five years among the 79 per cent who are women and children.

Over 60 per cent of IDPs are living in remote communities, making it harder to access them with assistance and putting additional pressure on the already stretched resources of the communities.

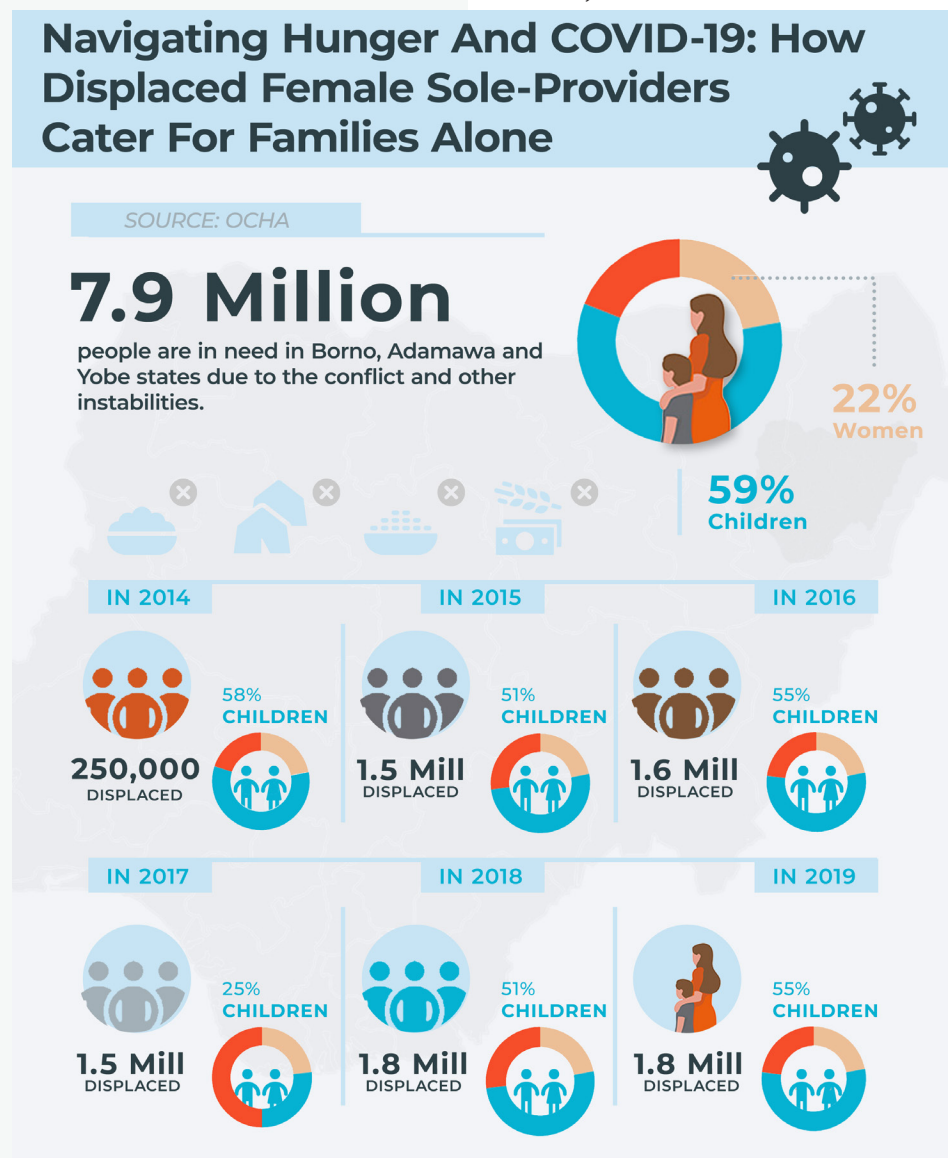
The Global Risk Index, INFORM, said Nigeria was among countries with the highest overall projected conflict risk index and increased

risk in socio-economic vulnerability, inequality, and food insecurity in 2019.

In total, over 75 per cent of people living in Borno State are in need of humanitarian assistance in 2020, OCHA stated.

It added that women and children constituted 81 per cent of the overall crisis population and 87 per cent of new displacements.

The gender dimensions of displacement are having a significant impact on the status of women and girls, especially within the context of mobility, fragmentation of households, demoralization and trauma, OCHA stated.



COVID-19'S Low Toll Among Almajirai

By Aliyu Dahiru Aliyu



Almajirai were seen at the heart of the COVID-19 pandemic in northern Nigeria at the onset of the disease outbreak in Nigeria. Their unhygienic lifestyles and frugal conditions provoke all types of communicable diseases, many feared.

Almajirai are scruffy-looking poverty-stricken young boys between the ages of four and 16 learning and memorising the Holy Quran in untidy and pathetic conditions.

Their crowded classes, which constitute teachers and neighbouring compounds, lack proper hygiene, sanitation facilities and contact among the populations are uncontrollable.

The impossibility of social distancing, the lack of water to

regularly wash hands and the lack of awareness on how to protect themselves against COVID-19 were believed to be factors that could aid the transmission of the virus.

Faisal, an alamjiri, interviewed by HumAngle, said, “about 30 of us sleep under one roof,” which is normally very untidy, impoverished and less spacious dilapidated “soro” (entrance room).

The almajirai themselves were seen as a threat. If their youthful ages are less threatening to themselves, their movements to beg for what to eat was seen as an easy and simple transmission mechanism.

Leaders in northern Nigeria seized the opportunity, worked

on the widely held fears and banned the alamjiri system.

State governments across northern Nigeria transported many of the children back to their parents in an attempt to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Low Positive Cases, No Death Recorded

Although the lack of testing among the almajirai could not give a clear picture of the actual positive cases of COVID-19 infection among the almajirai, the positive cases among them turned out very low and no single case of death was recorded.

As the identities of the people who died were not revealed due to some considerations, HumAngle went deeper to gather information from local sources so as to have a glimpse of the reality.

HumAngle was in Kano State, one of the states in northern Nigeria that experienced the upsurge of coronavirus cases, to investigate the mysterious and miraculous low

Mallam Ali Abubakar, a head teacher in Makarantar Mallam Ali in Gezawa Local Government Area, said none of his over 700 students reported being seriously

past three months, only two cases of malaria were recorded in his school.

Not So Miraculous

Medical experts say while all children are capable of getting the virus that causes COVID-19, they do not become sick as often as adults but develop mild symptoms or no symptoms.

Almajirai are children of very young ages. They are tough and learn spartan life at a tender age. The children and many others who live with them believe a mild disease cannot take them down.

Adam Yusif Aikawa, the son of a popular almajiri teacher in Dala Local Government Area of Kano State, described the almajirai who lived in his house as boys with strong immunity.

People like Adam believe that almajirai might not be as severely affected by COVID-19 because their immunity was strong to resist the virus.

They are familiar with similar

“Among the 1,860 quarantined in Kano State, 193 almajirai tested positive to COVID-19 with 86 positive cases confirmed in Gabasawa Quarantine camp, while 68 and 38 cases were recorded in Karaye and Kiru camps respectively.”

number of cases among almajirai.

Although almajiri schools were officially banned in the state, HumAngle was able to trace few that continued to assemble small numbers of children who refused to be repatriated to their states of origin.

The most populous state had the highest number of almajirai in Nigeria and as of April, 2020, it had evacuated thousands of them to their states of origin while receiving some from other states.

Among the 1,860 quarantined in Kano State, 193 almajirai tested positive to COVID-19 with 86 positive cases confirmed in Gabasawa Quarantine camp, while 68 and 38 cases were recorded in Karaye and Kiru camps respectively.

Between May and June, the state experienced what was initially referred to as “mysterious deaths” but later turned out to be COVID-19 related deaths among elderly people.

In an interview with HumAngle, some teachers in almajiri schools said their students were in very good conditions and did not develop symptoms of COVID-19.

sick in the past three months.

“I have over 700 almajirai; none of my almajirai has fallen sick for the past three months and no single case of death was recorded here,” he said.

Muhammadu Badamasi Abubakar, a head teacher at Makarantar Mallam Badamasi in Ja'en of Gwale Local Government Area, Kano State, echoed similar sentiment.

“Before coronavirus I had over 500 almajirai but currently I don't

“I have over 700 almajirai; none of my almajirai has fallen sick for the past three months and no single case of death was recorded here,”

know the exact number. I have two almajirai that had fever but no death was recorded,” Abubakar said.

Another head teacher, Mallam Shuaibu from Kumbotso Local Government Area, said he had about 200 almajirai and, for the

diseases such as the common cold, Adam and others said.

Other people, especially the elderly, get sick because their immunity is so weak to resist the virus. Their immunity systems overreact and cause more damage to their bodies, they said.

Sex For Survival: How Officials Use Underage IDP Girls As Objects Of Pleasure

By Kunle Adebajo

Young IDPs in Nigeria are sexually assaulted by officials



Young Aisha* has had more than her fair share of misfortunes. She was only six years old when the Boko Haram terror group levied war on the secular society in Nigeria. The ensuing carnage and bloodbath has taken the lives of over 30,000 people.

Originally from Goniri, a town in Yobe State, she was forced to move to Bama, about 60 kilometres southeast of Maiduguri in neighbouring Borno State. In September 2014, the insurgents laid siege on Bama and seized control from the army. Many soldiers and residents fled on foot. But others like Aisha were tired of running.

For six months, the town was in the hands of the terror group as an Islamic Caliphate. “Those in captivity are under serious trauma, starvation, in distress with serious degrees of injuries,” one resident

reported in the early days of the occupation.

Despite her age, Aisha was married to a Boko Haram fighter called Mustafa. When the city was recaptured by the army in March 2015, she initially fled with her husband, brother, and sister, and they all hid in the forest camp.

She then returned with her siblings to Bama where they were locked up and interrogated before they were taken to a camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs). At the camp, they waited endlessly for food tickets but did not get any. They realised, after a few months, that there was only one way to survive: submitting to the sexual advances of camp officials.

“Since we did not have money to

bribe, we were told to use what we have which is as good as money,” she narrated in Kanuri.

At night, a male camp official picked up young girls like Aisha who returned from the bush surrounding Bama and took them to tents occupied by soldiers and other security officials. This was usually at a roadblock in Tango. The next morning, they were given N1500 and returned to the IDP camp.

“I did not hear about it; it was done to me and at least two others that I know,” she thought she had to emphasise. “There is no way to cater to yourself here without surrendering to the sexual assaults of officials.”

Aisha is 17 now but was about four years younger when she first experienced these sexual assaults.

Her age was a major source of her torment. The demons of sexual assaults in the camp were always attracted and therefore feasted on her like flies would feast on faeces.

It happened to her while she lived among the Boko Haram terrorists

“Since we did not have money to bribe, we were told to use what we have which is as good as money,”

and persisted in the IDP camp. She recalls sleeping with over 20 soldiers as well as camp officials. Worse still, most of the sexual assaults were without protection. In her words, she always endured the trauma of “feeling the water (semen) coming out of the men”.

Frustrated, she eventually left the camp to find shelter in the town of Bama but was met with hostility. The residents labelled her and her friend “Boko Haram women,” a tag that accompanied her like a shadow everywhere she went. She was sent out of the rented house.

She was forced to return to the Dalori IDP camp, located in one of the neighborhoods close to Maiduguri. There too, she could not get food tickets. Her name was not registered and she had to resort again to trading her body for basic needs. But officials threw her out of the camp because she and her friends were seen as strangers from Bama.

When she left Dalori for Bama, she discovered her female friends had moved to Maiduguri. So, she joined them, moving in with Fatima,*

whom she had made friends with since her first days at the Bama camp.

In her current location she still faces strong distrust from locals, but her resilience keeps her going. She is thankful that she could afford soap to wash her clothes, opportunities to be productive and, most importantly, a sense of control over her body.

Nigeria’s laws criminalise sex with minors. Enforcing the law however is like drawing water from the rock. Both the Criminal Code, which applies to the southern region, and the Penal Code, applicable in the north, outlaw sex with anyone below the age of 18 and stipulate punishment ranging from 14 years in prison or life imprisonment.

The Criminal Code and the Child Rights Act further state that it does not matter if the offender believed the child to be older or that “the girl was taken with her own consent or at her own suggestion.”

Attempts to get reactions from the Nigerian Army and Borno State government were not successful. Col. Sagir Musa, Director of Nigerian Army Public Relations, asked to be called back when HumAngle reached out to him on Thursday, September 17; but did not answer multiple calls since placed to his number. He also did not reply to texts sent in the period.

Calls to phone numbers belonging to Isa Gusau, spokesman to the Borno State governor, did not scale through, and he neither acknowledged nor replied texts and an email sent to his personal

address.

Older IDPs as pimps

According to the Displacement Tracking Matrix released by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in June 2018, 54 per cent of IDPs in Nigeria are estimated to be female and as much as 56 per cent are below the age of 18. Another 37 per cent are between the ages of 18 and 59. But the fact that children constitute the vast majority of the displaced people has not given them special protection from exploitation.

Camp officials are not the only ones who sexually take advantage of displaced underage girls. The practise is also common among female IDPs who themselves are too old to trigger the fancy of male camp officials. Some of these older women engage in pimping the underage ones.

From interviews with multiple IDPs, HumAngle understands that the older women, known locally as magajiyas, offer up either their daughters or orphaned girls staying with them for the sex trade. The girls then return bearing foodstuff, money, and other supplies from which they benefit.

In her words, she always endured the trauma of “feeling the water (semen) coming out of the men”.

The IDPs who are separated from their parents in the process of fleeing from crossfire have no choice but to seek guardians in the camps. Others are separated from their husbands by the military who detain the men



IDPs cannot get food without these cards

on grounds that they were being investigated.

Female IDPs are vulnerable not only in camps but across host communities in the Northeast as there are reports of abuse by people providing them with shelter in the towns. The ring of abusers draws up people with criminal cravings for

underage girls, to those who have strong sexual appetites for older women as well as others with a homosexual orientation.

Most of the women who spoke with HumAngle said their first rape experience was at the point of interrogation by soldiers after they had just fled from their communities. The soldiers develop a body search protocol in which they compel the women to completely undress under their gaze.

In the course of this body search protocol several personal valuables are never returned to the owners. The younger ones among them

are marked out by the soldiers for severe sexual bondage thereafter. The absurdity has been internalised among these women as an unavoidable reality of life.

At the IDP camps, what we have is not a growing case of rape but a growing case of consent and less and less sex without consent,” one of the women said. “It has become normal. If you are a lady, you cooperate and get what you want much more easily.”

The IDPs who escaped the interrogation with some money pay to get basic relief such as bed space, blankets, foodstuff, drugs and so on, donated in the first instance by local and international organisations.

“The older women, known locally as magajiyas, offer up either their daughters or orphaned girls staying with them for the sex trade.”

Those without cash are forced to surrender themselves for sexual gratification. HumAngle learnt that some of the men who eventually regained their freedom from military detention centres returned to find that their wives had been variously impregnated by camp officials.

Pushed back to BH territories

Fatima, 16, who also hails from Goniri, had a similar string of experiences as Aisha. She had been married to a Boko Haram fighter, a young man from Bula Kuriye. When the Nigerian Army recaptured Bama in 2015, she

fled to the bush with her mother. She later returned to the town with her younger brother to see her grandfather.

The grandfather was full of revulsion for her on account of her association with Boko Haram. He seized her sibling but rejected Fatima. “You Boko Haram people are spoilt. You are copying them. You and we cannot live in the same house,” she recalls her grandfather declaring.

Sometime in 2016, she went to the IDP camp hoping for a place she could find company. But what did she get? She was treated as a castaway. Every day, they wondered when they would finally get the food tickets. They complained to a male camp official, who kept assuring them their needs would be taken care of. The same official, they would later find out, worked as a pimp for security operatives.

“I will not deny; I went there once. He carried three of us in his car and took us there,” she recalled.

Like Aisha and the other girls, she received N1500 the following morning. The food tickets never came, possibly to keep them dependent. But rather than sleep with strangers every few days to stay alive, many of the girls chose to return to Boko Haram’s enclave.

“The younger ones among them are marked out by the soldiers for severe sexual bondage thereafter.”

Fatima says there were initially over 30 IDPs from her village around, but only 12 remained.

“If you don’t have a food ticket, you would go back,” she said matter-of-factly. “What would you do? How would you eat? If you don’t have someone, how would you eat? This is my situation. Anyone who doesn’t want to submit to sexual assaults would have to go back (to their husbands in the forest).”

Some other female IDPs interviewed by HumAngle, who previously lived with the insurgents, expressed a desire to return. They said food scarcity is a problem they would face in the terrorist camps as well but, at least, no one except their husbands would attempt to have sexual intercourse with them.

Violated humanitarian laws

The right of children to be protected from abuse is not only guaranteed by local laws. The 1949 Geneva Conventions on humanitarian law, which have been ratified by Nigeria, have even broader provisions.

Article 77 of the convention’s Additional Protocol I states, “Children shall be the object of special respect and shall be protected against any form of indecent assault. The Parties to the conflict shall provide them with the care and aid they require, whether because of their age or for any other reason.”

The treaty additionally guarantees the right of women to be protected “against rape, forced prostitution and any other form of indecent assault.” According to article 89, nursing mothers and children under the age of 15 are to be given additional food “in proportion to their physiological needs.”

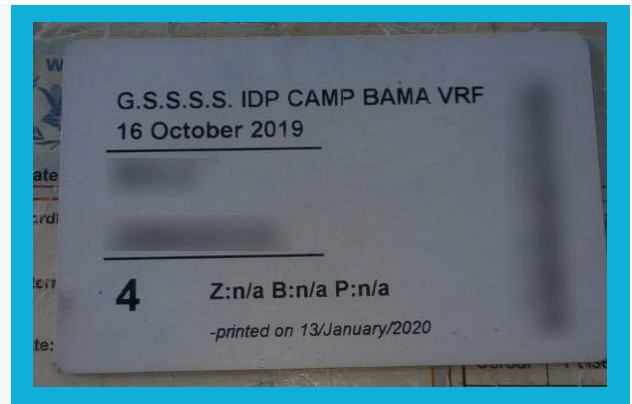
Young IDPs, however, continue to face immense pressure in their bid to receive aid. A survey of IDPs

in Borno conducted in December 2019 by Ground Truth Solutions, an international NGO, found that “younger respondents ... are more convinced that they need to pay others or offer favours” before getting assistance.

The provision of food tickets is part of the cash support programme in place to improve the living conditions of IDPs. The displaced people are given Airtel SIM cards and identification cards from the United Nations’ World Food Programme (WFP). With the tickets, each person, including infants, especially in areas such as Dikwa and Bama, is entitled to three to four mudus (over 4 kg) of millets per month, one mudu of beans, and about a quarter of one litre of cooking oil.

The IDPs also receive salt and other items. But the food is barely enough as many of them oftentimes have to sell some of the supplies to buy firewood and other commodities needed for cooking.

A humanitarian worker informed HumAngle that for IDPs in Monguno, their thumbprints are recorded and they receive foodstuff worth N23,000 while IDPs in Dalori receive items worth N17,000. Those directly in charge of the distribution are, however, not workers of WFP. The UN agency employs the staff of other organisations such as the International Medical Corps (IMC) in Dalori and Kubuyo, and the Danish Refugee Council in Bama.



ID Card given to IDPs

Ideally, new arrivals are registered alongside every member of their family, with their thumbprints recorded by the IOM. Those returning from the forest like Aisha and Fatima are supposed to be given cards from the detention centre in Bama before they are moved to camps.

“The NGO staff are saying the people are too many and registration is getting difficult,” the aid worker said in September.

“Like in Bama, they are in a difficult situation. Some of them were moving to Konduga as of yesterday. It came to the point where they cooked the millets and beans and ate the combination without stew. The scarcity is pushing women over the brink. For those who do not have skills to make a living, prostitution and begging become the only to survive.”

Increased monitoring needed

Weak monitoring mechanisms put in place by donor organisations and the government have been identified as a key reason sexual assault and pimping have continued at the various IDP camps.

Places such as Bama, Banki, and Monguno are considered unsafe for travel, and because of

security concerns, top officials of international NGOs operating in the region are hardly physically present at the camps. Oftentimes, they instead delegate the distribution of materials to third party contractors who have been accused of being selective, exploitative, and fraudulent in their dealings.

In its 2018 report, *They Betrayed Us: Women Who Survived Boko Haram Raped, Starved and Detained in Nigeria*, Amnesty International (AI) reported patterns of rape and sexual exploitation in satellite camps. Some of the women said they were raped by soldiers or civilian Joint Task Force members at the Bama Hospital camp in late 2015 or early 2016 “while they had been starving or near starving.”

“The accounts given to Amnesty International from IDPs strongly indicate that much of the food assistance that reached these satellite camps were stolen, and in some cases sold back to them,” the organisation observed.

“They also indicate that there were inadequate efforts made by the civil authorities to monitor the distribution of aid and to ensure that

agencies personnel, and thus no oversight or monitoring of whether aid reached its intended beneficiaries.”

The NGO requested that groups

to address the patterns of violence against displaced women and girls, especially by closely monitoring the camps and ensuring there is equity and fairness.

“It came to the point where they cooked the millets and beans and ate the combination without stew. The scarcity is pushing women over the brink. For those who do not have skills to make a living, prostitution and begging become the only to survive.”

such as the UN missions and United Kingdom Team of Experts should support efforts

**A pseudonym has been used to protect her identity*

“It has become normal. If you are a lady, you cooperate and get what you want much more easily.”

the assistance they provided reached displaced people. According to the reports of displaced persons, in many of the satellite camps there appeared to have been little, if any, presence in the camp by government officials or emergency management

THE SUFFERING IS ENDEMIC

The Global Risk Index, INFORM, said Nigeria was among countries with the highest overall projected conflict risk index and increased risk in socio-economic vulnerability, inequality, and food insecurity in 2019.

7.9 Million

people are in need in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states due to the conflict and other instabilities.

The people in need across Borno, Adamawa and Yobe - 7.9 million - are among 13 million in the three states

The 7.9 million people estimated to require humanitarian assistance in Northeast Nigeria in 2020 is an 11% increase from 2019 figures.

1 in 4 internally displaced persons are children under five years among the 79% who are women and children.

showing that more than 1 in 2 persons from Borno, Adamawa and Yobe need Humanitarian assistance.

60%

of IDPs are living in remote communities, making it harder to access them with assistance and putting additional pressure on the already stretched resources of the communities.

Over 80% of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are in Borno State, the epicentre of the conflict in the Northeast region.

75%

of people living in Borno State are in need of humanitarian assistance in 2020.

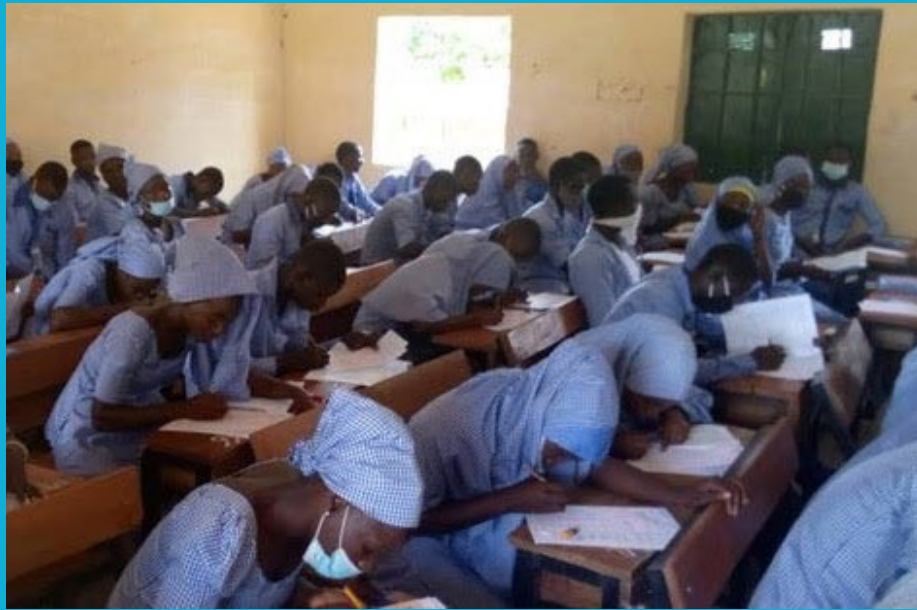
20% of the people in need are women and 58% of children. Of the number, 38% are in severe and extreme need women and children constituted 81% of the overall crisis population and 87% of new displacements.



SOURCE: OCHA

Chibok Community School Overturn Years Of Trauma As Students Sit For Exams *By Murtala Abdullahi*

Students writing exams in Borno State as a condition to receive food and medical supplies.



In a move that underlines the resilience of the Chibok community (rural community in southern Borno, northeast Nigeria) and its determination to pull themselves through the traumas of terrorist attacks, the final year students of the Girls Secondary School are sitting for their West Africa Senior School Certificate Examination, (WASSCE) 2020.

This is coming six years after Islamist terrorist group, Boko Haram swooped on the School abducting over 270 girls as they prepared to sit for their exit examinations in 2014. The action threw the nation and the international community into shock and outrage, ultimately putting the country in a strange political spin.

The news of the sitting for the exams this year by the final year students of the school opens a new page in the community's struggle

against attacks by Boko Haram. The terrorist group particularly uses a combination of attacks and threats to frighten communities from sending their children, particularly the girls to western themed schools.

On April 14, 2020, Boko Haram insurgents abducted 276 schoolgirls from the school dormitory. One hundred and seven of the girls have so far been released or escaped. Several others are still unaccounted for.

On Thursday, Brigadier General Abdul-Khalifa Ibrahim, Acting General Officer Commanding (GOC), 7 Division, Nigerian Army, shared the development to members of Education in Emergency Working Group Nigeria, at a meeting in Maiduguri, Borno state.

Ibrahim, who also is the

Commander Sector 1, Operation Lafiya Dole, was represented by the Chief of Staff of the division, Brigadier General. Ifeanyi Otu.

"We are all witnesses to what happened in the recent past like the abduction of the Chibok girls, the slaughtering of students at Buni Yadi and abduction of students at Dapchi.

"These are all that happened and we have turned around that narrative.

"It will be gladdening to note that for the first time in the past six years, WAEC successfully held WASSCE in Chibok with the military providing security," he said.

Ibrahim said that the Nigerian army continues to support the resuscitation of education in the northeast while fighting to secure the region.

The GOC added that after the capture of Gwoza, the Nigerian army paid teachers taking refuge to teach children there.

He also disclosed that about 70 per cent of the schools that were being occupied by soldiers due to the conflict had been relinquished, adding that efforts were being made to relinquish the remaining 30 per cent.

Students and schools in Nigeria's northeastern region have borne the brunt of the decade-long violence by Boko Haram and its splinter faction, Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) and the military campaign against these groups.

Double Displacements As IDPs in Northern Nigeria Lose Camps To Floods

By Anita Eboigbe

Flood pulled down tents in Pulka, source: MSF



While they struggle with their new realities in the camps, several internally displaced persons (IDPs) in parts of Northern Nigeria face flooding threats.

Humanitarian organisation, Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) in a series of tweets, shared photos of the havoc caused by recent rains in Pulka, Borno State.

At least 20 houses were damaged or ruined in the camp and the MSF team was on ground to assist the displaced people.

They tweeted, “After flash floods destroyed 20 shelters in Pulka transit camp, MSF observed the similar damage in the host community, where at least 20 houses were damaged or ruined.

“Medical teams are on the spot, assisting those in need. No injuries

reported.

“MSF works together with other actors to assist the displaced people in #Pulka, whose shelters have been damaged by flash floods.

“Our support teams are there to provide medical assistance,” MSF said.

Floods in IDP camps have become very frequent in 2020 and HumAngle has covered several cases.

Recent flooding in camps

In July, HumAngle reported that residents in parts of Maiduguri, Borno State capital are lamenting the loss of their properties to recent flooding.

Flooding had taken over some

residential homes and parts of the Bakassi Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps, displacing many of the residents.

Some of the affected areas include Polo, Ngomari, Bakassi IDP camp, and Zajeri Umarari Kan Tudu around the city centre.

Residents told HumAngle that the flood was as a result of blockage of waterways due to the indiscriminate dumping of refuse and polythene bags in the drainages.

The paper also reported that humanitarians in Northern Nigerians were bracing for the floods.

The International Organisation for Migration online displacement report between June 29, 2020 and July 3, 2020 revealed that 19 camps were affected in Maiduguri,

Jere, Kaga and Konduga local government areas of Borno State.

A source familiar with humanitarian operations and flood risks in Borno State said the impact of flood was mostly on shelters some of which were more vulnerable than others because they were constructed on plain surfaces.

In June, the Borno State government instituted a committee to mitigate the impact of flood, the State Commissioner for Environment Modu Walama in a phone interview told HumAngle that the committee was going round to inspect most of the affected areas, including IDPs camps.

Walama added that the government was evacuating some blocked drains and desilting some areas to prevent flooding and would in addition build new drains in identified areas, particularly in IDPs camp areas, as a long term solution.

Eve Sabbagh, the Spokesperson for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, told HumAngle that humanitarian actors were scaling up efforts to mitigate flooding and disease outbreaks during the rainy season as there were increased risks of flooding and outbreak of diseases such as acute diarrhoea and cholera.

In November 2019, at least 100,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nigeria's northeastern state of Borno were trapped following a flood disaster at a Nigeria-Cameroon border town.

More than 4,000 hectares of farmland were also destroyed by the flood in Rann, a town in Kalabalge local government area of Borno.

More flooding to come

At least 102 local government

areas (LGAs) in Nigeria are highly probable to be flooded in 2020, HumAngle earlier reported.

The local government areas are spread across 28 states in Nigeria, according to data from the Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA)'s 2020 Annual Flood Outlook (AFO).

All states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) are expected to experience different levels of flooding during the year, the agency stated.

Out of the 774 local government areas in Nigeria, 102 are predicted to be highly probable while 275 local government areas are probable to experience flooding.

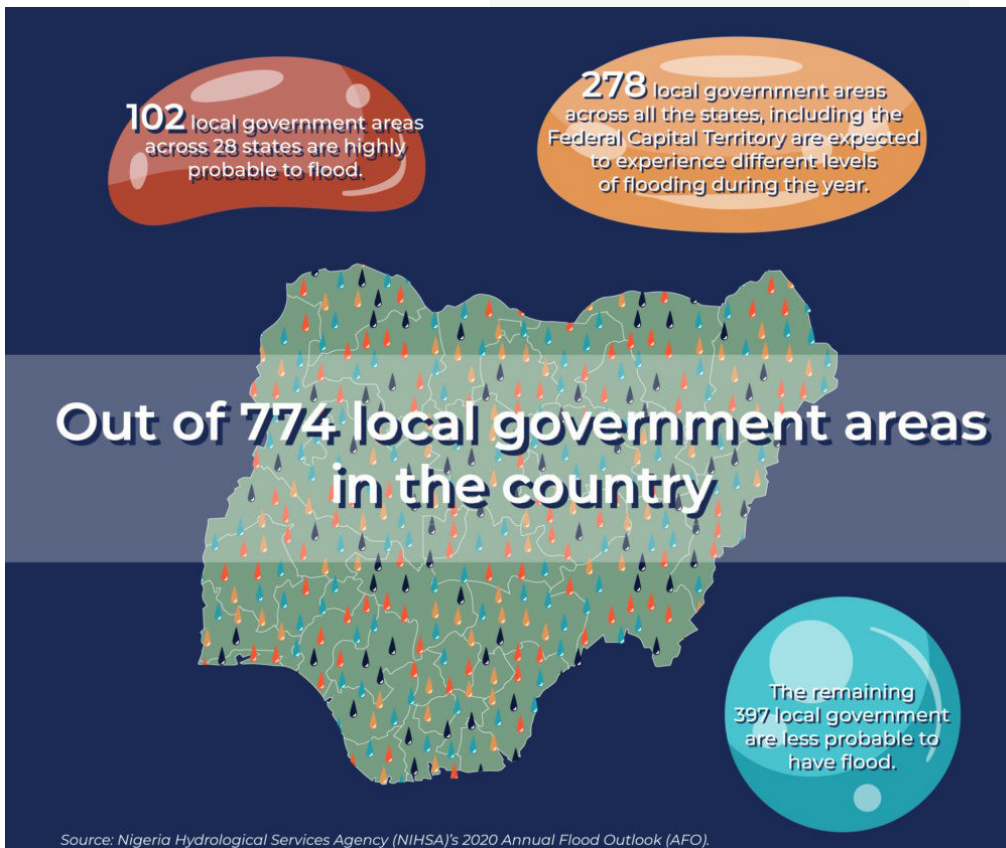
Also, 397 LGAs are predicted to be less probable to flood occurrences.

Borno, particularly, is expected to experience flooding in Marte, Maiduguri, Abadam, Mafa and Kukawa.

Nigeria will likely experience more flooding, especially in September going by the pattern already established, according to Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA).

"By our prediction, August and September are very critical for flooding in Nigeria.

"If as early as June we are losing lives and property occasioned by flooding in some parts of Nigeria, I don't know what will happen by the time we approach the middle of August and September in Nigeria", the Director-General of NIHSA, Mr Clement Nze, said.



Northeast Needs Urgent Humanitarian Aid With Worsening Situation – UN, Others

By Hafsa Abubakar Matazu

The humanitarian community says increased violent attacks and the COVID-19 pandemic have worsened access to aid for vulnerable populations in Northeast Nigeria.

Over 10.6 million out of 13 million will need some sort of aid this year, a 50 per cent increase since 2019, which is as an indirect result of the coronavirus pandemic.

1.9 Million People Remain Internally Displaced In Northeast – UN

By Murtala Abdullahi

Some 1.9 million people remain internally displaced in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe with many living in dire conditions, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), said in an online conference on Thursday.

The agency said that over 80 per cent of the number is in Borno State which has remained the centre of Boko Haram insurgency for more than 11 years, adding that the situation had been worsened by the novel coronavirus pandemic.

‘Islamic State’ Accuses Aid Workers Of Espionage, Spreading ‘Blasphemous Beliefs’

By Kunle Adebajo

The embattled Islamic State via one of its official magazines, Al-Naba, says it is not prepared to stop its targeted killing of humanitarian workers

providing support to ravaged communities in the Northeast and accuses them of being impartial in their operations.

The terror group stated this in an editorial published in the 247th issue of its Al-Naba Magazine on Thursday, August 13. Recent developments in Lake Chad indicates that ISWAP, which broke away from Boko Haram in 2016 and pledged allegiance to the Islamic State is towing the same line.

Attacked, Displaced By Boko Haram, Auno Community In Borno State Share Their Plights Amid Government Intervention

By Aisha Talba

Auno community in Borno state, northeast Nigeria, has been in the news almost as a pointer to the ruthlessness of the insurgents in the region.

The community sits on the edge of the gateway into Maiduguri right on the highway between Dutse and Borno state capital city, and

that road has been a prime target for ambushes and abductions by Boko Haram.

The community was attacked by terrorists on six occasions within a few months. The Nigeria Army, locked in fierce battle with the jihadist terrorists in the region, maintains a checkpoint at Auno.

Doctors Without Borders’ Race Against Child Malnutrition in Maiduguri

By Aisha Talba

The international humanitarian organisation, Medicines Sans Frontières (MSF), also known as Doctors Without Borders, has intensified its intervention in Borno State, Northeast Nigeria where children affected by the insurgency are dying of malnutrition.

The organisation is currently using its 100- beds, hospital in Fori to attend to children affected by the insurgency. In a recent information released, MSF said more than 260 children are screened daily for Malnutrition.

Editor’s Note: These reports are part of a series highlighting the daily experiences of IDPs in Northeast Nigeria, including recent challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.



HumAngle