



Children in IOM MHPSS safe spaces © IOM 2020

Context and needs analysis

Since 2015, Nigeria has continued to experience repeated armed attacks and violence perpetrated by the Non-State Armed Group (NSAG) leading to deteriorated living conditions and mass displacement of populations within the country. The crisis is predominantly characterized by protection concerns due to the ongoing conflict, insecurity and poor living conditions in IDP camps and informal settlements. IDPs and other conflict affected populations experience acute challenges related to their safety and wellbeing and are at risk of harm due to limited coping capacity, loss of assets, and the risk of exploitation and discrimination. Their vulnerabilities are exacerbated by pre-existing and emergency induced mental health and psychosocial problems. This particularly impacts the most vulnerable sub-groups of the population, including the elderly and chronically ill, persons with physical and psychosocial disabilities, female- and child-headed households, unaccompanied and-or separated children, adolescent boys and girls, pregnant and/or lactating women and people returning from captivity. MHPSS services are extremely limited in many areas of the Northeast, while specialized psychiatric/mental health treatment services are only available in two hospitals.

IOM MHPSS Programme

IOM has been a key partner in the provision of MHPSS services and has in partnership with national institutions worked to improve the psychosocial well-being of displaced population across the Northeast. IOM deploys more than 100 staff in different areas to reach people in need through mobile teams, referral teams and community animators.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020

713,000

people benefitted from various MHPSS services and activities

14

MHPSS operational safe spaces

15,852

individuals benefitted from MHPSS counselling

13,550

individuals received Psychological First Aid (PFA)

6,337

individuals accessed specialized mental health services

1

Multipurpose Community Hall established for community members to access services

Additionally, IOM as a direct service provider acts as a primary resource to national institutions in ensuring the function and strengthening of existing referral pathways, ultimately ensuring affected populations in need have access to specialized services. Through a partnership with the State Specialist Hospital in Yola and the Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital in Maiduguri IOM enabled the referral and treatment of individuals in need of specialized treatment. IOM also operates MHPSS safe spaces located in different IDP camps to provide safe, convenient and dignified spaces to implement MHPSS services and activities such as counselling, livelihood engagement, informal education, etc.



MPCH in Yola, Adamawa © IOM 2020

Multipurpose Community Hall

In 2020, IOM constructed the Multipurpose Community Hall (MPCH) in Yola, Adamawa State to address some of the identified needs and gaps aiming at improving psychosocial wellbeing of community members including GBV survivors. The hall will provide various services for community members. Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the management of the MPCH have been developed and the hall is expected to be fully operational in 2021 for community members to use.

Priority activities in 2021

Emergency Response

- * Provide direct MHPSS services to displaced populations and returnees in camps, informal settlements, and communities using MHPSS resource centres/safe spaces and dedicated mobile teams, referral teams, and psychiatric nurses.
- * Provide remote counselling to the distressed population including gender-based violence (GBV) survivors, victims of trafficking, caregivers, vulnerable children, and families.
- * Within the MHPSS Sub-Working Group, ensure compliance with MHPSS standards and procedures, coordination of responses.

Funding required: \$2,000,000

Preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction

- * Provide capacity building to the Ministry of Health and MHPSS partners to ensure information-sharing, adherence to relevant standards and guidelines, and the efficient use of resources among partners.
- * Enhance the collaboration built with the Neuropsychiatric Hospital in Borno and the State Specialist Hospital in Adamawa for the provision of specialized services.
- * Roll out the training curriculum developed with the University of Maiduguri on psychosocial counselling and small-scale conflict resolution to localize the MHPSS response and ensure sustainability. Build the capacity of community members to strengthen community resources.

Funding required: \$500,000

Transition and Recovery

- * Support IDPs, returnees, and communities to regain a sense of safety and human security, increase self-confidence and community trust, strengthen social networks, develop coping mechanisms, and regain hope for the future.
- * Strengthen relationships and the sense of solidarity among members of a community through peer support and mentoring actions and increase access to social capital through social networks that provide social and emotional support.
- * Promote human capabilities to improve human functioning, recovery, and resuming life projects. Through the integration of MHPSS training/educational modules into livelihood projects, this approach will focus on the needs of individuals, their resources, and their diverse abilities.

Funding required: \$500,000

PROTECTION, MITIGATING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) AND COUNTER-TRAFFICKING (CT)



Women Committee Training in Dikwa IDP camp © IOM 2020

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020

33,819

individuals reached through GBV, SEA and CT sensitization sessions

538

government officials trained on protection mainstreaming

20

women committees established and trained

As a result of violent insurgency, thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other affected populations are exposed to Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA). Women and girls in particular face the threat GBV and many fear moving outside their communities alone. Children are particularly at risk of trafficking and kidnaping and are at risk of forced recruitment by armed groups. Under the umbrella of the MHPSS programme, IOM mainstreams protection, mitigates GBV and promotes Counter-Trafficking (CT) to ensure that affected populations benefit from safe, dignified and equitable access to services. Following an integral approach, IOM contributes to improving the protection and living conditions of crisis-affected populations by strengthening law enforcement's capacity to respond to GBV, SEA and Trafficking in Persons (TIP).

Priority activities in 2021

- * Provide protection and GBV prevention and response services in across north-east Nigeria through psychosocial mobile teams and safe spaces.
- * Mitigate protection/GBV risks by providing trainings on protection and GBV, safety audits, assessments, ensuring that protection, GBV prevention and response and PSEA are mainstreamed throughout the humanitarian response.
- * Provide referrals to specialized services (e.g. education, health, legal etc.) as well as direct assistance (e.g. MHPSS, NFI, shelter) to victims of trafficking.
- * Conduct capacity building on the prevention and response to GBV, trafficking in persons prevention, response, and community engagement for Government agencies with a focus on Nigerian Police Force, Nigerian Civil Defence Corps, and the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP).

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