

**Context and needs analysis**

The humanitarian crisis in north-east Nigeria disrupted the lives of millions of people who have been displaced and deprived them of their livelihoods. It generated a situation of widespread unemployment that has been further aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic, as many households lack sufficient income to meet their basic needs while livelihood opportunities remain scarce. At the same time, since 2015, more than 1.7 internally displaced people (IDPs) have returned to their places of origin in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states. To support the displaced population and returnees, there is a need for early recovery interventions, including restoring livelihoods and access to essential services, including access to justice, to strengthen the self-reliance of affected populations against future vulnerabilities and shocks. These elements are also crucial for creating conditions for durable solutions for IDPs and restoring social cohesion. Without those pre-conditions, a premature return of displaced populations may lead to secondary displacement, deepening IDPs' vulnerabilities and creating social polarization between IDPs, host communities and returnees. The inadequate capacity in areas experiencing return is considered a direct risk to the overall progressive resolution of displacement in the Northeast.



Yolde-Pate Primary Health Care Centre rehabilitated through CfW initiatives © IOM 2020

**IOM ERL Programme**

Through its early recovery and livelihood programme, IOM contributes to the improvement of the living conditions of IDPs and returnees in host communities by providing sufficient, coordinated and adequate Cash-for-Work (CfW) activities and vocational training in Borno and Adamawa states. The CfW programme provides a framework for the affected communities to constructively re-invest their labor back into their neighborhoods. The vocational training has equipped participants with skills and knowledge to start and sustain small-scale businesses. The programme also aims to simultaneously revitalize local markets and rehabilitate damaged community infrastructures in order to initiate transition to recovery from conflict.

**KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020**

**100**

individuals participated in the rehabilitation of Yolde-pate Primary Health Care Centre

**150**

individuals participated in the rehabilitation of Women Development Centre (WDC)

**100**

individuals participated in the rehabilitation of Gwoza Primary Health Care's spaces

**20%**

of CfW beneficiaries are women

**150**

individuals benefited from skills acquisition training (accompanied by small business start-up kit)

**150**

individuals benefited from remote technical support on business management and COVID-19 prevention measures

## Priority activities in 2021

- ◆ **Cash for Work** and skilled labor schemes will support activities such as comprehensive neighborhood upgrades and light community infrastructure rehabilitation to directly contribute to recovery in conflict-affected areas.
- ◆ To supplement **economic recovery interventions**, IOM aims to support restoration of social cohesion and local governance mechanisms in the areas of intervention. This will be achieved through the provision of technical and logistical support to community peace committees to address social cohesion concerns.
- ◆ Facilitating **community mobilization** to create community platforms in the areas of return identified as stable to engage local authorities and community leaders from the communities who have stayed behind, IDP returnee communities and IDPs engaging youth, women and civil society organizations.
- ◆ To **empower youth and women** and create a sustainable platform for them to start up small scale businesses, IOM will provide vocational skills-training and start up cash grants for business development, and support through **income generation activities** to improve the livelihood situation of returnees and host communities.
- ◆ To increase **access to credit**, IOM aims to support the creation and capacity building of Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLAs), cash/voucher programs.
- ◆ To support **co-existence in areas of returns**, community reconciliation and peace-building dialogues and events will be organized together with awareness-raising and trainings on social cohesion or community security related activities.
- ◆ Capacity building of **Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)** to implement community-based projects.
- ◆ To help **restore local community governance, administration and services**, IOM will work to provide training opportunities for capacity building of local government staff and communities as well as support with rehabilitation of prioritized community facilities and provide basic service materials (e.g., equipment, office supplies, utilities etc.) to enhance their functionality.
- ◆ Expanding **cash-based intervention activities** through the introduction of multipurpose cash grants (MPCG) referring to a transfer corresponding to the amount of money a household needs to cover, fully or partially, a set of basic and/or recovery needs. The flexibility of unrestricted and unconditional cash transfers allows beneficiaries to choose how they wish to utilize the cash assistance based on their individual needs. MPCGs enables crisis-affected persons to utilize in-kind goods and access

## IOM EARLY RECOVERY PROGRAMME GLOBALLY

*IOM is an active partner of the Early Recovery Cluster with large experience and on-the-ground successful operations. IOM activities are directly contributing to the achievement of the objectives by the Cluster Working Group on Early Recovery's strategic framework. Main objectives for IOM are: i) To carry out its role in supporting the development of early recovery tools and methodologies at global collaborative cluster work; ii) To support the increase of early recovery operational preparedness and capacities and enhance local NGO and civil protection network partnerships.*

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