



8,915
confirmed
cases in Nigeria
with 259 deaths
recorded as of
28 May.

Source: Nigeria Centre for Disease Control



Rehabilitation of latrine block in Motor Park camp in Borno State. Photo: © IOM 2020



RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (RCCE)

Risk communication and community engagement are fundamental for providing internally displaced people (IDPs), host communities and returnees with timely, context-specific, and reliable information on public health. IOM conducts awareness-raising and sensitization sessions on COVID-19 as well as on the services available in displacement sites. The information also contributes to dispel myths and decrease stigmatization.

Across north-east Nigeria, IOM WASH reached **45,135 individuals** with specific hygiene promotion messages on handwashing across **27 sites in six LGAs**. This was achieved through door-to-door messaging, bringing the total number of individuals reached to **203,106**. Across **24 sites**, individuals are also sensitized on methods of transmission, symptoms, and preventive measures as well as on the importance of physical distancing at water fetching points. Similarly, IOM CCCM reached an estimated **447,281 individuals** across 14 LGAs.

Fifteen hygiene promotion and community volunteers were trained on handwashing, identification of symptoms of COVID

-19 and referral mechanisms in **three LGAs**, bringing the total number of trainees to **458** in north-east Nigeria.

IOM conducted health sensitization sessions for **3,597** beneficiaries reached across **16 LGAs** in the north-east.

To strengthen family and community support systems and promote community engagement, IOM reached **474 individuals** through support group sessions across **ten LGAs** in the north-east.

IOM continues engaging returnees as **volunteer field officers (VFOs)** who share information via online platforms on preventive measures based on the guidelines of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Nigerian Ministry of Health. **One video** was created and shared through returnee WhatsApp groups and on social media.

IOM developed **short videos** on "positive coping skills during COVID-19" and "parenting tips while your children are at home" to support returnees dealing with challenges during the COVID-19 period.



POINTS OF ENTRY (POEs)

To implement public health measures at POEs, IOM supports the Government of Nigeria and the Ministry of Health by strengthening core capacities through the identification of

POEs for health screenings, gathering of essential information and monitoring of travellers' health status. IOM monitored the movement of **412 persons from 22 POEs** in Adamawa and

and Borno states. A total of **21,647** movements were observed from 20 flow monitoring points in the north-east. Of the total, **10,737 movements** were inflows and **10,910** outflows.

In coordination with relevant actors and partners, including government and health stakeholders, IOM is currently

identifying POEs for the **construction of quarantine facilities**. This would facilitate COVID-19 preparedness and response efforts at critical locations. In compliance with health prevention and mitigation measures, quarantine facilities will be used to self-isolate and will be supported by different actors for the provision of services.



INFECTION AND PREVENTION CONTROL (IPC)

The provision of safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) are fundamental to adopting prevention measures during infectious disease outbreaks such as COVID-19. IOM continues to support national capacity to implement infection prevention and control measures to prevent or limit disease transmission.

To prevent and control infection through hygiene measures, **one handwashing station** was installed in Pulka, north-east Nigeria, bringing the total number of handwashing stations installed under COVID-19 response to **268 in seven LGAs**. Handwashing stations will be gradually installed across all IOM-managed sites in Borno and Adamawa states.



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

IOM continues to provide life-saving support to affected populations and support overall COVID-19 preparedness and response measures in camp and camp-like settings across the north-east. This is achieved by ensuring that IDPs continue to receive life-saving assistance and that health and WASH activities are in place in all sites.

Preparation is ongoing to construct supporting facilities in completed **Self-Quarantine Shelters (SQS)** across the north-east (**12 in Pulka and 16 in Gwoza**). Additional units of SQS are under construction in other locations, namely **Monguno (20), Damboa (16) and Bama (20)** while field visits were conducted to assess possible locations for SQS construction. The quarantine shelters consist of individual units with a latrine, shower, handwashing station and living quarters. These facilities also have separate entrance and registration areas as well as restricted areas for health personnel.

Field visits across various locations in the north-east would also enable IOM identify public buildings to be used in case of a **mass influx** of displaced people. In Dikwa, for example, IOM is preparing to conduct a needs assessment following the identification of a school to be used to respond to mass displacements. In Gwoza, the rehabilitation of **two existing structures** is ongoing to relocate IDPs living at the transit site while in other locations such as Bama and Pulka, IOM continues to look for decongestion solutions pending approval from the relevant government authorities.

IOM started **delivering 500 COVID-19 mitigation kits** containing, among others, mattress, mat, blanket, jerrycan, bucket, kettle, cup and sanitizer. Additionally, IOM **dispatched 900 COVID-19 basic non-food items** kits containing **solar lamps (300) and sanitary pads (600)** across 10 locations, including Gwoza, Dikwa, Monguno, Bama, Banki and Ngala.



PROTECTION

IOM is committed to maintaining the protection of affected populations and host communities at the centre of its COVID-19 response. Protection concerns are exacerbated due to the pandemic, and can intersect with other factors such as gender, age, and disability, status, or ethnic origin.

Across the north-east, IOM conducted Gender-Based Violence (GBV) sensitization sessions for **1,445 individuals**, provided lay

counselling to **443 individuals**, and facilitated and followed up on GBV case referrals of **12 individuals**.

To increase awareness on the risk of being exposed to trafficking due to COVID-19, IOM conducted Counter-Trafficking sessions for **1,098 individuals**, focusing on trends and patterns evidenced across the north-east.



COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

IOM continues to promote strengthened collaboration among relevant actors to support COVID-19 preparedness and response, particularly in coordinating provision of services .

In the north-east, IOM is supporting Médecins Sans Frontières in Gwoza with the **construction of a fence** for their isolation center.

In its coordination role within the **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) sub-working group** for the north-east, IOM contributes to facilitating psychological support and counselling to patients at the State Isolation Centre, as well as phone consultations, and psychoeducation for family members.

Additionally, IOM was requested to support with the adaptation of extracts from the training material on **'Basic Psychosocial Support (BPS): a Guide for COVID-19**

Responders' into audio recordings. The material will be produced in collaboration with Translators without Borders, showcasing two women providing snapshots on psychosocial support from the guide.

To tackle stigmatization against COVID-19 survivors, IOM continues to coordinate the **"Heroes Campaign"** in the north-east, together with WHO, by communicating with patients who have provided their consent to participate in the programme to convey positive messages to the community.

IOM and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Directorate of Research and Statistics are developing a report, in partnership with ECOWAS Member States, on the impact of the pandemic on migration data collection and the impact on the sub-region.



Happiness, a returnee, sells affordable face masks in Benin City. Photo: © IOM 2020



Self-quarantine shelters in Monguno, Borno State. Photo: © IOM 2020

CONTACT US:

IOM Chief of Mission:

Franz Celestin

fcelestin@iom.int

IOM Programme Support Unit Maiduguri

psumaiduguri@iom.int

IOM Programme Support Unit Nigeria

psunigeria@iom.int



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