CALL TO ACTION
On Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies

Introduction

The Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies is a global multi-stakeholder initiative that aims to transform the way humanitarian actors address gender-based violence. Call to Action partners include States and donors, UN agencies and international organizations and NGOs who have come together to achieve a common goal: that every humanitarian operation – from the very start – includes efforts to reduce the risks of gender-based violence, especially violence against women and girls, and to provide safe and comprehensive services for GBV survivors. The power of the Call to Action lies in collective action and accountability. UNFPA is a founding partner of the Call to Action and the GBV AoR led by UNFPA is also a member.

To help strengthen implementation of the Call to Action, a pilot project was launched in July 2017 to develop a road map at the country level modelled on the global road map but adapted to the needs and opportunities of a particular setting. Nigeria is one of the two pilot countries for the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in emergencies Road Map. The European Union (the Euro (through DG ECHO) was the lead of the CtA initiative at the global level and funder of the ongoing pilot initiative implemented through the GBV AoR and UNFPA until 10 December 2018 when the global leadership moved to Canada. One of the real values of the Call to Action is that partners agree to hold one another accountable but also to be mutually supportive.

In Nigeria, working closely with the GBV Sub-Sector, stakeholders developed a Road Map specific to the needs and challenges of Northeast Nigeria. The Road Map for northeast Nigeria was officially released during a meeting that was held in Maiduguri on 17 and 18 of July 2018. There are currently a total of 39 partners who have signed up to the various action areas of the Northeast Nigeria Road Map. The Northeast States are Adamawa, Borno and Yobe which have been affected by the Boko Haram insurgency with over 1.8m people made up of 440,000 women, 364,000 men, 614,000 girls and 382,000 boys.
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This newsletter presents key Call to Action activities conducted which together contribute to achieving the key milestones through collective action and accountability.
The Northeast Nigeria Road Map was officially released during the mid-year review meeting, which took place on 17-18 July 2018 in Maiduguri, Borno State, Northeast Nigeria. The Road Map presently has a total of 39 partners who have signed up to the various key action areas of the Road Map. The Road Map is positioned as a living document to allow for revisions and flexibility for new stakeholders to join. A number of far reaching recommendations were made during the meeting to improve GBV prevention, response and risk mitigation in the Northeast.
CONSULTATION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE GBV CAPACITY BUILDING PLAN

A series of consultative meetings to discuss modalities for developing a GBV capacity building plan with a focus on sustainable approach for building the capacity of local actors was held with stakeholders, including Civil Society Organizations, Government actors, academia, international NGOs and UN Agencies in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States. Seventy-two CSOs were consulted across the 3 States. Exploring partnerships with the academia was discussed as a potential opportunity to support local actors effectively. Outcome 3 of the Nigeria Road Map focuses on the development of local actors. The availability of a comprehensive Capacity Building Strategy is a joint GBV Sub-Sector and Call to Action Nigeria Road Map output.

MULTIPLE ADVOCACY FOR NIGERIA ROAD MAP

A number of advocacy platforms to stimulate higher levels of commitment and support for the Call to Action were identified and utilized upon. The CtA team have identified and made presentations to the following key platforms for CtA advocacy:

A luncheon event on the Northeast Nigeria call to action roadmap held at the Berlin Conference on September 3rd 2018:

Co-hosted by the Nigeria Federal Ministry of Budget and Planning, UNFPA, the GBV AoR and Norway, this event was part of a high-level advocacy conference on Lake Chad Region co-hosted by Germany, Norway, the United Nations and Nigeria, and brought together 27 nations, 24 regional and international organisations and representatives of national and international Civil Society Organizations. Participants committed to comprehensive crisis response in the Lake Chad Region as donors announced US$2.17 billion in support and US$467 million in concessional loans. GBV and the Call to Action were referenced in the outcome document.
**Engagement with Humanitarian leaderships:**

Advocacy presentations were made to key humanitarian coordination fora on the Call to Action with the objective of creating awareness on the Nigeria road map among humanitarian partners coordination for at all levels and appealing for support in the road map implementation. Key recommendations from review meetings of 2018 were also presented for reinforcement of call for implementation. Presentations were made to the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), Operational Humanitarian Country Team (OHCT), United Nations Country Team (UNCT), Inter-Sector Working Group (ISWG), Donor Partner Group (DPG) and field level International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGO) Forum.

**Presentation to the International NGOs senior leadership (Country Directors):**

A presentation of the CtA Northeast Nigeria road map was made at the meeting of INGOs Country Directors in Abuja on 30 October 2018. The Country Directors were called upon to play a significant role in providing guidance and support to their sub-office leaderships in Maiduguri to deliver on the commitments made in the Northeast Nigeria road map. This is also in keeping with their organization’s broader commitment to the global Call to Action.
Higher-level advocacy actions have forged an intentional connection between Spotlight and the humanitarian Call to Action initiative by integrating some of the activities proposed under the Call to Action road map for Adamawa State within the Spotlight interventions for sustainability, demonstrating the humanitarian-development nexus. The spotlight initiative presents an invaluable opportunity to address GBV in Nigeria through the collaboration of multiple stakeholders united in a collective effort to address GBV, particularly against women and girls and ensuring that gender inequality which is at the root of GBV is addressed. Through the Call to Action initiative, several advocacy efforts were undertaken with UNFPA internally and with UNDP on the opportunity to model the New Way of Working through the Spotlight initiative and Call to Action interventions in Northeast Nigeria by deliberatively selecting Adamawa State as one of the Spotlight intervention states. By doing this, tangible actions that strengthen the humanitarian-development nexus were reinforced. In particular, key linkages on the Northeast Nigeria CtA road map and relevant action areas in the Northeast Nigeria road map were identified, analysed/and shared with UNDP and UNFPA for integration within the Spotlight interventions. Given the realities in the Northeast, these actions will contribute to laying a stronger foundation for sustainable recovery, the empowerment of women and girls, and gender equality on the long run.
The 2019 Humanitarian Programme Cycle started by building consensus on the humanitarian situation and identifying needs of the affected population to support the development of the 2019–2021 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). The Centrality of Protection was fully built into the process and the CtA used the opportunity to advocate for the consideration of GBV concerns in all sector plans e.g. WASH, shelter, distribution of Non-Food Items etc. The Centrality of Protection (CoP) recognizes GBV as one of four “key threats & risk trends”, hence the CtA Action areas align well with the CoP indicators to track progress so that CtA progress reports can feed into the CoP action plan reporting. Each of the 5 Outcome areas of the CtA road map is linked to at least 2 indicators of the CoP.

Under the leadership of the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, a multi-stakeholder leadership task team has been established to provide leadership, strengthen accountability and sustain momentum. The first inaugural meeting of the leadership task team was successfully held on 17th October 2018 in Abuja. Members include: Canada and ECHO (representing Donor States as the current and immediate past global lead), the Office of the Humanitarian Coordinator/Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator (representing the humanitarian leadership), UNFPA (representing UN Agencies), International Medical Corps (representing INGOs), Network of Civil Society Organisations in Borno State (representing Civil Society Organisations) and Federal Ministry of Women Affairs (representing Government partners). The GBV Sub-Sector Coordinator also participates in the meetings to ensure synergy building and leveraging of the CtA Road Map. During the inaugural meeting, the draft TOR of the task team was reviewed, amended and adopted. Quarterly meeting schedules were also agreed upon and the Monitoring & Evaluation framework and reporting template were approved for sharing with partners for the commencement of bi-annual reporting. The leadership task team has been functional and ensuring collective accountability. Quarterly meetings have been held consistently in line with the ToR of the group.
The Call to Action Monitoring and Evaluation framework was developed in wide consultation with stakeholders and the GBV Sub-Sector. It has a maximum of 2 key indicators per outcome area to track progress with some basic considerations for bi-annual reporting by stakeholders to document other milestone achievements that contribute to the success of the CtA but not tracked by the framework. A number of key areas to be used in defining CtA success have been identified.
2018 END-YEAR REVIEW MEETING OF CALL TO ACTION STAKEHOLDERS

The 2018 End-Year Review meeting of the Northeast Nigeria CtA Road Map was conducted from 5-6 December 2018 in Maiduguri. The objective of the meeting was to review the implementation progress of the Northeast Nigeria CtA Road Map, identify gaps and challenges/bottlenecks and take measures to address them. Critical issues relevant to the key action areas in the road map, such as engagement with security actors, capacity building for local actors, funding and GBV risks mitigations were concretely discussed and priority areas for strengthening in 2019 was identified and agreed upon. Attended by 91 participants drawn from different organizations, the meeting was highly interactive with far reaching recommendations to improve GBV risk mitigation and response in the Northeast.

DEVELOPMENT OF DONOR CHECKLIST

Facilitated under the Northeast Nigeria road map CtA and led by Canada and UNICEF, a donor checklist is being developed. The aim is to have a Nigeria-specific tool that assists donors to support GBV risk mitigation and response by providing context specific guidance. The tool will also be useful to implementing partners and guide in proposal development. The CtA partners who made commitment on the road map to the development of the donor checklist have met and reviewed the zero draft of the document. Inputs by partners are being compiled to update the zero draft under the lead of Canada.
To strengthen field-level engagement with the Call to Action and maximize opportunities for expanded partnerships and funding, a high-level advocacy to the heads of agencies and organizations and ambassadors of countries on the global CTA partnership was embarked upon. The purpose of the visits was to advocate for the scaling up of actions required to improve GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response in the Northeast Humanitarian Response as well as provide ambassadors of countries that made commitment to the Call to Action at the global level but yet to commit to the Northeast Nigeria road map, with more information and solicit for their commitment to the Northeast Nigeria road map in order to broaden the partnerships.
Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator addressing participants during the CtA 2018 End-Year review meeting held 5-6 December 2018 in Maiduguri, Nigeria

Protection Sector lead, UNHCR, leading an intervention during the CtA 2018 End-Year review meeting held 5-6 December 2018 in Maiduguri, Nigeria

Inaugural meeting of the leadership Multi-Stakeholder Task Team held on 17 October 2018, chaired by the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development.

Director of Prosecution, Ministry of Justice, Borno State, Northeast Nigeria, presenting an intervention during the CtA 2018 End-Year review meeting held 5-6 December 2018 in Maiduguri, Nigeria

Panel Discussion on Capacity Building of Local Actors during the CtA 2018 End-Year review meeting held 5-6 December 2018 in Maiduguri, Nigeria

UNFPA Representative a.i., Dr. Eugene Kongnyuy, addressing stakeholders during the Mid-Year review meeting held 17-18 July 2018 in Maiduguri, Nigeria

Head of EU/DG ECHO, Thomas Cohan, making his remarks during the opening session at the Mid-Year review meeting held 17-18 July 2018 in Maiduguri

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Director of Women & Gender Affairs, Min of Women Affairs & Social Development, Borno State, Nigeria, Mrs. Falmata Omar Lawan, delivering a remark during the Mid-Year review meeting held 17-18 July 2018 in Maiduguri, Nigeria

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