

Mine Action for North East Nigeria

Northeastern part of Nigeria is experiencing a significant humanitarian crisis, resulting from the on-going armed conflict between Boko Haram, the Nigerian military and the Multi National Task Force

14.8 million

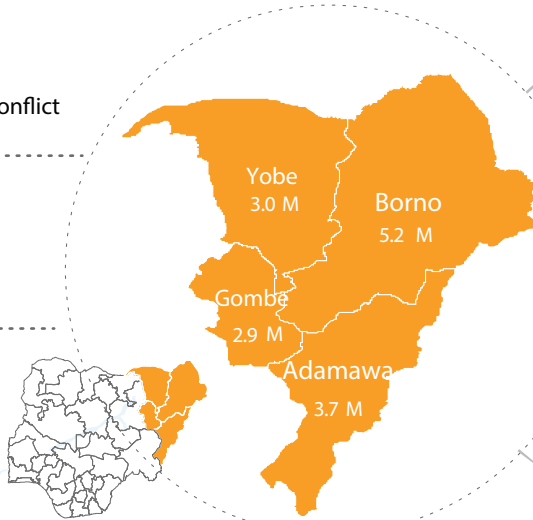
People affected by the conflict in northeast Nigeria

2.2 million

People have been displaced

74%

of IDPs Witnessed violence and many are traumatized



High influx of displaced is contributing to the erosion and breakdown of family and community support systems, and increasing feelings of mistrust.



High insecurity in the region has made access for humanitarian actors extremely difficult outside of major cities.



Explosive remnants of the conflict continue to pose a threat to the lives and livelihoods of IDPs and aid workers, contributing to a climate of fear, and are amongst the obstacles to the safe and sustainable return of IDPs and refugees in the northeast.

DDG Mine Action Assessment

DDG carried out a mine action assessment in northeastern Nigeria (Adamawa and Borno states) from November 1-15, 2015.

Objectives

Nature, scope and location of contamination by mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) in the northeast

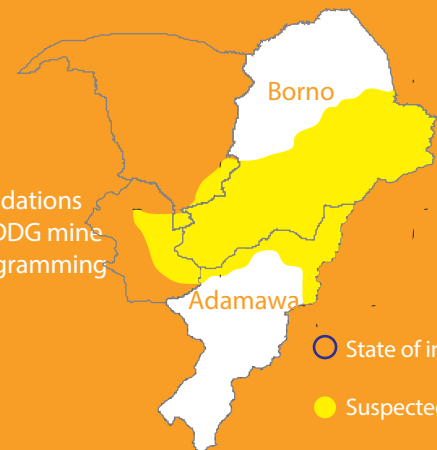
People who may have been victims of mine/ERW-related accidents.



Data Collection



Develop recommendations for future DDG mine action programming



Key Finding



There is a significant problem with explosive ordnance in northeastern Nigeria.



IDPs are being encouraged to return to areas with suspected mine/ERW contamination and are at risk of potential Mine/ERW-related accidents upon their return.



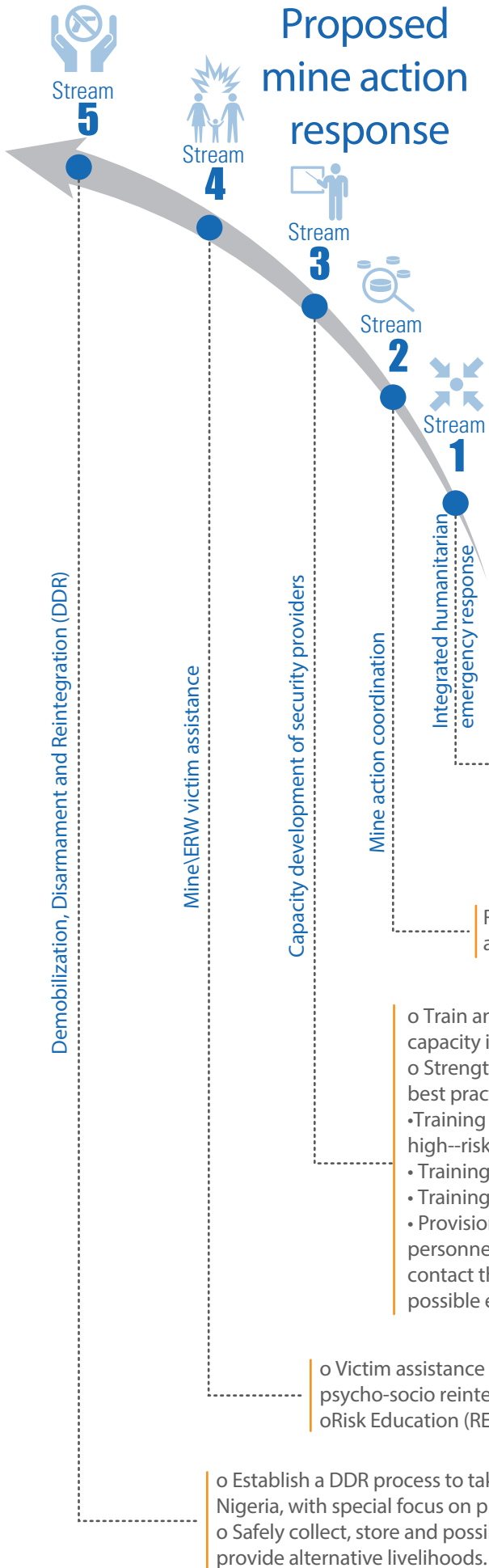
Military and the police are both carrying out ERW clearance. The state police have explosive ordnance disposal [EOD] units whose main role is to follow the army and assist with UXO and IED clearance.



The focus of the army is on clearing roads to facilitate access of their combat forces. Police officials in Adamawa State expressed a willingness to collaborate and receive external support to address ERW contamination

Proposed mine action response

Nigeria's Early Recovery and Livelihoods Sector Working Group



integrated programme pillars

1 Mine Action and **Mine clearance and risk education * for people returning to contaminated areas**

2 Debris & Waste **and** **Improving the handling of solid waste to reduce public health risks can facilitate emergency livelihoods through debris and waste interventions to clear the buildings and make safe and enable the return of people to help them with recovery shelter**

3 Emergency Livelihoods

4 Recovery Shelter

- o Urgent removal of explosive remnants to contribute to create conditions for safe and sustainable return of IDPs and refugees.
- o provision of Mine/ERW risk education for IDPs and humanitarian workers
- o Recruitment, training, equipping and operating of mobile explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) teams
- o Recruitment, training, equipping and operating of area clearance teams
- o Assistance with safe clearance and refurbishment of explosives and weapon stores, particularly those that have been over-run and/or damaged by terrorist action.

Reinforcement of national mine action coordination mechanisms and related activities taking into account the Nigerian context.

- o Train and equip Nigerian security providers to ensure there is a sustainable national capacity in place to address residual ERW contamination.
- o Strengthen already existing capacity, as well as ensure conformity with international best practice and latest technological developments. This includes:
 - Training and equipping mobile military and police EOD teams for possible work in high-risk operations
 - Training and equipping military area clearance teams
 - Training security forces in weapons and ammunition management and safe destruction
 - Provision of 'first responder' training to police, volunteer police and civil defense personnel. This training would allow the 'first responder' to confirm the requirement, contact the appropriate clearance team, and clear and cordon a safe area around the possible explosive item.

o Victim assistance programmes rang from immediate medical assistance, rehabilitation and psycho-socio reintegration for survivors, to their economic reintegration
o Risk Education (RE) can be seen a form of 'preventative medicine'.

o Establish a DDR process to take care of those currently involved in the various informal policing groups in Nigeria, with special focus on previous insurgents.
o Safely collect, store and possibly destroy weapons collected from demobilized personnel, as well as provide alternative livelihoods.

*Risk Education sits with the Protection Sector Working Group within the 2016 Nigeria HRP framework