



Promoting Stability in Nigeria’s Northeast

The overall objective of DRC-DDG’s programme is to promote stability and resilience among those affected by displacement in north-eastern Nigeria, in particular in Borno and Adamawa state. More specifically, DRC-DDG seek to improve community resilience and socio-economic recovery, empower at-risk youth, enhance community safety and foster positive behavioural change in relation to mines, ERW and IEDs.

This monthly flash report provides a short overview of programme implementation through short stories and news as well as a summary of the progress achieved through a field oriented perspective.

Project monthly overview:

Activities undertaken
Conflict Mediation Training for DDG team
Phases 2 of Inter-Generational Dialogues in Borno
Elaboration of community monographs
Small and Medium Enterprises management trainings
Monitoring of garden and poultry activities
Mine Risk Education in IDP camps and with humanitarian workers

The training, which takes place from September 19 to October 13 in Yola, alternates one week of theory and one week of field practice, allowing the teams to experiment in the communities all the steps of a dialogue facilitation process. During the first week, the facilitators presented a diverse range of topics including alternative dispute resolution, conflict analysis, effective communication skills, negotiation skills, dialogue facilitation, mediation concepts and practice, and ethics of mediation. All the subjects were approached by a mix of conceptual presentations and practical exercises, including role plays and group work. On the second week, the teams were divided in three groups and were tasked to facilitate a dialogue in three communities of Mubi North (Muva, Hurda and Betso) on the theme “What does a peaceful coexistence means to you?”. The team carried out successfully their first dialogue and feedback from the communities were overall very positive. The next two weeks will be dedicated to integrating the feedback into the practice, reviewing the concept and deepening the understanding of the mediation and dialogue facilitation processes, including through a second field practice.

**Mediation and dialogue facilitation:
building internal capacity**

On the 19th of September, DRC-DDG launched a 4-week Mediation and Dialogue Facilitation Training for DRC-DDG staff to be involved in conflict management education activities. The training is led by the Mediation Training Institute (MTI), a Nigerian institution based in Abuja with a longstanding experience in mediation, dialogue facilitation and conflict resolution, enjoying a wide variety of stakeholders. The material developed as well as the training process are overviewed and approved by DDG AVR Manager and DDG AVR Global Advisor.

Inter-generational dialogues: deconstructing stereotypes

Over the last weeks, DRC-DDG teams completed phase 2 of inter-generational dialogues in four of the communities of intervention in Borno (Benisheik, Auno, Jakana and Gonidamgari).

Field practice, Mediation and Dialogue Facilitation training, Hurda community, Adamawa state, September 2017.



WASH-YES synergies: one step forward for Yazza community's YES plan

Since the finalization of the YES plans, the AVR teams have been liaising with DRC-DDG other departments as well as other INGOs, NGOs and government actors to seek support for the implementation of the YES plans developed by the youth. Coordination with livelihoods teams have been so far successful with the inclusion of various YES participants in Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) trainings in both Borno and Adamawa states. In September, the collaboration with other sectors took a step forward, with the inclusion of 5 participants to the YES process in the WASH committee of Yazza community (Mubi North LGA, Adamawa state) led by DRC WASH team. This is a concrete support to the YES plan elaborated by the youth of that community, who identified access to reliable sources of potable water as one of their vision of an ideal community, and defined "Access to potable water and youth trained in borehole maintenance" as an objective for 2018.

Promoting coordination in Borno

Over the month, efforts were made by the AVR team in Borno state to map the organisations providing assistance in the communities of intervention of the project "Promoting Stability in Nigeria's Northeast". The objective was to optimize the resources available by promoting integrated approach, using the YES plans as a planning and needs assessment tool. Among the organizations that were approached are IOM, CRS, IMC, MSF, CAID, ADRA, Oxfam, YLC, UNICEF, Save the Children, ACF, WFP, and Fadamer Project (Ministry of Agriculture). The different types of assistance identified include livelihoods, psychosocial support, education for youth and adults, WASH, NFI, food distribution, cash assistance, health and agricultural inputs.

IOM representatives in Benisheik, Kaga LGA, were especially satisfied with DRC-DDG's visit, mentioning "it was the first time an INGO came to ask them and to know about their full activities in Benisheikh". MSF also informed DRC-DDG teams that they could support health-related interventions based on needs identified in the YES plans.

This second phase addressed issues of communication and included participatory work on the meaning of a good, safe life for each group as well as the potential of youth as positive agents of change. The exercise was an opportunity for the participants to dismantle negative stereotypes about age. For instance, many of the elders were able to recall their own feelings and aspirations as youth and recognized in the youth of the communities some positive models. Overall, 92 youth participated in inter-generational dialogues in the last month in Borno. In Adamawa, phases 1 and 2 had been completed in August.

Conflict resolution: analyzing the root causes of conflicts at the community level

In view of building capacity of community key stakeholders in conflict management, resolution and mediation, DRC-DDG teams continued to collect information at the community level, through individual interviews and broader discussions with elders, community leaders and youth, in order to produce community monographs that will serve as a basis to analyze factors of conflict and avenues for solution in each community. Information collected included data about history of the community, leadership and power structures, trade and commerce, historical and symbolic, cultural events, cultural and religious practices, external threats, disputes and conflicts, and particular landmarks and landscape the community members value. The monographs will be used by DRC-DDG teams to customize the delivery of conflict management education trainings that take into account the particular dynamics of each location. In Adamawa, data collection was completed. In Borno, data collection was completed in four out of the six communities of intervention. Remaining data collection and elaboration of report will be continued over the next month in both states.

Building trust with the communities

During the month, the team paid particular attention to the importance of building trust with the communities, especially as the team will move to conflict resolution and dialogue facilitation activities in the coming months. In Borno state, the team paid courtesy visits to the community leaders. These visits didn't have the purpose to deliver specific activities, but to build and strengthen the relationship with the various leaders. The teams and the communities acknowledged that the interaction between them is not only based on immediate needs for assistance, but on mutual understanding, learning and effort to bring positive and lasting change. In response, some of the community leaders expressed their satisfaction with the visits and recognized DRC-DDG's strong involvement in their communities. They also assured DRC-DDG of their support and cooperation. DRC-DDG consider the community as partners in the intervention and so the relationship and the trust existing between the organisation and the communities is key in the success of the proposed activities.



Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Management training for youth

DRC-DDG livelihoods teams continued conducting business management trainings in Adamawa, with support from the Armed Violence Reduction (AVR) teams. The 5-day training covered business management principles, record keeping, marketing, management skills.



Throughout the month, 120 participants, (of which 67 women) from Betso, Didif, Hurda Kankilia, Shafa Tiljo and Futules communities (Michika and Mubi North LGAs, Adamawa) participated in the training. The training ended with a business simulation, after which participants could discuss how to avoid most common mistakes in the future. The selection of participants was based on a list of criteria previously agreed with community leaders and done jointly with the AVR team to ensure youth participants to the Youth Empowerment Plans (YES) were included. In average, 5 YES participants per community took part in the training. In Adamawa state, some communities had over 50% of YES participants representation in the trainings. AVR teams in Adamawa also took part in the trainings, offering support with facilitation processes and role-plays, providing expanded explanations and

demonstrations, which significantly improved the understanding and engagement of the participants, as the teams were already well known in the communities.

Over the month, the livelihood team also continued reviewing the business plans, required to receive grant, submitted by the participants in Gonidamgari, 7up (Borno), Hurda, Betso and Didif (Adamawa) communities and provided advice when the applicants faced challenges.

Community gardening and poultry raising: monitoring the second round

Over the month DRC-DDG livelihoods teams carried out various monitoring visits and provided ongoing support to beneficiaries of community gardening and poultry input in both states. Vaccines were administered to the second round of chicks bought by the beneficiaries with the profits made out of the sale of the first ones in 7up and Gonidamgari communities, with support from the Ministry of Animal and Fisheries in Borno and, in Muva and Wummu communities, in collaboration with the Ministry of Livestock Production (Adamawa). Exchanges on lessons learned and best practices with the DfID funded Propcom Mai-karfi project have also been initiated to the benefit of this activity, supported by both organisations.

Monitoring visits were also carried out to the community gardens in Zabarmari (Borno) and Kankilia, Didif and Yazza (Adamawa), where the women started harvesting a variety of products such as okra, groundnuts, roselle and other vegetables. In Zabarmari community, the new borehole was tested and adjustments were communicated to DRC-DDG WASH team. In Michika LGA, the team conducted a one-day training with garden beneficiaries to set up a leadership structure and ensure continuous supervision of the gardens.

Cash grant for Extremely Vulnerable Individuals (EVIs)

The livelihoods team visited Muva, Betso and Wummu communities (Mubi North LGA, Adamawa) following referral by the protection and AVR teams of extremely vulnerable individuals who are without support. A total of 100 EVIs were identified, among which single parent family with large number of dependents, isolated elderly people, orphans and chronically ill persons. All cases have been registered and will further receive from multi-purpose cash support.



Promoting safe behaviours towards mines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW)

During September, MRE teams continued **delivering 619 risk education sessions in IDP camps and host communities** in Borno and Adamawa. Overall, DRC-DDG MRE teams delivered MRE a total of **12 382 people**, of which 5830 are children, girls and boys, from 6-17 years old, 3361 are women and 3191 men. These sessions took place in various LGAs, including Bama, Ngala, Gwoza, Jere, Kaga, Konduga, MMC (Borno), Yola South, Girei, Michika and Mubi North (Adamawa).

Activities were intensified in Bama, where 3305 people were trained with emergency MRE over the month in preparation of the relocation of an important number of IDPs in a new camp.

Field-testing sessions have been carried out with the **new MRE material** developed on the base of KAP survey findings, and results will be compiled to finalize the posters over the next month. The material consists of one set of MRE posters for adults and one set for children, and will be used in the communities and the camps to deliver safety messages specifically adapted to the context of Northeast Nigeria.



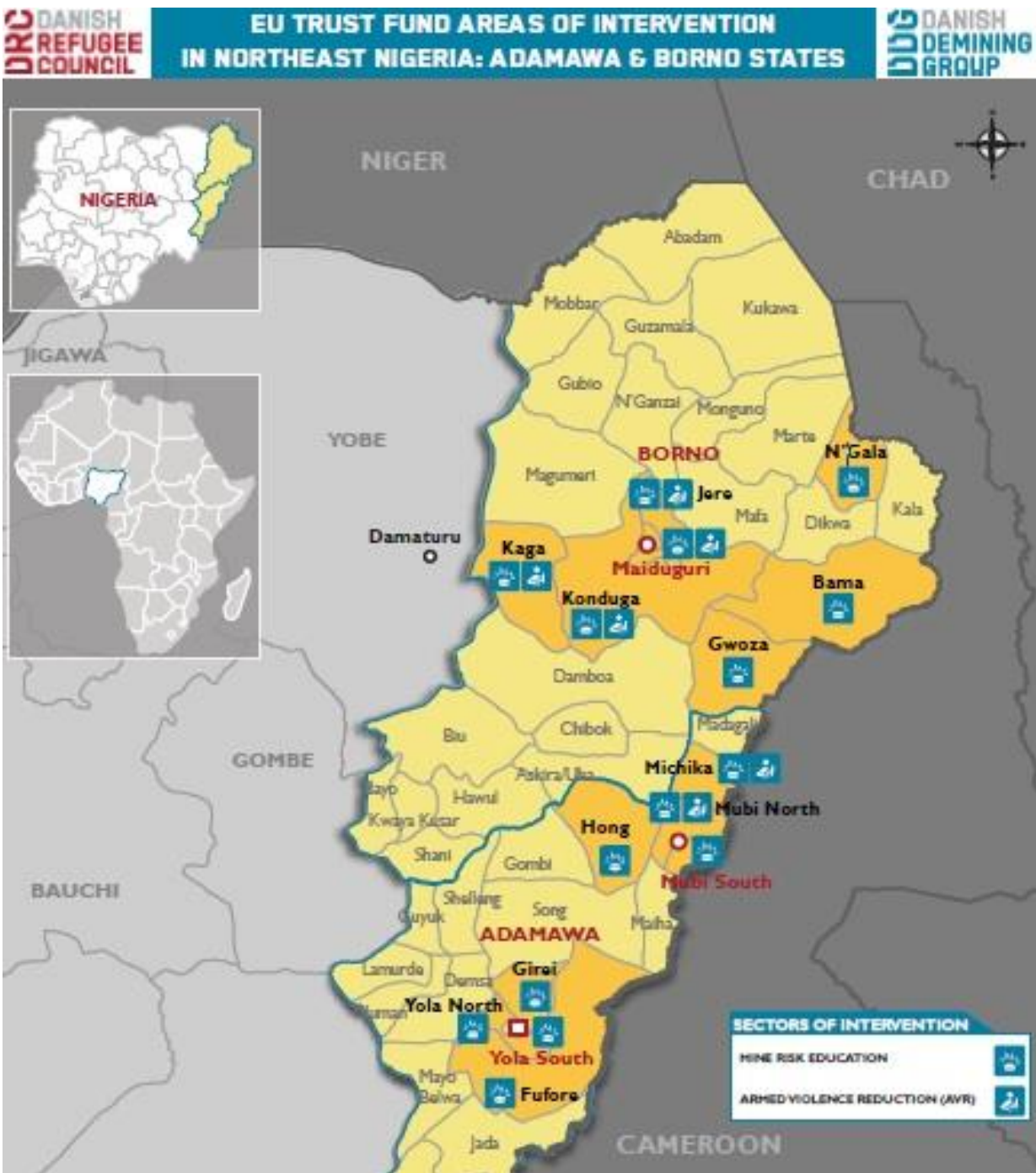
“Material fades away, but knowledge stays”

Following MRE sessions conducted in Gadamayo community in Gwoza, a representative of UBE Central Primary School approached the team and warmly thanked them and the volunteers for the precious knowledge shared with the community. He expressed his appreciation saying that awareness on mines and other explosive is life saving for the people in this location, and that giving this information, especially to the children who are playing around the communities in sometimes dangerous or unknown areas, is something that allows them to stay safe from injury and death. In his own words: “Material fades away, but knowledge stays”.

Mine Action Sub-Working Group: for a more coordinated Mine Action sector

On September 14, the Mine Action sub-working group (MASWG), chaired by the Ministry of Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (MRRR) of Borno state, co-chaired by UNDP and UNICEF and which secretariat is ensured by DDG, held its 4th meeting. The MASWG’s objective is to facilitate coordination of critical mine action interventions in support of the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan and the Strategy for Return and Recovery and Durable Solutions for the North-East. Its specific objectives include the promotion of information sharing and coordination of mine action interventions, support to coordinated and coherent reporting on progress of risk education and other mine action activities, and resource mobilization for efficient and effective implementation of mine action.

The group's areas of focus comprise, but are not limited to: (i) Mine Risk Education (ii) Early recovery interventions including through mine action activities (i.e. continued mine risk education, surveys, explosive ordnance disposal) in targeted recovery intervention sites; (iii) Capacity building of community, ward, state and national stakeholders; (iv) Support to, and coordination with a NMAA when it is established; (v) Policy Advocacy for the promotion of mine action in the response. The meeting was attended by INGOs (DDG, MAG), NGOs (YFWP, network of CSOs Borno), UN agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, UNDSS, OCHA) and representatives of the MRRR. The main topic was the implementation of MRE and MRE strategy in the Northeast, including dissemination of messages through mass media and school-based MRE activities.



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