



6,677 confirmed cases

in Nigeria with 200 deaths recorded as of 20 May.

4,504 individuals

joined mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) health sessions.



MHPSS counselling for IDPs in Maiduguri. Photo: Shadrach Magaji/IOM 2020



COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

IOM continues to coordinate the provision of services with relevant actors, including the Health and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Sectors to support COVID-19 preparedness and response.

- To tackle stigmatization against COVID-19 survivors, IOM has launched the “Heroes Campaign” in coordination with WHO to feature survivors of COVID-19 as influential people who can convey positive messages to the community.
- At points of entry (POEs) in Dikwa, coordination efforts between different actors led to improved surveillance and Risk Communication and Community Engagement activities.
- In Gwoza, IOM is supporting Médecins Sans Frontières

to construct a fence for their isolation centre in addition to ongoing construction of self-quarantine shelters.

- As co-chair of the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) sub-working group, IOM is overseeing the establishment of a toll-free number to implement remote counselling and psychosocial support. Additionally, IOM is coordinating the weekly deployment of Government MHPSS responders to the State Isolation Centres in Borno.
- IOM participated in the IASC MHPSS Reference Group global call meeting on 11 May where the updated guidance notes and new training materials related to MHPSS during COVID-19 were presented. IOM is sharing these materials with all MHPSS partners.



RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (RCCE)

Risk communication and community engagement are fundamental in public health messaging for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities to have access to timely, context-specific, and reliable information. To this end, IOM conducts awareness-raising and sensitization sessions on COVID-19 as well as on the services available in displacement sites. This information

also contributes to dispel myths and decrease stigmatization.

- Through mobile speakers, IOM’s CCCM team carried out 367 awareness sessions on COVID-19 in nine LGAs in Borno State and four LGAs in Adamawa State, reaching 399,977 individuals. The sessions help communicate about COVID-19 including its symptoms,

complications, methods of transmission and procedures to follow in case of symptoms.

- With the use of public address systems (microphones, amplifiers, loudspeakers, and related equipment), IOM’s WASH team promotes COVID-19 awareness and sensitization messages on methods of transmission, symptoms, and preventive measures across 24 sites. The importance of physical distancing at water fetching points and proper use of handwashing stations are highlighted.
- IOM’s WASH team has reached 48,868 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 157,971.
- IOM’s MHPSS team conducted health sensitization sessions for 4,504 beneficiaries across 15 LGAs. These

sessions focus on individuals’ behaviour and perceptions. Messaged disseminated include: “I can do something now”, “The chance to control spreading the virus is in our hands”, “I care about others and myself so I maintain physical distancing, wash my hands and report my symptoms if I feel unwell”.

- To strengthen family and community support systems, IOM MHPSS reached 458 individuals through support group sessions across nine LGAs. During these sessions, IOM invites a maximum of six individuals to discuss key messages based on specific observations such as non-adherence to COVID-19 prevention measures. Additionally, through focus group discussions and by using the ‘Health Belief Model’, IOM encourages participants to provide examples and explanations on the importance of adopting such measures.



Counselling session in Teachers Village camp, Maiduguri. Group sessions consist of a maximum of six individuals to observe proper physical distancing. Photo: Shadrach Magaji/IOM 2020



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, collecting essential information and monitoring travellers’ health status.

- IOM continues building staff capacity to support flow monitoring at POEs. In the reporting period, IOM

trained six staff along borders in Borno State, bringing the total of staff trained to 24. Training is supported by WHO and the Ministry of Health.

- IOM is collecting travellers’ data at all POEs while sensitizing passengers on preventive measures. 13,426 individuals were tracked and sensitized across Borno and Adamawa states, covering 52 LGAs and 342 POEs.



INFECTION AND PREVENTION CONTROL (IPC)

The provision of safe water, sanitation, and hygiene is fundamental to adopting prevention efforts during infectious disease outbreaks such as COVID-19. Combined with improved access to WASH services, 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, 20 handwashing stations were installed across camps in Bama, Pulka and Dikwa bringing the total number of handwashing stations installed under COVID-19 response to 267 in seven LGAs. Additionally, IOM provided water for 68,500 people across 41 camps in eight LGAs in Borno State.



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. This is achieved by ensuring that IDPs continue to receive life-saving assistance and that mitigation activities related to health and WASH services are in place in all sites.

- Through various channels, including the recently implemented SMS functionality, IOM received 211 complaints and feedback and addressed 109 of these complaints. Complaints and feedback received included limited water supply and the need for latrine desludging, which were immediately addressed by IOM. IOM also referred cases to relevant partners to address feedback such as insufficient food supply. The remaining 102 complaints and feedback received are currently being addressed by IOM and are expected to be resolved in the coming days.
- With most thematic units involved, a simulation exercise of self-quarantine shelters (SQS) was conducted by IOM to test the SQS entire process, including user registration, available services, monitoring tools, and roles and responsibilities of each unit. The draft standard operating procedure resulting from the simulation exercise will be shared with relevant partners and

sectors for their comments and feedback before validation, particularly on health-related aspects.

- To ensure proper health monitoring measures are implemented in camps, IOM deployed infrared thermometers in all IOM-managed sites. Additionally, 69 site assistants were deployed in these camps.
- IOM finalized the construction of 10 additional SQS units in Gwoza, bringing the total to 28 (12 in Pulka and 16 in Gwoza). Additional units of SQS are under construction in Monguno (20), Damboa (16) and Bama (20). To identify other possible locations for SQS, IOM conducted field visits to Dikwa, Pulka, Damboa, Konduga, Monguno, Gwoza, Banki, and Ngala. The shelters consist of individual units with a latrine, shower, handwashing station and living quarters, with separate entrance and registration areas as well as restricted areas for health personnel.
- In Dikwa, IOM identified a school to be used in case of a mass influx to minimize the risk of disease transmission in congested locations. Additionally, after IOM rehabilitated 10 buildings in Ngala, INTERSOS started relocating IDPs into these buildings, with 177 households relocated so far into 183 shelters within these buildings.



PROTECTION

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

- IOM supported the deployment of 36 trained law enforcement agents from the Nigeria Police Force and the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps to tackle gender-based violence and trafficking in persons while promoting COVID-19 prevention and mitigations measures. IOM provided Personal Protective Equipment

(PPE) and hygiene materials such as hand sanitizers, face masks and infrared thermometers for their deployment into four camps in Borno and Adamawa states.

- IOM conducted Sexual and Gender-Based Violence sensitization sessions on domestic violence and intimate partner violence for 538 individuals across four LGAs. Additionally, IOM provided lay counselling to 557

individuals across 11 LGAs, facilitated and followed up on referrals of four individuals across three LGAs, and conducted counter-trafficking sessions for 1,048 individuals across five LGAs to show trends and patterns and increase awareness on the risk of being exposed to trafficking due to COVID-19.

GENERAL OPERATIONS

- During the second week of May, 140 returnees were provided with reintegration counselling and 18 individuals were provided with assistance in the form of income-generating activities such as business set-up.
- Government lockdown in key states (Lagos, Abuja and Ogun) have been eased. IOM Nigeria is currently

looking at new strategies to provide business skills training to returnees in a safe and orderly manner, including through virtual means and smaller group settings.



Handwashing exercise with physical distancing. Photo: IOM 2020



Volunteers engaged in environmental cleaning in Borno. Photo: Jennifer Godo/IOM 2020

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