

children are generally considered to be victims with little to no association to Non-State Armed Groups, they are transferred to a different transition centre in Maiduguri called Bulumkutu Interim Care Centre (BICC), before they complete their reintegration process into the community, even if in some cases they can be catalogued as perpetrators. There are currently between 7 000 and 8 000 alleged terrorism-related detainees, waiting to be processed either through OPSC, or the criminal justice system.

OPSC, continues its activities in Mallam side Gombe<sup>14</sup>, a transit centre established in 2016 and that prepares low-risk individuals referred by the Joint Investigation Centre (JIC), or after prosecution and judicialization by the Federal courts, for their return to the communities after the rehabilitation program. To date, OPSC has profiled 1,702<sup>15</sup> individuals and transferred them to BAY States for reintegration into the receiving communities. Two additional centres in Maiduguri (Borno State) were also established in support of OPSC: 1) the BICC was initially established to provide transit rehabilitation services for children, women, and the elderly; and 2) the Shokari centre was established to provide transition services for men after graduating from the rehabilitation program in preparation for their reintegration and reconciliation.

The Borno State Government has recently set up an additional centre in Maiduguri (*Hajj Camp*) to accommodate the individuals arriving as part of the more recent mass exits process. By September 2022, the three camps are now hosting around 14 000 individuals, including men, women, and children, prior to their subsequent reintegration into their selected Local Government Areas (LGAs).

Currently, there are significant protection concerns and increasing humanitarian needs such as lack of food and medical attention in these centres. However, the Borno State authorities do not allow the humanitarian community to access the centres and to conduct comprehensive assessment of the needs and provide adequate humanitarian response. Mixed accommodation arrangements require urgent review to include reasonable and separate accommodation for men, women, and children, while addressing the overstretched infrastructure and services for the provision of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), shelter/kits, as well as facilitating psychosocial, and referral to health services. But these living conditions within the camps are particularly harsh for women and girls and persons with disabilities who face further barriers particularly in regard to mobility as well as discrimination and stigmatisation due to cultural and societal norms.

Furthermore, women and girls who have been subjected to sexual violence are returning to their communities in the internally displaced camps and host communities or returning to their local government areas. Some are returning with their children who were born as a result of sexual violence. As they return, many face marginalisation, discrimination and rejection by family and community members due to social and cultural norms related to sexual violence. The children who have been born of sexual violence are at an even greater risk of rejection, abandonment and violence<sup>16</sup>.

In late 2021, the Borno State Government designed and started the implementation of what is referred to as the “Borno Model”, with the purpose of managing the mass exit situation in the State. This model is a three-year plan for more than 67 000 individuals, including those considered ex-combatants and their families. These mass exit numbers, although difficult to verify, also include those already categorized as farmers and hunters by the State government are potentially better characterised as IDPs from forced displacement and have already returned to the communities (about 35 000 men, and 22 000 women and children).

As part of a comprehensive plan to address this new context and support the Borno Model, four UN Agencies (UNODC, UNDP, UNICEF, and IOM) developed a UN Offer Note to operationalize the three-year model under the overall coordination of the UN Resident Coordinator. A UN advisor on Internal Displaced People Solutions has been appointed.

<sup>14</sup> Ongoing IOM/FCDO Support to OPSC regional Coordination, IOM/FPI project “Supporting the Efforts of the Nigerian Government on Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) and promoting Disengagement, Disassociation, Reintegration, and Reconciliation (DDRR)”, and the Regional Stabilization Strategy (RSS) activities.

<sup>15</sup> Retrieved from the Information Counselling and Referral Services (ICRS) system

<sup>16</sup> International alert (<https://www.international-alert.org/publications/bad-blood/>)