

**Inter-Clusters joint mission organized by OCHA on 16th-to 18th November 2023 in Mamfe
Sub-Division, Southwest Region**

Shelter Cluster Egbekaw mission report

Background information

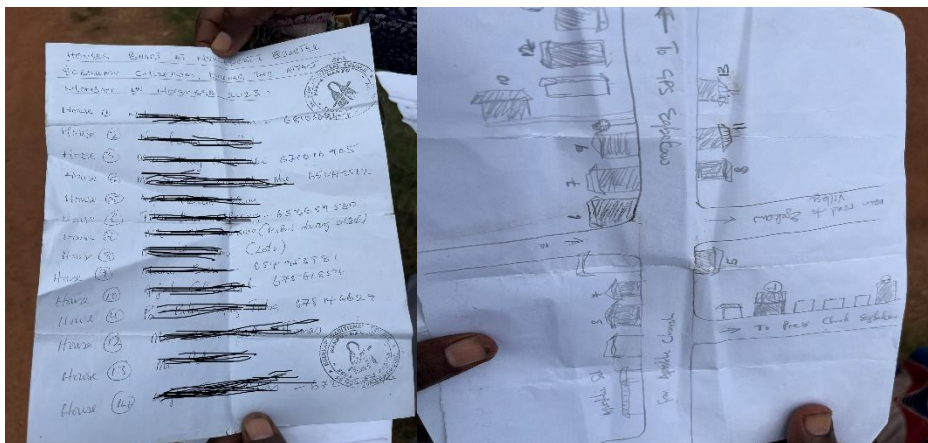
On 16th to 18th November 2023, Shelter Cluster represented by IOM and UNHCR-Cluster lead along with other Clusters under the coordination of OCHA executed joint mission to Mamfe sub-division following the attack incident by NSAG on the late night of 6th November. The early reports had indicated suspected NSAG members attacked members of the “Boki” community living in Egbekaw quarter whereby 14 houses were burnt during the attack, leaving around 20 people injured, 33 deaths and forced displacement of 380 persons.

Rapid needs assessment through Multi-Cluster/Sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) findings on shelter/NFIs indicated ***‘that most families lost their properties and were left homeless, while some non-affected households have left Egbekaw and relocated for their personal safety. Further indicating that SHELTER/NFIs is the first priority need with around 43.6% of the interviewed affected population (230 affected persons (47 female and 183 male) and that most families whose housing and property destroyed were living in collective shelters provided by the community where they are exposed to health and hygiene related risks due to overcrowding. They were also unable to afford new housings and other basic items (Food and Non-Food)’***. The assessment exercise included the UNHCR-led Shelter cluster with its partners INTERSOS, International Organization for Migration (IOM) & Caritas Kumba.

Shelter cluster’s activities along with other clusters during the mission included:

- Meeting with the CARITAS Mamfe Director, Father Nobert in the morning of 17th November 2023 at 8:00 in the cafeteria of CARITAS’ Mamfe compound. The meeting aimed to have CARITAS Kumba (IOM shelter/NFI partner)’s general views on the housing/shelter situation of the displaced persons in Mamfe and particularly what would be done or have been done to shelter the affected population. The Director told the mission members that CARITAS has hosted some families (number of families and individuals unknown due to frequent movements in and out of the affected population).
- General Meeting with all partners intervening and responding to Egbekaw incident at the Cafeteria room of CARITAS Mamfe at 8:30 am on the same day of 17th November. Issues of importance to shelter/NFIs cluster raised during the meeting were to further strengthen their coordination on ground hence avoid duplicate of NFIs to the same beneficiaries and appoint the partner shelter/NFI focal point at the Division/Sub-division level to coordinate with other shelter cluster partners and other clusters and inform timely the regional shelter cluster coordination team of any challenges/gaps for the interventions and responses in future incidents of the same.

- Shelter cluster partners intervening and responding to Egbekaw incident. The mission members separately met with INTERSOS (UNHCR's partner) and CARITAS Kumba (IOM's partner) to harmonize the NFIs distribution list that INTERSOS had used to distribute 100 NFIs core relief items on 16th November at CARITAS compound with that of CARITAS' identified 105 Egbekaw affected beneficiaries of Shelter Kits and NFIs that were distributed on 17th November. The members of the mission informed partners as well of the next mission of 22nd -25th November where OCHA would like to organize a Humanitarian Coordination Forum in each location and do the rollout of the PSEA community based complain mechanism. Shelter cluster's objective in the mission being to ensure involvement of women in deciding the optimal use of cash transferred to the family (possibly through women's mobile accounts) for house repair or rent and identify challenges facing women in use of digital cash transfers. The humanitarian response and support is preferably provided to the household through a woman while not endangering family relationship and family power dynamics as imposed by cultures (men's power over use of family resources).
- Egbekaw site visit. The shelter cluster mission members visited the Egbekaw quarter in Mamfe along with other clusters on the same day of 17th November 2023 around 10:45am. The mission was shocked to see devastated and burnt houses, and a private school in the quarter of Egbekaw. In an interview with the leader (head) of Egbekaw quarter, the mission was made aware of 14 houses being burnt and no assessment had been made for the support of the affected persons. The leader gave two documents (hand drafted, here attached and names hidden for protection reasons) for reference. The hand sketch drawing indicates houses that were burnt in locations of the Egbekaw quarter in 1.5km outskirts of Mamfe town.



- It was evident of complete destroyed NFIs in the houses as indicated in one the pictures taken and attached for reference.



- Visit in one of reported communal housing (room) at CARITAS compound. The mission visited a room reported to have accommodated many families at the compound near the distribution site of NFIs that was going on at that time. The mission was informed by INTERSOS staff that only 2 families of 7 persons were initially assessed and living in that room. However, two women found in that room and other 2 who came later during the discussion informed the mission that there were 7 families of about 14 individuals sleeping on mats. There were few mats seen on ground and a few NFIs. Women reported that many families members are not around during the day and that it's night when all are coming for sheltering as they fear to go back to their quarter due to what happened to them on the night of 6th Nov.
- Monitoring of Distribution of shelter Kits/NFIs Kits to the affected population. IOM through CARITAS Kumba distributed 105 emergency shelter Kits and NFIs to the affected population of Egbekaw on 17th Nov. Other distributions that took place on the same day include food assistance to Children under 5, pregnant women and lactating mothers by WFP through CARITAS Mamfe

Mission achievements

The mission's objectives were achieved at 90%:

- The mission was able to monitor UNHCR through INTERSOS distributed 100 NFIs kit to the affected population

- The mission was able to monitor IOM through CARITAS Kumba distributed 105 emergency kits/NFIs to Egbekaw affected population and harmonized the INTERSOS' list of beneficiaries to avoid duplication of resources to the same beneficiaries.
- Support given by the humanitarian agencies through shelter cluster relieved the physical suffering of the affected population though in a short term while waiting for a long term solution
- Through this mission, partners on ground felt great support from the regional clusters team members under the coordination of OCHA.

Gaps and way forward

- As of 17th November 2023, neither INTERSOS nor CARITAS had done an assessment for burnt houses for repair/construction and individual assessment for persons in need of cash for house rental support. While UNHCR has this kind of support to the selected few depending on the set and agreed vulnerability criteria, IOM reported not to have this type of support yet for this year. INTERSOS reported a challenge on the recipient of support if the assessment is made because the affected persons include the landlord and tenants in some houses. The mission clarified that tenants need to be assisted with cash to rent a house and an emergency shelter and NFIs that has been provided while landlord may be assisted to repair the house. So the assessment need to be done for all concerned and affected persons in the house. INTERSOS was instructed to do the assessment as quick as they can and share the report through their usual reporting channels.
- The mission noted weak coordination of shelter cluster members at the division level with other clusters in the MIRA and among themselves in the distribution of NFIs. The mission recommended to appoint the shelter cluster focal partner at the Division level, in fact, this was a general recommendation from the inter-clusters mission members that cluster coordination at the Division/Sub-division level is nonexistence and should be activated. The clusters are noted to be strong at the regional and national levels. Furthermore, Inter-cluster mission members recommended that communication between cluster partners should be enhanced to ensure decisions made at the national and regional levels descend to partners who are in the field.
- Long term impacts of humanitarian supports to the affected population in the emergency might be challenging to measure but indicators should be set from the onset of the emergency to ensure that impacts are well captured in quarter evaluation reports. For instance, after assessment of burnt houses and support provided to the needy, INTERSOS should be able to report on how many children were able to go back to school from a better shelter with the light during night. That GBV cases (domestic violence) were minimized through cash for repair/rent provided through Women's mobile accounts in the supported Households.

Report compiled by the Shelter Cluster team members on mission UNHCR/IOM