UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency | Lake Chad Basin

Nigerian Refugees and Repatriation Overview

31 December 2025

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- **Conflict & Displacement:** *Insecurity and violence by Boko Haram and other non-state armed groups have displaced thousands of Nigerians across the Lake Chad Basin.*
- **Affected Areas:** *The majority of refugees originate from Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa states.*
- **Return Efforts:** *Refugees have returned either spontaneously, through Tripartite Agreements, or occasionally via bilateral arrangements between Nigeria and countries of asylum.*

REPATRIATION FRAMEWORK

- **Cameroon**: *Following the 2017 Tripartite Agreement, organized returns began in 2019, with a **5,199** of refugees returning in 2021 & 2023 and **242** returning in 2024*
- **Chad:** *In 2025, a Tripartite Agreement was finalized, strengthening the framework for voluntary repatriation. separately, over **7,000** refugees were bilaterally repatriated by Nigeria in February 2025.*
- **Niger**: *A draft tripartite agreement with Niger and Nigeria is currently pending review and signature. However, over **17,000** refugees were bilaterally repatriated by the Government of Nigeria between April & November 2025*

KEY FIGURES

407,663

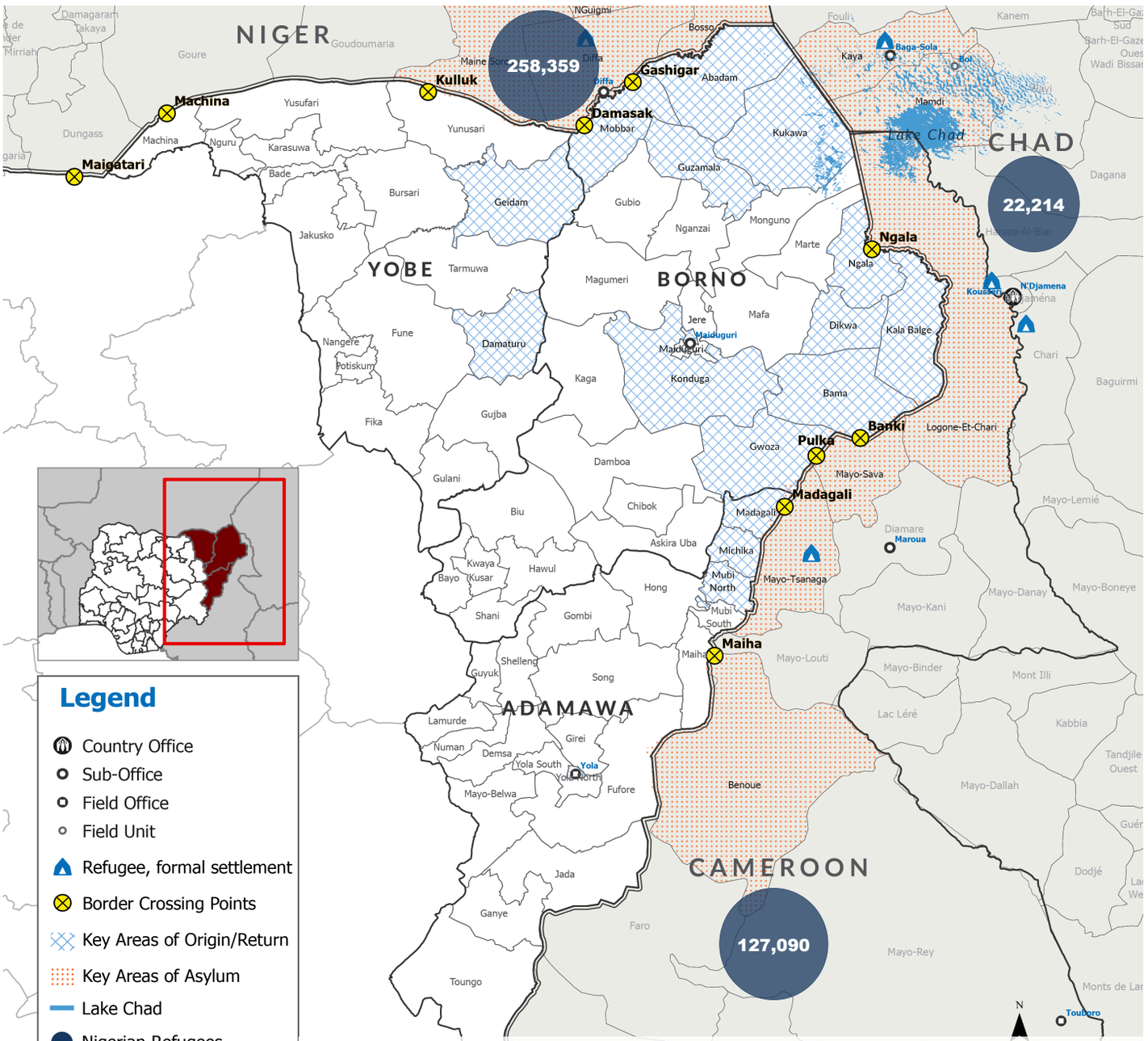
Nigerian Refugees in Cameroon, Niger & Chad

26,775

Spontaneous & organized returns recorded in 2025 with over **99%** returning from the Lake Chad Basin. Cumulatively **36,533** have returned since 2019.

71,222

Individuals surveyed with **32%** (**23K**) expressing their intention to return to Nigeria



Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

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