

NIGERIA SITUATION

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE N°1

As of 25 March 2015

KEY FIGURES

1,235,294 IDPs in Nigeria

- 1,188,018 IDPs in North East States
- 47,276 IDPs in North Central States

(NEMA/IOM DTM Report, February 2015)

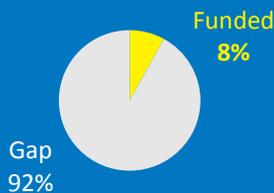
192,131

Total number of Nigerian refugees in neighbouring countries

FUNDING

USD 71,450,068

requested for the situation



PRIORITIES

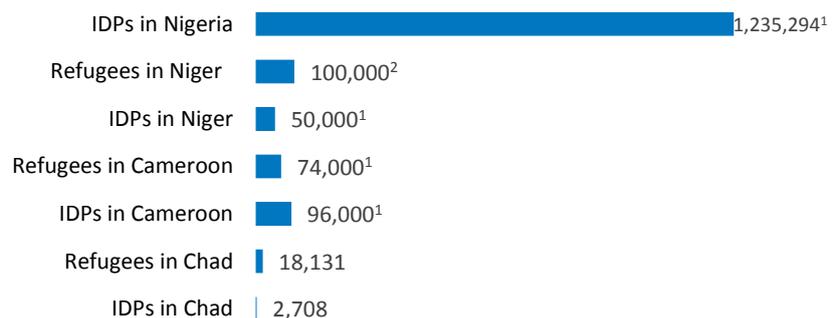
- **Nigeria:**
 - Capacity building for national and local institutions on protection principles
 - Protection and assistance to most vulnerable groups amongst the IDPs and host communities
- **Niger:**
 - Ensure the civilian character of asylum, identification, documentation and the determination of nationality
- **Cameroon:**
 - Transfer of refugees from insecure border areas to Minawao camp
- **Chad:**
 - Relocation of refugees from Lake Chad islands to Dar Es Salaam site

HIGHLIGHTS

- The humanitarian crisis in the North-East of Nigeria continues to widen in scope and increase in intensity. In the three North-East States of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa, fighting continues between the Nigerian Armed Forces and allied Civilian Joint Task Force (Civilian JTF) and the Multi National Joint Task Force (MNJTF), on one hand, and militant insurgents, on the other. Other north-eastern States (Gombe, Bauchi and Taraba) have been affected by increased security incidents and displacement of the civilian population. Of the victims of this violence, women, boys and girls have been the most targeted, with the abduction and forced marriage or sale of girls being a defining feature of the insurgency. In late 2014 and early 2015, fighting also spilled over into neighbouring countries, resulting into increased displacement of refugees as well as internally displaced people in Chad, Cameroon and Niger.
- With presidential and parliamentary elections due for the last week of March and State Elections for the second week of April 2015, there are fears of recurrence of the violence and displacement that accompanied the 2011 Nigerian elections, with a further increase of violence particularly in the North-East of the country.

Population of concern

A total of **1,576,133** people of concern



¹ Government Estimates

² Government Estimates (Refugees and Returnees)

NIGERIA

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- The Multinational Joint Task Force (MJTF) was expanded to 10,000 military and civilian personnel including larger contingents from Chad, Cameroon, Niger in addition to Nigeria and Benin's to assist Nigeria in taking back territory from insurgents.
- Despite military gains by the Nigerian Army in its effort to take back controlled territory in time for the presidential elections and the increasing involvement of the MJTF, the security situation in the North-East is unpredictable and subject to further deterioration. The insurgents have changed their tactics as a result of increased pressure on all sides and expulsion from their traditional strongholds. A 'hit and run' tactic now seems to be favoured, as was recently the case on 5 March with attacks in Njaba village and in the Shani area resulting in over 100 deaths. To date, over 13,000 deaths have been reported throughout the country as a result of the conflict and access to areas under insurgent control continues to be limited, hampering humanitarian response.
- General Elections that were supposed to take place on 14 February have been postponed to 28 March, in order to allow for maximum voter turnout and a fluid democratic process. Nigeria's Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has declared its readiness for elections and is said to be fine-tuning preparations.

IDPs

By the time UNHCR issued the first Regional Response Plan in September 2014, an estimated 650,000 IDPs had been generated by the conflict. Some six months later, this number has doubled and a number of IDP camps are being managed by the Nigerian Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). However, most IDPs (close to 90 per cent) are living with host communities. The capacity of these communities inside Nigeria and those in asylum countries to accommodate the displaced population is overstretched.

- UNHCR declared the Nigeria situation to be a level 2 Emergency Response on 13 February 2015. Scaling up of coordination and response is ongoing.
- UNHCR established sub-office in Bauchi to reach out to displaced persons from affected states while also beefing up its capacity in Abuja to enhance its protection and coordination capacity.
- Following requests for assistance by the GoN in 2012, a Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) was constituted and chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator (RC). The team works closely with the GoN through NEMA, assisted by the Emergency Preparedness and Response Working Group (EPRWG) on a technical level. In August of 2014, the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator designated the Resident Coordinator as the Humanitarian Coordinator and a Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator arrived in Nigeria in January 2015.
- In June of 2014, the UN System in Nigeria set up a Task Team to develop an Integrated Support Package (ISP) for the North-East, designed to cater for the immediate and long-term humanitarian needs of affected populations in North East Nigeria.
- Nine sector working groups have been put into place in Nigeria by the HCT, all co-chaired by the GoN, leading the overall humanitarian response. UNHCR is currently co-chairing Protection Sector Working Group with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). In consultation with other agencies and NGOs, the 2015 Protection Strategy and Action Plan were finalised on 26th January and are awaiting validation by the HCT. Under the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) working group, UNHCR is carrying out capacity building of national and State-level agencies and NGOs in order to assist with the management of settlements. The working group is currently co-chaired by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and IOM. UNHCR will scale up support to IDPs with special needs in collaboration with the CCCM working group. UNICEF is chairing the sub-sector on child protection for support to unaccompanied minors and has put a tracing system in place with ICRC.

Protection

- Based on the situation in Nigeria and in the neighbouring countries, the Emergency Relief Coordinator has approved US\$28 million CERF funding under emergency response (\$10 million for Nigeria, \$7 million for Niger, \$7 million for Cameroon and \$4 million for Chad). At a CERF inter-agency meeting on 16 March, it was agreed that the prioritized sectors of intervention in Nigeria would include Protection, Nutrition, Shelter/NFIs, and Food Security. CERF will target 10 per cent of the current official IDP figure of 1,235,294 persons under the rapid response window targeting lifesaving activities.
- UNHCR is in the process of signing a partnership agreement with IOM in order to ensure that data on very vulnerable IDPs are incorporated into the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM).
- From 9 to 11 March 2015, UNHCR trained some 35 participants in IDP protection principles, including the legal framework governing internal displacement and UNHCR's mandate and role in the protection of IDPs in North East Nigeria. Participants were members of NEMA/SEMA in Gombe and staff from Local Government Areas dealing with protection related issues, health, social affairs, education and women affairs. Community leaders and traditional leaders also participated in the training. UNHCR/NHRC also conducted four-day training (16-19th March 2015) of 300 protection monitors on addressing human rights and protection concerns in the Northeast and North Central in Makurdi, Capital of Benue State under a project partnership agreement with National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).
- From 9 to 12 March 2015, twelve IASC Emergency Directors visited Nigeria with the aim of establishing a shared understanding of, and identify potential solutions to, challenges in the humanitarian situation and response. The Emergency Directors issued common messages highlighting the most pressing protection and human rights issues to be addressed, as well as operational priorities identified for response and coordination amongst Government and humanitarian actors inside the country.

Challenges, identified needs and remaining gaps

- Within the framework of the Level 2 Emergency in Nigeria, the Principal Emergency Coordinator and members of the Bauchi SO conducted a four-day mission to Bauchi and Gombe to meet with UN agencies, humanitarian actors, IDPs, community leaders and traditional leaders. Findings indicate that the capacities of host communities in the North East are becoming overstretched in regards to social services, lack of employment and food sufficiency, as well as the absorption capacity of public schools and health facilities *vis à vis* the increasing IDP population.

NIGER

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- Since the declaration of the state of emergency in May 2013 in the three affected North Eastern Nigerian states as well as in southeast Niger consequently, thousands of Nigerian refugees and Nigerien returnees have sought refuge in Diffa region, southeastern Niger. Economic activities involving the use of motorbikes and fishing boats as well as the sale of gas have been banned to limit insurgents' mobility and the chance of infiltration. Insurgent incursions in southeast Niger have created internal displacement. IDPs are mainly from the Diffa and Bosso areas, and since March 2015 a new IDP movement has been arriving from the islands of Lake Chad into Niger mainland. Increasing insecurity in Lake Chad, economic hub of the Diffa region, and the breach of the exchanges between Diffa and Nigeria's neighbouring state of Borno, have also had a serious impact on the socio-economic situation of the entire population: food prices have risen up by more than 25 per cent, and so have the prices for water, fuel and wood. This is posing serious problems in a region that is already food insecure.

- In February of 2015, violence that marred Nigeria spilled over into the country, with attacks on Bosso and Diffa on 6 February. On 9 February the Nigerian parliament authorized its troops to fight on Nigerian soil in support of the MJTF. With the fragmentation of the insurgent group and consequent alterations to its fighting techniques, the use of landmines is a growing problem in the area. In November 2014, a month after the harvest season, over 50 per cent of the Diffa population (including refugees and returnees) found itself in food insecurity, severely hampering communities' ability to host arrivals. Therefore, at the end of 2014, the Government of Niger (GoNER) requested UNHCR's assistance with the opening of refugee camps despite the out-of-camp policy that had been favoured until then. Since January 2015, the GoNER has estimated that insurgency related population of refugees and returnees amounts to 100,000 while it estimates the IDP population to be of 50,000.

Protection

Mixed population

- In order to increase response capacity in the areas of southeastern Niger being affected by the increased displacement, in addition to the Sayam Forage site opened on 31 December 2015, a contingency site will be operational at the end of March in Goudoumaria and a site will open soon in Kablewa. The UNHCR sub office in Zinder became operational on 1 February 2015.
- In Diffa region, the relocation process to Sayam Forage site (which had been postponed following recent attacks to the town) has resumed. On 4 March, 90 individuals were relocated from Maine Soroa. The majority of those relocated are Nigerian refugees and the rest are Niger nationals (IDPs/Returnees). UNHCR and the National Commission of Eligibility are currently working in Gagamari village to continue the relocation process. Meanwhile, UNHCR is in close contact with authorities in Zinder to facilitate the return by bus, of individuals who had fled Diffa.
- Threats to the civilian character of camps remain a major concern for UNHCR and protection partners. On 14 March, seven refugees residing in Sayam Forage site were arrested under terrorism charges. Their current whereabouts are unknown and the UNHCR protection team will continue to closely monitor the situation in cooperation with ICRC. The issue of recruitment is another alarming trend, reportedly on the.

Challenges, identified needs and remaining gaps

- Up to 80 per cent of arrivals are undocumented, thus the high risk of statelessness. Growing insecurity in the region is severely hampering humanitarian access, thus limiting UNHCR's capacity to register arrivals and ensure the civilian character of asylum, as arrests have been occurring on a regular basis in an effort to stem insurgent activity. The population is also in dire need of food, water and shelter and with ICRC currently as the main actor in the Kablewa – Bosso area.

CAMEROON

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- Since 2003, Cameroon has hosted some 3,000 Nigerian refugees who sought asylum due to inter-ethnic conflicts. In September 2014, following the wave of insurgents' violence in Northern Nigeria, Cameroon witnessed the arrival of 20,000 refugees. Since then, government estimates indicate that the number of arrivals have grown threefold. With incursions on Cameroonian soil in late 2014 and early 2015 and massive insecurity at the border between Cameroon's Far North region and Nigeria's Adamawa and Borno states, the number of refugees registered by the Government of Cameroon (GoC) now stands at 74,000. UNHCR has verified and registered 42,000 refugees so far. Due to insecurity in the border areas, access to refugees is limited.
- The GoC established a camp at Minawao in 2014 to accommodate the influx of refugees and relocate them away from insecure border areas and an annex site called Gawar is also operational. Over 33,000 refugees are

located in Minawao camp, with the remainder living in host communities. Discussions are underway to open a new camp east of Maroua.

- In addition to the refugee influx, the ongoing conflict on the border areas has also caused the displacement of thousands of Cameroonian nationals. According to government authorities, 96,000 local residents in the Far North region have been displaced and are now accommodated by host communities. An appropriate and timely response to the host communities is also important for the preservation of asylum space. The HCT and Government of Cameroon are working in close collaboration to evaluate the impact of the crisis on the local population and elaborate a coordinated response strategy.
- UNHCR is boosting response and coordination capacity in Yaoundé and in Maroua, in view of the leadership role in the coordination of IDP response in northern Cameroon under the framework of the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM) in close cooperation with the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator.

Protection

Refugees

- UNHCR has led four inter-agency missions to the affected Far North region where the Government has reported the presence of some 74,000 refugees in Mayo Tsanaga, Mayo Savo and Logone-et-Chari with 42,000 verified by UNHCR.
- In collaboration with local authorities UNHCR, has relocated thousands of refugees from the border towns of Mokolo, Fotokol and Kolofata to Minawao site. The convoys are accompanied by military escorts made available by local authorities.
- UNHCR and its partners have been expanding Minawao site to host new arrivals through the construction of community and family shelters, water, sanitation, health and education infrastructures.
- As part of the emergency action plan to relocate some 16,000 new arrivals from the border to Minawao camp, UNHCR recently provided trucks and logistical support to local authorities to relocate refugees from the Dabanga area. Despite two days of sensitization campaigns led by local authorities, the majority of refugees in the area refused to be relocated. Many refugees explained that they wanted to wait for their relatives; many are also nomadic herders with large herds of cattle. Some refugees in the area are reportedly dismantling their makeshift shelters and are planning to return to their villages in Nigeria. Due to the security situation at the border, UNHCR teams still do not have access to areas where new refugees have arrived as authorities have declared it a “red zone”.
- UNHCR trucks also went to Maltam, where authorities were sensitizing refugees in neighbouring villages to move to the transit site in Kousseri. By the end of the week, 517 refugees, some with livestock, were relocated from Adeye village to Kousseri where they received food and shelter assistance at the transit centre. UNHCR teams began sensitizing these individuals on registration procedures; however, the majority of refugees refused to be pre-registered, saying that they wanted to remain in Kousseri and receive assistance there rather than move to the camp. UNHCR and local authorities continue to sensitize refugees on the need to move to the camp. UNHCR will also meet with the Governor of the Far North to discuss alternatives.

Challenges, identified needs and remaining gaps

- Access to affected populations on the border is problematic due to the military offensive currently underway in the area. This limits UNHCR’s capacity to properly monitor the number of new arrivals and IDPs.
- Relocation of new arrivals from Kousseri transit centre is being slowed down by refugees’ desire to return to their villages of origin. This can be explained by the fact that many are nomadic cattle herders, for whom the prospect of sedentary in-camp life is not viable.
- Discussions are underway with the GoC regarding the opening of a camp near Maroua. This initiative stems from worrying water shortages in Minawao and Gawar camps where refugees have been receiving

approximately 9L per person per day. This new camp would be constructed in an area with better water supply but the land has not yet been provided by the GoC.

IDPs

The GoC has estimated the number of conflict related IDPs to be of 96,000, most of whom are living with the host community. UNHCR is preparing for a large scale profiling exercise with the intention of highlighting existing needs of the IDP and host communities and help the Government and humanitarian actors prioritize areas for intervention. Meanwhile, agencies are carrying out *ad hoc* needs assessments to update and upscale response plans.

CHAD

- Prior to the recent emergency, UNHCR Chad had registered some 3,000 Nigerian refugees (2013/14). In early January of 2015, there were more than 15,000 new arrivals, fleeing attacks in Baga, Doro and Cross in northern Nigeria. Of these, 8,358 have been registered by the Commission Nationale d'Accueil, de Réinsertion des Réfugiés et des Rapatriés (CNARR) leaving some 7,000 people stranded on islands awaiting transfer and assistance. In the past month and since military operations began on the lake shore, very few arrivals have been reported. Another reason for this decrease in the influx may be the fear of being associated to the insurgents.
- All Nigerian refugees who had arrived in Chad before 2015 were settled in the host villages of Ngouboua and Tchoukoutalia. With the spike of arrivals in early 2015, Dar Es Salaam site was opened on 9 January 2015 as advised by the Government of Chad. Many new arrivals showed evidence of Far violence suffered before and during their flight.
- According to a recent analysis of displacement trends, many refugees do not remain in Chad and prefer to relocate to another country as soon as the opportunity arises. Possible reasons for this trend are the limited possibilities of involvement in livelihood activities and the insufficient quantity and quality of food ration.
- Due to insurgent activity in Cameroon's Far North region, Chad's economy has been severely affected. In this area, the latter depends predominantly on the Douala/Ndjamena corridor for most of its imports.
- UNHCR has established a Field Unit in the Bagasola area and deployed an Emergency Coordinator who will facilitate coordination of response with the local authorities and partners on the ground.
- UNHCR works closely with CNARR, local authorities, line ministries (health and education in particular) and partners, and coordinates the response to the Nigerian refugee situation. UNHCR calls for meetings with the representatives of the Government, donors, UN agencies, NGOs, partners and other interested organisations, once a week in N'Djamena and twice a week in Bagasola, to coordinate the response to the refugee influx and share information.

Protection

Refugees

- Following the attack in Ngouboua on 13 February, UNHCR met with CNARR and local authorities to formulate a strategy for the transfer of refugees who wished to relocate to Dar Es Salaam. UNHCR deployed five trucks, and facilitated the relocation of persons from Forkolom to Bagasola; local authorities also identified households where newly-arrived refugees could be hosted.
- UNHCR teams visited Ngouboua on three separate occasions, following the attack and met with refugees, host communities and local authorities. Vulnerable persons from the host community were assisted and refugees advised to relocate to Dar Es Salaam. UNHCR and CNARR have continued the monitoring of refugees and have organized 15 convoys to facilitate the relocation of refugees from remote islands and/or insecure areas of Lake Chad to the site of Dar Es Salaam. On 12 February, UNHCR conducted a monitoring mission to Tchoukoutalia

where 350 Nigerian refugees live with host communities and met with local authorities and refugee communities. While many refugees expressed their will to remain in on the island where they have access to livelihood activities, a number of them decided to relocate to the safer site of Dar Es Salaam following the attack on Ngouboua.

- Following indications from the GoCHD on the presence of refugees and returnees from Nigeria, UNHCR and National authorities conducted two joint missions to Mayo Kebbi East. The first mission composed of UNHCR, CNARR and CRT (Chad Red Cross) (3 to 13 February 2015) aimed to assess the living conditions and the needs of newly-arrived Nigerian refugees to whom NFIs were provided. The second mission carried out from 20 to 26 February, was composed of UNHCR and CNARR carried out profiling. According to the profiling exercise, 527 Nigerians (102 households), 553 Cameroonians (156 households) and 232 Chadian returnees reside in the Mayo Kebbi East region. In line with Chadian domestic legislation, CNARR and UNHCR will undertake an assessment of these persons' international protection needs.

Challenges, identified needs and remaining gaps

- Logistics are a challenge in the Lake Chad islands, where thousands of refugees have been identified and are not easily accessible, for geographical reasons and due to the fact that military operations in the area are severely restricting movement. Access to asylum is equally restricted.
- Owing the last developments, UNHCR has revised upwards its planning figure of 30,000 instead of the initial 10,000 people. In view of the increase in the number of refugees, a new camp site is being developed.
- The main challenges remain the heightened security environment and difficult access to refugees as well as restricted access to asylum due to military operations.

IDPs

- CNARR, UNHCR and IOM have established a presence at the mayor's office in Bagasola in order to assist local authorities in identifying returnees and IDPs. As of 27 February, the three agencies recorded a total of 154 Chadian returnees from Nigeria and 2,708 Chadians who have temporarily relocated from Ngouboua and other villages in the area. This population lives with family members at Bagasola.
- On 26 February, the Governor of Bol visited Bagasola where he met with local authorities, the humanitarian community and the local population. The Governor informed participants that security was reinforced at Ngouboua and that the population could return to their villages of origin in safety.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

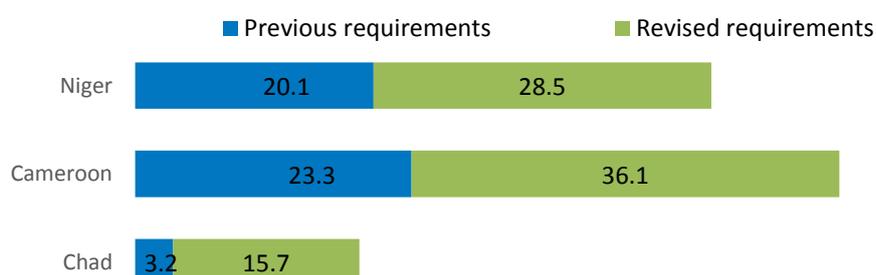
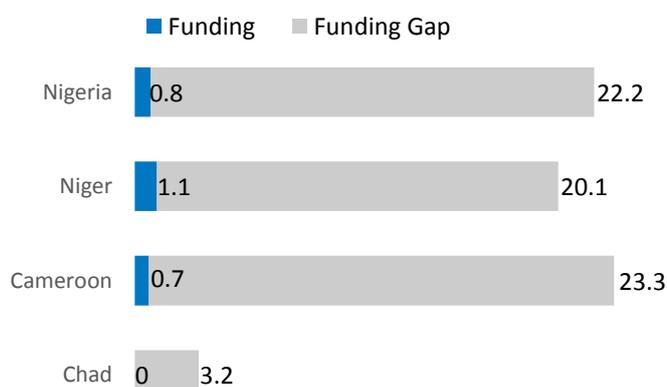
UNHCR is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors, particularly those who have contributed to UNHCR activities with un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds, as well as for those who have contributed to the Nigeria situation in 2014. The first chart below outlines the funding situation for the appeal launched by UNHCR in February 2015. However, based on the escalation of the conflict and related recent developments, new scenarios and estimates of the number of people displaced were recently formulated for 2015. UNHCR has therefore reviewed funding requirements for the Nigeria situation made in late 2014 (second chart below). These requirements, complemented by Nigeria's requirements for the response to the IDP situation, will be included in the upcoming Supplementary Appeal.

Donors:

European Union
Germany
Japan
Switzerland

Funding:

A total of **USD 5.8 million** has been funded



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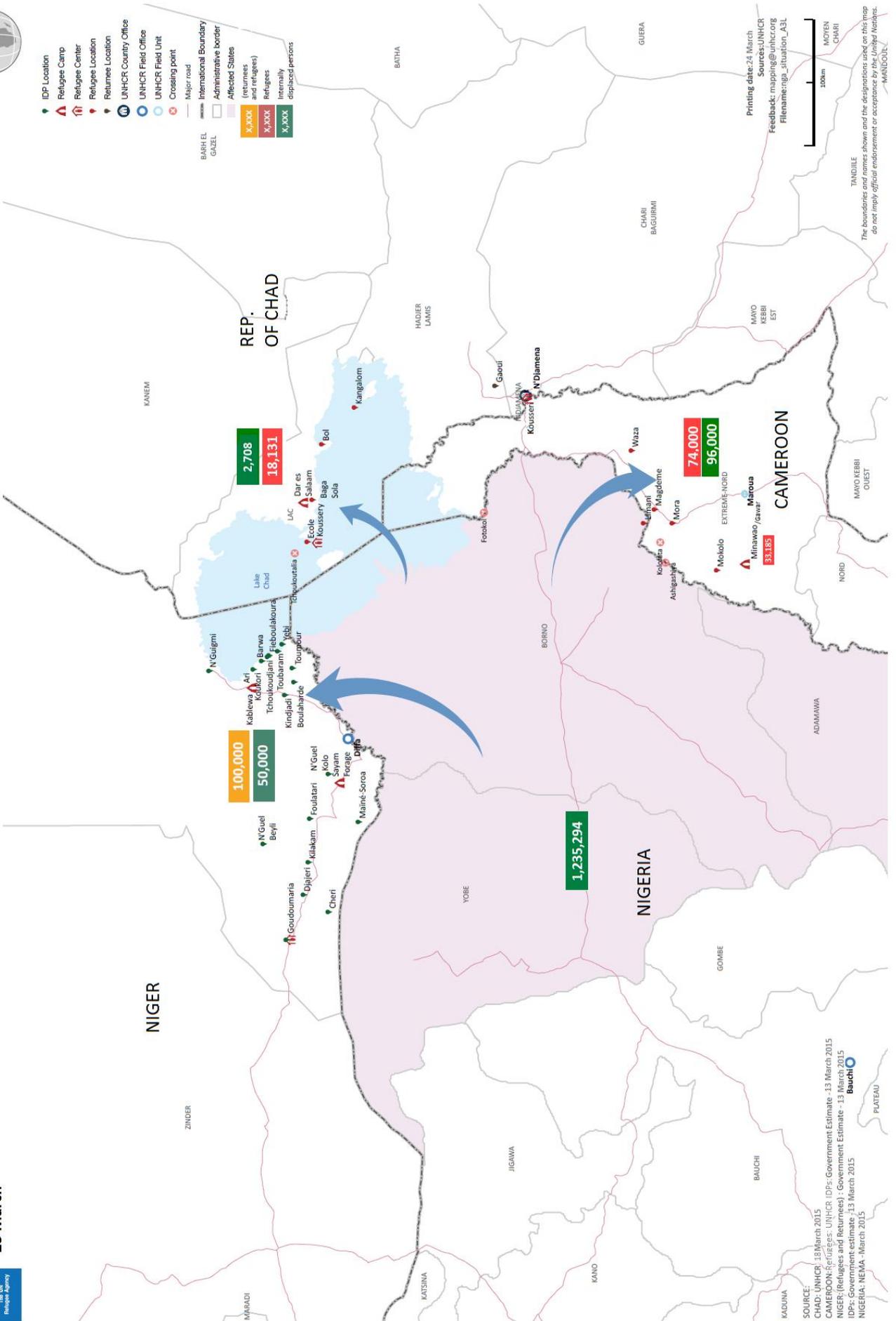
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Links:

Nigeria regional web portal: <http://data.unhcr.org/SahelSituation/country.php?id=502>

UNHCR Tracks: <http://tracks.unhcr.org>

Nigeria Situation: Operational context
25 March



SOURCE: UNHCR, 18 March 2015
 CHAD: UNHCR, 18 March 2015
 CAMEROON: Refugees: UNHCR, IDPs: Government Estimate - 13 March 2015
 NIGER: (Refugees and Returnees): Government Estimate - 13 March 2015
 IDPs: Government estimate, 13 March 2015
 NIGERIA: NEMA - March 2015

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