

NIGERIA SITUATION

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE N°7

9-15 May 2015

KEY FIGURES

1,491,706 IDPs in Nigeria

(NEMA/IOM DTM Report, April 2015)

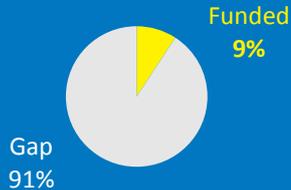
192,131

Total number of Nigerian refugees in neighbouring countries

FUNDING

USD 114,530,270

Requested for the situation



IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

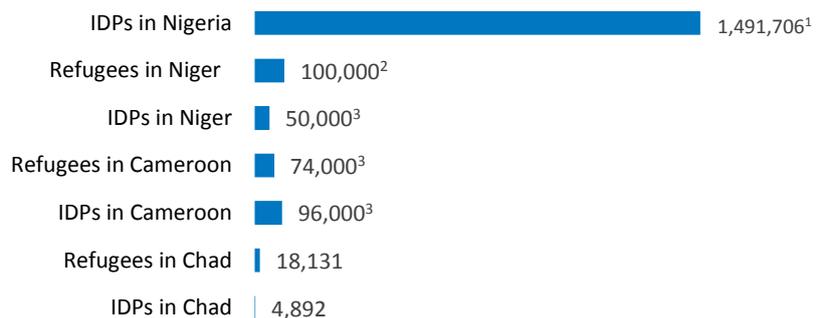
- **Nigeria:**
 - Protection and assistance to most vulnerable groups among the IDPs and host communities
- **Niger:**
 - Relocation from hosting communities in Diffa region to Sayam Forage camp
- **Cameroon:**
 - Transfer of refugees from insecure border areas to Minawao camp
- **Chad:**
 - Relocation of refugees from Lake Chad islands to Dar Es Salam site

HIGHLIGHTS

- Many Nigerian nationals have been arriving spontaneously from Niger to Nigeria through entry points into areas not conducive to return. UNHCR has offered to assist with the relocation of refugees to States other than Borno and Yobe.
- According to a report issued by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), Nigeria accounts for a fourth of new internally displaced populations in the world.
- UNHCR continues to monitor the voluntariness of return of those displaced from the Lake. To ensure this is done correctly, focus groups are held in different transit centres. UNHCR has offered to assist the Niger authorities with transfers to the Diffa transit centre and even though conditions have improved, the frequency of transfers is not high enough.
- The security situation in the Far North region of Cameroon is unpredictable. Incursions were reported on 6 and 7 May and clashes between the Cameroonian army and insurgents took place on 9 May; three soldiers and many insurgents are reported to have died.

Populations of concern

A total of **1,834,729** people of concern



¹ NEMA/IOM DTM Report, April 2015

² Government estimates (refugees and returnees)

³ Government estimates

NIGERIA: Operational Context

- – **Maiduguri** – During the week, hundreds of insurgents lead an attack on the Giwa army base in Maiduguri, capital of Borno State. The Nigerian army met the assault head on and artillery shots were fired throughout the night on 13 May. Unfortunately, many villagers were reportedly killed by the blasts that hit the outlying village of Kayamla. A five day curfew was imposed on the town after the army successfully repelled the troops that same night. The curfew was originally imposed for 24 hours but extended to 18 May. Casualty figures have not yet been shared.
- – **Neutrality** – President Buhari made a statement on 13 May, saying the he was not backing anybody for the position of Senate President or Speaker for the House of Representatives, adding that that he is willing to work with any leader, irrespective of what part of the country s/he may be from. He recalled that there is due process for the selection of leaders of the National Assembly and he will not interfere in it, as has always been the case in the past.

Achievements

There are an estimated 1.49 million insurgency-related IDPs in Nigeria, the majority of whom live in the north-eastern States.

Returnees/IDPs

- On 5 May 2015, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) announced the evacuation of thousands of Nigerians from Niger. A total of 11,000 returnees have been registered and are reportedly living in sub-standard conditions. In Maiduguri, where a special camp has been set up, UNHCR protection staff say the situation is compounded by heavy rains as some of the forcibly displaced live in open air. In Yobe, Adamawa State, and other localities, the returnees are registered and provided with transportation to their areas of habitual residence. On 14 May, the Kano State Government evacuated 500 IDPs from Geidam entry point in Yobe.
- In a meeting held between Mrs. Amina Ibrahim, NCFRMI Deputy Director – National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons - and UNHCR on 11 May, UNHCR’s concerns on the return of Nigerians to unsafe areas in the Northeast were communicated. UNHCR also requested that adequate support be provided to the returnees, including humane transportation, in line with international protection principles.
- UNHCR organized a CCCM Training from 5-7 May in Kubwa for the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Emergency Management Agency. Thirty participants selected from a range of stakeholders in the FCT participated in training. The FCT, which has witnessed the influx of IDPs from the Northeast, is conducting a profiling exercise.
- On 11 May, the Borno State Government embarked on a 5-day immunization programme for children aged 0-15 years, across some 13 IDP camps in the Maiduguri metropolis. Flagging off the programme in Dalori camp, the state Commissioner for Health, Dr. Salma Anas Kolo, said the exercise was part of the global initiative to eradicate childhood communicable diseases.
- On 12 May, UNHCR met with the Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator to discuss the returns from Niger and IDP returns. Among other things, it was agreed that the Inter-Agency assessment to determine safety for returns would be deployed as soon as possible. Furthermore, it was agreed that linkages with the Protection, NFI/Emergency Shelter and Food sectors be established to respond to returns and fill gaps in the returnee transit centre in Geidam.
- A PSWG meeting was held on 12 May and co-chaired by UNHCR and NHRC. Highlights of the meeting include discussions on the return of Nigerians from Niger and support to the women and girls released from Sambisa Forest. Psychosocial support and dignity kits are being provided to these populations in Yola by a number of stakeholders. NEMA takes Custody of 6,000 Nigerians deported from Niger. The agency also reported that more than 17,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) have been registered in six camps in Yola, Adamawa State. The agency’s Spokesperson said more than 6,000 children were among the IDPs.

NIGER: Operational Context

- **- Evacuation** – A group of 40 Nigerian nationals approached UNHCR in the Diffa transit centre to express their wish to be relocated to the Sayam Forage camp. However, the latter had been instructed to return to Nigeria by Niger authorities and a monitoring mission took place to localise the group so that it could remain on Niger soil. This isolated case is being dealt with and no other issues concerning asylum rights have been reported to date.
- UNHCR estimates that 7,000 people are living in impoverished conditions in a site in N’Guigmi and authorities estimate that another 13,000 people have managed to reach Bosso. Since the Prime Minister’s visit, additional escorts have been available for humanitarian workers in the Eastern Diffa region but Bosso is still inaccessible. Some 540 third country nationals have been repatriated to their states of origin.
- Military operations on the Lake have not yet started because a reconnaissance mission is taking place to verify that all civilian populations have left the islands.

Achievements

Protection

The Government of Niger has estimated that the insurgency-related population of Nigerian refugees and returnees from Niger has reached 100,000. It also estimates the IDP population to be some 50,000.

Evacuation: Nigerian Returnees

- UNHCR continues to monitor the voluntariness of return of those displaced from the Lake. To ensure this is done correctly, focus groups are held in different transit centres (Kime Gana in N’Guigmi and the *Maison de la Jeunesse et des Sports* (MJC), a youth centre in Diffa). The tense security atmosphere complicates this process. UNHCR has offered to assist Niger authorities with transfers to the Diffa transit centre and even though conditions have improved, the frequency of transfers is not high enough.
- The IRC protection team carried out a social evaluation of new arrivals in the MJC in Diffa and is providing psycho-social care.
- In N’Guigmi, an assessment of the needs of the displaced carried out by IRC and UNHCR revealed the need for food, shelter, and protection as several separated children were identified. Furthermore, accounts of torture and intimidation were collected from some of the displaced who also reported having their identity documents burnt. These cases were reported to Action Pour le Bien Etre (APBE) for medical care and IRC for psychosocial support.

Health

Evacuation - Nigerian returnees and Niger IDPs: In N’Guigmi, UNHCR funded a mobile clinic on the temporary site of Kimegana to assist the displaced. Between 6 and 9 May, over 300 consultations took place mostly for women and children. The most frequent pathologies are parasitic diseases, dermatitis, ocular infections and acute respiratory infections. Awareness raising sessions on the importance of breast feeding, prenatal consultations and HIV were undertaken by APBE.

Food Security and Nutrition

Evacuation - Nigerian Returnees: Through IRC, UNHCR continues to assist the displaced arriving at the MJC with drinking water, sardines and bread. Distributions are carried out on a daily basis.

Shelter and NFIs

Evacuation - Nigerian returnees and Niger IDPs: Over 600 people received NFI kits in N'Guigmi and an estimated 1,500 people are still in need according to CARE.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

- Niger authorities have proposed to assist with the acceleration of relocations from the Diffa region: Sayam Forage for Nigerian nationals and Kablewa for IDPs. The National Eligibility Commission should be deployed shortly.

CAMEROON: Operational Context

- The security situation in the Far North region is unpredictable. Incursions were reported on 6 and 7 May and clashes between the Cameroonian army and insurgents took place on 9 May; three soldiers and many insurgents are reported to have died.
- Certain refugees, who had chosen to remain at the border with a view to returning to their areas of origin, have been arriving spontaneously at the Minawao/Gawar camp. Some 1,640 new arrivals were recently recorded. The pre-registration procedure was put on hold as a result and a joint UNHCR/Government registration was initiated. Refugees explained that they had been waiting to cultivate their crops and had intended to return, but they also cited sporadic insurgent attacks as reason for leaving.

Achievements

Protection

The Government of Cameroon has registered 74,000 refugees. UNHCR has registered over 42,000 refugees so far. The Government has estimated that the number of insurgency-related IDPs to be some 96,000. The majority of refugees live in the Minawao/Gawar site, while IDPs live with host families; both groups live in Cameroon's Far North.

- During the week, UNHCR organised training for its partners on the theoretical and practical aspects of identification and assistance to persons with specific needs (PSNs). The training benefited 24 people and took place in Mokolo with the participation of the Ministry of Social Affairs (MINAS), IEDA Relief, Public Concern, IMC and *Lutte contre les Violences faites aux Femmes (ALVF)*.
- Two awareness raising sessions were organised by the SGBV sub-group on the consequences of SGBV incidents in the camp's community centre, benefiting 375 women. Another 26 sessions were organised by community volunteers for over 2,500 refugees.

Challenges, identified needs and remaining gaps: Same as previous update

Health

- Some 1,287 consultations were undertaken (i.e. 758 by IMC and 529 by MSF respectively), 31% of which were for children under the age of 5. Acute respiratory infections and malaria are the predominant causes of morbidity in the Minawao/Gawar camp.
- Some 66 cases of mental health issues were followed up on, including 33 specifically for epilepsy, the predominant pathology in this area.

Challenges, identified needs and remaining gaps

- Limited capacity of public health infrastructures around Minawao/Gawar camp, including Gadala Health Centre and Mokolo District Hospital. Mokolo District Hospital requires a blood bank.
- Tending to pathologies requiring expertise.

- Polio and measles vaccinations for all new arrivals in the Minawao/Gawar camp.
- Vaccination campaign against measles in the camp and in the Mokolo health district to achieve 95 per cent coverage of the children targeted.

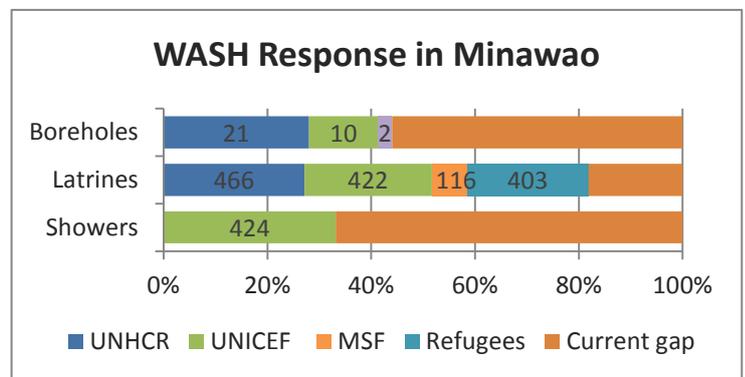
Food Security and Nutrition

- UNICEF continued to support IMC in its collection and analysis of the nutritional data of refugee children. During the past two weeks, 11 new admissions were recorded in the camp’s mobile nutrition centre, bringing the total number of children received since the beginning of 2015 to 278 out of an expected 936. Some 12 new admissions were registered at the in-patient Mokolo District Hospital.

Challenges, identified needs and remaining gaps: Same as previous update

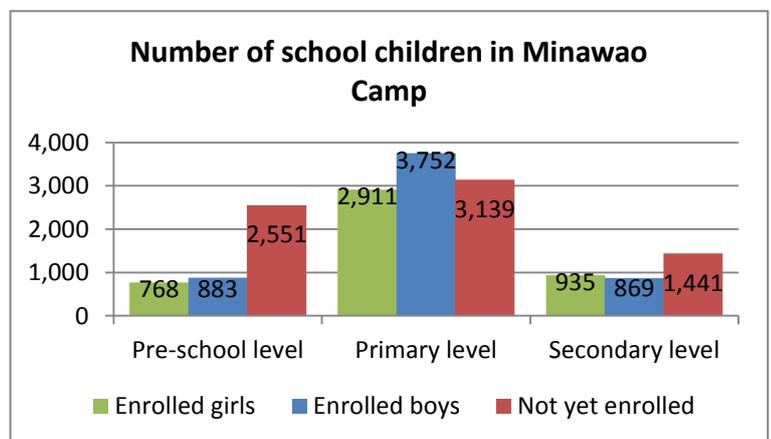
Water and Sanitation

- UNHCR, UNICEF, MSF and local authorities combined efforts to provide 480,000 litres of water per day to the refugees in the Minawao/Gawar camp. The arrival of new refugees has caused a slight decrease in the amount available per refugee per day. Access to water has improved nevertheless, since September 2014.
- UNHCR is constructing 10 additional boreholes and geophysical studies have already enabled the placement of 8 water points in Zamai and Gawar.
- The Mayor of Mokolo informed UNHCR of the availability of funds from the Public Investment Budget for the construction of one borehole and a three latrine block for the Minawao camp.



Education

- With the intensification of awareness raising sessions for parents on the importance of education, led by IEDA Relief in collaboration with the Parent’s Association and the Refugee Committee on education, attendance rates have gone up by 12 per cent during the week under review.
- The Ministry of Basic Education (MINEDUB) made a donation of school materials and medicine to primary school children through Public Concern. Over 300 math and English books were also distributed.



Challenges, identified needs and remaining gaps: Same as previous update

Shelter and NFIs

- During the week, Public Concern continued setting up family tents provided by Plan Cameroun. A total of 289 tents were set up, bringing to 1,308 the total number in the camp. These tents will be used by families living in community shelters once latrines are constructed in the area. Over 30,000 refugees live in 1,019 tents and 3,221 family shelters with 6,183 living in community shelters. There is still a need to construct 1,457 family shelters in Minawao/Gawar to house all refugees.

CHAD: Operational Context

Protection

There are just over 18,000 Nigerian refugees in Chad, with 3,000 arrivals registered prior to the emergency. Some 8,894 have been registered by the Commission Nationale d'Accueil, de Réinsertion des Réfugiés et des Repatriés (CNARR), and 5,710 of these refugees live in the Dar Es Salam site (Baga-Sola), with the remainder living in communities or areas such as Mayo Kebbi East. The Government has estimated that another 7,000 are living in remote areas. UNHCR, IOM and CNARR have jointly registered 4,892 IDPs – 3,398 of whom are in Baga Sola and 1,494 in Bol – and 1,712 returnees. Profiling is ongoing for IDPs and returnees to obtain additional data from areas that have not yet been surveyed.

Chadian authorities have reported the arrivals of 1,076 persons from Niger. This population is of Boudouma ethnicity, and holds Nigerian identification documents.

- A joint UNHCR/CNARR/OCHA/IOM/Chadian Red Cross (CRT) mission that went to the village of Hakoui Tchilouma on 10 May, reported the departure of over 3,000 individuals towards Baga Sola and other locations of origin. Some 200 people still remain in the village, which is home to 100 local families. UNHCR distributed 100 tarpaulins to the returnee families and locals, and other partners such as UNICEF distributed family kits.
- The Nigerian refugees located in the area, some 500 people, have chosen not to relocate to the Dar Es Salam camp. UNHCR offered transportation but the latter prefer to stay by the lake as they are fishermen.

Challenges, identified needs and remaining gaps: Community services and child protection partners

Education

- Just under 700 children are attending both schools of Baga Sola. Whilst the construction of shelters for academic staff has started, many things are still missing such as kitchens for both establishments. Furthermore, two classrooms in the *Ecole Espoir 1* (one of the two schools) cannot be used currently, due to ground erosion. UNICEF has provided 20 bags that will be filled with sand to solve the problem. Academic staff are not content as their salaries have not been paid to them, and it is predicted that the latter will strike in the near future. Finally, concerns have also been raised over the curriculum refugee children are following, as it is not identical to the one put in place by the Ministry of Education.

Food Security and Nutrition

- Food distribution for the 2,348 returnees, 3,398 IDPs and refugees from the Dar Es Salam camp took place.
- WFP is undertaking an assessment of the number of returnees and IDPs on the border to plan its food distribution.
- A price monitoring system of food items in the Lake Area is being put into place in collaboration with CNARR, the Société de Développement du Lac (SODELAC) and ACTED.

Health

- A health committee was created in the Dar Es Salam health centre on 8 May, it is composed of 20 members and is headed by a governing organ comprising one president and a secretary.
- Some 3,000 people benefited from an awareness raising session on the use of male contraceptives, on the importance of child delivery in medically sound environments, and on the necessity for people suffering from chronic diseases to consult healthcare personnel.

Shelter and NFIs

In the Dar Es Salam site, the construction of shelter, water points, latrines and showers is provided by UNHCR and its partners CRT, APSELPA (Action pour la Protection de la Santé de l'Environnement et de Lutte contre la Pénurie Alimentaire), UNICEF and ADERBA (Association pour le Développement de la Région de Bagasola). To date, a total of 1,054 family shelters have been constructed with the use of plastic sheeting. Additional shelters are now under construction. CRT is currently evaluating shelters used effectively.

- Hangars in the Dar Es Salam transit centre are being rehabilitated progressively in view of receiving more refugees.

Challenges, identified needs and remaining gaps: In the Dar Es Salam health centre, two additional hangars are needed to welcome individuals with mental health issues and mothers accompanying malnourished children.

Water and Sanitation

- CRT has reinitiated the construction of 50 community latrines in the Dar Es Salam camp in view of imminent refugee arrivals. The CRT also proceeded to clean the school latrines and provided equipment to teachers and children to allow for the establishment of a WASH committee in each school.
- In the Dar Es Salam transit centre, an awareness raising session on hand washing with soap benefited just under 200 people. A similar exercise benefiting 140 people was carried out in the Dar Es Salam Camp and the subjects of shower, latrine and water point upkeep were also raised.

Challenges, identified needs and remaining gaps: Insufficient number of latrines, encouraging open-air defecation as the number of arrivals increases.

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. Funding requirements for the refugee and IDP components of the Nigeria Situation now amount to USD 114.5 million, including USD 97.5 million in additional requirements for 2015.

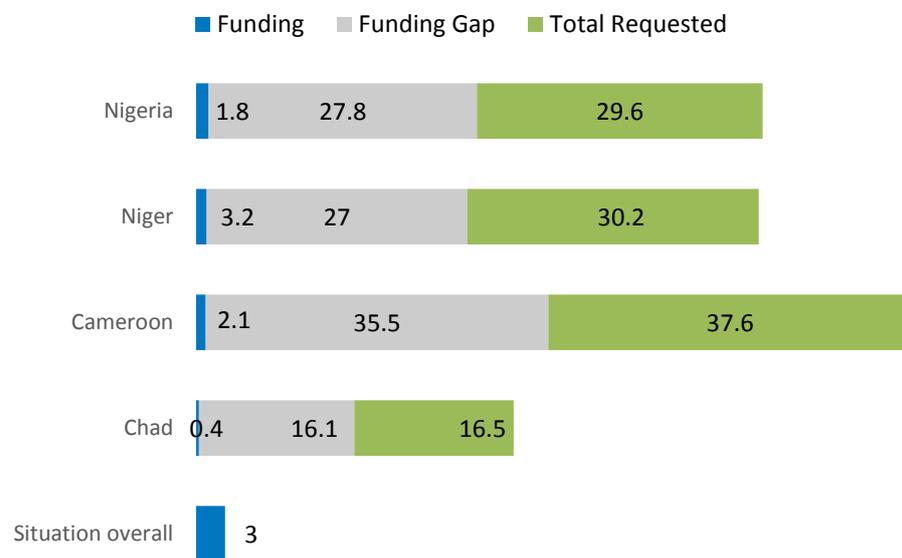
Donors:

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Private Donors:
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Funding:

A total of **USD 10.5 million** has been funded out of a **114.5 requested**



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

