

NIGERIA

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

01 August – 31 October 2014

KEY FIGURES

650,000

Internally Displaced People

2,557

Refugees and asylum-seekers

3

SGBV survivors received support from UNHCR

FUNDING

USD 5,473,649

Requested for the operation



PRIORITIES

- Establish UNHCR presence in Bauchi
- Distribution of NFIs to very vulnerable IDPs as accompaniment to protection interventions
- Capacity building of government agencies and NGOs

HIGHLIGHTS

In recent years, Nigeria has been facing an armed insurgency in the three north-eastern States of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe, home to some 13 million people. On 14 May 2013, the Government of Nigeria declared a state of emergency in these three States and swiftly put in place operational measures for a counter-insurgency operation. As of May 2014, millions are believed to have been affected, with at least 650,000 of them internally displaced in the directly affected States.

The abduction on 14 April 2014 of the more than 200 Chibok schoolgirls in Borno State has finally drawn the attention of the international community to this humanitarian crisis.

The security situation in north-eastern Nigeria has regional implications, in particular for the neighbouring countries. Equally important has been the outflow of Nigerian refugees into the three neighbouring countries of Cameroon, Chad and Niger.

On 17 October, the Federal Government of Nigeria announced the reaching of an agreement with the leaders of insurgent groups to end the country's most intractable conflict that has intensified since 2011. Talks brokered by the Government of Chad for a ceasefire apparently aimed also to secure the release from captivity of the abducted schoolgirls. Given the extent of the humanitarian situation in north-eastern Nigeria, UNHCR is establishing a sub-Office in Bauchi State to better respond to IDP needs in coordination with, and under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator. Currently UNHCR has a presence in Lagos and Abuja.

Nigeria hosts some **2,557** refugees and asylum-seekers of mixed nationalities, mainly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cameroon and Côte d'Ivoire. UNHCR is working to sustain protection gains; to expand the protection environment through improving the quality and processing time of refugee status determination (RSD); and to implement durable solutions with emphasis on building the self-reliance of refugees.



Population of concern in Nigeria

A total of **652,557** people of concern

Refugees assisted by UNHCR | 2,557

IDPs assisted by UNHCR | 650,000

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

- Violence in north-eastern Nigeria continues to rage, displacing more civilians since armed insurgents' activities intensified in 2011. A truce scheduled to be signed in Chad during October suffered a setback when, amid talks for a ceasefire, insurgents carried out attacks in Borno and Adamawa States during the weekend of 17-22 October 2014. Continued violence is hampering UNHCR and partners' access to north-eastern States where there is a need to plan for and respond to the needs of displaced families for protection and assistance. The worst affected states are Yobe, Adamawa, Bauchi, Gombe, Taraba and Borno.
- These attacks have resulted in the killing and abduction of thousands of civilians and the widespread destruction of social and economic infrastructure in the affected States, including schools, hospitals and markets. The number of internally displaced people (IDPs) stood at roughly 650,000 as of May 2014, and the current figure is believed to be much higher. Millions more have been affected by the ongoing violence.
- Over 90 per cent of IDPs reside in host families within communities; others have taken shelter in public buildings such as schools. Fearing for their lives, it is believed that over 96,000 Nigerians may have sought asylum in neighbouring countries: almost 44,000 (Government estimates) in Cameroon, Chad (2,800) and Niger (50,000). For Niger, of the 50,000 which include third-country nationals, 15,000 are UNHCR-verified refugees.
- After having identified Nigeria's first Ebola case last July, the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared Nigeria Ebola-free (as of 20 October 2014). However, the Federal Ministry of Health has cautioned that the country remains vulnerable to the disease because of cross-border movements. Health authorities have, as a result, appealed to border officials and citizens to remain vigilant at entry points.

Achievements

Protection

- UNHCR and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) co-lead the Protection Sector Working Group (PSWG) for internally displaced persons, following its establishment in January 2013. The PSWG has valid terms of reference and a protection strategy encompassing capacity building and strengthening of activities including training, advocacy for establishment of policy/legal framework, registration and profiling, as well as protection monitoring. The opening of an office in Bauchi State constitutes the first step towards ensuring an operational presence near the point of delivery. UNHCR expects to strengthen this presence in 2015 and to expand its protection activities, including profiling of IDPs, to seek the most appropriate protection response, as well as initial durable solutions.
- As the crisis escalates, UNHCR is monitoring the evolving situation and providing protection responses and humanitarian assistance in collaboration with the Nigerian Government, other UN agencies and NGO partners. UNHCR participates in the IDP response activities that support the safety of affected civilians and ensure they have equal access to basic human rights and protection interventions in the domains of psychosocial support, SGBV, child labour, trafficking or exploitation.

Achievements and Impact

- Four inter-agency needs assessments and a fact-finding mission by UNHCR in Nigeria to the affected States have since taken place to review the situation in the north-east. While the overwhelming majority of IDPs live within host communities, scores of them live in camps in Bauchi, Borno, Gombe and Taraba States. IDPs in Taraba are mostly

displaced due to inter-communal conflicts. This same profile of IDPs is also found in Bauchi, Benue, Gombe and other States, notably within the so-called Middle-Belt area.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Nigeria, there is increasing forced displacement resulting from ethnic, religious, economic and boundary conflicts, natural and man-made disasters, and its attendant massive destruction to lives and property. UNHCR is currently working with the authorities to support them in the implementation of international and regional instruments recently ratified by the country. Since 2011 in particular, UNHCR has worked to support and enhance the protection of IDPs through advocacy for the adoption of the national IDP policy; and the domestication of the Kampala Convention. This latter process would ensure incorporation into the national legislation of provisions of the AU Kampala Convention on the Protection and Assistance to IDPs in Africa. The IDP policy aims to enhance the capacity of relevant national agencies to conduct needs and vulnerabilities assessment of IDPs to improve and maintain the quality of protection interventions. Ultimately, the policy seeks to enhance the management of IDPs, including the preservation of their human rights and dignity and mitigate their suffering during displacement. The policy further presupposes the coordination of activities for IDPs by a focal government agency.
- The protection of civilians and internally displaced persons in the North-East of Nigeria, specifically in Borno and Yobe (epicenters of the crisis), is threatened due to on-going insurgency/counterinsurgency activities. Therefore, there is urgent need to step up training activities to build a robust protection environment for the humanitarian assistance to IDPs and to ensure that all relevant sectors are informed by protection requirements and standards.
- To further achieve the objective of creating a favourable protection environment, UNHCR will contribute, along with other UN agencies and national stakeholders, as well as ICRC, to the training of the security operatives, including security agents, Nigerian Army, Nigeria Police and Immigration Officers, etc.

Shelter and NFIs

Shelter and NFIs Sector

- While UNHCR, the Government and their partners continue to make efforts to address the humanitarian needs of IDPs and the affected population, there are urgent needs to support people at risk and the very vulnerable with access to shelter and household items that preserve their dignity, as part of the protection interventions. Assistance will target very vulnerable individuals amongst the displaced populations in emerging camps and communities in Maiduguri Metropolis, Biu in Borno State; and Damaturu in Yobe State.
- In Nigeria there still is no coordination on the shelter needs, as the related Sector has not been fully established. UNHCR implemented an NFI programme on behalf of natural disaster-induced IDPs and some conflict-induced IDPs in 2013.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Many of the displaced populations, women and children being particularly vulnerable, are in hiding, without access to basic domestic and hygiene items, which is increasing their exposure to various forms of exploitation, including begging, early marriages and survival sex. Gender-based violence (GBV) also continues to be a concern in conflict-affected North East.
- There remains a need to identify vulnerable people as well as to procure and distribute life-saving humanitarian assistance in form of basic domestic and hygiene items.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

Camp Coordination Camp Management Sector

- UNHCR chairs the training sub-committee under the CCCM working group which is co-chaired by NEMA and IOM and has facilitated several CCCM capacity building activities in that respect.
- The recent escalation in the violence has also increased the number of internally displaced persons fleeing border communities in Borno and Yobe. Consequently, the absorption capacity of/within host families/communities has also been over-stretched. Many displaced families have, therefore, sought shelter in public buildings such as schools and churches for their protection and safety.
- While UNHCR is mainly reporting on insurgency-related IDPs, most of whom live in either community facilities, or with relatives, there are also on the other hand inter-communal conflict IDPs, particularly in Bauchi, Benue, Borno, Nasarawa and Taraba States. Of the overall IDPs in Nigeria, a small number of around 60,000 live in camps.

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR chairs the training sub-committee under the CCCM working group which is co-chaired by NEMA and IOM and has facilitated several CCCM capacity building activities in that respect.
- As of 2012, UNHCR has actively engaged in capacity building targeting national and State stakeholders, in close coordination with National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMAs). Since 2012, some 130 and CCCM, including 70 as trainers.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is a need to continue to conduct training on protection principles, human rights standards, and CCCM. The plan is to work in continued collaboration with the relevant Global Clusters and use the trainers who were trained in the past to step up training activities in the North-East and Benue State. The aim is to build a robust protection environment for the humanitarian assistance to IDPs, while ensuring that all relevant sectors are informed about protection requirements and standards.

Working in partnership

- UNHCR works closely with designated Government agencies, UN and NGO partners to coordinate humanitarian assistance towards IDPs and Refugees: **(For IDPs)** National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA); National Human Rights Commission (NHRC); National Commission for Refugees, Migration and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI); State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMA); National Red Cross Society (NRCS) of Gombe, Yobe, Borno, Benue and Bauchi; Federal Capital Territory –FCT- Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); as well as other **UN Agencies**. UNHCR also works with **working/implementing partners: (For Refugees)** NCFRMI; Justice Development and Peace Commission (JDPC); Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN); **NGOs:** CARITAS, Jama'atul Nasarul Islam (JNI), Action Aid. As part of the UN Country Team's response UNHCR has been leading the Protection Working Group in Abuja.
- UNHCR collaborates with ECOWAS through a Memorandum of Understanding framework signed in 2001 with ECOWAS Commission in the following areas: Durable solutions / free movement and right of residence for asylum seekers and refugees, peace and security, ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework (ECPF), Strengthening Humanitarian Emergency Prevention and Response Capacity, conflict resolution/peace building, refugee protection, asylum-migration nexus in West Africa, women and children, strengthening links with civil society organizations associated with ECOWAS. UNHCR is also in the process of expanding its partnership with ECOWAS Court of Justice and ECOWAS Parliament.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

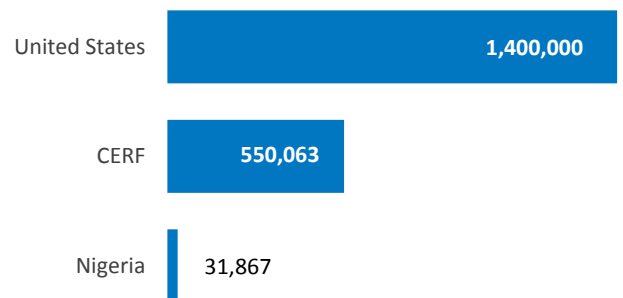
In August 2014 UNHCR launched a supplementary appeal for funding for the Nigeria Situation, to respond to the additional protection and solutions needs of people displaced by the ongoing crises in north-eastern Nigeria.

To date (beginning of November 2014), total recorded contributions for the operation, including the supplementary appeal, amount to:

USD 1,981,930

UNHCR is grateful for the support provided by donors towards this critical operation, particularly those who have contributed with unearmarked or broadly earmarked funds.

Funding received (in USD)



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Links: data.unhcr.org/NigeriaSituation