

UNHCR NIGERIA WEEKLY UPDATE

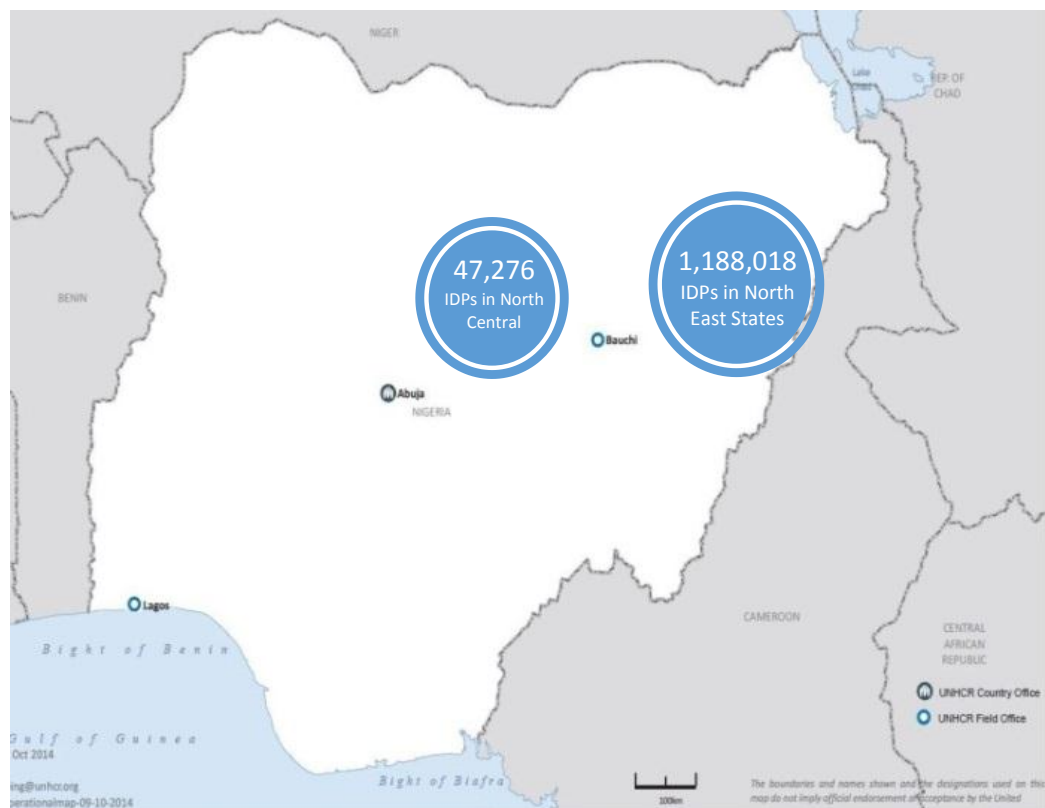
15 April 2015

HIGHLIGHTS



(Photo: Building hosting UNHCR SO Bauchi located at A5Yakubu Maigari Road in the Bauchi metropolis 16 March 2015 Tamfu @UHNCR)

- UNHCR hands over 300 smart phones to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), for protection monitoring.
- National Co-Chairs of the PWSG –UHNCR and the NHRC lay the groundwork for the Adamawa State –level PSWG.
- Nigeria concludes the 2015 general elections on April 11 2015 with the gubernatorial elections. Incoming All Progressives Congress (APC), stays ahead with a clean sweep of 19 governors out of 29 while the out-going Peoples Democratic party (PDP), gets 7 governors.



KEY FIGURES

1,235,294

Internally Displaced People (agreed upon by both IOM and NEMA)

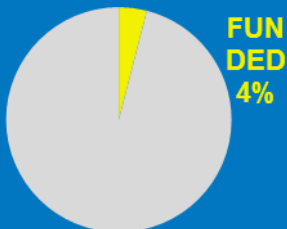
**2,120 refugees/
asylum seekers**

Refugees and Asylum seekers of mixed nationalities as of 17 January 2015

FUNDING

USD 23,024,553

Requested for the situation



PRIORITIES

- Profiling of IDPs
- Protection monitoring
- Capacity strengthening in protection
- Advocacy for policy and legal framework
- Implementation of comprehensive durable solutions for refugees
- Support for RSD

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

- The All Progressives Congress (APC) won 19 of the 29 governor posts in results declared from Saturday's 11 April 2015 elections. It is the biggest defeat for the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) since military rule ended in 1999. It lost the presidential poll last month for the first time. APC leader Muhammadu Buhari will be inaugurated on 29 May, following the defeat of President Goodluck Jonathan. The PDP's decline has been reinforced by results from Saturday's elections for governors and States Houses of Assembly.
- The only female hopeful for the Governorship in the Taraba State, Aisha Jummai Al-Hassan, known as "Mama Taraba" lost the election, dashing the hopes of the womenfolk in the country. One female candidate ran for the March 28 presidential election. The elections were conducted for 29 governors and all 36 States Houses of Assembly. Some of Nigeria's governors control huge budgets far greater some African countries and are among the country's most influential politicians. 7 States which had in past conducted partial elections were not involved in the polls.
- The Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC is reported to have re-scheduled the run-off governorship elections in three States, Imo, Abia and Taraba, where last Saturday's elections were declared inconclusive, for next Saturday. The April 18 proposed date is however, not yet officially declared. INEC had declared the Imo State gubernatorial election inconclusive following the cancellation of results from 216 polling units that cut across 23 local government areas. In Abia State, the polls were declared inconclusive because the state electoral officer was said to have earlier cancelled the results from Obioma Ngwa, Isiala Ngwa and Osisioma Ngwa local government areas, only to authenticate the results later, a development that led to protests by members of All Progressives Grand Alliance, APGA.
- In the meantime, with the elections having taken place in peace, order and tranquility, preparations are already underway to hand over to the incoming administration. The Federal Government has directed all ministries, agencies and extra-ministerial departments to prepare their handover briefs ahead of the May 29 inauguration of the incoming administration of Muhammadu Buhari. The directive was contained in a memo dated April 13 and signed by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Pius Anyim Anyim. Also, the incoming president has been making a number of policy declarations on ahead of his take over.
- The President-elect, Maj. Gen. Muhammadu Buhari (retd.), on Tuesday said his administration would restore military cooperation with the United States of America. In an article published by *the New York Times* in its Tuesday 14 April edition, Buhari promised among other things to reform the military. The outgoing President Goodluck Jonathan-led administration had cancelled the training component of its military cooperation with the USA. Mr. Buhari also expressed determination to tackle the North East insurgency head on.
- Speaking also on the occasion of the anniversary of the Chibok girls abduction, Buhari promised to do all to liberate the girls if only they were still alive. From the United Nations (UN), Action Aid, House of Representatives, religious, civil society groups and eminent Nigerians, including Nobel Laureate, Prof. Wole Soyinka, the message was the same: 'Free the Chibok girls.' The UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon recalled the sad event of April 14 2014 and reiterated that the organization will never stop calling on the release of the girls. The Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International reported that the militant Islamic sect, has abducted at least 2,000 women in Nigeria since the start of 2014. Concurrently, UNICEF said on 13 April that no fewer than 800,000 children have fled their homes in North-eastern Nigeria because of insurgents activities. UNICEF's regional director for West and Central Africa, Manuel Fontaine, told newsmen in Berlin that the number of child refugees has over doubled in 2014.
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The President-elect, Muhammadu Buhari, says those seeking political appointments in his administration will be forced to declare their assets before taking office and before leaving. He said this would encourage accountability and reduce corruption. He stressed that, "All those that were governors, ministers, permanent secretaries, head of foreign staff and all those with

political appointments will have to declare their assets on the assumption of their appointment, before the court. And once they leave, they have to re-declare their assets.” In a related development, the World Bank spoke on the 14 April on Nigeria's economic future, saying President-elect Muhammadu Buhari's plan to tackle corruption will have consequences. The bank projected a drop in the economic growth rate of Sub-Saharan Africa from 4.5 per cent in 2014 to 4.0 per cent in 2015.

IDP Operation

The UNHCR in Nigeria has donated 300 mobile phones to National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to facilitate the work of field monitors for the protection and assistance of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nigeria. The event was a logical follow up of the training of 314 monitors by UNHCR and the NHRC at Makurdi, Benue State from the 18-21 March 2015. The smart phones will facilitate the collection and delivery of real time data and information. Handing over the phones to the Executive Secretary of NHRC, Prof Bem Angwe, on the 14 April, in Abuja, the UNHCR Representative to Nigeria and ECOWS, Mrs. Angèle Dikongue Atangana said that the phones will be used to equip the 314 recently trained field monitors on IDP issues with modern tools for efficient data collection and treatment. The Representative said that the project was geared toward providing sustainable assistance to IDPs by protecting their needs and fundamental human rights. She said the action would help in relaying their plights and sufferings from their communities directly to both the Commission and the UNHCR, as well as other relevant humanitarian actors. The rationale behind the project is to ensure that there would be hands and eyes on the ground to monitor closely the conditions of those vulnerable persons and ensure timely interventions as may be required, as well as prevention of human rights breaches occurrence. On his part, Prof. Bem Angwe, praised the laudable efforts of UNHCR which he described as a wakeup call for his institution to the plight of the displaced. The monitors will be spread across 10 States in the North east and the North central.



UNHCR Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS Angèle Dikongue Atangana hands over a symbolic phone to the Executive Secretary of NHRC
Photo Abuja 14 April 2015 Tamfu© UNHCR

- Meanwhile, UNHCR and NHRC will train the 310 protection monitors in Markudi, Benue State in two batches, on April 16 and 23, on the use of smart phones in protection monitoring. The training will include an orientation on how to use the smart phones software and individual and community monitoring questionnaires for the protection monitoring project.
- Preparatory meetings with representatives of the National Red Cross Society (NRCS) and SEMA held at UNHCR SO Bauchi on the 15 April. The aim of the meeting was to analyze the distribution time frame shared by NRCS and to agree on the modality and methodology of distribution to be adopted during the process.
- In a related event, an induction course for Nigerian Red Cross staff on pre-registration of the most vulnerable IDPs ahead of NFI's distribution will begin in Gombe State on the 16th of April 2015. The first distribution will start on the 22 April 2015 in Gombe.
- UNHCR in Nigeria has submitted the following activities to the Programme criticality (PC) Peer Review Group: Provide local shelter to Vulnerable IDPs in Bauchi, Gombe and Adamawa; Protection Monitoring and Provision of Protection Monitoring tools for Protection Monitors in 9 States in North East; Distribution of basic household and hygiene items to IDPs in Yobe, Borno, Adamawa, Bauchi and Gombe; Strengthening Local Capacity for Participatory Vulnerability Analysis (PVA) and Peace Building in the NE and Data Tracking Matrix project with IOM for Yobe, Borno, Adamawa and Gombe States. The activities were submitted

at the Peer Review Group on the 14 April. In line with the guidance on the PC rating established by UNCT in September 2013, review ratings are conducted after every six months. The last rating was held in September 2014.

- The annual work plan between the UN Delivering as One and the Cross Rivers State has been signed, and UNHCR has commenced modalities for implementation of its activities through a partner NGO, RHEMA CARE. RHEMA CARE has been supporting the reintegration and rehabilitation of the Bakassi returnees for a number of years in Cross Rivers and Bayelsa States with UNHCR's support since 2013. The activities are undertaken in close collaboration with the State Government.

Refugee Operation

RSD

- 6 asylum seekers were registered during the week under review.
- 7 RSD assessments were conducted during the week under review.

■ Family Reunification

- The Office shared updated Best Interest Determinations (BIDs) with the UNHCR Regional Representation for West Africa (RRWA) in Dakar for family reunification of persons of concern whose relatives were resettled by UNHCR to the Netherlands in 2014.
- The Office followed up on issues relating to the family reunification of three Nigerian minors scheduled to depart to Argentina to reunite with their parents.

Community Services:

- The payment of education allowance for the second term of 2014/2015 academic session has been on-going. So far, 143 refugee children in primary school out of 149 targeted have been assisted with education allowance which represents approximately 96% of the target while 91 children in secondary school out of 96 targeted (representing approximately 95% of the target) have received education allowance for the session.
- So far, 18 persons with specific needs have been assisted with monthly subsistence allowance while 4 persons were assisted with one – time assistance. A bereaved family was assisted with burial allowance.
- 143 women and girls of reproductive age out of 150 targeted (representing approximately 95% of the target) have been assisted with sanitary towels. Out of the number assisted, 99 persons received 6 packets (for 3 months) while 44 received 20 packets (for 10 months) on different distribution occasions. The difference in the number received was due to the quantity of sanitary towels that were available at the time of the distributions. The distribution of the towels is on-going.

- 6 refugees on skills training have been assisted with monthly transportation allowance so far.

Contacts:

Angele Dikongue-Atangana, UNHCR Representative to Nigeria & ECOWAS, DIKONGUE@unhcr.org, Tel: +234 (0) 92916667; Cell +234 8181530428

Mr. Hanson Ghandi Tamfu, External Relations / PI Officer BO Abuja, TAMFU@unhcr.org, Tel: +234 (0) 8090359400; Cell +234 9027573068

Websites

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

<http://nigeria.humanitarianresponse.info/Protection>