

UNHCR NIGERIA WEEKLY UPDATE

29 April 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

KEY FIGURES

1,235,294

Internally Displaced Persons (IOM and NEMA, February 2015 DTM)

**2,120 refugees/
asylum seekers**

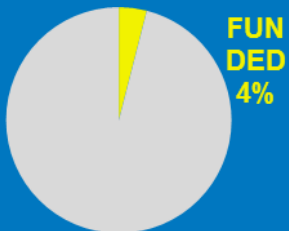
Refugees and Asylum Seekers of mixed nationalities as of 17 January 2015

FUNDING

USD 23,024,553

USD 23,024,553

Requested for the situation



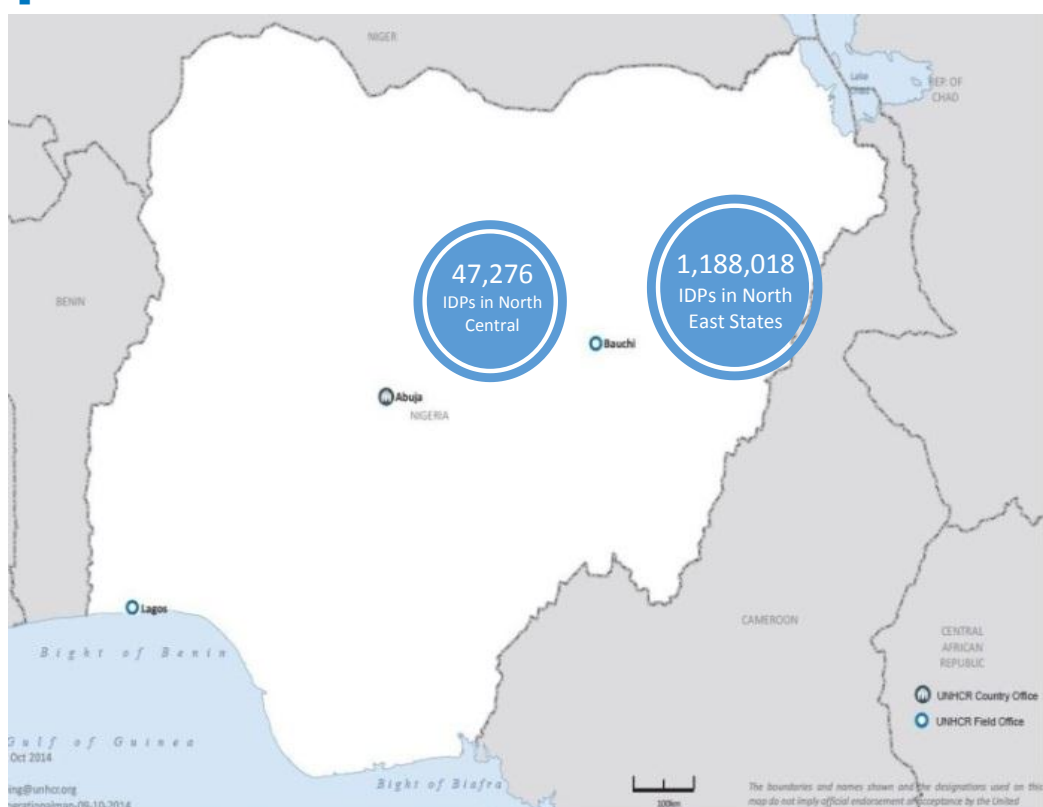
PRIORITIES

- 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



Photo: UNHCR and Partners NRCS distributing NFIs in Bauchi State 21 April

- The distribution of Non Food Items (NFIs) is ongoing in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States UNHCR and its partner the Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS) are targeting 3000 IDPs for each of the three states.
- UNHCR Participated in a multi-stakeholders meeting on the return of IDPs organized by NEMA and ADSEMA and sponsored by the government of Adamawa.
- On the 28 April 2015, UNHCR co-chaired the PSWG Adamawa and visited partners NHRC, NRCS, IOM and other potential IPs including IRC, Oxfam.



UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

- Security situation in the country deteriorated during the week as the insurgents staged a comeback in Nigeria and Niger Republic. More than 2,000 Islamist fighters armed with bombs and tanks took back control of Marte and forced hundreds of soldiers to flee the border town in Nigeria. The insurgents also attacked a military camp in Dosso, a border community in Niger Republic and killed many Nigerian soldiers. The fighters were reported to have gathered in their numbers at Sambisa Forest, the stronghold of the sect in Northeast as the Nigerian military launched an offensive to flush them out from the forest. The military setback came as Nigerian political analysts predicted that it will take time for the incoming administration to destroy the terrorists because of the sect's deep roots in northern Nigeria.
- President Goodluck Jonathan and Muhammadu Buhari met again at Aso Rock in continuation of the ongoing preparations for the inaugural ceremony on May 29 2015.
- Nigerian President-elect Muhammadu Buhari on Wednesday inaugurated a 19-member transitional committee that will study various government agencies with a view to recommending a plan of action.
- A seasoned administrator, Alhaji Ahmed Joda, has been tipped to lead the APC transition committee to be inaugurated during the week. Buhari, who has reiterated that he needs men of unquestionable integrity in his government is already pondering over the final list of members of his transition committee.
- The Nigerian army has freed 200 girls and 93 women from the hands of the terrorist group. But the more than 200 girl students kidnapped from their school in the town of Chibok more than a year ago were not among those freed. The army rescued them in the region of Sambisa forest.
- The 2015 elections were concluded on Saturday with the governorship rerun in the three states of Abia, Imo and Taraba. While in Abia the battle was between the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA); in Imo and Taraba it was a straight fight between the All Progressive Congress (APC) and PDP. At the end of the contest, PDP added Abia and Taraba to its kitty, leaving the APC with Imo.
- The UNHCR representative recently met with the ECOWAS Commissioner of Social and Gender Affairs. During the meeting they discussed cooperation between UNHCR and ECOWAS. The UNHCR Representative appreciated ECOWAS' contribution of 300,000 USD for the refugee situation in Cameroon, Chad and Niger.
- Meanwhile, UNHCR is preparing its participation at the 74th Ordinary Session of ECOWAS Council of Ministers to hold in Accra from the 15-16 May 2015.

IDP Operation

- Preparations are underway for the establishment of the Protection Sector Working Group in Gombe. UNHCR SO Bauchi is working closely on that with SEMA/Gombe and with the NHRC branch in Gombe.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR finalized the terms of reference and preparatory arrangements for a planned mission to Damaturu (Yobe State) and Maiduguri (Borno state). During the mission UNHCR will map out the existing protection actors and conduct participatory assessments with IDP communities in Maiduguri to identify their priority needs, resilience mechanisms, capacities and projects. Results of the participatory assessment will inform protection activities and response plans for IDP communities in the area while also ensuring that their priorities are considered in future planning.

- The CCCM Officer and Senior Regional Shelter Officer conducted needs assessment missions to Gombe and Adamawa states. Their findings will be relevant in drawing up a Strategic Plan on Shelter. The mission has also accorded the new CCCM Officer an opportunity to familiarize herself with the operation.
- UNHCR in Nigeria and UNDP, two UN agencies involved in protection monitoring have discussed the challenges so far experienced in implementing the activities. They have also agreed to harmonize their plans to avoid duplicity on the field. This will be accomplished initially through the a common concept note. They also agreed on a joint steering committee (UNHCR, NHRC and UNDP) to be put in place to manage the monitoring program and the need to issue badges with the global protection cluster logo to the monitors.
- Governor Kashim Shettima of Borno state on 28 April created a 12-member panel to ascertain the number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) taking refuge in over a dozen resettlement camps in the state and to further make arrangement for their relocation. The constitution of the panel was contained in a statement made available to newsmen. A similar meeting was convened in the Adamawa State capital, Yola to discuss the practical modalities for returning IDPs. UNHCR staff are taking part in the meeting.

Refugee Operation

REGISTRATION:

7 asylum seekers were registered. They were made up of 2 Ivoirians, 1 Congolese (DR) and 4 Syrians

RSD:

- The Senior Protection Officer held a meeting with the NCFR's Deputy Director in charge of Refugee and Migration Management on 29 April, 2015. Issues discussed included the challenges in RSD procedures and the delays in the domestication of the Kampala Convention/Statelessness Conventions. To address the identified gaps that will also support NCFR in gradually assuming full responsibility for RSD; it was agreed that a joint work plan for RSD and the domestication of the Conventions will be developed for implementation between May-December 2015. A mid-term review of activities will be conducted in August 2015.
- 8 RSD assessments were reviewed during the period under review.

PROTECTION

15 protection cases of POCs were referred by the government partner during their counseling session. Follow-ups were made on the cases and referred back for feedback to POCs.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

2 additional persons with specific needs were assisted with one-time financial assistance making a total 6 persons who have been assisted so far in the month of April 2015.

External Relations

- The UNHCR Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS held discussions with the ECHO Head of Office for Nigeria focusing on its operation and its challenges. The Representative presented an overview of the operation including achievements during the level two emergency such as the capacity building in protection monitoring, distribution of NFIs, intensification of interventions in the North east including the setting up of PSWG at the State level. The ECHO chief expressed satisfaction with UNHCR achievements and indicated interest of eventually funding field based activities.
- UNHCR Senior Liaison Officer met with the newly appointed Director of UNICS Nigeria Mr Ronlad Kayanja on the 28 April 2015. He came to learn about UNHCR activities and to discuss possible areas of collaboration with UNHCR in the context of Delivering as One. The Director informed UNHCR on the imminent transfer of UNICS head office to Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory. He also appreciated the quality of information produced by UNHCR and the two parties agreed on the need to intensify information sharing.

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Websites

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

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