



UNHCR NIGERIA WEEKLY UPDATE

13 May 2015

HIGHLIGHTS



Nigerian returnees from Niger Republic scrambling for space in an open lorry. Photo: NEMA, May 6 2015

- The over 11000 Nigerian returnees from Niger Republic are reportedly living in despicable conditions in different camps in the Northeast. UNHCR protection staff on the ground in Maiduguri says the situation is compounded by heavy rains as some of the forcibly displaced live in open air.
- Humanitarian actors in Nigeria will soon dispatch an interagency assessment team to areas of return to determine safety and security conditions in areas of return.
- Thirty stakeholders in camp coordination and camp management drawn from the Nigerian Capital territory area have completed a training session organized by UNHCR and partners.
- A joint security assessment mission has been authorized by SMT to be conducted in Biu, Bayo Kusa, Shani and Hawul LGAs in Southern Borno to determine feasibility of UN field missions to the area.
- Government authorities of Borno state have extended the curfew in the state till Monday 18 May 2015.



KEY FIGURES

1,491,706

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

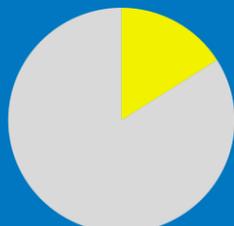
2,095 refugees/
asylum seekers

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

FUNDING

USD 23,024,553

Requested for the situation



FUNDED
16%

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 security situation in Borno State was threatened during the week as hundreds of extremists tried to attack the biggest army base (Giwa barracks) in Maiduguri, the Borno State capital overnight. The insurgents however met with fierce resistance from soldiers who fired artillery throughout the night of May 13, 2015. Many villagers were reportedly killed by shells that hit the outlying village of Kayamla, where the soldiers engaged the terrorists
- A 5 day curfew has been imposed on Maiduguri after troops successfully repelled the insurgents Wednesday night. The army explained that the curfew is meant to protect lives and property of innocent and law abiding people of Maiduguri. Casualty figures have not yet been revealed by the authorities or the military. The curfew which was initially imposed for 24 hours was extended on the 15 May to run till Monday 18 May 2015.
- The attack coincided with the time a UNHCR team was implementing protection activities in Maiduguri, including the establishment of a State-level PSWG in Borno State. In all, 38 UN staff including 6 UNHCR staff members were in the Metropolis. All the staff members are safe with no incidence reported.
- Nigeria's president-elect, General Muhammadu Buhari on 13 May, stated that he was not backing anybody for the position of Senate President or Speaker of the House of Representatives, adding that, he is willing to work with any leader of the Senate, irrespective of what part of the country he or she originates from. 'He recalled that there is due process for the selection of leaders of the National Assembly and he will not interfere in that process as has always been the case in the past.
- On May 6, President Goodluck Jonathan was reported to have held a secret meeting with the president-elect, Muhammadu Buhari at Presidential Villa. Although nothing filtered out of the meeting, political pundits say it has to do with the presidential inauguration of May 29 2015. Meanwhile, the National Council of state ruled that the president-elect; Muhammadu Buhari will receive handover notes from the incumbent President Goodluck Jonathan on May 28. The National Council of State also assured that Nigeria will not be challenged again by insurgents as experienced in the past three years, noting that the Nigerian military has been equipped to take charge of its territory.

IDP Operation

- On 5 May 2015, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), announced the deportation of thousands of Nigerians from Niger. The latest figure of the returnees is over 11000. A special camp has been set up in Maiduguri for the repatriated population. In Yobe, Adamawa States and other localities, the returnees are registered and provided with transportation to their various areas of habitual residence.
- In the meantime, a meeting between UNHCR and NCFRMI Deputy Director Mrs. Amina Ibrahim, held on 11 May, 2015 on the situation of the Nigerian returnees from Niger Republic. UNHCR's concerns on the return of Nigerians to unsafe areas in the Northeast (particularly Borno and Yobe states) were communicated. UNHCR also requested that adequate support be provided the returnees including humane transportation in line with international protection principles.
- Also, the UNHCR OIC and the Senior Protection officer on 12 May 2015 met with the Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator to discuss the return of Nigerians from Niger Republic and the return of IDPs to their areas of habitual residence. The outcomes of the meeting include an agreement that the Inter-agency assessment of areas of return to determine safety for return will be deployed as soon as possible. Also as part of response to the return of Nigerians and the urgent gaps at the returnee transit camp in Geidam, linkages with the Protection, NFI/ES and Food sectors should be established.
- UNHCR organized a CCCM Training from 5-7 May in Kubwa for the FCT Emergency Management Agency. Thirty participants selected from a range of stakeholders in the FCT (including Education Secretariat; Primary Health Care Board; Police Force; Civil Defense; Armed Forces; Fire Service; Environmental Protection Board; Water Board and Nigerian Red Cross) participated in training. The FCT, which has witnessed the influx of IDPs from the Northeast, is conducting a profiling exercise for the IDPs.

- A PSWG meeting held on 12 May and co-chaired by UNHCR/NHRC at the IOM Office. 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 distribution of dignity kits are being provided to them in Yola by a number of stakeholders. NEMA takes Custody of 6,000 Nigerians deported from Niger
- NEMA also reported that more than 17,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) have been registered in six camps in Yola, capital of Adamawa State. The agency's Spokesperson said more than 6,000 children were among the IDPs.
- The Borno State government, on the 11 May, embarked on a 5-day immunization programme for children aged between 0-15 years, across some 13 camps of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in 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.
- According to a report issued by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) on the 6 May 2015, Nigeria accounts for a fourth of new internally displaced population in the world. The report revealed that a record 38 million people in 60 countries were displaced by ongoing conflicts from their homes within the borders of their own country through the end of 2014. They comprise the vast majority of the more than 50 million classified as refugees.
- Of the over 80,000 IDPs in Damaturu, between 80 and 100 men and women are crammed in a 4-room house, with their children separated from them. Whereas they urgently need better shelter and beddings, the education of their children also remains a priority.
- The Kano State Government on Thursday, 14 May evacuated 500 IDPs from Geidam in Yobe.

REFUGEE OPERATION

- **Family reunification:** The Office shared information from IOM with colleagues in Argentina and Headquarters to facilitate planned family reunification of three minors to Argentina.
- Medical examination was facilitated with an IOM doctor as part of the resettlement process.
- 29 refugee ID cards were renewed during the reporting period.

ECOWAS

- The Special Representative of the President of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Ambassador Babatunde Ajisomo has disclosed plans by the commission to introduce a regional currency. Ambassador Ajisomo said the introduction of a regional currency will be based on the convergence of other currencies in the region.
- The first Ordinary Session of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Parliament opened Monday in Abuja, Nigeria, with the induction of new members from Liberia. The xenophobic attacks in South Africa, the plight of African immigrants and elections conducted recently in some member states topped the agenda for discussion.
- ECOWAS on 14 May announced the postponement of its 40th Anniversary celebration scheduled for May 28, 2015 in Abuja, Nigeria. A statement from the Communication Directorate of ECOWAS signed by Mr Mamadou Koule, ECOWAS Communications Expert, said a new date would be announced.
- Celebrations of the 40th Anniversary of ECOWAS have been postponed till further notice.
- The 47th ECOWAS Heads of States summit earlier scheduled for the 28th May will now hold on the 19 May 2015.

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>