

UNHCR NIGERIA WEEKLY UPDATE

27 May 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

KEY FIGURES

1,491,706

Internally Displaced Persons
(IOM and NEMA, April 30 2015
DTM)

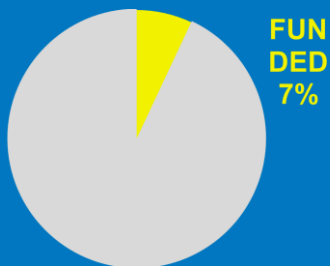
**2,191 refugees/
asylum seekers**

Refugees and Asylum seekers as of 13
May 2015

FUNDING

USD 29,611,512

Requested for the situation



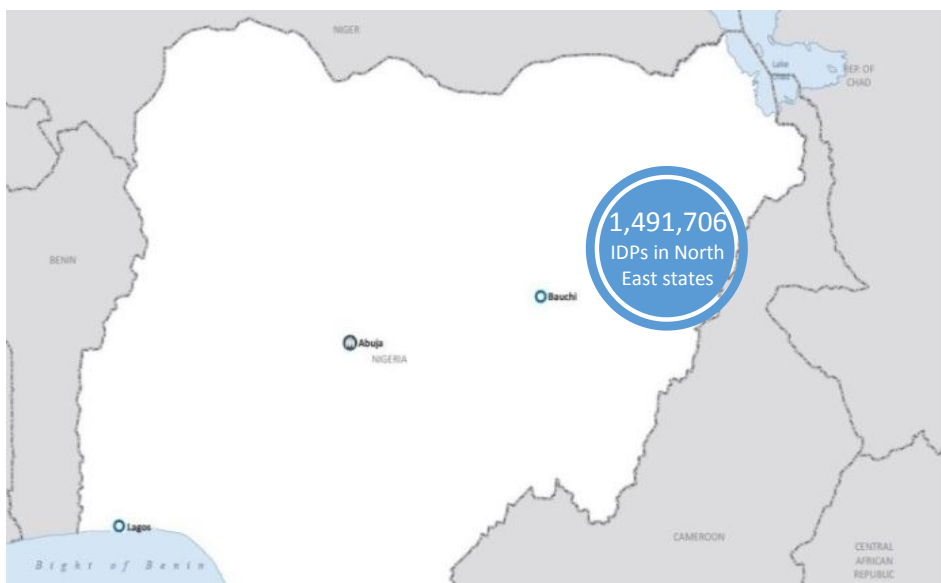
PRIORITIES

- 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



The UNHCR RRWA, Ms Liz Ahua ended her visit to Nigeria with a press conference on 28 May in Abuja. She (2nd left) and the UNHCR Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Ms Angele Dikongue-Atangana (2nd right) are seen here facing the press, Abuja 28 May 2015

- At the end of her one week visit to Nigeria, the UNHCR Regional Representative for West Africa, Ms. Liz Kpam Ahua, has promised the agency's continued support to IDPs in Nigeria. She also lauded the Nigerian authorities for their collaboration with the UN Agency for Refugees at a press conference at BO Abuja on 28 May 2015.
- The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) has assisted establishing a commercial farm worth about N7million USD326,000) for Bakassi returnees in Cross River State. The farm is located in Ikpa Nkanya, Eyo Edem in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of the State. Officials of UNHCR Nigeria went on a monitoring tour of the farm between 13 and 20 May.
- The Governor of Adamawa State in Northeast Nigeria, Bala Ngilari has warned that the ongoing war against terrorists is far from over, even as he has raised the alarm that some members of the sect disguise as IDPs and infiltrate most of the camps. Talking with journalists on 24 May, Ngilari noted that the major concern was how to stop the infiltration of the terrorists into the IDP camps, and more importantly, how to identify and separate them from the innocent citizens of the country.



UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- The security situation in Nigeria, especially in the Northeast, has remained unsafe. Insurgents have forcefully bounced back on the eve of the presidential inauguration. No fewer than 43 persons were killed by insurgents on the 23 May in an attack on Gubio, a community in Borno State, according to a security source and residents. A member of a youth vigilante group in Gubio, Abba Idris told journalists that a group of terrorists rode to that community, located north of Borno, in about six Hilux vehicles on 23 May and set houses ablaze, killing about 43 persons.
- UNICEF has raised an alarm on the increasing use of children and women in suicide bombings and warned that the trend is likely going to increase. The UNICEF Representative in Nigeria Jean Gough said the Children in their ignorance were used by the insurgents, adding that with the terrorist now fighting with their back to the wall, more and more children were likely to be used. The number of reported suicide attacks has jumped, to 27 in the first five months of this year compared to 26 in 2014. Meanwhile, the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon has called on Nigeria to bring to justice perpetrators of these despicable acts of forced imprisonment and sexual violence, which have been committed by the outlawed terrorists in the country.
- The Nigerian military intelligence, in collaboration with their international counterparts and other related agencies, has intensified efforts towards tracking the financing of activities of the terrorist groups within and outside the country. The Chief of Defense Intelligence (CDI), Rear Admiral Gabriel Okoi, revealed this at the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) Headquarters, Abuja, to journalists at the end of the Deputy Defense Advisers/Attaches/Librarians Training Conference 2015 with the theme: "Refocusing the Activities of Nigeria's Defense Missions to meet Contemporary Security Challenges."
- The Director, Defence Information, Maj. Gen. Chris Olukolade, has said that troops of the Nigerian Army have liberated 20 more women and children during another raid on Sambisa Forest.
- Over 50 world leaders are expected to attend the inauguration of the President-elect, Muhammadu Buhari (rtd.), on Friday, 29 May. The Chairman, Media and Publicity Sub-committee of the Presidential Inauguration Planning Committee, and Minister of Culture and Tourism, Chief Edem Duke, told a news conference in Abuja on the 22 May.
- At his final church service as the president and commander-in-chief of the armed forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, President Goodluck Jonathan on Sunday, 24 May asked Nigerians, irrespective of their religious persuasions, to pray fervently for the incoming administration headed by Muhammadu Buhari in order to move the country forward. Jonathan told participants at the presidential thanksgiving and inauguration inter-denominational service held at the National Christian Centre (NCC), Abuja that his administration had done its own part. He added that the new government needs sincere prayers to resolve Nigeria's problems.
- President Goodluck Jonathan on 22 May said he would be an advocate of peace in the country after leaving office. The president said this when the Apostolic Church Nigeria, FCT Field, presented him with the "2015 Epitome of Peace Award" at the State House in Abuja. He said one thing he had decided to do after leaving office was to make sure that he would be talking to all faithful of all religions - Christians, Muslims and other religions - on the need for Nigerians to live in peace.
- The Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria (CBCN) has opposed calls by some groups that girls impregnated by terrorists should abort their unborn babies. In a statement issued by the Health Committee of the Bishop's conference on 25 May in Abuja, Bishop Anselm Uworen, Chairman of the committee and Auxiliary Bishop of Abuja, on behalf of his colleagues, frowned at the move and pressure mounted by the groups to browbeat the girls into abortion.
- Ahead of the inauguration of President-elect Muhammadu Buhari on 29 May, there are indications that he may be heading for a collision with governors elected on the ticket of the All Progressives Congress (APC) party over the appointment of ministers in his cabinet. It is reported that Buhari has vehemently rejected a ministerial list sent to him by the state governors and the party leadership in the states, arguing that it is not proper for the governors to handpick his ministers for him even when they on their own undertake appointment of state commissioners.
- Nigeria's President-elect Muhammadu Buhari has dismissed some ministerial lists in circulation on the social media as fake, saying that his ministers will not emerge the way the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) picked members of its Federal Executive Council (FEC) in the last 16 years. Buhari was speaking in an interview granted editors of Daily Trust newspaper at his country home in Daura, Katsina State recently. As the May 29 handover date draws closer, there have been speculations about those who would make the next government's ministerial list, most of whom were supposedly picked from across the 36 states and the six geopolitical zones of the country.
- President-elect Muhammadu Buhari returned to Nigeria Thursday, 28 May after a six-day trip to the United Kingdom in the company of former President Shehu Shagari, whom he overthrew in a military coup d'état 32 years ago. Shagari was reportedly in the UK on a private visit. During his trip to the UK, Buhari met with British Prime Minister

David Cameron. Buhari and Shagari flew back to the country 24 hours before Buhari's inauguration as Nigeria's fifth democratically elected president.

IDP OPERATION

- Rhema Care Integrated Development Center's Chief Executive Officer Eric Shu has disclosed at a UNHCR-funded advocacy meeting for stakeholders in Calabar, capital of Cross River State that IDPs arising from conflicts and other emergencies in the state have hit the 47,000 mark, with 38,000 of them displaced by communal clashes.
- A taskforce consisting of UNHCR, NHRC and UNICEF met to develop guidelines for the protection monitoring referral mechanism. The draft guidelines are currently being finalized by the taskforce and will thereafter be submitted for the approval of the National PSWG.
- The National PSWG met in Abuja on 26 May at the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR). Highlights of the meeting included planning for the inter-agency assessment in the Northeast, starting mid-June, and coordination of discussions on activities being implemented in the most affected States.
- The UNHCR Regional Representative for West Africa, Ms. Liz Ahua has promised support to IDPs and intensification of UNHCR presence in Nigeria. Ms. Ahua rounded her one week maiden mission to Nigeria since taking up functions at the agency's regional hub in Dakar with a press conference on 28 May 2015 at BO Abuja. During the mission, she met with Government partners, the UNCT, representatives



Ten year- old IDP who lost both parents weeps in the motherly embrace of UNHCR RRWA, Liz Ahua as Angele Dikongue Atangana , UNHCR's Rep to Nigeria & ECOWAS looks on. Bauchi 25 May 2015. Tamfu @ unhcr.org

of over 2000 residual refugees in FO Lagos and UNHCR staff. Addressing IDPs in Gombe and Bauchi States, she promised more support in NFIs, Shelter and CCCM within the limits of UNHCR's means. The UNHCR Regional boss praised the efforts of Nigerian Government for providing support to its people. She appealed to the IDPs to work toward peace and unity for the country to recover from the current displacement crises. Ms. Ahua was accompanied on her visit by the UNHCR Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Ms. Angele Dikongue Atangana.

- The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has said 158 out of 275 persons rescued from Sambisa Forest are sick. In disclosing this, NEMA Director-General, Mallam Sani Sidi told reporters in Abuja on 22 May that the victims were sick as a result of gunshot wounds, bomb blasts and malaria. He said they were received in the night and most of them were weak, hungry and sick, but those with serious ailments were transferred to the Federal Medical Centre in Yola for treatment.
- In a related event, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has said the number of inmates at the special camp created for women and children freed from the Sambisa Forest stronghold of insurgents in Maiduguri has increased from 275 to 308. The zonal Coordinator of NEMA in the Northeast, Alhaji Mohammed Kanar revealed that, out of the 40 people recently freed by the military from the Sambisa Forest, 20 were children and 13 women.
- The Borno State government has called for local and international support as each of the 21 IDP camps in the State records about six child births daily. Alhaji Grema Terab, the executive chairman of the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), made this known to newsmen in Maiduguri, the Borno State capital on 23 May. The IDPs are largely those displaced by insurgents.
- The Presidential Initiative for the North East (PINE) has said the Federal Government has developed a comprehensive redevelopment marshal plan for the sub-region, especially as regards internally displaced persons (IDPs). The chairman of the Initiative, Professor Soji Adelaja, said the distribution of relief materials in Alkaleri Local Council area of Bauchi State was a thoughtful measure to alleviate the sufferings of the displaced persons brought about by insurgency.
- The Nigerian Navy has assured Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) living in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, of the Armed Forces resolve to win the fight against insurgents and make the country safe for all residents. Addressing some of the IDPs on 25 May during one of the events organised to mark the 59th Anniversary of the Nigerian Navy at the Kuchingoro Camp in Abuja, the Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Usman Jibrin advised residents of the camp to be security conscious and report unusual happenings in their environment to security agencies.

REFUGEE OPERATION

- A three-day training workshop, facilitated by the Regional RSD Officer from the UNHCR regional office in Dakar, Senegal, Francisco Navarro, was held in Abuja from May 20-22 to train stakeholders working on refugee status determination in line with the basic tenets of refugee law. They also received practical skills to effectively carry out refugee status determination. Twenty-seven participants from the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and IDPs (NCFRMI), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nigeria Immigration Services and UNHCR attended the training.
- UNHCR facilitated the departure of a Somali refugee woman to Canada under the UNHCR resettlement programme.
- Seven asylum seekers, made up of 4 Malians and 3 Central Africans, approached UNHCR Field Office Lagos for registration during the reporting period.

ECOWAS

- President Muhammadou Isoufou of Niger Republic, on 21 May, paid glowing tributes to President Goodluck Jonathan, saying that ECOWAS leaders would forever remember Jonathan for the humble way he conducted himself in the affairs of the country and the West African sub region. Speaking at the Presidential Villa in Abuja during a courtesy visit, Mr Muhammadou Isoufou said the outgoing Nigerian President had shown great maturity and statesmanship by conceding to defeat and calling his challenger in the last presidential elections to congratulate him, while describing the act as a great lesson to all African leaders.
- Former Nigeria Head of State General Yakubu Gowon on 25 May expressed confidence that the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) will continue to wax stronger, even as it has clocked 40 years of its existence. Speaking during one of the commemorative events of ECOWAS at 40, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Gowon, who is a founding father of the multi-national organization, urged ECOWAS countries to maintain the achievements that the organization has recorded so far after 40 years, which is when life begins.
- The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has bemoaned the deaths recorded in the Mediterranean Sea. At the opening of the ECOWAS Parliament in Abuja, its Nigerian Speaker Ike Ekweremadu, said the Mediterranean Sea has continued to receive serious international attention as the graveyard of young Africans in their desperate and illegal bid to cross over to Europe because they were caught between the devil of poverty and hunger at home and the deep blue Mediterranean sea.

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Websites

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

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