

## KEY FIGURES

- 1,635,000 IDPs
- 230,000 Refugees and Returnees

## IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

- **Nigeria**
  - Food, Protection and Livelihoods
  - Humanitarian presence and access in rural areas
- **Niger**
  - Food, WASH, Protection
  - Humanitarian access in remote areas
- **Cameroon**
  - Food, Nutrition and WASH
  - Humanitarian access and presence
- **Chad**
  - Protection and Livelihoods
  - Needs monitoring and contingency planning

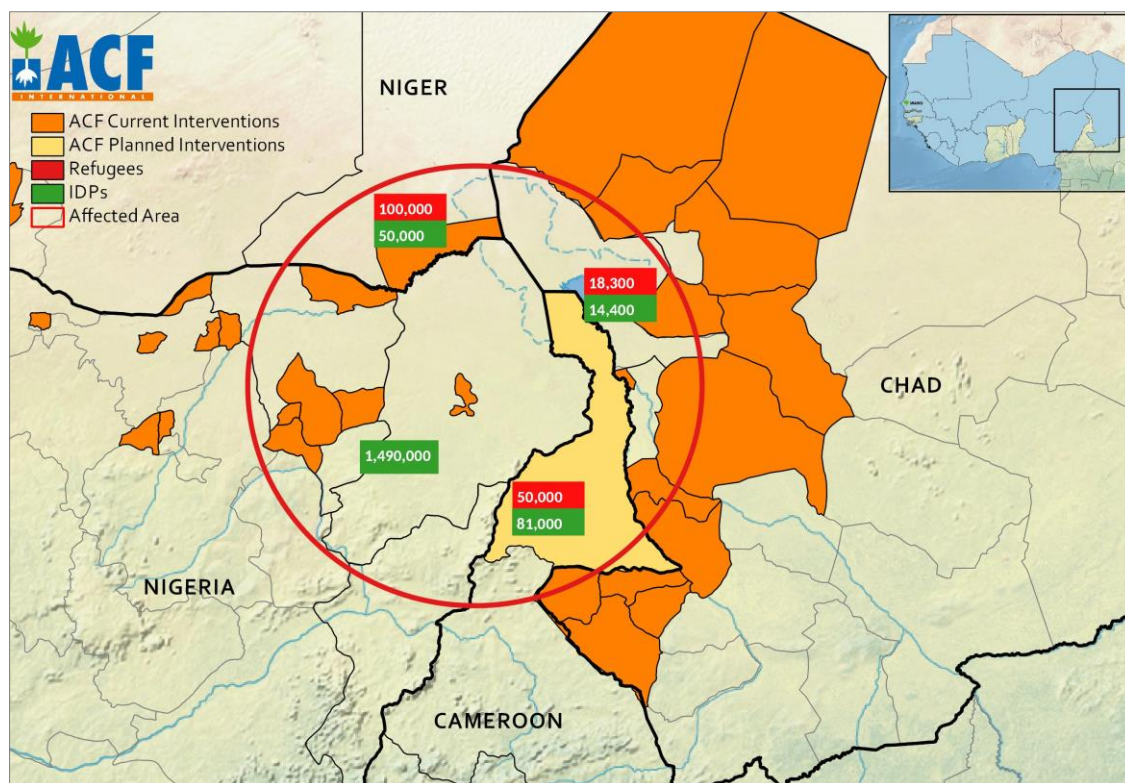
## REGIONAL HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT

The Boko Haram induced crisis has led to massive population displacements in Nigeria and neighboring countries around the Lake Chad area (Chad, Niger and Cameroon), and is now turning into one of the largest humanitarian crisis to occur in the region. Since 2014, there has been an upsurge in acts of violence in Nigeria, targeting primarily the civilian population while devastating local communities. More recently, attacks have also been carried out in the neighboring countries, on the Nigerian, Cameroonian and Chadian side of Nigeria's northeastern borders. Boko Haram's escalating violence has caused both internal displacement and cross border population movements leading to dramatic humanitarian consequences and widespread suffering. According to UNHCR, there are about 1.5 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nigeria and over 230,000 people who have sought refuge in neighboring countries, exacerbating an already precarious situation by creating shortages of food and increasing the risk of outbreaks of infectious diseases such as cholera. Protection, food, shelter, health, nutrition and water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH) needs remain largely unmet in the affected areas and these needs are expected to considerably rise during the looming lean season. Moreover, as the insecurity lingers, humanitarian organizations are facing great difficulties accessing to affected population but also to adequately assess the extent of the needs in the remote areas.

Action Against Hunger (ACF) is one of the very few humanitarian organizations with on-going activities in the 4 countries affected by the crisis, providing immediate assistance to the most affected populations.

## NIGERIA

The ongoing and deepening humanitarian crisis in North-East Nigeria has led to the displacement of about 1.5 million people while causing 4 million people to experience acute food insecurity and to be in immediate need of humanitarian assistance. The security situation in this part of the country remains critical, impairing the access to suffering populations caught in the conflict between insurgents and the government forces, while creating additional displacements of populations. As attacks on communities



occur almost on a daily basis since the beginning of the year, conditions in most areas of displacement are far from suitable for supporting safe and voluntary returns due to insecurity, lack of basic services but also due to the absence of humanitarian actors in these areas. ACF has ongoing operations in the state of Yobe since 2011 and has recently started activities in the state of Borno in 2014, out of Maiduguri, the heartland of the militants and home to the greatest majority of IDPs. In these states, where about over 90% of IDPs are located, ACF focuses on the immediate needs that have emerged following the important waves of internal displacement, and aims to provide critical humanitarian multi-sectorial assistance through Food Aid, NFIs, shelter, WASH, Economic Recovery and Nutrition to victims of the complex emergency, using market-sensitive and capacity building approaches. ACF provides lifesaving treatment to under-nourished children through an integrated approach while increasing purchasing power and protecting livelihoods through the replacement of lost assets.

ACF is currently responding to the emergency with funding from ECHO, CERF, DHATD, DFID, French Embassy, USAID/FFP and USAID/OFDA.

## **NIGER**

The humanitarian situation in the South-East of Niger remains worrisome as needs have increased following the latest movements of populations from the Lake Chad islands to the mainland, while the security situation is still highly volatile and tense. According to OCHA, there are about 175,000 displaced people in the Diffa region, including refugees, IDPs and returnees.

Numerous organizations are currently implementing / planning to implement activities in Diffa in support of refugees, IDPs, returnees and also the host population. ACF has started operations in this part of the country in 2015 and is closely coordinating its activities with other stakeholders in order to provide immediate assistance in WASH, Food Security and Livelihood, while laying the groundwork in anticipation for the longer term needs.

In Diffa, ACF is currently responding to the emergency with funding from AECID, SIDA and is expecting to start activities soon with USAID/OFDA.

## **CAMEROON**

In the Northern part of the country, an area already plagued by extreme poverty, a harsh climate and epidemics, there are currently about 130,000 displaced persons, mainly women and children, for which assistance so far has been very limited and for which information remains scarce. Acute malnutrition rates of children under 5 years old among refugees, IDPs and host communities are expected to be above the emergency threshold of 15 percent while other needs in terms of food security, WASH or protection appear to be high despite a lack of sufficient data.

The overall security situation remains highly volatile with regular incursions from Boko Haram, particularly within a 15km belt from the border with Nigeria, creating a very complex operational context and a difficult humanitarian access.

In collaboration with France-based NGO Première Urgence-Aide Médicale Internationale, ACF is currently carrying-out a multisectoral rapid assessment in the Far North Region in order to better appreciate the immediate and mid-term needs of the vulnerable populations in the area, particularly refugees and IDPs, in order to provide an immediate adequate assistance. This assessment will help narrow the information gap that prevails in this part of the country and provide vital data on the current humanitarian context.

## **CHAD**

According to the UNHCR, there are currently about 18,000 refugees from Nigeria who have sought refuge in Chad's Lake Region, one of the poorest regions in the country.

ACF is carrying-out large scale operations in neighboring regions in Kanem and Bahr El Gazal, and has maintained a surveillance and response capacity in Mayo Kebi, bordering Far North Cameroon. ACF is not currently intervening in the Lake region as needs appear to be already covered by the humanitarian actors on the ground. While focusing on seasonal vulnerabilities in the Sahel region and cholera outbreaks around the Lake Chad basin, ACF remains however on alert should the situation related to the Boko Haram crisis deteriorate and create new needs.