

UNHCR NIGERIA WEEKLY UPDATE

18-25 June, 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

KEY FIGURES

1,385,298

Internally Displaced Persons
in North East (IOM and NEMA,
June 2015 DTM)

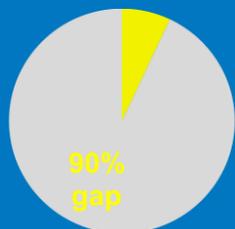
**2,199 refugees/
asylum seekers**

Refugees and Asylum seekers as of 31
May 2015

FUNDING

USD 29,611,512

Requested for the situation



**FUND
ED 10
%**

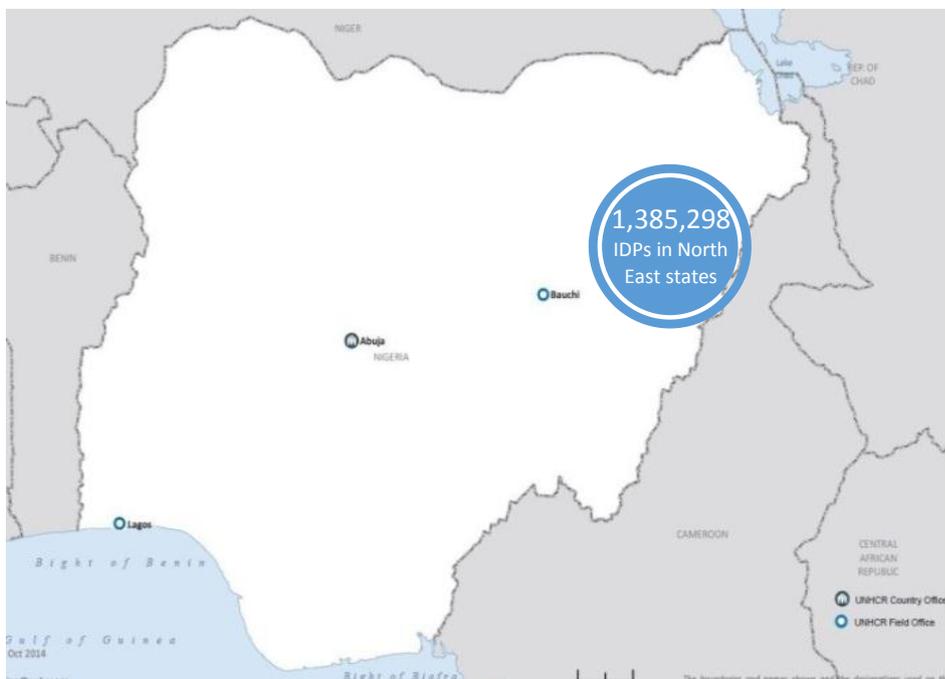
PRIORITIES

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



UNHCR Representative to Nigeria & ECOWAS, Angèle Dikonguè-Atangana (center), and NHRC President, Prof Bem Angwe (left), appending their signatures to the agreement, 25 June. AbujaGarriba@unhcr

- On 25 June, UNHCR and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen collaboration, promote and share experiences with a view to facilitating capacity-building.
- UNHCR and the Federal Capital Territory Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) distributed non-food items to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Abuja.
- UNHCR and NEMA have planned CCCM trainings in Maiduguri and Damaturu for 30 protection actors and state representatives. The training began in Damaturu on 29 June and will hold in Maiduguri as from 6 July, 2015.



UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- The volatile security situation in Northeastern Nigeria is escalating; defying all measures so far taken by President Muhammadu Buhari's government, the military, and governments of neighbouring countries to bring it to an end. This has pushed the Nigerian President to welcome efforts aimed at strengthening and expanding cooperation between the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) on the war against terrorism. He has advised on the rescheduling of a security summit earlier billed for April 2015 in Malabo - Equatorial Guinea - for the two sub-regional groupings.
- In a similar action, President Buhari on 23 June accepted an invitation from President Paul Biya to visit Cameroon for talks on regional cooperation to fight out the Islamist extremists. He has already visited Chad and Niger in earlier outings on the same security issue.
- On 18 June, the European Commission announced a support package of N4.7 billion in aid to countries affected by insurgency activities. A greater part of the funding will be used to tackle the humanitarian challenges in Nigeria, and the other to support refugees in Niger, Cameroon and Chad.
- Meanwhile, on 19 June, the United States State Department said insurgents in Nigeria killed the highest number of people in 2013 and 2014 compared with other terrorist groups in the world. The trend has persisted even in 2015, especially in Northeastern Nigeria where thousands of displacements are ongoing.
- During a courtesy visit to the Nigerian Senate President Bukola Saraki in his Abuja office on 18 June, the United States Ambassador to Nigeria, James Entwistle, promised the support of his government to Nigeria in the fight against insurgency and in the area of investment opportunities.
- All these are a pointer to the high premium the Buhari administration seems to be placing on the security in the country. Despite successes reported by the multinational force, the insurgents have continued to launch attacks in some of the areas covered by the multinational force. These attacks and military counter-attacks are expected to continue, and in some cases to result in further displacement both within and outside of Nigeria.
- Following the persistent terrorist situation in Nigeria, the Director of Air Intelligence, in the Nigerian Air Force, NAF, Air Commodore Benson Omoyungbo has sued for close collaboration between officers and men of the armed forces and other security agencies in order to effectively tackle acts of terrorism in parts of the country.
- In reaction to claims of abuses by Amnesty International, the Nigerian Army has also said that it has the constitutional and moral responsibility to protect all Nigerian citizens and cannot suddenly engage in mass murder. In a recent report covering the military operations between 2009 and 2014, AI has asked President Muhammadu Buhari to investigate some senior military officers for alleged complicity in extra judicial killings of over 8,000 people in the Northeast.
- Due to the conflict between insurgents and government soldiers, as well as the recurrent insurgency attacks on civilians, thousands of people living in Borno State, Northeastern Nigeria, are regularly fleeing their homes in search of safety.
- In the meantime, the Federal Government has stated that it has begun investigation into the accusations of human rights abuses leveled against the Nigerian military by Amnesty International.

IDP OPERATION

- UNHCR and NHRC continued protection monitoring exercise. According to the most recent analysis from the joint protection monitoring conducted by UNHCR and NHRC, elderly heads of households, single elderly, child heads of

households, pregnant/nursing mothers and female heads of households face severe protection concerns. Out of those IDPs who were surveyed 42% of IDPs have reported that they wished to return to their areas of habitual residence, 35% expressing their wish to relocate and 22% to locally integrate. In Adamawa alone, as of 9 June, over 40,000 IDPs were surveyed as to their intentions towards durable solutions. 89% of IDPs indicated their desire to return to their areas of habitual residence, while 6% indicated a desire to relocate and 5% to locally integrate. The number of IDPs in Adamawa intending to return to their areas of habitual residence has risen since 28 May, when data from protection monitoring indicated that 74% of IDPs intended to return (which matched up precisely to data from the May 2015 Return Intention Survey).

- UNHCR in Nigeria concluded World Refugee Day (WRD) 2015 with eventful ceremonies in Abuja, Lagos and Bauchi. In Abuja, the ceremonies were highlighted by speeches of the UN RCO, the UNHCR Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS echoing respectively speeches of the UNSG and that of the High commissioner for refugees. Others included the Nigerian Federal commissioner for the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally displaced persons (NCFRMI).
- The commemoration day was preceded by the signing of landmark MOU with ECOWAS Community Court of Justice in the presence of many stakeholders: Donors, UN sister agencies, governmental partners, Diplomatic Corps and all other partners. There was also a press conference in Abuja, prayers at the apostolic Nunciature in Abuja and at the national mosque and many other related activities.
- UNHCR and National Human Rights Commission, (NHRC), on 23 June signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen collaboration, promote and share experiences with a view to facilitating capacity-building through utilization of modern and best practices, as well as defining the operational framework governing cooperation between both parties. The event also included the handing over of 10 motorbikes to NHRC to enhance protection monitoring in the Northeast and Northcentral states.
- UNHCR in conjunction with NHRC to conducted a joint stakeholders meeting on statelessness on 30 June 20; organized awareness creating workshop with key stakeholders on statelessness. At the conclusion of the workshop participants agreed to set up a working group with clear leadership to drive the implementation of activities and results; deploy field-level “fact finding missions” with stakeholders that have been engaged through previous trainings with key partners; explore possible partnership with IOM regarding the statelessness in context of mixed migration.
- On 18 June, UNHCR and ECOWAS Commission held a meeting to follow up on the February 2015 Abidjan Statelessness Convention, the purpose of which was to make plans on implementing the 62 recommendations of the Statelessness Conference and develop a UNHCR-ECOWAS joint action plan for 2015/2016. It was agreed that UNHCR will identify focal agencies of the different member states of ECOWAS and invite them to send their respective focal points to a regional meeting to explain how to formulate National Action plans and best practices. It was also agreed that UNHCR will secure and pay for the services of a consultant to amend the ECOWAS Protocol; such consultant will work under the supervision of ECOWAS Commission since it is an ECOWAS Instrument.
- UNHCR conducted a vulnerability assessment of IDPs in host communities in Yobe State from 18 - 19 June, during which a total of 409 individuals were reached.
- UNHCR in collaboration with the Yobe PSWG on 20 June carried out protection mainstreaming sessions for all sectors in Yobe State. UNHCR led the finalization of the Yobe’s PSWG Terms of Reference.
- A renewed influx of IDPs was recorded in the Yobe State capital of Damaturu as a result of insurgency attacks on four villages; namely Gambir, Malamti, Mutiri and Alhaji Amaduri, all located in Damaturu LGA. UNHCR provided limited food assistance and is also planning to dispatch NFIs to cover the needs of 100 most vulnerable households among the newly arrived IDPs.
- The office is planning emergency assistance to 298 returnee households, who, for 20 years, lived in the Republic of Niger, away from their area of origin (Ibi LGA in Taraba State). The Community Service team has also planned a mission in Taraba to explore the possibility of extending livelihood support to that state.
- UNHCR Head of Unit in Yola met with the Governor of Adamawa State to discuss the attribution of land for a shelter project. The governor has appointed the Deputy Governor as the focal point between UNHCR and the local government for the project. Chairmen and elected legislators of the Adamawa State House of Assembly from the affected LGAs were expected to meet on 29 June, 2015 to decide on the land allocation.

ECOWAS OPERATION

- West Africa's regional body, ECOWAS says it will pool its resources to establish an electricity market to end the blackouts that have blighted its 15-member states for decades. Heads of state, who gathered for a meeting of the Economic Community of West African States agreed to develop a regional electricity market almost two decades after the plan was agreed upon.

REFUGEE OPERATION

- Four asylum-seekers from Togo were registered during the period of review.
- Following the update of the database based on the release of the last Eligibility Committee report, there are 909 asylum-seekers and 1,279 refugees registered on the database.
- A total of 24 new ID cards were issued while 8 were renewed.
- The last Eligibility Committee report was received and updated. Out of 71 cases of 128 persons considered, 22 cases of 36 persons were recommended for refugee status, while 49 cases of 92 persons were rejected.
- As part of the capacity building of NCFRMI on RSD, a one-day training on the review of RSD assessment form was conducted on 24 June at UNHCR Lagos Office.

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Websites

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

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