

## NIGERIA

### UNHCR WEEKLY UPDATE

16 March 2015

#### KEY FIGURES

### 1,235,294 IDPs in Nigeria

- 1,188,018 IDPs in North East States
- 47,276 IDPs in North Central States

(NEMA/IOM DTM Report, February 2015)

### 2,095 Refugees/Asylum Seekers

Refugees and Asylum Seekers of mixed nationalities as of January 1, 2015

#### FUNDING

### USD 26,301,958

for the 2015 Operation (Including the additional requirements for the Nigeria Situation)

### 3% FUNDED

#### PRIORITIES

- Profiling of IDPs
- Protection monitoring
- Capacity building in CCCM and community-based protection
- Advocacy for policy and legal framework
- Implementation of comprehensive durable solutions for refugees
- Support for RSD

#### HIGHLIGHTS



*(Photo: Stockpiles of NFIs warehoused at NEMA Gombe ready for distribution 5 March 2015 Tamfu ©UHNCR)*

- With UNHCR's support, the National Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR) conducted training on Voter Education in Adamawa on 11-12 March 2015. 2700 persons from National Youth service Corp (NYSC) and St. Theresa camps were reached. The highest portion of participants were women (2000).
- 35 protection staff from various partner organizations received training in practical protection skills and the legal framework governing internally displaced persons (IDPs). The Participants were schooled on the UNHCR mandate and its role in IDPs Protection in North East Nigeria. As one of the initial outcomes of the training, participants agreed on the initial composition and structure of the PSWG at the state level, particularly in Bauchi, Gombe and Yobe.
- Government representatives and counter-parts have expressed the hope that the UN agencies and other humanitarian actors in the country will boost their support to the displacement crises in Nigeria. They spoke during interaction with the UN Emergency Directors Group (EDG) mission in the Adamawa HQ of Yola on Monday.
- With more than 81 percent Permanent Voter Cards distributed and with an impending defeat for the dreaded insurgency in the North East of the country, Nigeria is gradually getting set for 28 March and 11 April general elections.

## Operational Context

- The security situation is persistently unpredictable in spite of recorded successes by the combined forces under the Multi-National Joint task Force (MNJTF). In all locations visited in the North East including Yola camps visited last week by the EDG, displaced residents are willing to return to their recaptured homes but are wary of the reigning uncertainty. Despite political pressure for a quick return to ensure participation in the elections, national and international opinions have warned against any hasty return of the IDPs. There are risks associated with purported mines or residual attacks by the insurgents who though on the run, are still active. This is evidenced by the erratic attacks here and there despite assurances by military and executive authorities that all will soon be over. The Northern States Governors' Forum on Monday, gave assurance that terror activities in the country will soon be a thing of the past.
- In what seems like intimidation, the insurgents have claimed links with the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), lending more credence to recently gathered intelligence that the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and Nigeria's extremist group have established direct links. While the Nigerian Armed Forces and MNJTF continue to register unprecedented victories and recapture the territories, the purported links would imply a prolonged battle with the terrorists.
- It is against this backdrop that both Nigeria and the international community are determined to press on with the early victory. Chadian troops, alongside soldiers from more than 20 other countries are undergoing training "in the deep desert," in continuation of their ongoing war against the militants. President Goodluck Jonathan has already expressed confidence that the leader of the insurgent group, Abubakar Shekau, responsible for thousands of deaths, will be apprehended by government forces before Nigeria's elections starting March 28.
- Meanwhile, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Chairman, Attahiru Jega, has continued with preparations in the run up to the elections. Despite the controversy surrounding the need to deploy soldiers for the forthcoming elections or not, he has included 19 military generals and 42 other senior officers from the Armed Forces in INEC's 428-man Inter-agency Consultative Committee on Election Security. In a similar effort, the Director-General of Nigeria's National Intelligence Agency, Mr. Ayodele Oke and the Chief of Defence Intelligence, Rear Admiral Gabriel Okoi, met with officials of the United States Atlantic Council in Washington DC with an assurance that the rescheduled March 28 polls will hold as planned.
- And in a more assuring declaration, INEC revealed over the weekend that it has achieved 81.22 per cent in the distribution of Permanent Voter Cards. The figure, which was released by the commission in Abuja on Friday, indicated that 55,904,272 registered voters had collected their PVCs, against the total number of 68,833,476 registered voters, lending more credence to progress.

## IDP Operation

- A greater understanding of the magnitude of IDP needs was achieved during the visit of the Emergency Directors Group (EDG) Mission. This will of course be accompanied by the relevant protection interventions. The EDG Mission left Nigeria on 11 March 2015, after interaction with all stakeholders, including Donors, HCT and GoN, with key

messages having been passed on resources, access, the need for enhanced coordination and GoN ownership of response and related activities/processes, *inter alia*.

- PSWG held a meeting on the 16 March 2015 to prioritize protection activities for the CERF submission under the lifesaving/rapid response window within the \$10 million envelope approved for Nigeria. UNHCR, UNICEF and UNFPA will submit activities under the sector while submissions deadline to the CERF Headquarters is Wednesday 18 March 2015.
- UNHCR conducted rapid assessment in formal camps visited on Monday in Yola. It is planning a follow up mission to further assess protection needs in Yola and Adamawa as a whole and provide some emergency assistance in the form of NFIs.
- The Emergency Services (ES) have provided a list of available emergency roster staff and the office is reviewing and preparing conditions for their arrival. The office has advertised 8 national positions for recruitment.
- SEMA Bauchi has expressed renewed availability to working with UNHCR in the state. UNHCR has opted for a community-based protection monitoring strategy as the best option in the current context.
- Further missions have been planned for this week to Darazo and Kari Local government areas (LGAs) in Bauchi State, which reportedly have a high concentration of IDPs. Within the week still, another mission will be conducted to the Taraba State capital in Jalingo. The missions are all aimed at early evaluation before the deployment of in-depth protection assessment missions.

## Refugee Operation

- The registration of the remaining Cameroonian refugees for voluntary repatriation continued this week. About 50 refugees of the remainder have opted to return freely.

## External Relations

- NTR:

## Funding Requirements

### Funding Situation:

Request = \$26,301,958

Funding = \$827,039 = 3%

Gap = \$25,474,919 = 97%

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**Link:** [data.unhcr.org/NigeriaSituation](http://data.unhcr.org/NigeriaSituation)