Nigeria situation - Chad

November 2023

Northern Nigeria's conflict with Boko Haram, which has spread to the Lake Chad Basin region since 2014, continues to cause forced displacement and fuel a complex humanitarian crisis in Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger, and Chad. In 2023, more than 21,700 people are still displaced in Chad, in the Lac province following this violence.

UNHCR supports the government's efforts to save lives and protect the rights of forcibly displaced persons and helps them build a better future.

KEY INDICATORS

21,731

Nigerian refugees in Chad, as of November 30, 2023

79%

Of women and children

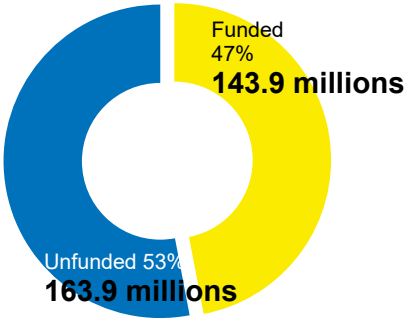
2,326

People with Special Needs

FUNDING AS OF 31 OCTOBER 2023

$307.9 million

For the Chad operation



A view of permanent shelters built by UNHCR in Ngourtou Koumboua, in the Lac region in 2023 © UNHCR / Ruphin BAKI

Operational Context

- The Lake Chad Province continues to face repeated incursions by non-state armed groups, forcing populations to flee their homes. The Protection Cluster in Lac province has reported a significant increase in protection incidents since July 2023.
- Security, environmental and operational constraints make it difficult to provide humanitarian assistance to forcibly displaced persons.
- Seven humanitarian clusters were activated at the national level, all of which were operational in Lac Province, to coordinate the response to protection issues affecting Internally displaced persons (IDPs). UNHCR is the lead agency for the Protection, Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) and Shelter/Core Relief Items (CRI) clusters.

Main activities

UNHCR provided assistance and protection to more than **21,700 Nigerian refugees and 215,900 IDPs** in the Lac Province. Humanitarian interventions were coordinated in partnership with the government through the National Commission for the Reintegration of Refugees (CNARR).

PROTECTION

REFUGEES

- In 2023, UNHCR, in coordination with CNAAR, **registered 393 new births and 268 new arrivals. A total of 487 family certificates and 1,187 refugee cards were issued** to people whose data were registered or whose documents had expired.
- UNHCR and its partners carried out activities to promote peaceful coexistence between displaced communities and their hosts, in particular by supporting community structures. For example, UNHCR supported 12 joint committees that worked with communities on conflict management and resolution and conducted community sensitization sessions on respecting the laws and customs of the host country.
- UNHCR and its partners also worked to combat Gender-Based Violence (GBV) through prevention and response mechanisms. Adequate assistance was provided to survivors.

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

Protection Cluster

- Chad is home to some 215,928 IDPs affected by the activities of non-state armed groups in the Lake Chad region.
- UNHCR, IOM and ICRC provided financial and technical support to the government in the process of domesticating the Kampala Convention. The law on the protection and assistance of internally displaced persons in the Republic of Chad and its implementing decree were validated by the Council of Ministers in March 2023 and adopted by the National Transitional Council in May 2023.

- The Protection Cluster, led by UNHCR, co-led by CNARR and co-facilitated by IRC, coordinated the identification and response to protection incidents, including GBV survivors, support to community centres, various programmes and protection networks.
- UNHCR used a regional protection monitoring tool. This data collection mechanism was used as a basis for protection analysis, advocacy, and the formulation of key messages.
- In order to improve the protection of civilians, UNHCR strengthened the cooperation between the Protection Cluster and the Civil-Military Coordination Unit (CM-COORD) by organising capacity building sessions for civilian and military actors on several cross-cutting protection issues, including GBV and child protection.

EDUCATION

REFUGEES

- UNHCR and the government adopted an education strategy to enable all Nigerian refugee children to follow the Chadian curriculum.
- UNHCR and its partners built two primary schools with 25 classrooms and a secondary school in Dar Es Salam camp. The camp also has a high school, all of which contribute to the 2030 vision of full integration of refugees into the national education system.
- For the 2022-2023 school year, UNHCR and its partners enrolled more than 2,510 students, including 2,185 refugees, in primary school and 75 students, including 43 refugees, in secondary school. Twenty-four candidates, including 12 refugees, sat for the Brevet d'Enseignement Fundamental (BEF) exams in June 2023, and one refugee got his baccalaureate.

HEALTH & NUTRITION

- UNHCR worked with the Ministry of Health to ensure the availability of vaccines and medicines to treat various diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis, HIV, etc.
- In the Lake Region, UNHCR supported the Baga Sola health district with logistical services such as repairing ambulances to facilitate the transfer of patients. UNHCR also provided a generator to ensure the smooth running of the hospital.
- Health services in the Dar Es Salam refugee camp were integrated into the national system and were implemented in partnership with IRC and ADES, in collaboration with UNFPA, UNDP and the NGO IHDL.
- Health services were provided by 4 state-certified nurses, 3 midwives, 1 health technical officer, 1 laboratory technician and 14 community relays who provided services to displaced communities and the local population.
- In 2023, health services provided nearly 14,320 medical consultations, 230 mental health consultations and more than 11,500 HIV tests. Approximately 5,900 children were vaccinated, 500 pregnant women benefited from neonatal services, and 260

pregnant women delivered with the help of skilled personnel. Health workers also treated 2,560 malnourished children, 20% of whom were severely malnourished.

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

REFUGEES

- UNHCR and the World Food Programme (WFP) distributed monthly food assistance to the Dar Es Salam refugee camp. Nearly 18,400 refugees received assistance of $11 per person per month to meet their basic food needs.
- UNHCR and WFP adopted a joint strategy to improve self-sufficiency in food security and nutrition in situations of protracted displacement.

WATER, HYGIENE AND SANITATION

- Refugees in Dar Es Salam camp had access to drinking water of good quality and quantity. The minimum standard of 20 litres per person per day was met in 2023.
- Access to water was provided through 42 boreholes and six mini water points. Twenty-four water point management committees and one water user association support water management services in camps and settlements.
- In 2023, UNHCR and partners constructed 700 household latrines and 46 institutional latrines in schools, health centres and other public places. UNHCR and partners also trained 12 hygiene promoters and around ten repairers, waste collectors and water quality monitoring assistants to support hygiene and sanitation services in the camps and sites.

SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS

Refugees

- In Dar Es Salam camp, UNHCR constructed **1,616 adequate shelters using existing local materials, 109 using sustainable local materials, 962 emergency shelters and installed 418 refugee housing units (RHU).** Some 44% of refugees are living in family shelters, of which 5% of houses are made of durable materials, 44% have transitional shelters and 50% have emergency shelters that are more than 5 years old. With the continued arrival of asylum seekers, access to decent shelter remains a challenge with a gap of 56%. UNHCR provided technical support to refugees and IDPs in the construction of durable shelters.
- UNHCR also established, trained, and provided tools to the 60 member of shelter committee.

Internally displaced persons

- In 2023, UNHCR organised training for ten committees of 252 people on the construction of shelters in camps and sites.
- In 2023, UNHCR constructed 700 emergency tarpaulin shelters, 3,120 shelters made of local materials and 340 durable shelters in IDP sites in the Lac Province.

CAMP COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT

- The Baga Sola sub-delegation covers 258 IDP sites and one refugee camp. These sites and camps were administered by the CNARR and managed by the Chadian Red Cross.
- Camp and site coordination meetings were held regularly to monitor situation in the camps and sites. UNHCR supported the refugee committees through exchange meetings, training and support to enable refugees and IDPs to participate in the management of the camp and sites.
- UNHCR emphasized peaceful co-existence activities and complaint mechanisms, which helped to ensure accountability and social cohesion within the camp and sites.
- Seven humanitarian clusters were activated at the national level and were all operational to coordinate humanitarian activities in the Lac Province. UNHCR leads the Protection, CCCM and Shelter/CRI clusters.

ACCESS TO ENERGY

- The use of firewood is the main source of energy for cooking in Dar Es Salam camp, and many households do not have access to improved stoves. UNHCR worked to increase the production of improved stoves and assistance with doum cores (noyaux de dômes).
- Efforts are underway, in the camp and its sites, to raise awareness about desertification, excessive deforestation and global warming.
- In 2023, 364 households benefited each a tree, which they planted in their dwelling. A reforestation area was identified in the camp and 100 trees were planted.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF-RELIANCE

- UNHCR built a fish market for two mixed groups of 20 people, including eight refugees, eight hots community members and four IDPs in Baga Sola. The aim is to facilitate the socio-economic integration of Nigerian refugees and peaceful co-existence between refugees, IDPs and host populations, while strengthening their self-reliance. These groups were provided with working capital to sell fresh and dried fish. The fish was sold and exported to the different localities of the Lac Province, to N'Djamena, as well as to Cameroon and Nigeria.
- UNHCR also set up a goat farm in Dar Es Salam camp for the benefit of 24 refugee households breeding small ruminant.
- UNHCR is lobbying traditional authorities and landowners to allocate farming land to refugees. A total of 18 hectares of farming land were made available for five

mixed groups of refugees and hosts for market gardening and rain-fed agriculture activities.

DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- The results of the return intentions survey conducted by UNHCR in December 2021 show that 21% of Nigerian refugees consider local integration as a durable solution. In fact, most of these refugees have socio-cultural and family ties with host communities in Lac Province.
- Chad appears to be favourable to the local integration of refugee populations in terms of its nationality law. UNHCR worked with the National Agency for Secure Documents (ANATS) to issue birth certificates to refugee children born on Chadian territory and to whom the nationality law allows to get Chadian nationality upon reaching the age of majority (18 years).
- Further discussions are underway between the Government of Chad and the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria with a view of signing an agreement for the voluntary repatriation of Nigerian refugees with dignity.
- The Nigerian refugee population also includes people with profiles for whom resettlement would be the most appropriate durable solution, particularly because of the abuses and violations they have suffered in their countries of origin.

Funding Information

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