

UNHCR NIGERIA WEEKLY UPDATE

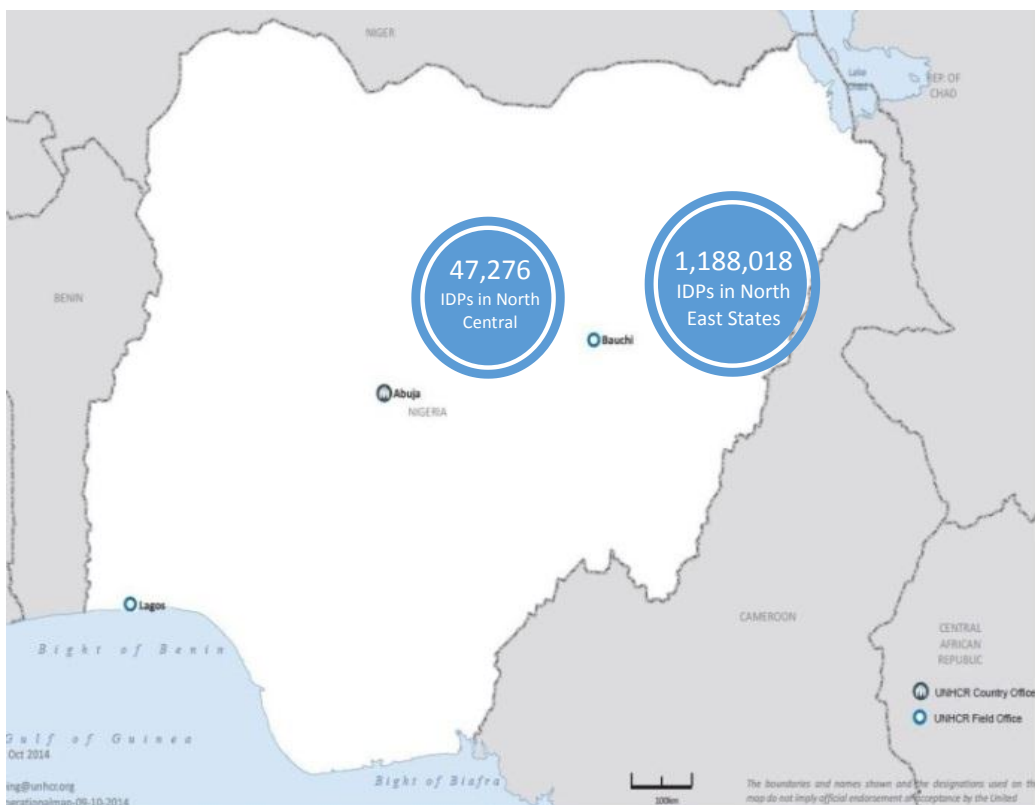
8 April 2015

HIGHLIGHTS



(Photo: Pupils at a makeshift primary school for IDPs in the Bauchi metropolis 16 March 2015 Tamfu ©UHNCR)

- Following the successful conclusion of the March 28 Presidential and National Assembly elections, Nigerians are preparing for the Governorship and State Houses of Assembly elections across the country, coming up next Saturday 11 April 2015.
- President-elect, General Muhammadu Buhari uses the Easter season to appeal for forgiveness among Nigerians for excesses experienced during the just ended election.
- The protection strategy has been validated by the Humanitarian Country Team setting the stage for an effective implementation of activities by the Protection Sector Working Group (PSWG) in favour of the IDPs.



KEY FIGURES

1,235,294

Internally Displaced People (agreed upon by both IOM and NEMA)

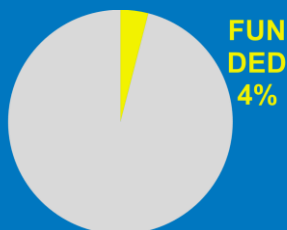
**2,120 refugees/
asylum seekers**

Refugees and Asylum seekers of mixed nationalities as of 17 January 2015

FUNDING

USD 23,024,553

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

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

- The governorship candidates of the major political parties are squaring up for the battle of the States on April 11, 2015. Except in few States the contest is expected to be fierce between the newly elected , All Progressives Congress APC, and the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) which has been ruling the country since 1999.
- In preparations for the election, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) announced on the 6th April 2015 that Card Readers would be used for Saturday's governorship and Houses of Assembly elections across the country. Despite the malfunctioning of the Card Readers in the preceding election and contrary to public expectation, INEC argues that the Commission has reviewed the operation of the Card Readers in the 28 March Elections, identified the challenges and has taken adequate measures to address them.
- The gubernatorial election promises to be very violent in some hot spots in the country. These include but not limited to North Central (NC) - Benue, Plateau, Nassarawa; North East (NE) - Borno, Yobe, Adamawa, Taraba; North West (NW) - Kaduna, Kano, Zamfara; South South (SS) - Rivers, Akwa Ibom, Edo; South East (SE) - Enugu, Imo; South West (SW) – Lagos. security threat assessment report conducted by the CLEEN Foundation revealed that over 80 per cent of the states had a high rate of security threat possibility. No doubt security measures are being taken to pre-empt any eventuality. The Commandant General (CG) of Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps, NSCDC, has directed the Corps personnel to re strategize towards the April 11 poll, urging the electorates to be vigilant in order to fish out those that are out to ferment trouble. The C.G. Dr. Ade Abolurin has charged his Zonal Commanders and State Commandants to ensure effective deployment of personnel to all nooks and crannies by replicating and doubling their efforts in providing adequate security during the election.
- In the meantime, aftershocks of the March 28 elections are still ongoing in the country. Global leaders including US President Barack Obama, British Premier David Cameron, UN SG Ban Ki-Moon, and other Heads States and international organisations have congratulated Nigerians, especially the President-elect, Maj.Gen. Muhammadu Buhari (ret'd.), President Goodluck Jonathan and the Chairman, Independent National Electoral Commission, Prof. Attahiru Jega, for the successful conduct of presidential and National Assembly polls. French President Francois Hollande spoke with President-elect, Muhammadu Buhari, on the telephone on 2 April and invited him to Paris for discussions on the expansion of trade between France and Nigeria at same moment as the Naira bounced back powerfully against the dollar and the Euro. US President Barack Obama has awarded the INEC boss with a "Certificate of Commendation" for his outstanding and sterling performance.
- In a reconciliatory gesture, President-elect Muhammadu Buhari has assured President Goodluck Jonathan that he has nothing to fear. In his acceptance speech after being declared the winner of presidential election and presented with certificate of return in Abuja on Wednesday, Buhari said "despite the rancour of the elections," he harboured no grudge against anyone. To prove this, he extended "a hand of friendship and conciliation to President Jonathan and his team.
- While celebrating his victory Muhammadu Buhari, has issued an audacious vow to crush the jihadi group, Boko Haram, which has tormented Nigerians for years, with an estimated 20,000 people killed. The President elect reiterated his stand against the insurgents by warning as it were that they "will soon know our strength". In an apparent move to Buhari's resolve, the insurgents attacked Gombe killing five people. Suspected members of the sect also attacked Kwajafa village in Borno State killing 24 persons and injuring over a dozen others on the 6 April as 7 civilians were killed in attacks in Chad. This latest show of bravado is an indication that the war is not yet over. "I assure you the insurgents will soon know the strength of our collective will and commitment to ridding this nation of terror and bringing back peace and normalcy to all affected areas," he said. In 2013, the notorious militant group named Buhari its preferred negotiator, an offer he flatly rejected.

IDP Operation

- The Co-chairs of the PSWG at the national level, UNHCR and the National Human Rights Commission will attend and support the formal establishment of the PSWG at the Adamawa State level on 09 April 2015. During such meeting, the two agencies will seek to ensure that activities undertaken at the State level are in line with the overall protection strategy.
- The revised 2015 IDP strategy and action plan for the country was adopted and validated by the HCT on the 2 April 2015. Implementation of activities will be scaled up while a review of the Strategy is planned for July 2015 to keep

pace with the rapidly evolving situation in the North East and to coincide with the mid-term review of the Strategic Response Plan (SRP).

- The Federal Government has begun the distribution of relief support through the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to the returning Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Adamawa State. The distribution is a follow-up to the recent assessment carried out by the Presidential Initiative on the North East (PINE) led by Minister of Youth Development Mr Boni Haruna in the liberated communities. The exercise is aimed at supporting the returnees to gradually settle back to their homes.
- NEMA has informed that the relief distribution would be continuous and in all communities affected by insurgency as part of the renewed efforts by the Federal Government to restore normalcy, rehabilitate the affected persons and reconstruct damaged infrastructure in the communities.
- In this connection, the PSWG has initiated the drafting of a return strategy paper to articulate the support of the UN to the GoN. The strategy which will be informed by all sectorial aspects will be a living HCT document guiding the UN'S support to the GoN in this important area, ensuring the bridging of the relief-recovery gap.
- At least 70, 000 internally displaced persons from camps located within Maiduguri voted during the presidential elections. Despite, concerns over generalized insecurity, many IDPs including in Adamawa managed to cast their votes.

Refugee Operation

RSD

- 12 RSD assessments were reviewed during the period in preparation for the next session of the Eligibility Committee.
- Follow-ups were made on four individual cases referred from the counseling session of the government partner (NCFRMI) on RSD issues.

Resettlement

- Follow-ups made with IOM towards the travel authorizations for three Nigerian minors pending family reunification with their parents in Argentina.
- The Office submitted the global resettlement needs for Nigeria on the 2 April 2015. Projected resettlement needs for Nigeria in 2016 are set at 39 cases of 124 individuals.

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Websites

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

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