

UNHCR NIGERIA WEEKLY UPDATE

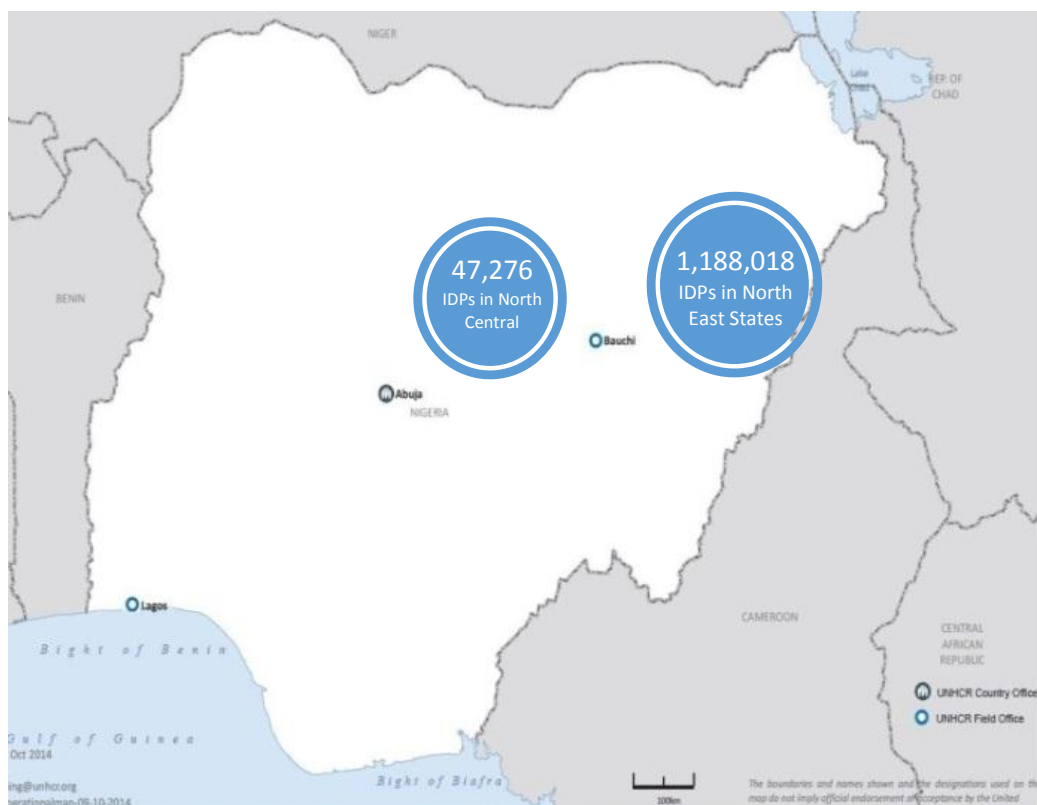
1 April 2015

HIGHLIGHTS



(Photo: UNHCR community service staff engage with community IDPs on the outskirts of Gombe metropolis in Gombe State 17 March 2015 Tamfu ©UHNCR)

- Nigeria's President-elect Muhammadu Buhari promised Wednesday to work with his opponent for a peaceful transition and called on Nigerians to do the same, after voters in Africa's top economy ousted an incumbent for the first time.
- Nigeria's main opposition the All People's Congress (APC) won both the presidency and the 109 member Senate. It grabbed 62 seats while the outgoing Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, got 47 seats.
- 310 Protection Monitors recently trained by UNHCR and National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) have started working on the field and feedbacks have already been received.



KEY FIGURES

1,235,294

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

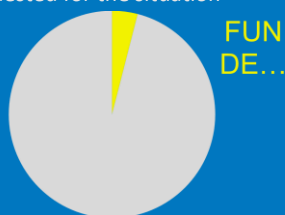
2,120 Refugees

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

- Official results announced Wednesday showed Buhari winning by 2.57 million votes. The Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, said Buhari won 15.4 million votes or 53.95 percent while his nearest rival, Jonathan, won 12.8 million votes or 44.96 percent of the 28.6 million total valid votes cast.
- Fear and concerns of impending violence after the announcement came to naught as Jonathan called Buhari to congratulate him even before the official declaration of the results. It was an unprecedented gesture in contemporary African politics which marked a clean break from the politics of bitterness on the continent. Nigeria has thus undoubtedly become a pacesetter and can now confidently play the role of big brother for the rest of Africa. On 1 April, the president-elect received the Certificate of Return from INEC which is the evidence that a candidate for any election had been duly certified elected by INEC. General Buhari was expected to address a world press conference after the certificate presentation.
- It was a gripping contest between the two contenders with occasional clashes among supporters across the country. In the southern Cross River State, the election was marred by irregularities. The opposition APC filled in a petition which INEC investigated and considered not sufficient to cancel the elections. The election was hit by hitches in relation to the new voter technology and claims of irregularities. With generalized dissatisfaction over security, corruption and the faltering economy as oil revenues dived, voters turned out in an unprecedented opportunity for change.
- The opposition All Progressives Congress, APC has won a majority of 62 seats in the Senate, while the ruling People's Democratic party, PDP won 47 seats. Therefore, the All Progressives Congress, APC will form the majority in the Senate when the 8th National Assembly is inaugurated on the 7th of June 2015.
- The peaceful outcome of the Nigerian Presidential election has been generally greeted and saluted by individual personalities, the national and international community. The UN Secretary-General has congratulated the President-elect Buhari and commended President Jonathan for his leadership throughout the electoral process. He also applauded the INEC for having organized and carried out the elections in a professional manner under challenging circumstances and remarked that the successful conduct of these polls is testimony of the maturity of Nigeria's democracy expressing the hope that the same democratic spirit will prevail in the conduct of the Governorship and State House of Assembly elections. US President Barack Obama has congratulated the president-elect of Nigeria, saying the election has "shown the world the strength" of Nigeria's commitment to Democratic ideals.
- The election result has coincided with the capture of the last stronghold of the insurgents' Malam Fatori near the border with the Republic of Niger. Regional forces have claimed a string of successes in recent weeks against the insurgents forcing the militants out of towns they had occupied in northeastern Nigeria. It is hoped that the new Nigerian leader will intensify the battle against the terrorist which he has vowed he will not tolerate.

IDP Operation

- 310 Protection Monitors recently trained by UNHCR and NHRC have started work on the field and some feedback has already been received. Their work will be reinforced following the peaceful conduct of the election and when they soon will begin using procured smartphones configured for data collection and timely sharing of same for equally timely response.
- UNHCR is working on a draft position paper to ensure that humanitarian principles are upheld with regards to the returning IDPs. The draft will be presented to the HCT for validation when finalized.
- UNHCR will organise a two day IDPs protection coordination learning programme for all Protection Cluster members at national and sub-national levels, including civil society and government counterparts, as well as members of sub-Clusters/Areas of Responsibilities.
- The Federal Government has commenced massive distribution of relief supports through the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) that have returned to their communities which were recently liberated by the military from insurgents in Adamawa State. Flagging off the relief distribution

in Mubi, Vice President Namadi Sambo said it was a follow-up to the recent assessment carried out by a Presidential Committee led by the Minister of Youth Development Mr Boni Haruna in the liberated communities and aimed at supporting the returnees to gradually settle back to their homes. He said 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.

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Websites

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

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