

UNHCR NIGERIA WEEKLY UPDATE

26 June – 2 July 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

KEY FIGURES

1,385,298

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

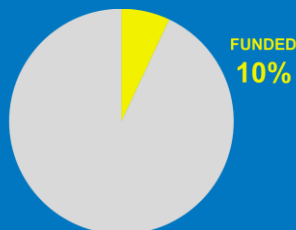
**2,199 refugees/
asylum seekers**

Refugees and Asylum seekers as of 31
May 2015

FUNDING

USD 29,611,512

Requested for the situation



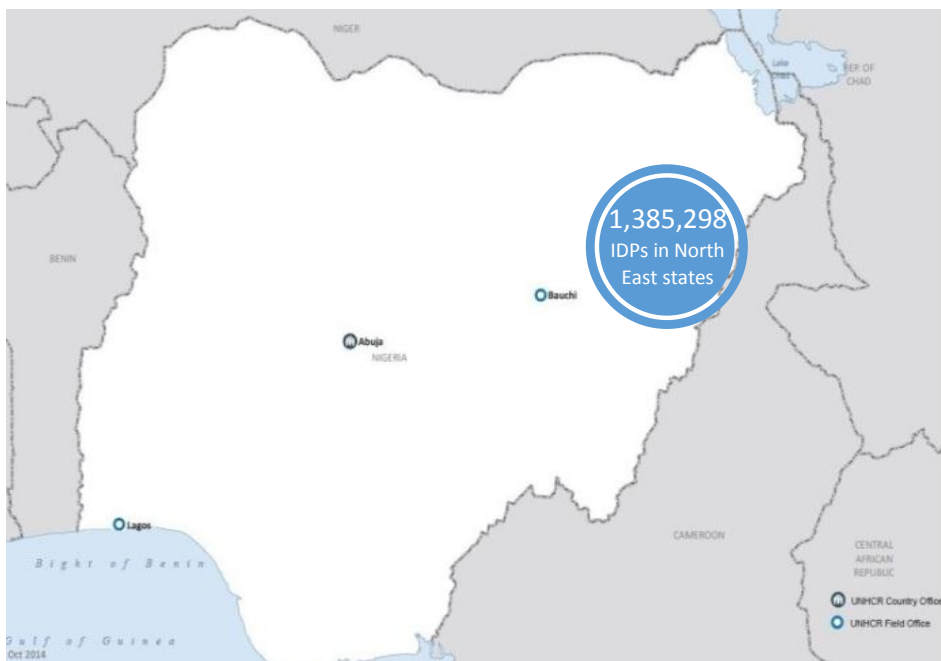
PRIORITIES

- 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
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UNHCR Snr Liaison Officer, Mr. Wahid Ben Amor, and the Ag Director, Relief & Rehabilitation, FCT Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Mrs. Rachael Alikali, flagging off the distribution of non-food items to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Abuja. Garriba@UNHCR.

- As part of follow-up on the ECOWAS declaration on the eradication of statelessness, UNHCR and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), on 30 June, organized a stakeholders meeting on statelessness.
- UNHCR intervened with Core Relief Items (CRIs) in Damaturu to assist 600 households, which were recently displaced as a result of attacks by insurgents on four villages.
- UNHCR has conducted a review of the level 2 Emergency for the Nigeria Situation, which was declared on 13 February, 2015, through a mission aimed at assessing the merits and demerits of the emergency and to propose possible adjustments.



UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- The security situation in the Northeast continues to deteriorate despite measures taken so far by the new administration. Insurgents have gone on a wild offensive attacking and killing with impunity almost on a daily basis. The wave of violence, especially in Borno, Bauchi and Yobe, has kept in displacement an estimated 1,491,706 persons, as identified by the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). The activities of the group may not have a direct effect on UN staff and operations, but the threat of terrorism is ever present and unpredictable, with the sect adopting a “hit and run strategy,” especially in Borno and Yobe states. Their intention is apparently to trigger panic in areas recently liberated by the MNJTF.
- Terrorists carried out 9 attacks at different places in the Northeast with 5 of them in Borno State and another in Yobe State. Of note are the two terrorist attacks on separate dates at Molai General Hospital in Maiduguri metropolis. There was also an attempted attack in a medical facility in Maiduguri Teaching Hospital where a young man was arrested when explosives strapped to his body accidentally dropped off.
- On 1 July, insurgents attacked Musaram village in Monguno LGA of Borno state, reportedly killing over 40 persons. The insurgents were said to have separated men from women before killing the men then abducted the women. According to media reports, the insurgents attacked a Mosque as the Muslim faithful were observing evening prayers. Over 90 persons were killed, some of them shot dead while others had their throats slit. The insurgents also burnt down several houses in the town.
- According to media reports, suspected terrorists on 1 July also killed 148 people, with 68 sustaining injuries in another attack carried out on homes and mosques in Borno state. One of the survivors who escaped to Maiduguri, the state capital, gave a horrific account of how the terrorists surrounded the entire village of Kukawa and started shooting sporadically at the time the Muslim faithful were about to break their fast for the day.
- There were three incidents of armed confrontation between insurgents and the military – 2 in Yobe State and 1 in Borno State. There were also 2 reported cases of civil unrest in Plateau State, with 4 persons killed and up to 15 injured, including 6 soldiers.
- It is worth noting that security clearance requests, which are approved from Abuja, now go through an elaborate process that takes up to 5 working days and involves sign-off by UNHCR Representative before being taken to UNDSS offices for the CSA to sign, after which a hard copy is taken to the DO for final approval.
- Joined by other members of government, the diplomatic corps, and members of the general public, President Muhammadu Buhari has condemned the attacks, restating his resolve to use every available means to bring the activities of the insurgents to a halt.
- Buhari has also commended steps being taken by the office of the National Security Adviser (NSA) and other agencies of government to rehabilitate victims of terrorism and violent extremism in Nigeria. He spoke in Abuja after receiving a briefing on the work of the Countering Violent Extremism Department in the NSA’s office. According to a statement issued by his aide, Buhari said the Federal Government will continue to do its best to ensure that victims of terrorism receive necessary support, even as his government will strive to rid the country of insurgency in the shortest possible time.

IDP OPERATION

- UNHCR and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) held a meeting at the NHRC headquarters, Abuja, with focus on the concept, causes, and consequences of statelessness. Other issues discussed included the legal framework on statelessness, “I Belong” campaign and the Abidjan Declaration, statelessness and risks in Nigeria, implementation and partnership building, as well as the next steps and recommendations. Decrying the increasing risks of statelessness in Nigeria, UNHCR Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Mrs. Angèle Dikonguè-Atangana, and NHRC Executive Secretary, Professor Bem Angwe, advised the federal government to urgently address the issue of statelessness. The meeting concluded on the resolve to reconvene for the drafting of a national action plan to combat statelessness in Nigeria before the end of 2015.

- UNHCR undertook field assessment mission to Shehu Sanda Kyarimi II IDP camp in Maiduguri, Borno State. Established in April 2014, the camp hosts about 8,000 IDPs from Dikwa and Mafa LGAs. The IDPs identified shelter, WASH, education and livelihood as their major needs.
- UNHCR also participated in a one-day UNICEF-led Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) workshop in Maiduguri, where focus was on the six grave offences perpetuated against children during armed conflict situations and sources for reporting on such cases.
- UNHCR SO Bauchi hosted the Level 2 Emergency Review Team when it visited Gwallaga primary school, within Bauchi metropolis, where they met 30 IDPs, a majority of them being women. During the interactive session, IDPs expressed the need for increased advocacy with the Nigerian Government so as to hasten improvement of the security situation and enable their return to their habitual places of residence. The women further enumerated their challenges in accessing basic needs; food, NFIs and shelter assistance.
- Core Relief Items intervention targeted 30 HH of the most vulnerable IDPs in Gwallaga ward. This intervention was decided after a thorough community participatory assessment conducted in this ward and the establishment of links with IDPs and host communities.
- The protection unit of UNHCR SO Bauchi drafted a summary of field protection activities, a psycho-social project, as well as livelihoods concept final document which it shared with BO Abuja for further consideration and approval by the Representative.
- The Nigerian Federal Government, working closely with relevant actors, has finalized a resettlement and reintegration plan which sets out joint actions in support of return and other solutions for IDPs. The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), following the PSWG technical guidance and support, has also outlined a position paper for ensuring that return of IDPs is carried out in a manner that is consistent with international standards, particularly underlining the importance of ensuring that the return takes place voluntarily and in a manner that guarantees safety, security, freedom of movement, recovery of property and land, access to basic services, and reconstruction.
- Bauchi State First Lady invited UNHCR to participate in the distribution of Core Relief Items to IDP orphans and widows currently in Bauchi. The agency undertook the initiative in order to provide succor to the most vulnerable IDPs during the Holy Month of Ramadan. The First Lady was accompanied on the distribution exercise by the Head of SO Bauchi, after which they planned to discuss the way forward to partner in alleviating the precarious situation of IDPs.
- UNHCR also intervened with Core Relief Items (CRIs) in Damaturu to assist 600 households, which were recently displaced as a result of attacks by insurgents on four villages (Gambir, Malanti, Mutiri and Alhaji Amaduri) in Damaturu LGA. The intervention involved 2 bags of rice, 1 carton of Maggi, 1 carton of vegetable oil, 1 bag of sugar, 100 mattresses, 100 Jerry cans (20 litre) of kerosene, 5 cartons of Vaseline, 6 cartons of Septol soap, 6 bundles of treated mosquito nets, and 2 bales of blanket.
- UNHCR Head of Field Unit in Yola met with Deputy Governor of Adamawa to discuss the extension of the UNHCR shelter project in Benue State to Adamawa. The Governor used the occasion to present the project to the Vice President of Nigeria, Yemi Osinbajo, during the latter's visit to Yola. In this regard, stakeholders are expected to meet with the objective of fast-tracking the approval of lands for the project.
- A final draft of project proposal on vulnerability screening has been developed and shared based on a previously agreed concept note on the topic. This project covers all the six affected Northeastern states of Nigeria for a period of five months, starting from August 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015. The project of vulnerability screening and registration of vulnerable IDP will be a direct implementation by UNHCR using incentive workers from NRCS and NYSC, including six from the United Nations Office for Project Services, (UNOPS), field supervisors (one per state). The system will use online database and tablets for data collection.
- A UNHCR team has been participating in joint assessment exercises in the areas of potential return of IDPs in Adamawa, with the agency vesting to lead the activities in the two (2) LGAs of Hong and Mahia. Six UNHCR staff, drawn from Abuja and Bauchi, participated in these activities.
- During the reporting week, a four-day joint UNHCR and NEMA Camp Co-ordination and Camp Management (CCCM) training was completed in Damaturu, Yobe State. The training, co-ordinated closely with SEMA Yobe, was attended by 30

participants representing SEMA, State Ministries, local government representatives, UNICEF, INGOs, CBOs, FBOs and leaders of IDPs.

- The Senior Shelter Assistant in Bauchi had a meeting with the deputy governor, heads of specialized services, legislators of most affected LGAs and the SEMA Executive Secretary on the lands allocation for shelter. Considering the level of the receptivity of the shelter project in Adamawa, it is critical for UNHCR to have on board a more experienced shelter expert and to quickly develop a roadmap to facilitate the implementation of this important project.
- The Vice President Yemi Osinbajo of Nigeria visited the Yola National Youth Service Corp, NYSC Camp but most of the Humanitarian workers were at a Joint Assessment Training at the ABTI American University of Nigeria (AUN), Yola. SEMA quoted the VP as promising that the Federal Government will repair all infrastructures destroyed in the affected communities and ensure that houses are provided and the lives of the IDPs return to normal in the shortest possible time. The Vice President said the tour was to enable him meet Nigerian citizens affected by the insurgency and to understand first-hand their concerns so as to enable the Federal Government respond adequately in finding sustainable solutions to their challenges.
- The Head of UNHCR Field Unit, NEMA, NRCS and SEMA hosted three members of the United Nations Human Rights Council Team from Geneva, who were in the Adamawa state to assess the conditions of the IDPs in respect of Human rights violations. The stakeholders briefed them on the background and present situation of the IDPs.
- The FSA has undertaken an assessment mission to Yola, Adamawa State capital, to evaluate the three premises identified for field unit office accommodation. A report was drafted, to be shared with SO Bauchi and BO Abuja.
- UNHCR is discussing the issue of military presence in camps with SEMA and NEMA, following complaints by IDPs of restricted movement, a traumatic experience faced by some families fleeing the insurgency, which may worsen their psychological state of mind and lead to Post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD.
- UNHCR is advocating for the replacement of military personnel by the regular police, and to be complemented with support from riot police unit, if need be. The idea is to reduce the incidence of human rights abuses.
- Some 163 men and 187 women from Bama LGA, Borno State, were received in Dalori IDP camp in Maiduguri. NEMA/SEMA have requested UNHCR to intervene with emergency shelter kits, which at the moment are not in stock.
- UNHCR, in collaboration with SEMA Yobe and NRCS, has effectively intervened with the distribution of CRIs to 100 households of persons displaced during the recent attacks by insurgents on 4 villages in Damaturu LGA.
- Through community-based approaches and direct engagement with IDPs, UNHCR head of field unit has identified 10 children with health problems in the host communities in Damaturu. Meanwhile, through the advocacy mechanisms, UNICEF, SEMA and the Ministry of Health provided medical support to these vulnerable children, and UNHCR has also included them on the list of beneficiaries of CRIs.
- In collaboration with the respective State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMA), UNHCR has supported the establishment of three Protection Sector Working Groups in Yola (Adamawa State), Damaturu (Yobe State), and Gombe (Gombe State), with imminent establishment of a similar group in Maiduguri (Borno State). UNHCR and the State Ministry of Women Affairs in Yobe have also supported the establishment of GBV sub-sector which will provide a platform for co-ordination of interventions for GBV response and prevention.
- In Adamawa, UNHCR engaged and listened to many people who were displaced from their economic zones in the border with Niger Republic, and determined their needs, and through UNHCR's advocacy at the Yola PSWG, this population has been incorporated for support in the form of Core Relief Items from different agencies.
- UNHCR has completed plans for a vulnerability screening project that targets support to the most vulnerable households. The project, to be implemented in the six states in the Northeast, aims at developing a regularly updated database of 20,500 (102,500 individuals) vulnerable households.

- The Executive Secretary of SEMA, Alh Isa Jidawa, has lauded UNHCR for organizing training in Damaturu, which has the potential of helping participants in the discharge of their humanitarian work. He urged the participants to embrace the tenets of the training as that will enormously assist them in their work.

External Relations

- UNHCR participated on a Network Radio Nigeria talk show programme (Radio link) on IDPs in the Country alongside UNICEF and a national NGO, Planned Parenthood of Nigeria. The talk show provided an occasion for UNHCR's Snr. Protection Officer to clarify public opinion on the core mandate of UNHCR and its role within the context of the ongoing displacement crises in the country.

ECOWAS OPERATION

- Three pending high-level Advocacy/Sensitization missions in Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia and Nigeria, supported by UNHCR Representatives and teams in Abidjan and Monrovia, and Abuja have been conducted between 29 June and 7 July 2015 by ECOWAS Commissioner for Social Affairs & Gender and her team. This brings to an end the implementation of the post July 2011 Ministerial Conference activities, funded by the Government of Finland. The latter participated in the missions in Abidjan and Abuja, through the Embassy of Finland to Nigeria and ECOWAS.

REFUGEE OPERATION

- Four (4) Togolese and one (1) Congolese (DR) asylum seekers approached UNHCR FO Lagos for registration, while 5 new ID cards were issued and 13 renewed.

RSD

- From 30 June to 2 July, 2015, a three-day training on RSD was conducted for the new NCFRMI RSD Officer in Lagos on the topics: Introduction to RSD, Inclusion criteria under the 1951 Convention, COI, Credibility Assessment, Exclusion Clauses and Extended Refugee Definition. The training was facilitated by UNHCR FO Lagos Protection Associate.

Resettlement

- Two (2) families of 13 persons were interviewed for resettlement consideration.

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Websites

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

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