

## UNHCR NIGERIA WEEKLY UPDATE

03 – 10 July, 2015

### HIGHLIGHTS

## KEY FIGURES

**1,385,298**

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

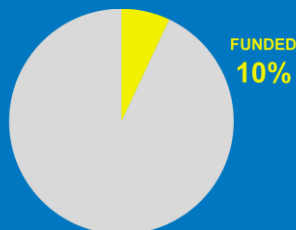
**2,199 refugees/  
asylum seekers**

Refugees and Asylum seekers as of 31  
May 2015 (UNHCR)

## FUNDING

**USD 29,611,512**

Requested for the situation



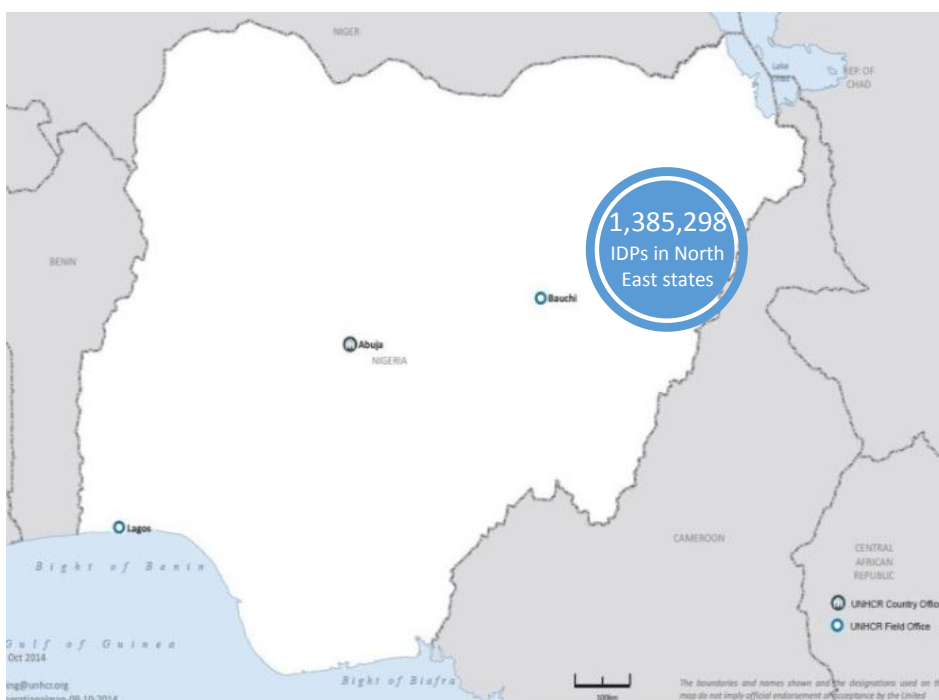
## PRIORITIES

- Profiling of vulnerable groups
- Protection monitoring
- Advocating for and implementing targeted services
- Capacity strengthening in protection and coordination
- Advocacy for policy and legal framework
- Advocating for comprehensive durable solutions for IDPs and refugees



IDPs in FCT, Abuja still live in very deplorable hygiene and other situations. **PIC: GOREN@UNHCR**

- Three months after the declaration of Level 2 Emergency, a review mission from the HQ in Geneva and RRWA in Dakar visited Nigeria to review UNHCR activities and response. The aim of the mission was to identify the achievements and gaps and recommend measures to address any challenges. Members of the mission held consultations with UNHCR management, staff and partners in Abuja and visited field offices in the Northeast.
- 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 individuals from Dikwa and Mafa local government areas. IDPs identified shelter, WASH, education and livelihood as the essential issues affecting their welfare.



## UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

### OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- The security situation in Northeastern Nigeria continues to worsen, with violence by terrorists increasing in its intensity and impact on civilians. Insurgents have resumed attacks on worship centers – churches and mosques – and reports by security and government officials indicate that insurgents are planning massive attacks on installations in major cities, including the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. Military forces and the police have reintroduced checkpoints. It is noted that the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari had earlier ordered the removal of these checkpoints. Chadian security forces announced that they had seized a large weapon cache, including guns, rockets and ammunition, in a house in N'Djamena occupied by suspected members of the sect, which has resumed its guerrilla tactics.
- During a one-day visit by Vice President Yemi Osinbajo to Maiduguri, the Borno State capital suspected insurgents unleashed two separate attacks on Borno villages in a space of 48 hours, killing 145 persons and injuring several others. In another development, thousands of people have since fled their homes in Maraban-Foron village of Barkin Ladi Local Government Area of Plateau State, following the deployment of soldiers alleged to be members of the Special Task Force (STF). Although the state government put the death toll at 44 and 48 injured, media reports said no fewer than 100 people were feared killed in twin explosions in the Plateau State capital of Jos on 5 July.
- A female suicide bomber also blew herself up outside a popular Mosque in the Kano metropolis, Kano State, a few minutes after faithful rounded off their night prayers. It was gathered from press accounts that 11 defecting members of the sect had their throats slit by the group in order to instill discipline among members of the terror group.
- Besides the return of military checkpoints ordered by the Nigerian military, the Inspector-General of Police (IGP) Solomon Arase, has also mandated State Command Commissioners of Police to strengthen security at all mosques, churches and other worship centers across the country in an effort to curtail the attacks on such prayer grounds. The Bauchi State Police Command has advised civilians to be on the alert following the twin blasts in parts of neighbouring Jos metropolis, Plateau State.
- Governor Kashim Shettima of Borno State has called on the government to grant amnesty to the terrorists, a suggestion which has sparked off controversy nationwide. Meanwhile, following recent allegations by Amnesty International (AI) of crime against humanity and human rights abuses, a Maiduguri-based group, Borno/Yobe Elders Forum, has called on the Nigerian Government to rapidly institute a Judicial Commission of Inquiry to fully investigate the matter and bring to book all individuals and groups found culpable.
- President Buhari has said Nigeria would welcome more foreign assistance in the country, promising to take every necessary action to significantly improve the operating environment for domestic and international companies in the country, as part of its efforts to boost employment. Many opinions have attributed the insurgency raging in the Northeast to youth unemployment and idleness. Condemning the killing by terrorists of 148 people in villages in Borno State, Buhari declared that Nigeria was making progress in the war against the deadly group.
- The Nigerian president also promised that the Federal Government will soon embark on rebuilding and rehabilitating villages, towns, houses, markets and places of worship destroyed as a result of insurgency in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states. President Buhari sacked security chiefs, who worked under former President Goodluck Jonathan and appointed new officials whom he tasked to tackle insurgents operating in the Northeast.

### IDP OPERATION

- PSWG met on 2 July and key protection issues were discussed, including situation updates, operationalizing the PSWG position paper of return of IDPs, planning for a PSWG retreat, updates on activities implemented (since last meeting), and briefings from CP and SGBV sub-working groups. PSWG agreed to hold a retreat from 6 - 7 August, 2015.
- Protection monitoring snapshot showing the presence of monitors, coverage, trends, and protection concerns have been shared with PSWG.

- In response to the adoption of the declaration on statelessness by ECOWAS Heads of Government, NHRC and UNHCR organized a one-day stakeholders meeting on 30 June at the NHRC headquarters in Abuja. Key conclusions of the meeting included the development of an action plan, undertaking of a fact-finding exercise, and carrying out of coordinated advocacy on statelessness with support from UNHCR Dakar office.
- A second meeting of IDP policy and Legal Framework task-team held on 1 July. During the meeting it was agreed that a draft policy be shared and reviewed, consultation with the Ministry of Justice be held concerning a draft national bill on IDPs, and collaboration with respect to planning of workshop for parliamentarians be held.
- UNHCR participated in a one-day UNICEF-led Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) workshop in Maiduguri, Borno State. Focus was on the six grave offences perpetrated against children during armed conflict situations and sources for reporting on such cases. The body will constitute key child protection stakeholders.
- On 10 July, UNHCR engaged in familiarization, sharing of visibility materials and exchange of contacts with the office of the Nigeria Immigration Service in Makurdi, and explained the agency's activities in the State. This is because UNHCR would eventually need the assistance of the Immigration Service in resolving the refugee situation in Abinsi, situated about 25kms from Makurdi town.

## External Relations

- On 1 July, UNHCR had a teleconference with the World Bank's social development department on its impending engagements with the Nigeria Government. During the Teleconference, UNHCR's Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS presented an overview of the agency's activities in Nigeria and its perspective and vision on development of IDP-affected areas. Participants from the World Bank were appreciative of UNHCR's contribution, which they found invaluable to their plans.

## ECOWAS OPERATION

- The second ECOWAS Diplomats' meeting for 2015, organized by UNHCR Abuja, took place on 8 July, 2015. The aim of the meeting was to gather diplomats from ECOWAS Member States, ECOWAS Commission, Humanitarian Affairs Directorate and UNHCR to follow up on recommendations of the 5th edition of ECOWAS Ambassadors' Retreat held in Makurdi, Benue State, in January 2015. It was attended by Representatives of the following Embassies: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Guinea, Nigeria and Senegal. Opening the meeting, UNHCR Senior Liaison Officer to ECOWAS, on behalf of the UNHCR Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS, emphasized that these meetings were important in the strengthening of UNHCR-ECOWAS partnership. He was corroborated by Representative of the Benin Embassy (Coordinator of ECOWAS Ambassadors).

## REFUGEE OPERATION

- UNHCR FO Lagos undertook a mission to Ijebu Ode to meet with refugees, during which refugees raised the major concern of lack of information on the outcome of the US Cultural Orientation Circuit ride which came on mission to Nigeria in 2014. Unfortunately the office had no update on the circuit ride mission at the time of the meeting. Other concerns expressed on livelihoods and health were discussed with partners for follow-up.
- Three out of 6 refugees on skill training received transportation allowances, while others were not available at the time of payment. 14 persons with special needs were assisted with monthly subsistence allowances.
- During monitoring of trainees at the Skills Training Centre, it was discovered that one out of the six students had dropped out of the program, and follow-up was agreed upon to find out why.
- A list of 13 refugees was submitted to the Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation (WAPA) in charge of Lagos State Government skill training centers for enrollment on various skills training.

## Registration

- 14 asylum seekers approached the office during the period in review, including 6 Togolese, 6 Central Africans, 1 Malian and 1 Cameroonian.

## Resettlement

- 4 cases of 20 persons were interviewed for possible resettlement consideration during the period.
- During the report period, 12 ID cards were re-issued while 4 new ones were issued.

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### **Websites**

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

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