

Nigeria Situation

01-31 October 2017

1,713,771*

IDPs in Nigeria *1.65 million **displaced by the insurgency** (NEMA/IOM DTM Report, Round XIX, October 2017)

206,177

Nigerian refugees **displaced by the insurgency** in Cameroon, Chad and Niger as of 31 October 2017 (or latest figures available).

HIGHLIGHTS AND OPERATIONAL CONTEXT



- In Nigeria the security situation was marked by increase in the number of attacks. More than 50 persons (civilian and military) were killed in either ambushes or suicide attacks, dozens more were injured and property destroyed. Roads are being closed as a result making humanitarians intervention more difficult. In Cameroon, attacks and incursions by Boko Haram (BH) decreased by more than half in number since August, to 17 incidents, but these resulted in more civilian deaths. As reports have shown in recent months, BH have been focusing their attacks on civilians, farmers and small villages. Land mine victims were also recorded, raising concern over return movements and humanitarian access but other protection incidents such as kidnappings also saw a decline in frequency. The number of fighters surrendering to Cameroonian authorities rose as a result of the Government's deradicalization efforts. In Chad, incursions by suspected BH militants took place on 16 and 19 October in Garoua, a small locality situated 20 km south-west of Baga Sola. Chadian military elements were present on 19 October and are reported to have killed one militant and arrested three others. In Niger, very minor incidents were reported, making October one of the most stable months of 2017. Despite continuing restrictions on UN staff movement, no interruptions in assistance were reported.
- As part of the implementation of the Tripartite Agreement signed between the governments of Cameroon, Nigeria and UNHCR on the voluntary repatriation of Nigerian refugees living in Cameroon, UNHCR Cameroon undertook a mission to Nigeria during the first week of October. Information collected will be shared with refugees living in Cameroon in the context of ongoing awareness-raising sessions carried out to ensure returns in accordance with the Agreement. Additionally, in Nigeria, on 28 October, a 16 member Tripartite mission assessment team composed of representatives from the Nigerian Government visited IDP camps in Maiduguri. Both missions aimed to assess conditions in returns areas. Similar visits will take place in Yobe and Adamawa States.
- In Chad, from 2-4 October, the French Ambassador to Chad His Excellency Philippe Lacoste and the UNHCR Representative in Chad went to the Lac region to visit refugees, IDPs and their hosts. The mission was briefed on the Lac region's strong agro-pastoral potential and on the challenges it faces.
- After ECOWAS member states signed the Abidjan Declaration on statelessness in February 2015 and the Banjul Action Plan in May 2017, Niger for its part completed the elaboration of its National Action Plan on 27 October, within the context of the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness. The 3rd anniversary of the #IBELONG campaign will be celebrated on 4 November.



Update on achievements

NIGERIA

- UNHCR and its partners distributed NFIs to IDPs in Banki, Damaturu and Maiduguri. In Maiduguri, the Nigerian Immigration Service's (NIS) registration centre was completed and will be used by NIS officers to register returning refugees from Cameroon. Furthermore, in response to pressing shelter needs in Banki, the Ministry of Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Reintegration completed the construction of 500 shelters in UNHCR's new shelter project site.
- An electronic Access to Justice case management system was rolled out and will allow information from the Nigerian Bar Association to be readily and easily available to UNHCR. An initial 500 cases were migrated to the system during the month. For its part, UNHCR completed the refurbishment of the Federal Ministry of Justice Liaison Office in Maiduguri, which should enable the Office to effectively coordinate the investigation and prosecution of 130 alleged terrorism cases pending court trial.
- From 25 to 26 October, UNHCR trained 70 NIS officers in Maiduguri. The training covered IDP protection, SGBV and assistance to Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs). It included sessions on the Tripartite Agreement and on how to register returnees using a tablet computer.

CAMEROON

In Cameroon, on 12 October, the Governor of the Far North Region visited Mozogo in the Mayo Tsanaga department, accompanied by UNHCR. There he met with 487 former Cameroonian Boko Haram hostages who had settled in this spot in February, after returning from Nigeria. The Governor instructed that they be relocated to Zamai and suggested putting in place an integration and reintegration plan. UN agencies in the region have been providing multisectoral assistance in Zamai: NFIs and shelter (UNHCR), latrines and showers (UNICEF) and food (WFP).

CHAD

- To address the significant number of protection-related incidents in the 'Lac' region (more than 300 in September alone) UNHCR and Oxfam jointly organised workshops on access to justice. These took place from 19-20 and 24-25 October in Bol and Liwa respectively. The workshops were attended by administrative, military and traditional and judicial authorities. They provided an opportunity to all actors intervening in the field of law to discuss challenges and propose concrete solutions. The workshops were divided into six modules. These included a situational analysis of legal assistance in the region; arrests, detention and fines under Chadian substantive law but also legal recourse and proceedings all with a view to improving and or supporting access to justice in the 'Lac' region by addressing existing challenges through a comprehensive approach.
- In Chad, as part of UNHCR's mixed migration project, a group of 16 Chadian Red Cross (CRT) volunteers were trained by UNHCR and CRT staff in Baga Sola from 16-20 October. The training covered refugee and migrant protection with a focus on data collection. The volunteers will be tasked with collecting data on migration movements, raising awareness on the risks and consequences of irregular migration, and directing migrants and refugees to services that are available in their areas.

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- The Protection Working Group completed a study on accountability mechanisms in the Diffa region. The purpose of the study was to identify mechanisms established by humanitarian actors, to assess their functionality and identify the needs of displaced populations and existing gaps in these mechanisms. As a result, a Plan of Action and an Accountability Committee have been created. The study is available here, in French.
- On 27 October, Niger completed the elaboration of its National Action Plan to eradicate statelessness, which was signed at a national validation workshop. Events will be held on 4 November to celebrate the 3rd anniversary of the #IBELONG campaign. Additionally, in the Diffa region, UNHCR and a national NGO partner SDO, in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and the Regional Directorate for Civil Status, Refugees and Migration organised mobile courts where a total of 2,270 declaratory judgements were established for children younger than five years, who are at risk of statelessness. A total of 544 birth certificates were also distributed and widespread sensitization on the importance of birth declarations and registration was carried out.



Financial Information

In total, for refugee response in asylum countries as well as response for IDPs in Nigeria, UNHCR's requirements amount to USD **179.5 million in 2017**. UNHCR is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors, particularly those who have contributed to UNHCR activities with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds, as well as for those who have contributed to the Nigeria Situation as a whole.

Donors:

Funding (in million USD):



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Populations forcibly displaced by the insurgency in the Lake Chad Basin Region

As of 31 October or latest figures available



